

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rice City Historic District

AND/OR COMMON Rice City

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Plainfield Pike, Barbs Hill Road, Potter Road,
Vaughn Hollow Road

CITY, TOWN Coventry VICINITY OF 2 (Representative Edward Beard)

STATE Rhode Island CODE 44 COUNTY Kent CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Various

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Clerk's Office, Coventry Town House

STREET & NUMBER 75 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Coventry

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Preliminary Survey - Coventry

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Rice City is situated in the northeast corner of Coventry in rural western Rhode Island. The Rice City Historic District comprises a two-mile stretch of the Plainfield Pike (R.I. Route 14) with concomitant eighteenth- and nineteenth-century development along it. The district includes three primary nodes of activity: the village center, Rice City proper, located at the turnpike's junction with Vaughn Hollow Road; Vaughn Hollow itself, an enclave of former agricultural and milling activity, north of Rice City; and the former industrial and commercial center, Fairbank's Corner, located at the turnpike's junction with Flat River Road (R.I. Route 117).

The district includes some twenty-seven architecturally and historically important buildings, two archaeological sites, fourteen family cemeteries, one state management park area, and one abandoned and overgrown eighteenth-century dirt road. The main component of the district, which gives the settlement its linear aspect, is the turnpike itself, a two-lane road (now asphalt). The ambience of the district remains essentially rural, despite twentieth-century land divisions and subsequent scattered development of modest residences. Stone walls line much of the turnpike and most of the side roads and provide a key visual link for the entire district. Much of the land, particularly in the western section, remains open, some of it still in light agricultural use, as orchards and for grazing.

The district is characterized by good examples of simple vernacular architecture, modest frame structures, one- and two-and-a-half-stories high, country versions of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian styles. The beginning of the district, at the eastern end, is marked by the presence of a turnpike tollbooth (number 2 on the sketch map), now obscured by undergrowth, which stands next to an eighteenth-century house (Map Number 1) and across from an abandoned early twentieth-century country store (Map Number 40). The three-quarter-mile stretch from the tollbooth to the actual village consists of woodland, mixed with some twentieth-century residential development, set back and well-screened by vegetation from the road. The district bounds are drawn to include the road and its right-of-way, including the stone walls on both sides of the road, but excluding the newer houses.

The village center is defined visually by the two-and-a-half-story, five-bay Rice Tavern, located at the junction of the turnpike with Vaughn Hollow Road (Map Number 4), the small Democrat Schoolhouse (Map Number 19-- formerly located on the tavern lot opposite), the Rice City School (Map Number 17), the Rice City Church (Map Number 15) and the Obadiah Potter house (Map Number 20), a former hotel and store, the last three all on Vaughn Hollow Road. The two last-named public buildings, school and church, were both built in 1846 in the Greek Revival style; they complement each other architecturally, and serve as the civic focus of the village.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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The district extends northward along the unpaved Vaughn Hollow Road into Vaughn Hollow itself, a wooded area containing six farmhouses dating from the late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries, as well as several mill sites on the Moosup River. These farms spread east and west along Vaughn Hollow Road, Potter Road and Barbs Hill Road, and abut the southern border of the town of Foster, which serves as the northern boundary of the district.

The district continues southwest from the village center, a quarter of a mile along the Plainfield Pike, to its intersection with Flat River Road (R.I. Route 117). This intersection, known as Fairbank's Corner since the mid-nineteenth century, is the former industrial and commercial center of the village. It is marked on the north side of the Pike by a stone Greek Revival house (Map Number 25) connected by an open-sided wooden walkway to a large, late nineteenth-century frame store (Map Number 24); on the south side, the other enterprises located at this corner are indicated by a small tailorshop (Map Number 34) and a large slaughterhouse (Map Number 35).

Beyond Fairbank's Corner, the last mile of settlement becomes increasingly rural and sparse, marked only by one eighteenth-century farmstead (Map Number 33) with numerous outbuildings and stone walls, four small family cemeteries, and the relatively undisturbed foundations of two other turnpike taverns (Map Numbers 26 and 31). These archaeological sites have the potential to provide below-ground documentation, through the testing of hypotheses concerning the social and economic interaction of these hostelryes along the turnpike and the changes brought about by this extensive transportation network.

Near its western end, the district includes Gibson Hill Road, a now-abandoned eighteenth-century track, which runs northwest from the turnpike. Preliminary site survey has revealed nine foundations, several trash pits, several cemeteries and miles of walls on Gibson Hill Road. There are indications of more house lots on side paths. The foundations are of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farmsteads that constituted this rich agricultural hinterland of Rice City. The dry-laid stone foundations with half-cellars and wells represent the kind of settlement common in rural Rhode Island and southern New England during the late eighteenth century through the nineteenth

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century. Fairly well undisturbed, the area is almost unreachable, due to heavy overgrowth, suggesting that the sites may yield rather complete data, which will provide supplemental information on life in Rice City. There are no plans to excavate any of these archaeological sites at this time.

Justification of Boundaries

The Rice City Historic District as described and mapped in this nomination follows the historical boundaries of Rice City as an entity based on deeds, land-holdings, and early map histories. (See attached 1895 map - Photo #16)

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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Inventory

Structures contributing historically and/or architecturally to the District.

