

# Historic and Architectural Resources of North Providence, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report



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Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT

TOWN OF NORTH PROVIDENCE

APRIL 1978

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1978.  
It has not been corrected or updated.

Since the original publication:

- >additional properties have been entered on the National Register;
- >some financial incentives referred to in these pages are no longer available;
- >some new financial incentives are available.

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is your state agency for historical preservation. The Commission identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, landscapes, structures, and archaeological sites throughout the State of Rhode Island.

## PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, established by the General Assembly in 1968, is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding Rhode Island's cultural heritage. In order to provide an overview of the physical record of this heritage, the Commission has initiated a "broadbrush" or preliminary planning survey of the rural and suburban towns of the state. The purpose of this initial inventory is to identify and record properties of historic and architectural significance in each town. Presently, archeological resources are treated through a separate survey effort being conducted by the Commission. The preliminary surveys provide a catalogue of nonrenewable cultural resources which is needed for a variety of planning purposes at the local, state and national levels. They identify sites, districts and structures eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and they become the basis for establishing historical preservation priorities based on problems and potentials discovered as part of the survey process.

The preliminary survey is accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on large-scale United States Geological Survey maps (or other maps that may be more appropriate) each building or site of particular architectural, visual, cultural or historic significance. Each property is photographed and recorded

on a standard data sheet which includes a physical description and notations concerning history, use, condition and architectural style or period. The significance of each property is determined in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: Properties already on or approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; properties recommended at the staff level for nomination to the Register; and other significant properties, some of which, with further study and review, may be determined to be eligible for the Register. Archeological sites are covered in separate but coordinated preliminary surveys and are mentioned only incidentally in these studies.

Previous studies are reviewed, and town histories, reports and other readily available materials are researched to ensure that all published historic sites and structures are included in the study. Local planners and historians are consulted wherever possible.

Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are developed and a brief report written. The result is a preliminary document--useful in the interim before a full-scale intensive cultural resource survey of the community has been completed.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission intends to conduct such surveys as soon as funds and staffing are available.

## INTRODUCTION

The following study covers the historical and architectural resources of North Providence. It provides the basic information needed so that cultural resources can begin to be properly considered in making future planning decisions at all levels. The report includes a brief, illustrated account of North Providence's architectural and developmental history. Section II is a comprehensive list of properties in North Providence already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, followed by those approved for the Register and those recommended for nomination to the National Register as a result of the preliminary survey. Section III is an annotated inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town.

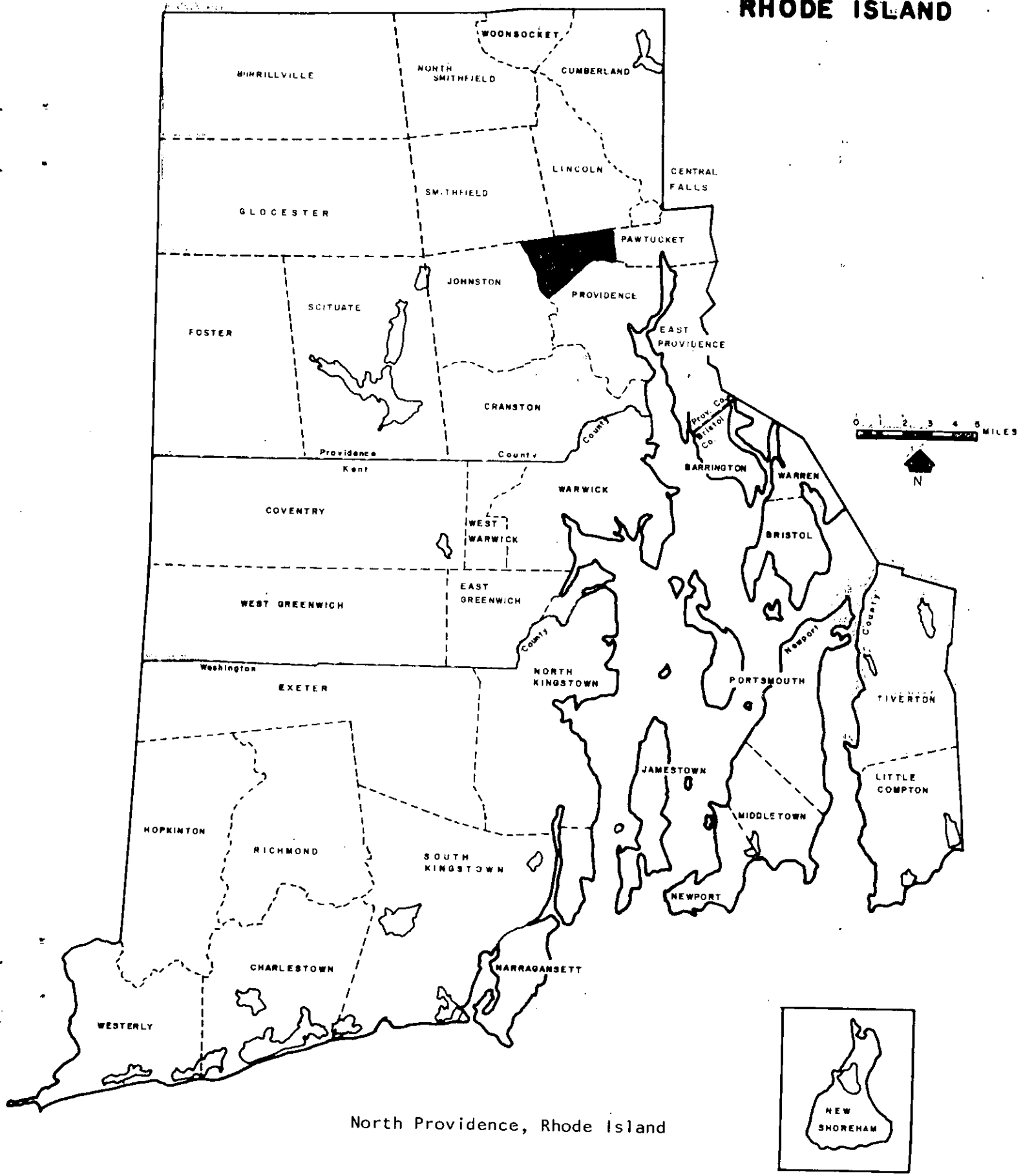
The Inventory numbers are keyed to the small-scale locational map at the rear of this publication. For more precise information on the location of properties, reference should be made to the large, preliminary-broadbrush, cultural-resource survey map prepared by the Historical Preservation Commission and drawn at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet.

The Commission would like to thank the many North Providence officials, residents and scholars, in particular Mr. Thomas E. Greene, who assisted in the conduct of the preliminary survey and in the publication of this report.

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# RHODE ISLAND



North Providence, Rhode Island

## I. ANALYSIS

### PHYSICAL SETTING

North Providence is north of, and adjacent to, the city of Providence. Originally part of Providence, it was incorporated as a separate township in 1765. From 1765 to 1874, North Providence town bounds extended east to the Pawtucket River (including that part of the village of Pawtucket located on the western bank of the Pawtucket Falls) and continued southward along the Woonasquatucket River from Manton to the Upper Cove, north across to the North Burial Ground (bisecting it) and then followed North Street and Swan Point Road across Swan Point Cemetery to the Seekonk River. That territory was more than double the town's present area.

### EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

In May 1874, the town of North Providence as bounded since 1765 was divided into three parts: a large portion was annexed to the city of Providence, forming the Tenth Ward; two square miles of the eastern section of the town were annexed to the town of Pawtucket; the remaining portion formed the present town of North Providence. A mere 5.8 square miles, it is the smallest township in the state. Since 1874, North Providence has been bordered on the north by Smithfield and Lincoln, on the east by Pawtucket, on the



south by Providence and on the west by Johnston. In 1870 the population was 20,495; after the annexation it was reduced to 1,303. It has taken a century for North Providence to return to a population in excess of 20,000. Today North Providence, with the old distinctions between rural areas and industrial centers blurred by extensive twentieth-century residential development, has the character of a suburban, bedroom community; two thirds of the resident civilian labor force is employed elsewhere.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

North Providence topography consists of hills with moderate elevations alternating with shallow valleys rolling from east to west on a narrow ribbon of land three-and-a-half miles long, two-and-a-quarter miles wide at the western border and one mile wide at the eastern border. The geology consists primarily of a primitive granite formation, hence the names of the most northern settlements--Greystone and, across the Woonasquatucket River in Johnston, the village of Graniteville. The area is also rich in limestone deposits. The soil is predominately loam of gravelly or rich, sandy composition. This easily cultivated soil and North Providence's proximity to Providence made it a prosperous farming community in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Woonasquatucket River, forming the town's western border, separates it from Johnston. Waterfalls here provided power



Smith-Cushing House (1705); 109 Smithfield Road.



William W. Angell House (1767); 157 Fruit Hill Avenue.

