

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Lafayette Village

AND/OR COMMON Lafayette Village Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

Properties bordering Ten Rod Road from Wickford Junction  
STREET & NUMBER to the Culvert east of 935 Ten Rod Road, related side street  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN North Kingstown VICINITY OF District #2 Representative Edward Beard  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Rhode Island CODE 44 COUNTY Washington CODE 009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" 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 STATE  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. North Kingstown Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER 580 Boston Neck Road

CITY, TOWN North Kingstown STATE Rhode Island

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE North Kingstown--Statewide Historical Preservation Survey

DATE 1977-1978  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 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

The village of Lafayette is a largely late nineteenth century linear community stretching along Ten Rod Road one and four-tenths miles northwest and southeast from a central mill complex and containing one eighteenth century and about 160 nineteenth century buildings. The village rides a ridge of high ground separating two of North Kingstown's three watersheds. There is little modern development either to the north, which is now partially a state park, or to the south, where Belleville pond, with some adjacent land, is being developed as a central park for North Kingstown. The historic district boundaries have been drawn along the old Wickford Branch Railroad right of way so as to be contiguous with the northern edge of the park (see map). The southwest boundary is formed by the tiny Shewatuck River which powered the earliest mills.

In 1703 the Rhode Island colony authorized a new road leading into the country from the sea to promote trade with western Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut. The new road was to be ten rods wide (160 feet) to allow grazing for livestock on their way to the port at Wickford. It was to be as straight as possible, turning only to avoid swamps. There was almost no development along the road in the eighteenth century. Only three houses from that period within Lafayette survived into the early twentieth century and only one into this decade. Yet, the road's unusually broad and straight character and its legal requirement of a deep setback for houses built alongside in the nineteenth century gives the area a monumental boulevard-like quality at the eastern end of the village. It is this ancient road that determines the character of the village, much more than either the nearby brook or the later typically linear nineteenth century insertions: the Providence and Stonington Railroad, which crossed Ten Rod Road at the western end of the village from 1837, or the Wickford Branch Railway, which ran from the Junction east to Wickford Village and formed the southern boundary of the Rodman mill complex after 1871.

Milling on this site began in the last quarter of the eighteenth century with a snuff mill and a tannery on the Shewatuck. There may have been cotton yarn spinning in the very late eighteenth century as well, for nineteenth century histories of the town credit the Greene and Hawkins mill on this site as "being one of the oldest cotton manufactories in the state." The village was known, before its 1824 renaming in honor of the triumphal tour of Lafayette, as the North Kingstown Cotton Factory, suggesting that at one time it was the only such factory in the town. A wood building which the Rodman Manufacturing Company (incorporated 1883) used as its main mill until 1878 and which survived into the 1950's might have been a survivor of these distant early days.

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Cotton manufacturing continued at Lafayette under several different owners until 1847 when Robert Rodman, scion of a South Kingstown textile family, who had been operating mills at Silver Spring, North Kingstown, from the age of 23, purchased the Lafayette factory and changed the machinery for woolen manufacture. Rodman prospered in the early 1850s, failed in the panic of 1857, and then recovered enough in subsequent years so that by 1861 he could begin a program of systematic purchase of large tracts of land and pay off his creditors from the earlier failure. He was also solvent enough to build, in 1864, a mansion for himself on Ten Rod Road (Number 731).

This Lafayette mansion, now used as a Masonic Temple, was the beginning of a thirty year history of Rodman building enterprise which eventually included a whole new factory complex, three larger mansions for his children (Numbers 691, 715, and 781) a church, two schools, a community assembly hall, a boarding house (Number 611), a park (rear of Number 731), and a suburban subdivision of eighty-three lots with fourteen single-family houses. With the exception of the community hall, victim of a 1950's arsonist, and one mill house, the entire Rodman building program is intact. It, with the other houses built privately directly or indirectly by Rodman Manufacturing Company prosperity, constitute the existing Lafayette Village. Except for an intrusive automobile dealership and one unfortunate brick addition to the front of a mansion (Number 691), the village today looks much as it must have in the 1890s. The small modern houses concentrated primarily at the village edges and used occasionally as infill, conform in scale, individuality, and in modesty to the quality of the nineteenth century community.