1. John Greene House (1732 and 1760). 1½-story, 5-bay house with steeply pitched roof, shed dormers and center chimney. The 2-bay, 1-story ell predates the house. Sold in 1778 to John Kelly by John Greene.
2. Tollbooth (c. 1732). Small 1-story booth made of unfinished vertical boards with gable roof. The entrance is at the gable end, with a small window opening to the right of the door. Used as a tollbooth for the Plainfield Turnpike from 1794 to 1866; one of the few remaining tollbooths in Rhode Island.
4. Rice Tavern (c. 1796). Built by Samuel Rice as a tavern, it stands 2½ stories high; 5 bays with gable roof and center chimney. The tavern was an overnight stagecoach stop for the Providence to Norwich stage.
5. House. Early nineteenth-century 1½-story, 4-bay house with gable roof and large, stone center chimney, set back in the woods.
7. Potter House (1852). 1½-story, 5-bay house with gable roof, largely altered by front projecting porch enclosure across facade. On the site of the original Potter House, circa 1754.
8. "Tamarack Farm" (1824). Built by John Vaughn. 1½-story farmhouse with gable roof, attached to outbuildings, with shed behind. John Vaughn ran saw and grist mills in the hollow.
9. Caleb Vaughn House (c. 1750/1840). 1½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, center-chimney dwelling with 1-story side addition. Moved from the top of the knoll behind the present site in 1840. Rebuilt in 1840; its present appearance owes much to the Greek Revival-- its facade articulated by arched panelled pilasters acting as cornerboards and serving as the door enframingent. Built by Caleb Vaughn, one of the incorporators of the town of Coventry.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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10. Bates House (c. 1745). 1½-story, 5-bay house with gable roof and rebuilt center chimney; windows close to eaves. Rear ell. Central doorway with sidelights. William and Frances Bates ran a grist mill in the hollow.
11. George Vaughn House. Early nineteenth-century, 1½-story, 5-bay house, gable roof with center chimney; windows close to eaves. Central doorway with sidelights. Side addition (1852). Millstones from the Vaughn mills are located on this property.
13. *Vaughn Hollow Road*
C. B. Andrews' Store (1881). Late nineteenth-century 1½-story building incorporating store and residence, with gable roof and gable dormers. Now used as a dwelling.
14. Nathan Corey House. Late eighteenth-century 1½-story, 5-bay dwelling with gable roof and gable dormers. Altered in the late nineteenth century: application of cut shingles and new pedimented porch entrance. Nathan Corey was a member of the first church in Rice City in 1783, and subscribed to the Democrat School.
15. First Christian Church of Coventry (1846). Greek Revival church building with square enclosed belfry and two front doors. Originally formed as a Baptist congregation in 1813, it changed affiliation to the United Church of Christ in 1881. The most influential church in western Rhode Island in the 19th century, it achieved prominence due to Elder James Burlingame, who presided over the church for over 50 years.
17. Rice City School (1846). Greek Revival one-room public school with gable roof and open belfry. The school closed in 1949.
19. Democrat Schoolhouse (pre 1812). One-room schoolhouse with gable roof, built by public subscription as a private school. Sold to the public in 1817 for \$60 by Sally and Ebenezer Rice. It served as a schoolhouse until 1846 when the new school was built. At this date this school was moved from the tavern lot to its present location on the west side of Vaughn Hollow Road.
20. Obadiah Potter House (1804). 1½-story, 5-bay, frame house with steeply pitched roof, central chimney; windows close to eaves, 1-story side porch addition. Obadiah Potter ran a store and hotel here in the early 19th century.