*Centerdale*

which was harnessed for mills at Greystone, Centerdale, and Lymansville. The central section of the town is drained by a series of ponds extending westward, feeding into the West River which bisects the town centrally and then runs into the Moshassuck River.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT

Eighteenth-century settlement was sparse with most of what is North Providence today divided into five farms held by Richard Pray, John Smith, Epenetus Olney, John Whipple and Thomas Angell. The earliest surviving dwellings are one-and-a-half-story, gable- or gambrel-roofed structures with massive brick chimneys dating from the middle of the eighteenth century. Only one North Providence example of the typical seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century Rhode Island "stone-ender" survives--the Smith-Cushing House at 109 Smithfield Road. The present dwelling was begun in 1705 as a one-room structure with a two-story type plan, incorporating the stone base and end chimney wall of a house that had burned during King Philip's War of 1675-1676. Rebuilt and enlarged to two-and-a-half stories at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the building's transformation follows the changes in design that took place by the end of the eighteenth century throughout the state. Another fine example of a typical eighteenth-century house is the earliest extant dwelling in Fruit Hill, the William Angell House at



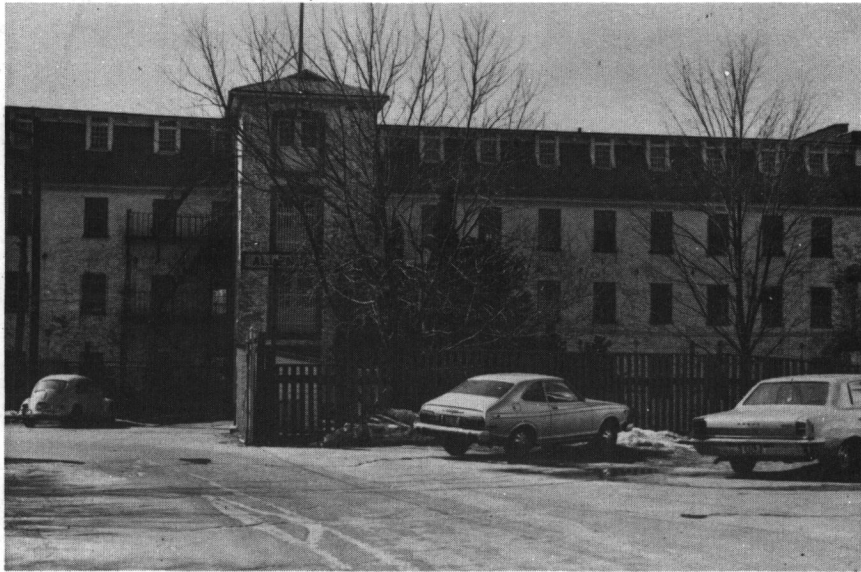
Nathaniel Day Homestead (1737); 2 Bourne Avenue.



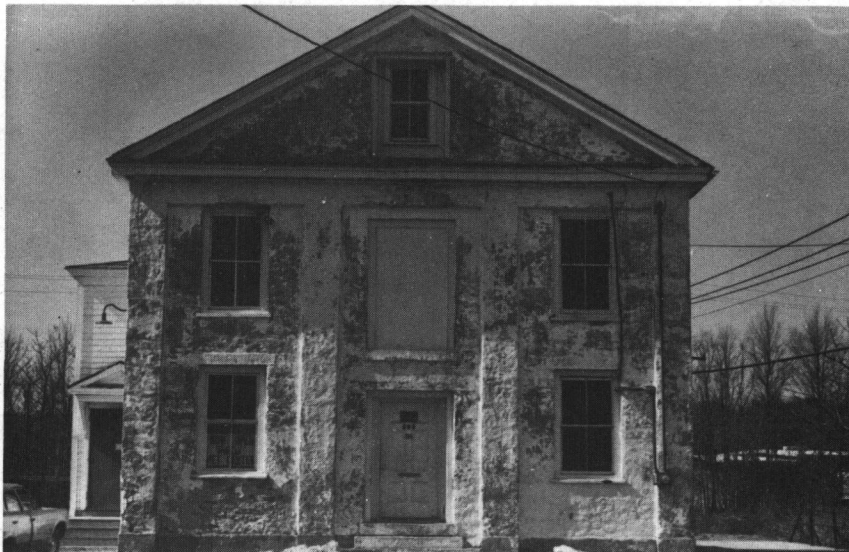
Captain Stephen Olney House (1802); 138 Smithfield Road.

157 Olney Avenue. Built c. 1765, it has a wood-shingled gambrel roof and a spectacular brick chimney. Both buildings have been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. By the turn of the nineteenth century, the characteristic two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, gable-roofed, center-chimney farmhouse was the most common form of dwelling--as can best be seen in the Stephen Whipple House at 430 Fruit Hill Avenue, built c. 1778.

Villages, as such, did not come into being until the early nineteenth century. There were only two eighteenth-century settlements in present-day North Providence: one, a small cluster of farmsteads at Fruit Hill; the other, a mill site with a few residences located at Centerdale on the Woonasquatucket River. A dam had been built here as early as 1702 and several sawmills and gristmills were constructed nearby. During the Revolutionary War, North Providence had the distinction of operating the only gunpowder mill ever built in the state; previously, the nearest sources of gunpowder were at Groton and New London, Connecticut. The Colony needed a more convenient local source, but the mill, built in 1776, operated for only three years--problems in production were constant, culminating in a violent explosion which destroyed the entire enterprise. No remains were left behind, but the memories of the powder mill were still strong in 1815, when the Powder Mill Turnpike (Now Smith Street) was named.



Allendale Mill (1822); 494 Woonasquatucket Avenue.



Allendale Company Store (1822); 494 Woonasquatucket Avenue

In 1774, Captain Stephen Olney chartered a company of private militiamen--the North Providence Rangers--to defend the settlement in the event of war with the British. Captain Olney attained prominence in the Battle of Long Island, the Battle of Princeton (where he rescued James Monroe, who was to become the fifth President of the United States) and at the long siege at Yorktown. After the war, he returned to North Providence to pursue farming and a political career. His well preserved home built in 1802, near the site of the old Olney Homestead (his birthplace is no longer standing), stands at 138 Smithfield Road. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### NINETEENTH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the early nineteenth century, manufacturing projects were begun at many sites along the Woonasquatucket River, whose falls provided the water power for the mills. Mill villages sprang up at Lymanville in 1807, at Centerdale in 1812, at Greystone in 1813 and at Allendale in 1822. Thus, early nineteenth-century industrialization took place only along the western border of the present town (Pawtucket, then part of North Providence, was already an industrial center); the rest of North Providence remained agricultural. These villages have continued to grow in the last 150 years due to a succession of milling enterprises. With the exception of Centerdale (where the last mills were demolished in



Allendale Mill Cottage (1824); 518 Woonasquatucket Avenue.



Allendale Boarding House (c. 1848); 542 Woonasquatucket Avenue.



the 1960s) mill buildings and mill housing survive at all the principal sites.

Lymansville, located in the southwest corner of the town, was founded by Rhode Island Chief Justice Daniel Lyman and was the site of early milling history. The textile revolution that had begun in what was once part of North Providence (Slater Mill, Pawtucket) came to completion at Lymansville in 1817. Here, with the introduction of the Gilmour power loom, the manufacturing system was complete--mills now produced finished goods from raw cotton under one roof; previously only cotton yarn had been produced which was then processed elsewhere. Centerdale, the most important mill site in present-day North Providence during the eighteenth century, also became a textile center in the nineteenth century, producing yarn and worsteds in a succession of mills.

In the nineteenth century, Greystone, the most northerly mill site on the Woonasquatucket, consisted of a single, small, mill building used for a variety of purposes in different periods; the village contained less than a dozen houses. The ruins of the 1813 stone mill (rebuilt many times) still stand.

The founding of Allendale in 1822 added an important chapter to Rhode Island industrial history. Zachariah Allen was the genius behind the construction of the mill, the conception of an elaborate water-supply system (capturing



Edwin B. Olney House (c. 1848); 511 Woonasquatucket Avenue.



Allendale Baptist Church (1847); 545 Woonasquatucket Avenue.

flood waters and saving them for use during summer dry spells) and the laying out of an orderly village of gambrel-roofed cottages for workers. Allendale was the first mill to use power looms for the production of broadcloth and also the first to experiment with a new calendering-rolling process which imparted a glossy finish to cloth. The best preserved of the North Providence mill villages, the mill complex at Allendale is already on the National Register of Historic Places, and the village is recommended for nomination.

#### NINETEENTH-CENTURY--ROADS

In the eighteenth century, only a few rural roads existed in present-day North Providence. The main colonial road followed a route along Olney Avenue and Smith Street towards the settlement of Greystone, but, in the early nineteenth century, the growth and increased industrial output of the City of Providence provoked the construction of several privately financed toll roads which originated in the city and fanned out in all directions. Thus, North Providence is traversed by five former turnpikes: Mineral Spring, Douglas, Powder Mill, Farnum and Louisquisset; and the Mineral Spring, Douglas and Powder Mill Turnpikes remain the town's principal thoroughfares. The Mineral Spring Turnpike (Route 15) was chartered in 1826 and runs east and west through the town. It started as a branch of the Smithfield and Gloucester Turnpike Company Road, but two years later the five-mile stretch

from Centerdale to Pawtucket was set off as the Mineral Spring Turnpike, taking its name from a spring (located near Orchard Avenue in Pawtucket) that was impregnated with iron and once divided Pawtucket from North Providence. The road was bought by the town and became a public highway in 1867. The Douglas Turnpike (Route 7) was chartered in 1806 and runs north and south. The Powder Mill Turnpike (Smith Street, Route 44) also running north and south, was begun in 1810 and finished five years later. Its toll was at the Fruit Hill Tavern (known later as the old Thayer Stand), now the site of the Fruit Hill Apartments at 1621 Smith Street. The last turnpike in existence in Rhode Island, the Powder Mill Turnpike was purchased by the town in 1874 and renamed Smith Street as it was in effect a continuation of Smith Street in Providence. Smith Street became the route used by the electric streetcars, first introduced in North Providence in 1893. Part of the Louisquisset Turnpike (Route 146) runs through the eastern portion of the town, providing access between Providence, Woonsocket and Worcester. The Farnum Turnpike--a road running north through Georgiaville--was started in 1808 and finally completed twenty years later. It was made a public highway in 1873 and the North Providence portion was renamed two years later in honor of Caleb V. Waterman who came to North Providence from Coventry and became a wheelwright and undertaker and one of the town's most respected citizens. The last major road (although not

a turnpike) to be built was the River Road (now Woonasquacket Avenue) from Centerdale to Manton. Before this time, there was no major road useable directly south of the Allendale Mill. The two-mile stretch of road was built by public subscription in 1843, with much support from Allendale Mill owner Zachariah Allen.

