

Historic and Architectural Resources of Scituate, 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 SCITUATE

MAY, 1980

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1980.
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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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.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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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 are designed to provide a catalogue of nonrenewable cultural resources. This information is needed for a variety of planning purposes at the local, state, and national levels. It identifies sites, districts, and structures eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and it becomes the basis for establishing preservation planning priorities based on problems and potentials discovered as part of the survey process.

The preliminary surveys are accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on United States Geological Survey maps enlarged to twice normal scale (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 evaluated in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: properties already on, or approved at the State Review Board level 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 preliminary surveys and are mentioned only incidentally in these studies in order to provide historical context. No documented Native American sites are known in Scituate, and, as this survey did not include archeology, nothing was added to our knowledge of pre-colonial habitation here.

Previous studies are reviewed, and town histories, reports, and other readily available information are researched to ensure that all published historic sites and structures are included in the study. Local planners and historical societies 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 until a full-scale intensive cultural-resource survey of the community can be completed. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission intends to conduct such intensive surveys as soon as funds and staffing are available.

INTRODUCTION

The following preliminary study covers the historical and architectural resources of Scituate. It provides basic information needed so that cultural resources can begin to be properly considered in making future planning decisions at all levels.

The report includes an illustrated account of Scituate's architectural and developmental history in Section I. Section II is a comprehensive list of properties in the town already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, followed by those approved by the Rhode Island Review Board for the Register and those recommended for nomination to the National Register as a result of this 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-scale, preliminary, cultural-resource survey map prepared by the Historical Preservation Commission and drawn at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet. This large-scale map is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the Scituate Town Hall; copies have also been deposited with the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs.

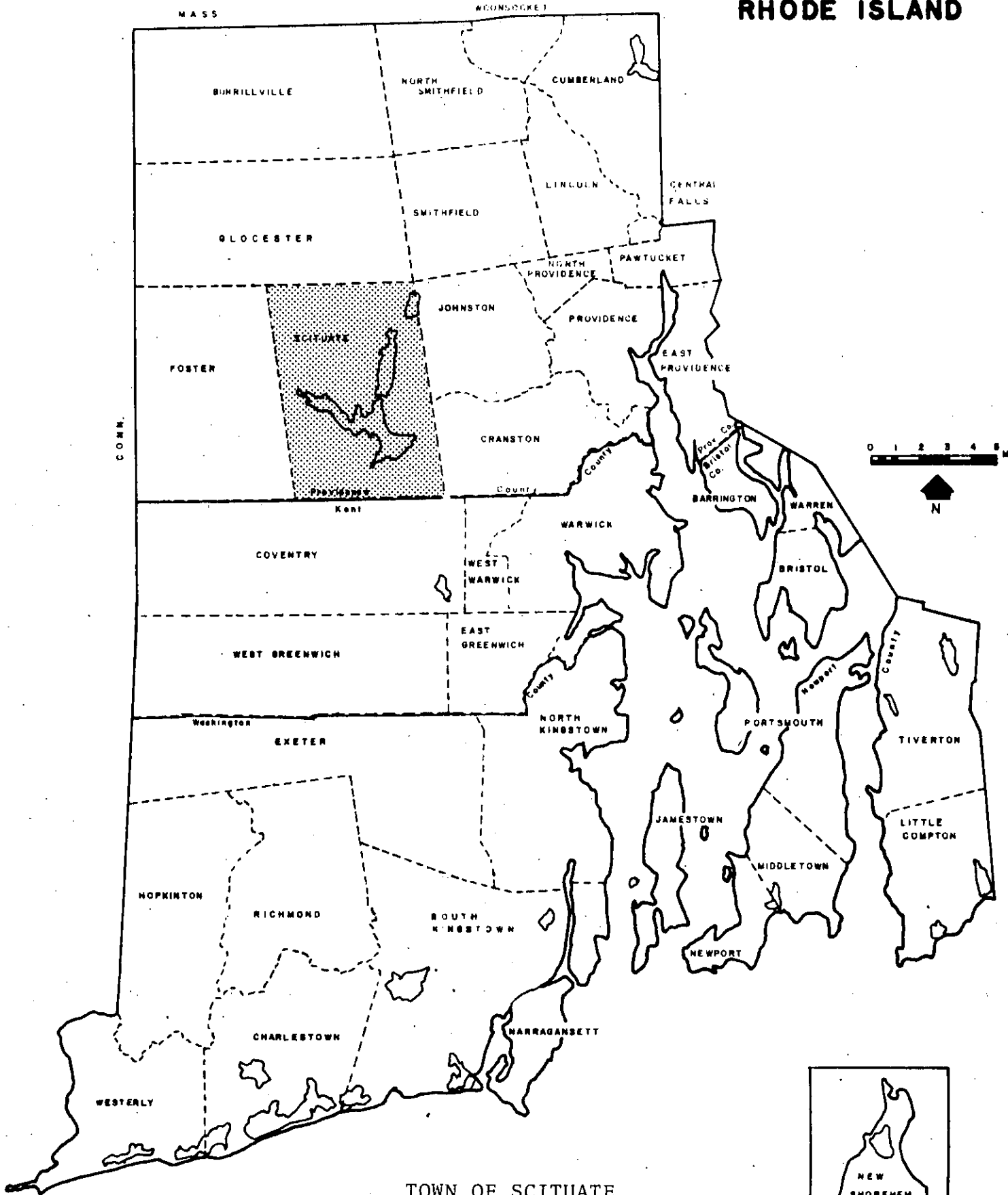
The Commission would like to thank the many officials, residents, and scholars who assisted in the conduct of the preliminary survey and in the publication of this report. In particular, the Commission would like to thank the Scituate Historical and Preservation Society and the North Scituate Public Library, especially Jane Folcarelli, former president of the Society, Barbara Stetson, and Ernest Edwards.

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RHODE ISLAND



TOWN OF SCITUATE



I. ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

Colonists moving out from Rhode Island's earliest European settlement site at Providence came to what is now Scituate around 1700. In the eighteenth century the town experienced intense agricultural development and in the nineteenth century remarkably widespread industrial development along its numerous rivers and streams. Yet curiously, Scituate's present-day, woodsy, rural character results from two early twentieth-century phenomena which dramatically shifted the town's development pattern, rapidly returning Scituate to a seemingly primeval state not present since the pre-colonial era.

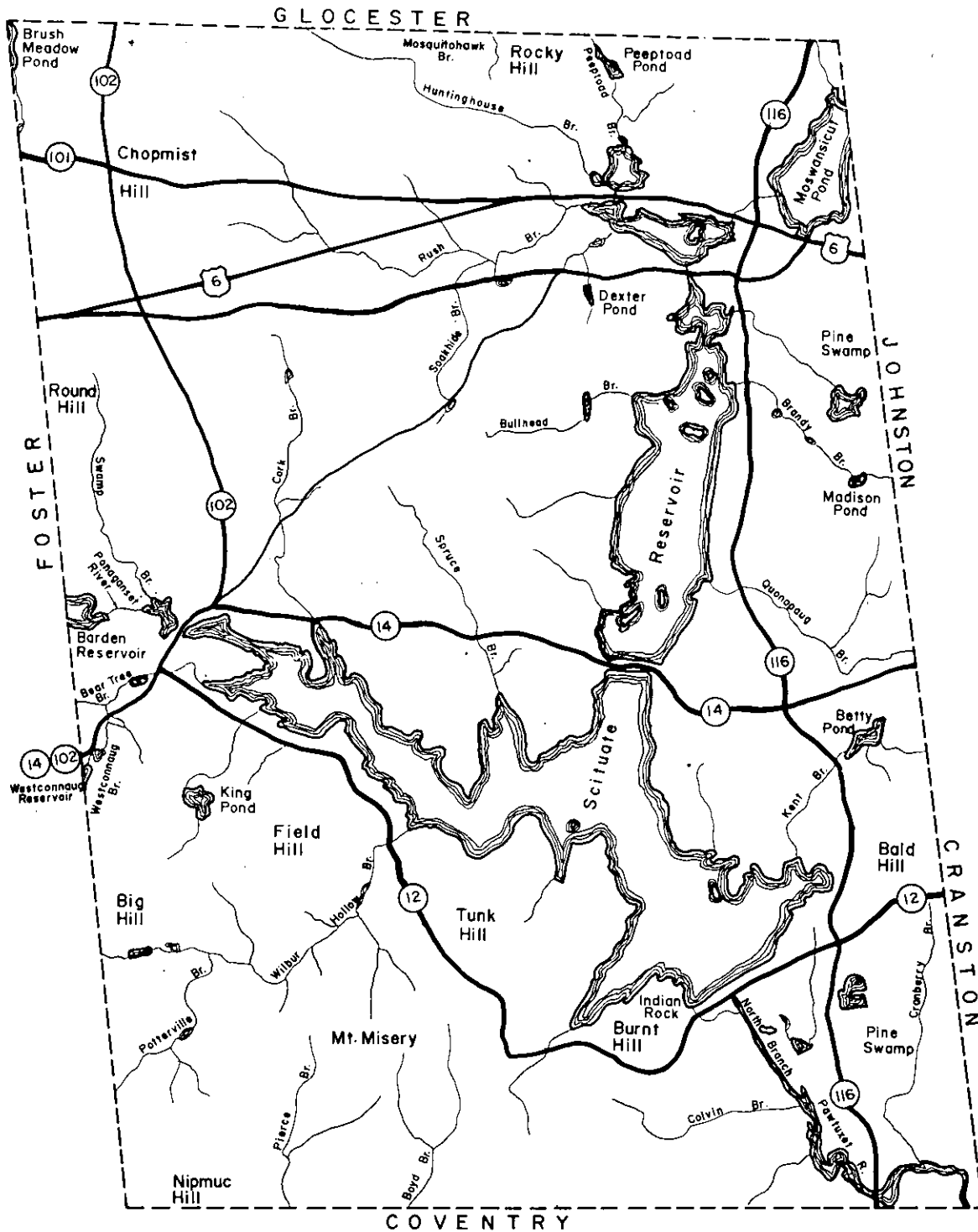
In the first half of the twentieth century Rhode Island's agriculture declined precipitously, a decline which had its origins in major economic and demographic shifts dating at least to the mid-nineteenth century. In Scituate, as in neighboring towns, thousands of acres of fields and meadows--land open for two centuries and defined by miles of stone walls--gradually were abandoned and, in the course of a generation, reforested. A factor particular to Scituate, however, had an even greater effect on the "re-ruralization" of the community--construction of the Scituate Reservoir. Developed between 1920 and 1926, and built to serve the City of Providence, the Scituate Reservoir now supplies freshwater to the Providence Metropolitan area. Today about 42 per cent of Scituate's area is taken up by the reservoir and its protected, forest watershed. More than anything else, these developments shaped present-day Scituate, recasting its geography, economy, and population. In considering the history and historic resources of the town, they should constantly be kept in mind.

LOCATION AND POPULATION

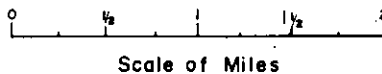
Scituate, a Providence County town, occupies an interior position in the north-central part of the state, about seven miles west of Providence. A nearly rectangular parallelogram, Scituate is bordered by Johnston and Cranston on the east, Coventry on the south, Foster on the west, and Glocester on the north. Some 7,500 residents occupy the town's fifty-five-square-mile area; its low population density resulting, in part, because of the large amount of land in reservoir property and unavailable for development.

ROADS

A network of numbered highways crisscrosses Scituate, in general avoiding the reservoir which forms a enormous "Y" across the center of town. In origin, most of these highways (though often moved and modified) date to the eighteenth or early nineteenth century and form the



SCITUATE, R.I.
PHYSICAL FEATURES
MAY 1980



western spokes of a wheel of roads which link Providence to its environs and more distant centers. The most important is U.S. Route 6. Traversing the northern part of Scituate, it is one of the state's prime east-west highways, a major trunk route to Danielson, Willimantic, and the Connecticut Turnpike. U.S. 6 formerly passed through North Scituate village; the Scituate By-Pass, built about 1970, skirts the northern part of the village. Route 101, the Hartford Pike, begins just east of the village and runs together with U.S. 6 for several miles to just west of the Scituate Reservoir, where they divide. Plainfield Pike, State Route 14, also running generally east-west, crosses the central part of town. Route 12, Scituate Avenue and Tunk Hill Road, a lightly traveled road, meanders through the southern part of town, skirting the lower reaches of the reservoir. Victory Highway, Route 102, the most important north-south link in western Rhode Island, carries traffic in the western part of town, from Glocester in the north into Foster in the south, passing through the village of Clayville. Route 116, known by different names, runs in a north-south direction along the eastern side of the reservoir. In addition, one local highway, the Rockland-Scituate Road, has major transportation importance. It carries traffic diagonally across the north-central part of town, connecting Danielson Pike with routes 14 and 102 at Crazy Corner. Highways are Scituate's sole means of transportation. There are neither railroads nor airfields in town.

The town's streams are not navigable, but once served as a source of power for dozens of mills. Scituate's largest waterway is the North Branch of the Pawtuxet. Beginning at the Kent, or Gainer Dam, it flows southeastward through the village of Hope, then passes through Jackson and Fiskeville in Scituate before entering Cranston and Coventry at the southeast corner of Scituate.

GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS*

Located in the Upland section of New England, Scituate is underlain by old crystalline rocks, mostly granite. Formerly part of the more extensive Appalachian Mountain system, the land was worn down over millions of years of weathering and erosion. In the recent geologic past, continental glaciers--vast ice sheets overriding the land--covered this area. The southward-moving ice mass carried large quantities of soil and boulders, which were deposited indiscriminantly over the land when the ice sheet melted about 11,000 years ago. The unsorted material deposited, a mixture of soil and rocks, is known to geologists as till. In places where large ice blocks were left standing on the land, then covered up with material deposited by glacial meltwaters, a knobby terrain, known as kame-and-kettle topography, resulted. Rivers flowing under the ice sheets also deposited material in a linear pattern. They now exist as relatively sharp-topped ridges known as eskers. Other glacial deposits were sorted out by the action

*Refer to the map of physical features following page iv for locations.

of running water--the material deposited ranging from coarsely sorted pebbly mixtures to fine sand and clay. Large sandy areas along glacial lakes are known as kame terraces. Large boulders that were carried from elsewhere and left perched on the land, sitting on bedrock of another material, are known as glacial erratics. Glacial material also blocked pre-existing watercourses, resulting in the many swampy areas-- along the Swamp Brook headwaters; at two areas, both known as Pine Swamp, in the eastern part of town; and along Quonopaug Brook, Wilbur Hollow Brook, and Boyd Brook. Several other former swamps were covered by the Scituate Reservoir waters.

The long period of erosion, and the scouring effect of the glacier as it moved south, resulted in a very irregular topography with smooth hilltops. Scituate is a hilly town, with elevations over 400 feet above sea level. Rocky Hill, in the northeast, is 482 feet high, and Burnt Hill, in the southeast rises to a 430-foot elevation. The highest altitudes are in the western part of town. In the southwest corner is a relatively rugged, sparsely inhabited area containing Mount Misery (528 feet), Field Hill (537 feet), Tunk Hill (580 feet), and Big Hill (590 feet). The northwest corner of the town is the highest. Round Hill, on the Foster town line, is 610 feet, and Chopmist Hill, at 730 feet above sea level, is the highest point in Scituate and one of the highest in Rhode Island. The topography of Scituate, and proximity to Rhode Island's major urban centers, has substantially influenced settlement. Scituate's population today is concentrated in the eastern part of town. At the extreme southeastern corner of town, where the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River flows into Cranston and Coventry, occurs the lowest elevation, about 150 feet above sea level.

Most of Scituate lies within the watershed of the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River, which originally was formed by the confluence of the Moswansicut and Ponaganset rivers. The Ponaganset rises in Glocester. A dam at the Foster-Scituate town line holds back the river waters to form the Barden Reservoir; thence, the Ponaganset flows a short distance eastward into the Scituate Reservoir. The Moswansicut was flooded by the Scituate Reservoir in the northeast part of town. The rivers, and their tributaries, were an essential part of Scituate's early industrial development, first supplying power for small sawmills and gristmills, then powering larger cotton textile mills and bobbin factories which were the nucleus of several mill villages. A number of mill sites (today decaying ruins) scattered about the town serve as reminders of the contribution of the waterways to the town's economy and way of life.

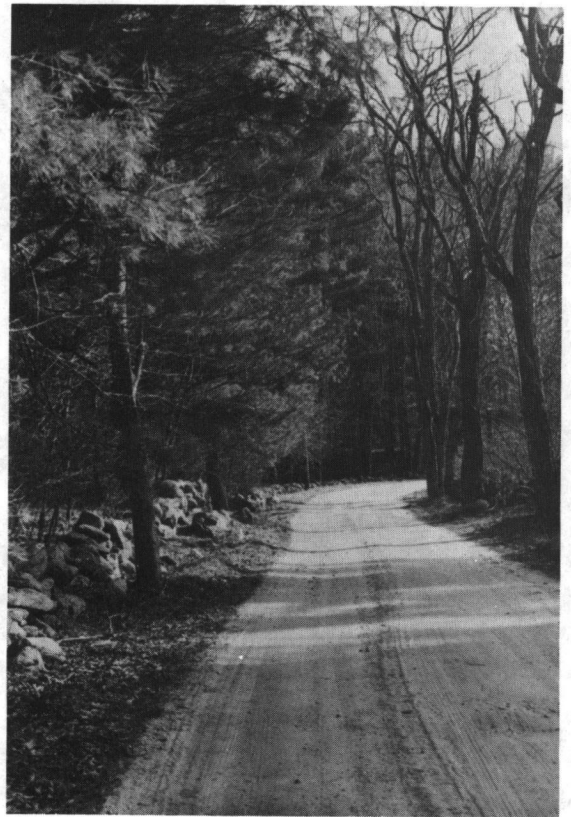
Most of Scituate's brooks flow into the Scituate Reservoir, the largest freshwater body in Rhode Island. Its surface area of 5.3 square miles is about 100 per cent of the total area of the town of Scituate. Moswansicut Pond, in the northeast corner of town, is a relatively large water body, and there are about a dozen smaller ponds in the town.



Corn Crib, Hartley Luther Farm:
Rocky Hill Road. (Map #42)



Stone work: Elmdale Road.



Dexter Lane Roadscape. (Map #38)

Originally forested, then largely cleared for farms, Scituate today is mostly wooded again. Much of the land, particularly in the southwest quadrant of town, is still in a wild state.

A survey of "unique natural areas" conducted by the Rhode Island Audubon Society in the early 1970s, recorded natural features (including rare individual plants and communities), swamps, scenic woodlands, brooks and waterfalls, eskers, kames, erratics and other glacial features, and several rock outcrops (at least one associated with Early Americans). A list of important natural areas and features is included as Appendix A of this report.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Native Inhabitants

Before discussing the document history of Scituate, it is important to note that Indians were present in the area for thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers. Native Americans hunted, fished, gathered nuts and other forest products, and probably planted some crops in clearings in the woods. Settlements most likely were temporary, based on the seasonal patterns dictated by nature. The Native American use of the land was a major aspect of the cultural history of the community. However, little professional archeological investigation has been done in the town; consequently, accurate knowledge of the life of Scituate's earliest inhabitants is sketchy at best.

Laying Out the Land

The seventeenth-century history of Scituate focuses on land ownership and other matters relating to land claims. In 1638, Roger Williams received from Canonicus and Miantonomi, sachems of the Narragansett Indians, a deed to land reaching to the Pawtuxet River. Uncertainty about the headwaters of the river resulted in an indefinite western boundary and conflicting claims to land. Much of present-day Scituate was involved in this dispute, for here the North Branch of the Pawtuxet begins. In 1660, after the work of laying out boundaries was completed, the Providence Plantations consisted of the combined areas of two purchases. Land lying within a north-south dividing line drawn seven miles west of Fox Point in Providence was known as "the inlands." Between seven and twenty miles west of Fox Point, the territory now comprising the towns of Scituate, Foster, Glocester, and Burrillville, was referred to as "the outlands," or "the Providence Woods." Part of the present eastern boundary of the town of Scituate lies along the Seven Mile line. The lands south of the Ponaganset River were acquired in 1662 by William Vaughn and his associates from the sachems Newcom and Awashouse. A second deed in this land transaction, known as the Westconnaug Purchase, was secured by Zachariah Rhodes and Robert Westcott, also in 1662. In the early eighteenth century, an agreement

was made between the Westconnaug and the Providence proprietors settling the issue of ownership of the Westconnaug Purchase territory.