The heart of Lafayette remains, as a century ago, the extensive brick complex of the factory and five outbuildings of 1878 which triggered the subsequent intensive development of the rest of the village. Rodman's woolen works had prospered during the Civil War and his St. Nicolas Doeskins, widely marketed throughout the opening western and southwestern continent, had created a cash reserve which allowed the company to ride through the more severe panic of 1873, as they had been unable to do in 1857. Thus, one supposes a celebratory mood as Rodman packed his entire family, children and grandchildren off to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia where the doeskin, a luxury fabric with nap, won a medal. Shortly thereafter he placed

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an order for a 125 horsepower Corliss engine and the following year, in a single intensive building campaign, erected his vast new brick mill and five related outbuildings, all clearly designed by the same (unknown) hand.

The mill itself is an impressive, even awesome structure, 316 feet long and three stories high on the millyard side, two stories high on the road. It is thirty-eight bays long with twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash and a shallow gable roof. The entrance is in the northernmost of the two central seventy-foot stair towers, located one on each facade. These towers are articulated with wooden scroll work and molding details about the windows, great twelve-foot arched doorways leading to each floor, and mansards at the top ornamented with more delicate scroll work inserts into the trim and fine iron cresting. These crested mansards, along with the thinner spire of the nearby Advent Church, built 1883, rise above the trees that Robert Rodman planted along the streets and create a skyline for the village. There were tanks under the mansards to hold water pumped from the mill pond to be used in manufacturing processes. The bell from the old mill is still on top of the northern tower, having been placed there after the steam gong made for the new plant proved too disturbing to neighboring farmers.

The processing of wool at the new Rodman mill was, like the flow of water from the mansards; from the top down. After the raw fiber was picked and cleaned in the building which had been the old mill, it was hauled to the third floor by the (originally) open elevator attached to the outside of the millyard tower. Carding and spinning took place in a clear span space of the dimensions of the entire building, the roof on that level being supported by a series of Waddell "A" trusses with wood beams and iron tension rods. The yarn then descended to the second floor for weaving and the fabric to the first for finishing, washing, and sewing. These two lower floors were divided by a double row of wooden columns supporting great wood beams fixed into the brick walls. The columns on the second floor have been moved inward to equalize the spatial divisions. Originally the "nave" was wider than the "aisles." The beams on the first floor have been reinforced with steel but the columns are still in their original position. The mill building thus contains three vast and impressive spaces, clearly defined and powerfully articulated, which now house easily an appliance retail store, a group of antique stores, a lumber and hardware business, and small chemical and electronics manufacturing companies.

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Reuse has proceeded naturally in this fine structure but it could be helped by a design program in landscaping and signage. The area between the main mill and the road is now filled with lumber, is separated from the road by a chain link fence, and is marked by some harshly painted signs.

The five brick outbuildings from the 1877 building campaign have survived as well as the main mill. One was originally used as an engine house and is attached to the west side of the main mill. Another was Robert Rodman's own office. It stands very close to Ten Rod Road and is now a residence. Two were warehouses, (number 606 and number 620) and the fifth was a large barn. The barn was important to mill operation, for in spite of the spur line from the Wickford Branch Line into the yard, the company depended upon horses for most of its hauling: two loads of coal a day from the Rodman wharf in Wickford and all finished goods to the Junction for the train to New York. All of the outbuildings share with the main mill building a powerful architectural quality which is due, however, not as in the main building, to the mansards and detailing but rather to the clear definition of form created by the protruding granite foundations, massive granite sills and lintels, the powerful play of sharply cut varied openings of window and doors, and, finally, the repeating motif of simple brackets under the eaves.