#### MID-NINETEENTH-CENTURY GROWTH

With the harnessing in the middle of the nineteenth century of the Wenscott Reservoir system, connecting a series of ponds and brooks running from north to south in the eastern half of the town, villages developed around industries that located at Woodville and Geneva. Woodville, a former farming settlement and still largely rural, was named for John B. Wood who, in 1846, built a coconut dipping factory at the junction of the Mineral Spring and Douglas Turnpikes. By 1852, a cotton and twill mill with bleachery and dye works were also built. None of these survive, except for an isolated factory building located just off the Douglas Pike--the Jason Hilton Bleachery, a fine example of a late nineteenth-century, field-stone factory building. Also of this era is the surviving Farmers Chapel located on Angell Road in the northern part of the settlement, now converted for use as a residence. Near here a Town Asylum and Poor Farm were located on sixty-four acres of farmland; the complex was in operation in 1850 but was



Fruit Hill Apartments (1861); 1621 Smith Street.



Fruit Hill School (1879); 354 Fruit Hill Avenue.

sold by the town in 1875. The Asylum survives as a residence. South of Woodville were the Geneva Worsted Mills which generated another later nineteenth-century development. New mills were also built in this period at Centerdale and at Lymanville where a complex of mill buildings went up in 1884, producing worsted yarns, coatings and suitings and selling and delivering them directly to the consumer.

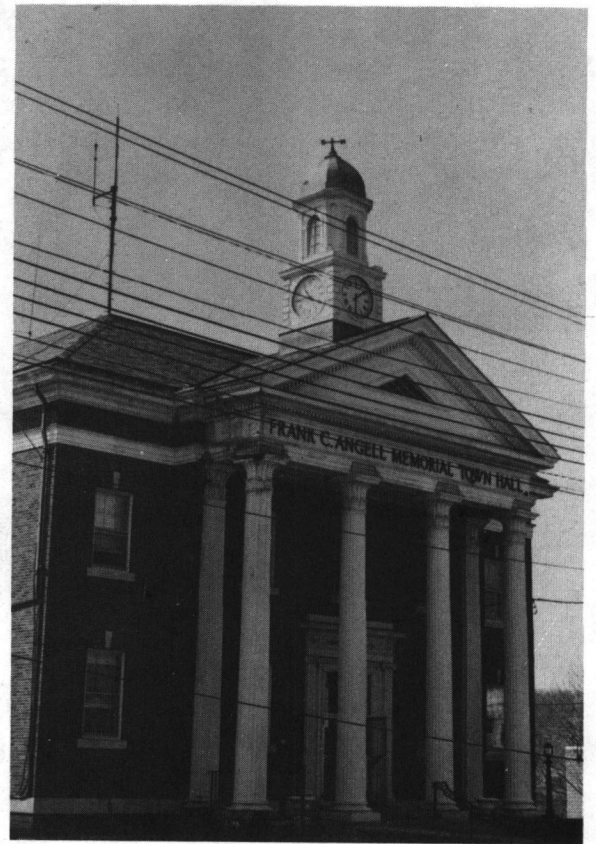
With the partition of North Providence in 1874, the town was left not only smaller and less populated but without a seat of government. It was decided in 1879 to build a Town Hall at Centerdale. It was necessarily modest, fitting the reduced needs of a new North Providence. This fine vernacular building has recently been restored as part of the Town's Bicentennial project and is recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY DEVELOPMENT

Fruit Hill, although always a farming and residential community, experienced residential growth after the Civil War, resulting from the selling of parcels of Olney farm lands and by the platting in the 1880s of a large section of Fruit Hill as the International Park Plan Plat. This suburban development was undertaken by Samuel Hedley and covered a large area layed out in small streets fanning out from Mineral Spring Avenue to Woodlawn Avenue, to Fruit Hill Avenue and extending to Smith Street. With the building



Old Town Hall (1879); 2226 Mineral  
Spring Avenue.



Town Hall (1928); 2008 Smith Street



of the Fruit Hill Reservoir (now the site of Fatima Hospital) in 1891, the greater Fruit Hill area was platted. Due to its desirability as a fashionable residential suburb for Providence, accessible via the Smith Street electric car line, by the turn of the twentieth century the area was densely built-up with fine homes. The most imposing are usually Colonial Revival in style and easily spotted along Smith Street and Fruit Hill Avenue.

Marieville, on the Pawtucket border, is predominantly a late nineteenth-century settlement. It was settled mostly by French-Canadian and Italian workers who were employed in soap factories and nontextile enterprises nearby. No traces remain of these industrial enterprises and the cove here has been filled in by a shopping center. Heavy traffic and commercial development have done much to alter the visual character of this settlement.

The railroads came late to North Providence. A railway survey was undertaken in 1856 for a Providence to Pascoag Railway line. A charter was obtained in 1857 by the Woonsocket Railway Company, but the Civil War prevented the projects from getting underway. Another charter was finally obtained in 1871 by the Providence and Springfield Railroad Company and the line opened for travel in 1873. Local service was short lived, with passenger service ending in 1932 and freight service in 1962.



The Woonasquatucket River at Greystone.



Greystone Mill (1904); Greystone Avenue.

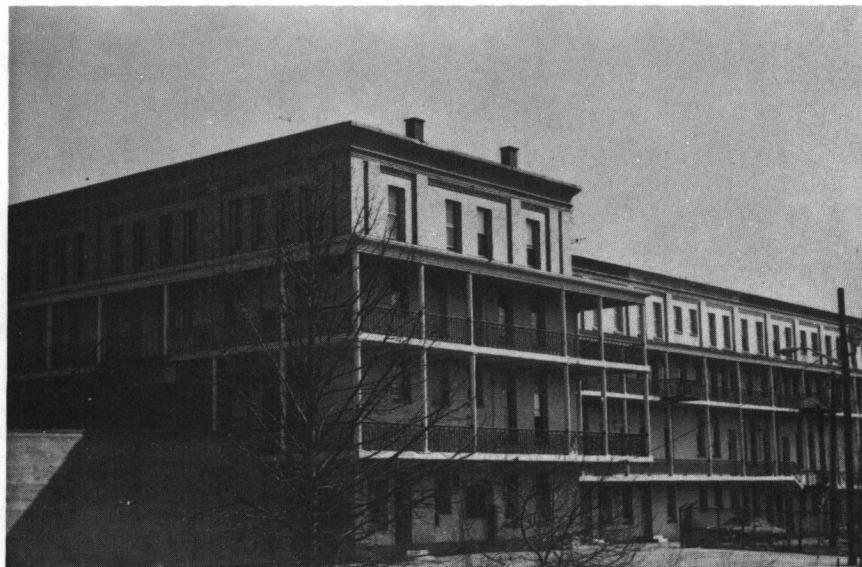
## TWENTIETH-CENTURY DEVELOPMENT

By the beginning of the twentieth century, North Providence consisted of a western industrial section, a residential central core and an eastern half still largely open land except for some scattered industrial activity at Marieville. The last major new industrial venture occurred at Greystone in 1904. The Joseph Benn Company of Bradford, England, manufacturers of mohair and alpaca, decided to relocate in the United States. With a capital expenditure of over two and one half million dollars, they planned on a working community of 1500 people, many of them to be recruited from Yorkshire and Lancashire. A new brick mill was built, with mill-housing construction continuing until 1912, culminating in the construction of the Whitehall Building; a large building combining the residential, social and commercial needs of the company overseers. The mill village survives intact, owing its character and configuration not so much to the twentieth century as to the nineteenth.

North Providence in this century has experienced strong development pressure. Its proximity to Providence made it a desirable suburb and, as the automobile became the dominant form of transportation, more and more farmland was platted; the availability of VHA loans after World War II contributed to further growth and accounted for the high percentage of



Greystone Row Houses (c. 1908); Langsberries Avenue.



Whitehall Building (1911); 158-178 Waterman Avenue.

owner occupancy. More recently, zoning alterations have encouraged a boom of apartment construction, which is changing the landscape of North Providence once again; apartment complexes now serve as twentieth-century villages.

#### SUMMARY

North Providence began as a sparse collection of farmsteads in the eighteenth century. It became an important part of the Rhode Island textile industry in the nineteenth century; and in this century North Providence developed into a successful suburban residential pocket of the city of Providence, yet maintained a separate identity defined by its history and set apart by its topography. Taken together, the North Providence sites and structures recorded by this preliminary survey illustrate the material history of the town.

North Providence has seen much history but very little preservation. In contrast to the continued concern for development, the need for historic preservation has not yet been addressed. Many cities and towns throughout the country are realizing that, while they may not possess an outstanding and distinguished collection of historic sites and architectural monuments, they do have buildings, neighborhoods and open spaces which make essential contributions to an environmental and historical identity that is advantageous to retain. In addition, an understanding of and respect for the ordinary structures of North Providence as well as the outstanding

ones will be a key factor affecting the town's status as a desirable residential community.

The following inventory is an annotated compendium of the sites and structures in North Providence considered to be of particular importance to the town's heritage and worthy of preservation. Future planning decisions affecting these properties should take into consideration their significance.

## II. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, of structures, sites, areas and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture. It is the official inventory of the nation's cultural and historical resources which are worthy of preservation. National Historic Landmarks, the nation's most historically important buildings and sites, are included in the National Register of Historic Places as well as other properties of national, state and local significance which have been nominated by the states and approved by the National Park Service.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission is responsible for nominating Rhode Island properties to the National Register of Historic Places. Placement in the Register affords a limited form of protection from potentially damaging federal programs through a review process and makes properties eligible for certain tax benefits and federally funded matching grants-in-aid for restoration. As a result of this survey, a number of additional structures, sites and districts have been recommended for nomination to the National Register. Descriptions of these properties can be found in the Inventory.

