

This report, published by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, is part of the program set forth in Rhode Island's *Historic Preservation Plan*, first edition (1970). Commission activities are supported by state and local funds and by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Planning and coordinating services are provided by the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program and by the Department of Community Affairs. The Rhode Island Historical Society served as contract agent for the Commission's program, and contributed significantly to the preparation of this report through the assistance of its staff and library. The report is based on publicly supported research and may not be copyrighted. It may be reprinted, in part or in full, with the customary crediting of the source.

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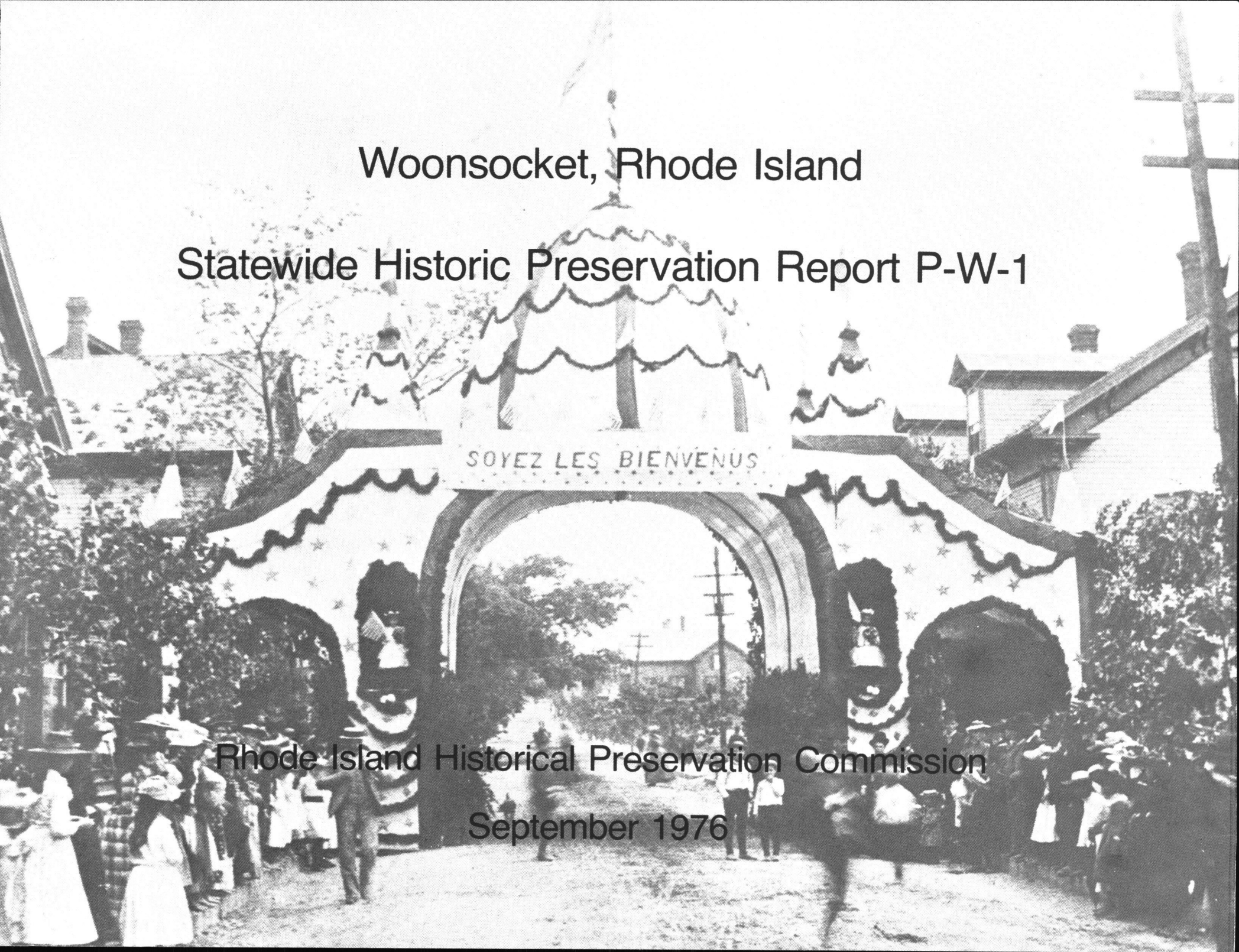
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Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Statewide Historic Preservation Report P-W-1



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

September 1976



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Old State House  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R. I. 02903  
(401) 277-2678

September 1, 1976

The Honorable Philip W. Noel, Governor  
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

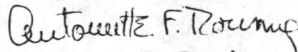
Dear Governor Noel:

It is with pleasure that I transmit herewith Woonsocket, Rhode Island - Statewide Historic Preservation Report P-W-1, the seventh publication in the Statewide Preservation Report series.

The product of intensive study, the report provides an analysis of the historical and architectural growth of Woonsocket, with particular consideration given to current development problems, and recommends preservation programs and procedures which can be incorporated into the city's overall planning effort.

Although the Commission has only begun the task of recording and conserving the rich cultural resources of Rhode Island, its ultimate goal is to complete reports on all thirty-nine cities and towns in the state. We believe that our work, represented in this publication, promotes the cause of historic preservation in the state.

Very sincerely,

  
Mrs. George E. Downing  
Chairman

AD/dn

## PREFACE

In 1968 the Rhode Island General Assembly established the Historical Preservation Commission, charging it, among other duties, with the task of developing a state preservation program following the guidelines of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 administered by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor or serve ex officio as representatives of the General Assembly and several state agencies. The Director of the Department of Community Affairs is designated State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island.

The Historical Preservation Commission is responsible for conducting a statewide survey of historical, architectural, and archeological resources, and, from the survey, recommending buildings, sites, and areas of local, state, or national importance for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Another major objective is the development of a state historic preservation plan which renders Rhode Island eligible for federal financial assistance in the acquisition and restoration of historic properties.

Additional duties of the Commission include compiling a state register of historic places, assisting local preservation programs, regulating exploration of state archeological sites, reviewing federal, state, and municipally sponsored projects which may impact cultural resources, and administering a grant-in-aid program for acquisition and preservation.

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## INTRODUCTION

After preliminary discussion between Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Director of the Department of Community Affairs and State Historic Preservation Officer, Mayor Cummings, and members of the City Council, the Woonsocket Survey was initiated by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission in cooperation with the city's Department of Planning and Development in 1973. Funding was provided by the Commission from its state appropriation and by the city with municipal funds and contributed services; services were also contributed by the Woonsocket Historical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and a number of interested citizens. Federal funds disbursed through the National Register Program to the Commission by the

Park Service matched these contributions.

To accomplish the goals of the statewide survey program three stages are necessary: field investigation, preparation of maps, and preparation of a final report (this document) on each city or town. A standard survey form, the "Historic Building Data Sheet," is used throughout the state. This incorporates both architectural and historical information and a photograph of each building or site. Historical information is obtained through the use of maps, published histories, newspapers, directories, local records, manuscript and graphics collections, and the vast knowledge of local residents. Data from the survey forms is transferred to maps and to the Statewide Planning Program's computer system



Fig. 1: The Blackstone River below Woonsocket Falls as it looks today.



so that information pertaining to cultural resources is readily available for planning purposes. An explanation of the survey methodology together with a copy of the "Historic Building Data Sheet" and a sample detail from a Woonsocket survey map can be found in Appendix A.

Upon completion of the survey, and Commission review, one copy of all material is filed at the Commission's central office; other copies are placed in appropriate local repositories. Each set of materials consists of the completed survey forms, maps, and final report.

Based on an initial survey of the city, the staff of the Commission designated a large portion of central Woonsocket for intensive structure-by-structure analysis, identified several smaller out-lying districts, and determined what individual structures outside these districts to inventory singly. The center-city district straddles the Blackstone River and is bounded by Winter Street, the railroad, East School Street, Elm Street, Locust Street, the river, Front Street, the river again, Lincoln Street, Coe Street, Bradford Street, South Main Street, Mason Street, a railroad spur, and Harris Avenue. Two "mini-districts" were surveyed: one in the neighborhood of Rathbun, George, and Chester Streets; another along Carrington Avenue and a contiguous section of Maple Street. The districts and scattered historic sites have been located on a set of four maps coded to indicate the period or style of the structure or site and its historic or architectural significance. In all, some 1800 sites, structures, districts and objects were recorded.

This report is based on the field survey, research and maps. It attempts to present a concise yet comprehensive history of Woonsocket, followed by recommendations for preservation planning and, in the appendices, an explanation of the survey procedure and grant-in-aid program of the Historical Preservation Commission, and an inventory of structures, sites, and monuments worthy of inclusion in the state inventory. Emphasis is placed on the whole spectrum of the city's past as revealed in its present morphology — its topography, settlement pattern, buildings, landmarks, etc. The impact of modern development, including such factors as zoning, industrial growth, traffic demands, demolitions, deterioration of residential structures, and the effect of new building materials which individually or in combination can significantly and permanently alter the character of an historic area — all this has been taken into account.

The objectives of this report are threefold: to provide a planning tool for a community-wide preservation program; to serve as an academic and educational resource, useful in the study of state and local history; and to stimulate civic pride, making residents aware of the historic and visual environment in which they live, and encouraging them to take a positive interest in the future of their community. To that end this effort is dedicated.

\* \* \*

The Commission would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their aid in completing the Woonsocket Survey: Mr. Robert L. Bendick, Jr., and the staff of the Department of Planning and Development; Dr. & Mrs. Alton P. Thomas, and the members of the Woonsocket Historical Society; Mr. Albert T. Klyberg, and the staff of the Rhode Island Historical Society; Mr. Arthur Lagace, and the staff of the Tax Assessor's Office; Mrs. Marlene Smith; Miss Doris Chapdelaine; Miss Louise Courcy; Mr. Martin P. Crowley, Jr.; Mr. Raymond H. Bacon; Mr. Mark Boisvert; Ms. Catherine Lanctot; Ms. Nancy Rogers; Ms. Maurine Heroux; Dr. Patrick T. Conley; and Professor Howard P. Chudacoff.



Fig. 2: Social Corner (postcard view, c. 1910).



Fig. 3: Woonsocket road map; shaded area denotes district intensively surveyed for this report.

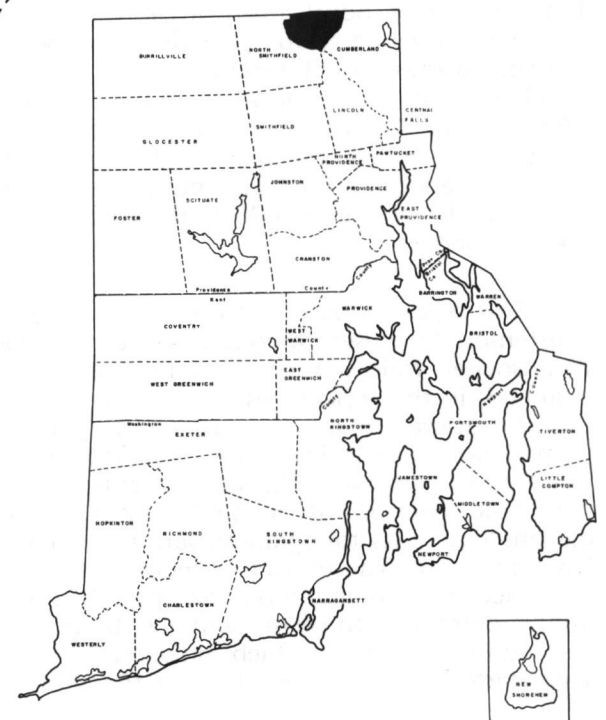


Fig. 4: Rhode Island map with Woonsocket shaded in.

## ANALYSIS

### The Physical & Social Setting

Situated in northeastern Rhode Island, Woonsocket is approximately eight and a half miles square. Cumberland, North Smithfield, and the Massachusetts towns of Blackstone and Bellingham border the city. Route 146 and the Providence and Worcester Railroad link Woonsocket to the two major centers in the region, and Interstate 295 intersects Route 146 four miles south of the city.

The topography is varied, a complex interface of hills, small streams, and one major river — the Blackstone. Local relief is about 300 feet. The highest elevation, slightly more than 400 feet, is in East Woonsocket. Lowlands covered with glacial outwash deposits border the Blackstone River and its tributaries. The largest level area exists in the Social district, the "Social Flatlands." Hilly terrain characterizes much of the rest of the city and upland areas east of Mendon Road and south of Mount St. Charles were among the last tracts of "wilderness" in the municipality where steep slopes, rock outcrops and swamps long defied large-scale development.

The Blackstone River enters Woonsocket at its northwest corner and flows in a generally southeasterly direction forming a lazy "W" in the western part of the city. Woonsocket Falls, largest waterfall on the river, was a resource valued by the first European settlers. In the late seventeenth century a saw mill was set up at the falls, and the river served as a power source for many years. Tributaries of the Blackstone — Cherry Brook, entering from the south, and the Mill River and Peter's River, entering from the north — also powered mills. During the 1820's, '30's and '40's an effort was made to utilize the Blackstone as a transportation artery in conjunction with the Blackstone Canal. This venture was unsuccessful because the canal competed for water reserves with the mills, and in the late 1840's the need for improved transportation linkages was met when the Providence and Worcester Railroad was constructed.

Geography played an important role in determining the city's destiny. The Blackstone River acted as a natural boundary, responsible in part for the long-delayed unification of Woonsocket as a single political jurisdiction, and the power potential of the river was a prerequisite for industrial development. The terrain contributed

to the growth and continued identity of distinct districts in the city, particularly of several hilltop neighborhoods, and this irregular topography produced a complex road system. The variety of the city's physical geography makes it remarkably picturesque, a place of visual excitement and surprise.

Woonsocket is the only urban area in northern Rhode Island, and it has been an industrial center since the early nineteenth century. Manufacturing continues to dominate the economy. Nevertheless, industrial production, particularly textiles, has declined significantly in recent years and an increasing number of residents commute to "white collar" jobs in the surrounding region.

In prehistoric times Woonsocket's physical setting made it a congenial place for habitation, and since the late seventeenth century, its natural resources, especially water power, have drawn settlers. The earliest of these were of English Quaker stock but, with the tremendous growth of the textile industry in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Woonsocket's population increased many fold. These new inhabitants were, for the most part, immigrants — "settlers" coming from Ireland, Quebec, and a host of European nations, and the presence of well-defined ethnic groups remains a significant aspect of Woonsocket's cultural profile.

The legacy of the past — geographic, economic, demographic — plays an important role in the everyday life of the city. A knowledge of that legacy leads to a better understanding of the community in its present state and to a fuller appreciation of its value as a place to live.

### Original Inhabitants

Archeological evidence found at sites in Bellingham and Blackstone indicates that Indians settled this region during the Early Archaic period, as long as 8000 years ago. Artifacts discovered at Globe Park and Sylvester Pond in Woonsocket date from the Late Archaic period, roughly 2000 B.C. to 300 A.D. They include arrowheads, scrapers, and rock chips — the refuse resulting from the manufacture of stone implements. The people who fashioned these tools were semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers who lived in temporary camp sites, typically close to the banks of a small river and occupying the south face of a well-drained hillside.

Sometime around 300 A.D. New England Indians learned the art of agriculture and began raising food. Their settlements became more permanent and were located beside fields cleared in the forest which were planted with corn, squash, beans, and other crops. Tribal territories developed, and land was held in common by the tribe. Present-day Woonsocket encompasses an area where the territorial claims of the Nipmuck, Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes overlapped. Thus in the seventeenth century, when tribal chiefs deeded lands here to different groups of European settlers, these deed rights were often in conflict: the same land was granted to Massachusetts settlers by the Wampanoags and to Providence settlers by the Narragansetts.

But Indians were never very numerous in the Woonsocket area and the native population living here in the early seventeenth century was dispersed during King Philip's War of 1675-76, fought between the European settlers of southern New England and the Indians. A 1730 census reported only 81 Indians in all northern Rhode Island, and by 1782, when Woonsocket was part of Smithfield and Cumberland, there were, according to Richard Bayles' *History of Providence County*, but twelve Indians in both towns. The area's last Indians — Isaac Nish Norman and Reuben Purchase — died around 1820.

Today, the city's Indian heritage is reflected chiefly by the oldest local highways, Great Road and Mendon Road, which evolved from Indian trails, and the name "Woonsocket" itself. "Woonsocket" derives from an Indian place name first recorded in a letter written in 1660 by Roger Williams in which he suggests that "Nisowosaket" might afford "a new and comfortable plantation." The region Williams was describing centered on Woonsocket Hill in present-day North Smithfield, some three miles southwest of the city. It was not until the 1730's that the name became attached to the great falls on the Blackstone. By the 1830's several villages in the vicinity of the falls, though located in two separate towns, were known collectively as Woonsocket.

The meaning of "Woonsocket" may never be fully understood; it has been corrupted too extensively in spelling and usage. The appealing definition "Thunder Mists" is probably inaccurate, for "Woonsocket" was the name of a hill long before it became associated with a waterfall. Mean what it may, the name reminds us that the site of this modern city was Indian territory for several thousand years before European settlers came.

## The Evolution of Woonsocket's Political Boundaries

The city's history as a political entity is interrelated with the early development of Plymouth Colony, Providence, Attleboro, Smithfield, Cumberland and Mendon, and reflects the dealings those settlements had with the Indian tribes which claimed this territory. Woonsocket did not become independent politically until the late nineteenth century.

In 1661 the Plymouth Colony town of Rehoboth (now East Providence) purchased a tract of land from the Wampanoag Indians which included what is now Woonsocket east and north of the Blackstone River. In 1694 this "Rehoboth North Purchase" became the Massachusetts town of Attleboro. Since much of Attleboro had been granted to Rhode Island by the charter of 1663, jurisdiction was claimed by both colonies. This conflict was not settled until 1747, when a portion of Attleboro known as the "Gore" was annexed to Rhode Island. It became the town of Cumberland, and the section of Woonsocket north and east of the Blackstone River remained part of Cumberland until set off as a separate town in 1867.

Roger Williams and his associates, the Providence Proprietors, claimed what is now Woonsocket west and south of the Blackstone under deeds granted by the Narragansett Indians during the 1650's giving the Proprietors title to all lands between the Pawtuxet and "Pawtucket" (Blackstone) rivers," and up those streams without limittes." In 1667 the Massachusetts Bay Colony established the town of Mendon, and by 1683 Mendon was at odds with Providence over conflicting land claims. The conflict became so heated that Mendon sent an armed force into the disputed territory and took two Providence settlers captive. Providence retaliated in kind.

The dispute was settled by 1731 when the old town of Smithfield was set off from Providence. The section of present-day Woonsocket south and west of the Blackstone River was part of Smithfield from 1731 until it was annexed to the town of Woonsocket (east of the river) in 1871. Thus it was that Woonsocket's present boundaries were established. In 1888 this town was incorporated as the City of Woonsocket. Aside from having considerable local support, making Woonsocket a city was a popular move in the rural-dominated state legislature, for it brought the community under provisions of the recently passed Bourn Amendment, a section of the constitution which denied councilmanic suffrage to residents of cities who did not pay taxes on at least \$134 worth of real property.

## European Settlement

Members of the Arnold family of Providence were the first white settlers in and around Woonsocket. Traditionally it has been held that Captain Richard Arnold built a sawmill in the wilderness at Woonsocket Falls in the 1660's. The early town records of Providence and Mendon suggest, however, that the Arnolds first came thirty years later, and that the mill was put into operation in 1698 when Mendon, still claiming jurisdiction over this territory, granted members of the family permission to cut timber on town land with which to erect a dam and mill "at the Falls upon the Great River." The sawmill was located in what is now Market Square.

Richard Arnold was a grandson of William Arnold, one of the original Providence Proprietors. Richard Arnold became an influential figure in the political and economic life of Providence in the late seventeenth century, serving as tax collector, surveyor, delegate to the Assembly, militia officer, council member, and arbiter of land disputes. The earliest evidence associating Captain Arnold with

northeastern Rhode Island is a deed dated 1675 granting him property on Cherry Brook, probably in what is now North Smithfield. In 1682 and 1683 he acquired acreage at the cedar swamp near Woonsocket Hill. Throughout his life Richard Arnold resided in or close to the village of Providence, but in the 1690's his sister, Elizabeth, and her husband, Samuel Comstock, and Arnold's sons, Richard, Jr. and John, came to this area to settle. In truth, they took possession of a good deal more land than Captain Arnold had been deeded, but their "squatters' rights" were legitimized in 1707 when the Providence Proprietors granted them title to a large tract encompassing all of western Woonsocket, Union Village and territory further west. This grant was justified on the basis of the fact that they had for "some years made some improvement of said land by building and settling thereon." The Providence Proprietors were willing to grant the Arnold clan a large tract here because of the dispute with Mendon — Arnold settlement lent weight to the Providence territorial claim. Moreover, in return for this land grant, the Arnolds agreed to defend the Providence claim at their own expense.

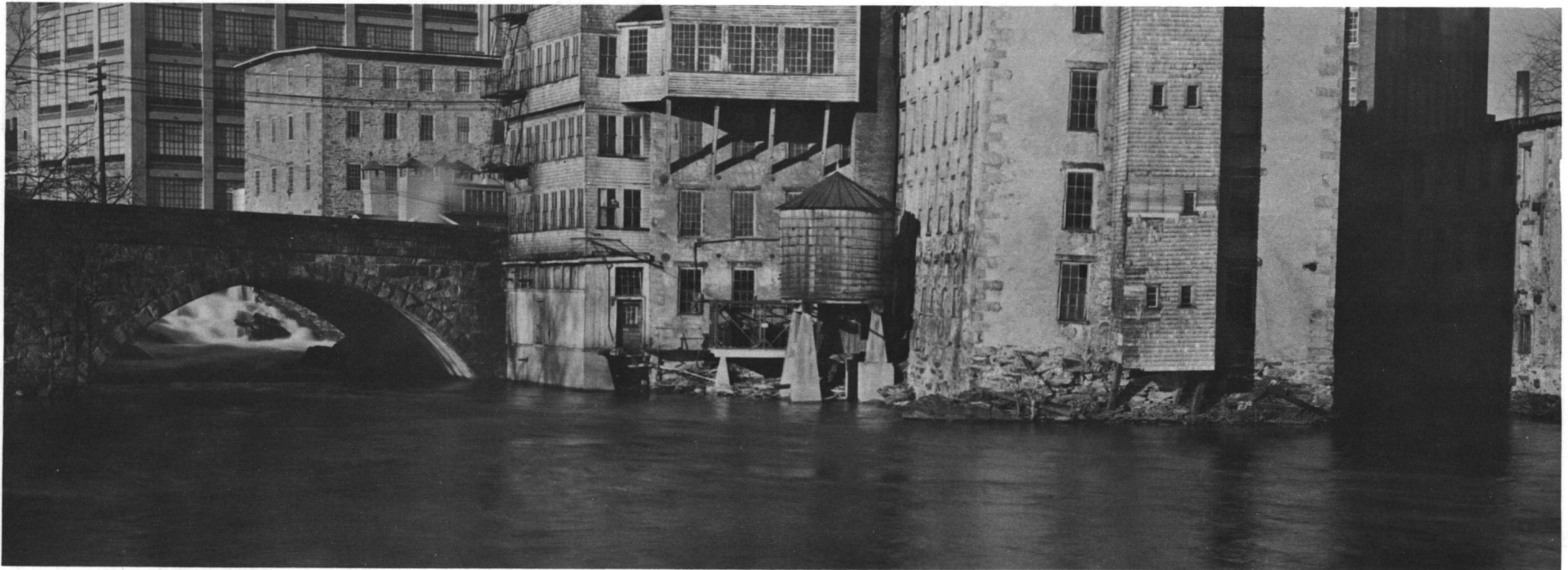


Fig. 5: Main Street/Globe Bridge at the Falls showing 19th- & 20th- century mills (photo, c. 1940, by Joseph McCarthy).



Fig. 6: Quaker Cemetery established in 1719 off Great Road.



Fig. 7: The John Arnold House (1712), 99 Providence Street.

Richard Arnold, Jr. built a house, now much altered and enlarged, at 4 Woonsocket Hill Road in Union Village during the 1690's. His aunt and uncle, the Comstocks, lived west of Union Village, and his brother, John, settled within what is now Woonsocket. John Arnold's first house has been gone for over a century. His second home, erected in 1712, stands at 99 Providence Street, but it bears little resemblance to its original appearance. As the city's oldest building, however, it has witnessed the transformation of a remote backwoods outpost into a thriving community of 48,000.

John Arnold was a farmer and miller. Like his father, he held positions in government as a surveyor, deputy, and arbiter of boundary disputes. He owned much of western Woonsocket and most of what is now the city's downtown, adding a grist mill and fulling mill to the family sawmill at the Falls. His election in 1731 as first president of the Smithfield Town Council indicates his stature in the community.

A member of the Society of Friends, John Arnold donated land for the Quaker Cemetery on Great Road in 1719. The following year the Quaker Meeting House was built beside the cemetery and he was responsible for procuring lumber and erecting the structure. It was the first house of worship in northern Rhode Island. The present meeting house — a simple white clapboard building erected in 1881 — is the third on this site. The cemetery, though overgrown, retains the small, uninscribed stones preferred by most Quakers in the eighteenth century. When John Arnold died in 1756, he was not buried here, however, but in the cemetery on East Orchard Street near his home. Though crudely executed by comparison to stones of the same date in Providence, his headstone is much larger and more pretentious than those in the Quaker Cemetery.

John Arnold was truly the patriarch of Woonsocket. He developed its potential as a mill site; he was a major landowner, controlling, with his family, much of the area which is now the city; and he was a leader in the political and religious affairs of the community. But John Arnold and family were not the only early settlers. Mendon records indicate that by 1698 an iron works was operated at Woonsocket Falls by John Balkam, processing ore from the Blackstone area. Deeds show that a number of families had settled in the North End and East Woonsocket by the mid-eighteenth century: the Aldrichs, Logees, Gaskills and Jillsons, and French Huguenot families like the Ballous and Tourtellots.

The community forming around Woonsocket Falls relied upon a rudimentary highway system which linked it to the outside world. The first highways were Great Road and Mendon Road, simply widened Indian trails, running up either side of the Blackstone River. A road connecting these north-south thoroughfares crossed the river at a ford, the "Wading Place," just below the Falls, and followed parts of South Main Street, Main Street and Social Street. It was near the intersection of this road and Great Road that Richard Arnold, Jr. built his house and John Arnold erected the Friends' Meeting House. Providence Street was laid out across John Arnold's farm in 1752, and Logee Street and River Road had their origins in the 1730's, but were not accepted as public ways until 1796. They led to the "Lower Meeting House" erected in 1703 and still standing in Lincoln.

By the mid-eighteenth century a highway leading from north-eastern Connecticut to Boston crossed the Blackstone at Woonsocket Falls. Several inns served travelers, including one in Richard Arnold, Jr.'s house in Union Village and another, located on South Main Street, in the house of John Arnold's son, William. Today, two milestones set up in 1761 on Main Street and South Main Street indicating the direction and distance to Boston are evocative of Woonsocket's history as an eighteenth century highway cross-roads.

It would be wrong, however, to imagine that Woonsocket was a focal point of activity in the eighteenth century or in the first decades of the nineteenth century. The center of things then was Union Village, just west of the city in North Smithfield. In that period Woonsocket and Union Village were both part of the old town of Smithfield. Though now a quiet residential district, Union Village was, into the 1820's, the site of taverns, a private school, a post office, shops, and the first bank located in the region. The Friends' Meeting House, despite its location within present-day Woonsocket, was and remains oriented to the Union Village settlement. The village was a typical highway community, a way-stop for travelers and a commercial center, the hub of the entire district.

During the Revolution Peleg Arnold, who ran the Union Village tavern in Richard Arnold, Jr.'s old house, recruited volunteers for the rebel army and his tavern was designated an armory where weapons were stored in case of British attack. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel during the course of the war, afterward served in the new-founded federal Congress, and completed his political career as Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

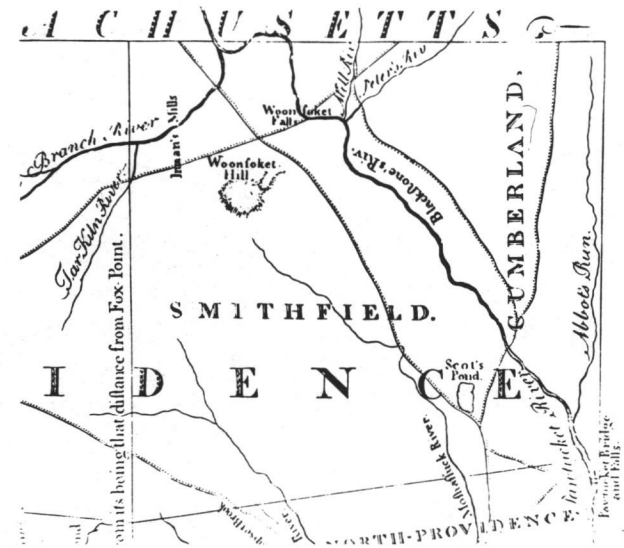


Fig. 8: Old Smithfield & Cumberland in 1795 with the site of the city marked "Woonsocket Falls;" detail of the Caleb Harris map of Rhode Island.



Fig. 9: 1761 Boston milestone, corner of South Main Street and Great Road.



Fig. 10: The Jillson House (c. 1790), 1088 Mendon Road.



Fig. 11: The Logee House (c. 1750), 225 Logee Street.

Peleg Arnold's active participation in the rebellion against English rule was not a course followed by many of his neighbors. This was a Quaker-dominated area and Quakers, as pacifists, would not take part in the war. For this reason, as Erastus Richardson suggests in his *History of Woonsocket*, few Woonsocket area residents fought in the Revolution. Only one Revolutionary War-era veteran is known to be buried in the city, Joseph Capron, who died in 1843.

Little survives of eighteenth century Woonsocket: a basic highway system, milestones, cemeteries, and a few houses (most, like John Arnold's second house, much altered). The best preserved building dating from that period is the Jillson House, built in about 1790, located at 1088 Mendon Road, and commonly known as Holley Mineral Spring Farm for the spring water which has been bottled there since 1858. It is a typical gable-roofed, two story house with a facade five bays wide — two windows on either side of a central entrance. Fluted pilasters supporting a triangular pediment embellish the doorway and are the dwelling's only exterior ornamentation. Of roughly the same date as the Jillson House is the Gaskill homestead at 815 Harris Avenue which stood on a farm comprising most of what is now the North End. The Logee House at 225 Logee Street, dating from the mid-eighteenth century, is noteworthy for its massive brick central chimney.

Woonsocket's only concentration of eighteenth and stylistically related early nineteenth century dwellings are ranged along Providence Street and an adjacent section of South Main in the vicinity of the John Arnold House. Among these buildings are 356 South Main Street, 34, 35 and 150-154 Providence Street, the latter known as the Willing Vose House and associated with the nearby Vose Cemetery. Though many of the early buildings in this neighborhood postdate the eighteenth century, socially, economically and architecturally they relate to the community's pre-industrial heritage as a rural settlement populated by farmers and artisans.

### The Origins of an Industrial City

In the nineteenth century the United States became an industrial nation, and Rhode Island its most industrialized state. Woonsocket's abundant water power made it an ideal place to locate industry in the era before steam turned machinery. It became a city of factories, and the great majority were textile mills. The first Woonsocket textile concern was the Social Manufacturing Company formed in 1810 by six men, one of whom, Joseph Arnold,



provided a site on the Mill River. By 1842 there were twenty mills in Woonsocket, most producing cotton fabrics. It was not until the late nineteenth century that production of woolen goods came to dominate the local textile industry. Woonsocket-made cloth was usually sold to agents, principally in New York, who distributed to a national market.

In the first decade of the nineteenth century the most important water rights at Woonsocket belonged to James Arnold, a grandson of John Arnold, and Joseph Arnold's cousin. He owned much of the land along the Blackstone River and most of the mills at the falls. These buildings, washed away by the Freshet of 1807, were replaced by structures little different from the old. They used but a fraction of the 2000 horsepower Woonsocket Falls generated. James Arnold never engaged in textile manufacturing himself, but leased his mills to fledgling concerns. Eventually he sold his land to men directly involved in the industry. James Arnold's imposing house, built c. 1840, is distinguished by a two story columned portico and high stone steps. It stands at 109 Arnold Street overlooking Market Square.

Key to Woonsocket's development is the fact that in the early nineteenth century it was not a single urban area, but six distinct industrial villages. Five — Social, Jenckesville, Hamlet, Bernon and Globe — clustered about the mills of a single company. In the sixth

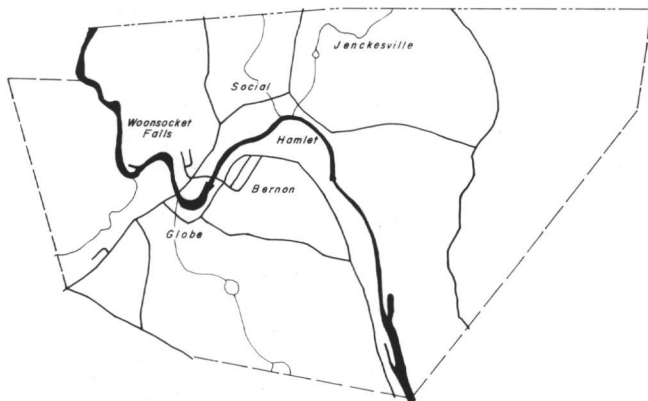


Fig. 12: The six mill villages (c. 1840) later incorporated into Woonsocket.

and largest village, Woonsocket Falls, the mills of several companies huddled together.

The village of Woonsocket Falls occupied what is now downtown Woonsocket. Market Square, a municipal parking lot surrounded by major traffic arteries and the site of the earliest mills in the area, was a dense warren of factories from the 1820's to the middle of the present century. Industrial buildings extended along the east side of Main Street as far as City Hall. Below, in the vicinity of the Main Street bypass, stood more mills. Few of these early factories remain. The oldest survivor, the stuccoed, stone rubble Bartlett

**NEW LINE.**

**BOSTON  
AND  
Woonsocket Falls.**

**A** NEW line of Stages has been established from Boston to Woonsocket Falls. Will leave the Washington Coffee House, Boston, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 12 o'clock, M. and passing through Dedham, Medfield, Medway and Franklin, arrive at Woonsocket Falls, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Returning, will leave Holbrook's Hotel, Woonsocket Falls, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at half past 6 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Boston, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

For the Proprietors,  
**J. MILLER, AGENT.**

Oct. 12. tf

Fig. 13: Stage line ad from the *Woonsocket Patriot*, 1833.

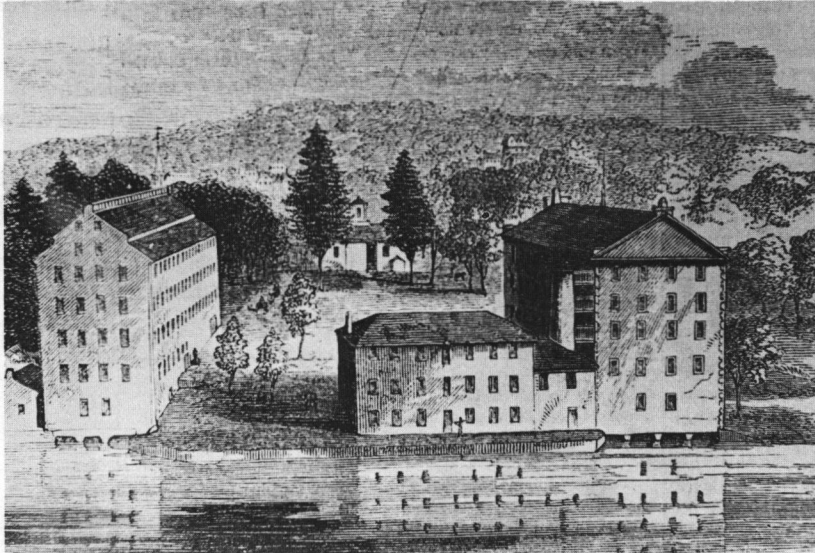


Fig. 14: View of the Bernon Mills in 1855 from *Ballou's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion*.