The linear and now largely white-painted frame village of Lafayette that stretches northwest and southeast from the mill complex falls into several historically, functionally, and geographically differentiated zones. At the west end of the village is Wickford Junction where the main line and the Wickford Branch railroad meet. This area always had a life independent of the Rodman Manufacturing Company. As Wickford Depot or Station, with its own post office, it was a home for railroad engineers and conductors in the middle decades of the century. After 1871, when double tracking from Providence reached the Depot and the Wickford Branch Line was built by the Newport and Wickford Railroad and Steamboat Company, the Junction enjoyed some prosperous decades with the business of transferring passengers and goods from New York to the smaller line for the trip past the Rodman mills to the coast and the steamer to Newport. Rodman great grandchildren today recall the childhood game of looking picturesque for the benefit of the denizens of the Vanderbilt private car.

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The Junction lost its commercial activity with the demise of the Newport connection in the 1920s, and most of its commercial buildings with the building of a railroad underpass in 1939. Two rows of late nineteenth century houses remain, however, one north and one south of Ten Rod Road. Many of these are the simple five-bay cottage type common in the area. This type is characterized by a gable roof flank to the road, a central door with an elaborately bracketed door hood, and a kitchen ell in line with the main block and fronted with a porch with delicately scrolled porch brackets. There are also, usually, half windows under the eaves to light the second floor of the main block. It is a building type not yet studied in a Rhode Island context but surely deserving of recognition for its sturdy attractiveness, its flexibility (it exists in Lafayette in a variety of sizes), and its lasting popularity. Both the Wickford Junction and East Lafayette ends of the Lafayette Historic District contain a significant collection of varieties of this pervasive late 19th century building type.

Coming from Wickford Junction into central Lafayette one finds on the north side of the road the four Rodman mansions, varied exercises in Victorian modes built from the 1860s through the 1880s. Two are still in the Rodman family and are in excellent condition with splendid interior finish and furnishings (numbers 781 and 715). Nearby are the Advent Church built in the Gothic Revival style by Rodman munificence (Number 19, Advent St.), the popularly styled "Hornbeam Chapel," dating from 1843, which the church replaced (number 714), one possibly mid or late eighteenth century cottage (number 770), mill housing, the store and post office (numbers 670 and 645), several houses occupied by other Rodman family members, and a handsome 1891 school (number 580), whose architect is not yet known. These all are ranged along Ten Rod Road along with the factory buildings, forming with them an intensified village center.

From central Lafayette, Ten Rod Road descends toward the east into a swampy valley known traditionally as the Vale of Pero, after an old Negro, former slave, who lived here early in the nineteenth century. This area developed as an informal commercial and social center for the male population of the village in the late 19th century. There was a livery stable, blacksmith shop, carriage repainting and repair works, an ice cream stand with barber shop, and a hall which housed the rehearsals of the Lafayette Cornet Band, another Rodman enterprise of town-wide renown. A footpath from the Vale led overland to Wickford

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to shorten the journey for walkers. Like Wickford Junction, this area has lost buildings along with vital commercial activity, so that it is difficult to imagine its former state from its present condition. The few buildings that remain in this now largely wooded area have been badly treated from an historical point of view.

East Lafayette, however, or the "New Village," as it was known, located on the rise on the other side of the Vale, retains its dense late nineteenth century character, the result of a tidy suburban housing development for Rodman employees and for businessmen and craftsmen of the area. The south side of Ten Rod Road is the northern border of Robert Rodman's company subdivision of eighty-three 80-by-160-foot lots. The six side streets, leading south to the railroad right-of-way, appear to have been named after early purchasers of lots. Near the tracks, in the center of the subdivision, were two lots reserved for the East Lafayette School, built in 1891 and later moved to central Lafayette and expanded. Lots along Ten Rod Road were the first sold, and were built, along with the opposite side of the main road, with a rich array of variations of the local flank gable house type in one, one-and-a-half, two, and two-and-a-half story sizes. Many still have bay windows, richly bracketed door hoods, and fretwork decoration on the verandahs in front of the kitchen ells. A few retain wood picket fences. Thirteen of the houses within the Rodman subdivision section were Rodman-built end gable cottages leased to mill employees. (The contracts for these houses, drawn between Rodman and William and Alpheus Sherman, Rodman inlaws and builders, survive, along with detailed specifications for their construction.)