Properties already listed in the National Register:

Allendale Mill, 494 Woonasquatucket Avenue

Captain Stephen Olney House, 138 Smithfield Road

Structures, Sites and Districts recommended for Nomination  
to the National Register:

Allendale Historic District

Old Town Hall, 2226 Woonasquatucket Avenue

William W. Angell House, 157 Olney Avenue

Fruit Hill School (now VFW Post 10011), 354 Fruit Hill Avenue

Greystone Historic District

Smith-Cushing House, 109 Smithfield Road

This list of possible National Register properties should not be considered final and absolute. As new research is conducted, as the town changes physically and as perspectives on the community's history and what cultural properties are worth saving evolve, other potential candidates for the Register may be identified.



### III: PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN NORTH PROVIDENCE

This Inventory is an annotated key to the preliminary survey map of North Providence. A more detailed map at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet, which locates structures and outlines districts more fully and precisely, is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the North Providence Town Hall; copies are also available at the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning and the Department of Community Affairs.

Material in the Inventory is presented by geographic area, village by village, arranged alphabetically. Each village inventory is preceded by a summary of the settlement's developmental history. These inventories are followed by a listing of structures and sites located outside village centers; these are presented alphabetically by road with properties on those roads presented in numerical order. Dating of structures or their historical and architectural period is determined by use of markers, written material, maps and knowledgeable residents, or by an examination of architectural style.

## ALLENDALE (Map # 1)

The village of Allendale, located one mile below Centerdale on the Woonasquatucket River, was named for its founder, Zachariah Allen, who built the 4-story stone mill here in 1822. The mill complex is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Historically, the mill is considered noteworthy as the first to use power looms for the manufacture of broadcloth. It was also the site of the first use of a rolling process to produce a glossy finish to cloth. The mill's claim to being the earliest known example of "slow-burning construction" (using heavy beams in cross section, heavy planking and shingles set in mortar) has recently been discounted but Allen was a pioneer in the development of this method of "fireproofing" industrial buildings. The mill is well preserved with several original outbuildings and later additions; a very fine original Greek Revival stone company store is located within the mill yard. Allen also planned the village, with 1- and 2-family gambrel-roofed cottages set on large lots (allowing space for kitchen gardens) along the road following the river. Several large boarding houses were also built. In 1847, Allen built a stone Baptist Sunday School for the children of his mill operatives. This building, designed by Thomas Telford, was consecrated as a church three years later and is still in use. In the late 1840s, several Gothic cottages were built, their design taken from patterns found in A.J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses, but few of these remain intact. The entire village presents a well planned community, with the variety in architectural styles accounting for much of its originality and charm. This is the only Rhode Island example of a mill village that has Gothic Revival touches in many of the buildings--including the buttressed mill. The mill complex itself is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is recommended that the village, which is so much an integral part of this early industrial complex conceived by Zachariah Allen, one of Rhode Island's industrial giants, should be added to complete Allendale's nomination to the National Register.

### PEACH HILL AVENUE

- 65 House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, Greek Revival dwelling with a 3-bay facade, set gable end to the street. Set on a handsome granite foundation, the house retains much of its Greek Revival detail; there are pilaster corner boards and a doorway enframingent with side lights.

494 Allendale Mill (1822, 1880, 1910): Construction of the original 1822 mill complex was supervised by the noted Providence architect and contractor John Holden Greene for mill owner Zachariah Allen. It is a 4-story, stuccoed, stone-rubble mill, capped by a modified, dormered roof; the end gable is stepped in vaguely Flemish fashion. At the base of the building's northeast and northwest corners are heavy buttresses. The projecting central tower no longer has its belfry. The dry-laid masonry raceways survive, although not in use. Later additions to the structure include storage buildings, adjacent to the tailrace (1844), the engine room on the south side (1864), the stone Number Two Mill (1880) to the east side of the original section; and a brick addition (1910) to the southeast. The mill complex is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

494 Allendale Company Store (1822): Designed by John Holden Greene as part of the original (1822) mill complex; a 2½-story, Greek Revival (possibly the earliest dated Greek Revival building in Rhode Island) building. The store, set pedimented, end-gable to the street is three bays wide and is made of stuccoed, rubble stone; each bay is a recessed panel divided by pilasters. A loading door is located above the central doorway. The store was also the birthplace of Frank C. Angell (b. 1845), the town's librarian, historian and benefactor.

#### WOONASQUATUCKET AVENUE

377 House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival dwelling with a gable roof, center chimney, capped window lintels and a side ell.

393 House: A 1½-story, Late Victorian dwelling with a gable roof; it is three bays wide, with a central entrance with a door hood flanked by oriel windows, and has a side ell.

433 House: A 2½-story Late Victorian gable-roofed house set on high ground and set back from the road at the corner of Zipporah Street. The central projecting core of the house is flanked by 1-story porches along the facade. The central projecting gable is decorated with bargeboards.

476 House (c. 1848): A 1½-story, steeply gable-roofed dwelling with an ell, located adjacent to the brick mill addition. It is a modified Carpenter Gothic cottage with all of its trim removed.

482 Mill House (c. 1824): A 1½-story, 2-family gambrel-roofed mill cottage with dormers and two interior chimneys.

- 488-90 Mill House (c. 1824): A 1½-story, 1-family gambrel-roofed mill cottage, three bays wide with two end chimneys. A side ell accommodates a second family.
- 500, Mill Houses (1824): Three, 1½-story, 1-family, 512, gambrel-roofed mill-workers' cottages. The cottages 518 are three bays wide with a central gabled entrance and have a dormer above each doorway.
- 515 E. B. Olney House (c. 1848): A 1½-story, steeply gable-roofed, Carpenter Gothic cottage with an ell, situated at the corner of Allen Avenue. The pattern for the design was most probably taken from A. J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. The house has a projecting Gothic arched entrance and label lintels (partially obscured by shutters) over the windows.
- 522-524 Mill House (1824): A 1½-story, 2-family, gambrel-roofed cottage with shed dormers and two interior chimneys.
- 530, Mill Houses: Two, originally identical, mid-19th-century 542 boarding houses used to house mill hands. They are 2½-story, Greek Revival, gable-roofed structures, three bays square, divided by fluted pilasters with caps, with gabled portico entrances at the gable end. Number 542 is the more intact example of these unusually elaborate vernacular Greek Revival buildings.
- 535 Mill House (c. 1848): A 2½-story, 2-family mill house, set gable end to the street. The double-door side entrance has a simple gabled portico.
- 539 Collins House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, 5-bay, Greek Revival dwelling with a gable roof, center chimney (rebuilt) and a fine pilastered doorway.
- 545 Allendale Baptist Church (1847): Designed by Thomas Tefft for Zachariah Allen from designs derived from Elizabethan pattern books (especially derivative of #4 from Designs for Schools and School-Houses by H. E. Kendall). Originally built to serve the secular school during the week, with religious use on Sundays, the building was consecrated as a church in 1850 and has been in use since. It is a 1½-story, rectangular, stuccoed

(concrete stucco is a 20th-century alteration) field-stone church building with a small belfry (also not original), set gable end to the street. Access is gained through a projecting side entrance on the flank end capped by a stepped gable. The fenestration has been altered by the insertion of modern stained-glass windows.

#### CENTERDALE (Map # 2)

Despite its name, the village of Centerdale is not situated centrally within the town but is tucked away at the western border, along the Woonasquatucket River. It was, however, considered very central by its settlers. Situated at the intersection of two major early 19th-century turnpikes--the Powder Mill Turnpike (Smith Street) and the Mineral Spring Turnpike--the village was located only four miles from Greenville (to the north), Pawtucket (to the east), Providence (to the south) and Scituate to the west. Sawmills and gristmills had been in operation since 1700, but the most unique industrial enterprise undertaken was the building by the Colony of a powder mill in 1776, near the dam on the western bank of the river. It provided the only source of gunpowder in Rhode Island during the Revolutionary War. Due to production problems, the mill exploded three years later and was totally destroyed. The first cotton-spinning mill was built in 1812 and, in 1822, a stone mill was built to produce cotton cloth. It was sold to Richard Anthony (who had already acquired the Greystone Mill up river). The village grew; it was referred to as Centre, but by 1830 the name was changed to Centremill. The post office, moved here from Fruit Hill in 1849, decided to change the name of the settlement to Centre Dale so as to avoid confusion with the Pawtucket Valley mill village of Centerville. The mill site continued in importance, with new construction taking place until the late 19th century. In the 20th century, the mills declined in utility and were destroyed in the late 1960s. After the division of the greater North Providence land area in 1874, the village of Centerdale was chosen as the new seat of government. A handsome Town Hall was built in 1879; it has recently been restored and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Centerdale has maintained its position as the seat of government and has grown to be the central business district of the town. A larger Town Hall, designed by the noted Rhode Island firm of William Walker and Sons, was built in 1928. Centerdale, as it looks today, has lost much of its village quality and sense of place along the river, due to the loss of its mills and the construction of the Centerdale By-pass, which routes west-bound traffic around the Centerdale business district and tends to fragment and isolate sections of Centerdale from each other. The commercial area on Smith Street has several buildings of architectural interest and value, but poor signage and inappropriate siding tend to obscure the area's potential.

GEORGE STREET

- 4 Centerdale Primitive Methodist Church (1897): Designed by W. H. Tilley, it is a turn-of-the-century church building, covered with weathered shingles, with a central, projecting, square tower with a belfry. The basement level and entrance has been inserted more recently, altering the original lines of the building; the belfry has also been altered.