Land divisions were carried out over a long period of time. Between 1684 and 1755, there were thirteen divisions of the Outlands before the entire tract was laid out. Although some land was allocated in the late seventeenth century, there was only one European settler in the present town of Scituate before the century's end--John Mathewson--who took up residence in a primitive structure near the north end of Moswansicut Pond in 1694.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Early Land Settlement

Emigration into Scituate began in earnest soon after 1700. In 1703, Joseph Wilkinson settled in the northwestern part of town; he is said to have brought the first cow into Scituate and to have built the first barn. Other settlers followed, establishing homesteads throughout the town. Many acquired large tracts of land. Early families included the Mathewsons, Wilkinsons, Aldriches, Harrises, Hopkins, Arnolds, Smiths, Angells, and Browns. The century was dominated by an agricultural economy with most of the families tied to the land. Sons and daughters established their own farmsteads, population grew rapidly, and by century's end most of Scituate landscape had been transformed from woods to the open spaces of fields and pastures.

Most of the farmers grew only enough food for their own use and a little for purchase of necessities. The settlers' simple way of life was reflected in their homes and outbuildings, which were solid and undorned structures. Several typical mid-eighteenth-century Scituate houses, usually two-and-a-half stories--with a large, brick, center chimney--survive. The finest are entered in, approved for, or recommended for entry in the National Register of Historic Places--the c. 1740 Martin Smith Farm, or Hidden Wells (#54)*, on Gleaner Chapel Road; the c. 1745 Brown House (#127), on Rocky Hill Road; the c. 1750-1760 Battey-Barden House (#107), on Plainfield Pike; the Aldrich House (#131), on Rocky Hill Road; and the John Mathewson House (#157), on Winsor Road. As a group they are representative of a pervasive New England hometype.

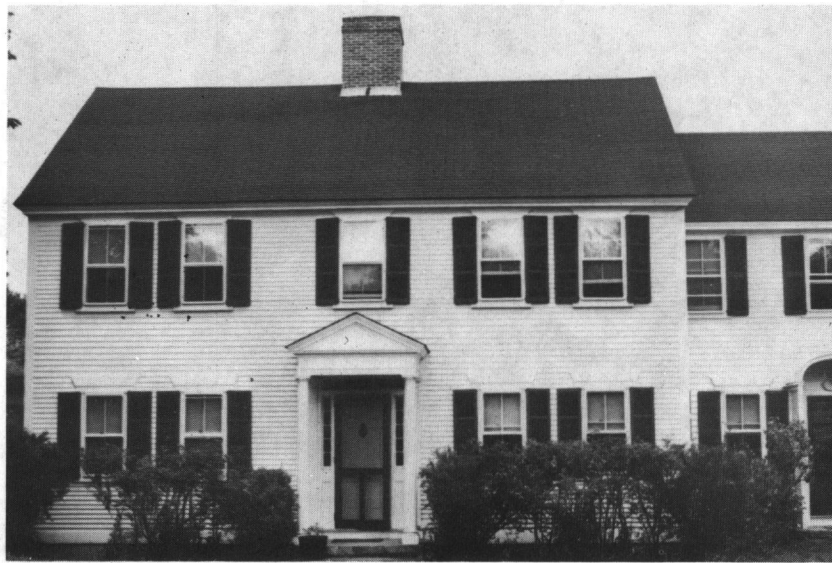
Esek and Stephen Hopkins

Although most of the settlers and their families stayed on the land, others chose different ways of life. Among those who moved from Scituate were Esek and Stephen Hopkins. Esek left the family farm in his twentieth

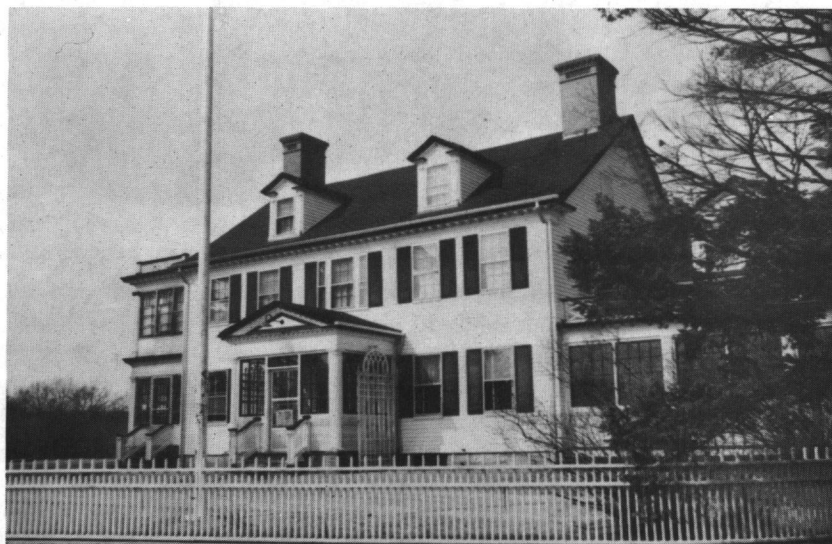
*Numbers in parentheses refer to the Inventory (Section III) and to the map of Cultural Resources following page 44.



Brown Homestead (c. 1745): Rocky Hill Road. (#127)



Aldrich House: Rocky Hill Road. (#131)



Captain Richard Rhodes House (R.I. State Police Headquarters): Danielson Pike (#31)

year and went to sea, eventually serving in the Revolutionary War and rising to the rank of Commander-in-Chief. Esek's brother, Stephen, after some thirty years on the farm, moved to Providence, where he went into business and became an associate of the Brown family, the leading merchants of Providence. Stephen Hopkins led one of the state's two political factions, with Brown's backing. He was chief justice and governor of the state and played an important role in bringing what is now Brown University to Providence. His greatest acclaim is for his outspoken promotion of American independence, which climaxed with his signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Roads

In eighteenth-century Scituate, as new settlers cleared the land and established farmsteads, the need for services grew. The Rhode Island General Assembly, seeking to promote commercial intercourse between the city and its hinterland and the adjacent colonies, established a number of highways. In 1711, a road was ordered laid out from Weybosset Bridge in Providence to the colony line to meet a road coming from Plainfield, Connecticut. The road, following present Plainfield Street in Providence and Plainfield Pike in the several towns it passes through, was completed in Scituate in 1714, where it was called the Great North Road.

Early Settlements: Richmond and North Scituate

Early highways were instrumental in the creation of two villages--Richmond and North Scituate. At Richmond, along the Ponaganset River in the south-central part of town, the Angell Tavern was established in the early eighteenth century to serve travelers along Plainfield Pike. It was probably the first commercial establishment in Scituate. During the century, also, Scituate's first church--a Six Principle Baptist society--was formed in Richmond. The Friends (Quakers) were organized and had a meeting there before the Revolutionary War. In what became the village of North Scituate, in the northeast part of town, a hotel was built at Four Corners (as it was known then). It served as the nucleus of a small, late eighteenth-century settlement which included a store and several residences.

Early Industry: Sawmills, Gristmills, and Iron

In addition to highways, waterpower sites helped create several colonial settlements. Small mills, serving a local neighborhood, were established at a few locations in the early part of the eighteenth century. According to historical accounts, a gristmill and a sawmill were built in North Scituate and a corn mill began operating in Ponaganset during the century. James Mathewson, son of John Mathewson, took 110 acres of land at a site known as "The Falls" and built a gristmill and sawmill along the Moswansicut River at what later became Ashland.

The latter half of the eighteenth century saw the establishment of two iron manufactories in town. John Barden's forge at Ponaganset (started about 1760 using ore from Cranston) probably served the local area. Hope Furnace, established about 1766, however, was a more ambitious enterprise. Founded by Nicholas Brown and Company and including as partners Stephen Hopkins and Israel Wilkinson--the latter the former owner of Unity Furnace (present-day Manville)-- a furnace was built into the side of a small hill. Nearby was a forge where pig iron was refined and hammered into bars of wrought iron. Other buildings were erected, some experienced men were imported, and the small community of Hope was started. At first manufacturing domestic products such as nails and cask hinges, during the Revolutionary War Hope Furnace turned its attention to the manufacture of cannon. Between 1778 and 1781, some 170 cannon were cast, of which about two-thirds were put aboard American privateers. Cannon making continued until 1799. Several years later, the furnace stopped operating and the works and the mill property were sold. Today, there is little material evidence of the existence of the furnace, although slag is liberally sprinkled throughout the yards of several homes in the vicinity of the old iron works.

Population Growth and Political Independence

The town's growing population, combined with distance from the seat of government in Providence, resulted in the incorporation of Scituate and several other towns in 1731. Scituate then included the town of Foster, which became an independent political unit a half century later. While the town's population increased at a steady rate in the early part of the century, the greatest population growth, an increase of 55 per cent, occurred during the last quarter of the century-- between the end of the Revolutionary War and the beginning of the nineteenth century. The 1800 census recorded a Scituate population of 2,523 people.

Postwar Houses

Substantial farmhouses continued to be built in the late nineteenth century, essentially following the same plan as earlier houses. The postwar houses, however, showed modest changes in architectural "style"-- the most conspicuous new element being a fine pedimented main doorway with a semicircular or semi-elliptical fan, and fluted pilasters, instead of the simply framed entry of earlier times. A good example of such new, Federal entryways is seen in the c. 1793 Brown House (#127), on Rocky Hill Road, which is recommended for the National Register.

The Plainfield Turnpike

The increasing population and relative prosperity of the rural areas stimulated more highway improvements in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Although the Plainfield Pike was in

existence through the eighteenth century, and a line of stages was operating along it between Hartford, Providence, and Boston, the road was never in good condition, making movement of people and goods difficult. Upon the urging of many road-improvement supporters, an act incorporating the Providence-Norwich Turnpike Society for establishing a turnpike road was passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1795. Creation of the road, later known as the Plainfield Pike, opened the turnpike era in Rhode Island.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

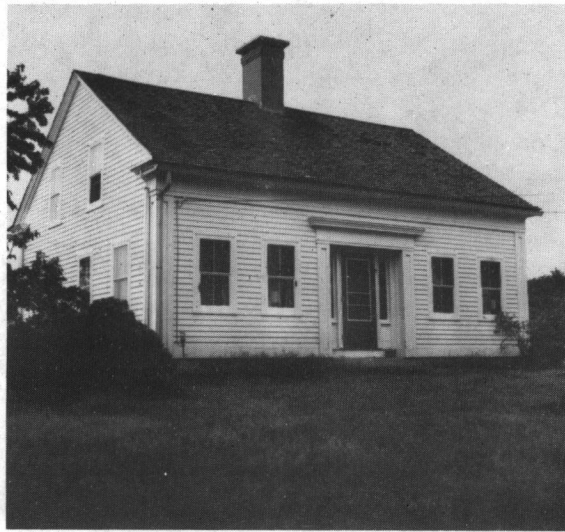
The nineteenth century was a time of dramatic change in Scituate. Rhode Island's industrial transformation stormed the entire state, converting sleepy hamlets into bustling and prosperous mill villages. Turnpikes helped promote the flow of goods between the rural hinterland and the port city of Providence. But, the growth of industry, providing an alternative to the demands of farm life, and competition from western farmers, beginning with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, spelled the decline of agriculture as the major component of Scituate's economy. By mid-century, at least, manufacturing was the most important economic force, and continued to be the backbone of the economy throughout the rest of the century.

Turnpikes

The Plainfield Pike (present Route 14), also known as the Providence and Norwich Turnpike during part of the nineteenth century, was a fore-runner of other turnpikes which connected Providence with its rural hinterland and with urban centers in adjacent Connecticut and Massachusetts. In 1803, the Hartford Pike (later Route 101), originally the Rhode Island and Connecticut Turnpike, was chartered, running westward from its eastern terminus at Manton. The Foster and Scituate Turnpike Company, chartered in 1813, had a highway from the Connecticut line to Hopkins Mills in Foster. Later, the road, which eventually became known as the Danielson Pike (Route 6), was extended to run through Scituate to its junction with the Rhode Island and Connecticut Turnpike at North Scituate. Central Pike, created in 1814 by an act of incorporation, was not completed until 1822, when a new act of incorporation was filed. The last turnpike completed in Scituate, Central Pike, ceased to be a toll road in 1842. In 1866, the section of Plainfield Pike in Scituate became a free road, and the entire pike was toll free by about 1870. About that time (1870), Hartford Pike, Danielson Pike, and all the other Rhode Island turnpikes also became free roads, bringing the turnpike era to an end.

Waterways and Industrial Transformation

While the turnpikes opened up the rural areas by enlarging markets for agricultural products and goods derived from nature, it was the rivers and brooks of Scituate that helped transform the town's economy



Greek Revival House: Field Hill Road (Map #48A)



Dexter Arnold House (1813): Chopmist Hill Road. (Map #21)



House: Howard Avenue. (Map #73)

from agricultural to industrial. The town was richly endowed with waterways. The Moswansicut and Ponaganset rivers and several of their tributaries offered fine potential for waterpower sites. Near the center of Scituate the rivers joined to form the North Branch of the Pawtuxet. The Pawtuxet Valley became one of the major industrial areas of the state and nation in the nineteenth century. Following the successful operation of America's first cotton textile mill, in Pawtucket in 1790, textile manufacturing spread throughout the state. In 1811, there were about three dozen textile mills operating in the state, with the center of production along the Pawtuxet River. By 1832, there were more than 100 cotton mills recorded in Rhode Island, including about a dozen in Scituate. Between 1820 and 1830, the population of Scituate increased by 41 per cent, a reflection of the growth of mills and mill villages during this period of very active textile-manufacturing development.

Hope

Cotton-goods manufacturing began in Scituate in about 1806 when a group of Providence men organized as the Hope Cotton Factory Company and built a mill along the Pawtuxet River, near the site of the Hope Furnace, thereby establishing the first mill village in the town. About 1825, another mill was built and a boarding house for mill workers was opened. The mill burned in 1844 and was replaced by the present large, four-story, stone building (#2E) by the firm of Brown and Ives, which had purchased the mill site. Hope experienced its most rapid growth soon after 1871 when a large stone addition was made to the 1844 mill. Thirteen double-tenement houses (#2K) were built for employees on a street near the mill and many fine residences were erected in the "outskirts" of the compact village. In 1874, a church (#2H) was completed and a library and reading room established. At the end of the decade of the 1870s, Hope, at the terminus of the Pawtuxet Railroad, was described as a "thriving little village," with two or three stores and some mechanical trade. The Hope Manufacturing Company gave the village "a large supply trade and consequent appearance of enterprise and thrift," according to Hoag and Wade's History of Rhode Island (written in 1878.)

Glen Rock

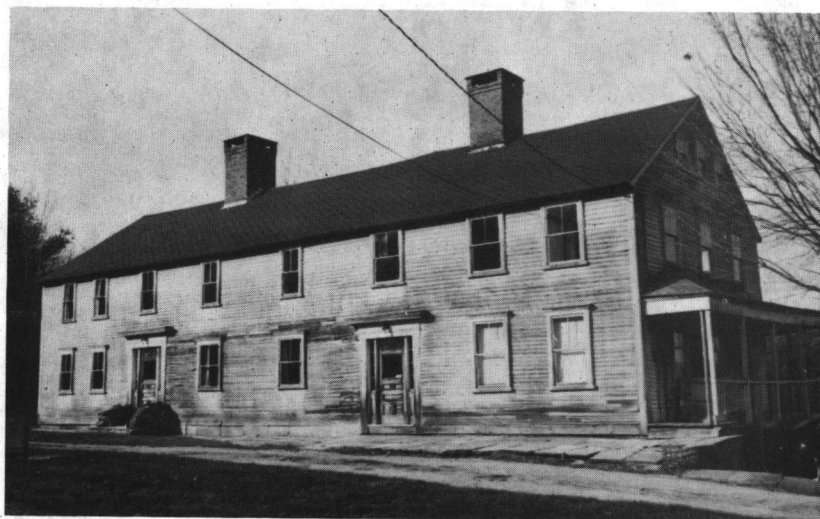
About 1810, a stone mill (#155) was built in the northeastern part of town, near the outlet of Moswansicut Pond, by Captain Benjamin Aborn. The mill, which manufactured yarns, became part of the Scituate Manufacturing Company; it was later identified as the Smith and Nichols Cotton Mill and the Moswansicut Manufacturing Company. A small community of about a dozen houses, known as Glen Rock in the late nineteenth century, lined West Greenville Road south of the mill.



Mill House (early 19th century): 52 Hope Furnace Road, Hope Historic District. (Map #2D)



Mill House (1872): Mill Street, Hope Historic District. (Map #2K)



M. Potter House (c. 1711 and later): Old Plainfield Pike. (Map #99)

Fiskeville

Three more cotton factories, at Fiskeville, Richmond, and Rockland, were erected in 1812. Fiskeville was started by Caleb Fiske who settled in the southeast corner of Scituate, near Cranston, in the late eighteenth century. A doctor, he served as a surgeon during the Revolutionary War and later became renown in Rhode Island for his medical service and for the training of medical students. He was one of the original members of the Rhode Island Medical Society, and served as its president during the year 1823-1824. After his death, the society received his library and a fund--the Fiske Fund--was set up in his memory. Dr. Fiske and his son, Philip, dammed the Pawtuxet River and built a cotton mill near the river, in Scituate, in 1812. The mill, typical of the early types, was a long and narrow frame structure with a tower. It was used throughout the nineteenth century, becoming idle shortly before 1900. Sometime after Dr. Fiske's death in 1835 the mill became part of the Jackson Mills, and in the latter part of the century operated as part of the large B. B. & R. Knight textile empire. Fiskeville is usually associated with Cranston rather than with Scituate because most of the buildings, including Dr. Fiske's residence, were in Cranston, but the mill, and about a dozen nearby mill houses, were located in Scituate. Surviving mill houses from the early industrial era include some small, wood-frame, one-and-a-half-story cottages (#77) and some rare examples of early stone mill-house architecture (#83).

Richmond

Richmond's first textile mill, a stone mill, was erected in 1812 by a company of about a dozen men and operated under the name of the Richmond Company. The history of the village is confusing, but it is recorded that a factory--erected in 1826 by Daniel Fiske to manufacture axes, scythes, and spindles--burned in 1877 and later became Steere's shoe and corset-lacing factory. The Wilbur Factory, started by Samuel Wilbur in 1829 for the manufacture of spools and bobbins, burned in 1884 but was immediately rebuilt. At mid-century, Richmond contained at least one textile mill, a sawmill, a gristmill, a hotel, a school, the A. Angell Hotel, and a post office. An Episcopal Church was added to the village just before 1860. William E. Joslin, a manufacturer of all the leading lace lines in tubular and flat shoelaces, established his business in Richmond and nearby South Scituate in 1865. Joslin also acquired other mills--in Saundersville, Ponaganset, and Clayville--as well as the Dyerville Mill, the Merino Mill, and Tobey Street Mills in Providence. By 1870, Richmond contained R. Joslin's cotton mill, three bobbin mills, a schoolhouse, a church, a store and the town hall. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Joslin property, in addition to the mills, included several hundred acres of farmland and a sufficient number of tenements for 650 employees. All the Joslin mills were connected by trolley--the Providence and Danielson Railway--the lines running very close to each factory.

Rockland

Another village, which eventually became Rockland, was started when the first of three mills was erected in 1812 along the Westconnaug River, a branch of the Ponaganset. Built by Joshua Smith, Frank Hill and several other men, for the manufacture of cotton yarn, it was known as the Rockland Mill, or Rockland Factory (#114). It burned in 1854, was rebuilt in 1856, and was leased to Alanson Steere, who purchased the property in 1865. Extensive additions were made in 1875. The second mill at Rockland, known for a long time as Remington's Mill, later the Red Mill, was constructed about 1814-1815 by Peter B. and Peleg C. Remington to manufacture cotton yarn. Located on the Westconnaug River below the Rockland Mill, it burned in 1840 and was rebuilt. This property was also purchased by Alanson Steere in 1865. He made extensive additions in 1871 and 1891. A third mill, also known as the Remington Mill, was erected by Edward Remington in 1831. It manufactured cotton cloth until the Civil War, when manufacturing stopped. In addition to the three mills in Rockland, other industrial, commercial, social, and civic buildings were located in the village, including stores, a post office, a wood shop, a blacksmith shop, a school, a Christian Church, and an Advent Church, in addition to several dozen houses, all strung out along Plainfield Pike, Ponaganset Road and Tunk Hill Road.