Fig. 15: The 1833 Woonsocket Company Mill, interior view.

Mill of 1827, half hidden behind other buildings, is located between Bernon and Armory Streets. Close by on Main Street is the stone mill erected by Dexter Ballou in 1836, and later known as the Lippitt Woolen Mill. Its clapboard stair tower has rudimentary Greek Revival detailing. A sensitively designed, granite-trimmed brick addition to the mill was built in 1865. A third factory building, the Harris #4 Mill (c. 1846), a rubble-walled structure fully five stories tall, has been incorporated into the rear of Korstein's store at 55-69 Main Street.

Water to power the mills in Market Square, on Main Street and below on the bypass site was provided by a system of canal-like trenches fed from a dam at the falls, successor to the first dam built in 1698. Some of this system remains beneath Market Square, and portions of the Lyman-Arnold Trench, the principal power conduit, are visible on the east side of Main Street. Control of water flowage through the power trenches determined how much machinery each mill owner could operate and when he could run it. Consequently, these trenches, though now neglected, were vital to the economy of Woonsocket and remain a significant feature of its industrial heritage.

The village of Woonsocket Falls, located on the main road, was central to the other villages. The first hotel and post office stood at Market Square. The largest dry goods and grocery stores were on Main Street, as were the offices of lawyers and doctors, banks, and the newspaper. In short, economics and geography dictated that this village become the future city's central business district. It is interesting to note that the hub of the downtown has shifted gradually during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, from Market Square, east along Main Street to Depot Square, then to Monument Square, and now to the "New Downtown" further east in the Social Flatlands.

Bernon, though not the largest village in early nineteenth century Woonsocket, was certainly the most ambitious in design. No Rhode Island village of this period better demonstrates the fruits of benevolent paternalism in an industrial community. In accord with the utopianism recurrent in nineteenth century social theory, owners of the Bernon Mills sought to create a model mill village — beautiful to behold, pleasant to work in, and profitable.

Originally known as Danville, Bernon was founded in 1827 by Dan Daniels and Jonathan Russell, the famous American politician and diplomat who took part in negotiating the Treaty of Ghent.

Daniels bought the mill "seat" from James Arnold and, in partnership with Russell, formed the Russell Manufacturing Company. The firm immediately constructed a stone factory with clerestory monitor roof (an extended low shed dormer utilized to provide ample light to the attic) and a squat stair tower on the narrow end of the mill. Still standing, it is the oldest known American mill which contains "slow burning" fire protective construction. Like many new and over-extended textile firms, the Russell Manufacturing Company went bankrupt in the depression of 1829, and, in 1832, two prominent Providence industrialists, Sullivan Dorr and Crawford Allen (brothers-in-law), bought out the Russell Manufacturing Company, formed the Woonsocket Company, and renamed the village Bernon.

A year later Dorr and Allen built the 1833 Bernon Mill, one of Rhode Island's most handsome industrial buildings. Contrary to accepted practice, they dispensed with stair tower and attic windows, diminishing the usable manufacturing space in the mill. Their motivation was aesthetic. Dorr and Allen wanted a mill "correctly" designed in the newly fashionable Greek Revival style. In 1835 a third mill was added to the complex, and in 1859 a fourth. The #3 mill was replaced in the 1890's by the electric power plant now on the site. The other mills remain much as they were built. The power trench which brought water to the mills from a dam located just above the Bernon Street Bridge is intact. Woonsocket's Bernon mill complex, one of the best preserved and most interesting in the state, was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

**☞ Weavers. ☜**  
**WANTED** immediately, at the Woonsocket Company's Mills, **SIX or EIGHT** good Weavers—to whom constant employ and fair wages will be given.  
**SAMUEL GREENE, Agent.**  
**Bernon Village, Dec. 7, 1833. tf.**

Fig. 16: Woonsocket Company ad for weavers from the *Woonsocket Patriot*, 1833.

By 1842 the Woonsocket Company at Bernon was the largest textile concern in Woonsocket. Two hundred and fifty employees produced 1,900,000 yards of cotton goods per year. By 1846 they were producing 2,100,000 yards. Dorr and Allen provided their workers with what was considered better than average company-owned housing and, as temperance advocates, they made it possible for a mill worker to own a house lot in the village provided he signed an easement prohibiting consumption of alcoholic beverages on the property. According to Richard Bayles, it was Crawford Allen who "conceived the idea that beauty, order and neatness would elevate the moral tone of his employees and secure better service from them."

Though now an indistinguishable part of the larger community, Bernon was once surrounded by woods and farmland. The Blackstone River, Court Street, Hamlet Avenue, Park Avenue, and Bernon Street were the bounds of this compact village. Its mill buildings stood along the river bank between the Bernon and Court



Fig. 17: The 1833 Woonsocket Company Mill (Historic American Building Survey, 1968).

Street bridges. The mill yard, planted with grass and trees, once extended to Front Street. On the hillside above the mills residential streets were laid out on which cottages, like that at 208 Park Avenue, were erected. The much altered house of the mill agent, Samuel Greene (a well known personage in early nineteenth century Woonsocket), stands at 106 Greene Street.

Social Village and Hamlet Village are memorialized by Social Street and Hamlet Avenue. No significant extant structures attest to the fact that these districts were once mill villages. Globe Village encompassed a neighborhood southeast of Woonsocket Falls and was named for the Globe Mills which stood between Front Street and the river. Although the mills themselves have been torn down, buildings erected by the company to house employees stand on Front and Lincoln streets. 805-807 Front Street was the boarding house in which single mill hands lived. At 810-816 is a four family dwelling — a "tenement" — erected c. 1830. The eleven, nearly identical tenements on the north end of Lincoln Street were built between 1850 and 1870. Together with the two buildings on Front Street, they constitute the largest surviving company-built mill housing district in the city.

Jenckesville was the smallest of Woonsocket's six mill villages. Located at the intersection of Social and Mill streets, Jenckesville was established by Job, Luke, and Moses Jenckes in 1822 when they erected Woonsocket's first stone factory, 96 Mill Street; it is the city's oldest industrial building. Prosperity led the Jenckes to construct a second mill in 1828, and it too survives, at 767 Social Street. The beautiful stonework of this building is still visible on the rear and side elevations. In the same year the Jenckes built a three-and-a-half story brick "mansion." This house, 837-839 Social Street, masked since the 1890's by a three story porch, is the most sophisticated Federal or Early Republican style building in Woonsocket, equal to the work of John Holden Greene, the well-known early nineteenth century builder-architect of Providence. Opposite this major building stand two smaller structures associated with the development of Jenckesville, 752 and 842 Social Street. Taken together, these five early nineteenth century buildings at Jenckesville make the seemingly nondescript intersection of Mill and Social streets a significant historic area.



Fig. 18: The Jenckes Mansion (1828), 837-839 Social Street .



Fig. 19: The Ezekiel Aldrich House (c. 1836), 454 South Main Street .

## Architectural Developments in the Early Nineteenth Century

In the context of Rhode Island architecture, the 1828 Jenckes Mansion reflected up-to-date architectural taste. Five years later, the newly fashionable Greek Revival style had assumed a position of pre-eminence, and the design of churches, homes — even mills — reflected the influence of classical architecture. Aside from the 1833 Bernon Mill, the most important extant Greek Revival buildings in Woonsocket are houses built by wealthy residents.

The Ezekiel Aldrich House, 454 South Main Street, exemplifies the fully developed Greek Revival “temple front” dwelling. It has a columned, two story portico across the front, surmounted by an end gable framed with heavy mouldings to form a classical pediment. For simpler houses the expensive columned portico was usually omitted, as in the Gilbert Darling House at 45 Ballou Street, where the front of the house is designed to suggest the temple form by setting the building gable end to the street, framing the gable with mouldings to create a pediment, and suggesting columns by casing the corners of the house with paneled pilasters. Though atypical, Woonsocket’s best-known Greek Revival dwelling is the Stone House at 383 South Main Street, erected in about 1835 by Cephas Holbrook, who built Woonsocket’s first hotel. The house later belonged to George C. Ballou, owner of the Globe Mills. In the Stone House the colossal portico motif has been retained, but a hip roof with monitor was substituted for the Greek-inspired pedimented gable. This house, of major historic and architectural significance, was damaged by a fire in 1974 and its future is unsure.

Though the Greek Revival style was no longer in vogue after 1850, many modest houses in Woonsocket built as late as the mid-1870’s display what is essentially Greek Revival detailing. Inexpensively built structures in this style range in size from single family cottages to eight family tenements. The plain yet bold exterior ornamentation features wide plank cornices and corner boards, heavy-scaled entrance enframements and window casings. Such dwellings are found along Church Street, North Main Street, northern Lincoln Street, Bentley Street, West School Street and an adjacent section of Blackstone Street.



Fig. 20: The Gilbert Darling House (c. 1840), 45 Ballou Street .



Fig. 21: The Stone House (1835), 383 South Main Street (photo, c. 1936, from A. F. Downing, *Early Homes of Rhode Island*).



Fig. 22: Globe Mill housing (c. 1865), Lincoln Street.



Fig. 23: The Bradford House (c. 1835), 129 Pleasant Street.



Fig. 24: The Lyman Cook House (1847), 246 Harris Avenue.



Fig. 25: The James Verry House (1855), 74 Harris Avenue.

Fashion-conscious Woonsocket residents, like their peers throughout the country, began to respond to new architectural tastes in the late 1840's under the influence of popular magazines and the books of writers like J. C. Loudon and A. J. Downing. The diverse, eclectic trends in architectural design which emerged during these years are commonly known as the "Early Victorian" styles. In Woonsocket one aspect of Early Victorian architectural taste predominated, the "Italianate," a style based primarily on the design of Italian country villas, and, to a degree, on the design of Renaissance palaces. Perhaps the first Italianate building in Woonsocket was the house erected in 1847 by Lyman Cook, a founder of the Woonsocket Stove Company. The Cook House, 246 Harris Avenue, has a low hip roof with deep, bracketed eaves, a three bay facade with central entrance, and a one story "piazza" across the front. The Latham-Mason House of slightly later date, at 82 Greene Street, was originally quite like it. Two somewhat later Italianate houses, the James Verry House (1855) and the Lewis Metcalf House at 74 and 120 Harris Avenue, are both well preserved and well maintained. They are among the most handsome dwellings in the city.

An architectural curiosity popularized in the Early Victorian era by Orson Squire Fowler, a New York phrenologist, was the octagonal dwelling extolled in his book, *A Home for All*. Woonsocket boasts one of the most unusual of these unusual buildings, the Sabin Pond House at 315 Grove Street. Sabin Pond was a textile manufacturer and his eight-sided stuccoed stone dwelling, built about 1849 (and now vacant), is the only known octagon with an eight-gabled roof.



Fig. 26: The Lewis Metcalf House (c. 1855), 120 Harris Avenue.



Fig. 27: The Sabin Pond House (c. 1849), 315 Grove Street.

## Cato Hill

During the 1840's, '50's, and '60's, when merchants and industrialists were erecting Greek Revival temples and Italian-inspired villas, the working class populace of Woonsocket — the great majority of the people — were living either in company-owned housing or in cottages built by tradesmen and mill workers in unassuming neighborhoods like Cato Hill. More than any other section of Woonsocket, Cato Hill retains its mid-nineteenth century scale and architectural character. Defined topographically by steep slopes on the south and east which drop to Railroad and Main streets, and by major arterial thoroughfares, Arnold Street and Blackstone Street, on the north and west, the district consists of two streets, Cato and Church, linked by Boyden Street and Clarkin Lane; Holder Lane constitutes a distinct subsection of the area. Despite its location at the edge of the central business district, Cato Hill remains a quiet residential neighborhood.

The name derives from Cato Willard, a Black, whose wife, Lydia Brayton Willard, inherited property here. Before his death in 1834, Cato Willard laid out Cato Street and in 1846 Lydia Willard platted new lots along Cato and Church streets. The earliest houses are simple, gable-roofed structures with spare Greek Revival trim, like 171 Cato Street and 62 Church Street. The Kelly House at 132 Cato is the only one in the area boasting a fully realized, if diminutive, temple form facade. The Greek Revival idiom persisted in this neighborhood, sometimes with little change, as at 113 Church Street, built in 1861, occasionally with the addition of slight elaborations borrowed from more current styles, like the brackets and modillions on the Vose House at 61 Church Street, which dates from the mid-sixties. Dwellings constructed on Cato Hill during the first half of the nineteenth century were often enlarged several decades later. The Kimball House at 70 Church Street exemplifies this. Built as a one-and-a-half story Greek Revival cottage in the 1840's, between 1875 and 1895 it was raised and a new first story inserted, creating a two-and-a-half story dwelling. The new entrance was ornamented with a bracketed hood.

Cato Hill contains some larger tenements of the 1880's and 1890's, but overall, the district reads as a vernacular mid-nineteenth century neighborhood, and, as such, is one of the most appealing residential areas in Woonsocket. It is convenient to the downtown, yet untroubled by noise and traffic. Its well defined boundaries, scale, and homogeneous architectural fabric give Cato Hill a strong individuality. The houses — described by one observer as "just plain, nice old buildings" — convey a sense of stability and utility with which one can readily identify.

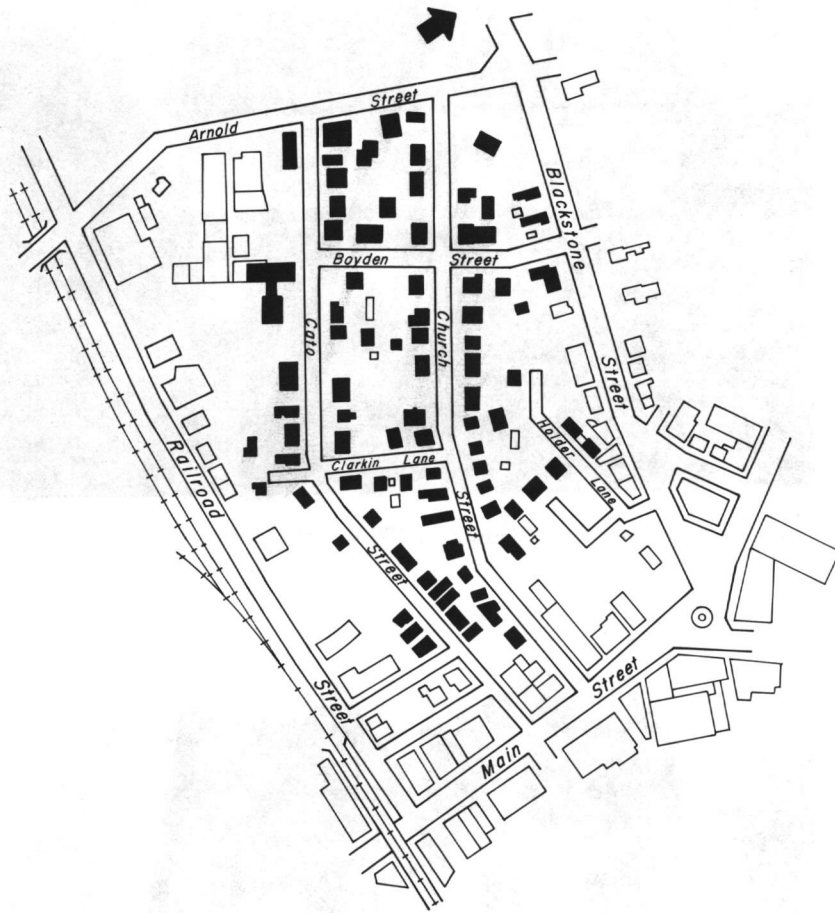


Fig. 28: Map of Cato Hill.





Fig. 29: Cato Hill: view up Church Street from Main Street.

## The Dorr War

The 1830's and early 1840's were years of considerable political ferment in Rhode Island. Though little has been written on the subject, Woonsocket played a notable role in the 1842 Dorr War — a rebellion which took place after a segment of the liberal forces in the state came to believe that their protracted lawful efforts to institute a more democratic charter, broaden suffrage, and reapportion the General Assembly, would never bear positive results. Leading the rebellion was Thomas Wilson Dorr, son of Sullivan Dorr, part owner of the Bernon mills. In 1842, when the Dorrites felt they had exhausted every legal means to bring about reform, they resorted to armed insurrection. Although the rebellion was quickly crushed, fear of similar uprisings in the future prompted the conservatives in power to draft a new constitution which did extend suffrage somewhat and reapportioned the lower house of the legislature along fairly equitable lines.

***Woonsocket Falls, Cumberland, R.I.  
Head-quarters at Woonsocket Hotel,  
June 29, A. D. 1842.***

**It is hereby ordered that the citizens in this place retire to their respective places of abode by 9 o'clock each Evening, at which time a Guard will be posted, and all persons disobeying this Order, will be arrested.**

**None are excepted from this order except those having a Permit from the Major Commandant.**

**JOHN WILSON SMITH,  
*Acting Adjutant.***

**By order of  
Major Josiah H. Martin.**

PATRIOT OFFICE—S. S. FOSB. PRINTER.

Woonsocket was predisposed to supporting the Dorrites because Smithfield and Cumberland (towns in which the community was located) were under represented in the legislature, and because many residents were landless industrial workers unable to meet the property requirement for voting. The first military action of the rebellion was an attack on the state arsenal in Providence undertaken by the Dorrites on May 18th, 1842. Arms for the rebels came from the Woonsocket Infantry, and a number of Woonsocket men took part in this abortive show of force. On May 19th Thomas Dorr fled to Woonsocket where he desperately attempted to reorganize his forces, but failing, left the state. Late in June the Dorr forces again tried to establish themselves militarily. Acote's Hill just outside Chepachet Village was fortified and a large contingent of Woonsocket men joined the encampment. But this second effort was also a failure. The Dorrites soon fled from Acote's Hill, Woonsocket was occupied by loyal troops, and a number of local residents were arrested for treason. Woonsocket, as a rebel stronghold, was placed under martial law for three months after active rebellion died down. Interest in extending the right to vote remained strong, nonetheless, and a pro-suffrage rally and clambake held October 13th, 1842, at Cold Spring Grove (now Cold Spring Park) drew a crowd of 3000 unrepentant Dorrites.

One of Thomas Dorr's lieutenants, Horace M. Pierce, was from Woonsocket. Pierce's involvement in the rebellion, which resulted in his arrest on charges of treason, did him no harm politically, for in 1868 he became Woonsocket's first police chief. The Greek Revival cottage in which Pierce lived still stands at 312 Blackstone Street.

In 1845 armories were built in Rhode Island's major cities and towns to ensure that another uprising like that led by Dorr could never re-occur. Woonsocket's armory stood on Armory Street near Market Square; it served not only as drill hall and militia headquarters but also as the setting for lectures, rallies and social events. Here P. T. Barnum regaled a Woonsocket audience with a lecture on "The Nature of Humbug." In the 1870's the first armory was replaced by a new structure on Arnold Street, which in turn was superseded by the current armory built early in this century on South Main Street.

Fig. 30: Curfew order; broadside, 1842.

## Industrial Expansion

By the mid-nineteenth century Woonsocket had become one of the great textile manufacturing centers of the United States. As a typical industrial community, it was dominated by the mill owners, and the leading local industrialist was Edward Harris, a woolen goods manufacturer. He was a pioneer in the field and came to be one of the foremost industrialists in the country.

Edward Harris was Woonsocket's most prominent citizen in the mid-nineteenth century. He was active in civic and political affairs, fostered establishment of the library, donated the Harris Block for the use of the community, and gave land for Woonsocket's first high school and for the Oak Hill Cemetery. He promoted establishment of Woonsocket as an independent town, ran as an anti-slavery candidate for governor, and later became a supporter of Abraham Lincoln in the Republican Party.

Edward Harris was born in the village of Limerock in Lincoln, Rhode Island, where his family had been in the lime business for generations. In the early nineteenth century, however, several members of the family ventured into the textile industry. Young Harris became a clerk in an uncle's mill in 1822; by 1831 he had saved \$2,500 and, aided by an additional \$1000 lent by his father, began manufacturing satinets in Woonsocket. He soon bought a mill on Market Square and by 1850 had four woolen mills in operation. In the 1860s Harris undertook his largest project — construction of the Privilege Mill complex near North Main and Privilege streets. This vast enterprise, which included eighty tenements and a brick mill considered the largest and finest of its day, was the capstone of his career.

The expansion of Edward Harris' business — and the entire Woonsocket economy — was accelerated by the improvement of transport facilities in the late 1840's. Until that time most freight was transported to and from the mills by wagon. The Blackstone Canal, which operated from 1828 through the 1830's and linked Woonsocket to Worcester and Providence, had not been a success, largely because of disputed water rights. During the 1830's a number of fruitless efforts were made to provide better transportation between Woonsocket and Providence — transportation hub of the

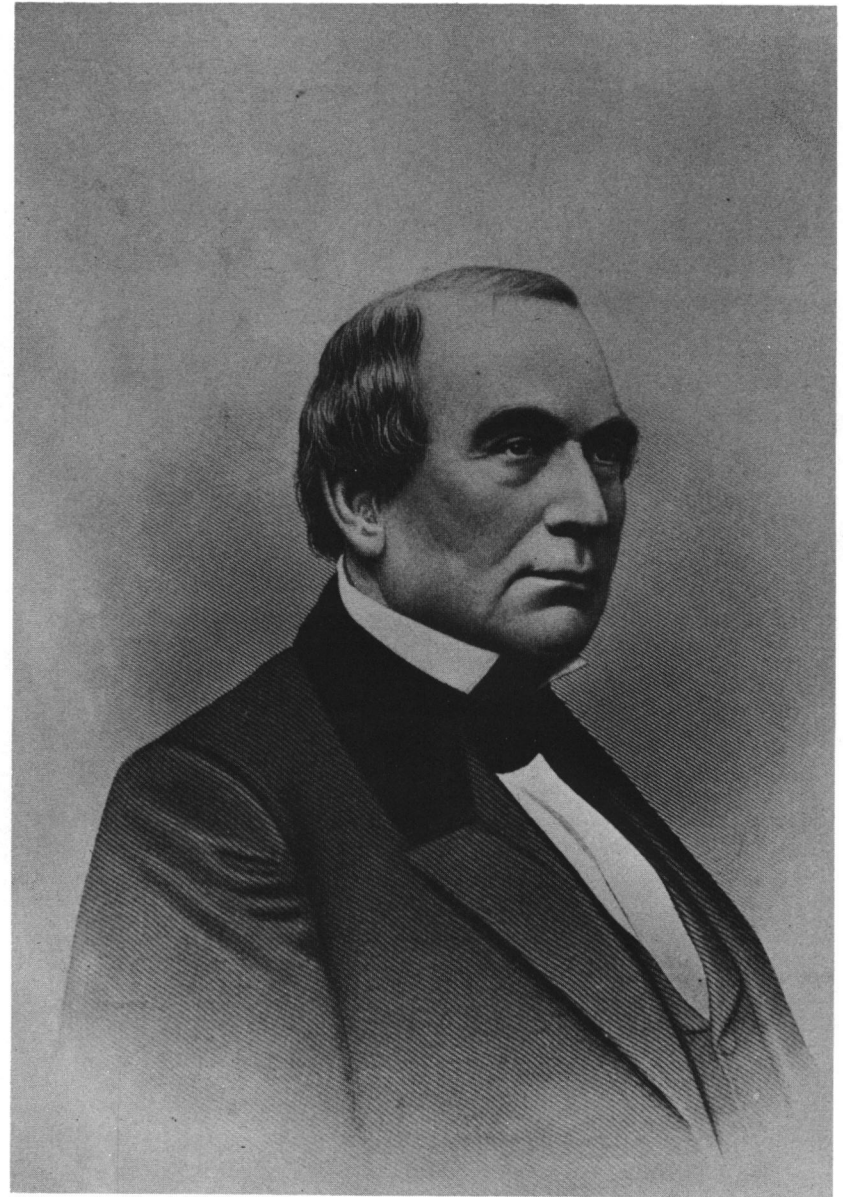


Fig. 31: Edward Harris (1801-1872) (portrait from Bayles, *History of Providence County*, 1891).

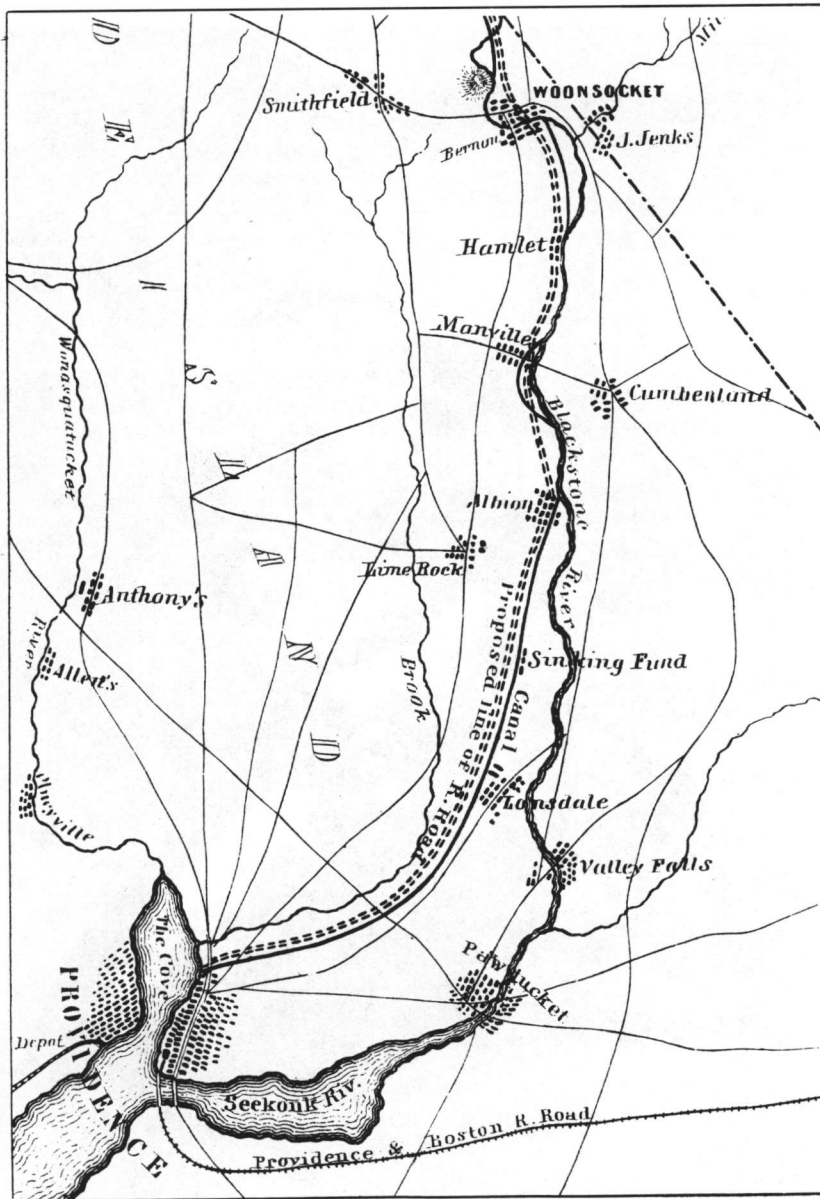


Fig. 32: Detail, Providence & Worcester route map proposal, 1844 .

region. Privately funded turnpikes were proposed, and in the late '30's a railroad was suggested. Nothing materialized, however, until the Providence and Worcester Railroad was organized in the mid-1840's and opened for business in 1847, expanding transportation capacity and making it more reliable. The present railroad route through Woonsocket is the original one, and the stone piers carrying the tracks over Clinton and Main streets are those built in 1847. The elaborately finished depot, designed by John Ellis in 1882, stands on the site of the first passenger station. Described when built as the finest local station in New England, it was the pride of Woonsocket.

A railroad building of equal importance is the warehouse at 61 Railroad Street built by Edward Harris in 1855. Its rubble walls and heavy wood frame made it fire resistant and strong enough to support the weight of tons of wool and finished goods. Its unusual curved plan was dictated by the need to accommodate a railroad spur which ran into the building through a high-arched entrance and made it possible to handle freight indoors. No building could better express the phrase "form follows function."

By the mid-nineteenth century Woonsocket was a place of consequence. Though not politically independent, it was one of the three principal industrial centers of Rhode Island. No structure so clearly expresses this new importance, this coming of age, as the Harris Block, later known as Harris Institute, now City Hall. When completed in 1858, it was considered a very large, very expensive, very up-to-date building. As commissioned by Edward Harris, the design combined economic pragmatism and social idealism. Street level stores generated income which helped maintain the building. The second floor originally housed a "sunday school" — not a religious institution, but a free school where mill workers could learn to read and write on their one day off. The third floor was a vast hall capable of seating 1100. Lectures were an important form of education and entertainment in the mid-nineteenth century, and many prominent speakers came to Harris Hall. The most famous was Abraham Lincoln who delivered a campaign address here on the night of March 8, 1860.

The exterior of Harris' brick block is Italianate in detail. The front is coated with mastic and the columns and facings of the roundhead windows are cast iron. The stone section at the building's north end and the projected one story addition across the front were built in 1891 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style popular at the time.

Edward Harris gave the building to a board of trustees in 1863 to administer for the benefit of the people of Woonsocket, and in the same year the second floor became the Harris Institute Library, the first free public library in Rhode Island. The Institute trustees sold the building to the city in 1902, and since then it has been City Hall. Because of its associations with Edward Harris and Abraham Lincoln, its significance in the development of Woonsocket as an urban center, its place in the cultural history of the community, and because it has been the administrative and political heart of the city for so many years, City Hall, now on the National Register, is Woonsocket's most important historic building.

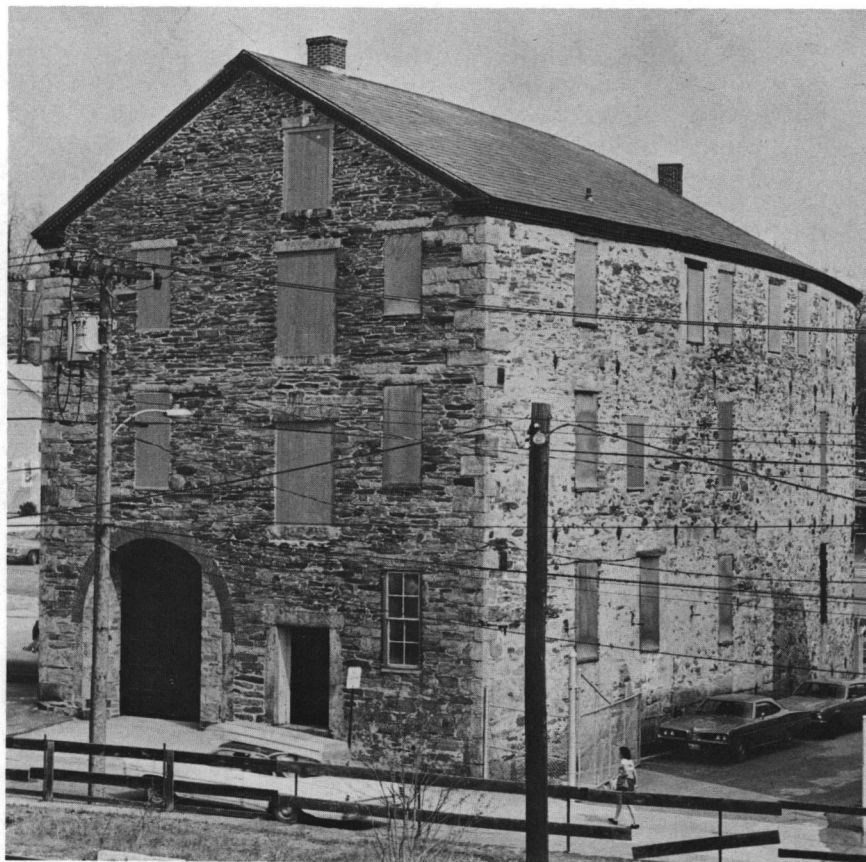


Fig. 33: The Harris Warehouse (1855), 61 Railroad Street.

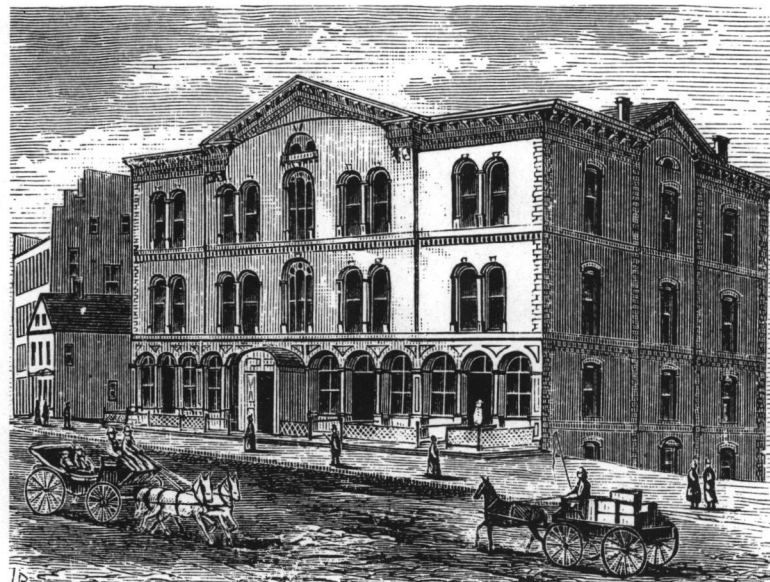


Fig. 34: The Harris Block (c. 1858)  
(magazine illustration, c. 1860).



Fig. 35: The Providence & Worcester Depot (1882)  
(photo c. 1900).



Fig. 36: Privilege Mill tenement houses (1865), Farm Street .

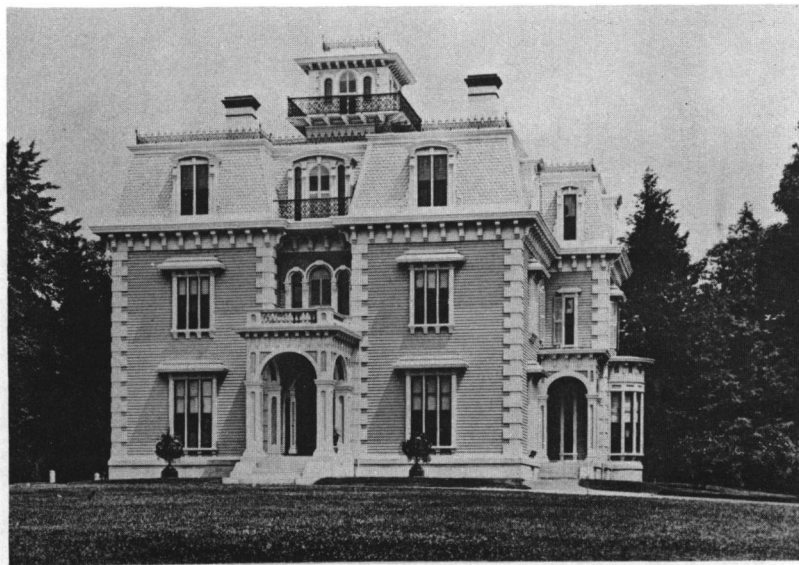


Fig. 37: The Edward Harris House (c. 1855, roof c. 1870)  
(photo from *Art Work of Rhode Island*, 1896).