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- Plainfield Pike*
22. House. Greek Revival 1½-story, 5-bay with gable roof and gable dormers. 1-story side ell with open porch.
23. Isaac Fisk Farm (1890). 1½-story Late Victorian house with side ell set on a foundation of white quartz; gable roof and gable dormers. The central doorway is flanked by bay windows whose roofs support an attached open porch. To the right of the main house stand 4 other structures: an outhouse (1887); a small cottage, said to be the ell (c. 1742) of the first house on the site; another larger cottage (late nineteenth century); and a shed-like structure which housed the blacksmith's shop (the forge and anvil survive). The property includes a handsome turn-of-the-century barn, situated directly across the road. Isaac Fisk was the town blacksmith in the late nineteenth century.
24. Fairbank Store (c. 1868). 2½-story bracketed Victorian building with gable roof, gable dormers. The open attached porch is a later addition. The building was used as a general store until 1881, selling meat, groceries, clothing and furniture. An open walkway at the rear connects it with the main house.
25. Fairbank House (1826). Small Greek Revival cottage of cut granite with 2 end chimneys and a tall shed dormer with sash containing Gothic lights, probably added in the late nineteenth century.
26. McGregor Tavern Site. Built in 1783, the tavern burned in 1894. The foundation of the tavern, its outbuilding and unfilled well and retaining wall are still clearly visible and essentially undisturbed. It was the only tavern of the three in Rice City that became a Temperance Tavern in 1831. A comparative excavation of this site and that of the Gibbs Tavern would reveal interesting differences in foodways and ceramic uses.
28. "Woodpecker Hill". Nursing home complex using Late Victorian farm complex and carriage house, altered with early 20th-century modern, low, 1-story additions in three sections, to form a courtyard.
- Gibson Hill Road*
29. McGregor District School (1812). 1-story, 1-room schoolhouse with gable roof. Closed in 1907. Moved from its original location, on the east side of Gibson Hill Road to the west side; presently in use as a chicken coop.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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- 30. Gibson Hill Road. An abandoned, overgrown, almost impassable eighteenth-century dirt road, which in its hey-day had as many as seven working farms and a one-room schoolhouse (still extant, although moved, see #29) along its stonewall lined route. Nine undisturbed foundations, several trash pits and four cemeteries have been revealed through a preliminary site survey.
- 31. Gibbs Tavern Site (1791). The Gibbs Tavern burned in 1924 but the stone foundations and the large chimney-base are undisturbed, as are the retaining walls of the entrance-way. The foundations of a hired-hand's house are also visible, with a nineteenth-century pot-bellied stove still extant in the half-cellar.
- 32. Carbuncle Pond State Management Area. One hundred and forty-two acres of open woodland including Carbuncle Pond--the setting for several local Indian legends. Tradition says that the Indians owned a carbuncle, a valuable gem, which they feared the settlers would steal; in order to prevent this they threw the carbuncle into the pond. Acquired in 1969 by the State of Rhode Island, this preserved tract allows the public to experience Rice City's natural scenery.
- 33. Place Homestead (1790). 1½-story, 5-bay dwelling with 2nd story end overhand, gable roof and rebuilt center chimney. The open porch was added after 1894. The family cemetery is adjacent. Numerous farm outbuildings, mostly early-20th-century barns and sheds.
- 34. Fairbank's Corner: Tailorshop (c. 1835). 1½-story Greek Revival cottage, only 3 bays wide, used as a tailorshop by George Fairbank. Seamstresses were paid in goods from the store.
- 35. Fairbank's Corner: Slaughterhouse (c. 1870). Large barn-like structure with two cupolas, used as a slaughterhouse by George Fairbank and his son Elbridge.
- 37. George Parker House (1774). 1½-story, 5-bay house with gable roof and center chimney, 3-bay addition c. 1805. Dentil course at cornice line. Fine central doorway with sidelights framed by paired fluted pilasters. The home of Ezra D. Bates, a local tailor in the mid-nineteenth century.

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- 38. Bates Tailorshop (c. 1850). Long, 1-story shingled shed, part of which was the 19th-century tailorshop of Ezra D. Bates.
- 40. Kettle Brothers Store. 20th-century 1-story clapboard country store with gable roof. Presently not in use; this building was the last of the 'country' stores' to locate in Rice City.

Non-Contributing Properties

- 3. House. 20th-century 1-story ranch house with gable roof.
- 6. House. 20th-century 1½-story house with gable roof.
- 12. House. 20th-century 1-story house with hipped roof.
- 16. Parish House (1964). 1-story, 6-bay clapboarded long house with gable roof.
- 18. House. 20th-century, small 2-bay cottage, using vertical boards, with gable roof.
- 21. House. 20th-century 1½-story, 5-bay shingled cottage with gable roof, built on old stone foundation.
- 27. House. Late 20th-century, 2½-story frame house.
- 39. House. 20th-century reproduction eighteenth-century house, 1½-story, 3-bay with 2-bay addition, gable-roofed with large panelbrick chimney.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rice City is a relatively well-preserved typical late-eighteenth- and nineteenth-century rural settlement. Its component elements--village center, commercial center, subsidiary farming and milling areas, and the linear link of the turnpike itself--are significant to the study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century life in rural Rhode Island and provide or embody information on rural architecture, agriculture, commerce, religion, and transportation. The several archeological sites--although as yet untested--remain generally undisturbed and promise to yield additional data on rural life.

The village developed along the so-called "Great North Road" (later Plainfield Turnpike), an early (1711-1714) transportation link between Providence and central Connecticut. The village is traditionally said to have been founded in 1736 by Adam and Gabriel Love, although no structures from this date appear to survive. However, the road stimulated settlement and the development of community functions throughout most of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Before the end of the eighteenth century three taverns (McGregor, 1783; Gibbs, 1791; and Rice, 1796) and a Baptist Church (1783) were established. By this time, too, the Vaughn Family, which had settled north of the road in Vaughn Hollow early in the eighteenth century, had saw and grist mills in operation.

In 1794, the Great North Road was repaired and taken over by a private turnpike company, the Providence and Norwich Turnpike Society. The road ran to Norwich, Connecticut, via Plainfield and soon was popularly known as the Plainfield Turnpike, the second toll road in Rhode Island. Located along the Pike just east of the village center were a tollgate and booth where tolls were collected. The tollbooth (which some sources indicate was built in 1732 and used as a relay-remounting station) still stands, one of the very few remaining in the state.

Because Rice City was located halfway between Providence and Norwich, it became a convenient and popular overnight stop for stage coaches and travellers along the pike. The opening of Rice Tavern in 1796--the official state-coach stop of the Turnpike Society (and the only tavern still standing in Rice City)--reflected the impact of turnpike travel on the growth of the village. It was Samuel Rice, keeper of the tavern, who gave the village its name. At midnight on opening day in 1796, he climbed to the ridge pole of the tavern with a bottle which he smashed against the chimney, christening the building Rice Tavern and the surrounding settlement, Rice City.