Ashland

The waterpower of the falls of the Moswansicut River at what became Ashland was first harnessed by James Mathewson who built a sawmill and a gristmill here in the eighteenth century. About 1827, Ashland, named after Henry Clay's home in Kentucky, underwent a revitalization when the old gristmill and sawmill were torn down to provide a site for cotton mills. New mills and six tenement houses were built by Hughes and Brown in 1838. In 1847, the Ashland Company was incorporated for the manufacture of cotton goods and twenty-one more tenements were built. A large addition was made to the mill in 1856, and more houses were added to the village. The Union Church, built by the company between 1856 and 1858, was open to all denominations but used mostly by Methodists. Thereafter, for the rest of the century, the village remained essentially unchanged.

Clayville

Clayville (#1), named in honor of Henry Clay, had its industrial beginnings about 1826 when General Josiah Whitaker, a Providence merchant and director of the Old Stone Bank, moved here. He operated a store and a comb factory which made imitation, tortoise-shell, ladies hair combs. The comb factory operated for a while then, about 1847, was converted to a rubber mill, manufacturing rubber shoes and other products. In 1853, it was altered to a cotton mill. Destroyed by fire

in 1857, it was immediately rebuilt and cotton manufacturing continued. Subsequently, a lower mill was built and ran in connection with the 1857 mill. A considerable village grew up around the mills along the Westconnaug River near the western border of town. By the end of the century, the village, partly in the adjoining town of Foster, was thriving and boasted about forty dwellings, two country stores, a church, and about two hundred inhabitants.

Jackson

Charles Jackson, who later became governor of Rhode Island, built the Jackson Mills (#81) in 1825 along the Pawtuxet River in the southeast corner of Scituate, between Fiskeville and Hope. Part of a string of mill villages along the Pawtuxet, Jackson was one of the smallest, containing the mill, a store, and about a dozen mill houses. In the late nineteenth century the mills were purchased by Christopher Lippitt and Company and were subsequently acquired by the firm of B. B. & R. Knight.

Ponaganset

At Ponagansett (#119), the site of an eighteenth-century iron works, a gristmill and a sawmill were operating in the early nineteenth century, but the village's growth is associated with cotton manufacturing. A cotton mill was built there in 1826, and cotton manufacturing was carried on almost continuously for the rest of the century. The small village, which contained about a dozen buildings at its greatest extent, originally known as Barden's Mill, then Bettyville, became Ponaganset when the Ponaganset Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1854. By the end of the century, Ponaganset was a relatively compact and self-contained community.

North Scituate

Cotton manufacturing was introduced to the North Scituate area in 1826 when Benjamin Aborn, Thomas Brown, Richard Jackson, and John L. Hughes built a mill and began the manufacture of print cloths. The business was carried on by the Scituate Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated in 1834 and which operated until 1889. The Scituate company was succeeded by the Moswansicut Manufacturing Company. Development of the cotton textile industry at North Scituate and at several other nearby localities, combined with trade generated by turnpike travel, resulted in the rapid growth of North Scituate village (#3) in the early nineteenth century. By mid-century, the village was thriving, with a bank, a hotel, other commercial and mercantile establishments, several churches, an academy, and several dozen houses. Known in mid-century both as Smithville and North Scituate, most of the development was concentrated along Danielson Pike west of today's Route 116 east and west of the Moswansicut River and along a road leading south to the cotton mill. Although the village continued to grow in the second half

of the century, the settlement pattern remained essentially the same, with heavy development along both sides of the Moswansicut. The area east of present Route 116 was sparsely settled, containing only the relatively isolated Lapham Institute, a church, and less than a half dozen residences. North Scituate village, as described in Bayles History of 1891, with a "healthy and delightful site" and well shaded streets in summer, was a "beautiful and picturesque" place, with nearby Lake Moswansicut adding to the beauty of the village.

Saundersville

In the decade between 1830 and 1840, four more mill settlements--Saundersville, Kent, Elmdale and Harrisdale--were added to the Scituate landscape. About 1834, Isaac Saunders and his uncle, Thomas Harkness, built a mill along Brandy Brook in the eastern part of town and began the manufacture of cotton cloth at what became Saundersville (#13). During the course of the nineteenth century, several mills worked at Saundersville under different owners, and a collection of buildings was erected near the crossroads known as Four Corners. The community was active in the 1870s and included a bank and a school in addition to two cotton mills, a braid mill, and several residences, but the place was in decline before century's end. One of the mills burned in 1895 and was never rebuilt.

Kent

At Kent, along the Ponagansett River in the southeastern part of town, Alanson Steere began manufacturing textiles about 1838 when he purchased a sawmill and converted it to a cotton mill. The mill, later destroyed by fire, was rebuilt in 1873 as a bobbin and spool factory. Kent remained a small settlement throughout the century. In 1895, it had a church and a post office, and a school house was located nearby. There were scarcely more than a half dozen houses in the small crossroads that defined Kent.

Elmdale and Harrisdale

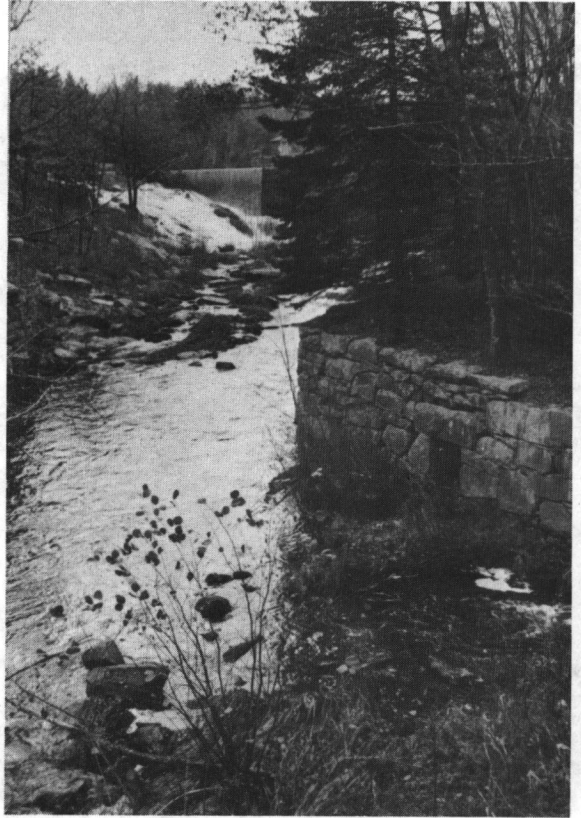
About 1840, a mill was erected along Huntinghouse Brook by Ansel Harris. Manufacturing cotton and woolen goods at different times, a small collection of houses in what became known as Elmdale grew up around the mill. Manufacturing ceased, before 1878, and thereafter Elmdale was solely a residential community. Ansel W. Harris, with A. W. Harris, also erected a mill (#103) about 1845 for the manufacture of cotton goods near Peepoad Brook in the northern part of town. As in Elmdale, this mill, in a small area identified as Harrisdale, ceased operations before the end of the century.

Pottersville

A bobbin industry developed in the southwestern part of Scituate in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1828, Moses Potter came to what was



Ruins of Harrisdale Mill:
Peeptoad Road. (Map #103)



Ponaganset River, Ponaganset Dam
(1883) and Site of Ponaganset.
(Map #68 and 119)



Stone Arch under Peeptoad Road at Site of
Harrisdale Mill. (Map #103)

later known as Pottersville. He ran a hotel (#99) along the Plainfield Pike then turned his attention to manufacturing, starting a spool-and-bobbin works in 1847. A small linear settlement developed along the Plainfield Pike near the Foster town line and included, at times, a sawmill, a turning shop, a school house, a church, and several houses. Several other bobbin mills were also constructed along Wilbur Hollow Brook a short distance northeast of Pottersville, by the Knight and Wilbur families.

The construction of these spool and bobbin works marked the end of the era which saw the establishment of mills and factories and creation of new settlements throughout the town. By mid-century, Scituate's settlement pattern was fixed--no more new communities would appear on the land. But, as was noted in the discussion of individual villages, many mills received substantial additions or were rebuilt, often resulting in an attendant growth of the village or community.

Quarrying

Aside from sawmills, gristmills and textile mills, the only other notable industry was quarrying. The Nipmuc Quarry (#84), an approximately twelve-acre site on the side of Nipmuc Hill in the southwestern corner of Scituate, at the Coventry town line, provided large quantities of gneiss, a more easily worked material than granite. Quarrying began in the mid-nineteenth century. Thousands of loads of stone were eventually removed and used in Providence and other places for curbs, flagging, under pinning, door stones, fence posts, sills, and caps.

Churches

Accompanying the nineteenth-century growth of mills, villages, and population was the establishment of churches and schools. The Six Principle Church, established in South Scituate in the early eighteenth century, continued to serve as a Baptist church throughout the nineteenth century, but the Quaker Meeting House, built in 1775, burned in 1785. A second Quaker meetinghouse was built in 1812 on Hartford Pike, near the present intersection of route 101 and 116, but in the latter part of the century, services ceased. In the Scituate Reservoir watershed area, it was torn down about 1916.

In 1831, the Old Congregational Church of North Scituate (#3J) was completed by designer-builder Clark Sayles. A fine, late Federal structure, entered in the National Register of Historic Places, its membership was originally Congregational and Baptist. Soon after services were started in the church, there was disagreement about use of the building. Some members withdrew and formed a Society of Free Will Baptists in Smithfield. In 1835, the group organized as the First Free Will Society in North Scituate and occupied a church building on Danielson Pike. Later, the Baptists built a church on West Greenville Road. The Congregational Church flourished for a while, but declining



Belfrey of former Hope Church (1874): 27 Main Street, Hope Historic District. (Map #2H)

church attendance caused a suspension of regular services about 1898. Catholic services were held in the walk-in basement of a house on Main Street in North Scituate.

Another Baptist group, the Second Free Will Baptist Society, organized in Foster in 1835, and held their meetings at the Beacon Hill Academy (#16) on Chopmist Hill in the northwest part of Scituate. The building was used as a combined district schoolhouse downstairs, with the chapel, used for religious purposes, on the second floor. Church services ended in the building in 1913.

In 1843, the Millerites organized a great camp meeting then later went on to form the Second Advent Church in North Scituate; their building was dedicated in 1867.

Churches were eventually established at Pottersville, Rockland, Ashland, Richmond, Kent, and Jackson during the nineteenth century. none of these survive today, but the Tabernacle Baptist Church (#135) on Seven Mile Road in Fiskeville, a church (#2H) erected by the Hope Manufacturing Company on the main street of their village, and the former Wayside Gleaner Chapel (#59) are extant. By the end of the century, Scituate's many small churches provided services for residents of most of the villages and for the town's dispersed population.

Schools

In the early years of the nineteenth century, needs for education were fulfilled by groups of individuals who were incorporated and built schoolhouses. The first school of record was built by the Union School House Company at the north end of Trimtown Road in 1808. In 1818, the Scituate and Foster Academy (#16) was incorporated. Later known as the Beacon Hill Academy Company, the building was used for both educational and religious purposes. The Central Society for Establishing a School, chartered in 1825, built a two-room schoolhouse which became known as the North Scituate Academy (#3H), and in 1827, the Rocky Hill Society was organized to build a schoolhouse.

A major stimulus to new school construction and education was provided by the passage of the state's Free School Law of 1828. Among other things, the law provided for payments to the towns and for the appointment of school committees. This act was the foundation for the present school system. Scituate was initially divided into twelve school districts; later, the number of districts was increased to nineteen, and schoolhouses were located throughout the town. Nineteenth-century public schoolhouses which survive are the former Pottersville School (#94) and the former Clayville School (#1A), both used today as community buildings.



Former Potterville School (c. 1852): Old Plainfield Pike. (#94)



Former Clayville School; Community House (c. 1845): Field Hill Road, Clayville Historic District (Map #1A)



Former Smithville Seminary (1839): Institute Lane, North Scituate Village Historic District. (#3F)

The Smithville Seminary

While the proliferation of schoolhouses served the need of young students, advanced educational opportunities were limited. To fill this void, private schools were established at various places. In 1840, the Smithville Seminary (#3F) was opened in North Scituate, also known as Smithville at that time, by the Rhode Island Association of Freewill Baptists, to provide secondary education. In 1850, the school was closed for financial reasons. Thereafter, it had a succession of owners. For a time it was known as the Lapham Institute after its owner, Benedict Lapham; and for a few years at the end of the nineteenth century it was leased and operated as the Moswansicut Hotel. Architecturally, and despite modern changes, this monumental Greek Revival building, graced by a colonial Ionic portico, is the most important building in Scituate, a major achievement by its architect, Russell Warren.

Although industry became the dominant economic activity in Scituate in the nineteenth century, agriculture continued as the mainstay of the rural areas, with the most prosperous farming period occurring in the first decades of the century. Several fine farmhouses, good examples of Federal architecture and nearly identical with their late eighteenth-century predecessors, survive. On Chopmist Hill Road, the c. 1813 Dexter Arnold House (#21), with a fine collection of outbuildings, is entered in the National Register, and the c. 1812 Amos Cooke House (#22) has been determined eligible for the Register. Recommended for the Register are the Federal-period Ridge Hill farmhouse (#8), on Burnt Hill Road and the Aldrich House, or Florence Price Grant House (#36), on Danielson Pike--both square, hip-roofed houses, with semi-elliptical entries, paired interior chimneys at the ends, fine and well preserved structures are a rare occurrence in the Rhode Island countryside.

Summary

The first half of the nineteenth century was Scituate's formative period of growth of industry and social, commercial, educational, and religious institutions. Although the first decades of the century were essentially a carry-over of eighteenth-century economy and culture, the proliferation of textile mills, villages, and population provided the greatest growth spurt in the town's history. Between 1810 and 1850, the population grew from 2,568 to 4,582 inhabitants, an increase of almost 80 per cent. By mid-century, the population and economy had peaked. In the last half of the century, agriculture was in decline, as were some of the textile mills. By century's end, the population dropped to 3,361 people, and Scituate, like the other western Rhode Island towns, was quiescent--a sleepy backwater.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

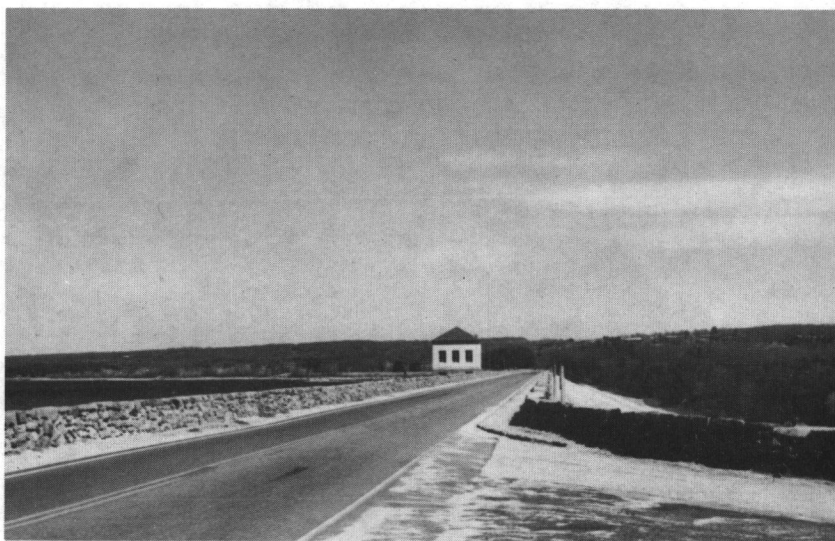
The Scituate Reservoir

Scituate was abruptly awakened from its slumber in the early years of the twentieth century. In 1913, the City of Providence, in need of a new supply of drinking water, appointed a Water Supply Board to find a new source of water for the city. Their investigation of potential sources led to the headwaters of the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River and its two major tributaries, the Moswansicut and Ponaganset rivers. In 1915, the Rhode Island General Assembly created a new Water Supply Board with broad powers which cleared the way for construction of the reservoir. The first contract, for borings at the dam site and aqueduct, was awarded in 1915; title to the property needed for the reservoir and for allied and adjacent structures to be taken by condemnation was awarded in December, 1916; and the first construction contract was let in January, 1917. By 1921, work was underway in earnest; a temporary village was created near Kent to house workers on the project. In 1924, a contract was awarded for construction of the purification works. By 1926, the Scituate Reservoir project, the largest project then undertaken in Rhode Island, was completed. A large earth-filled dam at Kent held back the largest freshwater body in Rhode Island, with a surface area of 5.3 square miles and a capacity of thirty-nine billion gallons of water. But, the creation of the reservoir and the purchase of a large watershed was destructive to Scituate. Some villages--Ashland, Kent, South Scituate and Richmond--were covered by the reservoir's waters. Rockland was entirely wiped off the map by condemnation; the mill and entire western part of what was North Scituate village was covered by water or destroyed by landtaking; and mills at Clayville, Elmdale, Harrisdale, and Glenrock were lost, although some of them were long idle and had deteriorated through neglect. Within the 23.1 square miles acquired by Providence were 1,195 buildings, including 375 dwellings, 6 cotton mills, 6 churches, 7 schools, and 179 cemeteries. A few houses were moved to new locations off the reservoir property. 1,485 graves were removed from the immediate reservoir site; 1,080 of them were relocated to the new Rockland Cemetery in Clayville and the rest went to other cemeteries in the area. Some burying grounds in the watershed property above the high-water line were left intact. In addition, the reservoir disrupted the road pattern, requiring the construction of 26.4 miles of new roads and the abandonment of about 36 miles of former roads. Many people were displaced and moved out of Scituate. During the decade of the 1920s, the population decreased by 24 per cent. The Census of 1930 recorded a population of 2,292 inhabitants for Scituate, the lowest number since the 1780s.

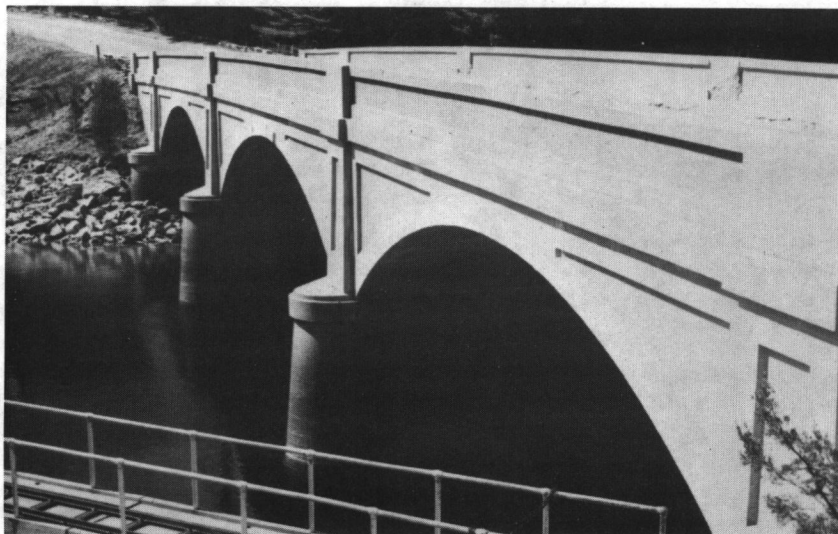
Although most people accepted their fate and compensation for loss of their property and land, the Joslin family, which owned large mills and other property at Clayville, Rockland and South Scituate, fought a long, hard, losing legal battle. Forced to move from the



Scituate Reservoir (1920-1926). (Map #134)



Kent, or Gainer Memorial Dam and Gatehouse, Scituate Reservoir (1920-1926): Scituate Ave. (Map #134 A,B)



Bridge, Scituate Reservoir (c. 1926): Scituate Avenue (Map #134C.)