The mills at Woonsocket continued to flourish in the Civil War era. In 1865 Edward Harris constructed a new industrial complex on the Mill River near the Massachusetts border known as the Privilege Mills. Here the Harris Manufacturing Company produced casimeres famous throughout the country, goods able to compete successfully with the finest imported product. Most of the remaining buildings in this complex are much altered, but the three story storehouse at 373 North Main Street is well preserved. Harris erected rows of sturdy brick two, four, and six family houses for his workers. Eleven of these structures remain on North Main and Farm streets. They are the finest company-built mill houses left in the city. For their aesthetic quality and historic significance, they are an important part of Woonsocket's industrial heritage.

The dwellings Harris and other mill owners erected for themselves declared their owner's wealth and social standing. The Harris estate, largest in Woonsocket, encompassed the entire North End. The mansard-roofed dwelling, torn down long ago, overlooked the city. The most formidable extant house of this class, 289 Prospect Street, was built by Thomas Thurber in 1867 and was soon sold to Rachel Harris Rathbun, wife of Oscar J. Rathbun and Edward Harris' daughter. Oscar Rathbun owned the Jenckesville mills, became president of the Harris Woolen Company, and was Lieutenant Governor from 1882 to 1884. The stylish, mansard-roofed, brownstone-trimmed brick house was designed by Michael Volk of New York. Extensive gardens surround the dwelling and a vast carriage house is located on the grounds. Its imposing character typifies the middle section of Prospect Street where large houses dating from the 1860's through the first decades of this century predominate.

### The Civil War

The anti-slavery movement in this country became pervasive in the 1840's and it was in that era that abolitionist speakers started coming to Woonsocket to gain support for the cause. Local abolitionist activity was led by Edward Harris who ran for the Rhode Island governorship in 1849, '50, '51 and '53 as an anti-slavery candidate, and went as far as providing money to support John Brown's family just prior to Brown's execution.

When the Civil War broke out, the community organized and sent several volunteer companies to battle for the Union, including the Woonsocket Cavalry Troop led by O. J. Rathbun. Training



Fig. 38: The Thurber-Rathbun House (1867), 289 Prospect Street .

camps were located near the city and military parades were held in which the newly drilled soldiers marched, pleasing the assembled crowds and firing their patriotic spirit. The days of bright military zeal did not last long, however, and the sobering realities of war were soon apparent. Thirty-nine Woonsocket area residents died in the war and many more were wounded. To honor the dead, and memorialize the city's participation in the conflict, Woonsocket erected Rhode Island's first Civil War monument, appropriating \$5000 for the purpose in 1868. It was sculpted by J. G. Batterson of Hartford and dedicated in 1870. The area surrounding this memorial, formerly called Mechanic Square, has been known as Monument Square ever since.

The Civil War brought an influx of immigrant workers recruited for the city's textile mills which were operating at capacity during the wartime boom. These new workers were mostly French Canadians, and though there were French Canadians here before the 1860's, this was the first large-scale migration. Thus the presence of Woonsocket's dominant ethnic population is in part a result of the war.

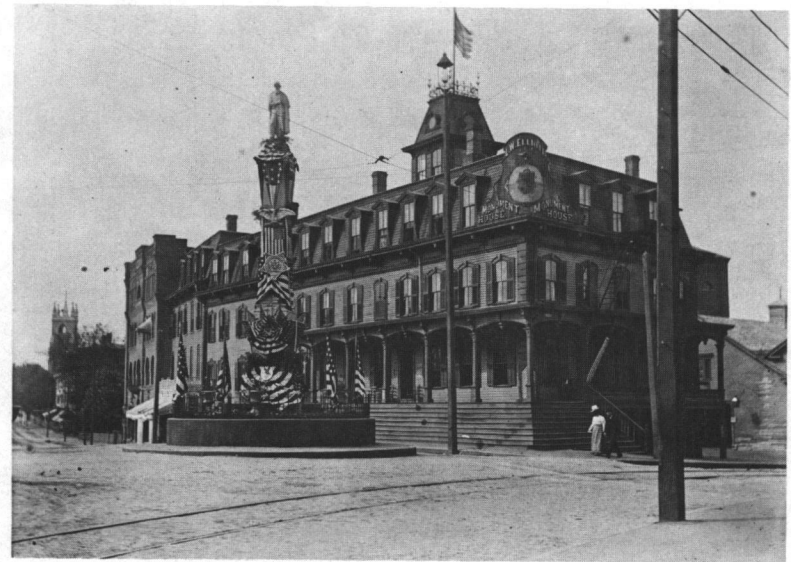


Fig. 39: The Civil War Monument (1868) in Monument Square (photo c. 1900).

WOONSOCKET ADVERTISEMENT. 479  
Established April, 1825.

# LA TRIBUNE.

The Only French Daily in  
Rhode Island.

A Bright Penny Daily, published in the  
interest of the French speaking population of  
Rhode Island.

**LE PROGRÈS, Weekly, - \$1.00 per Year.**

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## La Tribune Publishing Co.

(INCORPORATED.)

**Editors, Publishers and Job Printers,**  
FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

135 Main Street, Woonsocket, R. I.

Fig. 40: La Tribune Publishing Company ad from the *Woonsocket Directory*, 1901.

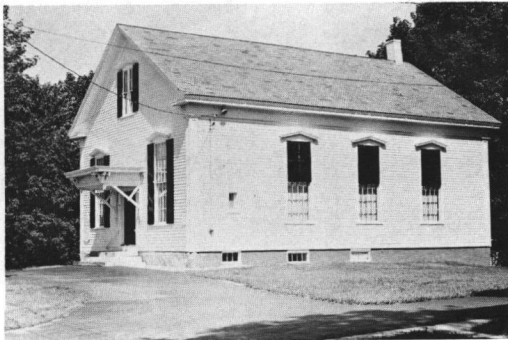


Fig. 41: The present Friends' Meeting House (1881), 108 Great Road.

## Ethnic Diversity

Of all the states, Rhode Island had the largest proportion of immigrants to total population in the nineteenth century, and Woonsocket was one of this state's most "ethnic" communities. While the city is now heavily French Canadian, the Irish were the first major immigrant group, becoming, in numerical terms, a significant part of Woonsocket's population in the 1840's. A study of Cato Hill's population reflects the transformation of Woonsocket's ethnic make-up. In 1856 the first local directory revealed that 56% of Cato Hill residents were Irish, and that most were employed in the mills or as tradesmen or laborers. Though many Irish families stayed on, French Canadians predominated by the 1880's, and since the early twentieth century a Ukrainian settlement has also lived here.

In 1842 8% of Woonsocket's population of about 4,000 was foreign-born. Four years later the figure was 27%. Of this percentage, approximately half were Irish immigrants, one quarter English, one quarter French Canadian. By 1875, with a population in excess of 16,000, 46% of Woonsocket's residents were foreign-born, and 73% had at least one foreign-born parent, a better indicator of "ethnicity." In 1900, with a total population of 28,000, the proportion of foreign-born residents had fallen to 37%, but the proportion of residents with foreign parentage had risen to 84%. The strongly ethnic character of Woonsocket's populace continued, even as the population increased rapidly to 38,000 in 1910, 43,000 in 1920, and leveled off at 49,000 in 1930.

Using parentage as an indicator, the French-Canadian and Irish communities were approximately equal in size in 1875. However, a decline in the number of Irish arrivals coupled with continued late nineteenth century French-Canadian immigration resulted in Woonsocket's becoming overwhelmingly *canadien*, and so it remains.

Around the turn of the century a host of new ethnic groups came to the city — Poles, Lithuanians, Rumanians, Russians, Swedes, Syrians and Lebanese, Ukrainians, Italians. The most recent arrivals, coming largely since the Second World War, are Black Americans. Woonsocket's churches are the most visible manifestation of this ethnic diversity. After the Friends' Meeting House was erected in 1719 no new church was built for a century, a reflection of the stability of the community. But the advent of large-scale industrial production at Woonsocket in the 1820's and '30's brought an influx



of new protestant Yankee stock. The sectarianism of this era led these new arrivals to establish five churches — Episcopal, Universalist, Baptist, Congregationalist, and Methodist — all located in the center of what is now Woonsocket. None of the original church buildings remain, however, and only one, St. James Episcopal Church, stands on the site of the original structure.

Architecturally, the most important of Woonsocket's older protestant churches are the First Baptist Church on Blackstone Street (1891) and Globe Congregational Church (c. 1900) on South Main. The Baptist Church, executed in pressed brick with crisp, red mortar joints, has fine stained-glass windows. Its boldly articulated tower is a landmark, visible from many points throughout the city. Globe Congregational Church, now rededicated as St. James Baptist Church, has an equally handsome, though less prominent, tower.

The first non-Yankee settlers at Woonsocket were Irish laborers employed in the construction of the Blackstone Canal in the late 1820's. Michael Reddy, the first Irishman to come to the community, was a well-known local personage of the mid-nineteenth century. After working on the Canal he settled in Bernon, took up farming, and lived on Front Street. In 1828 Reddy organized the first service held by Roman Catholics in the area, and he continued to play an active role in the Irish community. By the mid-1830's the Irish population, overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, was well enough established to call forth a missionary priest, the noted Father James Fitton. The wood-frame Catholic church built by the Irish in 1844 was replaced in 1862 by the existing stone edifice on North Main Street, the Church of St. Charles Borromeo. The design of this Gothic structure was provided by P. C. Keeley, architect of many Catholic churches throughout the country.

The ancillary buildings associated with St. Charles Borromeo — the rectory and parish office, the school and convent — reflect an important aspect of the social history of the parish. Similarly, most Woonsocket Roman Catholic parishes are centered in church complexes — a group of buildings providing space for the many functions the parish is called upon to serve, and manifesting the broad role the parishes play in the lives of their members.

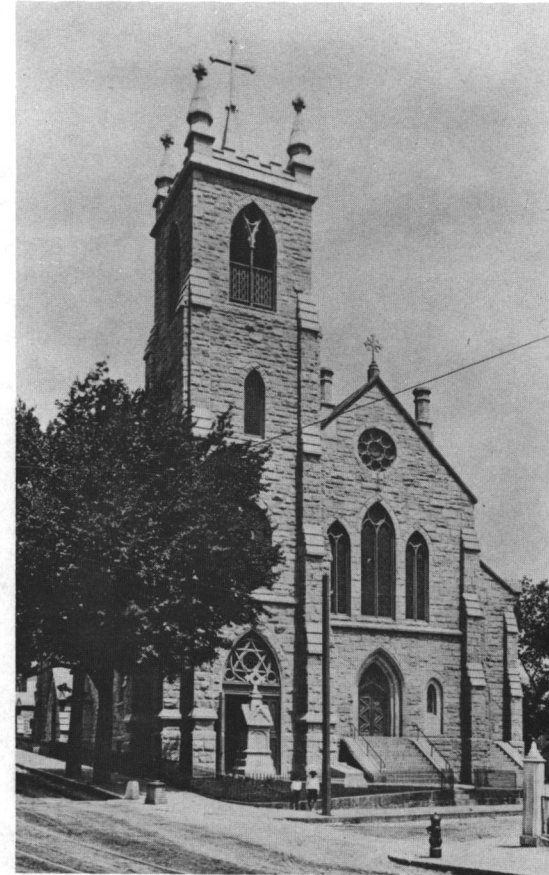


Fig. 42: St. Charles Borromeo (1862), 189 North Main Street (photo from *Art Work of Rhode Island*, 1896).



Fig. 43: St. Charles School (1897), 42-52 Daniels Street.

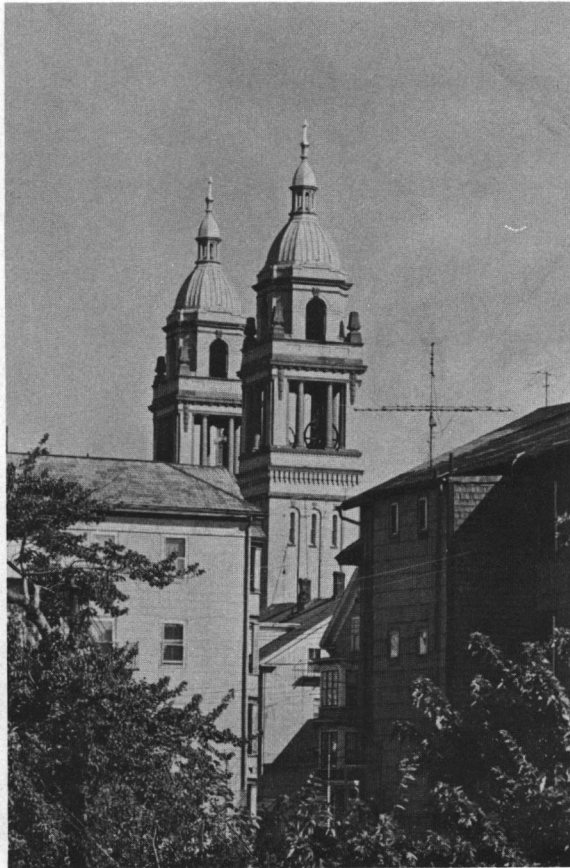


Fig. 44: St. Ann's Church (1914), 98 Cumberland Street .

French-Canadian Catholics migrating to Woonsocket first worshipped with the Irish at St. Charles Borromeo. In 1874, however, the French Canadians formed their own parish and set about building a church. This self-imposed ethnic segregation was a well established tradition within the Catholic community. The first French-Canadian parish in the city was *Precieux Sang*, the Church of the Precious Blood, for many years pastored by Father Charles Dauray, a well-known figure in Roman Catholic circles. The present church on Carrington Avenue was completed in 1881. It is a red brick Victorian Gothic structure with ornamental trim in granite. The uppermost stages of the belfry and clock tower were added early in the twentieth century. This tower

closes the long vista north down Park Avenue, and, like the tower of the First Baptist Church, it is a key visual landmark.

The size of the French-Canadian community resulted in the creation of several parish churches serving different areas of the city. St. Ann's Church, designed in 1914 by Walter Fontaine, is the most spectacular of these. Located on Cumberland Street, its twin towers are familiar to every Woonsocket resident. The magnificent interior follows Italian sixteenth and seventeenth century models. The murals in *trompe l'oeil* architectural frames decorating the walls and ceilings of the church were executed by Guido Nincheri and took twelve years to complete. St. Ann's Parish still has a large convent, school, and parish house. The "Moorish" style parish gymnasium and theatre at 74 Cumberland Street is now the Club Marquette.

Detailing of several churches in the city reflects the "old country" architectural heritage of their communicants: the onion-domed towers of St. Michael's Ukrainian Roman Catholic Church on Blackstone Street, the Roman Baroque facade of St. Anthony's Church, an Italian parish. By contrast, a group of Russian Jews who arrived in Woonsocket in the 1890's held services in a completely anonymous brick tenement at 627 East School Street. Another congregation, B'nai Israel, worshipped in a former Christian church, Unity Temple, at the intersection of Greene and Bernon streets. B'nai Israel now occupies a striking temple of contemporary design at 224 Prospect Street. Another church, "ethnic" in terms of its parishioners but not architecturally, in St. Stanislaus Church on Harris Avenue. Built in about 1906, it is an excellent example of the vernacular American "Shingle Style."

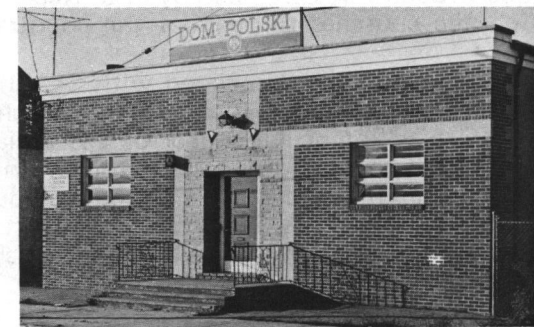


Fig. 45: Dom Polski Hall, 458 River Street .

In the mid-twentieth century ethnocentricity continues. Woonsocket's emerging Black community has established protestant parishes of its own, in several instances occupying pre-existing churches. The All Nation Church of God is housed in the former Swedish-Finnish Lutheran Church on Fairmount Street. Since 1974, St. James Baptist Church has occupied the former Globe Congregational Church on South Main Street.

Several ethnic groups have created their own benevolent societies and social clubs. The Ukrainian-American Veterans Association had a club in a cottage at 168 Church Street, on Diamond Hill Road is the Italian Working Men's Club, and on River Street in Dom Polski Hall is the St. Stanislaus Club. The largest French-Canadian organization in Woonsocket is the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, headquartered in a four story block at 1-19 Social Street. This building, erected by the organization in 1926, is, aside from its historic significance, one of the city's most distinguished buildings architecturally; it was designed by the local architect, Walter Fontaine. Though basically a mutual benefit society, the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste has always had as a major goal the perpetuation of the French cultural heritage.

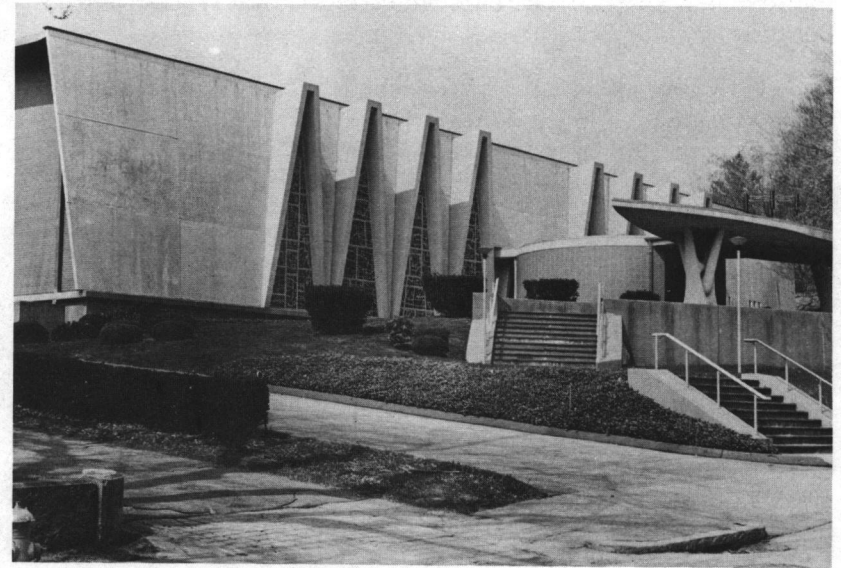


Fig. 47: B'nai Israel Synagogue (c. 1967), 224 Prospect Street .



Fig. 46: View of Blackstone Street showing the towers of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church (1923) and the First Baptist Church (1891).

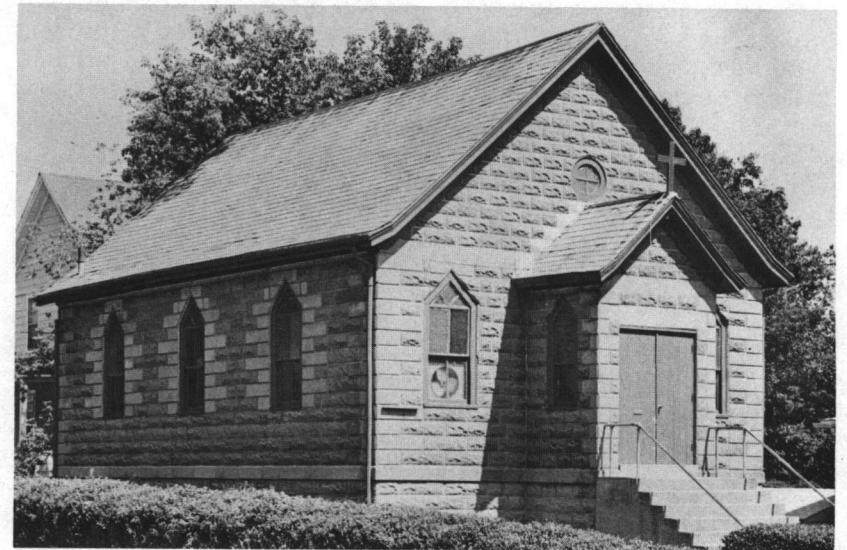


Fig. 48: The former Swedish-Finnish Lutheran Church (c. 1917, 531 Fairmount Street .

## Industrial Prosperity: The Late Nineteenth & Early Twentieth Centuries

The financial collapse of the Rhode Island-based Sprague cotton textile empire in 1873 precipitated a nationwide economic depression. The state's economy, based heavily on cotton goods manufacture (of which 25% was directly controlled by the Spragues), was crippled. Woonsocket was less dependent on the cotton textile industry than many industrial centers, however, and the community (politically united since 1871) weathered the panic of '73 fairly well and, by the time Woonsocket became a city in 1888, the local economy had recovered fully.

Expansion of the woolen goods industry and the growth of new industrial enterprises, including the Woonsocket Rubber Company, the Bailey (later American) Wringer Company (manufacturers of clothes wringers), and the Taft-Pierce Manufacturing Company (makers of industrial machinery), sparked another era of prosperity. The most important new industry was the Woonsocket Rubber Company. The firm was formed in the late 1860's, initially to make rubber rollers for the Bailey clothes wringers, but later specializing in rubberized boots and shoes. First occupying space on Market Square, the company built the four story Alice Mill on Fairmount Street in 1889. It was the largest rubber goods factory in the world and two thousand hands were employed there. Two stair towers project from the mass of this immense structure. Though utilitarian in purpose, they perform an aesthetic function, giving visual relief to what would otherwise be a facade of overwhelming proportions. In front of the Alice Mill stands a two-and-a-half story brick mill office, its picturesqueness planned as a counterpoint to the mill. The Woonsocket Rubber Company was formed by members of the Cook family (long-time Woonsocket residents) and Joseph Banigan of Providence, who eventually dominated the firm. Banigan arrived in this country a poor Irish immigrant boy; in time he became a self-made millionaire and first president of the U. S. Rubber Company.

In the 1890's and the first decades of the twentieth century, though the New England textile industry was beginning to face stiffer competition, newly formed companies were building woolen mills in Woonsocket. The largest of the new mills were erected on the site of what had been Hamlet Village by the Lafayette Worsted Company and the French Worsted Company. Both firms, controlled by Belgian and French principals, produced worsted goods on the

**BAILEY WRINGING MACHINE**  
COMPANY,  
WOONSOCKET, R. I.,

Flange Cog Wheels on both Ends of the Rolls.  
Send for a Descriptive Catalogue.



Highest Premium Awarded by the American Institute.  
Gold Medal by the New England Fair.

Fig. 49: Bailey Wringing Company ad from the *Woonsocket Directory*, 1886-87.

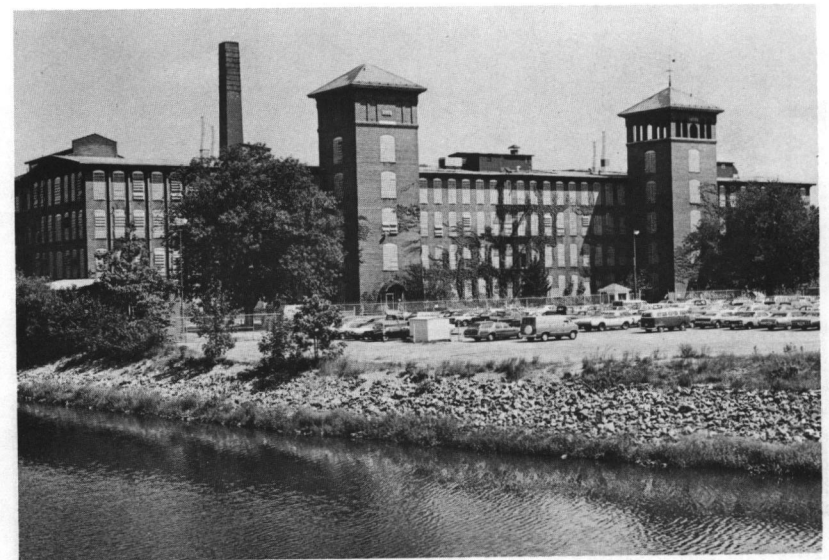


Fig. 50: The Alice Mill (1889), 85-87 Fairmount Street.

French system. In the case of the Lafayette Mills, a French engineer, Charles Loridan, came to Woonsocket to plan the mill buildings and install the machinery. The Beaux Arts offices he designed at 134 and 150 Hamlet Avenue are unlike any others in Rhode Island.

European businessmen were induced to build mills at Woonsocket by Aram J. Pothier, who pointed out the advantages of circumventing the high American protective tariff, the fact that Woonsocket had a hardworking and relatively compliant French-speaking working class, and, on behalf of the city offered tax exemptions for newly built mills. Born in 1856, Pothier was a French-Canadian immigrant who grew up in the city and became a major figure in its history. A banker and part owner of several textile companies, he began his political career during the 1880's and in 1894 became Woonsocket's first French-Canadian mayor. He was United States Commissioner to the Paris Expositions of 1889 and 1900 and it was on these trips that he convinced foreign investors to build mills in his city. A staunch Republican, Pothier was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1897, and served as Governor of Rhode Island from 1909 to 1915 and from 1925 until his death in 1928. His candidacies were an important factor in keeping Franco-Americans loyal to the Republican Party in the pre-Depression era. Pothier's mod-

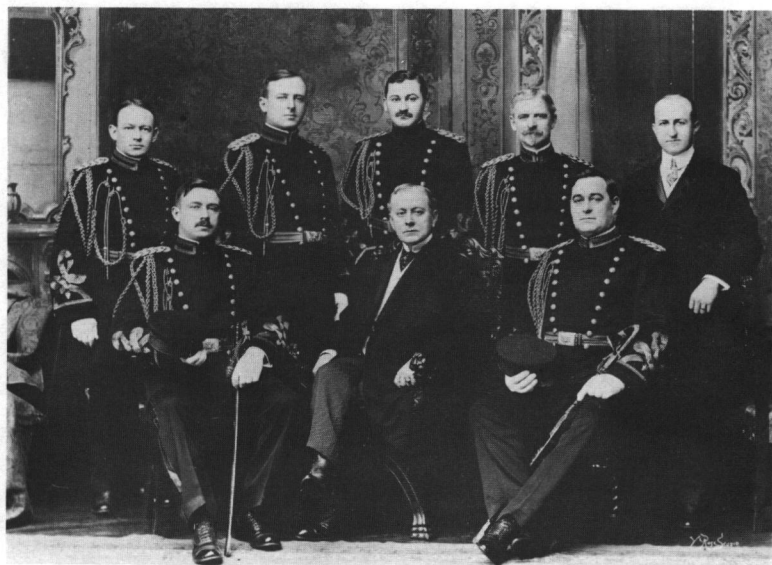


Fig. 51: Governor Aram J. Pothier & Staff (c. 1912) .

erately large Late Victorian house still stands at 172 Pond Street.

Aram Pothier was the prime mover in Woonsocket's second era of industrial prosperity, much as Edward Harris was in the first period. Although the most influential person of French-Canadian heritage in Rhode Island, he was by no means the only prominent Franco-American in Woonsocket. French Canadians took leading roles in local economic, political, and civic affairs in the late nineteenth century: Godfrey Daignault was a successful merchant and real estate entrepreneur; Adelard Archambault, a politician; Joseph Guerin (actually Belgian), an important manufacturer; Joseph Adelard Caron, the first Secretary General of the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

The Woonsocket Irish community, though less identifiable and cohesive as a group, remained influential and also contributed to the ranks of local leadership in the late nineteenth century: Patrick Conley was a major Woonsocket contractor; Francis O'Reilly, the first Irish American admitted to the Rhode Island Bar; Ambrose Kennedy, a leading political figure. In the twentieth century local leaders, particularly in the area of politics, have tended to be either of Irish or French-Canadian descent — Kevin Coleman and Fernand



Fig. 52: The former Lafayette Worsted Company Office (c. 1900), 150 Hamlet Avenue.



Fig. 53: Detail, Alphonse Gaulin House porch (c. 1885), 311 Elm Street.



Fig. 54: The first George Baker House (1890), 473 South Main Street.



Fig. 55: Queen Anne style cottage (c. 1890), 46 Vose Street.

J. St. Germain are perhaps the most widely known contemporary representatives.

Woonsocket's prosperity in the years from 1880 to 1910 made it possible for wealthy residents to build elaborate houses in the fashionable Queen Anne style, a freely interpreted revival reflecting the design vocabulary of Elizabethan and Jacobean architecture. Most Woonsocket Queen Anne houses are built of wood, their elevations complicated by assertively projected bay windows, dormers and towers. Intricately detailed porches of irregular plan are a hallmark of the style. The siding of most of these houses is divided horizontally, with clapboards on the first story and shingles above, and this banding was accented by painting elements of the exterior finish in contrasting colors.

The Alphonse Gaulin House, built in about 1885 at 311 Elm Street, is an excellent Queen Anne building little altered from its original appearance. Of particular note is the spindlework and lattice porch wrapped around the base of its three story corner tower. The first story of the tower is circular in section, echoing the curve of the porch. Above the porch roof the tower is rectangular.

The Gaulin residence has fine patterned shinglework, and its ochre, red and green color scheme is appropriate. Other large Queen Anne houses in the city include the first George Baker House (1890) at 473 South Main Street, the Cooke House (c. 1893) at 7-9 Summer Street, and the Joseph Bouvier House (c. 1889) at 14 Park Place.

The city has a number of small Queen Anne cottages of considerable charm and architectural distinction. One of the best is the dwelling at 589 South Main Street. It has a complex gable roof and the major gable, set facing the street, is ornamented with a wide, paneled, raking cornice known as a barge or verge board. The windows have small square lights surrounding a larger central pane in the upper sash, a common Queen Anne motif. In about 1890 six nearly identical Queen Anne cottages were erected on Bernice Street, and pairs of identical single and two family cottages may be found at the intersection of Vose and Providence streets. One of the most engaging Queen Anne porches in the city was added to a small house at 186 Park Avenue in the 1890's. The ball turnings on the balusters of the railing are staggered to produce a swag-like effect, a simply achieved detail of great charm.

## Constitution Hill

Constitution Hill, a well preserved residential neighborhood which developed in the late nineteenth century, overlooks Woonsocket Falls and is bounded on the north and east by the Blackstone River. A steep slope on its southeast flank sets the neighborhood off from South Main Street. A railroad line and Cherry Brook form its northeastern border. The southwest boundary is less distinct; a contrast in street pattern and building type distinguish it from the adjacent Pleasant Street area. Architecturally, Constitution Hill is characterized by large, frame, multiple-family dwellings built between 1865 and 1910. Its history is working class, multi-ethnic, and now multi-racial. It forcibly evokes a sense of time, place and social history.

Development of Constitution Hill relates directly to the growth of Woonsocket industry in the post-Civil War era. Area residents were principally employed as mill hands and laborers, and initially, newly arrived French Canadians predominated. The 1870 directory indicates that approximately 66% of the Constitution Hill population was French Canadian, about 13% Irish, the rest Yankee. In the same year the *Woonsocket Patriot* stated that "Constitu-

tion Hill will be the Quebec of our future city." In 1875 the population had increased an explosive 250%. Most new residents were Irish, employed by the Woonsocket Rubber Company. But the preponderance of Irish residents on Constitution Hill was temporary. As French-Canadian immigration continued throughout the last decades of the century (particularly large numbers came between 1895 and 1900), Constitution Hill was again predominantly French Canadian. By the 1920's, however, the district had become pan-ethnic, home to the whole array of European immigrant groups coming to the city. Most recently, a significant number of Blacks have come to dwell here.

It was in the Constitution Hill neighborhood that Napoleon Lajoie lived, one of America's greatest baseball players. "Nap" Lajoie played second base for three major league teams and was player-manager of the Cleveland Indians. In 1937 he became the sixth player to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Lajoie played when baseball was unquestionably the great American game — a national obsession. The game was particularly popular in Woonsocket, and he became a local hero. In 1901, the year his batting average was .422 (still the highest average ever achieved in the American League), Lajoie lived at 201-207 Sayles Street. Later

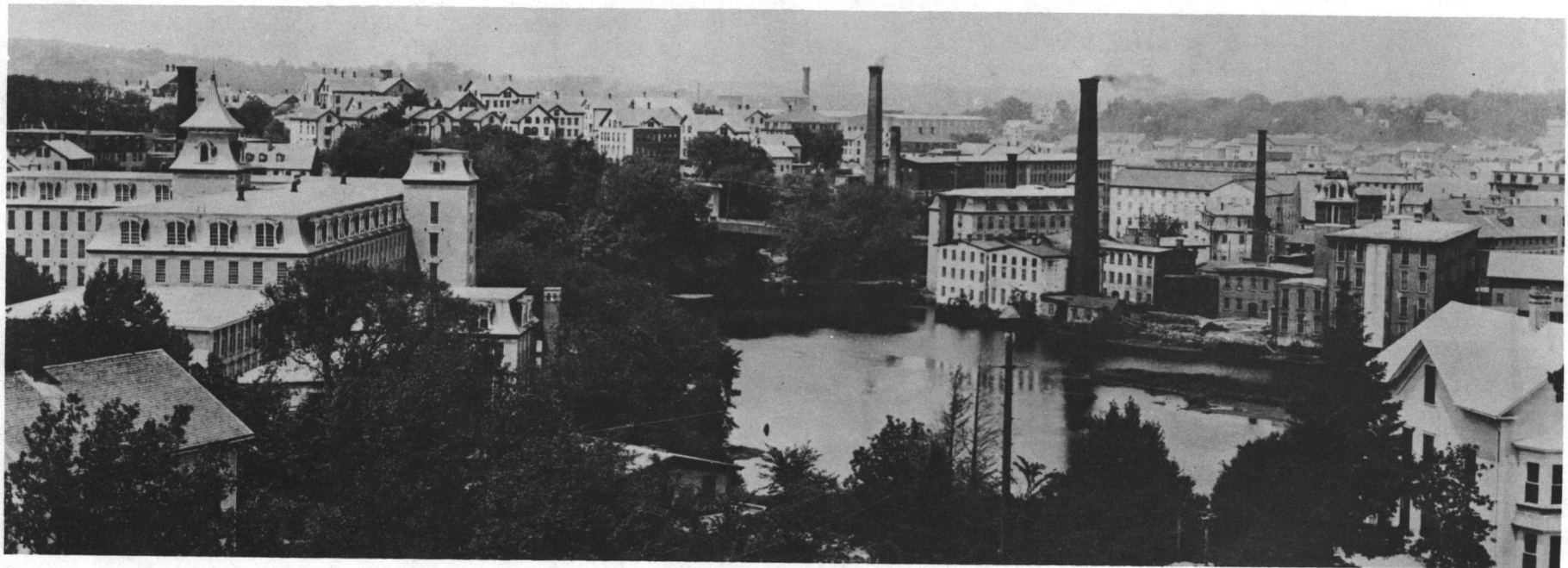


Fig. 56: View of the area around Woonsocket Falls in 1896 showing the Globe Mill on the left and, behind it, overlooking the Falls, Constitution Hill (photo, *Art Work of Rhode Island*, 1896).



Fig. 57: Napoleon "Nap" Lajoie (1875-1958); photo c. 1910, when Lajoie played for Cleveland.