Ten Rod Road in this section of Lafayette has an especially powerful visual quality because of the ancient setback requirement. The road, however, has been legally narrowed in the twentieth century, as evidenced by the unfortunate intrusion of an automobile dealership among the Victorian buildings, well in front of the older building line. A happier exception to the wide set back is a little roadside barber-shop, built in 1949 but a convincing rendition of a small neighborhood commercial enterprise of an earlier era (No. 381-5). In form and scale, in materials, and in purpose it continues the socially and visually integrated spirit of the late nineteenth century building program into the twentieth century and thereby suggests construction approaches for the future that would intensify the historical qualities of this very attractive living nineteenth century community.

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All buildings marked by an asterisk are appropriate in scale and purpose to the district (with one exception -- the car dealership), but are not contributing as historic structures and are not considered eligible for benefits under the Tax Reform Act of 1976. There are 121 contributing structures, 44 non-contributing ones, and 43 vacant lots. All structures are to be presumed of frame construction unless otherwise noted.

Advent Street

19 Advent Street. Lafayette Advent Christian Church: An 1883 Gothic Revival church with tower and steeple. Surface materials are clapboarding, vertical board and batten siding, and patterned shingles. There are decorations in the gable and over the door. Construction costs were donated by Robert Rodman.

Angel Avenue

- \*19 Angel Avenue. House: Early 20th century 1-story end gable house with porch. Second small house on property.
- \*21 Angel Avenue. House: Mid 20th century 1-story flank gable house with plain entrance portico.
- \*35 Angel Avenue. House: Mid 20th century small, 1 story, vinyl-sided building.
- \*40 Angel Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with ell.
- \*50 Angel Avenue. House: Small, mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable with attached garage.
- \*55 Angel Avenue. House: Small, mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with curved bay window.
- \*62 Angel Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable house.

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\*Angel Avenue. Vacant lot.

\*Angel Avenue. Vacant lot.

Arnold Avenue

24 Arnold Avenue. Mill-owned house (1878): Similar to 394 Ten Rod Road.

25 Arnold Avenue. Mill-owned house (1878): Similar to 394 Ten Rod Road. 20th century portico has been added over entrance.

33 Arnold Avenue. Mill-owned house (1878): Similar to 394 Ten Rod Road.

34 Arnold Avenue. Mill-owned house (1878) Similar to 394 Ten Rod Road.

40 Arnold Avenue. Mill-owned house (1878): Similar to 394 Ten Rod Road. Asbestos siding added.

41 Arnold Avenue. Mill-owned house (1878): Similar to 394 Ten Rod Road. Alterations. Two shed dormers have been added and door. Window trim is lost to vinyl siding.

\*Arnold Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 59)

\*Arnold Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 60)

Corey Avenue

20 Corey Avenue. House: Early 20th century, 1-story, hip-roofed, shingled house in two sections.

\*60 Corey Avenue. House: Small, mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house.

\*61 Corey Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable house.

\*Corey Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 23)

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\*Corey Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 54)

\*Corey Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 99)

\*Corey Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 53)

\*Corey Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 43)

\*Corey Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 24)

Dillon Avenue

25 Dillon Avenue. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable clapboarded house with attractive heavy bracketed door hood. House appears a version of Rodman Mill House type with entry on flank, rather than end.

32 Dillon Avenue. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable, clapboarded house with patterned shingling on 2nd floor. Alterations-- porch enclosed, dormer added.

\*43 Dillon Avenue. House: Late 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with curved bay window.

\*44 Dillon Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, split-level house.

\*55 Dillon Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house.

\*Dillon Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 23)

\*Dillon Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 56)

\*Dillon Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 65)

\*Dillon Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 45)

\*Dillon Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 36)

Gardiner Avenue

\*14 Gardiner Avenue: Remodeled garage: Early 20th century, 1-story, end gable asbestos and wood shingled building now used as small dwelling.

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24 Gardiner Avenue. William Philips House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable house with ogive arch bargeboard in gable. Cut shingling and attractive porch on front. Building now has exceptional merit within the district.