The village's physical development and economic livelihood in the nineteenth century were dependent almost entirely on the turnpike and the

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trade it generated. As more families settled along its length, churches and schools were established. A second Baptist congregation formed here in 1813 and the church soon established (built in 1815) drew residents of Coventry, Foster, and, even, Cranston. The Rice City Church, under the domination of Elder James Burlingame, became the religious center for much of western Rhode Island for the first half of the nineteenth century. The present church building of 1846 is the third structure on the site.

Rice City was divided into two school districts: Rice City and the McGregor district. The three schools that were built still exist and all three are within the district. The first school known as the Democrat Schoolhouse, was built before 1812. A private school, built by public subscription, it was sold to the public in 1817 and served the village until 1846. The Democrat Schoolhouse originally stood on the Rice Tavern lot, but was moved in the nineteenth century to the other side of Vaughn Hollow Road. The McGregor District School was built in 1812, on Gibson Hill Road, near the Connecticut state border. It was in use until 1907; it has since been moved from its foundations, to a nearby location, for use as a chicken coop. The new Rice City School was built in 1846 in the Greek Revival style and served the village until 1949.

Vaughn Hollow, located just north of the village center, was the site of several small and seasonal grist and sawmills, which supplied Rice City and its environs with grain and wood products. The wooded hollow is named for the Vaughn family, who settled here in the early eighteenth century, and ran the mills.

The most important node of commercial activity was at Fairbank's Corner, on the Moosup River. In 1811, the river was dammed and a grist and carding mill was built here. George Fairbank, for whom the corner is named, settled here in 1826, building a stone Greek Revival house. He built a woolen mill, which burned in 1866 and was never rebuilt. The mill foundation has been destroyed by the building of the present bridge crossing the Moosup, although the dam and spillway are still visible. Many of the local farmers raised sheep, and it was said that they could bring the wool to Fairbank's Mill, to have it processed, after which finished articles of clothing were produced by seamstresses in a small tailor shop on the premises. By 1868 the

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Fairbank family had expanded into the grocery business. A large store was built, as well as a slaughterhouse. The Fairbank complex served as the commercial center not only for the village, but drew many customers from nearby Connecticut and Foster.

Gibson Hill Road was the focus of outlying agricultural settlement. The road was mapped in 1784 and was the site of several working farmsteads by the early nineteenth century. The McGregor District School was originally located along this road and could be seen clearly from the Plainfield Pike.

Rice City began as an early eighteenth-century farming settlement whose development and growth were generated by the turnpike trade and the stagecoach lines. When the railroad line was built through western Coventry in 1854, it totally bypassed Rice City. The station was located to the southeast and generated a new village, Greene. With the change in transportation, traffic declined and the turnpike no longer served as the primary trade route.

By the latter half of the nineteenth century depopulation had begun. The stagecoach lines discontinued service in 1866, as the railroad became more important. Maps reveal that many Rice City natives moved to Greene to be nearer the railroad. The post office closed and relocated at Greene; most of the farmsteads on Gibson Hill Road were abandoned by 1895. The Fairbank Store closed in 1881, and none of the stores that were established after that time had any similar impact, in bringing people to Rice City. Development stopped and Rice City was thus reduced to a sleepy rural settlement, which it remains to this day. Despite some, mostly recent, residential development, Rice City remains relatively unchanged, retaining much of its visual, architectural, and historical integrity.

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Hopkins, Samuel R. A Short Account of the Reformation and
Establishment of the Church of Christ or Christian Church
of Coventry since 1812. Providence, 1821.

Place, John W. Rice City and its Suburbs. (text of speech given
at Western R.I. Civic Historical Society) 1949.

Pugh, William E. "Rice City: You can enter it, but you can't
leave it." Providence Journal Bulletin, August 6, 1971: 1-2.

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Beginning at the northeast corner, at and including Lot 69, Plat 56, the boundary of the district runs west and south following the northern and western lot line of lot 69, to a point fifty feet north of the center line of Plainfield Pike. From there the boundary turns west, following the center line of Plainfield Pike, but fifty feet to the north, until it meets the eastern lot line of lot 13, Plat 56. It then runs north along the eastern lot line of lot 13 and lot 8, then east along the southern lot line of lot 7 continuing due east to and including lot 4, Plat 56, and following its southern, eastern and northern bounds. From there the district boundary proceeds northwesterly, at the same angle as the northern lot line of lot 4 about 80 feet, until it meets the eastern lot line of lot 7, Plat 56. Thence north along the east boundaries of Lots 7 and 5 to the town of Foster's southern border.