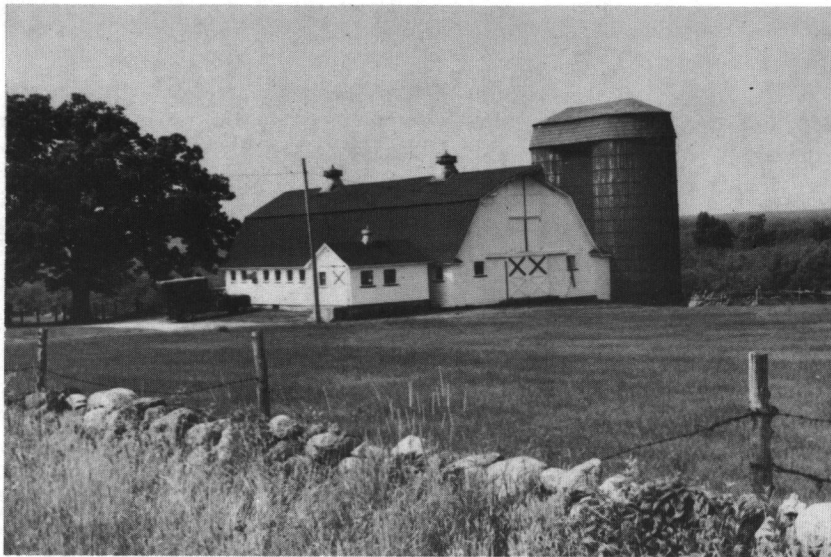
valleys which were flooded; the Joslins built a large rural estate (#49), one of the most elaborate local residential developments of the early twentieth century in this part of the state, near the summit of Field Hill.

Automobiles and Roads

The Scituate Reservoir project, however, although resulting in considerable loss of villages, buildings and land, did not impede certain phases of local development. During the early years of the twentieth century, other changes were taking place within and outside of the town which would affect it, particularly the increased use of the automobile and resulting highway projects. Providence and other nearby centers of population, commerce, and industry were within easy driving distance of Scituate; and city dwellers, in turn, discovered the charm of Scituate's rural atmosphere. In the 1920s, the Victory Highway was created as an important link in a belt highway system around Providence. Running through the western part of town, it incorporated existing Chopmist Hill Road and Plainfield Pike. Several east-west highways were improved; a new road was constructed between Danielson Pike and Crazy Corner; and East Road, the Hope-North Scituate Road, was also reconstructed in the twenties. A concrete-arch Bridge (#2D), built in 1929-1930 over the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River at Hope, and a small, former gasoline station and store (#111 on Plainfield Pike are associated with the early twentieth-century highway era.

North Scituate Village

Although the western part of North Scituate was lost to the reservoir, and there was no longer any industry in the village, North Scituate experienced a revitalization in the 1920s. A building at the west end of the village was converted for use as town offices when the town clerk's office in Richmond was lost to the reservoir project. A four-room brick school, built on Church Street, was said to have been the first public building erected in North Scituate in one hundred years. Also added were a public library and store, and in the eastern part of the village houses sprang up. In the first years of the twentieth century, the former Smithville Seminary became the home of the Pentacostal Collegiate Institute. Acquired by the Reverend William S. Holland in 1920, the former seminary became a day camp and trade school for Black children and eventually housed the Watchman Industrial School. Later, a series of fires and other difficulties caused the discontinuance of the school; today it is vacant. The Old Academy School which ceased its school function, was converted for community use. Long unused for regular services, the Congregational Church was deeded to the town in 1940 for religious and historical meetings and other uses. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was built in 1938-1940 at the intersection of West Greenville Road and Danielson Pike on the site of the Old Phillip's Tavern. The new church building



Dairy Barn (early 20th-century): 554 Seven Mile Road. (Map #139)



Barn at Aldrich House: Rocky Hill Road. (Map #131)



G. P. King House and outbuildings (1830): Field Hill Road. (Map #50)

filled a void left by the destruction of the first Roman Catholic church in Scituate, established at Rockland in 1905 and lost to the reservoir project.

Changes: Buildings and Population

Other changes were gradually taking place throughout the town during the early twentieth century. The town replaced its one-room schools with three new consolidated schools in the three principal villages--Clayville, Hope, and North Scituate. Along with improved highways came several picnic areas to provide rest for travelers. A small summer camp was established along the North Branch of the Pawtuxet and several old farmhouses were converted to summer homes. Many newcomers, however, came to stay, building houses along the town's roads. Scituate's clean air also attracted Frank Seagrave, who built an observatory (#101) on Peeptoad Road to study the night sky. In 1936, the old Captain Rhodes House on Danielson Pike became the headquarters of the State Police.

Growth continued unabated after World War II. Several housing developments were built, including the Rice Plat in the northeastern part of town and Ring Rock Acres in the southeast. The eastern part of town, closest to Providence, received the heaviest influx of people. Most new houses were built by individuals on large, newly created lots along existing roads. Some of the best examples occur along Rocky Hill Road and the eastern part of Quaker Lane. In thirty years, the population of Scituate more than doubled; 7,400 people lived within its borders in 1970. A high school, the first ever built in Scituate, was built in 1956 on Trimtown Road. In 1974, a shopping center--seven stores and a bank--was established in North Scituate, moving the commercial center of the village eastward.

SUMMARY

Scituate today is essentially a suburban community in a rural setting. It has few industries and little commercial space. Most residents travel to work outside of town and use Scituate primarily as a place of residence. The town has changed considerably. Agriculture, once the mainstay of the economy, is now a minor occupation at best. In 1975, only 500 acres were cultivated. The most important crop today is apples, an activity now oriented to tourists and out-of-towners. The land, much of it owned by the city of Providence, is a pleasant area of wooded hills and winding roads, except for busy Route 6. Although the town is no longer agricultural, the legacy of the past is preserved in the town's surviving farm complexes, some of which contain handsome and well preserved buildings, enhancing and contributing to the beauty of the natural landscape.

Many of the town's villages were destroyed for the reservoir project, but three villages, each different from the other, are interesting and important reminders of nineteenth-century Scituate. North Scituate, the town's center, still retains its quiet charm and dignity despite modern-day intrusions. The popularity of the annual arts festival in the village is testimony to its attraction for a wide and varied population. North Scituate, which was entered in the National Register in 1979, also includes two individually noteworthy buildings which are entered in the Register--the old Congregational Church and the former Smithville Seminary. Clayville, along the Foster town line, is a "relic" community which time has passed by. Once a busy village centered on several mills, it is now almost entirely residential, isolated and insulated from the modern world. Hope, in the southeastern corner of town, is a large village whose attention is directed eastward to the other Pawtuxet Valley villages. The oldest village, with the longest tradition of manufacturing in the town, Hope still has its old cotton mill, now making and selling lace, and its workers houses, a church, and other nineteenth-century buildings. An interesting and important former mill village, Hope Village Historic District is recommended for the National Register.

The Scituate Reservoir, since its creation in the 1920s, has been the central feature of the town--a protected natural reservation of woods and ponds. Within its fenced boundaries are the ruins of former mills, houses, churches, stores and other buildings, some old cemeteries, and forest paths that were formerly roads. Although not accessible to the public, some of these features can still be seen from public rights-of-way and add to the historical ambience of Scituate.

Overall, Scituate has a rich variety of cultural resources which are important to an understanding of the town's history and deserve special consideration in planning the town's future development.



Seagrave Memorial Observatory (1914): Peeproad Road. (Map #101)



Black Estate (early 20th century): Hartford Pike. (Map #63)

II. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service within the United States Department of the Interior. It includes 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. Most properties entered are nominated for inclusion by state historical agencies like Rhode Island's Historical Preservation Commission. All properties must be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior prior to their entry on the Register.

Placement in the Register affords a limited form of protection from potentially damaging federal programs through a review process and establishes eligibility for certain tax benefits and for federally funded matching grants-in-aid for restoration. As a result of this survey, a number of structures, sites, and districts have been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Descriptions of these properties can be found in the Inventory:

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites entered in or approved for the National Register (a more complete description of each property appears in the Inventory which follows):

- . North Scituate Historic District (#3)
- . Smithville Seminary, Institute Lane (#3F)
- . Congregational Church, West Greenville (#3J)
- . Dexter Arnold Homestead, Chopmist Hill Road (#21)
- . Amos Cooke House, Chopmist Hill Road (#22)
- . Martin Smith House/Hidden Wells, Gleaner Chapel Road (#54)
- . Battey-Barden House, Plainfield Pike (#107)
- . John Mathewson House, Winsor Road (#157)

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites which deserve consideration for entry in the National Register:

- . Clayville Historic District (#1)
- . Hope Historic District (#2)
- . G. P. Taylor House, Ridge Hill Farm, Burnt Hill Road (#8)

- . James Aldrich House, Florence Price Grant House, Danielson Pike (#36)
- . Former Field Farm, Field Hill Road (#48)
- . Joslin Farm, Field Hill Road (#49)
- . S. P. King House, Field Hill Road (#50)
- . "Breezy Hill," Hope Furnace Road (#71)
- . Ralph House, Howard Avenue (#73)
- . Aldrich-Ide House; Ide Road (#74)
- . M. Potter House, Old Plainfield Pike (#99)
- . The Scituate Oak, Plainfield Pike (#113)
- . Brown Homestead, Rocky Hill Road (#127)
- . Aldrich House, Rocky Hill Road (#131)
- . Scituate Reservoir Dam, Scituate Avenue (#134)
- . G. Aldrich House, Trimtown Road (#146)

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 perceptions of 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

This inventory is an annotated key to the preliminary survey map of Scituate. The numbers refer to the map at the back of the report (for example: 1--Clayville Historic District).

A more detailed map at a scale of 1":1000' which locates properties more fully and precisely is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the Scituate Town Hall; copies have also gone to the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs. The large-scale maps use the same property-identification numbering system which appears here.

Material in this inventory is presented alphabetically, first by districts and then by roads. Dates and names which appear in parenthesis at the end of notations refer to their identification on nineteenth-century maps. In each case, the earliest map on which the structure or site appears has been used. Dating of structures, or their historical-architectural period, is occasionally determined on the basis of plaques, written material, maps, and knowledgeable residents--but more often is based on style and construction. Unless otherwise noted, all structures are of wood-frame construction.

Following is a list of the architectural-period designations used in this report:

Colonial: From the time of settlement to 1775

Federal: 1775-1835

Greek Revival: 1825-1860

Early Victorian: 1840-1870

Late Victorian: 1870-1900

Early 20th century: 1900-1945

Mid-20th century: 1945-1975

Late 20th century: 1975 to the present.

Key: * Recommended for the National Register of Historic Places.
** Approved for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

DISTRICTS

- * 1. Clayville Historic District: A village along the western border of Scituate, partly in the town of Foster, containing several dozen structures, mostly residences, and several mill sites, along the Plainfield Pike (Route 14)--Victory Highway (Route 102) and several side streets--Fields Hill Road, Cole Avenue, and Pleasant Lane.

Clayville was settled in the early 19th century. It received its major impetus when General Josiah Whitaker, a Providence merchant and director of the Old State Bank, moved here in 1826 and operated a store and a comb factory making imitation tortoise-shell ladies' hair combs. About 1847, a rubber mill was built, which manufactured principally rubber shoes until it was converted to a cotton mill in 1853. Burned in 1857, it was immediately rebuilt, and another mill--the "Lower Mill"--was subsequently built to run in connection with it. Both mills were later owned by Lindsay Jourdan and Charles W. Jourdan. Clayville was a thriving village in the late nineteenth century, containing several stores, a post office, a school, a blacksmith shop, a church, and several dozen houses. In 1916, the mill property was condemned for the Scituate Reservoir project. Soon after, the mills were torn down and Clayville became a quiet, residential village, a character it has largely retained to this day. (1831- Clayville; Comb Factory.)*

FIELD HILL ROAD

- A. Community House, Former Clayville District (#17) Schoolhouse (c. 1845): A 1-story structure, end-to-road, with a weather entry in the gable end and small wings at both sides at the rear. Formerly a schoolhouse serving the Clayville school district, it is now a community house. (1851- School.)
- B. A. Stone House (c. 1840): A 1½-story Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and central recessed entry in a 5-bay facade. There are three small outbuildings on the spacious lot along the former mill pond. (1862- A. Stone.)

PLAINFIELD PIKE (VICTORY HIGHWAY)

- C. Clayville Arch Bridge (1932): A stone and mortar bridge with a single tall arch, spanning Bear Tree Brook along the Plainfield Pike. Designed by Clarence L. Hussey, it replaced an earlier bridge (c. 1917) whose remains are just north of the present bridge.

*The dates and names in parentheses refer to their identification on nineteenth-century maps. The earliest map for which the structure or site is identifiable is given.

- D. Site of Cotton Mills: Stone foundations, a stone-lined sluiceway, and other ruins mark the site of the Clayville Mill complex. Two stone mills once stood along Westconnaug Brook. They were built about 1857, one on the site of a rubber mill built about 1847, the other a bit further downstream; both were destroyed in the 1920s after they were condemned for the Scituate Reservoir project. (1870- Cotton Mill, L. Jordan Est., and Cotton Mill.)
- E. The Old Clayville Store (1822): A 2½-story Federal structure, with two, paired, brick, interior chimneys; a paneled, recessed, central entry, with sidelights, in an asymmetrical 5-bay facade; shed monitors in front and rear; a wing at the left side; and several small additions at the rear. This building, the most important extant structure in Clayville, was reportedly built as a store and factory, and was also once used as an apartment house. Purchased in 1826 by General Josiah Whitaker, it continued its function as a store and possibly housed the first comb factory here. It operated as a store, with some interruptions, until 1935. In the early 20th century it also housed a post office and served as an important social as well as economic center of community life. In 1938 it was remodeled into a 1-family residence. (1862- C. B. Tyler, Store.)
- F. S. Hoyt House (c. 1862): A 1½-story structure, with one, small, brick, center chimney and a central entry, with bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade. There is a small shed, with a chimney, at the rear, attached to a small barn. (1862- S. Hoyt.)
- G. House (c. 1770): A 1½-story structure, with a small, rebuilt, brick, center chimney and a simple entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a small shed and a barn on the small lot. (1862- C. E. Nichols.)
- H. House (c. 1770): A 1½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney, central entry, with sidelights and a 1-story ell at the rear. There are several outbuildings. (1862- Kelley Est.)
- * 2. Hope Village Historic District: A large, compact well preserved village in the southeast corner of town, on the Pawtuxet River, consisting of a textile mill, mill houses and other residences, and associated commercial, social, religious, civic, industrial, and educational buildings.

The first industrial activity in what is now Hope occurred about 1765, when Nicholas Brown & Company of Providence built an iron furnace here. During the Revolutionary War, the furnace cast cannon for Continental frigates and fortifications. About

1806, a group of Providence men began the manufacture of cotton as the Hope Cotton Factory Company in the first textile mill built in Scituate. About 1821, two Providence men purchased the property and built another mill soon after. In 1844, the mill was destroyed by fire. The place was purchased by Brown and Ives, who built the present stone mill, which began operating in 1847. The village had a "growth spurt" when a large addition was made to the mill in 1871. Fifteen large, double tenement houses were built for employees in 1872, a church was erected in 1874, and many houses were built on the outskirts of Hope, which was considered one of several "model mill villages" in Rhode Island. In 1874, the Pawtuxet Valley Branch of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Railroad Company came to Hope, replacing the stagecoach and affording better communications with urban centers to the east; and in 1894 an electric streetcar line began running between Hope and Crompton.

Although the village continued to grow in the 20th century, most of the growth occurred beyond the village proper; much of the 19th-century village has remained intact and is relatively well preserved today. The mill, mill houses and other residences, church, stores, and other structures all make an important contribution to understanding the architectural-historical evolution of the best surviving mill village in Scituate.

- A. Site of Hope Furnace: Although the site of the Hope Furnace has not been precisely located, a hill west of the Samuel Allen House (see #2G) was probably the location of the works; it contains evidence of several foundations and a double stone wall on the steep south bank overlooking the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River, and slag and fired glass have been found in the area.

Shortly after the discovery of a bed of bog iron ore in 1765 in the neighboring town of Cranston, near the Scituate line, a furnace was built in what is now Hope. In addition to proximity to the source of raw material (iron ore), the Pawtuxet River could supply water for power, and the landowners in the area agreed to supply wood free. In 1766 the site was purchased by Nicholas, Joseph, John, and Moses Brown, and several other partners, including former Rhode Island governor Stephen Hopkins and Israel Wilkinson, former owner of Unity Furnace, and the business of making and selling pig iron began. The furnace, typical of 18th-century iron works, was built into the side of a small hill so that iron ore, charcoal and limestone could be fed from the top. Near the furnace was a forge where pig iron was refined and hammered into wrought iron. Named Furnace Hope for the mother of the Brown brothers, the first machinery was put in blast in July, 1766. Initially making potash, teakettles,

and bake pans, the furnace soon began producing pig iron; local forgemen manufactured nails, cask hinges, and special iron items. In 1775, at the onset of the American Revolution, Hope Furnace was given consideration by the General Assembly to manufacture cannon. Additional works and an air furnace were constructed, cannon molds were obtained, and cannon founders hired, a process which took some time. In the summer of 1778, the first cannon was made. Between 1778 and 1781, some 270 cannon were cast and bored at Hope Furnace, over two-thirds of which were put aboard American privateers. Cannon making continued profitable for some time after the war, but following the last order in 1799, and a drop in the iron trade, the furnace stopped about 1800 or 1802, and in 1806 the "Furnace Hope estate and mill privileges" were sold to Silvanus Hopkins and Associates.

Despite the fact that nothing of the early iron furnace survives above ground today, the site has potential archaeological importance. Hope Furnace is of historical importance as an early industrial site associated with the iron industry, for its contribution to American efforts in the War of the Revolution, and is also significant for its association with the famous Brown family.

BROWN AND GODDARD STREETS

- B. Mill Housing: Along Brown and Goddard streets, off East Road or Main Street, on a hill, is a small cluster of four early 20th-century, 2-story, brick duplexes, each with two, small, interior, brick chimneys and two separate porticoed entries at the end of a 6-bay facade. The well preserved and well maintained structures are set on landscaped lots in a courtyard-like arrangement. They were probably built in 1916 when additions were made to the Hope Mills.

HOPE FURNACE ROAD

- C. Mill House (52 Hope Furnace Road): A small, 1½-story early 19th-century cottage, with a simple entry at the left side of the front, a small shed dormer (or monitor), and a small, interior, brick chimney near the right end. This mill house, which dates from the first period of the village (between c. 1807-1821) is typical of the small, frame mill workers' houses of the upper Pawtuxet Valley--Fiskeville, Jackson, and Hope. (1870- Hope. Mfg. Co.)

MAIN STREET

- D. Hope Bridge, Number 256 (1929-1930): A single-arch, concrete span of modified open-spandrel design carries Main Street (Route 116) over the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River. The

bridge, set into granite block abutments, crosses the river at a 45-degree angle. The arch is composed of three separate ribs, and the superstructure includes a sidewalk and a concrete balustrade which is carried on concrete brackets which are anchored to external arch rings and to the ends of the abutments. The width is 40 feet between curbs and 58 feet overall; the length is 220 feet. Hope Bridge, a well preserved example of the highway-bridge engineering work of the pre-World War II era, was built by A. I. Savin of Hartford, Connecticut.

- E. Hope Mills (1806-1807 and later; 1 Main Street): The Hope Mill complex along Main Street (Route 116) near the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River consists of several individual buildings constructed over the course of more than a century. The central block, and most important, is the 4-story, 1840s stone textile mill. At the left side is the 2-story, 1871 mill, also built of stone. At the right side is a 1916 brick weave shed and in front is the 1916 brick office building. There are several additions at the rear of the stone mills. The mill complex is significant and interesting because it exhibits several stages in the evolution of textile manufacturing as manifested in the various buildings.