MINERAL SPRING AVENUE

- 2159 House: Late Victorian, 1½-story dwelling with a gable roof and shed dormers. It consists of five bays with a central doorway and a door hood supported by consoles
- 2175 House: A 1½-story, mid-19th century, 2-family house with a gable roof and recessed central doorway flanked by attenuated windows. Possibly, it served as mill housing for the Centerdale mills.
- 2191 House: A 1½-story, late 19th-century house with a gable roof. The large shed dormer (raising the house to two full stories) was added at a later date. The building consists of five bays with a central doorway, a bracketed door hood and a side ell.
- 2198 House: An early Victorian, 1½-story, 5-bay dwelling with a gable roof. The cornice is detailed with a dentil course and paired brackets. There is a central doorway with a bracketed, pedimented door hood. This structure is the finest remaining example of Victorian architecture in Centerdale.
- 2226 Old Town Hall (1879): Designed by L. M. E. Stone, well-known surveyor and railroad engineer, and built by Benjamin Sweet at a cost of \$2,000, it is two stories high (28 feet by 36 feet) with a gable roof, and is set gable end to the street. A police station was in the basement; the first floor was divided into offices for the Town Clerk and the Town Sergeant as well as a Council Chamber. The 2nd-floor hall was used for town meetings. The brick vault attached to the rear is a 20th-century addition. This simple vernacular town hall was of modest design, as it catered to the needs of a small town that had been recently divided. It has been restored and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

## SMITH STREET (Route 44)

- 1964 St. Alban's Episcopal Church (1899, 1962): Designed by D.H. Thornton, this Gothic church building with a side entrance through the tower-belfry was originally covered with wood shingles. In 1962, a new brick veneer facade was made to cover the entire building. The land for the church was given by Frank C. Angell, who was also instrumental in the erection of the building. On a spot outside the church stands a World War I memorial. It consists of a field-stone boulder as base for a bronze dough-boy "going over the top." "On to Victory" was executed by the sculptor John G. Hardy and cast at the Gorham factory in 1918.
- Centerdale Bridge (1920): Design and construction was supervised by C. L. Hussey, State Bridge Engineer; built by Bowerman Brothers. The Centerdale Bridge is a single-span, concrete, continuous-arch deck bridge, 66 feet long and 48.3 feet wide. It carries Route 44 over the Woonasquatucket River and is typical of the bridges constructed by the state in this period.
- 2008 Frank C. Angell Memorial Town Hall (1928): Designed by the noted Rhode Island architectural firm, William Walker and Sons, known for their public buildings, this town hall is built in the Colonial Revival style with a handsome pedimented portico and clock tower. It was named for Frank C. Angell, who gave the land for the site and was the town's librarian, historian and benefactor. In the minipark adjacent to the Town Hall stands an unusual Late Victorian cast-iron fountain of a cupid, cast at the J. L. Mott Ironworks in New York.
- 2036 Commercial Building: Early 20th-century, 1-story, frame, commercial building with a false, boom-town front topped by a large wooden semicircular fan. The building accommodates two stores and is an unusual commercial structure for this area.
- 2081 Roger Williams Lodge (1929): A Masonic temple, built of brick, dominated by a buff colored, pedimented portico. It was most probably designed by William Walker and Sons. The Lodge was organized in 1876 in an earlier building on the same site.

## THOMAS STREET

Brayton School (1930): Situated at the corner of Mineral Spring Avenue, near the site of the second Centerdale Schoolhouse (since demolished), built in

1848 and designed by Thomas Tefft. The present structure is a 3-story, early 20th-century, brick school building with a hipped, pantile roof with a bracketed cornice. It is typical of the early 20th-century schools built in North Providence to accommodate a rising suburban population.

#### WALTER AVENUE

- 20 Frank C. Angell House (c. 1880): A Late Victorian, 1½-story, mansard-roofed dwelling with gable dormers and bracketed trim. Set on a high foundation, the building was moved to this site in 1927 from Smith Street, to make way for the new Town Hall. It was the home of Frank C. Angell (for whom the Town Hall is named), the town librarian, historian and benefactor. The barn was also moved and now serves as the Elliott Robbins Funeral Home at 2251 Mineral Spring Avenue.

#### WOONASQUATUCKET AVENUE

- 555 House: A Late Victorian, 2½-story, tenement building for mill workers at Centerdale, with a gable roof, bracketed cornice and a pedimented end gable.
- 624 St. Lawrence Church (1907): Designed by Fontaine & Kennicutt, a Woonsocket architectural firm; a large rectangular church building with a front-projecting tower and belfry, rose window and porch entry. It was the first official Roman Catholic Church in North Providence (a small German Catholic chapel existed in Lymanville in the 1880s). The exterior of the church is very similar to St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church, built at about the same time on Harris Avenue in Woonsocket.

#### FRUIT HILL (Map #3)

Fruit Hill was settled in the 18th century by the Olney family. It was a rural community containing both a church and a school, when residential suburban development began after the Civil War. The vicinity is named for the many fruit trees, especially cherry trees, that abound. The construction, in 1891, of the Fruit Hill Reservoir (now the site of Fatima Hospital) and the area's proximity to Providence made it a popular residential neighborhood by the turn of the century, quite fashionable with successful businessmen. Between 1900 and 1910, the population of North Providence increased by 79 per cent. Fruit Hill also attracted artists; quite a number of Rhode Island artists lived here in the



late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Hugo and Harold Bruel, George W. Whitaker, Stacy Tolman and H. Cyrus Farnum. The area has maintained its quiet, well kept residential quality with a good mix of 18th-century and mid-19th-century dwellings on Olney and Homewood avenues and on Fruit Hill Avenue, south of Smith Street. Turn-of-the-century and 20th-century development is concentrated on Smith Street and on Fruit Hill Avenue north of Smith Street.

#### FRUIT HILL AVENUE

- 291 John Wanton Lyman House (c. 1830): Built by John W. Lyman, son of Rhode Island Chief Justice Daniel Lyman, on the edge of Fruit Hill near Lymansville. It is a 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling with four end chimneys. There have been numerous alterations to the structure. A large barn, with cupola, probably dating from the 1880s, is also located on the property. The building is presently being used as "Alumni House" by Rhode Island College.
- 354 Fruit Hill School (1879): Designed by William E. Colwell, it is a handsome 1-story school with a gable roof decorated with elaborate bracketed bargeboards and pierced-work ornament. It is now used as VFW Post 10011 and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 370 Whipple-Hawkins Homestead (c. 1778): Originally a 2½-story, Federal style dwelling with a gable roof and center chimney; the house has been enlarged by the addition of several wings and the entrance is now surmounted by a Victorian door hood, flanked by oriel windows.
- 385 Byron Angell House (c. 1885): A 1½-story, Late Victorian house with a gable roof. It is five bays wide with a central doorway and a bracketed door hood and transom. The side bay window is a later addition. The house was built between 1882 and 1895 for Byron Angell.

Holy Family Convent: This complex of religious buildings belonging to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary was built on land left to the convent in 1919 by William Angell. The sisters moved to this site from 109 Olney Avenue in 1921. The site included the William Angell House (c. 1870), a 2½-story, gable-roofed, Late Victorian dwelling, three bays wide with an ell; bracketed bay windows flank a matching door hood. The building is now used as the chaplain's residence. The brick convent was built in 1924, with the Novitiate Wing following in

1929. The most recent addition is the 1957 chapel building.

- 400 St. Martha's House (1927): A square, 2½-story, brick building with a gable-on-hip roof with dormers. It has a 3-bay facade with a central doorway with side lights, partially enclosed by a portico. It is part of St. Mary's Home for Children.
- 420 St. Mary's Home for Children (1927): St. Mary's Orphanage was organized in 1879 in East Providence; the orphanage moved to Fruit Hill in 1927. The main building, designed by Jackson, Robertson and Adams, is a 2-story, brick building with a hip roof; side wings flank the central pavilion. The Colonial Revival design is reminiscent of colonial residences of Tidewater Virginia.
- 430 Stephen Whipple House (c. 1778): A 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof, a large center chimney and a central doorway with side lights. This house and the house at 370 Fruit Hill Avenue were owned by Stephen Whipple in 1835. This structure was sold to Whipple's son-in-law, Francis H. Mann, in 1842. It is now part of St. Mary's Home for Children.
- Civil War Monument (1904): Situated at the corner of Fruit Hill and Olney Avenues, the monument consists of a large field-stone boulder which serves as a base for a bronze soldier carrying a musket. It was designed by Mrs. Alice Theo Ruggles Kitson of Boston.
- 474 St. James Episcopal Church (1879): Designed by Howard Hoppin in, according to the Providence Journal of 6 September 1879, "the Dutch Style of architecture." This was the site of the Fruit Hill Meeting House in 1818, which came to be the Fruit Hill Baptist Church. The property was deeded to the Fruit Hill Union Society in 1879, and the new building was erected; it now forms the central part of the present church, which has a 20th-century side addition.
- 516 Joseph W. Naylor House (c. 1875): A post Civil War, 1½-story, stuccoed, stone building with a gable roof (a large shed dormer was added later) and two interior chimneys. The house is set back from the road and is adjacent to the Fruit Hill Tavern site. There is some speculation that this building was previously part of that complex. Joseph W. Naylor, a farmer, settled in North Providence in 1875.
- 569 William R. Angell House: Colonial Revival turn-of-the-century, 2½-story, square house with a hipped roof and gable dormers. Built for William R. Angell, a

local businessman and landowner, between 1900 and 1910.

#### HOMEWOOD AVENUE

- 59 Ira Olney House (1861): A 2-story square house with a hipped roof (the original mansard roof burned early in this century), side porch and 1-story side ell. Elaborate bay windows flank the central doorway with each corner of the bay delineated by colonnettes. The house is built on the site of the 1803 Cyrus Olney House; the present structure is one of the finest Victorian homes in North Providence.
- 80 George L. Eddy House (c. 1863): A 1½-story dwelling with a gable roof, shed dormers, a large side addition and a porch. The house is much altered; it originally stood on Gardner Avenue, at the corner of Olney Avenue. It was the home of George L. Eddy, the first Town Clerk of North Providence (after subdivision in 1874), and the Town Clerk's office was located here from 1879 to 1880 while the Town Hall was under construction.