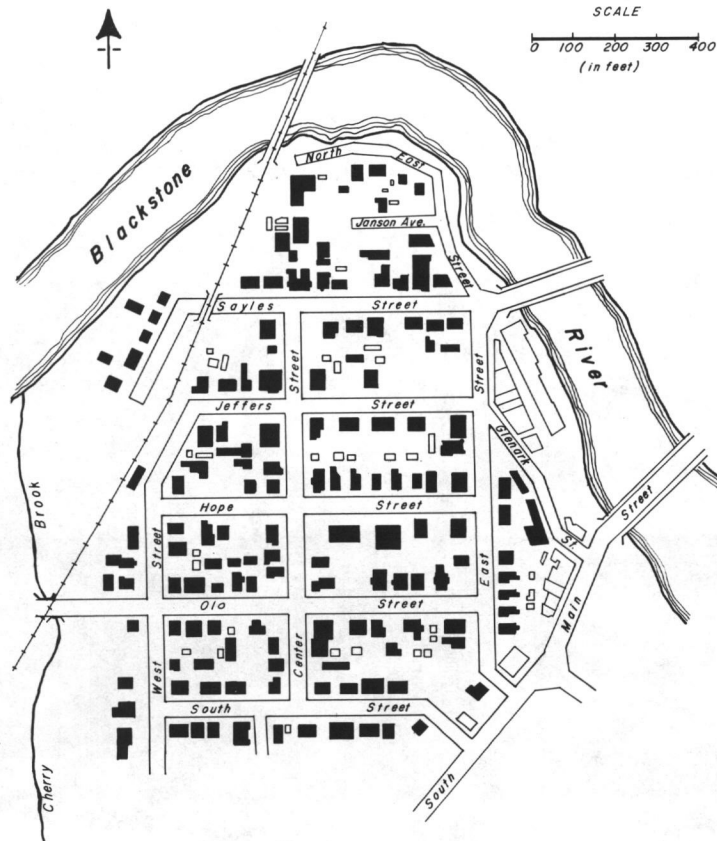


Fig. 58: Map of Constitution Hill.

he lived at 71-73 Center Street. No Woonsocket resident ever achieved greater acclaim throughout the nation than Lajoie, the ball player.

The clapboard dwellings of Constitution Hill typically housed from two to a dozen families, and some contained small shops on the ground floor. Decorative exterior trim was usually restricted to paired brackets applied to the cornices of roofs, porticoes, and bay windows. Many buildings were built by immigrant families to meet their own housing needs, with sufficient extra space so that they could rent out apartments and gain extra income. In some instances a family with larger savings would erect two identical houses side by side, or add a second house several years later. Other area residents built rental properties as an investment.

The row of buildings along the easterly side of East Street exemplifies this sort of development and the contractors' pattern book mode in which it found expression. The lots were sold off early in the 1880's by Ariel Ballou, and all the presently standing dwellings were built before 1895. Lawrence Reilly, a coal dealer, erected 74 East Street (the first structure on this side of the roadway) around 1885, and some four years later built number 90, which differs only in the bracketed trim of its entrance hood. Patrick Smith, a mason, built 108 East Street in about 1887, then put up 120 to the south. Seth S. Getchell, founder of a tin cylinder works in the 1870's and a resident of Olo Street (before becoming wealthy and moving to South Main Street in the 1890's), built 124, 136 and 146 East Street around 1888. Reilly's buildings were tenements — apartment buildings with more than one living unit per floor; the dwellings constructed by Smith and Getchell were two-family houses. Reilly and Smith each lived in one of their own buildings, but Seth Getchell never occupied any of his East Street properties.

Like the other two family houses in this row, 146 East Street is a two-and-a-half story building, oriented gable end to the street, having an ell in the rear with a two story porch, and a bracketed entrance portico flanking a two story bay window on the street front. Within, the floorplan is standard: a side entrance and stairhall, a parlor, dining room, kitchen, pantry, and two bedrooms on each floor, with rooms used for storage or extra sleeping quarters in the attic. This layout, though dating back earlier in the nineteenth century, is characteristic of the many late nineteenth century two family houses found in the city, and is encountered persistently in this neighborhood.



Equally common on Constitution Hill are four, six, and eight family tenements. Architecturally, they are well represented by 143 South Street, the best preserved house in the neighborhood. This large, gable-roofed, clapboard building, set flank-to-street and accented by two small symmetrically spaced chimneys, has a seven bay facade with a central entrance. The only exterior embellishment is the bracketed cornice. What contributes most to the appeal of this building is, perhaps, the picket fence. If the fences which once lined the streets of Constitution Hill were replaced the visual character of the area would be much improved.

With all, Constitution Hill has remarkable unity. Its cohesiveness results from its clearly defined topography and boundaries, its history and architectural consistency. It is an asset worth striving to retain and enhance.



Fig. 59: 143 South Street (c. 1880).



Fig. 60: The east side of East Street.



Fig. 61: Main Street in 1896 (photo from *Art Work of Rhode Island*).

## A Metropolis

During the late nineteenth century the mill villages at Woonsocket merged into a single urban area, definable in political, economic, social and visual terms. As new modes of transportation and communication were being provided, the downtown took on the appearance of a true city, and public buildings were built throughout Woonsocket to meet the needs and aspirations of a growing, affluent, self-confident community.

Efforts to create a town of Woonsocket, promoted for many years by Edward Harris and other leading citizens, finally bore fruit in 1867 with the setting off of a portion of Cumberland as a new township. In 1871, despite protests from Smithfield residents concerned about losing a major portion of their tax base, the present boundaries were established when a section of Smithfield was annexed to the town, and an ambitious program of public improvements ensued. By 1889, when George H. Grant became the first mayor of the newly constituted City of Woonsocket, he could point with pride to the accomplishments of the community: streets had been surveyed, curbed, graded and paved; a public water supply was created utilizing reservoirs along the Crook Fall Brook in North Smithfield; a municipal fire company and police department were established; a whole host of new schools had been built; and an asylum for the poor had been opened.



Fig. 62: Interior, First National Bank, Main Street (photo c. 1895).

First the Town and then the City of Woonsocket expanded and improved public education facilities for an ever larger and more demanding populace. A large number of neighborhood elementary schools were constructed, and many, like the Grove Street, Hope Street, Summer Street, and Kendrick Avenue schools, are handsome structures, still in use, and little altered. Unfortunately, the high school erected in 1876 on High School Street, now Harris School, has been marred by unsympathetic alterations.

New quarters for state facilities were also required in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1896 the Romanesque Revival style Woonsocket Court House was built, followed in 1912 by the castle-like armory on South Main Street. Both buildings possess considerable architectural interest and were designed by William Walker who did a great deal of work for the state and had earlier been the architect of Woonsocket's high school.

In the area of transportation, Woonsocket was served by the Providence and Worcester Railroad, which in the 1880's ran twenty-six passenger trains daily as well as its freight service. The city had also been linked directly to Boston since 1863 when a branch of the New England Railroad was put in service, and a trolley line, with central station facilities at the railroad depot, was operating by 1887. Gas for illumination was available in Woonsocket beginning in 1852. Initially used largely in factories, gas soon was standard in dwellings throughout the city, and gas street lamps were introduced in 1866. Only one of the early gas company buildings survives, a former gas storage structure or "gasometer" at 313 Pond Street. A local electric power company was organized in 1883 and electric street lights were introduced on an experimental basis in 1885; the works of the company were located in the Bernon mill complex in 1887. The community got its own telegraph office in the 1860's, and telephones were used by 1882.

The critical indicator one must use to define when it was that Woonsocket became an urban center in visual terms is the creation of the central business district — the corridor of commercial buildings lining Main Street housing stores, banks, offices and theatres. Development of this essential urban core began in the 1870's and culminated in the 1920's, a half-century's growth. Market Square and Monument Square bracket the district and Depot Square provides a central focal point. In large measure the urban character of the business district is a result of spatial qualities. The expansive, open squares contrast with the dense, walled-in character of the



Fig. 63: Main Street & Monument Square, 1927 (view from Burstein & Cherry, *The Stadium Building*, 1927).

thoroughfare linking them. The buildings along Main Street form a deep, narrow channel producing a sense of confinement reinforced by irregularities of topography and street pattern that prevent extended vistas. These irregularities enliven the space by creating a constantly changing view. Visual novelties presented, such as the first view of the Civil War monument, or the vista across Court Street Bridge, add a sense of drama to the scene.

There are many fine buildings along Main Street — Harris Institute, the Depot, the Lippit Mill, the 1920's neoclassical Woonsocket Institution for Savings and the Hospital Trust Building, Stadium Theatre and the 1888 Linton Block with its terra-cotta ornament and fancy brickwork. But lesser buildings play a greater part in defining the character of the district: the Farrington Block at 32-34 Main Street; the Honan Block at 106-108, faced with a cast-iron front; the Commercial Block at 93-119; St. James Hotel; the Longley, Globe, Hope and Unity buildings on Depot Square; the Stadium Building and Salvation Army Building facing Monument Square. Their importance is collective. Without them Woonsocket would not seem like a city.

At the northern edge of the central business district stood the Woonsocket Opera House. This 1888 theatre and office building

was the city's most ambitious cultural undertaking. It was the scene of all major theatrical presentations for half a century. The brick facade, with its round-arched openings and fortress-like demeanor, showed the influence of H. H. Richardson's Romanesque inspired architectural style. It was designed by Willard Kent who had a financial interest in the \$80,000 undertaking and served as the Opera House Corporation's first secretary. Kent's finest achievement in the Opera House was the auditorium itself; it combined a large seating capacity, intimacy, and outstanding acoustics. Among Rhode Island theatres, the Woonsocket Opera House stage was exceeded in size only by that of Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Providence; it was the last large Victorian theatre in the state. Because of its considerable historic and architectural interest, the Woonsocket Opera House was entered on the National Register of Historic Places, but subsequently was destroyed by a major fire.

Next to the Opera House stood the Brown-Carroll Building, formerly the Monument House Hotel, which was damaged in the same fire. Though much altered in the 1920's, this was a key building on Monument Square and its demolition diminished the historic continuity of the area markedly. Woonsocket will lose its special character and quality if historic structures and whole areas continue to be destroyed at the alarming rate of the last decade.

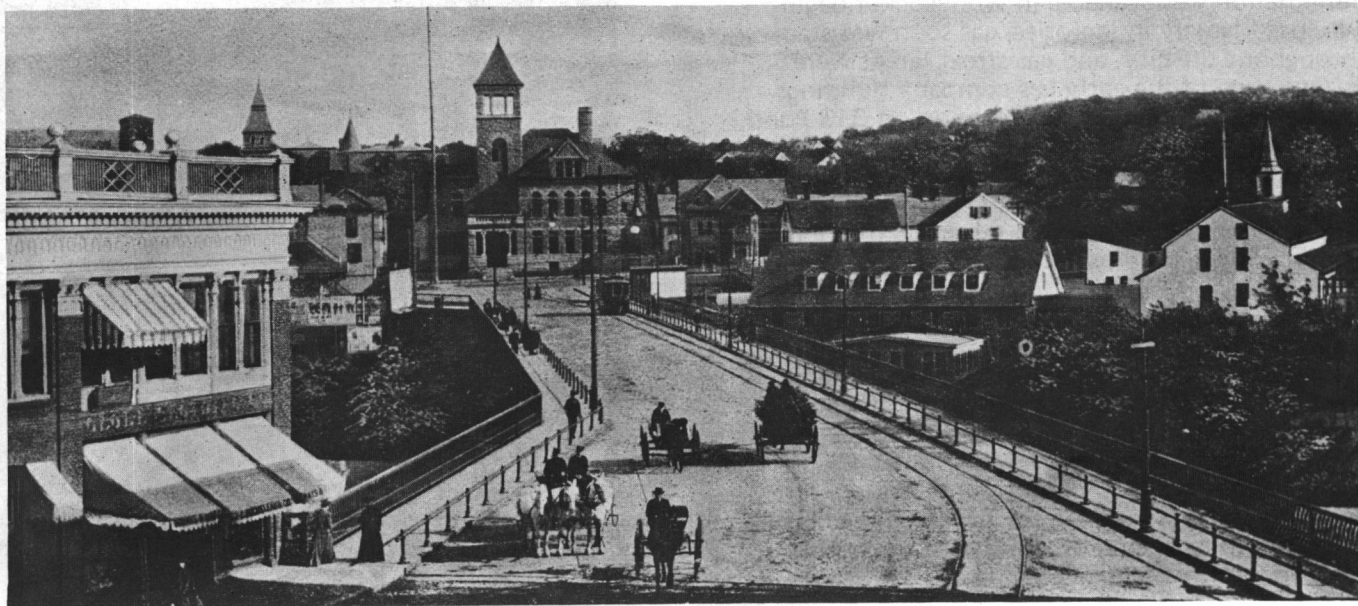


Fig. 64: View across the Court Street Bridge to the Courthouse (1896) (postcard, c. 1910).



Fig. 65: The Linton Block (1888), 3-5 Monument Square .



Fig. 66: The old Post Office (1910-12), 295 Main Street .

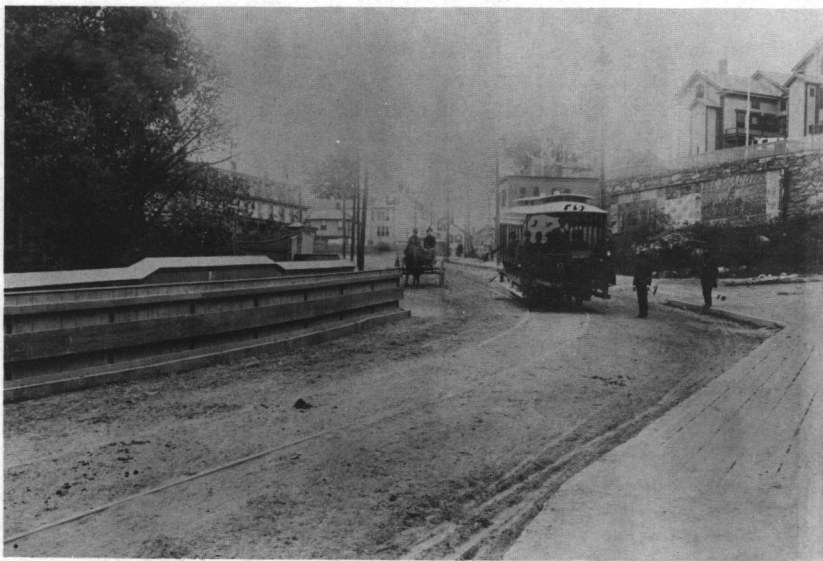


Fig. 67: Rhode Island's first electric trolley; South Main Street, Woonsocket, 1887.

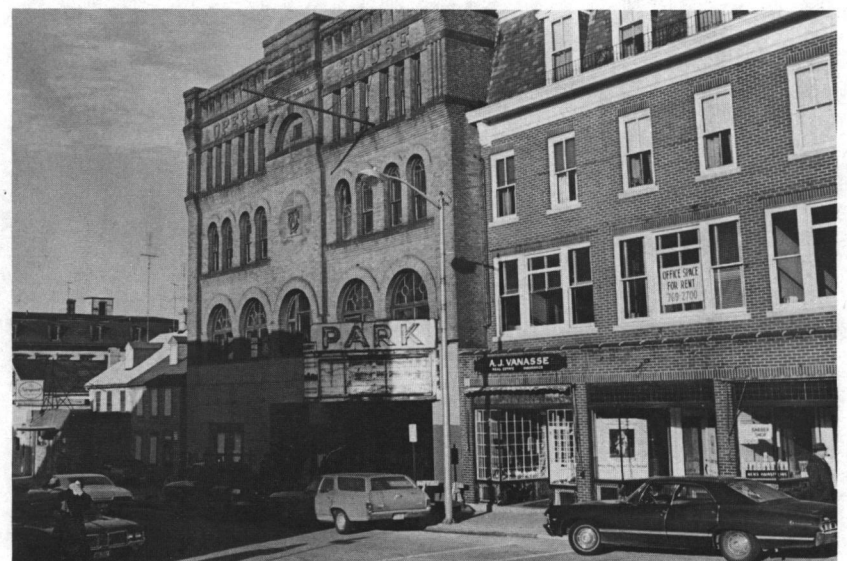


Fig. 68: The Opera House (1888) and the Brown-Carroll Building (c. 1870, c. 1925); destroyed 1975 .



Fig. 69: Lincoln Street 3-deckers (c. 1900).

### The Three-Decker

The commonest type of dwelling built in Woonsocket between 1895 and 1925 was the three-decker, a three story, three family tenement, usually built of wood, distinguished by a three story porch. Fifty years ago Woonsocket streets were lined with hundreds of these buildings; they remain the city's most distinctive urban house type. In architectural terms, the best remaining concentrations of three-deckers may be found on the west end of Lincoln Street, on Chester Street, and at the intersection of Rathbun and East School streets.

The three-decker is basically an inexpensive type of housing, though some of these buildings became quite elaborate, even pretentious. Functionally and socially, they represent an evolution from the two family, two-and-a-half story house built in the 1870's and '80's found on Constitution Hill. The floor plan remains an elongated series of spaces — a front parlor (often used as a bedroom), a dining or multipurpose family room, kitchen, and small rear bedrooms. Often these buildings were owner-occupied, and it was not unusual to find the other apartments rented to relatives and in-laws. The three-decker differs from the earlier two family house type in that it adds another rental unit, is fronted with a three story porch, and has a certain monumentality of scale.

The aesthetic appeal of most Woonsocket three-deckers is in their porches. A delicate three story porch can make one of these hulking structures seem quite refined, almost Venetian in character. A porch like that of 242-244 Lincoln Street can achieve a remarkable lyricism in the afternoon sun. To judge the importance of

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Fig. 70: Ad for J. B. Lagace (or "Lagasse"), builder, from the *Woonsocket Directory*, 1904.

these porches, one has but to see a three-decker after the porches have been removed or stripped of their turned posts and spindles.

One three-decker, the Lagace-Gamache House at 73-75 Chester Street (built c. 1917), deserves to be singled out for extended comment. Erected by Jean-Baptiste Lagace for his daughter and son-in-law, it is an extraordinary building, achieving great presence and visual distinction. The house is not wood, but is built of concrete blocks moulded by Lagace himself, a mason by trade. The foundation is rock-faced, the walls above vermiculated. Belt courses defining each floor level are ornamented with wreaths in high relief. The porches have cast concrete columns, banded and fluted, with Ionic capitals; the railings too are concrete, with Renaissance style balusters. A heavy moulded cornice finishes the roofline. The building is painted in brilliant shades of pink, yellow, turquoise and green. Beautifully maintained and little changed from its original appearance, the Lagace-Gamache House ranks among the great buildings of Woonsocket.



Fig. 71: The Lagace-Gamache House (c. 1917), 73-75 Chester Street .

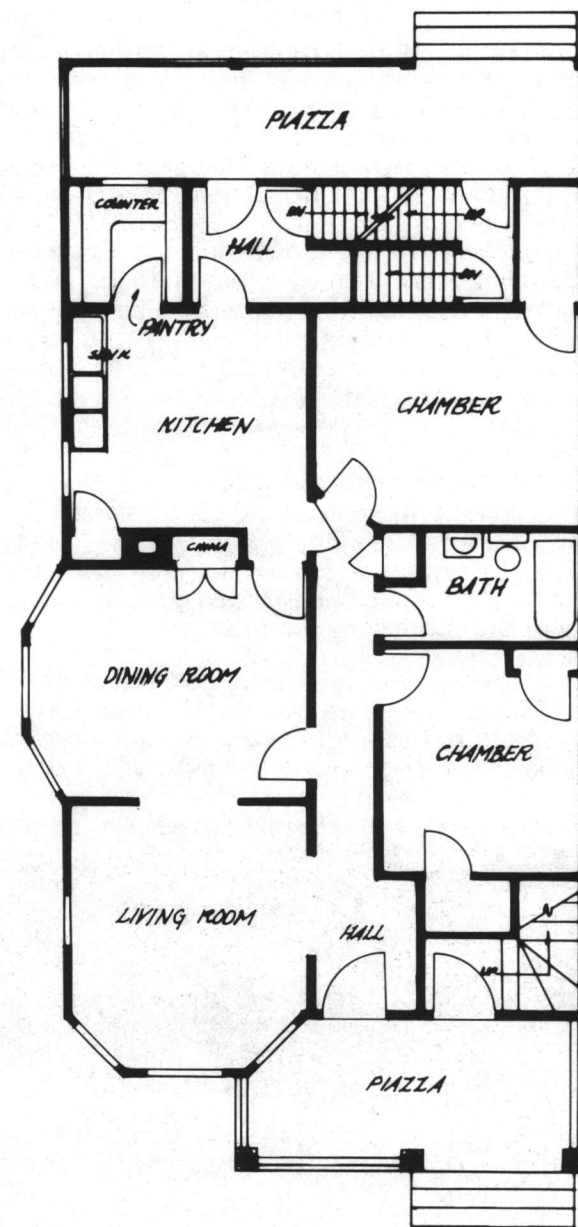


Fig. 72: A typical 3-decker floor plan, from F. H. Gowing's *Building Plans . . .*, 1925 .

## Suburb in the City: The North End

In the early twentieth century, Woonsocket had an expanding middle class. The housing needs and architectural tastes of this group shaped the development of a new residential neighborhood, the North End. The heart of this district centered on what had been the grounds of the Harris Estate. This area, bounded by Harris Avenue, Winter Street, Prospect Street, Spring and Blackstone streets, is a residential section of the suburban type. Each house is set well back from the street on a large lot planted with grass and trees. Double houses, frequently built in pairs, characterize the Winter and Blackstone Street borders of the neighborhood. Elsewhere, single family houses are the rule. Within the district not one thoroughfare is designated a "street" (the common urban nomenclature), all are "roads" — Glen Road, Meadow Road, Woodland Road — and the names themselves bespeak tree-shaded suburbia.

The North End began to be developed after 1910, and by the early '20's sixty-six houses had been erected. The great majority were occupied by professionals and upper-level managers of commercial or industrial firms. From the first, the North End was an ethnic "melting pot," for the city's elite had come to reflect the ethnic diversity of the entire community.

North End architecture mirrors the eclecticism ascendant in this era. Though one house may be self-consciously "Tudor," another "colonial," a third "Spanish," and a fourth "modern," all possess characteristics marking them unmistakably as products of their day.



Fig. 73: Harris Avenue at Cold Spring Park (postcard, c. 1915).

Basic to all are certain features of planning and massing. For example, the two story dwelling with one story wings is encountered in many guises. Typically, the main block has a central entrance sheltered by a deep portico. The elevation of the central block is occasionally five bays wide, but is more often three bays. The first floor windows flanking the entrance are large, often taking the form of bay or French windows, and light the living room and dining room of the dwelling. The one story wings are sun porches, one glassed-in, the other screened or left open. Facades of such houses are set parallel to the street, the front yards terraced and planted with symmetrically arranged shrubbery. A walk interrupted by several flights of steps leads from the street to the front door, and behind each house is a matching two car garage.

A fine example of this house type, devoid of any eclectic period-style ornamentation, stands at 103 Glen Road. 92 Oakley Street is a "Dutch Colonial" version; 219 Oakley, a monumental "Southern Colonial" example with a colossal pedimented portico. The stucco and half timber house at 190 Glen Road, with an overhanging second floor and a profusion of decorative gables, is of Tudor inspiration. Though unusually large, it too conforms to this pattern.

The bungalow is a less formal suburban house type popular between 1900 and 1930. Several examples may be found in the North End. These houses are low and spreading, and bungalow roofs are emphasized by extending their planes to form deep eaves supported on braces, and accented by shaped jack rafters. A bungalow invariably has a front porch, either incorporated under the main roof slope or accented by a gabled roof of its own, set perpendicular to the bulk of the house. Squat posts on high brick or field stone bases support the porch roofs. 138 Glen Road is a large bungalow displaying most of these features, and another stands at 196 Oakley Road. Woonsocket's best bungalows are outside this neighborhood at 322 Coe Street and 1273 Park Avenue. Both are important houses, little altered and well maintained.

The early twentieth century was a period in which, nationwide, the middle class began to abandon the cities in favor of "bedroom" suburbs. In Woonsocket, however, the middle class did not move away to new communities, choosing instead to build homes in a suburban neighborhood within the city. The North End has changed very little since then, and consequently the neighborhood epitomizes architectural and planning conventions popular half a century ago.





Fig. 74: The Joel Bense House entrance (c. 1917), 103 Glen Road .



Fig. 75: The Dr. Francis King House (c. 1924), 92 Oakley Road .



Fig. 76: The Charles O'Donnell House (1928), 219 Oakley Road .



Fig. 77: The Frank Wilbur House (c. 1923), 1273 Park Avenue .

## The Boom Ends: Economic and Social Upheaval

Transition marked social, economic, and political affairs in Woonsocket during the 1920's. Woolen goods, rubber, and machinery firms continued to do fairly well, but the cotton goods industry collapsed; the largest local producer, the Social Mill, closed in 1927. Competition from southern mills, conflicts between labor and management, antiquated plants — all contributed to the decline of cotton manufacturing, a decline repeated throughout New England. But all industry, and thus all Woonsocket, was affected when the innovative and much praised tax policy of the '90's and early 1900's, excusing many factories from local levies, coupled with major expenditures for new public facilities, resulted in an excessive municipal debt. This unforeseen burden compromised the city's economic health.

In the mid-'20's Woonsocket's Republican Party, dominant since the Civil War, became enmeshed in a bitter and debilitating internal struggle. The controversy focused on the question of who was responsible for the ineffectual response of local government to combating the highly visible presence of illegal gambling and saloons purveying hard liquor. Disenchantment with the GOP and the concerted efforts of professional Democratic Party organizers gradually produced a shift in political allegiances. By the 1930's this one-time Republican stronghold was predominantly Democratic, and despite feuding amongst the Democrats, which centered on the mayoralty of Felix Toupin, the city remained overwhelmingly Democratic, and still is.

Throughout the nation, the 1920's was a period of isolationism. Foreigners, their customs and institutions, were suspect, and soon xenophobic legislation was being passed to keep America "American." At the federal level, a new immigration act severely limited the number of immigrants able to enter the country. In Rhode Island, the Peck Bill, passed by the General Assembly in 1922, attempted to bolster Americanism in education by curtailing teaching in any language but English, even in private schools. Naturally, French Canadians who supported parochial schools where many subjects were taught in French were upset by this measure. It was in this climate of suspicion that an acrimonious dispute was waged in Woonsocket from 1924 to 1929 between a vocal segment of the city's French-Canadian community and the Irish hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence. The French-Canadian dissidents, led by Elphege Daignault, were known as Sentinellists after the newspaper, *La Sentinelle*, which publicized their views.

The paper had offices at 59 Front Street in a building which stood on the southwest corner of Front and Court streets. This movement, though centered in Woonsocket, spread to other New England cities as well. The Sentinellists were principally concerned about keeping their parish schools in the business of perpetuating the French cultural heritage and in maintaining local control of parish finances. They particularly objected to mandatory levies which Bishop William Hickey directed local parishes pay to support construction of a new and, the Sentinellists feared, "Anglo" dominated Catholic high school — Mount St. Charles. Sentinellist gatherings were held in St. Louis Church on Rathbun Street and in St. Ann's gymnasium on Cumberland Street.

For their actions, leaders of the movement were excommunicated by the Bishop. After the deaths of Daignault and Bishop Hickey and the intercession of a new prelate, Francis Patrick Keough, the "Sentinellist Controversy" gradually subsided. Though short-lived, the incident aggravated long-submerged tensions between French-Canadian and Irish Catholics, and created new divisions within the French-Canadian community between Sentinellists and those who supported the hierarchy.

Despite these problems, for the nation as a whole this was a decade of unparalleled prosperity, and Woonsocket could not help but partake of the unself-conscious and seemingly carefree materialism of the day. As befits this hedonistic era, the city's most noteworthy landmark of the Twenties is the Stadium Theatre, built in 1926 by Arthur Darman. Admission to the Stadium included a feature-length silent film with organ accompaniment, musical selections played by the theatre orchestra, vaudeville acts, and dance numbers performed by the Stadium chorus girls. The theatre was but one element in a complex of structures including a shopping arcade and office building. It represented, in the words of a lavish promotional book printed for Mr. Darman in 1927, "the consumation of a personal ambition to erect a proud landmark in the progress of Woonsocket. In achieving the ideals of an individual, it becomes a lasting tribute to the community that inspired those ideals and made possible their fruition."

A unique feature of the Stadium Theatre complex was its parking lot, the first planned lot in the city. The automobile became universal in the '20's, and old highways like Great Road and Mendon Road, though macadamized before 1910, had been designed for horse-drawn vehicles. The through-route highway system was inadequate to the demands of rapid motor traffic. In 1923 the state developed plans for reconstructing Louisquisset Pike as an automobile thoroughfare linking Providence and Woonsocket. The old road was straightened, widened, and extended so it would terminate at Park Square. This road, now Route 146A, was one of the first improved auto highways in Rhode Island.

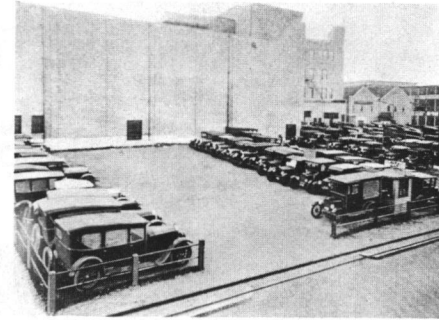


Fig. 79: Stadium Theatre parking lot (view from Burstein & Cherry, *The Stadium Building*, 1927) .

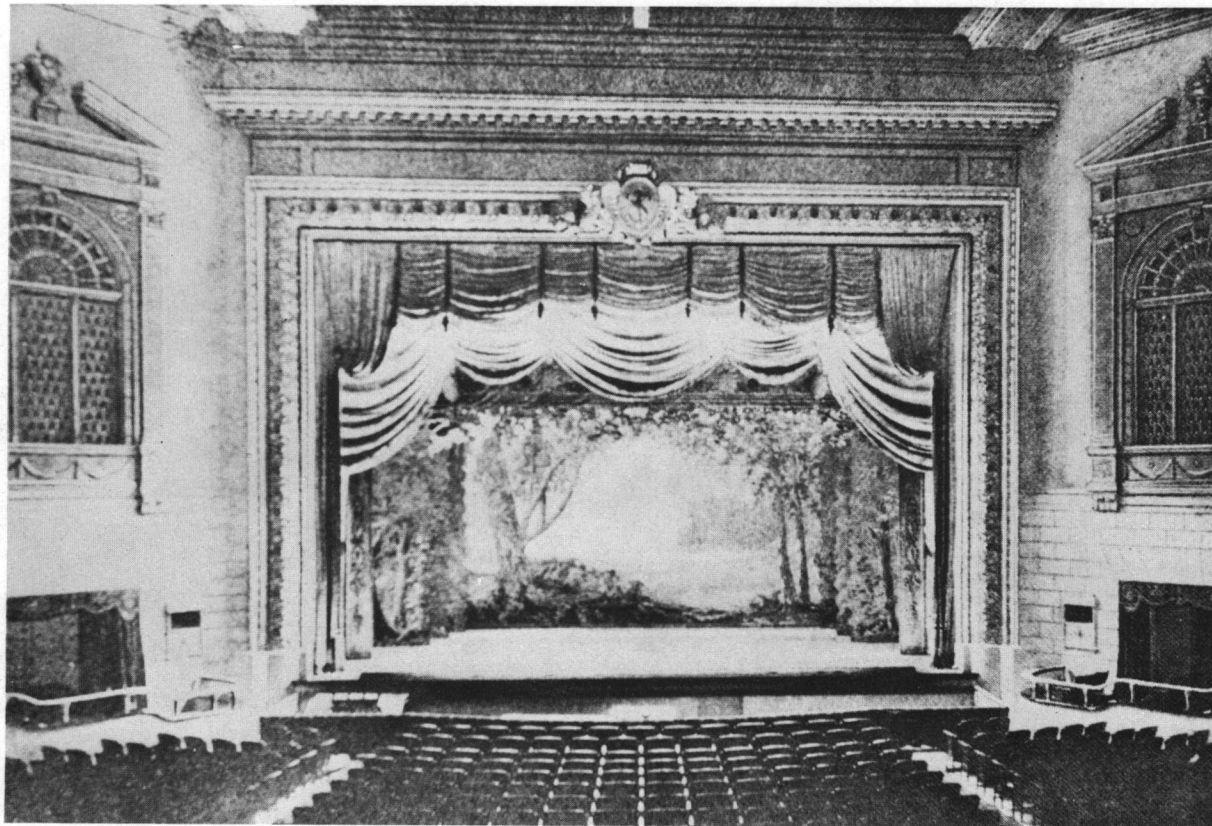


Fig. 78: Stadium Theatre interior (view from Burstein & Cherry, *The Stadium Building*, 1927) .

## Difficult Times: The Great Depression

In the Great Depression of the 1930's Woonsocket's economy collapsed. Only 50% of the city's textile workers were employed during the worst of the Depression, and several factories were torn down, including the Social and Globe mills. For a time, the rubber goods mills were also closed, and the machinery business was little better off.

The plight of the textile industry was aggravated by the violent strike of September, 1934, called by the United Textile Workers as a national work stoppage. Mills throughout the South and East were picketed. The situation remained orderly in Woonsocket until the evening of September 11th, when the Woonsocket Rayon Company mill on Clinton Street was stoned by a crowd after management refused to close the factory. On the 12th rioting broke out which police and National Guard units were unable to control. Clinton Street between Page and Worell was a battle ground — six persons were shot, one fatally, and the crowd, as it fled the heavily guarded mill, rampaged through the Social district, setting fires, wrecking cars, looting stores. The situation was in hand the following day when reinforced police and National Guard units cordoned-off the entire central section of the city, set up barbed wire barricades, and patrolled in trucks mounted with machine guns. The violence in Rhode Island, especially Woonsocket, brought pressure on the



Fig. 80: The 1934 Textile Strike; a barricade of over-turned cars on Social Street (photo, *Providence Journal*, September 13, 1934).

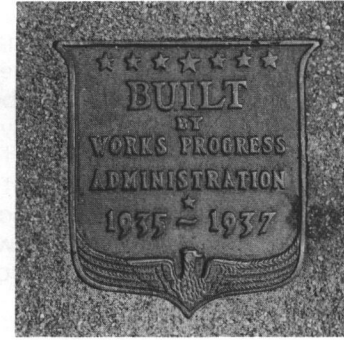


Fig. 81: WPA sidewalk marker.

union, and the strike was halted September 22nd.

A period of economic depression curtails most building activity, and the only major new construction project undertaken during the '30's in Woonsocket was the W. P. A. sponsored apartment complex, Morin Heights. It was built as much to give people work as to provide new housing. A pervasive type of Depression-era relief project was the construction of new sidewalks. W. P. A. funded sidewalks, marked by small bronze plaques, can be found throughout the city.

## Present Conditions

Since the Depression Woonsocket's economy has been in transition. After the boom of the World War II era (when firms like the Lippitt Woolen Company contracted to produce hundreds of thousands of yards of textiles for the War Department), the city, like the rest of industrial New England, sank back into economic decline. Woonsocket is still recovering, the economy changing gradually, and the preponderance of manufacturing in the local economy is declining. In 1960, 60% of the work force was in manufacturing; by 1970 less than half the labor force was employed in this sector. Moreover, Woonsocket has become a city of commuters. Before the War, almost all local residents worked in the city. Now, most of the populace is employed elsewhere.

The city's ethnic character, though still vital, has become less pronounced since World War II. The first sign of change was the demise of Woonsocket's last French language newspaper, *La Tribune*, in 1942. The city's first radio station, WWON, on the air since 1946, discontinued its daily French news broadcast during the 1960's. Now WWON and WNRI have a French language show once a week. The schools sponsored by French-Canadian parishes, where many classes were conducted entirely in French and much of the teaching was done by French priests and nuns, have either closed or become regional Catholic schools with no special ethnic orientation in language or curriculum.