25 Gardiner Avenue. Stephen Straight House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable house with bracketed doorhood. Alterations -- asbestos shingling on 2nd floor, aluminum window awnings. Straight and 2 of his 7 children were weavers in the mill. Straight won a Governor's prize for his extensive gardens here.

42 Gardiner Avenue. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, end gable clapboarded house with bracketed doorhood and cut shingling on 2nd floor. Alterations--1-story addition on side.

\*48 Gardiner Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with enclosed side porch.

\*49 Gardiner Avenue. House: Late 20th century, 1-story, flank gable with carport on side.

\*Gardiner Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 73)

\*Gardiner Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 41)

\*Gardiner Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 75)

Hendrick Avenue

\*Hendrick Avenue. Vacant lot. (lot 19)

Indian Street

1 Indian Street. Indian church: Simple late 19th or early 20th century, end gable building with yellow colored glass windows. Alterations--asphalt shingling. Building was originally the Episcopal Mission in Lafayette and is now used by an Indian group.

\*7 Indian Street. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with closed entrance portico.

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\*15 Indian Street. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house.

King Street

12 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable shingled house with small doorhood with brackets and ell in rear.

16 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable shingled house with rear ell.

16A King Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable house with 20th century addition. Diagonal shingling on 2nd floor.

21 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 2½-story, flank gable house with bracketed doorhood and large 2-story addition on side. Alterations--vinyl siding, stair to second floor on outside. 1895: B. A. Lawton.

25 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable house with bracketed doorhoods. 1895: G. W. Ball.

30 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 2½-story, flank gable house with two bay windows and bracketed doorhood. Alterations--two large ells on each side and 3-story addition in back. 1895: Richardson.

41 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable, clapboarded house with bay window, bracketed doorhood and ell with screened-in porch. 1895: C. H. Sweet.

44 King Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable, clapboard house with bracketed doorhood and scrollwork brackets on porch of ell. 1895: Phebe Essex.

Lafayette Road

54 Lafayette Road. House: Early 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable, shingled house. Associated in the 19th century with the Thomas family. Alterations--roof has been replaced, fireplaces sealed into walls during 1941 remodeling.

\*Lafayette Road. Vacant lot. (lot 17)

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Queen Street

- \*30 Queen Street. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with asbestos shingling.
- \*40 Queen Street. House: Mid 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable house with portico over entrance and breezeway.
- 41 Queen Street. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable, clapboarded house with closed entrance portico. 1895: Jas. H. Arnold.
- \*50 Queen Street. House: Mid 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable house.
- \*60 Queen Street. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with picture window and 2 car garage.

Railroad Right of Way

- \*Railroad Right of Way. Vacant lot. (Lot 103)
- \*Railroad Right of Way. Vacant lot. (Lot 31)
- \*Railroad Right of Way. Vacant lot. (Lot 70)
- \*Railroad Right of Way. Vacant lot. Lot 104)
- \*Railroad Right of Way. Vacant lot. Lot 101)

Ten Rod Road

- 274 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, 2-story, end gable house with front porch on large lot. Alterations--vinyl clapboard on house and gladd jalousie windows on porch.
- \*281 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable.
- \*288 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with ell and garage.
- 290 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, end gable house with bracketed doorhood and arched window in gable. Small 1-story building adjacent. Alterations: asphalt shingling.

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291 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable cottage. Alterations--large 20th century Tuscan pedimented entrance portico.

295 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable cottage. Alterations--aluminum siding.

301 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable cottage. Alterations--shed dormer, enclosed entrance porch, aluminum siding added.

304 Ten Rod Road. Orlando Potter House (1887): 2-story, end gable house with kitchen ell. Bracketed doorhood and scrollwork on ell veranda. Barn behind. House is still in the Potter family. Orlando Potter worked as a carder in the Rodman Mill.

\*311 Ten Rod Road. House: 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with large picture window.

312 Ten Rod Road. A.V. Potter House (1889): 2-story, flank gable house with bracketed doorhood. Built for Americus Vespucci Potter, day watchman at the mill. Alterations--20th century stone end chimney.