A group of Providence men began manufacturing cotton here as the Hope Cotton Factory Company about 1806. A 1½-story, wood-shingled structure, 44-by-22 feet, with a gable roof with clerestory monitor, built into a hill near the road, is probably the original mill, or a mill-associated building. Typical of the earliest cotton mills, it is probably the oldest extant mill building in Scituate. About 1821, the Hope Cotton Manufacturing Company was purchased by Ephraim Talbut, a Providence merchant and former sea captain for Brown and Ives and by John Whipple, an eminent Providence lawyer. Soon after, they built another mill. Following its destruction by fire in 1844, John Carter Brown, Moses Brown Ives, Robert H. Ives and Charlotte R. Goddard, already owners of the Blackstone Manufacturing Company and the Lonsdale Company, purchased the place. They founded the Hope Company and built a large stone mill, four stories high (with full basement), 183-by-55 feet, which began operating in 1847. Today, this structure is the largest building and center of the existing mill complex. Later it was altered--its gable roof was flattened and its belfry removed. In 1871, the Number 2 Mill, 151-by-95 feet, was added to the north side of the 1844 mill. In 1916, a brick, saw-toothed-roofed weave shed was added at the east side and a brick office was built. In 1960 and 1972, further additions were made at the rear of the stone buildings. For much of the 20th century the mills manufactured lace and the complex was known as the Valley Lace Company. The buildings,

now used by several different businesses and industries, including lace manufacturing and sales, are relatively well preserved and an important architectural and historical part of Rhode Island's textile manufacturing history. (1870- Hope Mfg. Co.)

- F. Dam, Gatehouse, Gates and Raceway: Along the Pawtuxet River, several hundred feet above (west of) the mill complex and Main Street, is a stone dam, a gatehouse and a raceway, probably built in 1847 when the large mill of the Hope Company was constructed, to provide a storage pond and head for water for the mill. Water was diverted from the river through the gatehouse into the canal, or mill race, which led under the mill, where water power to run the mill machinery was generated. About 1902, a set of horizontal turbines was installed in the basement of the Number Two Mill. The dam, raceway and turbines are still relatively well preserved today, but the gatehouse is in poor condition.
- G. Samuel Allen House (1878: 15 Main Street): A large, 2½-story, Late Victorian, Queen Anne style structure, with steep roof lines and complex gable; three, patterned, interior, brick chimneys; and decorated gable ends, set on a landscaped lot (now overgrown) behind a low stone wall across the road from the mill. Built in 1878 for the owner of the Hope Mill, the house has passed through several owners since. The rear of the 1½-acre lot on which the house stands may be the site of the Hope Furnace. (1895- Hope Mfg. Co.)
- H. Former Church/Hope Nursery School (1874; 27 Main Street): A 1-story structure, end-to-road, with a double-door entry in the gable end and a square belfry at the front. This outstanding, small church was built in the Stick Style which was popular in the 1870s. The stick work is best expressed in the projecting eaves supported on brackets, at the gable end (front) and in the diagonal pattern in the belfry. Dedicated on May 13, 1875, by a Methodist minister and used primarily by Methodists in the late 19th century, it was originally built as a house of worship for all religious faiths and to be used for literary and social recreation as well. Today it is the home of the Hope Nursery School. It is one of the best preserved examples of ecclesiastical Stick Style architecture in the state. (1895- Hope Mfg. Co.--it is not identified as a church.)
- I. Hope House (c. 1755, c. 1812, 1909, 1939; 30 Main Street): A 2½-story structure, built in several sections over the course of almost two centuries, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple entry, with transom lights; several small (monitor) dormers; and several larger shed dormers. There are several

early 20th-century outbuildings. The lot, well landscaped, with flower beds, shrubs and large trees, is set behind a stone wall. Alice Howland, a former owner, who was a town benefactor, had the landscaping work done. (1870- A. W. Fisk.)

- J. Former Hotel, Store and Post Office (1845; Main Street and North Road): A large, 2½-story, Greek Revival structure, with several entries, store windows, and three medium-sized, brick chimneys, at the corner of Main Street and North Road. In 1835, a boarding house was started on this site, and ran until 1845, when it was replaced by a hotel built by Welcome Matteson and known as Hope House. In 1873 it was purchased by the Hope Manufacturing Company who ran it as a store. Later, it reverted back to private ownership and was used for a store and post office. (1851- Hotel.)

MILL STREET

- K. Mill Houses (1872): A row of thirteen mill houses, built in a simple Second Empire style, with mansard roofs; two, interior, brick chimneys; simple doorways at each side of the front; and varied siding and windows reflecting later changes. These double houses were built for mill workers in connection with the construction of an addition to the Hope Mill, which is just south of Mill Street, in 1869-1870. (1895- Hope Mfg. Co.)

NORTH ROAD

- L. Hope School (1929; 1972): A 2-story, Neoclassical school, with a slightly projecting, central, pedimented pavilion, with a double-door entry in a Neoclassical frame, and a clock at the gable. There are separate entries for pupils at either side, recessed behind the front facade; a large, octagonal, louvered belfry surmounted by a weathervane; a small, brick chimney near the left end, and a 6-room addition at the rear, built in 1972. The school, set behind a cemented stone wall atop a hill, is a local landmark. Hope School, and the brick schools at Clayville and North Scituate, were built as consolidated schools between about 1925 and 1933; they took students from a large area and marked the end of the former one-room schoolhouse era in Scituate.
- ** 3. North Scituate Historic District:* The Village of North Scituate, in the northeast corner of the town of Scituate, at the intersection of Danielson Pike and the West Greenville Road (R.I.

*For a more detailed account of North Scituate village, please consult the National Register nomination at the R.I.H.P.C. office.

Route 116), includes about 110 well-maintained vernacular buildings, mostly 1- and 1½-story residences dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, with some 18th- and mid-20th century buildings dispersed among them, as well as several commercial, educational, ecclesiastical and municipal buildings and two large 19th-century cemeteries.

Originally known as Smithville, the village had its beginnings in the early 1760s when Stephen Smith built a tavern at the junction of Danielson Pike and West Greenville Road, a popular stopping place along the busy road, but the village did not blossom until the early 19th century when the first mills that manufactured cloth were built in the area. By the mid-19th century, the thriving multi-functioned village, contained stores, taverns, a bank, two schools, an academy, and a solid core of houses. Aside from the academy and about a half dozen other buildings, the entire village was located west of the West Greenville Road, extending west of the Moswansicut River. In 1915, after the valleys of the Moswansicut and Ponaganset rivers were chosen for the site of a new reservoir for the city of Providence, the entire western part of the village, including a large cotton mill, mill houses, a school, a store, a blacksmith shop, and about two dozen residences, were condemned; most of the buildings were destroyed, but some were moved, including several that are now in the present western part of the village. In 1922, the town clerk's office was moved here from the condemned village of Richmond and North Scituate became the official town seat. In the 20th century, the Danielson Pike became U.S. Route 6, an important east-west artery linking Providence and Hartford, and the village retained its popularity for tourists and travelers, and commuters. The eastern part of the village developed during the century, including some nondescript commercial establishments. In the 1960s, the Route 6 By-Pass diverted through, east-west traffic north of the village. The diminished flow of vehicles is compatible with the village, which still remains a tightly knit community retaining many of the characteristics of an early village while also exhibiting the evolutionary changes that have "overtaken" most other Rhode Island villages in the mid-twentieth century. The success of the annual Scituate Art Festival is testimony to the public's recognition of North Scituate as one of Rhode Island's most charming villages. (1831- Smithville Seminary P.O.)

Some of North Scituate Historic District's noteworthy buildings are listed below:

DANIELSON PIKE

- A. Potter House (c. 1820): A 1½-story structure, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central recessed entry, with

side lights; and a 1-story wing at the left side, rear, with a brick chimney and a simple entrance. (1870- G. L. Hopkins?)

- B. Town Offices (c. 1840): The town offices of Scituate are housed in this large building which was originally two large Greek Revival structures which were connected in the mid-20th century. The building at the right side, the larger one, has two large, interior, brick chimneys and a central porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade. The building at the left has a large, brick, interior, end chimney, an entry at the right side of the front, and a small ell at the left side. In 1923, after the town clerk's office in Richmond village was condemned for the Scituate Reservoir, the structure at the left was remodeled to contain the town clerk's office. (1870- N. Wade.)
- C. Masonic Temple, or the Former Albert Harris Store (c. 1855): A large, rectangular structure, end-to-road, with an enclosed, central weather entry. The projecting roof cornice supported on brackets, and the pair of arched windows in front, are characteristic of the Italianate style which was a very popular style in American houses of the 1850s. Hamilton Lodge #15, F. & A. M., relocated here from Clayville. The building was used as a store until the 1920s, when the facade was remodeled for the masonic temple. (1870- Store, A. W. Harris.)
- D. William G. Smith House (c. 1825): A 2½-story, Greek Revival structure, with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a large, 2-story porch at the northwest corner; and a 2½-story wing at the rear. The house occupies a small lot at the intersection with West Greenville Road. (1862- W. G. Smith.)
- E. Perry House (c. 1920): A 1½-story, wood-shingled structure, with a stone exterior chimney; a simple entry in a porch across the front, created by a roof overhang; and two gabled dormers in front. This house, built by the Alfred Perry family, is the best example of the Bungalow style of architecture in North Scituate.

INSTITUTE LANE

- ** F. Smithville Seminary, or the Watchman Industrial School (1839): A 3-story, frame, clapboarded structure, with a colossal Ionic order temple front, on a 2.3-acre lot. Designed by Russell Warren and erected in 1839-1840, the Greek Revival structure was originally the centerpiece of a 5-unit building. The central block, known as Franklin Hall, contained the principal's office and apartments and rooms for apparatus. It was joined to the somewhat lower, 3-story, pedimented wings by 2-story, recessed and columned flat-roofed-hyphens. Belvideres rose from the pediments of the central block and wings. The wings were used

to house students, with recitation rooms located in the connecting blocks. In the 1920s, a series of fires destroyed the wings, the central belfry and the roofs of the hyphens and main block.

The School, which was opened by September, 1840, was built for the Rhode Island Association of Freewill Baptists to occupy a middle ground between the common school and the college. The seminary, a co-educational institution, with a curriculum based upon literature and science, accepted both day and boarding students who were attracted from all over New England, and from New York and southern states as well. The first Rhode Island "teachers institute" was founded here by Henry Barnard in 1845. In 1850, the school was sold because of financial difficulties; its history thereafter is marked by a series of owners and names while continuing its educational function. In 1863, it was purchased by Benedict Lapham and deeded to the Rhode Island Association of Freewill Baptist Churches. For this benefactor, the school was renamed Lapham Institute. For a few years in the 19th century it was leased and operated as the Moswansicut Hotel. From 1901 to 1919 it was the property of the Pentacostal Church of the Nazarene and used as the home for the Pentacostal Collegiate Institute. The Reverend William S. Holland acquired the property in 1920 and used the building and grounds as a day camp and trade school for Black children and youth. Reverend Holland, who founded the Watchman Industrial School in Providence, by 1923 had moved the Watchman headquarters to Scituate and ran an educational program inspired by Booker T. Washington--the acquisition of primary vocational skills by Black youth in addition to their academic training. A series of fires in the 1920s and 1930s, and the hurricane of 1938, reduced the operations of the Watchman school and the year-round school was given up in 1938, although the summer camp under Holland's direction operated until his death in 1958. The camp was run until 1974, when it was discontinued.

The former Smithville Seminary, an outstanding Greek Revival structure, designed by Russell Warren, the leading architect of the Greek Revival era in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts, is one of but two major early academic buildings surviving in the state. Though now compromised by the depredations of fire and neglect, the Smithville Seminary building is still a vital cultural resource for the village of North Scituate and the state of Rhode Island. It is entered in the National Register. (1851- Smithville Seminary.)

SILK LANE

- G. John P. Smith House (c. 1834): A 2½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a medium-sized, brick center chimney and central entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a detached shed at the rear of the

house. It is said that the framework and exterior wall covering came from an old mill that once stood along the Moswansicut River. (1870- J. P. S.)

WEST GREENVILLE ROAD

- H. Former North Scituate Academy, or North Scituate Community House (1825): A 1-story, hip-roofed structure, with paneled corner pilasters; two recessed entrance porches, with paneled, square posts; a louvered, 2-part, square belfry with pilasters; and an addition at the rear. Built for the "Central Society for the Establishment of A School," the Academy Schoolhouse was used as a school building until the twentieth century. It now serves as a community house. An addition was made at the rear during World War II to be used primarily by veterans groups, and for others. (1851- School.)
- I. War Memorials (1926, 1931, c. 1946): Between the Community House and the Congregational Church, on a small, landscaped area, are two large granite markers with metal plaques, commemorating Scituate servicemen who died in both world wars. The World War I marker was erected in 1926, the World War II marker about 1946. Also, in the center, is a mill stone from Scituate's first tannery, in memory of "Scituate's Revolutionary Patriots," erected in 1931 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- ** J. Congregational Church (1831): A white, gable-roofed clapboarded, Federal-style structure, with two front entrances adorned with a fine moulded architrave and especially handsome lintel and caps. Wooden fans occur above the entrances and the windows on the front and sides of the building. A 3-stage steeple finishes the church and makes it a landmark from distant vantage points all around the village. The Congregational Church, designed by Clark Sayles, was originally built by the Smithville Society, Baptists and Congregationalists who shared the pulpit on alternating Sundays. After one year, the Baptists left and started their own church. The Congregational Church was used for regular services until 1897 or 1898; there has been no congregation since 1912. In 1940, the church was deeded to the town for religious and historical meetings and is presently maintained partly by proceeds from the annual Scituate Art Festival and partly by town funds. The handsome building, which occupies a spacious corner lot, with large trees, and a cemetery behind, is entered in the National Register of Historic Places. (1862- Cong. Ch.)
- K. Smithville Cemetery (Historical Cemetery #24): A large burying ground, it was laid out west of (behind) the Congregational Church and surveyed on April 20, 1847. The north part, a donation of Daniel O. Bates, was added in 1862.

- L. Civil War Monument (1913): A lifesized statue of a Union soldier, a light artilleryman, set on a polished granite base, sculptured of Westerly granite by Edwin G. King, is dedicated to men from Scituate who lost their lives during the Civil War. Contributed by Benjamin T. Owen, a stone cutter who was born in Scituate, the monument was placed on a lot of land contributed for the purpose by the Congregational Church Society on Old Home Day, August 20, 1913.
- M. North Scituate Public Library (1924): A 1-story, brick, Colonial Revival structure, with a central porticoed entry in a 3-bay facade. The library building, on a neat lot with trees, was built in 1924 to replace a temporary library building.

STRUCTURES AND SITES

BATTEY MEETING HOUSE ROAD

4. N. Kimball House, Misty Meadows: A 1-story, wood shingled, 18th-century structure, with one, stuccoed, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; two gable dormers in front; and a 1-story wing with a small brick chimney at the right side. The house is set back from the road on a private drive on a large lot which also includes a barn and other outbuildings. (1851- N. Kimball.)
5. W. Fiske House (c. 1830): A 1½-story Greek Revival structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; entry with sidelights; and wings on each side. There are several small sheds. The residence, which houses an antique shop, is close to the road. (1851- W. Fiske.)

BUNGY ROAD

6. Neocolonial Houses (c. 1974): Four houses along a short section of Bungy Road, built by the noted wood carver, Armand LaMontagne, are facsimilies of 17th- and 18th-century homes, including a "stone-ender" with a chimney of native granite twenty-six feet wide at the base. All the houses are sited on relatively large, wooded lots. The "stone-ender," LaMontagne's residence, is furnished with colonial reproductions made in his studio and workroom which occupies the ell of the house.

BURNT HILL ROAD

7. House: A 1½-story, early 19th-century structure, with a simple, central entry, in a 5-bay facade and a small, brick, off-center chimney. There is a barn on the property. (1851- N. Colvin?)

- * 8. S. P. Taylor House, Ridge Hill Farm (c. 1830): A 2½-story, square, monitor-on-hip-roof Federal structure, with two, large, brick, interior chimneys and two arched entryways. The front entry, near the center of an asymmetrical four-bay facade, has sidelights and a wooden fan; the recessed side entry has a fan-light and sidelights. The house, at the end of a long private drive, occupies a large lot. There is an old burying ground near the road associated with the house. (1851- Taylor.)
9. Potter House: A 1½-story Greek Revival structure, with a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a small, brick, center chimney; and a 1-story ell at the right side also with a brick chimney. The house is set on a large lot, with a barn behind the house. (1851- J. M. Potter.)

CARPENTER ROAD

10. Thomas Young House: A 1½-story early 19th-century structure, with a simple central entry in a 5-bay facade; a brick, center chimney; and an addition at the left side flush with the front of the house. (1851- Thos. Young.)
11. Deacon Stone Farm: A 1½-story gambrel-roofed 18th-century structure, with a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; a large, brick, center chimney; and a small wing at the left side. The roof extends over the front to form a porch. There are two outbuildings and an old cemetery on the large lot. (1895- G. W. Jordan.)
12. Joe Yeaw House (1808): A large 1½-story structure, with two, large, brick chimneys and entry, with sidelights. The elongated house (with an addition at the left side) formerly had two small shed dormers which were removed when the house was restored about 1976. (1851- J. Yeaw.)

CENTRAL PIKE

13. Site of Saundersville: Stone ruins along the north side of the Central Pike mark the site of Saundersville. A village developed here in the early nineteenth century along and near Brandy Brook and a local crossroads. In 1834 or 1835, Isaac Saunders and Thomas Harkness built the "Upper Mill" to manufacture cotton cloth. It burned in 1895 and was never rebuilt. Another mill, known as Asaheh Hopkin's Factory and Grist Mill, or the "Jug Mill," once manufactured cotton cloth; later it was used for a gristmill and a planing mill, wheelwright and blacksmith shop and paint shop combined. When it burned in 1906, it was the last of the Saundersville mills to be destroyed by fire, surviving another mill known as the Taft Mill by about two years. Saundersville, in the Scituate Reservoir area, was acquired by the Providence Water Supply Board about 1920 and all its buildings

destroyed. It was west of what is identified as Saundersville on today's map. (1851- C. Waterman's Mill; J. Saunders' Mill; about two dozen houses; Saundersville.)

14. Former Harris Farm: A 1½-story, wood-shingled residence, with a farm outbuilding complex, and a relatively large area of open land comprise one of the last, and perhaps the largest of Scituate's dairy farms. The farmland lies along both sides of Central Pike; most of it is to the north, extending to Darby Road. The house and outbuildings are of comparatively recent date, perhaps the early twentieth century. Included are several wood-frame sheds and barns, two vertical-board silos and a long aluminum barn. Although the farm buildings are not old, farming was probably carried on here from the early 19th century. (1851- Russell Harris on site.)
15. House: (c. 1840): A 1½-story structure at the intersection of Victory Highway, with two medium-sized, brick, interior chimneys; a simple entry in an open porch across the front; and a shed dormer across the length of the front. There is a Victorian barn and shed and other early twentieth-century outbuildings. Several trees, and a picket fence at the front and sides set the house off well. (1851- Young.)

CHOPMIST HILL ROAD (VICTORY HIGHWAY)

16. Former Scituate and Foster Academy (1818): A 2½-story wood-shingle structure, end-to-road, with a central entry with transom lights in the gable end (front) and a recent stone chimney at the rear. There are exterior stairs at the rear of the building and several outbuildings behind. For most of the 19th century, this building served as a church and school. Originally incorporated as the Scituate and Foster Academy in 1818, the charter lapsed, but was renewed in 1840 under the Beacon Hill Academy Company. Later, the place was known as the Academy School, the West Scituate Academy and became a school (Number 4) in the Academy School District. It was intended to serve religious and educational purposes, and was financed partly through lottery revenues. The Second Free Will Baptist Church of Foster, organized in 1835, held their meeting here: later, it became the West Scituate Church. The school was housed downstairs while the chapel and church functions were on the second floor. Now a private residence, the building has been extensively renovated inside. (1851- Academy.)
17. Smith-Fenner House: A 2½-story Federal structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple entry in a 5-bay facade at the front; and a simple, central entry in the gable end. The house, on a corner lot at the intersection with Hartford Pike, was probably originally in the Smith family. In 1807, it was sold to Christopher

Fenner. While in Fenner-family ownership, it was used for a while as a hotel in the mid-19th century. The house was restored to its present condition in 1974. (1851- O. Fenner.)