In part, the decreasing cultural ethnicity of Woonsocket results from the fact that for half a century few immigrants have come to the community; most present-day Woonsocket residents are third or fourth generation Americans. But it also reflects the general homogenization our society has experienced in the mid-twentieth century. All cultural distinctions — religious, ethnic, regional — have been diluted by the mass media, increased mobility, and the emphasis we place on individual fulfillment as opposed to group identity.

The appearance of Woonsocket today, so different from that of forty years ago, results as much from the loss or alteration of existing buildings as from new construction. The removal of old structures has not been solely determined by economics. The floods of the early 1950's and the flood control system created in their wake have done much to alter the cityscape. Changes range from the nearly total destruction of the Social district, to clearance of Market Square, replacement of Woonsocket Falls and Horse-

shoe Falls with flood control dams, and construction of dikes along the river banks. In the area of new construction, large tracts of land in East Woonsocket, farmed forty years ago, now contain residential subdivisions, apartment complexes, and shopping centers which compete with the downtown.

Currently, the Social Flatlands is becoming a "New Downtown." A large office building, new library, post office, and police station have been built, and a shopping mall is planned. Oriented to the realities of automobile transportation, this new community center is more suburban than city-like in traditional terms.

Changes in building costs, technology and tastes have resulted in the alteration of many buildings. Frequently encountered changes include "modern" store fronts applied to old buildings; substitution of metal or composition siding materials for wood clapboard or shingle; removal of porches, balconies, fences and ornamental trim (cornices, brackets, entrance hoods, wood shutters) to reduce upkeep costs; replacement of multipane double hung window sash with one or two pane tilting or jalousie windows; addition of fake shutters and "colonial" doorways. In almost every instance, architectural quality has been diminished by such changes. Overall, however, and particularly in districts like Cato Hill, the North End and Constitution Hill, alterations have not done irreparable damage, and many well preserved buildings may be found.

The condition which does the most serious damage to the ambience of Woonsocket's historic areas is the occasional discontinuity of streetscapes created by the sites of demolished structures. A lesser yet more pervasive problem in these areas is parking. A street choked with cars, especially a narrow street lined with small-scale houses, loses a measure of its individuality and visual appeal. Street "furniture" — street signs, lights, utility poles — is often harshly out of scale and inappropriately designed for historic areas. With the exception of the North End, historic residential neighborhoods in the city have a generally unkempt appearance. Trash litters many vacant lots; weeds grow around neglected houses.

In commercial areas, inappropriate store fronts on historic buildings are common. New store fronts seldom relate to the architecture of the building in either material or design. Inappropriate signs are legion. New buildings erected in historic areas frequently do not complement the scale and massing of the older structures.

This last problem is endemic to Main Street where one story commercial structures have broken the continuity of building height critical to the urban character of the district. A praiseworthy exception is the two story Woonsocket Institution for Savings Trust Department building at 154-162 Main Street, remodeled in 1965. Though contemporary in design, it respects the massing of its neighbors.

As indicated in the 1972 *Comprehensive Housing Study*, many residents of the city, especially those living in apartments in older buildings, are dissatisfied with their housing. Given the opportunity, many residents of Woonsocket's historic neighborhoods would move to single family dwellings in suburban areas. This is understandable, given the fact that the old neighborhoods are becoming "run down." Buildings in them have antiquated mechanical systems and need repair. But it is also apparent that the advantages and potential of the historic areas are not understood.

*One may say that Woonsocket's basic problem in terms of historic preservation is a lack of awareness of the city's historic and architectural heritage, a lack of awareness of how this legacy contributes to the "liveability" of the city, and how, by capitalizing on this important resource, Woonsocket could become an even better place to live.*



Fig. 82: Woonsocket Institution for Savings Trust Department, 154-162 Main Street.

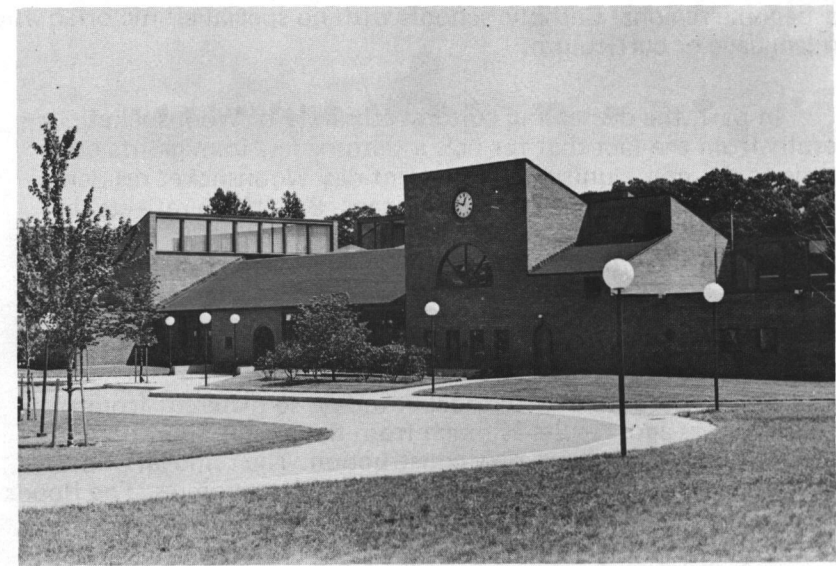


Fig. 83: Woonsocket-Harris Library (1974), 303 Clinton Street.

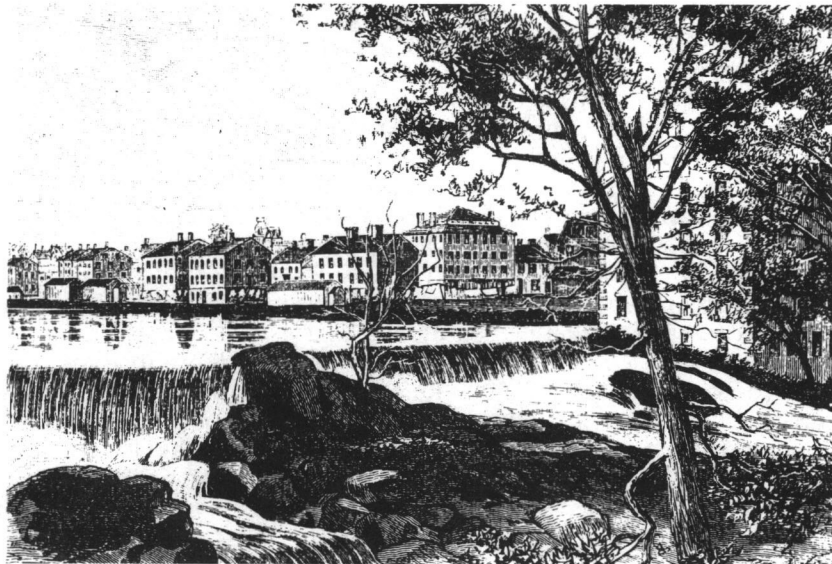


Fig. 84: Woonsocket Falls in the late 19th century (view from Providence & Worcester Co. brochure, *Summer Excursions*, 1882).



Fig. 85: Woonsocket Falls flood control barrier.

## SUMMARY

Woonsocket is a city with a rich and varied past, strongly influenced by physical geography. Man has lived here for thousands of years, yet the first settlement we know of occurred in the late seventeenth century when the Arnolds and Comstocks came to farm and utilize the power of Woonsocket Falls. For over a century, Woonsocket was a quiet backwoods region inhabited by Quaker farmers and millers, a way stop on the highway to Boston, Worcester, Connecticut or Providence. All this changed in the course of two decades. Between 1810 and 1830 six manufacturing villages sprang up. New settlers arrived, first from the surrounding towns, then from Europe. In the century between 1830 and 1930, Woonsocket was a textile center, prosperous, expanding, ethnically diverse. The city then experienced hardship, economic decay and a decline in population. In recent years, this drift has been checked. The population is again on the increase, the economy is reviving.

Throughout Woonsocket may be found the physical evidences of the city's past — Indian sites; the house of the first settler; milestones; early textile mills and power trenches; the dwellings of factory owners and factory hands; ethnic neighborhoods and ethnic churches; a city-like commercial district; a suburban-style residential area; a rubber boot factory; monumental three-deckers and informal bungalows; a civil war monument; a stone warehouse curved to accommodate a railroad spur; a hall in which Lincoln spoke.

The citizens of Woonsocket deserve to be proud of their city's heritage, proud of the districts, buildings and objects which make that heritage part of everyday life. The value of this cultural legacy must be realized, put to best use now for the people of Woonsocket, and protected for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made on the premise that broad-based community action along with energetic municipal coordination and direction are necessary to implement an effective preservation program. Agencies exist at the state and federal levels which can assist in various capacities, but long-lasting results can only occur with community initiative and determination.

### A. Education

Instilling an appreciation of Woonsocket's cultural heritage is crucial to preservation of the city's historic and architectural monuments. The excellent course in local history offered at Woonsocket High School and the lectures and tours sponsored by the Woonsocket Historical Society are a fine beginning. But more needs to be done. The school and Historical Society programs should be expanded so that everyone in Woonsocket is as familiar with John Arnold and Aram Pothier as Roger Williams and John Brown; as proud of Cato Hill and the North End as of Benefit Street and Bellevue Avenue.

New education programs should be instituted, including:

A series of guide maps locating and explaining Woonsocket's historic sites and neighborhoods.

Markers affixed to buildings and monuments to identify them and draw attention to their significance in the city.

A lecture course on Woonsocket architecture, keyed to problems of preservation and restoration — how to renovate an older building sympathetically, what types of remodeling to avoid. Such a course would help overcome prejudices against mill housing, three-deckers and Victorian detail, and curb "modernization" of old buildings by stripping away their trim to "streamline" them.

### B. Zoning

A review of Woonsocket's current zoning maps reveals that

the basic stability of the city's historic areas is due in part to zoning controls dating back to the 1920's. In order to safeguard the still unprotected architectural character of these districts, develop their potential as a resource, and promote private restoration, the city should create an Historic Districts Commission as provided in enabling legislation passed by the General Assembly in 1959. Rhode Island cities and towns which have taken advantage of this legislation (Providence, North Smithfield, Newport and others) have found that it is the most effective way to promote development of their cultural resources. A Woonsocket Historic Districts Commission would recommend historic zoning areas to the City Council for approval. If approved, demolition, new construction, and major alterations to existing structures would be guided by the Commission into patterns enhancing the stability and visual character of those neighborhoods.

The following list of districts should be considered for historic zoning (see Inventory, for descriptions):

*The Woonsocket Company Mills, Front Street*

*Cato Hill*

*Constitution Hill*

*Farm Street - North Main Street*

*Main Street - Depot Square*

*Lincoln Street*

*Chester Street*

*The North End*

*South Main Street - Providence Street*

*Carrington Avenue - Maple Street*

*Jenckesville, Social and Mill streets.*



### C. National Register Nominations

A number of properties in Woonsocket merit nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Entry on the National Register affords limited protection to historic properties from potentially damaging or disruptive federally funded projects. In addition, properties on the Register, either individually or as part of a district, are eligible for 50-50 matching restoration grants and special tax considerations (see appendix B).

Five buildings and two districts in Woonsocket have been nominated to the National Register: City Hall, the Woonsocket Opera House (now destroyed), the Harris Warehouse, the Stadium Theatre and Stadium Building, the Old Post Office, the Woonsocket Company (Bernon) Mills, and Cato Hill. In addition, the former St. Ann's Gymnasium, now Club Marquette, has been declared eligible for nomination. The following districts, buildings, and objects should also be considered:

*Constitution Hill*

*Depot Square*

*Lincoln Street*

*The North End*

*South Main Street – Providence Street*

*St. Ann's Church Complex*

*The Lippitt/Hanora Mill Complex*

*The Precious Blood Church Complex*

*The Linton Block, 3-5 Monument Square*

*The Eighteenth-Century Milestone, South Main Street*

*The Friends' Meeting House and Cemetery, Great Road*

*The Lagace-Gamache House, 73-75 Chester Street*

*St. Charles Borromeo Church Complex*

*Woonsocket Courthouse, 24 Front Street*

*The Sabin Pond House, 315 Grove Street*

*The Pothier House, 172 Pond Street*

*The Civil War Monument, Monument Square*

*The Frank Wilbur House, 1273 Park Avenue*

*The Henry Darling House, 786 Harris Avenue*

*The Alphonse Gaulin House, 311 Elm Street.*

The above list of possible National Register properties should not be considered final and absolute. As new research is conducted, as the city changes physically, and as perspectives on the community's history and what is culturally significant and worth saving there gradually evolve, other potential candidates for registration may be identified.

### D. Parks

According to federal planning standards, Woonsocket has a deficiency of park lands. The city is attempting to correct this situation by acquiring additional open space. Acquisition and development of at least one area as a park would be beneficial from the point of view of historic preservation: the shores of the Blackstone River from Woonsocket Falls to the railroad bridge below Court Street. Located in the heart of the city, a park here would provide much-needed passive recreational space. This riverside park would enhance nearby historic sites and structures like the falls and Bernon Mills, and protect an area which, to a surprising extent, looks much as it did before Woonsocket became an industrial center.

Acquisition of the Coe Farm site at the end of Jillson Avenue for park/conservation use would protect one of the last undeveloped areas in the city. It would protect a spot where residents can still get a sense of what the pre-industrial setting of Woonsocket was like.

#### E. Neighborhood Improvements

Certain of Woonsocket's historic neighborhoods, particularly Cato Hill and Constitution Hill, show signs of neglect. The city has already initiated efforts to upgrade these areas by making creative use of federal funds made available through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. There are a number of ways the city can aid neighborhood rehabilitation in Cato Hill and Constitution Hill using CDA monies: housing rehabilitation loans or grants; creation of small neighborhood parks, tot lots, and parking areas; improvement of street furniture, building sidewalks, grading, curbing, and tree planting; reconstruction of picket fences which defined the public and private spaces; removal of deteriorated structures beyond hope of restoration. More aggressive measures must also be studied: construction of new houses to "in-fill" between the existing historic structures to combat the "toothless" look produced by vacant lots; moving back-lot houses to the front of vacant lots for the same purpose; removal of inappropriate commercial uses from residential areas.

A study by Jeffrey A. Chmura titled *The Revitalization of Cato Hill*, which was suggested and aided by the state Preservation Commission and published by the city as part of its CDA program, attempts to put together suggestions like those outlined above with the specifics of one neighborhood. A similar study of Constitution Hill might prove to be a very useful planning document. Rehabilitation efforts in these districts should be keyed to their historic character — preserving and enhancing their social and architectural fabric.

#### F. The Central Business District

Woonsocket's downtown would benefit from a concerted renovation effort focused on its interesting old buildings. The rich architectural detail and variety found here could not be duplicated today in any new shopping area. The old downtown has the potential for becoming a very desirable adjunct to the "New Downtown" in the Social Flatlands.

Exterior renovation of buildings should take the form of restoration rather than "modernization." For example, many buildings in the area now have storefronts which detract from

their architectural quality and interest. Replacing these with appropriate storefronts should be encouraged. Other exterior alterations, including signs, should be done in the same spirit. The proposed Historic Districts Commission, in conjunction with the city's Department of Planning and Development, should be prepared to advise businessmen on how to make best use of their historic buildings.

The scale and massing of buildings in the downtown is as important as their detailing. New structures planned for Main Street and Monument Square should be at least two stories high and located on the edge of the sidewalk; consideration should be given to the replacement or alteration of existing one story structures in the area.

Parking, so vital to a business district, ought not to be in open, ground-level lots along Main Street, but in lots off the by-pass, or in parking structures.

#### G. Tax Relief

An effective way to promote restoration in historic areas is through tax policy. By withholding increased valuations and higher taxes on restored properties for a designated period of time, restoration work will be dramatically increased. This technique was successfully utilized in Providence to encourage restoration in the Benefit Street area.

#### H. Private Rehabilitation Efforts

Obviously, most restoration work can and should be carried out, not by government, but by private firms and individuals. In many cases all that is needed is a continued program of maintenance, in other instances much effort will be required to bring a heavily altered or deteriorated structure back to viable use. For the convenience of local property owners the city's Department of Building and Inspections has published a very handy sheet on which are listed building improvements that can presently be made without a tax increase and improvements that do not require a permit. These lists are presented in part here so that the reader will know what sort of work he can do without worrying about extra taxes or getting formal approval.

## Some Improvements Which Will Not Increase Your Taxes

- landscaping - lawns
- paving - walks
- retaining walls
- roofing and siding (replacement or repair)
- porches and steps (repair)
- masonry repair
- painting and decorating (inside or out)
- plaster or wallboard repair
- heating systems (replacement with like kind).

## Some Improvements Which Do Not Require a Permit

- landscaping
- paving - walks, patios
- retaining walls less than 12 feet high
- painting - inside or out
- siding
- plastering
- replacing windows if they are the same size
- replacing porch steps, treads, etc.
- cabinet work (without plumbing or electrical connections)
- gutter repair
- ceilings which are not hung.

## I. Federal Tax Incentives

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 provides important new tax incentives for preserving commercial properties and alters provisions in the federal tax code which have worked against historical preservation. Commercial, industrial or rented residential properties that qualify as "certified historic structures" are entitled to tax advantages under the new act. A "certified historic structure" is defined in the law as a depreciable structure which is (A) listed in the National Register, (B) located in a National Register historic district and is certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being of historic significance to the district, or (C) located in a local historic zoning district certified by the Secretary of the Interior to be controlled by design review procedures which will substantially achieve the purpose of preserving and rehabilitating buildings of historic significance.

One provision of the Act permits the owner of a certified historic structure to write off, over a five-year period, expenditures which are part of a certified rehabilitation of the property. Before passage of the Tax Reform Act, property owners were required to spread deductions over the life of the property, which for most buildings was much longer than five years. The new law allows larger tax savings in shorter time, thus encouraging owners to rehabilitate historic commercial properties.


A more complex provision allows taxpayers to depreciate "substantially rehabilitated historic property" as though they were the original users of the property, entitling them to use the accelerated depreciation which could previously only be used for new buildings.

The code discourages demolition of certified historic properties through a variety of means. Demolition costs can no longer be deducted, and demolition can now result in increased taxes on the vacated site of an historic structure and on any new building replacing such a structure.

Although the Tax Reform Act of 1976 needs further analysis and clarification, it will clearly make the preservation of historic buildings more economically feasible. Any property owner interested in learning more about the historical preservation provisions of the Act should contact a tax analyst or the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.



Fig. 86: Rathbun's Block, Main Street, from an ad in the *Woonsocket Patriot*, 1843.

HISTORIC BUILDING DATA SHEET RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE SURVEY PHASE 1		COUNTY
PLAT <u>19-H</u> LOT <u>1</u>		Providence
VILLAGE <u>---</u>	KNOWN AS <u>John Ellis House</u>	CITY/TOWN
OWNER <u>Margaret F. Powers</u>	PHOTO NO. <u>P-W-34-1</u>	Woonsocket
PRESENT USE <u>Apts.</u>	ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u>	ROAD
LAND USE <u>Residential</u>	ARCHITECT <u>?</u>	Prospect Street
STYLE <u>Late Victorian (LV) bracketed</u>	CONSTRUCTION DATE <u>c.1876</u>	MAP NO.
CONDITION <u>Excellent</u>	SOURCE OF DATE <u>Directories</u>	121
REMODELING <u>Minor</u>	HISTORY: MAPS	PRIORITY
DESCRIPTION: STORIES <u>2½</u>	<u>1851, 62, 70 -- not on</u>	
ROOF <u>Gable, flank to street w/small cross-gable</u>	<u>1895 -- house is shown</u>	
CHIMNEYS <u>2 corbelled brick on ridge</u>	<u>1911 -- D; 1955 -- D</u>	
FOUNDATION <u>Stucco, 2'</u>	OLD PHOTOS <u>---</u>	
WALL COVER <u>Wood clapboard</u>	SOURCE <u>---</u>	
ENTRANCE <u>Central in 3-bay facade</u>	OTHER:	
WINDOWS <u>2/2 d.h.; bracketed lintels on 1st story windows; 2nd floor windows</u>	<u>Dir., 1877 - John W. Ellis, RR Engineer</u>	
<u>OTHER: are segmental headed; oculus in cross-gable.</u>	<u>Dir., 1884 - Frank S. Thayer, restaurant, Main Street</u>	
<u>House has a good bracketed portico. This is one of a group of similar houses dating from c.1865-c.1885;</u>	REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	
<u>See 37 Earle Street</u>	<u>Woonsocket Directories</u>	
OUTBUILDINGS <u>ET garage R. Rear</u>	<u>Bayles, History of Providence County, v. II, pp 393-94 (biog. of Ellis)</u>	
SITE/LANDSCAPE <u>Set back 20'</u>	HISTORIC VALUE <u>1</u>	
<u>Appropriately landscaped</u>	DATE OF INSPECTION <u>8-73</u>	
ARCHITECTURAL VALUE <u>3A</u>		
SURVEYOR <u>DC</u>		

## APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

A standard survey form, the "Historic Building Data Sheet," has been prepared by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission for use throughout the state. This survey sheet allocates sections to architectural and historical data. Architectural aspects covered include style, condition and remodeling, specific details, and environmental considerations. The historical categories include relevant dates, identification on historic maps, sources of early photographs, bibliographical references, and specific events or individuals with which the property is associated. The property itself is identified by map or street number, plat and lot numbers, and ownership. In most cases, a photograph is attached to each survey sheet.

Architectural ratings have been assigned on a 0-4 continuum. The highest rating, 4, has been reserved for those structures deemed to be of outstanding importance; these buildings are the most significant architectural monuments of Woonsocket and are, in most instances, key visual landmarks — focal points defining the character of a specific area. The intermediate ratings 2 and 3 constitute the bulk of the historic fabric of the city. They form an indispensable setting, an overall visual context, essential to the outstanding structures and sites. The rating 1 designates buildings of little intrinsic architectural value. In many cases, however, they were deemed good "background buildings" filling in among the more important properties. The rating 0 has been assigned to buildings which contribute in no positive manner to this historic fabric. An "A" has been added to the numerical value of properties deemed important to the fabric of a neighborhood; loss of such a building would result in damage to the environment.

Similarly, historical values have been assigned as follows: 0 — no known value, 1 — local value, 2 — state value, 3 — national value. The "A" designation has also been used here, to denote a structure which has particular local significance.

Buildings that have been significantly altered in appearance on the exterior were assigned lower ratings than were better preserved structures of the same period; an interior examination might prove that many of these structures are worthy of a higher architectural value. Likewise, a later discovery of an important historical fact might raise the historical rating of properties about which little is presently known.

Fig. 87: Sample survey sheet.

Data from the survey sheets has been transferred to a series of four maps. One map presents the entire city at a 1" = 1200' scale; all historic properties not located in major clusters or districts are indicated on it, and the center of the city and several other areas are shown as districts which are presented on the three other maps, each at a 1" = 100' scale. Every structure within each district is shown on these detailed maps, along with the address, a code for period or style, and the architectural and historic ratings. See sample section of district map PW-3. These maps make information pertaining to Woonsocket's cultural resources readily available for all planning purposes.

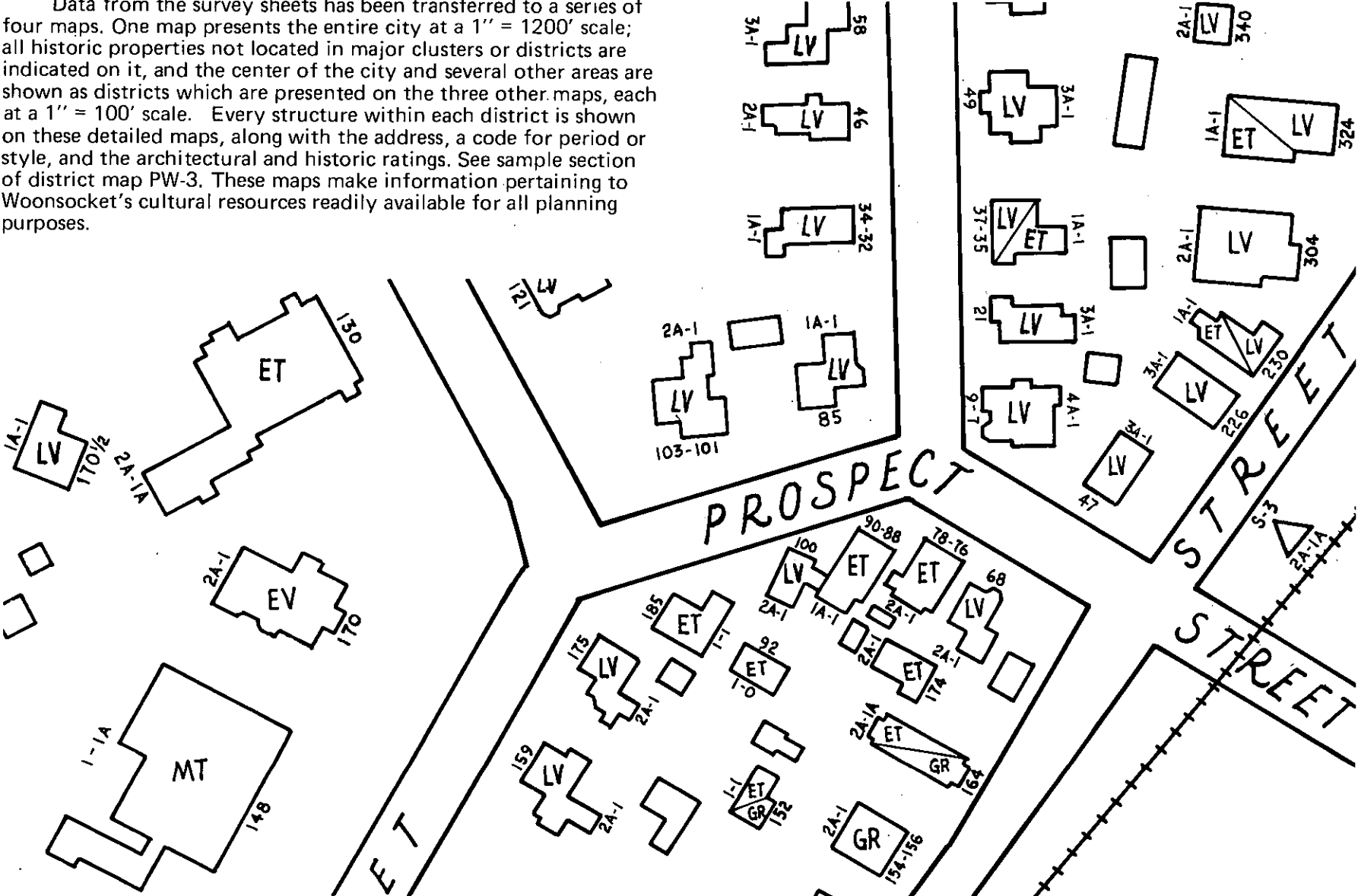


Fig. 88: Sample section of a survey map.

## APPENDIX B: GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

Since 1971 the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission has been able to award fifty percent matching grants for the restoration or acquisition of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Federal legislation is now pending to establish a \$150 million National Historic Preservation Fund and this could make the 1977 Grant Program significantly larger than in previous years. To date almost 100 grants have been awarded to municipal governments, local historical societies, community organizations, the State of Rhode Island, and private individuals for projects throughout the state. These grants have generally ranged in size from \$1,000 to \$50,000 with the grantee providing an equal amount. Grantees also benefit from the expertise of restoration professionals working on the staff of the Preservation Commission.

Allowable work under this program includes exterior and interior restoration, structural repairs, installation or updating of utility systems, architectural fees, archaeology, historical research, and the installation of protective systems. New construction, furnishings, and modern landscaping are not allowable costs. To ensure an accurate restoration and work of high quality, an architect must be engaged to prepare plans and specifications and to supervise project work. The selection of paint and mortar colors must be based on historical analysis and approved by the Preservation Commission. Due to the high standards of the National Park Service and the added cost of older building materials and methods, this program sometimes increases the total cost of the project. Applicants should therefore be interested in obtaining professional guidance from the Preservation Commission for their project as well as financial assistance.

An easement designed to protect the property after project completion and ensure its continuing public benefit must be signed by the owner. This agreement is for a minimum of twenty years and requires the owner to maintain the building and grounds, make no alterations without the prior approval of the Preservation Commission, and allow the public to view the property at least twelve days a year. When the grant does not involve interior restoration, these restrictions apply only to the exterior of the building.

Matching funds can come from any non-federal source, from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and in the form of donated services, real property, or equipment. Grant applicants are urged to submit requests for the maximum amount for

which they have matching capability. This will enable Rhode Island to secure a large apportionment of grant funds from the federal government, and, as the amount of the grant award is frequently a percentage of the applicant's request, will help the applicant obtain a larger grant.

The deadline for the submission of applications to the Preservation Commission is May 1st. All of the proposed projects will be carefully reviewed, and when the National Park Service informs Rhode Island of its fiscal appropriation, the annual grant awards will be announced by the Commission. This usually occurs in December. Grant recipients will then have four months to prepare plans and specifications for review by the National Park Service. When the Park Service has approved this material, grantees will have one year to complete the project work.

For further information about the Grant-in-Aid Program, applicants should call (277-2678) or write the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903.

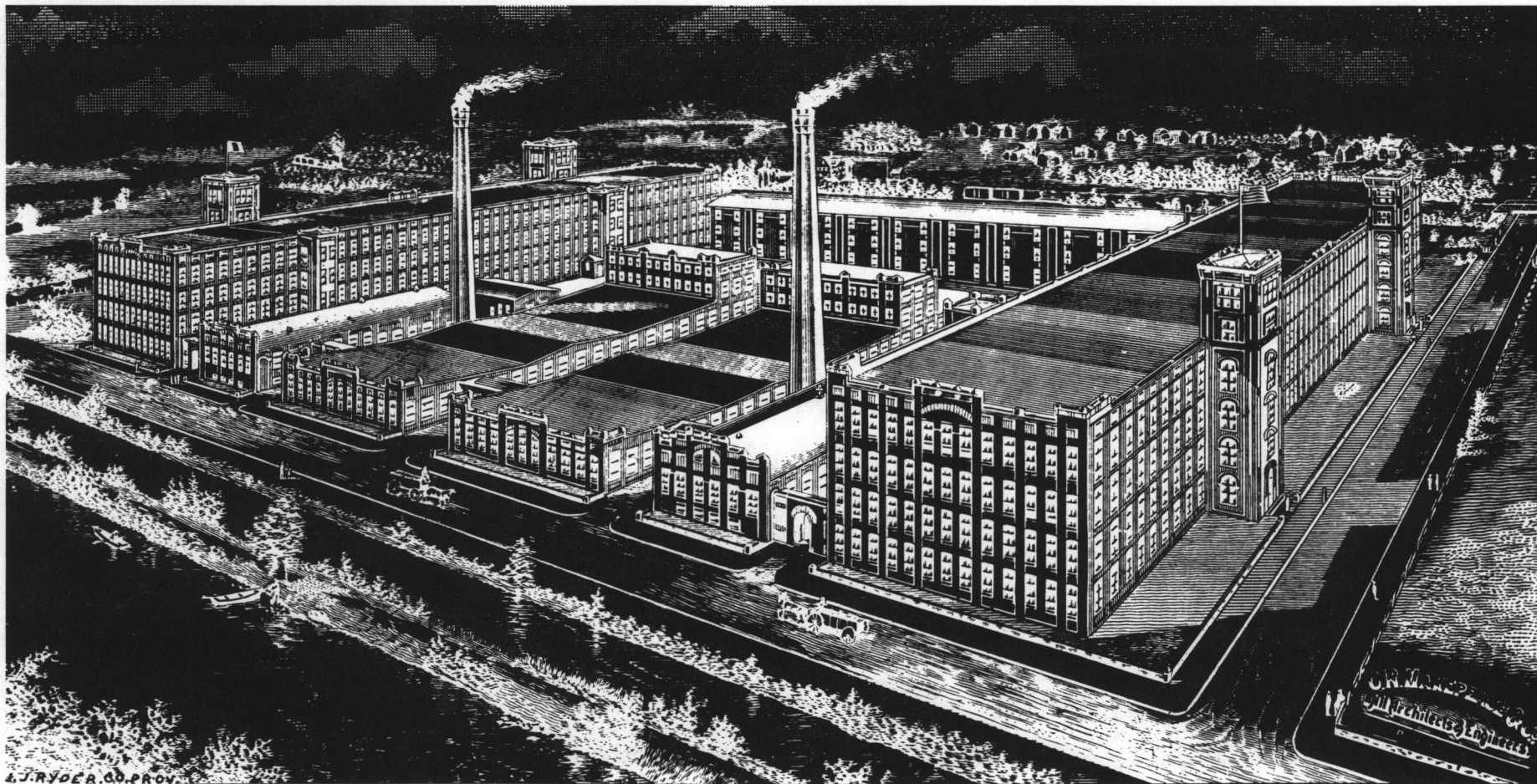


Fig. 89: The Florence Dye Works (1894), Villa Nova Street; designed for the River Spinning Co., the complex was only partially built (view from *Woonsocket Directory*, 1900).

## APPENDIX C: INVENTORY

The inventory is a list of sites, structures, districts, and objects of cultural significance in Woonsocket. Entries have historic, architectural, or archeological significance either in themselves, by association, or, in the case of some buildings, as representative examples of a common architectural type.

The names associated with many buildings (such as 73 Andrews Street, the "Jarvis Arnold House") are either current names or the names of the earliest known owner or occupant, taken, for the most part, from street directories and in some cases from deed records; more extensive research could change some of these designations. The majority of the building dates are based on stylistic analysis, map histories, and street directories. Unless otherwise indicated, all buildings are of wood frame construction.

Entries are listed alphabetically by street and then in numerical order by street number. Entries having no street number (bridges, monuments, parks, etc.) have usually been assigned numbers, and these are given in brackets.

### Andrews Street

- 73 The Jarvis Arnold House (c. 1894): A large 2½-story Queen Anne house, picturesque in massing, accented by a large square tower. It was built by Jarvis Arnold, bookkeeper for the Harris Woolen Mills. The building has excellent detailing on the porch and in the spindle-work in-fill of the gables.

- 100 The Andrews Street School (1895): A fine elementary school with simple Colonial Revival detailing.

### Arnold Street

- 80-86 (c. 1900): A brick 3-decker, characteristic of the earliest buildings of this type by virtue of its heavy projected cornice and delicate turned porch posts.

- 109 The James Arnold "Mansion" (c. 1840): A descendant of Woonsocket's founder, John Arnold, James Arnold owned most of the property at the Falls in the early nineteenth century. His house, occupying a commanding site, is distinguished by a colossal Greek Revival portico.

- 122 First Assembly Church of God, former State Armory (1873): This much altered stone-trimmed brick building was Woonsocket's second armory.

- 131-139 Red's Book Shop (c. 1865): A 3½-story Gothic Revival building with stores in the basement story, apartments above — an unusual, but quite handsome structure.

- 147-149 The E. Very House (c. 1840): A 1½-story two-family cottage with good, simple Greek Revival trim, typical of the housing occupied by mill operatives and tradesmen in the first era of Woonsocket's industrial prosperity.

- 329 I. Medoff, the Arthur Darman Building (1918): A handsome brick industrial building, having all the elegance and monumentality Arthur Darman demanded in the structures he erected.

- 339 (c. 1933): In architectural terms, Woonsocket's finest gas station — a picturesque stone-faced building with slate roofs and an octagonal tower.