322 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, clapboard and shingle flank gable house. Alterations--20th century Tuscan porticos on entrances to house and kitchen ell.

325 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable cottage with two small ells and bracketed doorhood. Alterations--asbestos shingling. House was occupied by Albert G. Gardiner in 1895.

330 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable house with kitchen ell. Occupied by John P. Campbell in 1895.

\*335 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with enclosed porch on side.

340 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1-story, flank gable cottage. Alterations--20th century shed dormer and entrance porch added.

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\*345 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 20th century, prefabricated house, 1-story flank gable.

348 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story flank gable house with bracketed doorhood. House was occupied by James S. McCall, who worked in the mill.

\*353 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable with picture windows.

360 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, end gable house with kitchen ell, bay window and bracketed doorhood. House was built by Byron Himes of Exeter and sold to John Gardiner of Wickford Junction, who ran a barber shop and ice cream parlor, probably in this building. Alterations--porch on ell "modernized."

\*363 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable house with dormers and projecting front ell.

366 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2½-story, cross gable house. Alterations--aluminum siding, all trim and porch removed.

374 Ten Rod Road. William Boyce House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable house with full veranda. William Boyce was a local builder who built this house for his own use.

375 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with kitchen ell, two bay windows and bracketed doorhood.

381 Ten Rod Road. Lafayette Barber Shop (c. 1947): Small, clapboard building. The barber business now located here is a direct descendent of the first barber shop in Lafayette, located then in the Vale of Pero. Shop is attached to 385 Ten Rod Road.

\*382 Ten Rod Road. John Warburton House (c. 1885): 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with kitchen ell with bracketed porch, 2-bay windows and bracketed doorhood. Warburton was blind, worked as a piano tuner, store keeper, and chair caner.

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385 Ten Rod Road. Henry Jones House (c. 1884): Large, 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with kitchen ell, bracketed doorhood and picket fence. Built by Jones, a carpenter, for his own use.

393 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable shingled house. Alterations -- porch enclosed.

394 Ten Rod Road. Mill-owned house (1878): 1½-story, end gable, clapboard house. One of 14 mill houses built for Robert Rodman by William and Alpheus Sherman, builders and Rodman in-laws.

400 Ten Rod Road. Mill-owned house (1878): See 394 Ten Rod Road.

401 Ten Rod Road. John Sunderland House. Late 19th century, 1½-story, mansarded house with bracketing on doorhood, eaves, and bay window. Sunderland was an engineer at the Rodman Mill.

410 Ten Rod Road. Mill-owned house (1878): See 394 Ten Rod Road.

\*411 and 425 Ten Rod Road. Modern automobile showroom. (1972) Built on site of Late Victorian house moved to rear of property (Number 411). Property also includes a very old house which has been so completely resurfaced inside and out as to seem completely modern.

418 Ten Rod Road. Mill-owned house. (1878) See 394 Ten Rod Road.

\*430 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, altered late 20th century. Alterations are so extensive that nothing substantial appears to remain from the 19th century.

438 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable house. Alterations -- asphalt shingles, front porch added early 20th century.

441 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable clapboarded house. Entrance modified in 20th century.

444 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1-story, flank gable, clapboarded house. Alterations -- entrance porch with Tuscan columns, brick veneer, and glass jalousies.

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449 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1-story, flank gable house. Alterations--wide aluminum siding and no period trim.

454 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with small brackets under doorhood.

457 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with two ells and doorhood. Alterations--porches on ells walled in.

464 Ten Rod Road. George Gardiner House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable house. Extensively remodeled in early 20th century with shed dormer. Tuscan-columned pedimented porch and ell. Gardiner was a modern historian of Lafayette and other areas in Rhode Island.

467 Ten Rod Road. House (late 19th century): 2-story, end gable, clapboarded house with ell. Bracketed doorhood, scrollwork on veranda of ell; and bay window. Occupied by William G. Sherman in 1895.