18. W. Tourtellot House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, end-to-road, with a large, brick, center chimney; simple central entry in a 5-bay facade; weather entry at the left side of the gable end; and an addition at the rear. (1851-W. Tourtellot.)
19. P. Williams House: A 1½-story, early 19th-century structure, with two, asymmetrical, brick, interior chimneys and a simple entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a light and airy hip roof porch across the front and part of the left side. The house is set back from the road behind a spacious lawn. (1851- P. Williams.)
20. Chopmist Hill Inn: A 2½-story, cross-gable, Early Victorian structure, with several additions, including a long, 1-story, flat-roofed wing at the right side. In the early 20th century, probably when the Victory Highway was completed in the late 1920s, the former residence was converted into an inn. (1851- J. H. Arnold.)
- ** 21. Dexter Arnold Farm (1813). The Dexter Arnold Farm complex centers on a restrained Federal-style, 2½-story farmhouse, with a large, brick, center chimney and a central entry with transom lights and paneled pilasters in a 5-bay facade. The 3.6-acre property has five outbuildings, including an early 19th-century, 1½-story carriage house, with cupola; a combined woodshed, carpenter shop and chicken coop; a privy; and a corncrib. The landscaped lot also includes a stone wall, a 200-year old sugar maple and a family burying ground.

The Dexter Arnold House was built for Dexter Arnold on property which belonged to his father Simeon; the place was used as a working farm for generations of Arnold descendants, until Susie Ada Arnold MacDonalld sold the homestead core of the family land in 1975. The farm originally produced a variety of crops, including corn, barley, beans and potatoes, and dairy products such as butter for sale locally or in Providence. In recent decades, farm production was limited to apples.

The house and outbuildings have come down the years in a remarkably sturdy, largely unaltered condition. Today, it is still an almost complete farm complex, its house of high vernacular architectural quality and integrity, its well constructed and well preserved picturesque outbuildings a still useful grouping near the house. Despite proximity to Chopmist Hill Road, the house and its surroundings retain the ambience of a self-sufficient 19th-century farm and are of historical and visual importance to the town of Scituate. The Dexter Arnold Farm in entered in the National Register. (1851- J. R. Arnold.)

- ** 22. Hopkins Farm, Amos Cooke House (1812): A classic, 2½-story, gable-roofed, Federal farmhouse is the focus of the former Hopkins farm complex. The house has a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry remodeled in the Greek Revival style; a 20th-century flat-roof porch across the left side; and a small ell at the rear. The house, set behind a stone wall and a row of arbor vitae, occupies a large lot which includes a rustic gazebo, a cabin, a renovated barn, a small horse barn and several other outbuildings.

The house was constructed in 1812 by Augustus and Carver Hopkins, members of a prominent Scituate family who owned large tracts of land south of the Central Turnpike and who maintained a working farm here. Anthony and Carver Hopkins retained ownership of the property until 1859. In 1865, the farm, a 143-acre tract, was purchased by Amos W. Cooke, who ran a lumber business in Providence for nine years before purchasing the farm and moving to Scituate. About 1920, the property was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. McCrillis of Providence and converted into a summer residence which they called "Wilbourne." They made changes to the house and grounds. A cabin, designed after a guest house in Alaska and named the Gnome House, was built on a reduced scale from the original, and a rustic gazebo was built from the remains of a large pine tree which was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane on the same site as the pine tree. Today, the Amos Cooke House stands as a fine and well preserved example of rural Rhode Island architecture in the vernacular turn-of-the-century style and also holds interesting associations through its former inhabitants. (1851- R. Hopkins.)

23. A. Randall House: A 1½-story, wood-shingled, Federal structure, end-to-road, with a brick, center chimney; simple, central entry in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; and a small shed windbreak at the gable end. There is a Victorian barn behind the house. (1851- A. F. Randall.)
24. Ridge View Farm (1790; 1850): This T-shaped structure consists of two parts. The original, 1½-story, south-facing section of the house, built in 1790, is now the rear ell. Its entrance is through a Colonial Revival portico. The 2-story section near the road was built in 1850. There are several outbuildings, most across the road, which is lined for some distance by fine dry stone walls, and a family burying ground south of the house. Ridge View Farm, sometimes referred to as the Barden Farm, is associated with the Barden, West, Paine, Rhodes, and Folcarelli families. In the early 20th century, Robert Rhodes developed it as an apple farm; he planted over 1000 trees and built an apple store. The property today, owned by former Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor Giovanni Folcarelli and his wife, includes sixty-five acres on both sides of the road (1851- J. W. Bardin.)

25. Section of Old Chopmist Road: South of Ridge View Farm a dirt road leading into the woods west of the present Victory Highway marks the route of an old section of Chopmist Hill Road, which dates from at least the early nineteenth century and which was abandoned in the 1920s. The former road, part of the Scituate Reservoir property, is well preserved and in some places lined with low stone walls. At the intersection with what was once the Old Ashland-Ponaganset Road is the Barden Farm Crossroads Site, an important archeological site investigated in 1976 as part of the Route 102 reconstruction project. (1831- Shown on map.)
26. Ponagansett Grove (1930s): A pleasant picnic grove, with mature trees and a rocky topography, at the intersection of the Victory Highway (Route 102), the North Scituate-Rockland Road and Plainfield Pike (Route 14). The picnic area was created during the depression years, probably by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) and is one of many picnic groves of this type found throughout the state and presently managed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. There are two memorials at this intersection, one in memory of Gaetano DelGuidice, "The Man with the Horn," and Grover C. Walker--both World War I veterans. The intersection is known as Grover C. Walker Square, but has also been dubbed "Crazy Corners" because of the meeting of the roads at odd angles. (1964- Picnic Grove.)

CLINTON AVENUE

Jackson: Jackson, a former mill village along the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River in southeastern Scituate, once included a cotton textile mill, built in 1825, a store, and a small number of mill houses. Originally a relatively isolated community, separate and distinct from its neighbors, Hope and Fiskeville. Growth of 20th-century housing and the loss of some mill houses has compromised the identity of the former village. Today, the few remaining interesting historical buildings include two former mill houses (#27 and #28) on Clinton Avenue, and a former mill house (#79), a former store (#80), and the former Jackson Mill (#81), on Jackson Flat Road.

27. Mill House (c. 1825; 8 Clinton Avenue): A 1½-story structure, with two, small, shed dormers; a simple entry in a 6-bay facade (originally a central entry in a 5-bay facade); and two, small, brick chimneys behind the ridge. This former mill house, probably dating from the construction of the 1825 mill by Charles Jackson, was part of a group of six mill houses along the west of Clinton Street. There is a garage and a barn on the lot. (1870- C. Jackson.)
28. Mill House (c. 1825; 38 Clinton Avenue): A small, 1½-story structure, with a small shed dormer; a small, exterior, brick chimney; a porch at the right front; and a small addition at

the rear. This former mill house, originally part of a group of six along Clinton Street, is typical of the small mill worker's cottage common to the upper Pawtuxet Valley. (1870-C. Jackson.)

DANIELSON PIKE

(For North Scituate properties, see entry #3--North Scituate Historic District.)

29. Danielson Pike Commercial Strip: Along Danielson Pike are a variety of commercial establishments strung out along the highway, almost all 20th century in origin, including a lumber yard, a pottery manufactory, apartments, and a motel. The Hill View Motel is typical. It consists of a 1-story, aluminum-sided house for the owners or operators in front, a swimming pool at the right side, and a long, 1-story, flat-roofed housing unit at the rear. Along the road is a neon sign. These businesses, catering both to local and long-distance traffic, are typical of the sprawling, unplanned highway commercial establishments of the modern highway era.
30. Trinity Church (1950): A 1-story (with full basement) Episcopal church, end-to-road, with walls of fieldstone set into concrete, and a small, square, tower at the center of the gable end, designed by Harry H. Mung. The church society was founded in 1861 and moved to this location when the church was completed in 1950.
31. Captain Richard Rhodes House/Rhode Island State Police Headquarters (1794, 1960): A 2½-story structure, with two, large, brick, interior chimneys; an enclosed, pedimented portico, central in a 5-bay facade; two gabled dormers; and additions at the sides, is the "centerpiece" of the headquarters of the Rhode Island State Police and the focus of a complex of structures housing various units of the state police facilities here. In 1794, Captain Richard Rhodes, a sea captain, built the house. In 1912, after more than a century's use as a farm house, John W. Coggeshall converted it into a luxurious house; floors were covered with imported teakwood, doors of solid paneled mahogany installed, and the walls covered with tapestries. In 1936, the property, including the house, four other buildings in excellent condition and 145 acres of land, was acquired by the Rhode Island state police. The house was adapted to use as a barracks, the large barn was made into a classroom and a gymnasium and another building fitted to house cruisers and provide a workshop and storage space. A new barracks was built in 1960. (1851- G. Rhodes.)
32. R. Angell House: A 2½-story, mid-19th-century structure, with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; entry with bracketed hood (originally central in a 5-bay facade which was extended two

bays at the right side); a hip-roof porch at the east side; and additions at the rear. There is a garage and a shed on the lot. (1851- Toll Gate on or near the site ; 1855- R. Angell.)

33. Mary Steere House: A 1½-story mansard roofed-structure, with two, brick, interior chimneys and entry, with bracketed hood, at the right side front. There is a small, 1½-story gambrel roof structure to the right on a spacious, well planted lot. (1870- Mrs. M. Steere.)
34. Job Randall House: A 2½-story Federal structure, with a large brick center chimney; central porticoed entry, with sidelights (a rare survivor but once typical in the area), in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing, with a tall brick chimney and a small shed-roof addition at the left side. There is a mid-20th-century garage at the left attached to the house. (1851- Job Randall.)
35. N. Angell House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with three brick chimneys; three entries in an 8-bay facade; a pedimented section and a gabled dormer in front; and a 1-story wing at the left end. (1851- N. Angell.)
- * 36. James Aldrich House, Florence Price Grant House (c. 1835): A 2½-story, square, Federal structure, with a monitor-on-hip roof; two, brick, interior chimneys; a central, recessed, arched entry; and a 1½-story gable addition at the rear. The house, set on a neat lot behind a fine stone wall, is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. It was probably built by James Aldrich (b. 1800, d. 1877), who once served as a state senator for the town of Scituate. (1851- Jas. Aldrich.)

DARBY ROAD

37. A. Darby House: A Late Victorian, Shingle Style structure, with a medium-sized, brick, off-center chimney; entry in a porch across the front formed by the roof overhang; and a large triple dormer in front. The well-landscaped lot is behind a fine cemented cobblestone wall with an iron-gate entry. (1895- A. Darby.)

DEXTER LANE

38. Dexter Lane Roadscape: Dexter Lane, a dead-end, dirt roadway leading north off Elmdale Road, is lined, to varying degrees, with fieldstone walls. The best preserved sections of old walls are just north of Elmdale Road and the last several hundred feet which lead to an old farmstead near the Gloucester town line. Dexter Lane, with its dirt roadbed, irregular course, and stone walls, although damaged in its middle section, is a good surviving example of Scituate's early roads.

DEXTER ROAD

39. J. Dexter House (1768): A 1½-story structure, end-to-road, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple central entry in a 5-bay facade; a shed dormer at the rear; and a 1-story addition at the left (south) side with a tall, brick chimney. The house, recently renovated, is on a well landscaped lot. (1855- J. Dexter.)
40. E. B. Dexter House (c. 1885): An L-plan, Late Victorian cottage with patterned-shingle and clapboard sides; a small, brick, center chimney; entry with bracketed hood, at the left side; and a 1-story hip-roof, bay window at the right front. A gable roof structure attached to the left side, rear, was originally a school (School Number 15?) and moved here from a nearby site. The house is set behind a fine wood-picket fence. (1895- E. B. Dexter.)

ELMDALE ROAD

41. Cross Wind Farm (1754): A 2½-story structure with a large, brick center chimney; entry with sidelights near the center of an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a 1950s gable-roof addition, with dormers, at the left (east) side. The house is set back from the road on a heavily planted lot. Originally built by Dr. Slack, who owned much land in the area, the lot formerly had a summer kitchen, corn crib, carriage house and other outbuildings. Today there is only a barn. (1851- P. Olney.)
42. Hartley Luther Farm (c. 1798): A farm complex, including a 2½-story structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a weather entry at the rear, central in a 5-bay facade; a 1½-story wing with a tall brick chimney at the left side; and a smaller wing at the left side. There are three outbuildings, including a well preserved corn crib. (1851- H. Luther.)
43. Nathan Mowry House: A 1½-story Greek Revival structure, with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; a central porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade; two shed dormers in front; and an addition at the rear. There is one outbuilding, a shed with a brick chimney. According to a local resident, the house was built for Nathan Mowry, superintendent of the nearby mill at Harrisdale (see #103). (1851- W. N. Mowry.)
44. Peeptoad Pond Dam: A stone and earth dam along Peeptoad Brook, in the northern part of town, holds back the waters of Peeptoad Pond. The dam is crossed by the asphalt roadbed of Elmdale Road. The brook flows out of the west side of the dam through an early 20th-century semicircular concrete culvert. The surrounding area, now part of the Scituate Reservoir water-supply area, is wooded. The dam, pond and a former mill canal or trench, leading from

the east side of the dam, are associated with the former mill at Harrisdale in the mid-19th century and with the Old Pond Factory along West Greenville Road. (See #103 and #155.)

45. House: A 2½-story Federal structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; simple, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a small wing with entry at the right side, front. There is a garage and a barn on the lot. (1855- Salisbury.)
46. House: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side, rear. (1870- Mrs. F. Coman.)
47. House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a small, stuccoed, center chimney; a simple entry in what was originally a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing at the left side. (1870- C. Ballou.)

FIELD HILL ROAD

- * 48. Former Field Farm: Several hundred feet west of Tunk Hill Road are two houses, one on each side of the road, all that remain of a formerly large and active farm. The road and nearby hill are named for the Fields, long-time residents of the area.
 - A. House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a brick, center chimney, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade and several outbuildings. (1851- D. Field).
 - B. House: A handsome 2½-story Federal structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central pedimented entry, with leaded fanlight, in a 5-bay facade; and a small shed at the rear of the house. (1851- I. Field.)
- * 49. Joslin Farm: A large early 20th-century estate, centered on a 2-story, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed residence. The large, outstanding outbuildings, and house, are sited atop Field Hill, which affords a commanding view to the north and east, overlooking the Scituate Reservoir. The Joslins built this farm after their mills in the Clayville-Rockland area were condemned for the Scituate Reservoir project. The farm complex is perhaps the most elaborate in western Rhode Island.
- * 50. G. P. King House (1830): A 1½-story structure, with a brick, center chimney, and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. A section was added to the right side, providing a continuous facade and doubling the size of the original structure. There is a 1½-story wing at the rear. Several outbuildings, including a small, stone house with a large brick chimney, occupy a relatively large, fine

lot, with stone walls around. G. P. King was a local manufacturer. He had a bobbin mill on a nearby pond, and also owned several houses in the neighborhood. (1851- G. P. King.)

51. House: A 1½-story Greek Revival structure, with a brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side, with a tall brick chimney and a simple entry in a porch. (1870- H. Hill.)
52. Clayville School (1933; 1956; 1973): A 1-story, brick, neo-Colonial, early 20th-century, schoolhouse, with a flank gable, central section and two flanking, end-gable wings, with two separate entries, and fanlight doors between. The school, set on a grassy corner lot east of the village of Clayville, has a recent (1973) 1-story addition at the rear. The Clayville School was one of three schools in Scituate built as consolidated schools; they replaced the former 1-room schools. (1940- Clayville School.)

GLEANER CHAPEL ROAD

53. Randall House: A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, 18th-century structure, with a large, stuccoed, center chimney. The house, in poor condition, occupies a mostly overgrown lot. (1851- Widow Randall.)
- ** 54. Martin Smith Farm, or "Hidden Wells" (1740): A 2½-story structure, end-to-road, with two, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing at the rear. There are three fine outbuildings on the lot. Along the road is a 15-20 foot long tunnel leading to the right side of the house. The house was recently restored. The place was purchased by Israel Smith, who came to Scituate from Smithfield in 1785. Martin S. Smith, son of Martin and grandson of Israel, born here in 1844, was educated at Smithville Academy and Brown University. He served in the Civil War, traveled and lived elsewhere for a short time, then settled on the farm in 1876. Martin Smith was active in politics, serving in the assembly and on the town council and was a trial judge and superintendent of schools as well. The house and farm were in the Smith family for many years. In 1958, the place was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William R. Noble, who restored the house to its present fine condition. Several outbuildings were sold to Old Sturbridge Village and to the Guilford (Connecticut) Keeping Society by the Nobles. (1851- M. Smith).
55. Sunset Orchards: A large structure, centered on a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed building, and nearby apple orchards, comprise Sunset Orchards. A large, 1-story, flat-roofed, aluminum storage section is attached at the right side of the gambrel-roofed

building. Sunset Orchards, on a hilltop site with a view to the east, formerly owned by Forrest Brown, is one of several orchards with accompanying sales-storage facilities in the town of Scituate. (1940- Forrest Brown.)

56. House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian residence, with two- small, brick, interior chimneys and a central entry with a bracketed hood in a 5-bay facade. (1870- Mrs. H. Farnum.)

HARMONY ROAD

57. Cedar Knoll Farm: A 1½-story Federal structure, end-to-road, with a brick, center chimney; an entry, with transom lights, originally central in a 5-bay facade; an addition flush with the front facade at the right (east) side; and a recent large addition at the rear (west end). There are several outbuildings, and a stone wall and wood-picket fence in front. The house occupies a fine, slightly elevated site along a quiet side road. (1851- Luther.)

HARTFORD PIKE

58. Highland Orchards: A large, 1-story, mid-20th-century structure, with fieldstone sides, the main component of Highland Orchards, includes a salesroom, a restaurant and a large storage area for apples. At the rear is a greenhouse and salesroom and to the right is a small amusement area featuring the Highland and Cider River Steam Railroad. Highland Orchards, one of several orchards in Scituate, in an area renowned for its apples and apple products, is representative of other orchards in Scituate and this part of Rhode Island, most of which are characterized by a sales and storage building and orchards nearby. These commercial establishments, although occupying 20th-century structures, carry on a centuries-old Rhode Island agricultural tradition. (1964- Highland Orchards.)
59. Former Wayside Gleaner's Chapel, now the North Scituate Grange (P. of H. Number 39): A 1-story frame structure, end-to-road, with a small, brick chimney and a double-door weather entry in front. The building, on a small corner lot at Gleaner Chapel Road, was originally the Wayside Gleaner's Chapel; it later became a grange hall and still serves, as the North Scituate Grange. (1895- Wayside Gleaner's Chapel.)
60. House: A 2½-story, Federal structure, with a brick, center chimney; a central porticoed entry, with sidelights (a rare type now), in a 5-bay facade; and a long, low addition at the right side, with a piazza, now used as an antique shop. (1851- J. Wilder.)
61. S. Peckham House: A 1½-story Federal house, with a small, brick chimney near the center and a large, stone chimney at the left

end; a central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade; three gable dormers in front; and an addition at the right side with a simple doorway. (1851- S. Peckham.)

62. R. Willard Estate: A 1½-story, stone-and-shingle-sided, 20th-century house, set on a large, landscaped lot. There is a gatehouse built in the same style as the main house along the road to the east. (1947- R. Willard.)
63. Black Estate: A large manor style house, with stuccoed walls; a wood-shingled roof broken by several low-pitched shed dormers; several tall stuccoed chimneys; a circular tower; and a recessed entry with a round-headed door. The large house, set on a well landscaped lot, with a pond in front, is more typical of the English countryside than of rural Rhode Island. (1964- Black.)
64. Chopmist Hill Fire Tower: A steel fire tower, 85 feet high, with a glassed-in, 10-foot-by-10-foot cab at the top used for spotting forest fires. The original tower here was of wood. A second tower, of steel, was built near the highway. The present tower is set back from the road.
65. House: A 1½-story Federal structure, with a small, brick chimney near the center; a simple entry in a piazza at the left front; and several additions. There is a wood-shingled barn at the rear. (1851- S. Williams.)
66. Capwell-Durfee House: A 1½-story, Federal structure, with a medium-sized, brick chimney; a central entry, with sidelights; and a wing at the right side, rear. There are a barn and a shed at the rear. The house is set on a slight terrace behind a stone wall, with a commanding view to the west. Around the house is a neat, landscaped lot; at the rear is a horse farm. (1851- J. Capwell.)
67. Hardin-Harris House (c. 1760): a 1½-story, wood-shingled structure, end-to-road, with two interior, stuccoed chimneys; entry with transom lights; and a wing, with chimney, at the north end. The house overlooks a former mill pond to the west, in the town of Foster, which was associated with the Harris Mill. Hardin Harris a mid-19th-century owner, was a leader in the Advent church. This house, located astride the Scituate-Foster town line, is taxed in the town of Foster and is also included as part of the Foster survey. (1851- A. Harris' Mill.)