### Ballou Street

- 38 The A. Melville Robinson House (c. 1900): This large single-family house was owned by Melville Robinson, manufacturer of window frames, doors and dye tubs; its architectural treatment is transitional, combining Queen Anne and Colonial Revival motifs.

- 45 The Gilbert Darling House (c. 1840): An excellent, well preserved example of a medium-size Greek Revival house. The 2½-story facade has a pedimented gable treatment and heavy paneled corner pilasters, echoed in the large-scale entablature and pilasters which frame the entrance. The house has a typical side hall,

double parlor plan. It was owned in the 1850's by Gilbert Darling, a dry goods merchant; in the 1870's it was moved to this site from South Main Street, and Darling moved to Harris Avenue.

### Bancroft Court

- 1 Bancroft Sporting Goods Company (1916): This large reinforced concrete industrial building was erected by Taft-Pierce, but now is the home of Bancroft, a leading manufacturer of tennis rackets.

### Barton Street

- 26 (c. 1893): A small-scale Queen Anne cottage with irregular massing and good detail, including wall treatment combining fields of plain clapboard banded with fancy cut shingles and bordered by fascia and corner boards. Such houses, though not common, are found throughout the city. This house was probably designed by Willard Kent and was occupied by him for a few years in the mid-1890's.

### Bentley Street

- 9,17, 26,27, 36,39 Bentley Street District: This short, dead end residential street is lined with typical mid-nineteenth century houses, both single family cottages and larger multi-family dwellings. The historic and architectural development of this street parallels that of Cato Hill.

### Bernice Avenue

- (c. 1890): These six Queen Anne cottages, originally very much alike and similar to 26 Barton Street, were built in a semi-circle on the north side of the street; since then, three have been moved across the road. This is the largest enclave of such houses in the city.
- 63 (c. 1900): Residence of Kevin Coleman, one of Woonsocket's best-known mayors, and later director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration.



- Bernon Street**
- 21 The Bartlett Mill (1827): The 4-story stone-rubble-walled textile mill, second oldest in the city, was built by Dan A. Daniels in 1827; here cotton yarn was spun on 6,000 spindles. In 1840 the building was bought by John Bartlett, for whom it is still known. It was gutted by fire in 1976. 150,160
- (S-12) Bernon Street Bridge (1912): This graceful reinforced concrete span replaced a series of earlier bridges dating back to the early development of Bernon as an industrial village in the 1820's. 187
- 219 Jolicoeur Furniture Co., former I.O.O.F. Building (c. 1893): 3½-story wood-trimmed brick commercial block housing what was the meeting hall of the International Order of Odd Fellows. 267
- 289-291 (c. 1890): 2½-story Queen Anne double house. 298
- Blackstone Street**
- 38-42 (c. 1874): 3½-story mansard-roofed commercial/residential building distinguished by boldly projected bay windows and an octagonal corner tower. 312
- 85-87 (c. 1861): This 2½-story bracketed building is but one of many residential and commercial structures built by Edwin B. Miller, one of the city's most active mid-nineteenth century real estate developers. 338-348
- 107 (c. 1851): An L-plan, Italianate house, by 1870 the property of Billings S. Farrington, a Main Street watchmaker and jeweler. 394
- 121 The Rev. John Boyden House (c. 1845): This much remodelled 2½-story house was the home of John Boyden (1809-1869), first pastor of Woonsocket's Universalist Church. Boyden was prominent in reform movements of the day, including temperance, public education, and anti-slavery. 426-428
- 128 (c. 1872): A very fine bracketed house with massively scaled detailing, of a type built in Woonsocket in less elaborated versions in the late 1860's, '70's and early '80's (see 37 Earle Street). 540
- (c. 1865): Two similar 1½-story bracketed cottages.
- The Aquila Cook House (c. 1867): Aquila Cook was a brush manufacturer. His 2½-story mansard-roofed house, with 3-bay facade, central entrance, porch, and bracketed detailing, is a relatively simple but well preserved example of a whole group of similar upper middle class dwellings built in Woonsocket in the late 1860's.
- Former First Presbyterian Church (1904): A small, informal, shingled church building, from the mid-1950's through the mid-1970's occupied by a Black congregation as St. James Baptist Church.
- The First Baptist Church (1891): A very handsome brick church, accented by a 60-foot spire, and remarkable for fine stained-glass windows. It was designed by an architect named Butterfield of Manchester, New Hampshire, and was built by Darling Brothers of Worcester; the cost was about \$29,000.
- The Horace Pearce House (c. 1840): A curious vernacular Greek Revival cottage with a Doric porch which is completely "incorrect" in architectural terms, but a classic of the period. Horace M. Pearce was a supporter of Thomas Dorr in the Dorr Rebellion of 1842, and later became Woonsocket's first police chief.
- (c. 1890): This Queen Anne double house, is identical to 424-427 South Main Street.
- St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church (1923): This church is the center of one of Woonsocket's many ethnic parishes; architecturally it is distinguished by three "onion" domes surmounted by crosses in the Slavic tradition.
- (c. 1897): Large 2½-story Queen Anne house with octagonal 3-story tower.
- The Daniel Pond House (1865): Though a 1½-story house, this is a very impressive dwelling; despite its address, it faces Verry Street. The building was designed by H. C. Martin of Boston and erected by Stephen Clark for Daniel Pond, owner of Pond's Warp Mill. Pond was the first textile manufacturer in Rhode Island to shorten his employees' working day to eight hours. He was also active in politics, was the framer of Woonsocket's first city charter, served in the General Assembly, and was mayor from 1890 to 1893.
- Carnation Street**
- 96 The Mowry Farmhouse (c. 1875): An unusual 1½-story stone cottage, the focus of the Mowry farm which once encompassed this entire neighborhood.
- Carrington Avenue**
- The Carrington Avenue — Maple Street District: Substantial late nineteenth and early twentieth century upper middle class dwellings typify the area; most were originally single family houses. The district runs along Carrington Avenue from Park Avenue to Welles Street and up Maple Street to Willow Street.
- 23 (c. 1885): This somewhat altered 2½-story Late Victorian bracketed house was the home of Adelard Archambault, a French-Canadian lawyer who came to Rhode Island in 1891 and quickly became prominent in state politics, serving as lieutenant governor in 1903-04, and then as mayor in 1906, 1907 and 1917.
- 92 Church of the Precious Blood (1881): This is the oldest French-Canadian church in Woonsocket. Work on a building was begun in 1874, but that structure was destroyed and replaced by the present building, designed in part by W. F. Fontaine & Sons. It is a characteristic Victorian Gothic church: brick with trim in light-colored stone. The interior preserves fine polychrome stenciling. The handsome copper-trimmed belfry is an early twentieth century alteration. The church building is surrounded by a typical

complex of ancillary buildings including a rectory and the former school building, now being converted for residential use. In front of the church is a bust of Monseigneur Charles Dauray who was a key figure in the early religious and social life of Woonsocket's French-Canadian community.

- 113** (c. 1890): A large Late Victorian house with characteristic tower and porch detailing.
- 127** Menard's Funeral Home (c. 1898): A large Late Victorian house with good porch detailing.
- 157-159** The Erastus Richardson House (c. 1865): A fairly simple late nineteenth century house, it was occupied by Erastus Richardson who was bookkeeper for the Lippitt Woolen Company. Richardson is remembered as the author of Woonsocket's often humorous first published history, done for the Centennial Celebration of 1876.
- 194** The Joseph Beaulieu House (c. 1923): 2-story brick and shingle double house, first occupied by Joseph Beaulieu, a chiropractor and optometrist, and Joseph Roy, president of the J. L. Flearant Insurance Agency.
- 199** The George Welles House (c. 1903): A picturesque 2½-story shingled home designed to look like an informal 1½-story cottage. It was owned by George M. Welles of the City Lumber Company.
- 215** The Charles Welles House (c. 1901): A late Queen Anne house with a remarkable projected 3-story circular tower girdled by a 1-story porch.
- 269** (c. 1890): A large Queen Anne house noteworthy for a very fine porch.
- 455-457** (c. 1890): A large 2½-story Queen Anne house, at one time the home of Felix Toupin, a controversial and very independent politician who served as mayor from 1931 to 1936 as a Democrat, and in 1939 and 1940 as a Republican. In the 1920's, while a Lincoln resident, Toupin

served as lieutenant governor and, as the chief Democrat in the Senate in 1924, played a key role in the notorious filibuster which disrupted the legislature session that year.

### Cato Hill Historic District

This mid-nineteenth century working-class residential neighborhood is one of the most intact historic areas in the city. It is traversed by Cato Street, Church Street, Boyden Street, and four lanes — Cato, Clarkin, Burt's, and Holder. Arnold Street, Blackstone Street, Monument Square, Main Street and Railroad Street surround the district.

### Cato Street

- 132** The Kelley House (c. 1840): A fully realized, temple-form Greek Revival house, this dwelling was, by the 1850's and through the 1870's, occupied by members of the Kelley or Kelly family, who worked as masons, milliners, laborers, and mill hands.
- 171** (c. 1840): A typical Greek Revival cottage with a simple central entrance flanked by paired windows, it was moved back from the front of the lot. It was probably lived in by Edward Cassidy, a watchman, in the 1850's.

### Center Street

- 71-73** (c. 1900): This building was the home of "Nap" Lajoie, the famous baseball player, from 1910 to 1914; it was his last home in the city.

### Chalapa Avenue

- 108** (c. 1900): In the late 1920's this was the residence of Phydime Hemond, a leader during the Sentinellist Controversy.

### Chester Street

Chester Street-Rathbun Street District: This district, filled with architecturally

noteworthy 3-deckers, runs the full length of Chester Street from Social to George, up George Street to Rathbun Street, and encompasses a section of Rathbun Street at this intersection including 312-314, 320, 330, and 332 Rathbun. Most of the buildings in the district date from about 1910, with those on Rathbun Street dating perhaps ten or fifteen years later. The Lagace-Gamache House (c. 1917): The finest 3-decker in the city, it is a marvelous building visually, with an interesting history. The builder, Jean-Baptiste Lagace, moulded the concrete blocks for the building himself with block-forming machinery which was readily available in the period (Sears & Roebuck advertised them). Lagace built this highly ornamental building for his daughter and son-in-law, Thomas M. Gamache, a bookkeeper.

**73-75**

- 119** (c. 1905): One of the earlier 3-deckers on the street, marked by a handsome and very delicate 3-story porch.

### Church Street

- 28-30** The First Vose House (c. 1840): This Greek Revival double cottage was occupied in the 1850's by Alvah Vose, a top roller coverer, and Alonzo D. Vose, owner of the Woonsocket Baking Company.
- 61** The Second Vose House (c. 1865): A 2½-story house with side hall plan and fancy bracketed detailing. It belonged to members of the Vose family and in 1870 was occupied by Alvah Vose, a top roller coverer.
- 62** (c. 1840): This 2½-story house is the largest Greek Revival dwelling in the Cato Hill District.
- 70** The Martha Kimball House (c. 1840, c. 1880): Originally only 1½-stories, a new first floor was added under the original house in about 1880, and that is why the detail of the upper section is earlier in style than that of the lower portion of

the building.  
113 (c. 1861): This late example of a simple Greek Revival cottage suggests how long this treatment was popular for simple dwellings in unassuming neighborhoods like Cato Hill.

151 (c. 1885): A typical and well preserved 2½-story bracketed 2-family house of the 1880's.

168 (c. 1905): This 1-story shingle-clad building originally served as a "Ward Room" — a city-owned neighborhood center. Later it housed the Ukrainian-American Veterans Association to which many neighborhood residents belonged; now it serves as the Rotary Club Emergency Shelter.

#### Clarkin Lane

11 (c. 1872): This house represents nineteenth century domestic architecture at its simplest, revealing how even such a modest building can have a certain grace and character by virtue of its good proportions and directness.

#### Clinton Street

242 The New Woonsocket Police Station (1975): This handsome brick building, of contemporary design, is the work of the Providence architectural firm Robinson, Green, Beretta, and signals the automobile-oriented shift in the development of the city into the "new downtown" which occupies the Social Flatlands.

303 The Woonsocket-Harris Library (1974): Designed by William Warner & Associates, the new brick library is among the finest contemporary buildings in the city, and was the first major structure completed in the "new downtown."

#### Coe Street

78 (c. 1885): A highly decorated Late Victorian cottage with well preserved bracketed detail.

224 (c. 1875): An elaborate 2½-story, man-

sard-roofed house accented by a 3½-story corner tower.

262 The Samuel Darling House (c. 1840): The Darling house is a 1½-story building with a 1-story ell. The main block has bold Greek Revival trim and a typical entrance with pilasters flanking sidelights and supporting a heavy entablature. Samuel Darling (probably a farmer) sold tripe in Woonsocket in the 1850's.

322 The Henry S. Darling House (c. 1926): Henry Darling was an officer of the Woonsocket Court when he built this dwelling. It is an outstanding example of the bungalow type, with a broad, sheltering gable roof carried over a porch that runs across the full length of the house. The chimney and porch post supports are faced with small, round beach stones.

#### Conrad Street

70 The Norman Oliver House: Here lived Norman Oliver (1914-1974), a well-known research scientist, physicist, and authority on the aurora borealis.

#### Constitution Hill Historic District:

The Constitution Hill district is a well preserved late nineteenth century working-class residential enclave. Its boundaries are defined by the Blackstone River on the north and east; by South Main Street on the south; the rear lot lines of properties along the south side of South Street; West Street (so as to include 167 West Street within the district) to Cherry Brook; and then follows Cherry Brook to the Blackstone River.

#### Court Street

10-18 The Globe Building (c. 1900): 2-story brick-faced commercial block with intricately patterned wood trim. The building occupies a key site facing Depot Square.

(S-10) The Hiker Monument (1925): Designed by Allen Newman of New York, this Spanish American War memorial is said to have gotten its name because, according to a WPA-produced Rhode Island guidebook of the 1930's, it represents "an American soldier hiking along with a devil-may-care attitude."

#### Cumberland Hill Road

5 Woonsocket Fire Station #2 — "Place Jolicoeur". Architecturally, the fire station is a good building, but the real significance of this site derives from the memorials around the building: The Firemen's Monument (1939); and Place Jolicoeur, named to honor William Jolicoeur of Woonsocket who died in World War I. "Place Jolicoeur" was dedicated in 1921 with ceremonies led by France's Marshall Foch. Also in the plaza is a monument dedicated to the memory of Alexandre, Henri, and Louis Gagne — brothers who died in World War II.

S-25, S-26 Woonsocket Historical Cemeteries 1, 2, 3, and 4: Cemeteries 1 and 2 date from the early nineteenth century and contain the graves of many old local families including the Bicknells, Darlings, Ballous, Cooks, and Smiths. There also is the well executed 1843 headstone of Joseph Capron, a Revolutionary War veteran. Cemeteries 3 and 4 are the Congregation B'nai Israel Cemetery and the Rumanian Orthodox Cemetery. Taken together, these burial grounds reflect the ethnic transformation of the city.

#### Cumberland Street

74 Club Marquette, formerly St. Ann's Gymnasium (1894): This building originally housed a 700 seat theatre and a gymnasium; it was a focus for activity in the heavily French-Canadian Social neighborhood. Built in 1894 in what was then de-

scribed as the "Moorish" style, this was the first major commission for Walter Fontaine, an architect who went on to have a long and distinguished career in the city. The theatre was used for concerts and French language plays, many written by a local author, Victor Vekeman, and these presentations were put on not only as entertainments but as a means for preserving the French cultural heritage. During the 1920's the building was used by adherents of the Sentinellist cause for speeches and rallies. Since 1942 this has been the home of the Club Marquette — a major French-Canadian organization in the city — and it was here that the Marquette Credit Union was founded.

- 98 St. Ann's Church (1914): Architecturally, this is Woonsocket's most impressive church. Both within and without it is a grand, monumental structure. The architect for this twin-towered, yellow brick edifice was Walter Fontaine. The interior is decorated with murals executed between 1941 and 1953 by Guido Nincheri and this decor is complimented by large-scale statues and fine marble church furniture.

#### Daniels Street

- 42-52 St. Charles School (1897): A massive brick structure, the school was aptly described as being of a "mixed order" of architecture. It is, nonetheless, an interesting building, historically significant as an adjunct to St. Charles Borromeo Church, the city's oldest Catholic institution.

#### Depot Square

(see Main Street)

#### Diamond Hill Road

Precious Blood Cemetery: Many prominent Woonsocket residents are buried

here, including Aram Pothier whose impressive monument, in the form of an exedra, crowns the burial ground's central hill.

- 244-246 This typical 3-decker was the home of Adelard L. Soucy when he became mayor in 1919; he continued to reside here until moving to Rathbun Street in 1922.
- 825 The Ciavarini House (c. 1950): This updated version of an adobe dwelling of the American Southwest is the most distinguished house of contemporary design in the city and was first occupied by Augusto and Virginia Ciavarini. Augusto Ciavarini was listed as a bartender in the directories.
- 947 The Italian Workingmen's Club (c. 1935): This is one of Woonsocket's many ethnically oriented associations.
- 2324 (c. 1800): This rambling, much added-to farm house, located in what was a remote part of town, belonged to Wanton Green in the mid-nineteenth century. His 60 acre farm was worth \$1800 in 1860. He had 1 horse, 4 cows, and 3 pigs and the farm's principal cash product was butter.

#### Earle Street

- 37 (c. 1880): A 2½-story upper middle class house of a type built in Woonsocket in the late 1860's, '70's and early 1880's. Characteristically, these houses have a gable roof intersected by a small cross-gable accenting the center entrance bay of a 3-bay facade. The detailing consists of bracketed cornices, heavy moulded lintels and, in some cases, elaborated windows in the second and third stories of the entrance bay. The dwellings have porches, either running across the entire front or restricted to an entrance portico. Examples may be found at 128 Blackstone Street, 55-57 Hamlet Avenue, 121, 219, and 563 Prospect Street, 492 South Main Street, and 157-159 West Street.
- 83 The Latimer Ballou House (c. 1845): This 2½-story Greek Revival house with Late Victorian alterations was the home of

Latimer W. Ballou (1812-1900), a Woonsocket business and civic leader active in politics. He was a founder of the Rhode Island Republican Party and served in the United States House of Representatives from 1875 to 1881.

- 131-133 The Arnold Briggs House (c. 1845): Though heavily altered, this is the only Gothic Revival dwelling in the city. Gothic cottages were popular in this country in the 1840's and 50's, especially in resorts like Newport. The chief indicators of this building's original character are its steep gables and pierced, gothic, tracery inspired barge board. Arnold Briggs was superintendent of a cotton mill.
- 156 The Almon Miller House (c. 1855): This 1½-story Greek Revival cottage was owned by Almon G. Miller, a grocer.
- 159 St. Charles Convent (1878): 2½-story mansard-roofed residence built for the nuns of St. Charles Borromeo.

#### East Street

- 64 The former Glenark Mill (c. 1865, 1885): The original stone section of this textile complex was built by the Ballous, owners of the Globe Mill on the lower privilege on this side of the river. Originally a cotton mill, the complex was converted to use as the Glenark Knitting Mill, and then to use as a worsted mill. More recently a dyeworks was housed here. Located on the river's edge immediately above the Falls, the mill complex, with its striking chimney stack, is a visual asset to the city center.
- 74, 90 (c. 1885, c. 1890): This pair of multi-family residential structures was built by Lawrence Reilly who ran a coal yard nearby. 74 East Street was the first dwelling built on this side of the street. Reilly occupied an apartment in one of the buildings.
- 108, 120 (c. 1887, c. 1890): Like 74 and 90 East Street, this pair of houses was built and

occupied by a local tradesman. The 2-family homes were put-up by a mason, Patrick Smith. Together with the very similar buildings at 124, 136, and 146 East Street, they create one of the city's most appealing streetscapes.

124,  
136,  
146  
(c. 1888): Apparently all built at once, these 2½-story, 2-family houses were erected by Seth Getchell who lived close-by on Olo Street. They are set gable-end to the street, their 2-bay, bracket-trimmed facades dominated by 2-story bay windows and hooded side hall entrances. Similar 2½-story, 2-family bracketed homes, all dating from the 1880's or early '90's, may be found throughout Woonsocket.

#### East Orchard Street

(S-27) The Vose Cemetery (R. 1./Woonsocket Historical Cemetery #10): The Vose Cemetery is a large family burial plot located on a quiet side street. Its headstones and monuments, shaded by cedar trees, are protected by a high chain-link fence. This should, perhaps, more properly be called the Arnold cemetery, for it is on what was John Arnold's farm; his grave, dating from 1756, is the oldest in the cemetery, and other Arnolds are buried here. The Arnolds were linked with other families through marriage and the headstones of many of these relations are also found here, including Paine, Ray, and Vose monuments. In the nineteenth century the burial ground was part of the Willing Vose farm.

#### East School Street

422-424 (c. 1880): An unusual 2½-story stone double house.

493 The Rumanian Orthodox Church (1922): This simple brick church was built by Woonsocket's Rumanian Orthodox community which had organized a parish as early as 1912. The building's octagonal belfry and Romanesque-inspired entrance

are details intended to reflect characteristic "old country" architectural models.

#### Elm Street

217 The Frederic Dulude House (c.1892): This 2½-story Queen Anne house, with characteristic clapboard and patterned shingle siding, was the home of Frederick Dulude, owner of a meat market on Social Street who became a leader in the French-Canadian community and served in Woonsocket's first city council, representing the 5th ward.

310 The George Miller House (c. 1890): This large "colonial" 2½-story gambrel-roofed dwelling was owned by George H. Miller (1839-1899), the founder of the Miller Press & Machinery Company. Together with three other large, late nineteenth century corner-lot houses, it makes the junction of Elm Street and Wood Avenue a handsome and architecturally remarkable intersection.

311 The Alphonse Gaulin House (c. 1885): This, at least as far as the exterior is concerned, is the best preserved Queen Anne house in Woonsocket and one of the most elaborate. It exhibits all the hallmarks of the style — asymmetrical massing, a complex silhouette, banded wall treatment, a bold porch, and a rich decorative display of cut shingles, spindlework, turned porch posts, and roof finials. The owner of the house, Alphonse Gaulin, Jr., was a successful real estate dealer and local politician, serving as Woonsocket's mayor from 1903 to 1905.

377 (c. 1890): A 2½-story, Late Victorian 2-family house, this was the residence of J. Hector Paquin, who was city clerk from 1916 to 1925, mayor from 1927 to 1930, and Rhode Island Secretary of State from 1939 to 1941. Paquin was one of the city's last major political figures associated with the Republican Party.

927 The Ingolls-Cass House (c. 1835): This

modest, rambling house appears to be a Greek Revival cottage with major late nineteenth century additions. It belonged to Nathaniel Ingolls in the 1830's, but by 1855 it was in the Cass family and this area was known as the Cass farm. Here Jarvis J. Cass lived, a rake manufacturer. In this period Elm Street was known as the "Old Cumberland Road."

#### Ethel Street

33 The Ernest Dupre House (c. 1925): This modest bungalow, decorated with a simple, cut out scroll motif over the porch entrance, was the home of Ernest E. Dupre, realtor, and mayor of Woonsocket from 1943 to 1948.

#### Fairmount Street

The Fairmount Neighborhood: Fairmount, in the northwestern part of the city close to the North Smithfield border, is the largest of the late nineteenth century working class residential subdivisions created in Woonsocket. It was laid out in grid pattern with Fairmount Street as its central spine. The area was part of the "Old Maids' Farm," so-named for Abigail and Lydia Arnold, the last members of that family to own the property, and had come down to them from their great-great-grandfather, John Arnold. The land was sold in 1866 to the Fairmount Farm Company which was managed by Gilbert Darling and later by his son, Charles Darling. The first substantial growth occurred after the Woonsocket Machine & Press Company was built here in 1879, prompting large numbers of workers to settle in the area.

85-87 The Alice Mill (1889): This enormous 4-story brick mill was the center of the city's important rubber goods industry in the late nineteenth century. The Woonsocket Rubber Company, headed by Joseph Banigan (an Irish immigrant who

became a self-made millionaire) was the leading importer of raw rubber into the United States, and Banigan later helped found the U. S. Rubber Company. Banigan, who named the mill for his mother, became one of the most munificent philanthropists in the state, particularly to Catholic charities.

- 506 Fire Station #6 (1928): Though somewhat modified, the building retains much of its original "art deco" ornament designed by Almanzo J. Sampson.
- 531 All Nations Church of God, formerly the Swedish-Finnish Lutheran Church (c. 1917): The origin of this church building, serving a congregation of Scandinavian Protestants, indicates the great ethnic diversity which characterized immigration to this country in the early twentieth century. It was later the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and now serves a Black protestant congregation.
- 576 Farrow Temple - Church of God in Christ Pentacost, former St. Andrews Church (1894): This picturesque chapel, in off-white brick with rock-face red brick trim, was originally an Episcopal chapel in the newly developing Fairmount neighborhood. It now houses a Black Pentacostal congregation.

#### Farm Street

The Privilege Mill Housing District: The Privilege mill housing district focuses on thirteen brick structures on Farm, North Main and Winter Streets (26, 75-81, 74-82, 89-95, 90-96, 105-111, and 106-112 Farm Street; 650-656, 666-672, 692-698, 708-714, and 724-730 North Main Street; and 625 Winter Street). Architecturally, this is the finest company-built mill housing left in the city. Erected in 1864-65 by the Harris Woolen Company as part of its new Privilege Mill complex, this very large enterprise was the capstone of Edward Harris' career. The rest of the complex survives, but has been heavily

altered. The major extant mill stands at 750 Winter Street; the once-famous dam, Horseshoe Falls, is north of Privilege Street; and the Privilege Store is located at 373 North Main Street. The most concentrated grouping of buildings is along North Main between Winter and Rivulet streets, and on Farm Street from North Main to Temple Street. Here is the remainder of a once-large group of mill houses divided into two major types: 2½-story tenements with 6-bay facades, two end-bay entrances, and gable roofs oriented long-side to the street; and 1½-story double houses with similarly arranged facades and street orientation. There are two slightly different structures: 26 Farm Street is a gable-end-to-the-street, 2½-story house, smaller than the tenements and somewhat later in date. 625 Winter Street, isolated from the other buildings, is a 1½-story dwelling, apparently single-family originally, with a pair of steep, Gothic-inspired cross-gables on the facade; it, too, was built later than most of the mill houses. All the Privilege buildings are brick, brick manufactured in kilns Harris built on the site; all the woodwork needed for these buildings, mills and mill houses, was cut in a sawmill erected solely for that purpose. The Privilege Mill complex was a heavily capitalized undertaking, a long-term investment which did much to influence Woonsocket's social as well as economic history, for it was the recruiting of French-Canadians to work in this factory complex which sparked a great wave of French-Canadian immigration to the city and transformed its ethnic composition.

#### Federal Street

- 33 The Woonsocket YMCA (1910): A capably designed brick 3-story building, simple yet dignified, important as a civic center over many years, and contributing

to the fabric of the old downtown. It was designed by Walter Fontaine.

- 85 The Masonic Temple (1929): This neo-classical structure has a very modest sized monumental entrance fronting a largely hidden and vast interior. It was designed by William G. Upham of Norwood, Massachusetts.

#### Fountain Street

- 63 (c. 1840): A simple 1½-story Early Republican or Federal house of late date.
- 68 (c. 1830): 2½-story Federal style house, now vacant and in poor condition. It has a 5-bay facade, central entrance, and simple but delicate cornice.

#### Front Street

- 24 The Woonsocket Courthouse (1896): The courthouse serves the State Superior, Family, and District courts. Little altered since the nineteenth century, it retains much of its original interior finish and furnishings. Designed by William Walker and conceived as a monumental structure, it is highly successful architecturally — bold and ruggedly handsome, with particularly fine polychrome stonework. The massing is picturesque, and the tower terminates a long vista down Court Street from Depot Square.
- 110-115 The Woonsocket Company Mills: The functional center of the Bernon Mill Village, these mills are of major historic and architectural significance, and have been entered on the National Register of Historic Places. The area on the Register is bounded by the Blackstone River, Court Street, the back lot-lines of the commercial buildings along Front Street, and Bernon Street. Still standing are the #1 Mill, erected in 1827-28, the earliest known mill in this country built according to "slow-burning" structural specifications; the Greek Revival #2 Mill, dated 1833, which is the only Rhode Island

textile mill ever built in which utility was significantly subordinated to aesthetic considerations; the #4 Mill of 1859, a simple stone structure with the dormer windows typical in that period; and a late nineteenth and early twentieth century brick power plant.

- 139** The former Woonsocket Police Station (c. 1904): An impressive 2-story brick building noteworthy for its elaborate entrance treatment, and as an indicator of the architectural quality the city demanded in the decades of its greatest affluence. It was designed by Walter Fontaine.
- 349** The Michael Reddy House (c. 1840): This modest and much altered 1½-story house was the home of Michael Reddy, said to be the first Irishman to settle in Woonsocket, coming during the construction of the Blackstone Canal in 1826. Reddy bought this property from the Woonsocket Company in 1840, and he also owned "Logee Hill Farm" close to his house. He platted out the latter property in house lots and sold it off in 1877. Michael Reddy was the first leader of the Woonsocket Irish community, he organized the first Catholic service in the area, and helped establish a permanent Catholic church here in the 1840's.
- 805-807** The Globe Mills Boarding House (1874): A large, brick, 2½-story mansard-roofed structure, the Globe Boarding House is the last building left of the central mill complex developed by the Ballous and, as such, it memorializes one of the city's six mill villages. Opposite the Boarding House is Lincoln Street, and along that street is the remainder of the Globe Mill housing.
- 810-816** A Globe Mills Tenement (c. 1830): This is the only extant building erected as part of the first development of the Globe privilege. The first Globe Mills were started in 1827 and work on the mill, ancillary buildings and mill houses was completed around 1830. The surviving

tenement house, though altered, retains its Federal proportions and simple detailing. It is a 2½-story gable-roofed building, six window bays across the front, with entrances in the end bays. Such early buildings were the prototype for mill tenements built as late as the 1870's.

### Gaskill Street

- 193** The Lorenzo Emidy House (c. 1931): An ample, 2½-story "Tudor" style house with a proliferation of mock gables and half-timbering, it was the home of Lorenzo H. Emidy, a physician.
- 222** The Aldrich House (c. 1840): Located on a portion of the Gaskill farm beside what was "the old road to Mendon," this 2½-story gable-roofed Greek Revival house may be the farmhouse of James Aldrich, who married into the Gaskill family and who insured a farm in the area in 1838. The property definitely belonged to the Aldrichs — an old Cumberland-Mendon family — in the mid-nineteenth century and they sold it to Israel Phillips, an undertaker and coffin maker, in 1884. It was probably Phillips who made the changes which mask the dwelling's relatively early date — the bay windows, roof balustrade and Mount Vernon-like porch.
- 247** The O'Connor House (c. 1926): This substantial but architecturally "incorrect" 2½-story brick colonial house was owned by John B. O'Connor, a physician, and was the boyhood home of Edwin O'Connor, the Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and author of *The Last Hurrah*.
- 252** The Frederic Whitaker House (c. 1920): This typical 1½-story early twentieth century cottage was probably built by Frederick E. Whitaker, a lawyer. Since the mid 1950's it has been the residence of John F. Doris, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court.
- 346** The James Boyle House (c. 1931): A

large and elaborate neo-colonial 2½-story brick house.

- 377** (c. 1897): A large Late Victorian house with a good spindlework porch.

### George Street

Chester Street District: (See Chester Street).

### Glen Road

- 62** The Eugene Jalbert House (c. 1919): This modest bungalow was the home of Eugene Jalbert, lawyer and president of the Woonsocket Spinning Company. Jalbert was active in the French-Canadian community and fought to keep French the principal language used in French-Canadian parish schools. As a lawyer, he represented the Union St. Jean-Baptiste Society for many years and served from 1951 to 1964 as an Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court.
- 103** The Joel Bense House (c. 1917): A large "modern" dwelling, this 2½-story brick house has a tiled hip roof. It represents the common early twentieth century house plan — a 3-bay house with central hall flanked by dining and living rooms, and beyond these, porches. Joel Bense was a mill overseer.
- 138** The Robert Davis House (c. 1913): The is a large, early bungalow, built by Robert L. Davis, a dentist.
- 183** The Charles Proulx House (c. 1915): Like the Bense House (102 Glen), this dwelling exemplifies the archetypical early twentieth century upper middle class house: 2-story, 3-bay main block with central entrance, and flanking, 1-story porch wings. It has a vaguely "Spanish" look (again, common in the period) and is embellished with trellises, window boxes and symmetrically arranged foundation planting. Charles A. Proulx was treasurer of an industrial firm.
- 190** The Edmond Guerin House (c. 1913): A very large and elaborate stucco and

half-timber "Tudor" house, planned essentially in the same fashion as 183 Glen. The builder, Edmond Guerin, was the owner of the American Paper Tube Company.

- 211 The Walter Fontaine House (c. 1925): This brick "Tudor" house is the most sophisticated, large, early-twentieth century dwelling in Woonsocket and, not surprisingly, it was the home of the city's most important architect of the period, Walter Fontaine. It is asymmetrical, avoiding standard planning and massing formulas, with a large 2-story bay window dominating the complex facade elevation. Born in Woonsocket in 1871 of French-Canadian parents, Fontaine began his career in the employ of Willard Kent, the most important local architect active here in the late nineteenth century. Fontaine then worked with the well-known Providence firm, Stone, Carpenter, and Willson, returning to Woonsocket in the 1890's and proceeding to design most of the major public and ecclesiastical buildings in the city erected before his death in 1938.

#### Great Road

- (106) The Friends' Cemetery: Created in 1719, the Quaker Cemetery is the earliest in the area. Now overgrown, it was never developed as a formalized graveyard, but has always been as simple as possible. Many graves were never marked, and headstones are, for the most part, either unmarked or inscribed with nothing but the initials of the person buried. More recent stones, dating from the mid-nineteenth century, are inscribed with names and dates, but are undecorated and small in size. The gradual elaboration of headstones in the cemetery reflects a shift among Quakers away from the early demand for extreme simplicity, but also a shift in what constituted relative simplicity in an increasingly affluent society in which decorative

display and self-aggrandisement were the norm.

- 108 The Friends' Meeting House (1881): The Meeting House stands on the site of the first religious building in northern Rhode Island, erected by John Arnold and other Quakers in 1720. Like the cemetery beside it, the extant building reflects remarkable simplicity for the period in which it was built. The present Meeting House is a steepleless 1-story clapboard structure with very little decorative elaboration; it looks like a building of 1848 rather than 1881. There is, however, an air of dignity, of substantially and purpose, about it.

#### Greene Street

- 82 The Horatio Latham House (c. 1845): Horatio Nelson Latham was a Woonsocket merchant. His 2-story, stuccoed stone house with low hip roof in the bracketed, Italianate style, though much altered, has considerable architectural interest. It must be compared with houses of the same period and pretension, like 246 Harris Avenue, as well as 74 and 120 Harris Avenue built some ten years later.
- 106 The Samuel Greene House (c. 1840): Samuel Greene, for whom Greene Street was named, became a leading figure on the local scene as the agent of the Woonsocket Company — manager of the mills and of the village of Bernon. Appropriately, as mill agent, his home was located in the center of the village, on axis with the mill yard, and Centre Street originally ran from the mill yard to the Greene house. The dwelling itself has been heavily altered, and is noteworthy now for its historic significance.
- 148 Saint Anthony's Church (c. 1929): An excellent neo-baroque church executed in brick, with a gold-domed campanile, and a fine barrel-vaulted interior. Constructed to serve a largely Italian congregation, the exterior of St. Anthony's is

modelled on Italian churches of the seventeenth century. It was designed by Ambrose Murphy and built by Joseph Donatelli.