The boundary proceeds west along the town border to a point due north of the northeast corner of Plat 57, Lot 1, thence due south to the northeast corner of Lot 1, then across forest land to the southwest corner of Lot 5, then following the south bounds of Lots 5 and 7, west to meet Barbs Hill Road, southeast on the center line of the road to the northwest corner of Lot 4, and then southwest on the west bounds of lots 4, 11, 15, 26, 28, then running west on the north bound of Lot 40; south on the west lot line of lot 40 to a point 50 feet north of the center line of Plainfield Pike. The boundary proceeds west from that point, following Plainfield Pike, fifty feet north of its center line across lots 51, 55, 56, 50, and 57, then turning to the north 20 feet at lot 54 to include a cemetery, beyond that returning to fifty feet north of Plainfield Pike's center line and crossing lots 53, 52, 36 and 35 until it meets the eastern bound of lot 34, Plat 57. From there the boundary proceeds north and west along the eastern and northern lot lines of lot 34, south on the west bound of lot 34 to meet the northeast corner of Lot 100; west on the north bound of lot 100 to the southeast corner of lot 101, hence north and west on the east and north bounds of lot 101, across Gobson Hill Road, continuing west on the north bound of Plat 58, lot 33 to the Connecticut state border. The district boundary then runs south along the state line to the southwest corner of lot 33, then east on the southern bound of Lot 33 to the western bound of lot 32, then south on that bound to the Plainfield Pike. The boundary runs on the southern edge of the Plainfield Pike, east to the northwest corner of Lot 11, south and east on the west and south bounds of lot 11 to meet the western bound of Lot 10; south

(31)

USD needs revision, according to

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on that bound to, and including, the railroad right-of-way of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad which forms the southern bounds of lots 10 and 8; following east on the south bound of the right-of-way to meet the Moosup River; following the river generally north to the south bound of lot 2; east on this bound across Flat River Road. East and north on the south and east bounds of Plat 55, Lot 20, then on the north line of lot 20 to a point 100 feet east of the center line of Flat River Road; then due north to the southern bound of lot 37, Plat 5. then west fifty feet, then north following the center lines of Flat River Road and Plainfield Pike, but fifty feet to the east across lots 37 and 22 to the southern line of lot 31. From there the district boundary follows the southern, eastern and northern bounds of lot 31 east, north and west to a point 50 feet south of the center line of Plainfield Pike. Thence the boundary turns and follows Plainfield Pike, fifty feet south of its center line, across lots 32, 33, 24, 60, 25, 40, 125, 123, 122, 121, 120, 119, 117, 109, 108, 107, 106, 105 and 102. Then the boundary follows the east bound of lot 102 south to a point opposite the southwest corner of lot 104; thence in a straight line to that corner; east on the south bound of lot 104 to Sisson Road; north on Sisson Road to the Plainfield Pike; east on the south bound of Plainfield Pike to the southeast corner of Plat 56, lot 69, then north along its east bound to the point of beginning.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barbour, Ardis & Bates, Frank G. How Coventry Came to Be and Coventry: Our Town (Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet) 1941.

Fowler, Gail. Rice City: An Evaluation of the Evidence. (Master's Thesis, Brown University) 1976.

See continuation sheet 10

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 1,560 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	27,15,1,0	4,62,27,5,0	B	1,9	27,27,8,0	4,62,16,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	27,00,0,0	4,61,89,2,0	D	1,9	26,66,1,0	4,62,01,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 19 269900 4622740

See attached sheet -- continuation sheet 11

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Vivienne Lasky, Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Frank C. Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 21, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

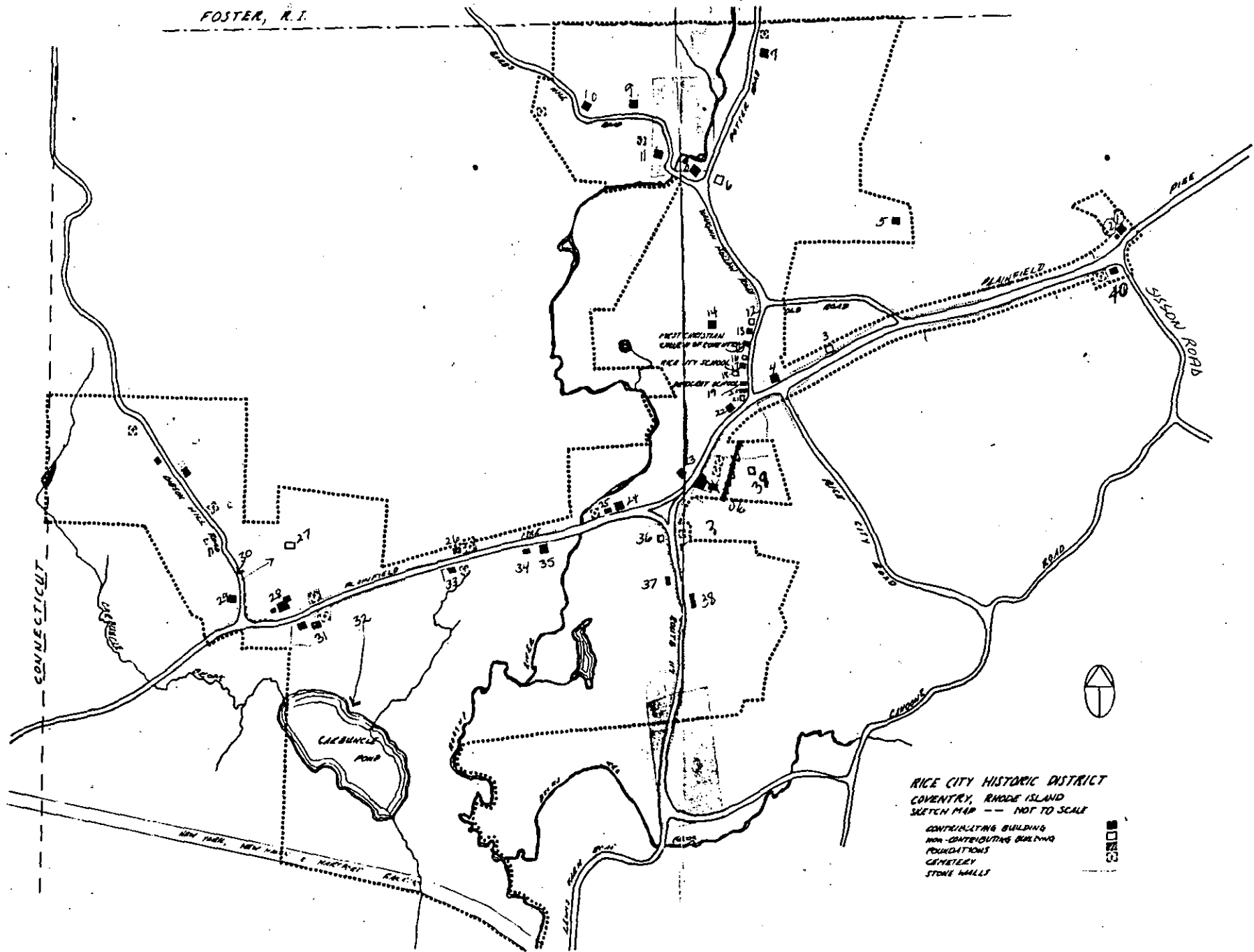
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FOSTER, R. I.