470 Ten Rod Road. Mill owned house (1878): See 394 Ten Rod Road. Large 20th century porch has been added to the front.

480 Ten Rod Road. Mill owned house (1878): See 394 Ten Rod Road. Door has been altered slightly.

481 Ten Rod Road. James Cook House & Store (1884): 2-story, clapboarded, end gable house with basement store. Gabled doorhood over house entrance. Cook was a mason working in the North Kingstown area.

486 Ten Rod Road. Mill owned house (1878): See 394 Ten Rod Road.

487 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house. Simple doorhood similar to the Rodman Mill houses.

499 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, 2-story, flank gable house with two ells and entrance porch with Tuscan columns and pediment. Occupied in 1895 by Frances Brown.

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505 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with bracketed veranda across front.

527-9 Ten Rod Road. House and Store: Late 19th century, 2-story, end gable house with 2-story ell and first floor store. Alterations--plate glass display windows in store and the remnants of a porch in front. Was the Greene Hendrick refreshment shop, later, in 1949, Calvey's Spa.

535 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, end gable house. Extensive alterations--vinyl siding, windows covered and trim stripped. Once belonged to James Hendrick of Exeter Hill.

545 Ten Rod Road. Building: 1-story, gable building. Presently apartments but possibly once a wagon works.

550 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2½-story, end gable, clapboarded and shingled house with porch. The building was the home of Oliver Steadman, first barber of Lafayette, and, as well, Rainbow Hall, home of the Lafayette Cornet Band.

\*551 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, 1-story, cross gable house.

\*575 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with attached garage and overhanging veranda over entrance.

580 Ten Rod Road. Wickford Art Association, formerly Lafayette School (c. 1891, rear wing added 1911-12): 1-story, hip-roofed, shingled building with gabled projecting entrance. Building moved from East Lafayette in 1901 when the east and west Lafayette schools were consolidated.

587 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, end gable, clapboard house. Two small shed dormers added. Was Rodman Mill housing.

591-5 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable, clapboard house with 1-story flank gable wing. Was Rodman Mill housing.

600 Ten Rod Road. The "Old Castle": Early 20th century, 2½-story flank gable house with two later 19th century ells. Was originally the Carr family homestead. Robert Rodman purchased it in 1848 for

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conversion to four tenements and added the ells. The building was much photographed by tourists in the early 20th century who believed they were seeing Smith's Castle.

\*Ten Rod Road. Wickford Truss Manufacturing Company (c. 1972): Large wooden manufacturing building and several sample prefabricated houses which demonstrate the products made within. All were designed by company owners Wes and Danny McKeen. (Plat 27, Lot 1)

606 Ten Rod Road. Mill Warehouse (1877): A 2-story, flank gable brick structure which served in part as a storehouse for machinery parts. Alterations--small brick addition to west and concrete block addition to south. Presently a furniture store.

610-20 Ten Rod Road. Mill warehouse (1877): 2-story, brick building with shallow gable roof, eaves brackets, small segmental windows, and doors with massive granite lintels. Presently moving and storage company warehouse.

611 Ten Rod Road. Mill-owned boarding house (c. 1878): Large, 2½-story flank gable, clapboard house with extensive veranda and many dormers. It fell into disuse with the coming of the auto and the building of more private homes. Presently a second-hand store.

631 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 19th century, 1-story, flank gable, shingled house with old and new bay windows. Several additions. The house was occupied by N.A. Ennis in 1870. It was later occupied by Clarke Gardiner, head carpenter for the mill, and, after that, by John T. Arnold, teamer.

645 Ten Rod Road. Ambrose Taylor Store and Post Office (1882): 2½-story, end gable building with two second-floor bay windows. Original porch was larger and had scrollwork brackets and steps the width of the building. Alterations--asbestos shingling and modernized porch. Taylor was Robert Rodman's brother-in-law. The store was later Davis and Slocum Dry Goods and Groceries. Presently apartments.

655 Ten Rod Road. Advent Church Parsonage (late 1880s): 1½-story, cross gable house with 1-story ell with bracketed porch. House has lost original clapboarding but retains its picket fence.