- 156 The Harding Knight House (c. 1845): This is a good, pedimented, end-gable Greek Revival house with the usual 3-bay facade and side hall plan. The most interesting feature of the exterior is a fanciful "trellised" porch exhibiting all the ingenuity wood workers could easily master with the help of the recently introduced scroll saw. Harding Knight, who occupied the house in the 1850's, was a carpenter.
- 174 The Stephen Mason House (c. 1870): A large 2½-story house with mansard roof and 4-story tower, built by Stephen N. Mason, a soap manufacturer, to replace an earlier house on the site. Mason was an active supporter of Thomas W. Dorr in the Dorr Rebellion, and later served in the General Assembly.
- 210 Unity Temple, the former First Presbyterian Church (1888): This hulking Queen Anne church was designed by P. D. West; it was purchased in 1904 by Congregation B'nai Israel and used as a temple for many years.
- 234-240 The Dr. Arnold Building (c. 1845) and later): This large vernacular Greek Revival structure was, by 1870, the property of Dr. Seth Arnold, a well advertised producer of patent medicines.
- #### Grove Street
- 22 (c. 1875): During the 1920's this was the home of J. Albert Foisy, first editor of *La Sentinelle* and author of a book on the Sentinellist movement.
- 32 The Francello Jillson House (c. 1875): This 2½-story gable-to-street house has bracketed detailing similar to that of 73 Hamlet Avenue. Originally, 22 and 42 Grove Street were almost identical to number 32; Francello Jillson, born into an old Woonsocket family, was a lawyer,



Woonsocket Town Clerk (1865-74), and school superintendent. He served in the General Assembly in 1870 and 1871, and from 1881 to 1886; he was Speaker of the House from 1883 to 1885.

- 266 (c. 1885): A 2½-story Queen Anne house with cylindrical corner tower and excellent exterior finish.
- 312 The Grove Street School (1874-76): 2-story brick Victorian schoolhouse retaining its original detailing and trim, designed by E. L. Angell of Providence.
- 315 The Sabin Pond House (c. 1849): This remarkable octagonal, gable-roofed, 2½-story stone-walled house is being proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places primarily for its architectural significance. Though now derelict, it retains its visual integrity. It was built by Sabin Pond, a local manufacturer, as a large and very unusual single family residence. Every effort should be made to restore it and put it back to use.

#### Hamlet Avenue

- 24 St. James Episcopal Church: The first church on this site dated from 1833, when St. James parish was founded. The present structure is largely early twentieth century in date, but relates to the early nineteenth century stylistically. Only St. James Church, of the six protestant churches built in Woonsocket early in the nineteenth century, is located on its original site in the center of the city.
- 55-57 The Francis Reilly House (c. 1875): A well-preserved 2½-story bracketed dwelling, formerly the residence of Francis L. Reilly who, in 1870, was the first Irish American to be admitted to the Rhode Island Bar (for an architectural analysis of this house type, see 37 Earle Street).
- 73 The Woonsocket Pre-School (1969): The school, designed by Samuel Puder, is one of the more interesting recently built

structures in the city. The 1-story building is roofed with shallow concrete saucer domes.

- 134-160 Lafayette Worsted Mills (c. 1900): The mill complex, designed by Charles Loridan (a French mill engineer), now houses several industrial firms. The buildings occupy a portion of the original Hamlet Mill site dating from 1825. The flat-roofed 4- and 5-story mills, devoid of any architectural pretense, surround two small 1½-story mansarded office buildings which are carefully and elaborately detailed. The Lafayette Company was founded in 1889 by two Belgians, M. Simonis and M. Mali, with Charles Devine, a Frenchman, and produced worsted by the French method. The owners were induced to come to Woonsocket by Aram Pothier. When built, this was one of the largest textile complexes in Woonsocket.

- 153 The French Worsted Company mills (c. 1907): The French Worsted Company mills share a similar history and architectural character with the slightly earlier Lafayette mills across Hamlet Avenue.

#### Harris Avenue

- 68 St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church (1942): The stone-faced church edifice pays homage to the architectural heritage of its parishioners through the use of octagonal, somewhat "onion-like," twin belfry roofs. It was designed by Dimitri & Dimitri of Providence, and the interior was decorated in the Byzantine style by Peter Cholodny assisted by Michael Osinchuk. The parish was founded in 1906 and occupied churches on West School Street and then Blackstone Street (now St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church) before erecting its present building.
- 74 The James Verry House (1855): The elaborately ornamented exterior of this

bracketed house is well preserved, and reflects the first blush of Victorian decorative exuberance in architectural expression. Now the parish house of St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the building was erected by Colonel James Verry in 1855. In the 1870's it was owned by Selden Bailey, inventor of the once famous Bailey clothes wringers. After 1880, the house was occupied by Henry L. Ballou, of the prominent local family active in Woonsocket business, civic, and political affairs.

- 120 The Lewis Metcalf House (c. 1855): Little is known about Lewis Metcalf, but he may have been related to Edward Harris. Despite our lack of information on Metcalf, there is no doubt that his house is one of the finest mid-nineteenth century buildings in Woonsocket and probably the best preserved. It is meticulously cared for and is surrounded by handsome grounds which add to the visual interest of the house. The building itself is a fairly severe gable-roofed, stuccoed rubble building with a 3-bay facade and central entrance. The severity of the basic design is softened by a tripartite roundhead central window at the second story level and a delicate bracketed porch.
- 174 St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church (c. 1906). The shingled Polish Catholic Church is handsome both within and without. The interior has excellent stencilled decoration and painted portraits of saints in roundels above the pillars of the nave.
- 175 The King Clinic (1940): Located at the entrance to what was the Edward Harris estate, the King Clinic is the best example of early twentieth century architectural "modernism" in Woonsocket. It was built by the Kings, a family of physicians, and was designed by Kent and Aldrich of Providence.
- 246 The Lyman Cook House (c. 1847): Lyman Cook was an important industrialist,

- founding, in partnership with his brother Willis, the Woonsocket Stove Company and other enterprises. He also owned the Cook Block on Main Street and served in both houses of the General Assembly. The Cook house is an austere Italianate building, 2-stories, with hipped roof, three-bay, central entrance facade, and bracketed cornice and front porch.
- 253 The Edward Mee House (c. 1912): Built by liquor dealer Edward Mee, this 2½-story house has a typical early twentieth century layout and an unusual central entrance in a recessed porch screened by a colonnade.
- 274 The Benjamin Slocomb House (c. 1869): The 2½-story mansard-roofed house with a large belvedere on the roof was built by Benjamin A. Slocomb, a boot and shoe merchant with a store on Main Street; by 1873 it was the home of Gilbert Darling, a merchant who became the prime mover in developing the Fairmount neighborhood. Though the house has been somewhat altered, it is very much like a residence at 268 Prospect Street of about the same date.
- 301 The James Evans House (c. 1891): 2½-story Queen Anne house with a good porch, nearly identical to #573 Park Avenue. The house was probably built by James F. Evans, a manufacturer of top roller covers for textile spinning machinery.
- (S-1) Cold Spring Park: The pleasant park site slopes down to the Blackstone River and focuses on a fieldstone springhouse. This has been a place of recreation at least since the early 1840's, when the advocates of a liberalized state constitution, known as Dorrites, held enormous clambakes and rallies here.
- 482 The Francis Verhulst House (c. 1926): A small but elaborate 1-story stuccoed Spanish style house, representative of the architectural eclecticism of the early

- twentieth century.
- 507 The Edward Medoff House (1953): A large, formal mid-twentieth century residence built for Dr. Edward B. Medoff; Harry Ramsey was the architect.
- 531 The Arthur Darman House (1953): A severe and impressive house, designed by Harry Ramsey for Arthur Darman, a prominent Woonsocket industrialist and the builder of the Stadium Theatre complex.
- 588 The William Bernard House (c. 1932): An elaborately "Spanish Colonial" stucco house, built for Dr. William A. Bernard.
- 786 The Henry Darling House (c. 1865): Located on what was the rural outskirts of Woonsocket, the 2-story, bracketed, L-plan Darling house has a particularly fine porch. Set in landscaped grounds (on which also stands an excellent carriage house) it retains a pastoral ambience. Henry Darling was a farmer, and his home recalls the picturesque, prosperous farmsteads sentimentally glorified in the lithographs of Currier and Ives.
- 814 The Thomas Fisher House (c. 1850): A very quaint, "incorrect" temple-form Greek Revival cottage of a type unusual in Rhode Island but common in Massachusetts towns just north of Woonsocket. By 1870 the house was occupied by Thomas Fisher, a mill superintendent.
- 815 The Gaskill Farmhouse (c. 1800): The Gaskills were among the early settlers of Woonsocket, and had a farm in the North End into the mid-nineteenth century. The farm was sold to Edward Harris by Elisha Gaskill who was president of the Producers' Bank and served in the General Assembly.
- 871 St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church (c. 1964): This church, of contemporary design, is distinguished by its steep gable roof with bell-cast eaves, sweeping down over the building like a candle-snuffer; it was designed by Arlin Durlin of Boston.

### Harrison Avenue

- 45-49 (c. 1885): 2½-story transitional 3-decker apartment house, one of the earliest apartment houses in the city.
- 64 (c. 1927): 3½-story transitional apartment house, one of the earlier apartment houses in the city.
- 103 (c. 1885): 2½-story Queen Anne house.
- 209 (c. 1902): This early twentieth century 3-decker was once the home of Henri Perdian, editor of *La Sentinelle*.

### Highland Street

- 233 The George Demare House (c. 1921): A small bungalow with banded shingle siding, built by George Demare or Demara, manager of the Strand Theatre.

### High School Street

- 60 Harris Public School (1876): The Harris School, designed by William Walker, one of Rhode Island's most important late nineteenth century architects, was built as the Woonsocket High School; it was the most elaborate school building in the community and was ornamented with a bold tower, cut stone window caps and belt courses. The building stands on the site of Woonsocket's first high school, erected in 1848.

### Hope Street

- 40 The Hope Street School (1899): 2-story brick elementary school in the heart of Constitution Hill. Basically a very straightforward affair; the most interesting feature of this Willard Kent designed building is a diagonal row of windows marking the ascent of the staircase.

### Jenckesville

(see Social Street)

### Kendrick Avenue

- 64-72 The Kendrick Avenue School (1895): A fine 2-story brick school accented by a

tower and "Pompeian brick" trim; it was designed by Forbush & Hathaway of Boston.

### **Kennedy Street**

- 29-31 (c. 1925): A large, late 3-decker, well preserved, noteworthy for its 3-story porch which surrounds the building on three sides.

### **Kindergarten Street**

- 28 (c. 1880): 1½-story cottage with 3-bay side hall plan, fronted by a gracefully bracketed porch.

### **Lincoln Street**

Lincoln Street District: Lincoln Street, running from Front Street to Providence Street, can be divided, historically and architecturally, into two sub-areas. 2½-story tenements built by the Globe Company in about 1865 line the lower, Front Street end. More than any other group of buildings in the city, they give an indication of what most corporate mill housing districts were like in this era. The upper, Providence Street section of Lincoln Street was developed around the turn of this century with 3-deckers erected by individual speculators; they served the same housing public as the mill tenements, but were not company owned. Upper Lincoln Street has one of the largest and best extant concentrations of 3-deckers in the city, and a good number of buildings in this working-class neighborhood are reasonably intact. Though the 3-deckers are basically the same (and some, like 212-214 and 242-244, and 230-232 and 236-238, were built in pairs), there are important individual distinctions carried out in the decorative treatment of porches and cornices which give a pleasant sense of variety lacking in the adjacent Globe Mill housing.

### **Logee Street**

- 225 The Logee House (c. 1750): The oldest

fairly well preserved house in Woonsocket, the basic shape and size of this building appear to be original, and the great central brick chimney is intact. The only major change is a 2-story front porch, probably dating from the early twentieth century. It is believed that the house was built by a member of the Logee family. The Logees, who came to the area as Mendon settlers, bought what is now Logee Hill in 1729. By 1851 the house was the center of a farm belonging to the Woonsocket Company which bought up the land surrounding the new-founded Bernon Village. Lastly, this was the birthplace of J. Howard McGrath, an important Democratic politician in the state, Attorney General and Governor of Rhode Island, Congressman, and United States Attorney General in the Truman Administration.

- 800 Mount St. Charles Academy (1924): The first thoughts of founding a Catholic boys' school in Woonsocket date to about 1918, when consideration was given to the need to create such an institution oriented to serve the Franco-American community, not just in Woonsocket, but in the entire New England region. Local support came from L'Union St. Jean-Baptiste and Monsignor Dauray of the Church of the Precious Blood; Bishop Hickey gave substantial financial aid. Initially, Irish Catholics questioned construction of the school because of its specific orientation to the French-Canadian community, but the Bishop dispelled their concern and made it clear that students of all backgrounds would be admitted. And although the Sentinellists also opposed creation of the school, Mount St. Charles opened in September, 1924, under the care of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. The school still is a major Catholic educational institution. Now serving day-students only, and co-educational since the 1960's, Mount St.

Charles continues to be housed in its original building designed by Walter Fontaine.

### **Main Street**

Main Street-Monument Square Historic District: Main Street-Monument Square is the commercial and civic heart of downtown Woonsocket. The district runs from Market Square to Monument Square, and includes the first blocks beyond Monument Square on North Main and Social streets. The banks and other office buildings on Main Street and in Depot Square surrounding City Hall create a central focus, and are the best preserved part of the area. Though some buildings (including much of City Hall) date earlier, the area really started to be developed in an urban fashion after 1870, and that development continued through the 1930's. The real significance of this old downtown area is a matter of image — it manifests the fact that Woonsocket is indeed a city.

- 1 The Lippitt Mill/Hanora Building (1865): Occupying a vital site at the intersection of Main Street and Market Square, the former Lippitt mill office and warehouse sets the tone for Main Street. The 3½-story, granite-trimmed, mansard-roofed building was built by the Lippitt Woolen Company and produced woolen goods through the Second World War. Prior to the construction of this building this site was occupied by Dan Daniels' store where Woonsocket's first post office was located.
- 15 The Ballou-Harris-Lippitt Mills (1836, incorporating an earlier brick mill of 1827): The earliest section of this mill, built of brick and now largely hidden, dates from 1827 and was erected by Hosea Ballou. In 1832 Dexter Ballou built the principal part of the building in stone rubble with a brick cornice and a wooden stairtower of Greek Revival inspiration. It was

- known as the Harrison Cotton Mills until 1865 when it was acquired by the Lippitt Company and became part of their woolen mill complex.
- (S-15)** The Lyman-Arnold Trench (c. 1827): This deep trench channeled water from the dam at the Falls to power mills like the Ballou-Harris-Lippitt complex on Main Street.
- 32-34** Baram's/The Farrington Block (1868): Above Baram's storefront the Farrington Block is fairly well preserved, and the building was given some architectural character by applying ornamental cast iron lintels to the roundheaded windows. This 4-story brick commercial block was erected by Billings Farrington and housed his jewelry and watchmaking business.
- 55-69** Kornstein's (1846, c. 1897): The rear, 6-story stone section of this building was a woolen goods mill erected by Edward Harris in 1846. In front of it, built over the Lyman-Arnold Trench, is a block of stores erected in about 1897, originally known as the Buckland & Clark Building, and now as Kornstein's. This block retains, at the second floor level, excellent classicizing detail carried out in copper.
- 93-119** The Commercial Block (1902): 3-story brick store and office block treated above the store fronts as a series of major bays separated by pilasters between which are banks of windows. The building retains an ornate, brass-trimmed hydraulic elevator.
- 128-130** The Jupiter Store — formerly Kresge's (c. 1923): The Kresge retail chain built this building to house its 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢ "5 and 10" outlet. With the Kresge "department store" next to it, this building illustrates the shift from the domination of retail merchandising by local dry goods houses and hardware stores to domination of the sale of inexpensive goods at the local level by corporate-run national chain stores.
- 136-148** Woonsocket Institute for Savings (1926):
- A fine neoclassical bank building with an impressive interior, built for this major local financial institution by the Thomas M. James Company of Boston, which also did the closely related Hospital Trust Building three years later.
- 141** Old Colony Cooperative Bank (1937): Designed by Harkness & Geddes (a Providence architectural firm), the Old Colony Bank is a simple yet sensitively conceived neo-Federal style building. Despite its quality, the building does not suit the architectural idiom of this street.
- 154-162** Woonsocket Institution for Savings Trust Department (c. 1964): The facade of this building, though contemporary in detail and finish, was carefully scaled to relate to adjacent buildings. The building is actually an old Woolworth's store, renovated and refaced.
- 164-168** Rhode Island Hospital Trust Building (1929): According to company records, the Woonsocket building designed by Thomas James & Company is a scaled-down version of the Hospital Trust Building in Providence designed by York & Sawyer of New York in 1919.
- 169** City Hall (1856/1891): The oldest part of the building was erected by Edward Harris in 1856 and titled the "Harris Block." It was Woonsocket's first major commercial building. This structure, 3-stories high, is in the Italiante style popular at the time. To it was added a rugged, granite-clad extension in the Richardsonian Romanesque manner. Because of its association with Harris, its long history as a meeting hall (where Lincoln once spoke), a library, commercial block, and finally, as City Hall, this building has great significance to Woonsocket.
- (171)** Milestone (1761): One of two eighteenth century milestones remaining in Woonsocket, marking the way to Boston. These are the most obvious indicators that Woonsocket was once a stopping place on a secondary colonial highway.
- 194-202** The Longley Building (1890): Before the construction of this 4-story brick office block, with its bulging bay windows, this key site was occupied by the First Baptist Church.
- 231-233** The Unity Building (c. 1886): 3-story brick office block. Here the Union St. Jean Baptiste had its first headquarters.
- 237-245** The Hope Building (c. 1876): Despite some disfiguring alterations, this 3-story brick block is still an important part of the historic fabric of Depot Square.
- 242-246** The Railroad Depot (1882): Designed by John W. Ellis for the Providence & Worcester Railroad, Woonsocket's train station is an elaborately decorated brick building, now adapted for use as offices. It stands on the original depot site of 1847 and marks the transportation and commercial hub of the city.
- 267** The House of Chan Restaurant: As in many small American cities, Woonsocket's Chinese population has been identified with characteristic business enterprises. Woonsocket's first Chinese restaurant, the Shanghai Low, stood here (in an earlier building) by 1906, and the House of Chan continues this tradition, now seven decades old. A few Chinese immigrants settled in the city during the late nineteenth century, and at first almost all worked in family-owned hand laundries. In 1880 the first Chinese laundry, that of Hing Wah, was listed in the Woonsocket directory; by 1897 nine of the thirteen laundries in town were Chinese operated. The Chinese may be viewed as a characteristic, small yet very distinct ethnic group — one of many such in the city — which did not influence the local scene in a major way as did the French Canadians or Irish, but, nonetheless, added to the diversity and interest of the community.
- 295** The Old Post Office (1910-12): Woonsocket's Main Street Post Office, now superseded by a new facility in the "new

- downtown," is a fine Beaux Arts classical building. The original structure has been enlarged, but the articulation and detailing were repeated in the later section.
- 296-300** St. James Hotel (1892): A. C. Brooks opened the St. James in 1892, and it was the leading hostelry in town for years. Architecturally, the 4-story brick building is made distinctive by the extensive use of copper sheating for cornices and bay window facings.
- 306-310** (c. 1870): 2½-story mansard-roofed block.  
**321-325** The Paradis Building/The Elm House (1893-95): 4-story brick office block and boarding house. Above the street-level storefront the facade is treated as a series of three arches separated by Ionic pilasters into which shallow bay windows are inserted.
- 329** The Stadium Theatre (1926): The Stadium theatre is a large and beautifully maintained movie house of the 1920's, equipped to handle the live stage shows and musical performances which were part of a movie theatre presentation at that time. Entrance to the theatre is through an elegantly designed shopping arcade, and the Stadium lobby is ornamented with fancy tilework and a small fountain. The theatre itself is in the Adamesque manner, and the entire complex, including the Stadium Building facing Monument Square, was built for Arthur Darman, a local industrialist with a love for the vaudeville theatre. The building was designed by Perry & Whipple of Providence who also did the adjacent 4-story Stadium office building. Decoration of the theatre was handled by Watts & Hutton of Providence and Abraham Anthony of Boston.
- Manville Road**
- 239** (c. 1890): During the 1930's and 40's this late Victorian cottage was the home of Eileen Farrell who began her singing career in 1941 as a radio performer, turned to opera in 1956, and made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1960.
- Maple Street**
- 74** Carrington Avenue-Maple Street District: (see Carrington Avenue)  
(c. 1890): Queen Anne style cottage with good bargeboard detailing.
- Marquette Plaza**
- (1)** The Marquette Credit Union Building (1975): Designed by Charles Seavor & Associates, this 10-story steel and glass office building is the first large structure of the type built in the city since the Depression.
- Meadow Road**
- 34** (1922): 3-story apartment house, one of few built in the city in the 1920's.  
**124** The Ralph Brown House (c. 1936): Typical early twentieth century "colonial" house — two stories, 3-bay facade, central entrance, and 1-story wings on either side; built by Ralph H. Brown, a wholesale jeweler.  
**143** The Hector Desmarais House (c. 1921): 2-story "dutch colonial" house — a very popular style in the early twentieth century.
- Mechanic Avenue**
- 32** Taft-Pierce Manufacturing Company Factory (c. 1870—c. 1910): The Taft Pierce complex dates back to the 1860's as the site of Elliott's Lumber Yard & Planing Mill. By 1895 the Wardwell Sewing Machine Company was here, and by 1910, Taft-Pierce, which, in 1916, built what is now the Bancroft building on Bancroft Court.
- Mendon Road**
- 28** "Dream Acres": "Dream Acres," with its heavily wooded site and fine stone walls, is one of the few residences in the city to retain a setting that *looks* rural. The house is on the edge of the city and was indeed an isolated dwelling. It was probably altered in the 1880's, when bargeboards, bearing the initials "P P," were added, and it remains a very picturesque house.
- 1088** Holly Mineral Spring Farm (late 18th century): This farm was in the Jillson family and then belonged to Stephen Wilcox who discovered a spring on the property in the 1850's and started a bottled water business which still continues. The farm house, the best-preserved early house in Woonsocket, is 2½-stories, gable-roofed, and has a central chimney and a central, pedimented entrance in a 5-bay facade.
- 1200** St. Joseph's Church (1938): An early twentieth century "colonial style" Catholic church designed by Walter Fontaine serving Woonsocket's largest parish.
- 1207** (c.1880): 1½-story cottage with good bracketed detailing.
- Mill Street**
- The Mill Street Bridge (c. 1825): Though much altered, the original stone-arched substructure of the bridge remains.  
**96** (See 752 Social Street).
- Monument Square**
- 3-5** The Linton Block (1888): A fine 4-story office block in the Queen Anne style. The brick facade is ornamented with brickwork patterning and terracotta panels, the side elevations (unadorned on most buildings) are embellished with fancy cut shingles. The block was erected by Robert Linton and housed his drug-store.
- 14-22** The Stadium/Costa Building (1926): The Stadium Office Building was part of the theatre-store-office complex constructed by Arthur Darman. Perry & Whipple of Providence were the architects. The build-

ing has an entrance lobby decorated with Dutch tiles and a mural depicting "The Progress of Woonsocket" painted by Maurice Compris.

- (S-7) Civil War Monument (1870): This granite shaft, surmounted by a figure of a Civil War era soldier, is inscribed with the names of battles in which Woonsocket men participated. Designed by J. G. Batterson of Hartford, it was the first Civil War monument erected in the state.

### Morton Street

- 65 (c. 1890): 2½-story Late Victorian house with octagonal corner tower and fancy paneled cornice.

### The North End

The North End Historic District: The historically significant portion of this large neighborhood is bounded by Harris Avenue, Winter Street, Summer Street, Spring Street, and Blackstone Street. Into the early nineteenth century much of this area was the Gaskil farm. Edward Harris bought the farm, erected a large house for himself, and gradually sold-off the periphery of the property along Harris Avenue during the 1850's, '60's and '70's. Portions of Blackstone Street had been developed in the 1830's and '40's, and several small Greek Revival houses dating from that era still stand. Edward Harris died in the 1870's, and after his wife's death in the '90's, the Harris heirs subdivided the family estate, laid out streets, and began selling house lots. Most development in the North End dates between 1905 and 1935. The house lots were suburban in scale, and development was, for the most part, upper middle class single family housing. Little changes has come to the area since this development terminated in the 1930's, and the North End remains a fine, well-preserved, suburban-style residential enclave within the city.

### North Main Street

Farm Street-North Main Street District: (See Farm Street).

- 28-30 Montgomery Ward Building (1929): Now the Salvation Army office, this flat-roofed brick commercial block was built to house a Montgomery Ward department store. The venture was unsuccessful, closing during the Depression, and for many years the structure was used for storage.
- (41) Site of the Woonsocket Opera House (1888).
- 60-64 Swartz Furniture/Miller's Block (c. 1871): 3½-story brick commercial block, well preserved except for the storefront.
- 91-95 Gilbert's Building (c. 1869): 3½-story wood frame commercial block with a mansard roof (common in Woonsocket buildings of the late 1860's). It was built by Alexander Gilbert, a tinware merchant, and is located at the extreme northern limit of the old "downtown."
- 189 St. Charles Borromeo Church (1862-71): St. Charles Borromeo is a fine stone Victorian Gothic edifice built by the community's first Catholic parish, and designed by P. C. Keeley, an important New York architect who specialized in designing Catholic churches. Surrounding the church are the rectory (190 North Main), school (42-52 Daniels Street), and convent (159 Earle Street); these four buildings constitute Woonsocket's first church complex.
- 190 St. Charles Rectory (c. 1865): Substantial 2½-story brick mansard-roofed rectory building.
- 243 Woonsocket Fire Station #3 (1926): Typical early twentieth century firehouse in brick with glazed tile trim.
- (250) Small triangular grassy park between North Main, Prospect and West School streets in which is located a World War II memorial "erected in honor of the boys and girls of the North End who served

their country."

- 338, 401, 437, 455 These 4 simple Greek Revival cottages, all dating from the 1830's or '40's, belonged to members of the Aldrich family, one of the early families to settle in the area. When built, these houses stood in the midst of open fields — the agricultural landscape which typically surrounded small early nineteenth century mill villages like Social and Jenckesville.
- 373 The Privilege Store (1865): A brick 3½-story building, 56' by 106', erected by Edward Harris midway between his new Privilege Mills and the downtown. It has bracketed cornices, a square cupola, and cast iron lintels in the entrances. Though it contained the largest "business rooms" in the city, its remoteness resulted in its being little patronized, and the building has long served as a warehouse.
- 436-438 (c. 1900): 1½-story gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival house; an early Woonsocket example of the popular rebirth of interest in Colonial architecture as an inspiration for new buildings. The dormer windows are ornamented with whimsical finials, distinctly non-colonial in character.
- 469 The J. C. Coyle House (c. 1865): 1½-story bracketed cottage with a deep, trellised porch across the front and side.
- 533 (c. 1860): This is a late example of the vernacular Greek Revival cottage, set gable-end to the street to suggest a classical pediment. Like the cottages at 338, 401, 437, and 455 North Main Street, this house pre-dates the intensive late nineteenth and early twentieth century development of the neighborhood. When built, these houses stood in a rural agricultural setting.
- 584-588 (c. 1896): 3½-story mansard-roofed building with stores on the ground floor and apartments above.

## Oakley Road

- 55 Achille Coté House (c. 1924): 2-story hip-roofed house with characteristic early twentieth century massing and plan for a middle class house: 2-story central block, flanking 1-story porch wings, a central entrance flanked by large windows, balanced foundation planting, matching garage to the rear of the lot. The house was built by Achille P. Coté, a dentist.
- 92 The Dr. Francis King House (c. 1924): 1½-story "dutch colonial" house with flanking 1-story porch wings, said to have been designed by Harry Ramsey. It was occupied by Dr. Francis J. King of the King Clinic.
- 107 The Paul Topis House (c. 1941): 1½-story house characterized by irregular massing and more or less "colonial" detail. It was the home of Paul A. Topis, treasurer and general manager of the Model Dyeing & Printing Company.
- 137 The Aime Bonin House (c. 1920): 2-story brick and stucco house with typical early twentieth century layout (see 55 Oakley Road), built by Aime E. Bonin, treasurer of the Woonsocket Spinning Company.
- 155 The Dr. Boucher House (c. 1950): 2-story brick and half-timber Tudor style house with attached split-level 2-car garage, designed by Harry Ramsey for Paul E. Boucher, a physician.
- 179-181 The Kennedy House (c. 1912): 2½-story stucco and half-timber double house built by two brothers, Ambrose and T. Frank Kennedy. Frank Kennedy was a doctor, and Ambrose Kennedy was a lawyer who became active in Republican politics, became Speaker of the Rhode Island House, and served in the United States House of Representatives from 1913 to 1923.
- 219 The Charles O'Donnell House (1928): 2½-story brick "colonial" house, with typical early twentieth century layout and massing (see 55 Oakley Road), but

on a grand scale and elaborated with a wealth of neo-colonial detailing. It was the home of Charles H. O'Donnell of P. J. O'Donnell Sons, hide and tallow merchants.

## Olo Street

- 27, 37 (c. 1885): A pair of nearly identical 2½-story bracketed houses, similar to the row of 2½-story bracketed, 2-family houses on East Street.
- 43-45 (c. 1900): 2½-story double house, very irregular in elevation, utilizing colonial forms for the detailing.
- 48 (c. 1900): 3-decker with a fine, delicate porch running across the entire front.
- 122 (c. 1885): 2½-story bracketed house with broad, square bay windows flanking the entrance.
- 415 The Sacred Heart Rectory (c. 1890): This is a much added-to Late Victorian house distinguished by a great wrap-around porch and an octagonal corner tower.

## Park Avenue

- 61 The former St. Claire High School & Convent (1889 & later): The St. Claire girls' school was a major Woonsocket educational institution and was a focus of Precious Blood Parish. The building complex, now being converted to residential use, contains 3- and 4-story brick structures with detailing in light-colored brick and cast stone. Architecturally, it is Gothic in inspiration and the picturesque massing, with numerous towers and turrets, bay windows and mock buttresses, gives it visual interest.
- 186 (c. 1865 & later): 1½-story cottage to which was added (probably in the 1880's or '90's) a Queen Anne porch, remarkable for its balustrade and decorated pediment.
- 241 (c. 1880): L-plan, 1½-story bracketed house, very well preserved.
- 376 (c. 1880): An elaborate 2½-story bracketed house with 3-bay facade and semi-

octagonal bay windows flanking the hooded central entrance. The detailing on this building is very rich: rope mouldings, paneling, applied rosettes, "neogrec" motifs, etc.

- 557 (c. 1875): 2½-story mansard house with a good bracketed porch.
- 573 (c. 1897): 2½-story Queen Anne house with spindlework porch; a nearly identical building stands at 301 Harris Avenue.
- 625 The Charles Loridan House (c. 1885): 2½-story Queen Anne house with tower and spindlework entrance portico, formerly the home of Charles Loridan, a French mill engineer, who designed the Lafayette Worsted mills on Hamlet Avenue and his own mill on Villanova Street.
- 626 (c. 1900): This large and rather altered Queen Anne house was once the home of Felix Toupin, a controversial and very independent politician who was mayor from 1931 to 1936 as a Democrat, and from 1939 to 1940 as a Republican. In the 1920's, while a Lincoln resident, he served as lieutenant governor and, as the chief Democrat in the Senate in 1924, played a key role in the notorious filibuster which disrupted the legislative session that year.
- 932 The Brenner House (c. 1913): Early twentieth century shingled double house with a broad front porch — the focal point for summer evenings in so many American homes 60 or more years ago. It was occupied by Jacob and Michael Brenner, scrap iron dealers.
- 986 (c. 1875): 2½-story house, somewhat altered, but retaining good bracketed detail.
- 1140 The Leonard Guertin House (c. 1916): This modest wood shingle bungalow was the first occupied by Leonard M. Guertin, a wool sorter.
- 1273 The Frank Wilbur House (c. 1923): A very handsome Japanese-inspired bunga-

low with especially well handled treatment of the three intersecting roof gables. The exterior is wood shingle and the front porch has squat posts set on high brick pedestals — a typical arrangement. Behind the house is a matching 2-car garage. This dwelling, located on what had been the rural fringes of Woonsocket, was built by Frank C. Wilbur who retired from a farm located nearby. Next to it was the fairground of the Woonsocket Agricultural Society.

#### Park Place

- 14 The Joseph Bouvier House (c. 1889): A large and elaborate 2½-story Queen Anne house built by Joseph Bouvier who came to Woonsocket from Quebec in 1865, became a grocer, and later a partner in Bouvier & Gaulin, real estate brokers. Bouvier was one of the earliest Woonsocket French Canadians to enter politics, serving as a member of the Town Council before Woonsocket became a city.
- 218 (c. 1905): 2½-story stone house embellished with cobblestone panels.
- 357 Woonsocket Junior High School (1914 & later): 3-story plus half-basement brick school, formerly Woonsocket's high school; a massive and intentionally impressive civic structure designed by Walter Fontaine and built at the height of Woonsocket's prosperity.

#### Park Square

Site of the Woonsocket Fair Grounds (c. 1865 - c. 1930): The area northwest of Park Avenue and Great Road now occupied by Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church and School and Barry Memorial Field was, through the 1920's, the site of a fairground and race track maintained by the Woonsocket Agricultural, Horticultural & Industrial Society. When the fair ground was established this area was

part of the old town of Smithfield. The Agricultural Society was chartered in 1867 in an era when a number of farmers' organizations, most notably the Grange, were finding adherents and it brought farmers together each year in competitions which judged the best livestock, poultry and produce. Prizes were also awarded for "Domestic Arts;" in 1879 \$2.00 was awarded for the best gallon of vinegar, and \$2.00 for the best collection of insects. Horse racing was a feature of the annual September fair and a track and grandstand occupied a large portion of the grounds. In the twentieth century automobile races were held here. The fair grounds were also used by the traveling circuses which came to Woonsocket each summer. Located on the edge of the city in what was a large farm region, the old fair ground site is a reminder of Woonsocket's agricultural heritage. Though less important than its industrial past, this was a significant aspect of the local scene, and the fairs, races and circuses held here were among the chief amusements of the community. That tradition continues now with the annual Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Carnival.

#### Parker Street

- 98 (c. 1850): 2½-story Early Victorian house with a good trellis-work porch. It was probably the home of Charles Bradford, a blacksmith and carriage builder, moved from the Armory site on South Main Street.

#### Pleasant Street

- 87 The Arnold Aldrich House (c. 1837): 2-story stone dwelling with an intriguing projected entrance (added later) and curious, diminutive figures ornamenting the roofline. Arnold Aldrich (whose name suggests his connection with two

important local families) was a prosperous farmer.

- 129 The Bradford House (c. 1835): 1½-story central entrance, 5-bay facade, Greek Revival cottage.

#### Pond Street

- 172 The Pothier House (c. 1881): This was the home of Jules Pothier, a French-Canadian shoemaker, as well as his son, Aram Pothier, who became the first French Canadian to achieve major importance in Rhode Island politics. Pothier served as lieutenant governor and twice as governor. But his greatest importance locally, aside from being the city's first French-Canadian mayor, was in his capacity as a promoter of local industrial development, especially by European textile manufacturers, which brought renewed prosperity to Woonsocket in the 1890's and early twentieth century.
- 218 Parkview (1964): This 10-story highrise was the first such housing for the elderly project in the city; now there are three others like it, serving the city's large population of older citizens.
- 313 J. H. Chagnon Wood Working Shop/Gasometer (c. 1865): Perhaps the last surviving nineteenth century gasometer in Rhode Island, this dodecagonal (12-sided) structure was built to hold an iron, coal gas container. Gaslighting was available in Woonsocket by the 1850's, and this was one of three gas storage facilities which served the city.