Beley
Station
1885

Tollbooth
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

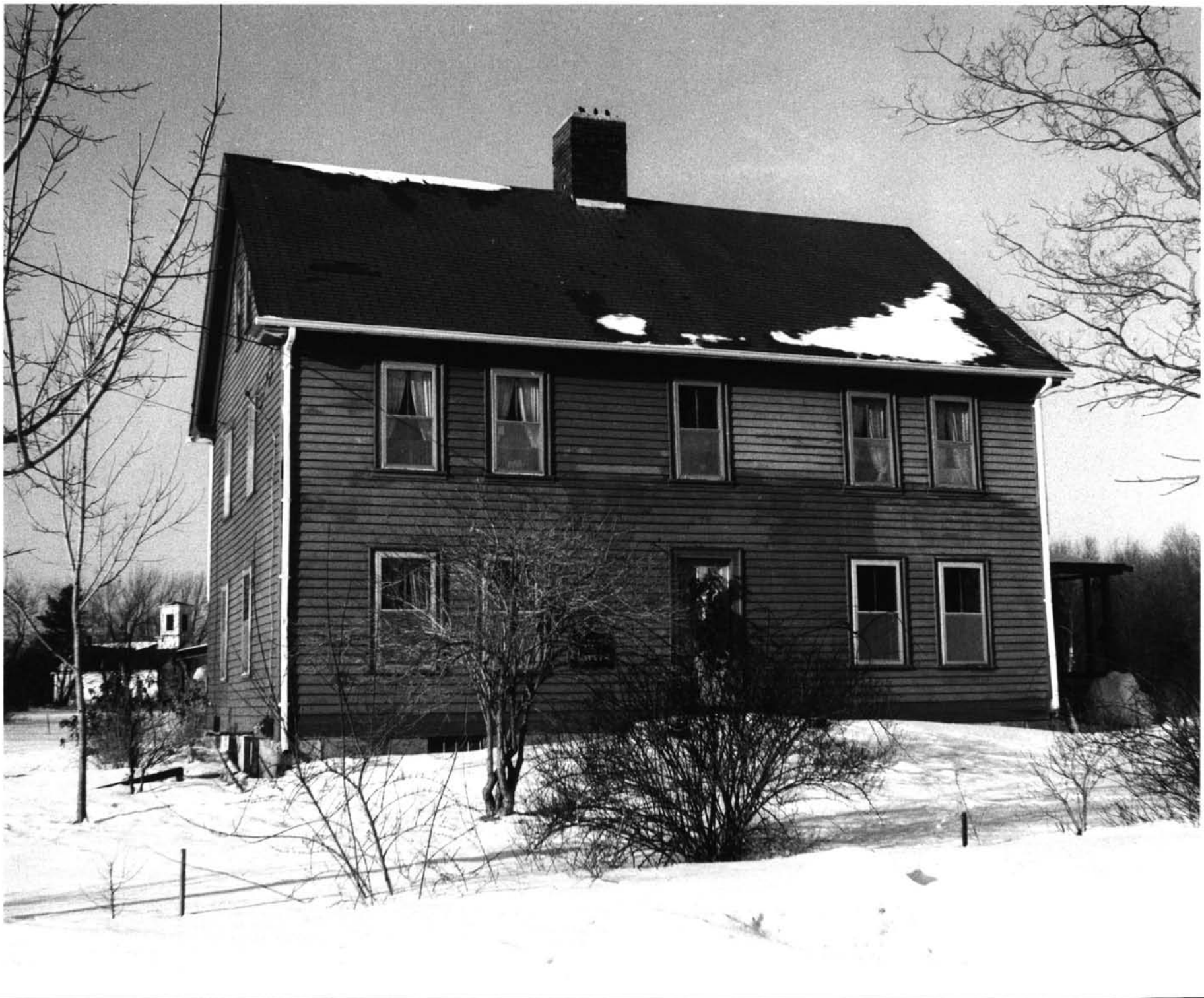
Vivienne F. Lasky

July 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the south

1



Rice Tavern

Rice City Historic District

Plainfield Pike

Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

January 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the southwest, with First Christian
Church in the background.