#### OLNEY AVENUE

- 24 Charles Gilbert House (1860s): A 2½-story, gable-roofed dwelling, only three bays wide, set gable end to the street. The structure was built by Charles Gilbert, on land sold to him by his father-in-law, Amasa Whipple, in 1856.
- 28 Amasa Whipple House (c. 1875): A 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling, set gable end to the street. An elaborate door hood and handsome double windows distinguish the facade.
- 95 H. Cyrus Farnum House (c. 1900): A 1½-story, shingled bungalow with a gable roof with dormers. Built by H. Cyrus Farnum, noted Rhode Island artist, the house was illustrated in the 1910 Directory.
- 97 House (c. 1905): A 1½-story, shingled bungalow with a hip roof, gable dormer and a columned porch, representative of the bungalow style which became popular in North Providence in the early 20th century.
- 109 Frederick W. Whipple House (c. 1875): A 2½-story, Late Victorian dwelling with a gambrel roof and a 2-story bay capped by a turret to the right of the entrance. The house has been modernized; the wrap-around porch is gone and the doorway and window

above it altered. It was constructed by Ira Olney, a local landowner and builder, and sold to Herbert L. Eddy in 1881. The house is named for its third owner, Frederick W. Whipple, a successful Providence merchant who bought the property in 1885, and improved it; it is illustrated as one of the town's finest homes in the 1910 City Directory.

119 Edward Olney House (c. 1861): A 1½-story dwelling with a gable roof, shed dormers and a side-ell which is set back to allow for a porch. A handsome cornice with paired brackets is continued from the main part of the house to the ell. The central doorway has been changed; flanked by fluted pilasters and side lights, it is topped by a wooden semicircular fan. The house was built by Ira Olney and sold to his brother, Edward, who lived here until 1882. From 1882 until 1912 the house was rented and then sold out of the Olney family.

157 William W. Angell House (c. 1767): A small, 1½-story dwelling with a gambrel roof and three small gable dormers. It has a magnificent massive brick center chimney. It is the oldest surviving house in Fruit Hill. It is named for its seventh owner; the house was built by Stephen Whipple on land bought from Ezra Olney.

#### SMITH STREET

1336 William Dracup House: Early 20th-century house, still very Victorian in character, sited well on the corner of Olney Avenue. It is two stories with a gable roof with dormers. The roof line dips to meet that of the wrap-around porch. It is characteristic of, but rather more elaborate than, most of the early suburban houses in North Providence. It was built for William Dracup, manager of the Centerdale Worsted Mill.

1358 Samuel Lamberton House: A 2½-story, turn-of-the-century dwelling with a cross-gable roof; 2-story turrets flank the center gable. The house was built for Samuel Lamberton, a Providence merchant, between 1895 and 1910. It was illustrated as one of the finest homes in North Providence in the 1910 City Directory.

1364 George Lamberton House: A 2½-story, turn-of-the-century dwelling with a hipped roof, gable dormers and a Colonial Revival front porch with a balustrade. The roof balustrade has been removed. Built for George Lamberton (a Providence realtor) between

1895 and 1910, it was illustrated as one of the finest homes in North Providence in the 1910 City Directory.

- 1374 Herbert B. Farnum House (c. 1910): A 2-story, gambrel-roofed house with dormers and an oculus. The porch, although original, has since been partially enclosed. The house was built for Herbert B. Farnum, a cotton broker in Providence. It was illustrated in the 1910 City Directory as one of the finest homes in North Providence.
- 1596 Belvidere Club and Two Flanking Buildings: The Clubhouse (no longer in use) is a simple, 1½-story building (c. 1800) with a gable roof. It was originally used as a blacksmith's shop, with the attached addition oriented towards Fruit Hill Avenue, as Smith Street was not built until 1815. It was used as a clubhouse at the turn of the century by the North Providence Improvement Association, later called the Belvidere Club; it was one of many organizations formed nationwide to spur citizens' concern for their communities. Three buildings appear on the 1835 map; the remaining two have been much altered, their details obscured by modernization.
- 1612 Sweeney House (c. 1896): A 2½-story gable-roofed dwelling with a Palladian window in the center gable. This was the site of L. M. E. Stone's residence until 1895. L. M. E. Stone designed the 1879 North Providence Town Hall.
- 1621 Fruit Hill Apartments (1861): Built by Stanton Belden on the site of the early 19th-century Thayer Stand which served as the tollhouse for the Powder Mill Turnpike (now Smith Street) after its completion in 1815. The buildings were converted to school use in 1835 by Henry Drowne (son of Solomon Drowne) and his sisters. The school, the Fruit Hill Classical Academy, with Belden as its principal, became one of the better known private schools in the state and was illustrated on the border of Henry Walling's Map of 1851. It is said that during the Dorr War, Law and Order forces on their march to Chepachet needed shelter and took possession of the school; on their return they made the school into a prison for suspected Dorr aides. The school closed in 1860 and was demolished. The new house was begun the same year; a 3-story, square, Italianate building with a hipped roof, bracketed cornice and bracketed portico entry. However, it is likely that the right wing of the school, or a part thereof, is still standing behind the present apartment building.

## GREYSTONE (Map #4)

Greystone was the site of the Coomer Farm in the late 18th century. In 1813, Captain Olney Angell, Peleg Williams and Materson Latham built a 2-story stone textile mill here, equipping it with twenty looms. It was sold in 1816 to Richard Anthony, of Coventry, who had helped found the Coventry Company in 1805 in the village of Anthony. He made cotton cloth and sold the business in 1835 to Joseph Westcott, who enlarged the mill to three stories; its dimensions then were 80 feet by 40 feet. In 1862, Zebulon Whipple sold the looms and put in spinning frames to manufacture yarn. In 1872, the building was damaged by fire and it was rebuilt by James and George Campbell for the production of rag paper. It burned again in 1877. The following year the White Brothers of Chepachet rebuilt it partially--using it as a gristmill. By 1882, it was the property of James Campbell, who made shoddy for woolen manufacturers. His son, Elisha, sold the site and the building, as a storehouse, to Joseph Benn and Company in 1904. The old mill survives as a ruin, its complex history a telling record of a typical small 19th-century Rhode Island water-power site of marginal economic potential. The Joseph Benn Company of Bradford, England, manufacturers of mohair and alpaca, planned to relocate here, to escape the heavy British import taxes on wool. They spent over two and one half million dollars establishing a model industrial community with a new mill, mill housing, a social club and the Whitehall Building, where an auditorium, shops and quarters for overseers were located. Greystone became a community of over 1500 people, many recruited from Lancashire and Yorkshire to work as mill hands and wool sorters. The village is intact and is an excellent example of an early 20th-century company-owned industrial village.

## BECKSIDE ROAD

Mill Houses (1910-1913): Five double houses line each side of the street; they are 2-story, 2-family houses with gable roofs, two interior chimneys and blind second stories on the flank end except for a gable dormer. There are separate, enclosed entrances at each gable end. These houses were built for mill hands in Joseph Benn's mohair mill.

## GREYSTONE AVENUE

Greystone Social Club (1906): A 2-story, square building with a flat roof, a bracketed cornice and a roof balustrade on the river-side facade--overlooking the Woonasquatucket River. This spot on the

river was the scene of many water carnivals, swimming contests and ice polo matches. Most of the recreational activities centered on the river, although a cricket field was also provided for the company team, Benn's Mohairs.

Greystone Mill (1904): Designed by F. P. Sheldon and Sons, mill engineers, it is a 4-story, brick mill using pier and spandrel construction, with a nearly flat roof, bracketed eaves and blind segmental windows with rock-faced granite sills. Two square towers divide the front elevation into thirds; these are stair towers with brick belfries, one with oculi, one with a clock. A separate brick weaving building with a saw-tooth skylight roof was also built in 1904 further down river.

Old Greystone Mill (1813, 1872, 1877): The ruins of the first mill on the site--a 2-story, stuccoed rubble-stone building remain adjacent to the new mill.

Mill Houses (c. 1904): The rest of Greystone Drive is residential; 2½-story, 2-family houses with gable roofs and two interior chimneys line both sides of the street. The nine houses have blind second stories on the front facade, save for a central gable dormer. Some of the houses closest to Waterman Avenue predate the 1904 mill village but have been remodeled to look like the others.

#### LANGSBERRIES AND LARCHMONT AVENUES

Row Houses (1904-1910): Two streets, no more than two blocks long each lined with several blocks of 10-unit, 2-story row houses lining both sides of the street. Each unit is two bays wide with separate entrances with simple bracketed doorways. They were built to house mill hands and wool sorters, according to the 1910 City Directory.

#### OAKLEIGH AVENUE

Row Houses (1904-1910): Built to the south of the mill, a long 2-story block of row houses with flat roofs. Each unit is three bays wide with paired entrances with door hoods and stoops with railings.

Greystone Primitive Methodist Church (1904): A 1-story, rectangular church building with a 3-part steeple tower with a weather vane, remodeled in more-or-less Federal style in 1926. The addition dates from 1934.

## SOUTH LARCHMONT AVENUE

Mill Houses (1904-1910): A short street with four houses on each side; 2½-story, 2-family houses with gable roofs, two interior chimneys and shed dormers.

## ST. MARY'S ROAD

Mill Houses (1904-1910): Another short street with only six houses, identical to those on South Larchmont Avenue; 2½-story, gable-roofed 2-family dwellings with two interior chimneys and shed dormers. According to the 1910 City Directory, weavers and warp dressers lived on this street.