#### Privilege Street

(see the Farm Street-North Main Street District).

#### Prospect Street

- 47 (c. 1890): 2½-story Queen Anne dwelling ornamented with a wealth of fancy cut shingle decoration.



- 121** The John Ellis House (c. 1876): 2½-story middle class, single-family house of a type built in Woonsocket from the late 1860's through the early 1880's (see 37 Earle Street). It was the home of John W. Ellis, a railroad engineer and banker, and was later owned by Frank S. Thayer who operated a restaurant on Main Street.
- 163** (c. 1898): 2½-story Queen Anne house with extensive porch and semi-octagonal corner tower.
- 179** (c. 1890): 2½-story Queen Anne house, formerly the residence of Antonio E. Prince (1894-1973) who was active in local political, civic and fraternal affairs. Prince was Treasurer of Rhode Island from 1933 to 1936, and Woonsocket Postmaster from 1936 to 1964.
- 205** The James Molten House (c. 1868): This is a typical 2½-story mansard-roofed house of the late 1860's with an altered porch; it was built by James C. Molten, a dealer in "hats, caps and furs" with a store in the Harris Block, now City Hall.
- 219** The Horace Cook House (c. 1868): Somewhat altered, but still clearly representative of the standard 3-bay facade, gable-roofed house type (see 37 Earle Street). This was the home of Horace Cook, a Woonsocket grocer who had an interest in the Union Worsted Company.
- 224** Congregation B'nai Israel Synagogue (c. 1967): Designed by Harry Ramsey, a Boston architect, this building is among the finest recently built structures in the city. It serves as a focal point for the activities of the local Jewish community, not only as a temple, but as a social center and school.
- 268** The Enoch Sweatt House (c. 1868): 2½-story, mansard-roofed, upper middle class dwelling with especially good detailing on roof, dormers, and belvedere; it was built by Enoch G. Sweatt, a railroad contractor.
- 284** The Charles Francis House (c. 1896): This stone and wood shingle house,

- trimmed with late medieval style half-timbering and bargeboards, was first occupied by E. Charles Francis, Assistant Cashier at the Woonsocket National Bank.
- 289** The Thurber-Rathbun House (1867): The most elaborate mid-nineteenth century house standing in Woonsocket, this brownstone-trimmed brick dwelling is capped by a slate mansard roof. It was designed by Michael Volk of New York for Thomas Thurber (about whom little is known) and came into the possession of Rachel Harris Rathbun in 1869. Mrs. Rathbun was Edward Harris' daughter; her husband, Oscar J. Rathbun, was a banker and textile mill owner and succeeded his father-in-law as president of the Harris Woolen Company. From 1882 to 1884 he was Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island.
- 309** (c. 1875): Large, 2½-story mansard-roofed house.
- 341** (c. 1875): 2½-story mansard-roofed house.
- 367** The Frank Holden House (c. 1895): A wholesale coal dealer, Frank E. Holden, who was active in politics and served as Speaker of the Rhode Island House from 1898 to 1901, built this 2½-story Queen Anne dwelling accented by a 3½-story tower.
- 368** The Second George Baker House (c. 1900): This is a late Queen Anne house with circular corner tower partially incorporated into the mass of the building. It was the home of George H. Baker of the Leicester Knitting Mills, who earlier had built a house at 473 South Main Street.
- 563** The Albert E. Greene House (c. 1876): Albert E. Greene was Woonsocket Town Clerk when he first occupied this house. Architecturally, this is one of the best examples of the 3-bay facade, gable and cross-gable house type built in Woonsocket in this era (see 37 Earle Street).

## Providence Street

- South Main Street-Providence Street District: (see South Main Street).
- 34** The Elisha Read House (c. 1800): This 2½-story, gable-roofed, central entrance dwelling was moved from the corner of South Main and Providence streets when the Globe Congregational Church (now St. James Baptist Church) was built. Elisha Read (1807-1878), who lived here in the mid-nineteenth century, was cashier of the Union Bank, and was the son of George Read whose house stands just south at 48-50 Providence Street.
- 35** The Coe House (c. 1800): 2½-story, 5-bay facade, central entrance, center chimney house, the property of Emor Coe in 1851.
- 48-50** The George Read House (c. 1835): This typical, 2½-story, central entrance house with rudimentary Greek Revival trim was built by George Read, a merchant and Woonsocket agent for the Providence and Worcester stage.
- 66** The Reuel Smith House (c. 1888): 2½-story Queen Anne house, owned by Reuel P. Smith of Reuel P. Smith & Sons, insurance agents.
- 99** The John Arnold House (1712): This was John Arnold's second house, built on his farm which included much of this section of the city. John Arnold was the city's first colonial settler and this is Woonsocket's oldest building.
- 150** The Vose House (c. 1800 or earlier): This heavily altered building, perhaps dating from the eighteenth century, stands opposite the John Arnold House on what had been part of the Arnold farm. The Voses married into the Arnold family and this dwelling remained the Vose homestead for many generations. In the mid-nineteenth century it was the home of Willing Vose, a farmer, and then of Alonzo D. Vose, who was in the textile equipment business and became

- widely known as a temperance leader and publisher of the *Woonsocket Sentinel and Thompsonian Advocate*.
- 203 (c. 1897): Willard Kent, a civil engineer and architect, lived here in the latter part of his life, and this cruciform plan, severe "Shingle Style" house was probably designed by him.
- 231 (c. 1800): Small 2-story, gable-roofed, central chimney house with a 3-bay facade rather than the usual 5-bay elevation. By 1850 the house was occupied by Charles Manley, a carpenter.
- 251 (c. 1800): 1½-story, 5-bay, central entrance cottage with a Greek Revival side-lighted doorway. In 1850 the house was occupied by William Butler, a New Hampshire-born stone cutter.
- 302 (c. 1880): 1½-story Late Victorian house with elaborate stick-work trim.
- 307-311, 317-321 (c. 1890): A pair of nearly identical 2½-story Queen Anne double houses with good bargeboards and fancy cut shingling.
- 505 (c. 1905): The former residence of Elie Vezina, first vice-president of the Union St. Jean-Baptiste and its secretary-general from 1911 into the 1940's.
- 604 (c. 1920): This 2-decker double house was the home of Clement W. "Clem" Lebine, the well-known Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher of the 1950's.
- Railroad Street**
- 61 The Harris Warehouse (1855): Stone rubble-walled 3-story warehouse constructed in an arc to conform to the curve of a railroad spur which ran into the building. Harris built the warehouse to serve the needs of his several woolen mills which were thriving in the mid-nineteenth century. Rail transport was vital to the success of Harris' mills, and all Woonsocket industry in the late nineteenth century. The building, entered on The National Register of Historic Places, has recently been renovated with great sensitivity.

- Rathbun Street**
- (S-33) Chester Street-Rathbun Street District: (see Chester Street).
- 330,336 Oak Hill Cemetery: This scenic mid-nineteenth century cemetery was founded by Edward Harris on a hilly site overlooking the city. There Harris and many other prominent local citizens are buried.
- 365 (c. 1923): A pair of early twentieth century 3-deckers with excellent porch detail.
- 365 St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, formerly St. Louis De Gonzague Roman Catholic Church: Sentinellist meetings were held here during the 1920's.
- 366 The Adelard Soucy House (c. 1922): This hip-roofed, 2-story shingle building was the home of Adelard L. Soucy, insurance agent and realtor, who served as mayor from 1919 to 1926, a period of considerable turmoil within the still dominant Republican Party.

- Rebekah Street**
- 121-123 (c. 1925): 2½-story shingled double house with a 2-story porch punctuated by unusual gothic arch openings.

- River Street**
- 85-93 The Chagnon Block (1897): 4-story brick expanded "3-decker" with room for shops on the ground floor.
- 458 Dom Polski Hall: This simple twentieth century structure houses the St. Stanislaus Club, a Polish-American organization.

- St. Joseph Street**
- (1) The former St. Francis Orphanage (1911): This Walter Fontaine designed institutional building has simple pseudo-gothic detailing.

- St. Louis Avenue**
- (1) St. Louis Field: Site of Sentinellist rallies and baseball games in the 1920's.

- Sayles Street**
- (S-16) Sayles Street Bridge (1958): Steel truss bridge erected to replace an earlier structure washed away by the floods of the early 1950's.
- 173 The Mungeon House (c. 1868): This 2½-story building is one of the earliest surviving houses in the Constitution Hill neighborhood and was built by early French-Canadian settlers.
- 201-207 (c. 1880): 2½-story tenement, the home of Nap Lojoie in 1901 when he led the National League in batting.

- Second Avenue**
- 136 Church of the Sacred Heart (1926): This is a handsome Italian Romanesque style brick church with a fine interior; it was designed by Ambrose Murphy and built by the firm of Mohoney and Tucker.
- 533 The former Woonsocket Machine & Press Company (1879, 1891, 1895): This very plain, 3-story, stuccoed stone-rubble and brick factory, now partially demolished, housed a major local manufacturer which once employed 650 operatives. The origin of the business dates back to the late 1820's when Willis and Lyman Cook associated themselves with Willing Vose and established a foundry and machinery business near Market Square. This enterprise evolved gradually and was sold in the 1870's to a new group who expanded the business, especially into the manufacture of cotton textile machinery, and built the Fairmount factory. In 1899 the presidency of the firm was assumed by Edward Harris Rathbun, son of Oscar J. Rathbun, and grandson of Edward Harris. Construction of this factory was a major factor spurring residential development in Fairmount.

- Singleton Street**
- 128 The former Samoset Worsted Mills (c. 1911): This 3-story flat-roofed fac-

tory was one of the last textile mills built in the city.

- 159 The former Nyanza Mills (c. 1910): This 4-story brick mill was one of the last textile mills built in Woonsocket.

### Snow Street

- 112 (c. 1898): A late shingled Queen Anne building, this dwelling has a fine polychromed decorative panel ornamenting its main elevation.

### Social Street

- 1-19 The Union St. Jean-Baptiste Building (1926, 1975): Designed by Walter Fontaine, this elaborate neoclassical block is both historically and architecturally noteworthy. It is the headquarters of one of the most important and influential French-Canadian organizations in the New England region. A new entrance and rear facade were added in 1975 to orient the building to the new downtown.

- 54-64 The Cloutier Block (1893): 4-story brick building containing stores on the ground floor, apartments above. 3-story paneled bay windows and a decorated cornice lend interest to the otherwise plain facade. Alfred J. Cloutier, the builder, was a pharmacist and had his shop in the building.

- 127 The New Woonsocket Post Office (1975): Designed by Lester Millman of Providence, the 1-story tile-faced post office, located on the edge of the new downtown, replaces a very handsome early twentieth century facility on Main Street. Like the downtown itself, the sites of Woonsocket's Post offices have shifted with the urban focus of the city from Market Square to Depot Square, to northern Main Street, to "the new downtown."

- (S-4) Social Corner: In the early twentieth century the intersection of Social, Cumberland and Rathbun streets was the

epicenter of the heavily French-Canadian Social district. Social "Coin," as it was known, became famous as the crossroads of this vital ethnic neighborhood. Though the area has changed considerably since then, both socially and physically, the intersection is still a landmark, especially among older residents, who recall what Woonsocket was like a half century ago.

585-587

(c. 1900): This large 3-decker was at one time the house of Godfrey Daignault (1849-1903), a successful lumber and coal dealer, real estate operator in the Social district, and leader in the French-Canadian community.

679

Woonsocket Fire Station #5 (1912): A handsome 2-story brick firehouse flanked by a 7-story hose drying tower built in 1927. Architecturally, it is one of the best of Woonsocket's many early twentieth century public buildings.

706

Social Street School (1902): 3-story brick schoolhouse with good terra cotta renaissance style ornament on the arched entrance porticoes.

752,  
767,  
837-839,  
842

The Jenckesville District: The once isolated and physically distinct Jenckesville mill village, at the intersection of Mill Street and Social Street, is now so intermixed with later buildings that it has lost its visual identity. Nonetheless, major components of the original complex exist and, taken together, they form the most complete early nineteenth century mill complex in the city. The Jenckes, some of whom had a major financial interest in the Social mill (first textile mill at Woonsocket), embarked on their own venture in 1822 when they built the stone #1 Mill, now 96 Mill Street (enlarged with a brick addition in 1901). It was the first stone factory building in the vicinity and is the oldest industrial building in Woonsocket. It is hard to imagine that the power for this mill came from Peter's River, today little more than a brook. The Jenckes' cotton goods enter-

prise evidently prospered, for they built a second stone mill in 1828, a short way down the river. The 1828 #2 Mill, at 767 Social Street, retains its handsome stonework on the river facade. In the same year the Jenckes built an imposing 3-story brick double house. The architectural quality of this "mansion," at 837-839 Social Street, though masked by a later porch, is undiminished. It is the finest Federal style dwelling in the city. Across Social Street, at 752 and 842, are two smaller buildings, used as dwellings originally, that complete the village complex.

### South Street

- 143 (c. 1880): 143 South Street is one of the best preserved nineteenth century tenement houses in the city. A plain, clapboard structure with gable roof and simple, bracketed cornice, 7-bay facade with 6-over-6 sash windows and a central entrance, it represents the norm for Woonsocket "blue collar" housing during the late nineteenth century. Though a very simple building, the proportions, materials and detailing have become so refined over time, and so accepted, that we perceive in this unpretentious structure a direct, yet high, standard of design.

### South Main Street

South Main Street-Providence Street District: South Main and Providence streets, both dating from Woonsocket's early settlement, retain many of the most interesting residential structures in the city. At the intersection of these two major thoroughfares one finds the only concentration of pre-Greek Revival houses in the city. Here stand half a dozen colonial or Early Republican dwellings, and further south on Providence Street may be found other modest early

- houses. Though South Main Street is an early thoroughfare, buildings along it beyond Providence Street are all mid- or late nineteenth century, or early twentieth century in date. This was a fashionable residential area, semi-suburban in character, and many well-to-do industrialists and merchants erected homes here between 1830 and 1930, the era of the city's great prosperity.
- 28-30** O'Connor's Diner (1918/1928): Charles E. O'Connor established his diner in Market Square in about 1927 and moved to this site in 1928; O'Connor's has been a gathering place for businessmen and politicians over many years. The original lunch room here was established by Leon Camire in 1918.
- (S-18)** The Globe or Main Street Bridge (1903): The present early twentieth century double, stone arched bridge is the latest in a series of bridges which have spanned the Blackstone River at this location since 1736. It was here that Boston-bound travelers crossed in the days when Woonsocket was a colonial highway stop.
- (S-17)** Woonsocket Falls: The falls on the Blackstone River at Woonsocket, now controlled by flood-prevention dams, was the largest single water power resource in the Blackstone Valley, generating in excess of 2,000 horsepower. It was this abundant power, and that of lesser streams nearby, which led to Woonsocket's transformation from an agricultural hamlet into an industrial city.
- 131-155** The Lothrop Building (c. 1901): A 4 and 5-story brick block, originally containing apartments over street level shops. It was probably built by George Lothrop who manufactured leather belting (used to connect mill machinery to power drive shafts) on Glenark Street.
- 268** The Thomas Paine Shop, now Leo's Shoe Shop (c. 1820): This much-altered 2½-story building was the shop and residence of Thomas D. Paine (1812-1895), a watchmaker who went into the manufacture of brass musical instruments, won the First Premium at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute in 1852, and is known as an early developer of improved key stops for wind instruments.
- 307-309** The Raphael Daignault House (c. 1910): This modest 2½-story late "Shingle Style" house — one in a row of such houses — was the home of Raphael P. Daignault who listed himself as a sign painter and awning maker in the directories, and served as mayor of the city from 1912 to 1914 — an era of great prosperity.
- 316** The Woonsocket Armory (1912): The present Armory, Woonsocket's third, is a stone-trimmed, brick castle-like structure designed by William Walker.
- 340** The former Globe Congregational Church, now St. James Baptist Church (1900): The unusual low, spreading, cast-stone and brick church, of Jacobean inspiration, has a well designed belfry and leaded windows glazed with translucent glass. The Congregational congregation (which consolidated with the Slatersville church in 1974) was formed in 1834 and first had a church on the corner of South Main and Pleasant streets. The building is now occupied by a Baptist congregation which formerly occupied the chapel on the corner of Blackstone and Spring streets.
- 356** (c. 1800): 2½-story Federal style house, now much remodelled. By 1857 it was the home of David Morrison, a grocer.
- 383** "The Stone House" (c. 1835): Though badly damaged by fire, the Stone House is still the grandest Greek Revival dwelling in Woonsocket and occupies a commanding site overlooking South Main Street. The stone, 2½-story, monitor-on-hip-roofed building has a full colossal Doric portico across the front. It was built by Cephas Holbrook, a Massachusetts mill owner and proprietor of the Woonsocket Hotel. By 1850 the house was in the hands of George C. Ballou, owner of the Globe Mills.
- 409** The Cyrus Arnold House (c. 1850): Cyrus Arnold was a member of Woonsocket's first family, and was also George C. Ballou's son-in-law. He was superintendent of Ballou's Globe Mill and built this house next to Ballou's. The dwelling is an L-plan, bracketed affair with quasi-gothic decorative elaborations. The exterior detailing is very fine. Aside from his business involvements, Cyrus Arnold served for many years on the town council and represented the community in the General Assembly.
- 413** The Albert Monty House (c. 1923): This elaborately executed neo-colonial brick house was built by Dr. Albert H. Monty.
- 424** The Church of the Holy Family (1909): Holy Family Church, a brick Romanesque structure dominated by a tall spire, is the center of a large complex of buildings — parish house, school, convent: the whole illustrates the typical physical development of a large Roman Catholic parish. The church has a magnificent polychrome interior and was designed by Walter Fontaine.
- 425-427** (c. 1890): This double Queen Anne house is nearly identical to 338-348 Blackstone Street, and illustrates the fact that many houses — even ones as elaborate as this — were designed from standard sets of plans.
- 454** The Ezekiel Aldrich House (c. 1836): The Aldrich house is the only fully realized and reasonably "correct" temple-form Greek Revival house in the city. Built by Ezekiel Aldrich, a prosperous farmer whose family had settled in the Woonsocket area in the eighteenth century, the gable-roofed house is set end to the street so that the roof line, framed

with heavy mouldings, forms a triangular pediment. Supporting the pediment is a full 2-story tetrastyle (four-columned) Doric portico. Within this grand frontispiece, the house is of quite ordinary size, with a 3-bay, side hall plan.

- 460 The Erwin France House (c. 1892): Now the Miller & Fagnant Funeral Home, the France House is a large Queen Anne dwelling, accented by a cylindrical corner tower with a conical roof. It was the home of Erwin J. France, a lawyer, politician, and a leader in Woonsocket's French-Canadian community.
- 473 The First George Baker House (1890): This very fine Queen Anne house exhibits the massing characteristic of the style: a dense rectangular block extended and complicated by gabled projections and a swelling, cylindrical corner tower. Wrapped around this complex form is a handsome porch which repeats the projections and swelling of the mass it contains. The first floor is covered with clapboard, with patterned shingling above. The exterior is further elaborated with plasterwork panels and cornices ornamented with floral patterns and swags. George H. Baker founded the Leicester Knitting Mills, manufacturers of "ladies' and children's ribbed underwear," in about 1886. He lived in this house a relatively short time, moving to Prospect Street and building a new and equally elaborate dwelling there in about 1900.
- 474 The Frank Prue House (c. 1892): 2½-story Queen Anne house with octagonal 3-story corner tower. This was the home of Frank J. Prue, a Main Street hat and cap dealer. He moved here from a house on East Street on Constitution Hill.
- 492 The Himes-Getchell House (c. 1875): This is the most elaborate example of a common Woonsocket house type: the 2½-story bracketed, gable-and-cross-gable dwelling with 3-bay facade and central

entrance (see 37 Earle Street). Of particular note here are the massive pierced and carved consoles which support the roof of the porch and the porch's pierced work balustrade. The house was probably built by Joseph A. Himes around 1875 and later belonged to Seth Getchell, a tin cylinder manufacturer, who moved here from Constitution Hill after becoming well-to-do. In 1900 the house was the setting for a luncheon honoring William Jennings Bryan, the national populist leader and frequent candidate for the presidency.

- 498 The James Read House (c. 1865): A 1½-story bracketed cottage having a projected central cross-gable dormer and entrance pavillion made yet more prominent by a heavy hood over the door. It was the home of James S. Read, a son of Elisha T. Read who lived at the corner of South Main and Providence streets. James Read succeeded his father as cashier of the National Union Bank and for many years was an elder of the Woonsocket Friends' Meeting.
- 510 (c. 1892): 2½-story "Shingle Style" house designed by George Spaulding.
- 563 The George Batchelor House (c. 1885): This simple 1½-story dwelling and fine carriage house was the home of George Batchelor, an English-born grocer who came to Woonsocket in 1865 and served as mayor in 1897.
- 589 The Edwin Salley House (c. 1890): This small but elaborate Queen Anne cottage displays a wealth of fanciful details — patterned shingling, bargeboards, elaborated window sash, and compact, but picturesque massing. It was occupied by Edwin Salley, a carpenter.
- (S-29) 1761 Boston Milestone: This colonial mileage marker at the corner of Great Road has been embedded in the retaining wall in front of 640 South Main. It stands at an important early crossroads.

### Spring Street

- 170 The Joseph Cole House (c. 1865): Now the Rectory of Notre Dame des Victoires Church, the Cole House is of the 2½-story pavilioned, 3-bay facade, cross-gable house type popular in Woonsocket in the late nineteenth century (see 37 Earle Street). Here lived Joseph E. Cole, a business associate of Edward Harris who, as agent for the Harris Woolen Company, was responsible for selling the firm's products.

### Summer Street

- 7-9 The Ferdinand & Irving Cooke House (c. 1893): The Cooke house displays the full range of Queen Anne decorative motifs, from fancy patterned shingles to panelwork and turned spindles. A tower is placed adroitly to capitalize on the building's corner site.
- 21 The Willard Kent House (c. 1883): This elaborate Queen Anne house, with several unusual details like the many-paned windows with stained glass in the upper sash, was the home of Willard Kent, Woonsocket's leading architect and civil engineer in the 1880's when he was occupied with several major projects including the Opera House.
- 49 The Ira Cook House (c. 1885): This is a good example of the 2½-story bracketed, gable and cross-gable house type which was popular in the city in the 1870's and '80's (see 37 Earle Street for discussion of the type). Ira B. Cook was a brush manufacturer.
- 58 The Horace Jenckes House (c. 1865): Horace A. Jenckes, a grandson of one of the founders of the Social Mill and Jenckesville, was a successful building contractor and real estate developer. He was a backer of the Woonsocket Opera House, and constructed the street railway and the municipal water system. An active Republican, Jenckes was a party or-

- ganizer and strategist rather than a candidate. His 1½-story bracketed house is more modest than one would expect for such a wealthy local citizen.
- 67 (c. 1880): 2½-story house set gable-end to street; 2-bay facade with 2-story bay window flanking the sidehall entrance; the fine bracketed detailing is similar to that on 49 Summer Street.
- 83 The Elliott House (c. 1876): This self-consciously picturesque L-shaped cottage is marked by a tall tower and "Stick Style" detailing. It was the home of Charles N. Elliott who worked for Nathaniel Elliott, an important Woonsocket businessman with banking and mercantile interests; by 1880 Nathaniel Elliott himself lived here.
- 94 The Levi Snow House (c. 1865): This transitional Greek Revival /bracketed house has dentilated trim on the cornices and window casings. It was the home of Levi Snow, a carpenter.
- 200-202 The Miranda Southwick House (c. 1868): 2½-story, mansard-roofed house with a cross-gable in the center of the roof front and a 2-bay facade with a 2-story bay window flanking the sidehall entrance. It was the house of Mrs. Miranda Southwick.
- 219 The Summer Street School (1895): Architecturally, this simple Queen Anne building is one of the most pleasing of Woonsocket's many late nineteenth century neighborhood schools.
- Third Avenue**
- 35 (c. 1890): This simple but handsome Queen Anne 2½-story house has a typical spindlework front porch, patterned shingling, and a decorated bargeboard dressing up the gabled roof.
- Trent Street**
- 43-45 (c. 1918): A 2-family house, formerly the home of C. Alexander Peloquin, organist and composer of sacred music.
- Villanova Street**
- 63 Florence Dye Works, formerly the River Spinning Company (1894): This striking textile mill complex was designed by C. R. Makepeace & Company, mill engineers, for W. F. and S. C. Sayles. Here 150 employees manufactured woolen and merino yarns on the French system.
- Vose Street**
- Vose Street-Providence Street District: Along Vose Street and an adjacent portion of Providence Street stand three Queen Anne double houses and two single-family Queen Anne cottages, all built about 1890 (the addresses are: 20-22, 32-34, 44 and 46 Vose Street, and 224-226 Providence Street). Though modest in scale, these are well designed dwellings, and each is elaborated with simple but well handled Queen Anne detail.
- 388 Vose Street School (1899): The school was designed by Clarence P. Hoyt of Boston, and built by Napoleon Bouvier of Woonsocket. This simple but substantial stone-trimmed brick 2-story building originally contained four classrooms.
- Water Street**
- (50) The former Desurmont Worsted Yarn Mills (1907): Though somewhat overwhelming in scale, the 4-story brick mill (with the exception of an undersized roof cornice) is appropriately designed. Jules Desurmont & Sons, manufacturers of worsted yarn, was incorporated in 1909, at a capitalization of 1½-million dollars.
- West Street**
- 157-159 (c. 1880): This typical cross-gable, bracketed house (see 37 Earle Street for a discussion of the type) is the most imposing dwelling in the Constitution Hill neighborhood.
- West Park Place**
- 12-14 (c. 1890): A standard 2½-story Late Victorian double house with an unusual, pavilioned, 2-story asymmetrical front porch.
- 22 (1893): It was not uncommon for Queen Anne houses to be emblazoned with their construction date, and this example, a 2½-story building with octagonal corner tower, has its date presented in a cartouche ornamenting the main gable bargeboard.
- 27 The Henry Rousseau House (c. 1908): This large 2½-story house has a shingle-clad second story over a fieldstone first story. It was the home of Henry Rousseau of Rousseau & Brown, Main Street pharmacists.
- West School Street**
- 138-140 The L. Coe House (c. 1840): A 1½-story vernacular Greek Revival house with eccentric twin cross-gables on the front. The grooved corner boards — suggesting fluted pilasters — are a common feature on simple Woonsocket houses of the period.
- 226 (c. 1890): 2½-story Queen Anne house with clapboard covering the exterior of the first floor, and fancy cut shingles in wave and fish scale patterns used decoratively at the second story level. The windows have extravagant multi-paned upper sash, in some cases set with stained glass.
- Wilson Avenue**
- 17 (c. 1880): A Late Victorian architectural folly, this diminutive 1½-story cottage has a bell-cast gambrel roof.
- Winter Street**
- 43 The Charles Ballou House (c. 1879): Charles E. Ballou, clerk of the Woon-

- socket National Bank, built this 2½-story, cruciform-plan, Late Victorian house.
- 56 The William Myers House (c. 1901): Accented by an octagonal corner turret set above a recessed porch, the house was probably built for William Myers of Myers and Murray, marble workers.
- 69 (c. 1898): Typical 2½-story picturesque Late Victorian house, the basic hip-roofed rectangle of the building complicated by cross-gables, large dormers, a cylindrical corner tower and a broad front porch.
- 71 The Edward Harris Rathbun House (c. 1902) (off Winter Court): A large and rather stark early twentieth century Tudor Revival dwelling built by Edward Harris Rathbun, president of the Woonsocket Machine & Press Company, a manufacturer of textile machinery. His father was Oscar Rathbun and his grandfather, Edward Harris. Edward Rathbun carried the industrial entrepreneurship of the family into the third generation.
- 351 The John Hayes House (c. 1900): Architecturally, the most remarkable feature of the exterior of this house is an inviting porch which wraps around the building and is linked to a projected gazebo capped by a concave-curved roof and copper finial.
- 625,750 (See Farm Street).
- Wood Avenue**
- 103-105 The Joseph Guerin House (c. 1900): This large 2½-story residence, distinguished by a front porch terminating in a whimsical gazebo, was the home of Joseph Guerin, who came to Woonsocket from Belgium in 1891 and established a yarn manufacturing business. In 1896 Guerin, in partnership with other local entrepreneurs including Aram Pothier, took over the old Jenckesville #2 mill at 767 Social Street as the Guerin Spinning Company and built an addition to the mill in about 1901. Guerin's Wood Avenue home later housed Guido Ninchieri who painted the murals in St. Ann's Church.
- 141 (c. 1890): This basically rectangular 2½-story dwelling is given interest by its fanciful metal ridgeline ornaments, and a sweeping 1-story porch featuring a circular gazebo facing the intersection of Wood and Elm streets. By 1905 this was the home of Philippe Boucher, a prosperous baker with a business at Social Corner who held important positions in the Union St. Jean-Baptiste.
- 188-192 (c. 1890): This much altered 1½-story house was at one time the home of Albert Foisy, first editor-in-chief of *La Sentinelle*, and later author of a book on the Sentinellist movement in New England.
- 266 (c. 1890): 1½-story, gambrel-roofed cottage, once the home of Elphege J. Daignault, an active Sentinellist during the 1920's, and author a book about the movement. Later this was the home of Guillaume Parent, a Woonsocket mayor.
- 310-312, 314 (c. 1905): A pair of 3-deckers with delicate porches and ponderous paneled cornices.
- 315 This typical early twentieth century 3-decker was the home of J. Adelard Caron, first secretary general of Union St. Jean-Baptiste and editor of French language papers in Woonsocket, and later in Ottawa.
- Woodland Road**
- 121 The Jarret-St. Germain House (c. 1917): This ample stuccoed early twentieth century house was the residence of Lucian W. Jarret, treasurer of the Sydney Worsted Company. Since the late 1960's it has been the home of Fernand J. St. Germain, United States Congressman.
- 123 The Ethelbert Hebert House (c. 1927): An unusually large "dutch colonial" dwelling built for Ethelbert P. Hebert, president of the E. P. Hebert Knitting Mills and the Sidney Worsted Company.
- 144 The Elisha Clarke House (c. 1909): This 2½-story brick and wood shingle house displays the horizontal banding of exterior siding materials introduced with the Queen Anne style, and the symmetry and relative simplicity of treatment which became the norm with later developments. Elisha D. Clarke was a physician.
- 167 The William Kimball House (c. 1928): The Kimball house displays all the hallmarks of a typical early twentieth century upper middle class house — a symmetrical 2-story block (here capped with a simple hip roof) with flanking 1-story porch wings. The main elevation has a central entrance flanked by banks of large windows. Even the shrubbery is laid out symmetrically.
- 168 The Erwin Dunn House (c. 1907): The Dunn House is quite similar to the slightly later Elisha Clarke House at 144 Woodland Road. The Dunn House was the home of Erwin S. Dunn, treasurer of the Dunn Worsted Company, established in 1895, which took over the 1822 Jenckesville #1 mill, greatly enlarged it, and converted the plant to worsted goods manufacture.
- 277-279 (c. 1905): 2½-story stucco and mock half-timber double house.
- 294 The Walter Gaskill House (c. 1919): A complex and randomly eclectic affair, the house was built by Walter T. Gaskill, a member of one of Woonsocket's oldest families.

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(Note: "RIHS" refers to the Rhode Island Historical Society.)

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The Rhode Island Historical Society

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program

The Woonsocket Department of Planning & Development

The Woonsocket Historical Society

## ADDITIONS TO THE INVENTORY

**115 Cass Avenue, Woonsocket Hospital** (1887, with many later additions): The Hospital owes its existence to the progressive benefaction of Dr. Ezekiel Fowler who, at his death in 1863, left \$6000 for the purpose of founding such an institution. At that time there was no general hospital operating in Rhode Island. Fowler's gift, inadequate in itself to establish a hospital, was held in trust by Latimer Ballou until other funds were raised, and Ballou worked for decades before the hospital actually opened. Additional funds were received in 1873 in the form of a large bequest left by George Law, and a hospital corporation was chartered in that year. Progress was still slow, however, and the original, cottage plan hospital buildings (designed by N. P. Wentworth of Boston) were not erected until 1887.

**The Depot Square Historic District:** The bounds of the district include all land and buildings along Main and Clinton streets from the bank buildings to and including the Providence & Worcester viaduct, on High Street in front of the Longley Building and the Depot, and along Court Street to and including the bridge (street numbers 136-246 Main Street, 23-37 Clinton Street, and 10-18 Court Street inclusive).

**174 Harris Avenue, St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church** (c. 1905): This fine building, stylistically mingling the vernacular American "Shingle Style" with Scandinavian medieval architectural forms, is very like St. Lawrence Church in North Providence which was erected in about 1906 from designs by the Woonsocket architectural firm, Fontaine & Kinnicutt. However, according to the

December 16, 1905 *Evening Call*, St. Stanislaus Church was designed by Murphy & Hindle of Providence.

**75 Main Street, the Buell Building** (1922): Constructed for the Woonsocket *Call* to replace an earlier structure which was destroyed by fire, the 4-story, brick-faced block has served as this major local newspaper's main office ever since. The *Call* was founded in 1892 and remains in the ownership of the Palmer and Hudson families which have guided its fortunes since the Nineties.

**208 Park Avenue** (c. 1845): Modest, 1½-story, 5-bay, central-entrance, Greek Revival cottage with a Late Victorian porch. Standing in what was Bernon Village, the house is typical of the sort of dwellings occupied by millhands working in the Bernon Mills. It appears to have been occupied by renters and the earliest known landlord was Brigham Spaulding, a merchant.

**1338 Park Avenue, Champ's Diner** (c. 1928): This typical 1920s diner, looking much like a trolley car off its tracks, was manufactured by the Worcester Lunch Car Company and has a well preserved interior with sparse, dark woodwork and patterned tiling on the floors, walls, and counter front. The narrow building has only room enough for fourteen patrons seated at fixed counter stools. Built for Joseph Regan and originally called the "C & R Diner," Champ's catered not only to the brisk highway trade at Park Square, a major intersection, but also to the conductors and trainmen employed by the Woonsocket streetcar system which had a car barn next to the diner on the site of the shopping cen-

ter. After changing hands several times, the diner was purchased by Ovila Champagne in 1934. For many years it was open 24 hours per day, but now the schedule is 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. Champ's still belongs to the Champagnes and still serves traditional, hearty, inexpensive diner fare. It remains a friendly hangout frequented by many regulars as well as the "transit trade" — truckers and salesmen. This, too, is a diner tradition. In design terms, diners are notable as early examples of prefabricated construction and as exponents of the now popular "building as sign" approach to roadside commercial architecture which reached its apogee in the Carvel and McDonalds stands of the 1960's. Once common in New England, diners like Champ's are now becoming rare and this one is, in visual, social and gastronomic terms, a remarkable survivor.

**South Main Street — Providence Street Historic District:** The district encompasses South Main Street from Pleasant Street on the east to Alice Avenue on the west and includes all abutting lots. Also within the district are Providence Street from South Main to Orchard Street, Pleasant Street from South Main to Mason Street, Bernice Avenue from Oakland to North Ballou Street; North Ballou and Ballou streets from Bernice Avenue to Coe Street, and a short stretch of Coe Street at its intersection with Bernice Street (the latter area including Coe Street buildings numbered 204 through 262).