#2



Obadiah Potter House
Rice City Historic District
Vaughn Hollow Road
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

January 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the southeast

#3



Democrat School

Rice City Historic District

Vaughn Hollow Road

Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

January 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the southeast

4



Rice City School
Rice City Historic District
Vaughn Hollow Road
Coventry, Rhode Island

Vivienne F. Lasky

July 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the northeast

5



First Christian Church of Coventry
Rice City Historic District
Vaughn Hollow Road
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

February 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the south

6



Isaac Fisk Farm
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

June 1977

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the south



Fairbank Store
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

November 1976

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the southeast

8



Fairbank House
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

November 1976

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the southeast

9



Fairbank Barn-Slaughterhouse
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

November 1976

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the northwest

10



Fairbank Tailorshop
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

November 1976

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the northeast

11.



Place Homestead
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Walter Nebiker

November 1976

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Exterior from the northwest

#12



Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Susan Dynes

November, 1979

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

View to the northeast along Plainfield Pike from
Fairbank's Corner, showing the Isaac Fisk Farm.

#13



Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Susan Dynes

November, 1979

Negative Filled: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

View to the west along Plainfield Pike, showing
historical cemetery #8 (next to map #26).

#14



Place Homestead
Rice City Historic District
Plainfield Pike
Coventry, Rhode Island

Susan Dynes

November, 1979

Negative Filed: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

View from the west showing outbuildings & adjacent
fields.

#15



Rice City Historic District
Coventry, Rhode Island

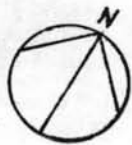
Photographer: R.I. Statewide Planning April 14, 1975
Program

Copy negative by Brown Photo Lab September, 1979

Copy negative on file at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Aerial view showing the junction of Plainfield Pike
and R.I. Route 117. The Moosup Valley River crosses
the Pike at the left of center, just west of the
cluster of buildings at Fairbank's Corner.

#16



Rice City Historic District
Coventry, Rhode Island

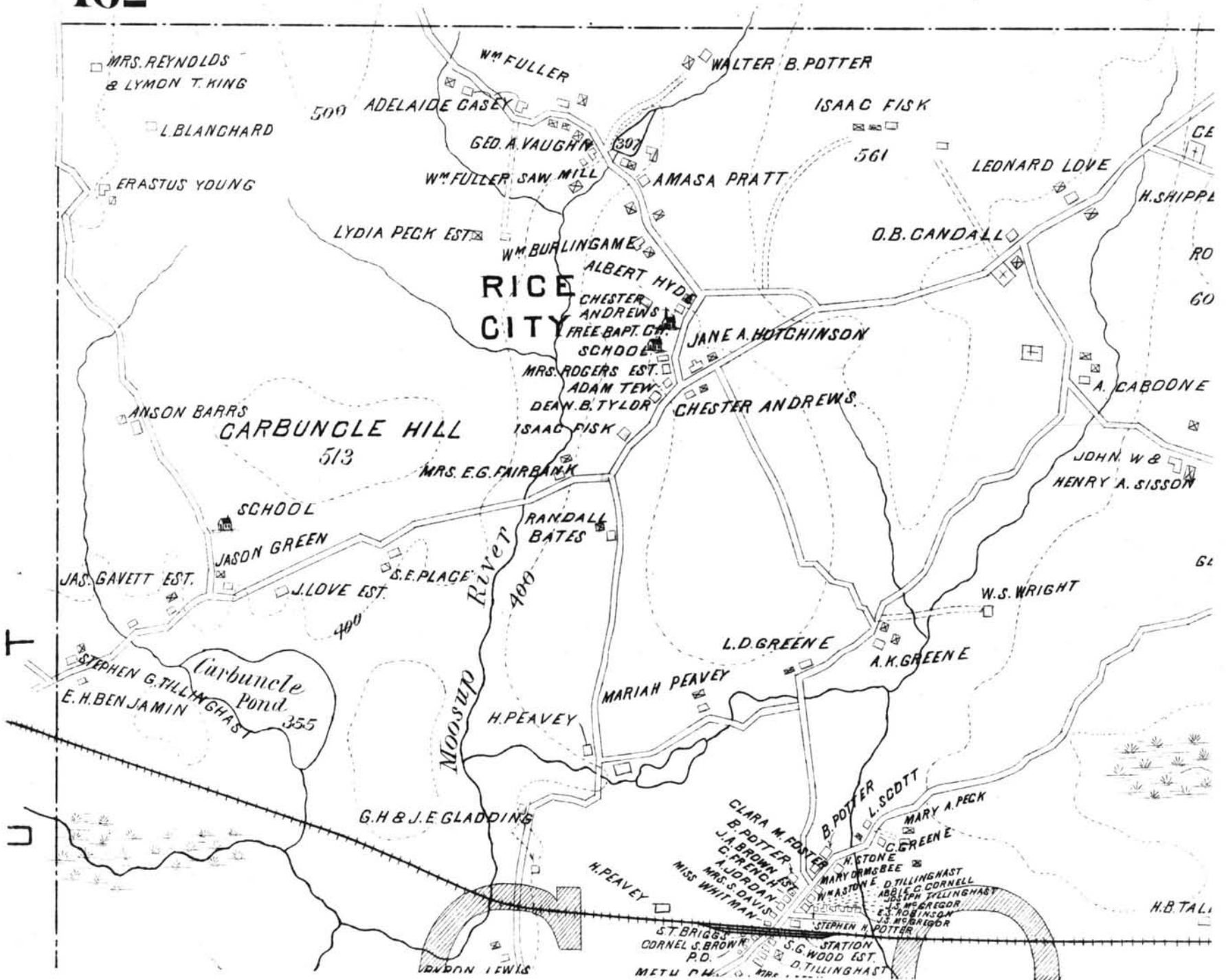
Photographer: R.I. Statewide Planning April 14, 1975
Program