## WATERMAN AVENUE

- 69 Ira Williams House (1840s): A 1½-story dwelling with a steeply pitched roof (sloping to meet the porch roof which extends across the facade), a center chimney, a central doorway with side lights and a side ell. Fine stone walls enclose the rear of the property.
- 79 Tri-Town Family Health Center, formerly the Owens School (1913): A 2½-story, flat-roofed, square, frame schoolhouse set on a brick foundation. Built with six classrooms, it was named for principal Mary E. Owens.
- 85 S. S. Waterman House (c. 1860): A 1½-story, 5-bay, Early Victorian dwelling with a gable roof, a center chimney and a central doorway with a bracketed door hood. Small brackets support the window lintels. There is a side ell with a porch.
- 92 Edward Crombie House (c. 1885): A Late Victorian 2-story, square house with a hipped roof; it is set on high ground and well back from the road.
- 112-134 Mill Houses (1904-1910): The river side of the street is lined with 2-story, 2-family mill houses; gable-roofed with large shed dormers, they have two interior chimneys. Plain, 1-story, porches cover the front facades.
- 158-178 Whitehall Building (1911): A unique 3-story, tan, brick building with a full basement story at the rear, 2nd-story balconies across the front and 1st- and 2nd-story balconies at the rear. Built by Joseph Benn and Company at a cost of \$250,000, it has concrete floors and walls, seven inches thick. It has



since qualified as a Civil Defense Shelter. Originally the ground floor was used for commercial space but the store fronts have been bricked in. The second floor contained apartments for the mill overseers. The building also contained an auditorium used as an Assembly Hall by the Greystone Primitive Church Sunday School. In the 1930s when the Benn Company was sold, the building was given to the overseers who held equal shares and owned it as a corporation.

154-156

James Anthony House (c. 1822): Unusual, 1½-story, 5-bay, dwelling with a gable roof, center chimney, a pilaster entrance with an open pediment and a side ell. The house was built by James Anthony, son of Richard Anthony and a partner in the Greystone Mill.

201

Richard Anthony House (c. 1822): A 2½-story, gable-roofed house set well back from the road. It is five bays wide with a central entrance and two large interior chimneys that serve ten fireplaces and two bake ovens. The corners of the building are articulated by quoins, as is the arched entrance surmounted by a wooden fan. The side door is similarly arched and rusticated with blocks to simulate quoins. A late 19th-century, 2-story porch stretches across the facade and along one side of the building. Architecturally, it is one of the more high-style versions of a farmhouse to appear in North Providence. It was the home of Richard Anthony, owner of the Greystone Mill from 1816 to 1835.

213

Philip A. Sweet House (c. 1825): A 1½-story, transitional Greek Revival, 5-bay dwelling with a gable roof, center chimney and a central doorway with side lights. Philip A. Sweet was a carpenter in the building trade.

212-214

Welcome W. Sweet House (c. 1830): A 1½-story, Greek Revival dwelling with a steeply pitched roof, center chimney and a flat-topped, central doorway with pilasters. The small house has side and rear ells. Welcome W. Sweet, also a carpenter, was Philip A. Sweet's brother.

#### LYMANSVILLE (Map # 5)

Lymansville is located on the Woonasquatucket River in the southwestern corner of the town. The village is named for Rhode Island Chief Justice Daniel Lyman who owned most of the land in this vicinity. (The Lyman homestead, The

Hermitage, burned down in 1908) The first small mill (since dismantled) was built by Daniel Lyman between 1807 and 1809. It was the site, in 1817, of the first successful use of Scotch powerlooms in Rhode Island. New construction took place in 1845; only a 2½-story random-stone, pitched-roof outbuilding survives from this period. The 3-story brick mill now standing on the site was built in 1885 by A. Albert Sack, founder of the Lymansville Company. Sack actually supervised construction of the mill, which was built to produce worsted yarns, coatings and suitings. The Lymansville Company policy was unique: they were the only establishment that sold and delivered goods directly to the consumer. A. Albert Sack came to this country from Germany, and he recruited many German weavers from Hackensack, New Jersey. The village supported a Roman Catholic chapel, a German band and a casino. Several double houses, dating from before 1870, built by an earlier mill owner are sited along the main street, Woonasquatucket Avenue, parallel to the river. However, under Sack, the Lymansville Company encouraged employees to build their own homes. In 1891, one hundred houses were built by mill operatives and only two by the company. Most of the houses built on the side streets were built by mill operatives. Private ownership encouraged individual rehabilitation efforts and as a result most of these houses have been completely modernized. The growth of the village was more random and individualistic than is common, making Lymansville less like a typical company village.

#### WOONASQUATUCKET AVENUE

95-97, Mill Housing: Late Victorian, 2-family, 1½-story,  
99-101, gable-roofed houses, eight bays wide, with two interior chimneys and separate entrances. Number 99-101 has been altered by the addition of a one-story projecting front.

145, Mill Houses: Three, Late Victorian, 2-family mill  
161-163, houses. They are 2½-stories high, including a full  
173 basement story, and have two interior chimneys and a gambrel roof with shed dormers. There are separate entrances with porticos at each gable end. Some of these entrances have been modified.

184 Lymansville Mill (1885): The construction of this mill was supervised by A. Albert Sack, founder of the company. It is a 3-story, brick, worsted mill, built using pier construction with segmental-arch double windows. Built in the shape of a cross, it has a square central stair tower. All that remains of the c. 1845 mill buildings located here is a 2½-story stone outbuilding with a pitched roof.

224,  
228

Nicholas Reiner Houses (c. 1885): Two, Late Victorian, 2½-story, gable-roofed boarding houses, set gable end to the street. The 3-bay facades are distinguished on the first floor by a bracketed bay window and a side door with bracketed hood.

306

House: Early 19th-century dwelling; one-and-a-half stories with a gable roof and center chimney. Set on a granite foundation, the house is five bays wide with a side ell. The doorway is central and has a transom and cornice.

## INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURES OUTSIDE VILLAGE CENTERS

(Listed by road, alphabetically)

### ANGELL ROAD

- 416 Former Farmers Baptist Church (c. 1880): A Late Victorian, 1½-story chapel with a gable roof, set gable end to street. Formerly a chapel serving the Woodville area, the building has been altered for use as a residence. The bell, cast in 1876, survives and has been set into the gable end. (Map #6)
- 437 W. P. Angell House (c. 1860): A Victorian, 2-story, L-plan dwelling with a nearly flat roof with a bracketed cornice; the entrance is made through an open porch. (Map #7)

### ASYLUM ROAD

Town Asylum-Poor Farm: An early 19th-century 2½-story farmhouse with a gable roof and a 1½-story side ell. It has a simple bracketed portico entrance. Although in use as a Town Farm by 1850, with 64 acres of farmland, it was always considered inaccessible and was sold by the town in 1875. It has since been in use as a residence. (Map #8)

### ATLANTIC BOULEVARD

- 2 F. Ronci & Company (c. 1920): An early 20th-century, 3-story, brick factory building. The "moderne" facade is articulated by fielded panels. It was built for the Atlantic Biscuit Company, but was sold in 1929 and is now occupied by F. Ronci and Company; the building is part of a factory complex that is the world's largest buckle factory. Over 28,000 different styles of ornaments are produced, in addition to innumerable types of belt buckles. (Map #9)

### BOURNE AVENUE

- 2 Nathaniel Day Homestead (1737): Located at the head of Brown Avenue (named for its 19th-century owner, Charles A. Brown), this is a 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof and large center chimney. It appears to have been built in two sections: one half is mid-18th century or earlier, the other, Federal with a handsome but simple Federal pilaster and a volute doorway. (Map #10)

COLONIAL DRIVE

- 7 Widow Smith House (mid-18th century): Located at the junction with Smithfield Road is this 1½-story, mid-18th-century dwelling with a gambrel roof and two interior chimneys. It has been severely altered by the addition of a side wing, gable dormers and a projecting, enclosed entrance. (Map #11)

DOUGLAS AVENUE (Route 7)

- 1117 Geneva Mill (1896): A 2- and 3-story, brick mill complex, with a surviving smokestack; built as a woolen and worsted mill by the Wanskuck Company. A 2-story field-stone mill building (c. 1861) predates the brick mill complex. Geneva was a mill site as early as 1835, known as Stephen Randall's Factory. (Map #12)
- 1209 House (c. 1895): A Late Victorian, 1½-story dwelling with a gable roof set gable end to the street. A bay window with a bracketed cornice flanks the entrance with its bracketed door hood. The fenestration is delineated by arched, label lintels. (Map #13)
- 1211 House (c. 1895): A Late Victorian, 1½-story dwelling with a cross-gabled roof and a bay window that flanks the entrance. The roof line of the bay dips to join that of the open, attached porch which is supported by turned posts and fleurs-de-lis brackets. (Map #14)
- 1229,  
1333 Houses (c. 1895): Two, identical 1½-story, 5-bay houses with gable roofs, blind second stories, interior chimneys and bracketed door hoods. They were built in the late 19th century for workers in the Geneva Mills. (Map #15)
- 1375 House (c. 1895): A turn-of-the-century, 2½-story house with a 1-story rear addition, a gable roof and a bracketed cornice set gable end to the street. The facade is articulated by 2-story bay windows and a bracketed door hood with a heavy cornice with swags detailed in the frieze. (Map #16)

DOUGLAS AVENUE (north of Mineral Spring Avenue)

- 1442 House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian dwelling, only three bays wide with a side addition, with a gable roof and a central, double, gable dormer. There is a central doorway with a bracketed door hood

and an oculus over the doorway. (Map #17)

1483

House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian house, five bays wide, with a gable roof, a central doorway with a bracketed door hood and an open porch on the side. (Map #18)

1602

House: A Late Victorian, 1½-story house, set gable end to the street. It has a bracketed door hood and modillion cornices at the roofline, on the door hood and over the front bay window. (Map #19)

Jason Hilton Bleachery: A Late Victorian, 1½-story field-stone factory building with a full basement on the water side. It was built for use as a bleachery in the late 19th century. It is located off the turnpike, drawing water power from the Twin Rivers of the Wenscott Reservoir. (Map #20)

1720

John Smith House: A 2½-story, 18th-century dwelling with a gable roof, an end chimney and an interior chimney. The windows have splayed lintels. The front porch with its central pedimented portico entrance is a later addition. The house is located adjacent to the Wenscott Reservoir. (Map #21)