HEMLOCK ROAD

68. Ponagansett Dam (c. 1883): A high granite dam in an impressive setting along the Ponagansett River in a wooded setting in extreme western Scituate. Now part of the Scituate Reservoir system, the dam was built about 1883 to hold water to power

the nearby Ponaganset Mill in the village of Ponaganset (see #119). Except for this dam, all other components of the mill complex and village were destroyed when the Scituate Reservoir was created. Most of the waters of the Barden Reservoir, behind the dam, are in the town of Foster. (1895- Shown on map; Barden Res.)

HOPE AVENUE

69. House: A 1½-story Early Victorian structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a central entry, with a bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade. (1895- J. Bates.)
70. T. Needham House: A 1½-story Late Victorian, cross-gabled structure, with two small, interior, brick chimneys; a central entry, with a bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade and matching 1-story wings, with piazzas and brick chimneys, on each side. The house is set on a spacious lot, slightly above the road, behind a stone wall. (1895- T. Needham.)

HOPE FURNACE ROAD

- * 71. "Breezy Hill" (1793): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney and a central, pedimented entry, in a 5-bay facade, set on a hill behind a stone wall. There are two fine barns on the lot. The house has been restored to its present fine condition. (1870- Shown on map; 1895- S. Ralph.)
72. Groves Farm: A 2-story, hip-roofed, Federal house, with three, brick interior chimneys; a simple central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a small weather entry at the right side, front. There is a wood-shingle barn on a large lot with grass and trees. (1851- Mrs. Ramsdale.)

HOWARD AVENUE

- * 73. House: A 2½-story Federal structure, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a brick, exterior chimney at the left side; a pedimented central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing at the rear. There is a large barn on the spacious lot. (1851- T. Ralph.)

IDE ROAD

- * 74. Aldrich-Ide House: A 2½-story, 18th-century dwelling, with a large, brick, center chimney; a portico central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing at the rear with a tall, brick chimney. The house is at the end of a dead-end road, which was formerly a through road. There are two outbuildings.

James Aldrich came to Scituate from Smithfield in 1775 and purchased the estate of Ishmael Wilkinson from his heirs. James Aldrich planted a fine orchard and is said to have

introduced the first cherry trees into the town. He was an active politician, representing the town of Scituate in the general assembly for nineteen consecutive years. (1870- A. F. Aldrich.)

75. House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, end-to-road. Originally a 5-bay house with a simple central entry, an addition was made on the west side flush with the front facade at a later date. (1851- N. Wade.)
76. Westcott House: A 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and a small wing at the rear. (1851- T. Westcott.)

JACKSON FLAT ROAD

Fiskeville: A former mill village along the Scituate-Cranston town line, Fiskeville was originally a compact community centered around a textile mill on the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River and including stores, shops, and several dozen residences. Residential growth in the 20th century has expanded the area of the original village and filled in spaces between the early 19th-century buildings so that today Fiskeville has little of its original mill village integrity. Its extant, significant, 19th-century buildings include a former mill house (#77), at 115 Jackson Flat Road, two former mill houses (#83), at 166 and 172 Main Street, and a church (#135) and several early houses (#136 to 138) along both sides of Seven Mile Road north of Hope Avenue.

77. Mill House (115 Jackson Flat Road): A small, 1½-story mill house, with a small, brick, exterior chimney; a simple central entry in a 3-bay facade; and a small, monitor window in front. This house was one of many small mill houses built in the Fiskeville-Jackson area in the early 19th century to house workers for the nearby mills. (1862- shown on map; 1870- Jackson Mills.)
78. Doctor C. K. Clarke House: A 1½-story structure, with a small, brick, interior chimney; a portico central entry in a 5-bay facade; a shed-roof porch at the front and left side; and a large extension at the rear. The lot is heavily planted, with large ash trees in front. (1895- Dr. C. K. Clarke.)
79. Mill House (172 Jackson Flat Road): A small, 1½-story mill house, with a small, brick, interior, end chimney; a simple entry in a 3-bay facade; a small monitor window in front; and a 1-story flat roof wing at the right side. It is another typical mill house of the area. (1870- Jackson Mills.)

80. Former Store: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, end-to-road, with full-length shed dormers on the sides and several additions on the front and right side. The building, now an antique shop, served as a store in Jackson village in the late nineteenth century. (1870- Store.)
81. Jackson Mill: A 1-story stone structure and several concrete block structures, now used as a laundry, along the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River, still stand to mark the side of the Jackson Mills, which were originally built in 1825 by Charles Jackson who later became governor of Rhode Island. In the late 19th century, the mill was purchased by Christopher Lippitt and Company, and later owned by the firm of B. B. & R. Knight. The Knights went out of business about 1928 or 1929. In 1932, the site was purchased by the father of the present owners, who operate a linen-supply business. Today, only a 1-story stone outbuilding and some smaller structures of the original mill remain, but the 15-foot dam, gates and raceway are still in place and two vertical turbines survive. (1862-Jackson Mills.)

KNIGHT HILL ROAD

82. House: A 1½-story, mid 19th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; simple entry in a 5-bay facade; shed dormers on both sides; and a wing at the right side. (1870-Mrs. T. Hill.)

MAIN STREET

83. Mill Houses (c. 1812; 166 and 172 Main Street): Two stone, 1½-story, former mill houses in Fiskeville, each with a small, brick, interior chimney at the left side and entry at the right side front. Number 166 has a new shed dormer across the front, and tarpaper sides. Number 172 has a cinder-block addition at the left (south) side. These two houses are set back from the road behind other houses which front on Main Street. These heavily altered former mill houses probably date from the time of the construction of the Fiskeville Mill in 1812 and may have been built for British workers. They are similar to some early 19th-century stone mill-workers' cottages in Georgiaville. Number 164 and 170 Main Street, also small, workers' houses, have been unsympathetically altered. (1862- Jackson Mills.)

NIPMUC ROAD

84. Site of Nipmuc Quarry: Along the south slope of Nipmuc Hill, in Scituate and Coventry, is a quarry at Nipmuc Ledge, once actively exploited for its stone. The 12-acre site contains gneiss, a more easily worked form of granite. The quarry was probably used on a small scale locally as early as the 18th century. By the mid-19th-century, when the Nipmuc Ledge Company was formed, it was worked on a relatively large scale.

Thousands of loads of stone were removed and used for curbs, flagging, under-pinning, door stones, posts, sills and caps, mostly in Providence, and for the walls of the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy. (1851- Nipmuc Ledge.)

NORTH ROAD

85. Filtration Plant (c. 1925): A large, 2-and-3-story concrete building, three quarters of a mile east of the Scituate Reservoir Dam, filters reservoir water, which is carried here by gravity in twin 60-inch conduits, which converge into a single 94-inch conduit.

NOTTINGHAM DRIVE

86. "The Castle" (c. 1979): An unusual and unique, 2-and-3-story residence, with a relatively flat-pitched asymmetrical gable roof, set on a large, open lot near Scituate Avenue. A small corner tower at the 3rd-floor level and a small, crenellated, tower-like structure at the southwest corner, present a "castle like" or medieval flavor. This house, in the extreme eastern part of Scituate, is in an area which includes other modern and out of the ordinary residences.

OLD PLAINFIELD PIKE

87. Wilbour House (123 Old Plainfield Pike): A 1½-story, Federal structure, with a small, gabled dormer in front; an addition at the rear; and a Greek Revival entry, which was originally in the center of a 5-bay facade. The house was extended two bays wide at the north (left) side and another entry added. The house occupies a landscaped lot, behind a low stone wall. A pond and site of a bobbin factory (#89), perhaps associated with the house, are a short distance to the west. (1870- S. Wilbour.)
88. Wilbur's Bridge (1912): A 17-foot concrete span carries Old Plainfield Pike over Wilbur Hollow Brook near the site of a bobbin mill (see #89). The bridge, "erected and guaranteed by Thomas F. Cullinan Co. of Providence" (according to a plaque in the side of the bridge) is one of the earliest concrete highway bridges in the state.
89. Site of Bobbin Mill: A stone dam along Wilbur Hollow Brook, with an old raceway below the dam, in a wooded setting, marks the site of a bobbin mill which operated here in the late nineteenth century. (1870- Bobbin Mill.)
90. Rocklands (1754): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central, pedimented entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; a wing at the right side with a tall, brick chimney; and a flat roof addition at the rear of the wing. The well restored house occupies a neat lot, which includes stone walls. (1870- R. Wilbour.)

91. Whipple House: A 2½-story, mid-19th-century structure, end-to-road, with a small, brick, interior chimney, near the rear; a Greek Revival entry, originally central in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story addition at the rear, flush with the facade, with an entry in the east side. The house is set behind a fine, 5-foot high section of stone wall. There are several outbuildings, including a long, chicken house on a large tract of open land along the south side of the road. (1851- Whipple.)
92. House: A 2½-story, hip-on-hip roof, Federal structure, with a brick chimney near the center; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a gable-roof addition at the right side. (1851- R. Matthewson.)
93. House: A 2½-story Federal structure, with Greek Revival details, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story, mid-19th century wing at the right side. There is a garage and a barn on a neat and relatively large lot. (1870- S. Allen.)
94. Potterville Community House, or Former Potterville School, District 7 (c. 1852): A small, 1-story, frame structure, end-to-road, with a small, brick, interior end chimney, set on a small lot. Originally a schoolhouse for the Potterville area, the well preserved building was later used as the local community house. (1855- School.)
95. House: A 1½-story, Late Greek Revival, double house, with a small, tall, brick, center chimney; a double-door, central entry in a 5-bay facade; a wing at each side; and a large shed-roof addition at the left side front. (1870- M. P. Est.)
96. House: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century house, with a small, brick, center chimney; entry with bracketed hood at the left side of a 3-bay facade; a wing, with piazza, at the right side; and an attached, flat-roof garage wing at the left side. (1870- M. P. Est.)
97. House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with two separate entries in an elongated 10-bay facade. The double house, in poor condition, is next to a cemetery. (1870- M. P. Est.)
98. House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, off-center chimney; entry with sidelights between two additions at each side of the front; two square dormers in front; and a wing at the right side. (1895- E. A. Potter.)
- * 99. M. Potter House (c. 1711; c. 1783; c. 1800): A large, 2½-story structure, with a full basement; two, Greek Revival doorways in a long, 8-bay facade; and two large, interior, brick chimneys. The house is set close to the road on a simply landscaped lot.

The oldest part of the house, the center section, was possibly built about 1711 by E. Fish or Fiske. In 1730-1731, a tavern license was granted; the place was used as a tavern until the construction of the Providence and Danielson Railroad in the late nineteenth century. In about 1783, the western side of the house was added and the eastern end put on about 1800. The eastern end contained a summer kitchen in the cellar, a dining room on the main floor and a ballroom on the second floor. After the tavern function ceased, Abner Potter built two dams and a bobbin mill along the brook behind the house and manufactured textile bobbins. The place was in the Potter family from about 1800 until 1949, when it was purchased by the present owner, Isaac Hull, who has restored the old place to its present condition. The house, interesting architecturally and historically, is recommended for the National Register. (1851- M. Potter.)

100. Philips House: A 1½-story, 18th-century "half house," with a chimney at the left end, a simple entryway, and an ell at the right side. (1851- Philips.)

PEEPTOAD ROAD

101. Seagrave Memorial Observatory (1914): A cylindrical observation tower, twenty feet in diameter, thirty feet high, three stories tall, including a 2-story brick base, with a small, 1-story hip-roofed building attached, set on a large lot, comprise the Seagrave Memorial Observatory. Frank E. Seagrave built an observatory on Benefit Street, Providence, in 1878, and thereafter devoted his life to astronomy. Between 1878 and 1891, he went on three solar-eclipse expeditions. A search for better atmospheric conditions than those found in the city led him to Scituate, where he erected a new observatory in 1914. The observatory's telescope was purchased from the Seagrave estate in 1936 by Professor Charles Smiley of Brown University. The observatory is now operated by Skyscrapers, Inc., a private group founded by Professor Smiley in 1932.
102. Peckham House: A 2½-story, Greek Revival structure, with two, large, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the east side. The house, in poor condition, occupies an overgrown lot. (1851- J. Peckham.)
103. Site of Harrisdale Mill: Well preserved foundations near the west side of Peeptoad Road mark the site of the former Harrisdale Mill. Along the east side of the road is a stone-lined former trench, or canal, leading from Peeptoad Pond. The Harrisdale Mill, erected about 1845 by Ansel W. and Albert W. Harris, was a 2-story stone structure. Once known as the Ansel W. Harris Company, it was later owned by several other

men until its destruction by fire in 1875. It was not rebuilt. A dam was built at nearby Peeptoad Pond. Running parallel to Peeptoad Road, the canal powered the Harrisdale Mill. The trench continued on to the Old Pond Factory along West Greenville Road and also powered that factory during times of low water on nearby Moswansicut Pond. The mill ruins and trench are still visible today. Several tenement houses were built by the company and the area around the Harris Mill was known as Harrisdale in the late nineteenth century. (1851-Asel Harris' Mill: Canal.)

104. Eliza Harris House (425 Peeptoad Road): A 1½-story, mid-19th-century residence, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with a molded transom, in a 5-bay facade; a shed-roof dormer across the back; and a shed-roof wing at the rear. This small house, near the site of the Harrisdale Mill, was built for Eliza Harris by her father, Asahel, who also built the mill. (1870- Miss E. Harris.)

PINE HILL ROAD

105. House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, end-to-road, with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; entry at the right side of the front; and an addition at the rear. There is a fine, large, wood-shingle barn with a cupola at the rear. (1870-J. Randall.)

PLAINFIELD PIKE

106. House (18th century): A 1½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney and a large, shed-roof dormer at the rear. It originally had a central doorway in a 5-bay facade; later a wing was added at the left side, flush with the front of the house, altering the original symmetrical arrangement. It is said that the wing was used as a tavern at one time. There is a barn-garage at the rear and a field to the west. Map histories indicate several different owners in the last century or so. Today, part of the house, which is relatively well preserved, is used for a real-estate office. (1851- T. Barnes; 1870- S. Bennett; 1895- E. Waterman; 1964- G. B. Coleman.)
- ** 107. Battey-Barden House (277 Plainfield Pike): A 2½-story Federal structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry with sidelights, narrow, reeded pilasters, and a semi-elliptical fan, in a 5-bay facade; an entry, with transom lights, at the left side, rear; and a mid-19th-century kitchen ell at the rear. There is stenciling in the front hallway done in 1821 and the present owner has elaborated on the original work by stenciling most of the interior walls using designs based on early stenciling patterns. There is one outbuilding, a recent structure, and a small pond with a crude dam and bridge made of a large stone slab. Several former outbuildings are gone, but their sites have potential archeological significance.

The house is an excellent example of a Federal farmhouse built between 1816 and 1831 by prosperous residents in a rural area. It was built for Horace Battey (1793-1881), who was a deacon in the Baptist church at Battey Corners, a Scituate Justice of the Peace, and who also ran a nearby general store. The Batteys settled in Scituate in the mid-18th century; they were involved in civic and religious affairs and were among the town's early industrialists. In 1860, the farm was mortgaged, and in 1867 sold at auction to Job W. Barden. The house and some land were owned by the Barden family until 1962. (1851- H. Battey.)

108. Four Winds Farm: An expanse of neat, open land, with a "manicured" appearance, in an otherwise wooded area, bounded by a white, 3-rail, wooden fence. There is a mid-20th-century barn, with cupola, and a pond, back from the road. Near the road is a stone and wood entryway, and beyond is a landscaped driveway.
109. Angell-Barden House: A 1½-story Federal structure, with a small, brick, interior chimney; a central entry with a plain surround in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing at the right side, rear, with a brick chimney and central entry. There is a fine clapboard shed at the right side. The grounds of the house are neat, with a stone wall east of the house along the road and stone walls behind. There are open fields across the road. The interior has been recently remodeled. (1851- Geo. W. Angell.)
110. Former Saint Timothy's Chapel (early 20th century): At the corner of Westcott Road is the former chapel, a 1-story frame structure, end-to-road, with a brick, exterior chimney; a cinder-block exterior chimney; a central enclosed entry, with double doors, in the gable end; and an addition at the rear. The structure, set into a small hill, has a rustic setting. (1964- St. Timothy Chapel.)
111. Former Gasoline Station and Store: A small, frame, tar-paper-shingled structure, with two gasoline pumps and a light standard on a small concrete island in front, served as a gasoline station and grocery store along Plainfield Pike. Dating from the post-World War I highway era, it is typical of many other modest size commercial establishments along the state's early highways.
112. Field Farm-Crystal Spring: The Field Farm-Crystal Spring complex includes several houses and outbuildings on a relatively large lot along the north side of Plainfield Pike. The largest, and most important building, is a 2½-story, 1764 residence, with a small, brick chimney; an off-center entry, with transom lights and a small bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing, with a tall, brick chimney, at the right side. Some

interior changes have been made (fireplaces have been bricked up), but there is still a hand-painted ceiling in the parlor, done earlier in this century. East of the house is a 1½-story, wood-shingled structure, gable end to the road, and beyond is a 1½-story, Greek Revival building, now disguised by porches. All three of these houses are set back from the road on a hillside. There are several wood-shingled outbuildings at the rear of the property, and woods all around. (1851- T. Field.)

- * 113. The Scituate Oak: A large white oak tree, about five feet in diameter, set behind a simple wood fence in a clearing in the woods near the road. Behind and to the right is a fine stone foundation, with steps, and to the west is a section of the former road, lined with stone walls. This place was once part of the Big Oak Farm, centered on a 1½-story, 18th-century house which was torn down when the land became reservoir property. The new course of Plainfield Pike was curved to preserve the tree. (1851- M. Hill.)
- 114. Dam, Site of Rockland: A rock-faced dam is all that survives of what was once the thriving manufacturing village of Rockland. The village was one of several destroyed in the 1920s when the Scituate Reservoir was constructed. (1831- Rockland Factory.)
- 115. Paine House (1850-1860): A 1½-story structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a central entry, with a bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade. There is a small house on the property, nearby. (1895- Geo. Paine.)
- 116. House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing, with a brick chimney, at the northeast end. (1895- Mrs. A. Luther.)
- 117. N. D. Knight House (c. 1890): A 1½-story, cross-gable, Late Victorian residence, with a small brick chimney, and entry at the right of center, in a piazza. There are modest decorative details, including a sunburst motif in the gable end. There is a fine Victorian carriage house, with ornamental shingles, at the rear of the neat lot. (1895- N. D. Knight.)
- 118. New Rockland Cemetery (Historical Cemetery Number 50): A large burying ground, surrounded by a large grove of evergreens, on a round hilltop, containing mostly nineteenth-century graves. It contains remains taken from cemeteries which were within the limits of the Scituate Reservoir watershed, including 1,594 of the total of 1,618 bodies removed from old cemeteries in the reservoir area.