Copy of negative by Brown Photo Lab September, 1979

Copy of negative on file at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Aerial view showing western section of district with
Carbuncle Pond at center bottom and Gibson Hill Road
at left top.

#17



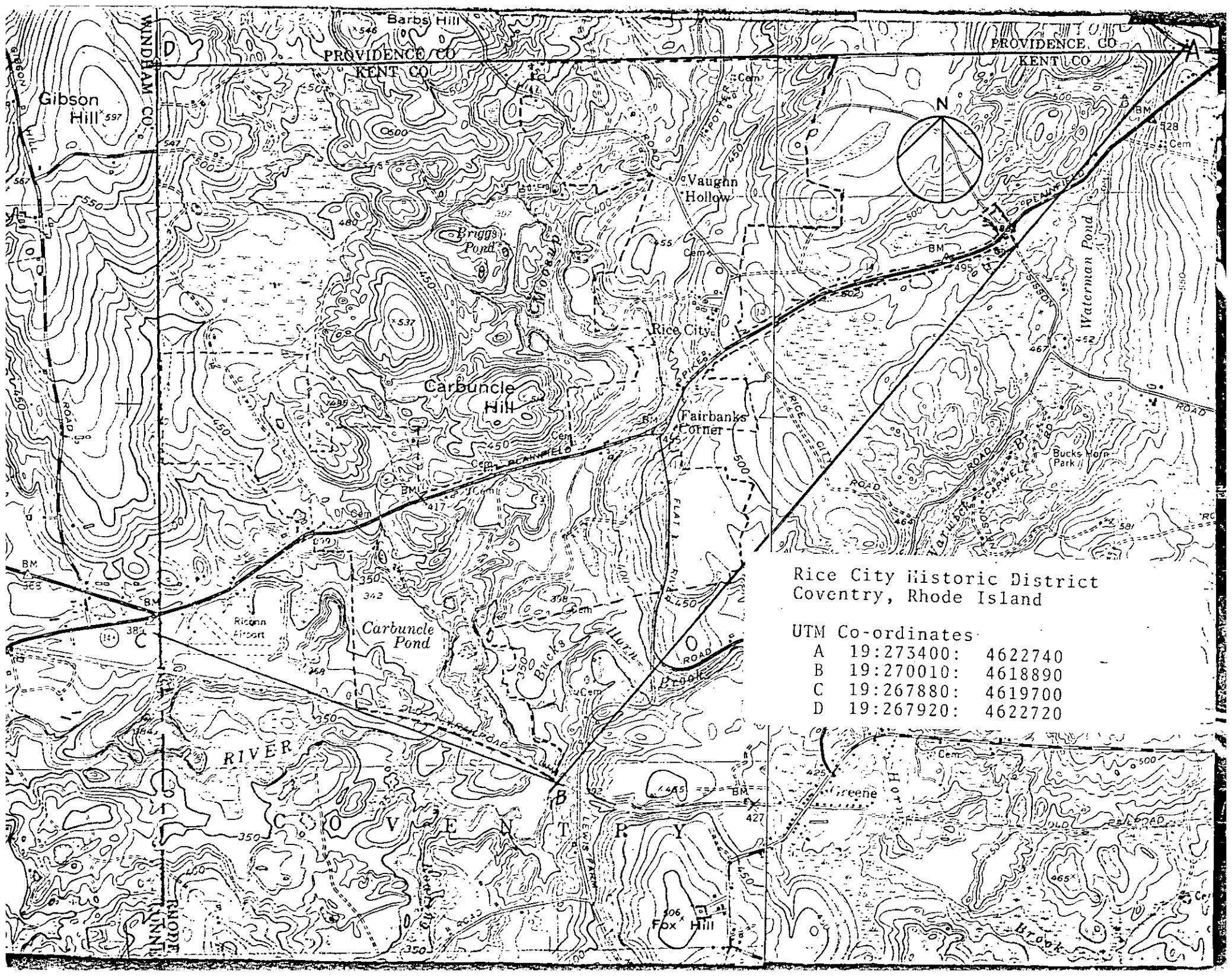
Rice City Historic District
Coventry, Rhode Island

Copy negative by Brown Photo Lab September, 1979

Negative on file at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

Rice City as shown in the 1895 Everts and Richards
Atlas of Providence County, Rhode Island.

#18



Rice City Historic District
Coventry, Rhode Island

UTM Co-ordinates

A	19:273400:	4622740
B	19:270010:	4618890
C	19:267880:	4619700
D	19:267920:	4622720