#### HIGH SERVICE AVENUE

28

A. Harris Crowell House: A turn-of-the-century, 2½-story, square house with a bracketed, hip roof with gable dormers. The first floor is larger in dimension than the second story, but this is masked by the porch which runs around three sides of the house and is topped by a balustrade. A similar roof balustrade has since been removed. Built between 1895 and 1910 by Walter S. Whipple, it was given as a wedding present to his daughter, Honey, on the occasion of her marriage to A. Harris Crowell, a wealthy businessman. It was illustrated in the 1910 City Directory as one of the finest homes in North Providence. (Map #22)

#### LEXINGTON AVENUE

235

Jonathan Randall House: A 1½-story, mid-18th century, gambrel-roofed house with a massive center chimney, windows with splayed lintels and aprons and a large shed-dormer addition. (Map #23)

## LOUISQUISSET PIKE

- 1367 John Randall House (c. 1749): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed dwelling with a center chimney. The more recent portico obscures the handsome doorway which is flanked by fluted pilasters and topped by a transom. (Map #24)

## MINERAL SPRING AVENUE

- 1081 Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1963): A modern church structure of light tan colored brick, with contrasting field stone used for the belfry and steeple. The congregation was formed in 1913 and worship took place in the old Marieville Fire Station before the present building was erected. (Map #25)

## MORRILL LANE

- 3,5 Ponton House: A 2½-story, Late Victorian, multigabled house with asymmetrical massing with a matching carriage house. The facade textures are created through a mixing of clapboard with cut shingles. An elaborate gazebo is located on the property. The house was moved to this location in 1974, when the Girard Spring property was sold for development of a shopping plaza. Girard Spring had for many years been a North Providence landmark; the springs have now been filled in--but the house, despite relocation is still a visual landmark. (Map #26)

## SMITH STREET

- 1861 House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival dwelling, five bays wide with a gable roof and a later shed dormer. It has a handsome flat-topped, pilastered central doorway. (Map #27)

## SMITHFIELD ROAD

- 109 Smith-Cushing House (1705): This house began as a 1-room, 2-story structure with an exposed stone-end chimney. The stone base of the present house built by Joseph Smith is said to be from the original house built before King Philip's War of 1675-1676. It is six bays wide, two-and-a-half stories high, with a gable roof and rear lean-to. There is an exposed, stone-and-brick end wall with a restored chimney. The only surviving "stone-ender" in North Providence,

it has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. (Map #28)

138 Captain Stephen Olney House (1802): A 2½-story, 5-bay house with a gable roof, a central-hall plan and a 2½-story side wing, built by Captain Stephen Olney south of the site of his birthplace. Olney chartered a company of private militiaman--the North Providence Rangers--in 1774. He was prominent in the Battles of Long Island, Princeton and Yorktown and is considered one of Rhode Island's Revolutionary War Heroes. His home is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Map #29)

-- Penta Shrine to St. Anthony (20th century): A small, stone structure with a curving gable roof, set gable end to the street and topped by a cross. Access is gained through double doors at the gable end. (Map #30)

175 Andrew Jackson Wilcox House (c. 1885): A Late Victorian, 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof, onion-domed side turret and front wrap-a-round porch. Set back from the road, this property was once part of the Daniel Smith farm. The homestead is no longer standing. Andrew Jackson Wilcox inherited the property from his father and improved it. He became a State Senator in 1888, serving until 1890. (Map #31)

395 Gionis House (mid-20th century): An elaborate brick-and-stone, 1½-story, gable-roofed, Tudor Revival style dwelling. (Map #32)

551-553 Hutchinson House (c. 1780): An 18th-century, 1½-story dwelling with a gable roof. It is set on a high, pinkish quartz foundation. It is much altered. There is a family cemetery to the rear of the house. (Map #33)

922 Mathewson House (c. 1720): A much altered early 18th-century, 2-bay, gambrel-roofed house with two gable-roofed side ells. It is said to be the oldest house in North Providence. The Mathewson family, the owners in the late 19th century, ran a stage-coach line between Georgiaville and Providence. (Map #34)

#### SUPERIOR VIEW BOULEVARD

15 Reservoir House (1891): A 2½-story, gambrel-roofed dwelling with a portico entrance, built for the Supervisor of the Fruit Hill Reservoir. It has been moved and re-sited--its entrance no longer faces the street. (Map #35)



- 91 Gold Medallion House (1958): A 7-room, split-level home, finished in brick and aluminum siding, built by John A. Zuffoletti. An all-electric home, it was awarded the Gold Medallion (a national emblem of excellence in electric living) by the Narragansett Electric Company. (Map #36)

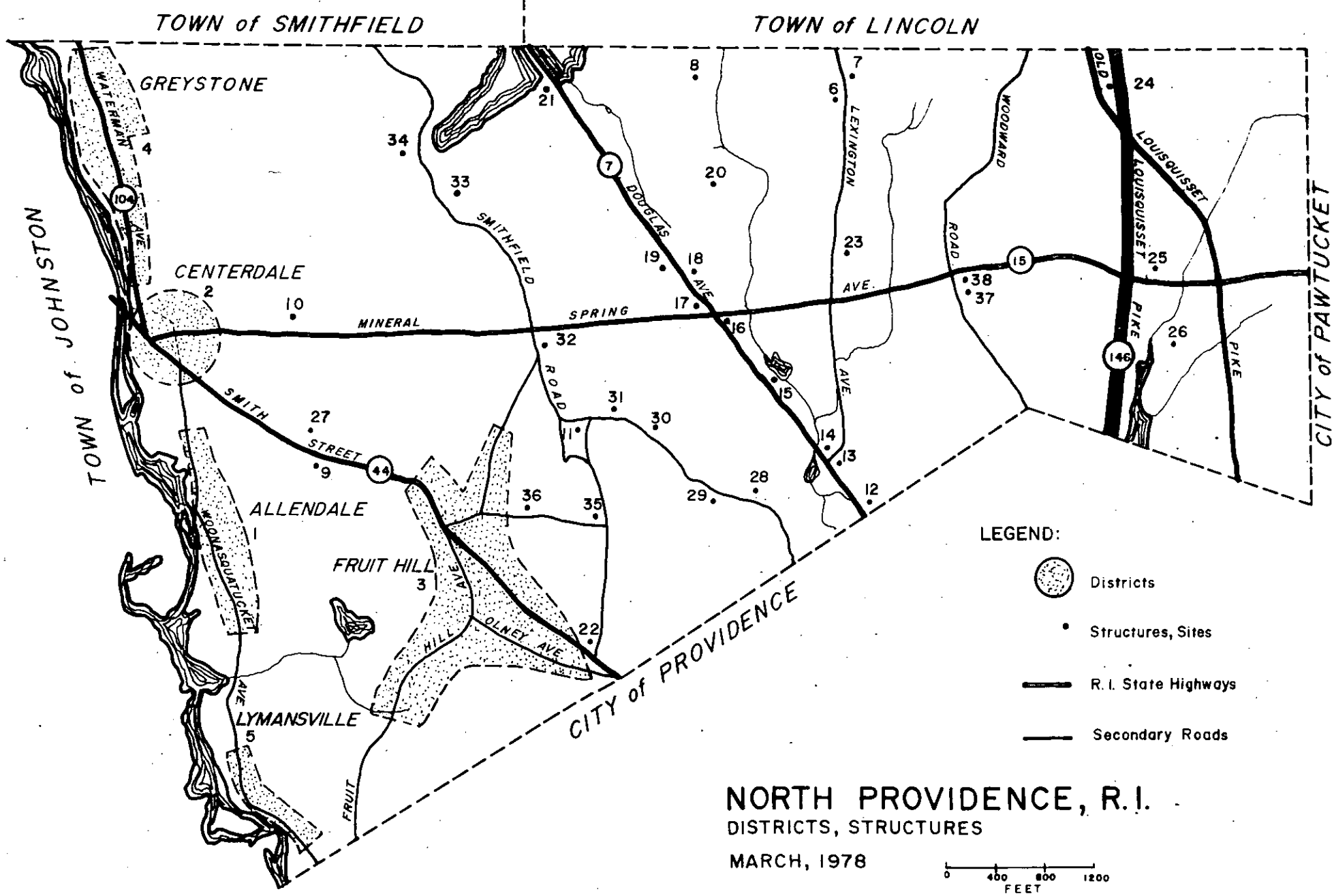
#### WOODWARD ROAD

- 545 Josiah Hawkins Homestead (1783): A severely altered, 1½-story, late 18th-century dwelling with a steeply pitched roof. It is now used as a commercial building. (Map #37)
- 547 William A. Gray House (c. 1905): A 2-story, cross-gable house with a 2-story corner bay capped by a turret. The house was called "Buttercup Cottage" because of the buttercup motif which ornaments the turret. The porch has been removed. The house was built by William A. Gray (an heir of Josiah Hawkins.) William A. Gray was an ice dealer, according to the 1910 Directory. A visual landmark as one comes up Mineral Spring Avenue, it stands lonely at the corner as a reminder of what the neighborhood was like at the turn of the century. (Map #38)

STREET INDEX

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, street entries can be found in the Inventory under Individual Structures outside village centers.

- Angell Road
- Asylum Road
- Atlantic Boulevard
- Beckside Road.....see Greystone
- Bourne Avenue
- Colonial Drive
- Douglas Avenue
- Fruit Hill Avenue.....see Fruit Hill
- George Street.....see Centerdale
- Greystone Avenue.....see Greystone
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- Homewood Avenue.....see Fruit Hill
- Langsberries Avenue.....see Greystone
- Larchmont Avenue.....see Greystone
- Lexington Avenue
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- Mineral Spring Avenue.....see Centerdale
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see Fruit Hill  
also see individual structures  
outside Village Centers
- Smithfield Road
- St. Mary's Road.....see Greystone
- Superior View Boulevard
- Thomas Street.....see Centerdale
- Walter Avenue.....see Centerdale
- Waterman Avenue.....see Greystone
- Woonasquatucket Avenue.....see Allendale  
see Centerdale  
see Lymanville



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