PONAGANSET ROAD

119. Site of Ponaganset (Bettyville): At the bridge spanning the Ponaganset River in extreme western Scituate, are visible stone foundations, remains of the former village of Ponaganset. Other ruins--cellar holes, mill foundations and former raceways--are located in the nearby woods, part of the Scituate Reservoir watershed. John Barden, who came here in 1760, began the manufacturing of iron, and later erected a gristmill on the site of the iron works. His son, John, ran a sawmill and gristmill here. In 1826, William Richmond, Richmond Bullock, and John Andrews, all Providence residents, erected a cotton mill. An addition was made to the mill which burned in 1852 and was rebuilt the following year. In 1854, the mill was incorporated as the Ponaganset Manufacturing Company. At that time, the name of the small community, originally known as Barden's Mills, then Bettyville for John Barden's wife, was changed to Ponaganset. The village grew gradually during the nineteenth century. A store was built in 1832, a substantial reservoir was constructed along the Ponaganset River in 1883, additions were made to the mill in 1860 and 1885, houses were added and a public hall and a library were established. Eventually, the village contained about a dozen buildings, but all were destroyed when the Scituate Reservoir was constructed in the 1920s. (1831- Bettyville.)

QUAKER LANE

120. House (c. 1979): A cross-gable-roofed, A-frame structure, with a wide, open deck around, in a wooded setting about 200 feet back from the road. This house is one of several dozen structures built along the eastern end of Quaker Lane in the decade of the 1970s which reflect a variety of architectural styles, ranging from 17th- and 18th-century colonial "copies" to the latest contemporary examples.

ROCKY HILL ROAD

121. House: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century house, with a central entry in a 3-bay facade; a large shed dormer across the front; a 1-story wing, with a brick chimney and separate entry, at the east side; and an addition at the west end. There are two sagging outbuildings on the relatively large lot, which also includes several apple trees.
122. House: A 2-story, truncated A-frame structure, end-to-road, built in the 1970s. The glassed front section includes a porch, and a full basement. The house, and 2-car garage, still uncompleted, are set back and above the road in a wooded environment.

123. "Hansel and Gretel Cottage" (520 Rocky Hill Road): A picturesque, early 20th-century cottage in a wooded setting, with stuccoed walls. The main part of the house has a truncated end-gable roof and dormers at each side. There is a 1-story wing at the right, and a tall, brick chimney between the two sections of the house. A 1-car garage, with a truncated gable roof also, is close to the road.
124. "The Glass House": A 2-story, flat-roofed, 1970s house, with a medium-sized, rectangular chimney, near the rear; a small, deck or porch, at the second-floor level at the east side; and a large proportion of window space in the walls which allows persons inside to take advantage of the pleasant sylvan setting outside, including a small brook which runs west and south of the house.
125. J. Aldrich House: A 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney, and a central portico entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade, set on a spacious corner lot. (1851- J. Aldrich.)
126. H. Brown House: A 1½-story, 18th-century house, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple entry at the right side, front, in a 4-bay facade; two gable dormers in front; and a small wing at the left side, rear. (1851- H. Brown.)
- * 127. Brown Homestead (c. 1745): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central, porticoed entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing, with piazza, at the right side. The portico entry, probably added in the early 19th century, was once a more common occurrence in Rhode Island; today, it is a rare detail found only in a few localities, including several other Scituate houses (#142 & #152), some Union Village, North Smithfield houses and some in Foster. There is a wood shed, and a fine, wood-shingle barn in a field behind the house. (1870- W. S. Arnold.)
128. Stone Bridge: A relatively large stone bridge carries Rocky Hill Road over Huntinghouse Brook. Probably originally a 19th-century structure, it was modified in the 20th century with the addition of a semicircular steel casing in the opening under the bridge.
129. G. W. Brown House: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century structure, with a full fieldstone basement at the east side; a small, brick, off-center chimney; an off-center entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; a small shed dormer in front; and a 1½ story wing at the left side. There is a collection of small outbuildings and stone walls and foundations on a very rocky lot which well exemplifies the rocky and inhospitable terrain of the Rocky Hill Road area. (1851- G. W. Brown.)

130. Dr. W. H. Bowen House: A 1½-story, Late Victorian, shingle and clapboard-sided house, end-to-road; with wood carved gable ends; a small, brick chimney; an open porch at the left front; and a closed porch across the front. The neat lot contains two outbuildings. (1895- Dr. W. H. Bowen.)
- * 131. Aldrich House: A 2½-story, 18th-century dwelling, with a large, brick, center chimney; central, portico entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; a large 2½-story wing at the right side, with a 1-story wing attached to that; and a porch at the left side, rear. The house occupies a neat lot. Across the road, behind an exceptionally fine stone wall, is a large late 19th-or early 20th-century barn. (1851- J. Aldrich.)
132. W. Dexter House: A 2½-story, Federal structure, with a large, stuccoed, brick, center chimney; a simple entry near the center of a 3-bay facade; and a wing at the right side. There are stone walls in front of the house, set on a relatively large and neat lot. (1851- W. Dexter.)

SCITUATE AVENUE

133. Knight Farms Housing Development (mid-1970s): A recent housing tract, with large, well designed homes, on spacious, well developed lots on a hill above the Scituate Reservoir.
- * 134. Scituate Reservoir (1920-1926): The Scituate Reservoir project was one of the largest engineering works ever undertaken in the state of Rhode Island. The project was started in 1915 and the first construction contract was awarded in 1917. By 1921, work was underway in full force; five years later the project was completed. In addition to the Scituate Reservoir, the largest fresh water body in Rhode Island, with a surface area of 5.3 square miles, there are several other noteworthy components to the reservoir, including:
- A. Kent, or Gainer Memorial Dam: An earth structure, with an impervious earthcore and riprap of stone to prevent erosion by water upstream. The downstream slope is loamed and grassed. The 3,200-foot-long-dam, its top 180 feet above bed rock, is 640 feet wide at the bottom. Scituate Avenue runs across the top. The dam occupies the site of the former village of Kent, in southeastern Scituate, and holds water for Rhode Island's largest reservoir--Scituate Reservoir. The reservoir, with a capacity of 39 billion gallons of water and a surface area of 3600 acres, has a 92.8-square-mile watershed. It was built between 1920 and 1926 to provide drinking water for Providence and the metropolitan area. One of the largest engineering projects undertaken in the state, it resulted in the destruction of several mill villages, including mills, houses, churches, taverns, and other buildings, and

some farms. Water distribution began September 30, 1925. The dam was dedicated to Joseph H. Gainer, mayor of Providence from 1918 to 1927. A bronze plaque set into an irregularly shaped granite marker in a small parklike area at the east end of the dam is dedicated to former mayor Gainer.

- B. Bridge and Spillway: At the western end of the earth dam is a reinforced-concrete triple-arch bridge carrying Scituate Avenue over a masonry spillway which carries overflow water from the reservoir in times of high water.
- C. Gate House Superstructure and Hydroelectric Station (1926, 1965): A square, hip-roofed structure, of cut-granite block, located approximately in the center of the dam, along the reservoir. The building contains a vertical, S. P. Morgan turbine, installed in 1926, which provides emergency power for the purification plant; some electricity is sold to Narragansett Electric. The turbine, with a 100-foot shaft and 11-ton flywheel, operates with 80 feet of head and generates 2,400 horse power at 300 r.p.m. It is connected to a Westinghouse generator (1,875 KVA, 2,300 volts). Reservoir water runs under the dam here, which marks the beginning of the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River. From here, water is also piped to the purification plant.

SEVEN MILE ROAD

- 135. The Tabernacle Baptist Church (1873): A 1-story frame structure, end-to-road, with a full basement; a square, bracketed belfry, with louvered, roundheaded openings, near the front; a small brick chimney near the front; entry in an enclosed central portico; and a 1-story flat-roofed brick wing at the rear. The society, established in 1872 through the efforts of Rev. Benjamin B. Cottrell, was patronized largely by Cranston people. The Rev. Cottrell owned the church and was its pastor. (1895- Tabernacle Baptist Church.)
- 136. House: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century house, end-to-road, with a small, brick, interior chimney and a simple entry in the gable end.
- 137. House (480 Seven Mile Road): A 1½-story, Federal house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a simple entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing, with an open porch, at the left side.
- 138. House (530 Seven Mile Road): A 1½-story 18th-century house, with a small, brick, center chimney and two simple entries, one in the center of a 5-bay facade, the other in the center of the gable end.

139. Dairy Barn (554 Seven Mile Road): A fine, early-20th-century gambrel-roofed dairy barn, with cylindrical metal ventilators and a pair of connected wooden silos. The barn is well sited on a hill, with a sweeping view to the west across open fields. There is an accompanying early 20th-century house near the road.
140. House (568 Seven Mile Road): A 1½-story, Early Victorian structure, end-to-road, with a small, brick, interior chimney; entry, with bracketed hood, at the left side of the front; and wing, with piazza and tall brick chimney at the left side, rear.
141. House: A 2½-story, 18th-century house, with a large, brick, center chimney, a pedimented entry, central in a 5-bay facade, and a recent 2-story addition at the west end. The house is set back from the road on a large, well planted lot. In front is a stone wall with unusually large pieces of granite. (1851- E. Williams?)

TRIMTOWN ROAD

142. A. Tanner House: A 2½-story 18th-century structure, with two, interior, brick chimneys; a pedimented portico (similar to several others on Federal-era houses in Scituate), with side lights, central in a 5-bay facade; and a large, 2½-story wing at the rear. The house is set back from the road, on a large lot. (1851- A. Tanner.)
143. Scituate High School: A typical post-World War II secondary public school, a 1-story, brick, low, flat-topped, sprawling structure, set on a relatively large grassy tract in the rural section of town.
144. House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; two shed dormers in front; and a wing at east side. There is a barn, on a large, neat lot. (1851- J. Boss.)
145. S. Boss House: A 1½-story, 18th-century residence, with a large, brick, center chimney, and a central entry, with a 3-light transom, in a 5-bay facade. The house is set back from the road at the end of a private drive, with fields, trees, stone walls and several outbuildings. (1851- S. Boss.)
- * 146. House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; an enclosed central entry in a 5-bay facade; shed dormers across the rear; and a large wing at the right. There are two wood-shingled barns on a neat lot. (1851- G. Aldrich.)
147. Fenner-Hopkins House: A 2½-story, mid-19th-century structure, end-to-road, with two, small, interior, brick chimneys; a portico entry at the right side of the front; and a 1½-story wing at the rear.

There are several outbuildings on the large lot, which includes mature maple trees and stone walls along the road, and fields surrounding the former farm complex. (1851- Widow Fenner.)

148. Former Scituate Townhouse (1829): A small, rectangular, 1-story structure, with a small, brick chimney at the left side and a central double door entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a town highway garage at the left side and at the rear. Scituate's first townhouse, this building was located here because it was near the center of the town. It was open to any civic society for public meetings or worship. Scituate's expanding population has long since outgrown this simple building, but it has been preserved as a reminder of the town's past. (1851- Town House.)

WESTCOTT ROAD

149. Yeaw Farm: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century dwelling, with a large, brick, center chimney; an off-center entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and flanking wings, and several outbuildings, comprise the Yeaw Farm, one of the last surviving dairy farms in the town. (1870- R. Yeaw.)
150. Salisbury House (1751): A 1½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; shed dormers in front and back; and a small windbreak entry at the left side. (1855- G. I. Salisbury.)
151. Richard Smith House (1827): A 2½-story house, with a large, brick, center chimney; central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; a 1-story, flat-roofed wing at the right; and a 2-story wing at the left. The latter ell may be the original part of the present house and date from 1750. The main house was built by Richard Smith in 1827. There are two fine early 20th-century barns on the property which includes stone walls and a picket fence. (1851- R. Smith.)
152. Former Westcott Farm: A 2½-story Federal structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central, portico entry (similar to several others on Federal-era houses in Scituate), with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side. There are several outbuildings. Josiah Westcott, born in 1781 in Foster, settled in Scituate in early life. He was active in politics, serving terms on the town council, state assembly and state senate, and was also judge of the court of common pleas (he died June 19, 1867). His son, Josiah E., was born in 1828 on the farm. (1851- Hon. J. Westcott.)

WEST GREENVILLE ROAD

153. Blanchard Farm: A cinder-block structure, end-to-road, near West Greenville Road, serves as the sales and storage facility for Blanchard Farm or Orchards. There is a small apple orchard

south of the building and open land beyond, to the east. The Blanchard Farm is one of several apple-sales and storage establishments in Scituate.

154. Old Harris Farm: A large, 2½-story structure, end-to-road, with three large, brick chimneys. The original section was built before 1775; later, additions were made--a 2½-story wing at the north side, a 2-story porch, and a 1-story porch. Extensive remodeling was done in 1910. There are several outbuildings, including a Victorian gazebo and two sheds, on a large lot, with trees, a wood picket fence set in granite posts, stone walls and fields. There is a cemetery on the property. The farm, purchased by Asahel Harris in 1777, is still in the Harris family. (1851- C. Harris.)
155. Site of Old Pond Factory: Near the west side of West Greenville Road, along a tributary of the Moswansicut River just below Moswansicut Pond, are the ruins of a former cotton mill in a wooded area, now part of the Scituate Reservoir watershed.

About 1810, a 3-story stone factory was built by Captain Benjamin Aborn for the manufacture of cotton yarn. The mill, powered by two water wheels, got its water from nearby Moswansicut Pond, and from Peepload Pond by means of a trench or canal. Six houses were built along each side of the road, several other buildings were erected, and the small community became known as Elmdale. In the 1850s, some of the operations at the Pond Factory were transferred to the "New Pond Factory." Both mills were part of the Scituate Manufacturing Company. The Old Pond Factory, variously identified on 19th-century maps as Pond Factory, Smith and Nichols Cotton Mill, and the Moswansicut Manufacturing Company, operated until after the Civil War. (1851- Scituate Co's Mill.)

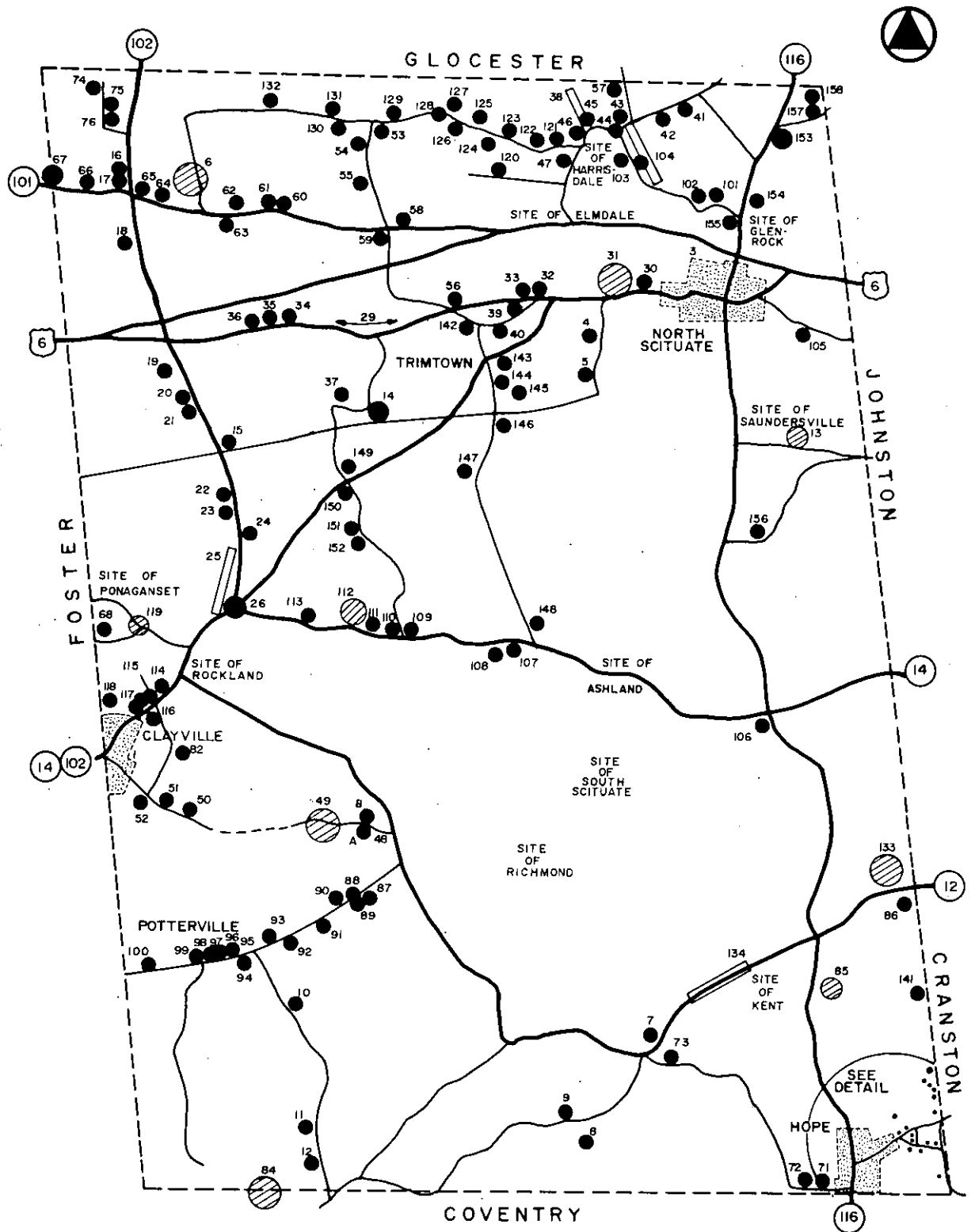
WILLIAM HENRY ROAD

156. Henry House, or Gray-Mer Acres: A 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central pedimented, entry, in a 5-bay facade; and a small wing at each side. There is a large barn on a spacious, neat lot, and a stone wall in front. (1851- Geo. Henry.)

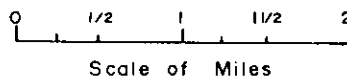
WINSOR ROAD

157. John Mathewson House (1740s): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with side-lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a small wing at the rear. There are two outbuildings, a corn crib, and a barn, on the property, as well as fine stone walls. This house, near the site of the earliest dwelling in Scituate, is the former residence of U.S. Senator Elisha Mathewson. (1851- Hon. Elisha Mathewson.)

158. Site of Saw Mill: About 200 feet north of Winsor Road, along a small brook, is a stone and earth dam, now breached, and stonework remains along the west side. There is a small pond above the dam. Below the dam is a stone-lined raceway. The dam, which is about 12-feet wide, is built into the side of a hill at the west side. The raceway extends south of Winsor Road. The only record of activity at this site is a sawmill shown on the 1870 map. (1870- S. Mill.)

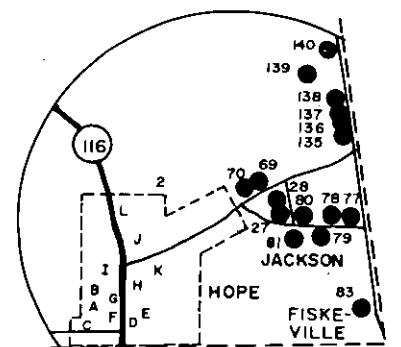


SCITUATE, R.I. DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES & SITES



LEGEND:

- Districts
- Structures, and small sites
- More than 1 structure and large sites
- Main Roads
- Other Roads



APPENDIX A
NATURAL FEATURES AND AREAS

The following list of natural features and areas is a summary of the Rhode Island Audubon Society's 1971 inventory of unique natural areas in the state. Since some of these places include rare and possibly endangered plant species which require protection, they have not been located on the maps. Numbers correspond to the Audubon Society list.

- R 21: Huntinghouse Brook Area: A heavily wooded area, with many glacial boulders. The site is significant for its glacial features such as kames, eskers, and drumlins, and for its unusual vegetation and wildlife.
- R 82: Indian Rock: An immense glacial boulder, or erratic, resting on a ledge of bedrock.
- R 104: Black Spruce Swamp: A swampy area significant for its glacial features--kames, eskers, drumlins--and its plant communities.
- R 146: North Branch, Pawtuxet River: Scenic woodland.
- R 147: Wild Ginger Site: Scenic brook and waterfall, including the only stand of wild ginger in the state.
- R 148: Quonopaug Swamp: Large sqamp with unusual plant communities.
- R 149: Elmdale Road Rock Shelter: A large rock outcrop used by Indians.
- R 150: Ostrich Fern Site: Recorded as the best stand of ostrich ferns in the state.
- R 263: Cold Spring Brook: A very diverse botanical area, a very fine forest, and picturesque stream.

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