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656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company, Main Mill Building (1877): 2- and 3-story, 38-bay, brick factory building with flat gable roof and two mansarded stairtowers. A vast handsome structure with dramatic interior spaces and delicately executed exterior detailing, especially on the mansards. Alterations include enclosure of old open elevator to south and addition of sheds for storage of lumber to north.

656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company, President's Office (1877): Small, 1-story, brick building with protruding granite foundations, segmental windows, and brackets under eaves.

Rear 656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company Boiler House (1877): 1-story, brick structure with 92' chimney. Adjacent to Main Mill building. Housed four 82" boilers and 125 horsepower Corliss engine.

Rear 656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company Dye House. 1-story, brick and stone building next to mill race that was originally part of the mid 19th century complex but used as dye building after 1877. Building was expanded to south in 1889 but has lost a cupola and chimneys.

Rear 656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company Barn (1877): Handsome 2½-story, brick gable structure with a variety of shapes and positions of openings. 1-story ell dates from before 1895.

Rear 656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company Building Number 3: Recent 1-story, clapboarded building, mostly below grade, replacing mill supervisor's office which was burned. Old foundations remain.

Rear 656 Ten Rod Road. Rodman Manufacturing Company Building Number 6: Dilapidated 1-story, clapboard structure probably from earlier mid 19th century mill complex. Was used for storage and waste.

665 Ten Rod Road. House: Early or mid 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable, clapboarded cottage. Alterations--two shed dormers, Tuscan column veranda curving around ell and large entrance portico. Occupied in the 19th century by the Misses Taylor, Robert Rodman's sisters-in-law.

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670 Ten Rod Road. The first mill store and Post Office (1850s): 2½-story, end gable, clapboard house with shop on first floor. The store was owned by Rodman, and operated by his brother-in-law Ambrose C. Taylor. Alterations--several 20th century additions and remodelled first floor front.

675 Ten Rod Road. "Cottage house" and barn: Mid 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable, five-bay clapboard house with veranda. The "cottage house" was used as a parsonage until the 1880s and was then occupied by several generations of the Rodman family. Alterations--20th century ell added.

680 Ten Rod Road. "Flat Top" Mill House (before 1870): 2-story, end gable, clapboard house with high stonefinished basement. Housing several families.

691 Ten Rod Road. Franklin Rodman House (1882): 2½-story, cross gabled mansion with extensive alterations: large brick addition to front, trim removed and vinyl siding. Presently serves as a nursing home. Franklin Rodman was supervisor at the Lafayette Mill for more than 40 years. The large barn and extensive grounds are intact.

694 Ten Rod Road. Double Mill House (before 1870): 1½-story, flank gable cottage. Alterations--all trim removed. asbestos shingling.

706 Ten Rod Road. House (before 1870): 1-story, flank gable, clapboard cottage with ell. Probably the J.B. Arnold cottage moved from site of the new mill. Alterations--ell porch enclosed with jalousies.

714 Ten Rod Road. "Hornbeam Chapel" (c. 1848): 1-story, end gable, clapboarded building. Built as a Free Will Baptist Church, it was reorganized as an Adventist Church in 1857 and used as such until 1835 when the new church was built. It is now the Advent Church parish house. It was removed from its original site across Ten Rod Road in 1874 when the Walter Rodman house was built.

715 Ten Rod Road. Walter Rodman House (1870s): 2½-story, mansarded mansion with veranda and much handsome Victorian detailing. Large barn with cupola behind. Walter Rodman, Robert's youngest and most artistic son, is believed to have designed each door frame differently.

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He also maintained large gardens and a greenhouse, which remain. The cellar had a machine for making liquid gas gaseous for use in the house and a kiln for neighborhood pottery classes. One parlour was renovated in a Louis XV style in 1905. Extensive elaborate earlier finishing & furniture remain, under care of Walter Rodman's daughter, Mrs. Hope Ryan.

730 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable house with attached garage. Second house with garage to rear.

731 Ten Rod Road. Robert Rodman Mansion (c. 1864): 2½-story, mansarded, clapboard house with ell and extensive decorated veranda. Grounds are large and include a hill which Rodman landscaped as a public park with benches and a liberty pole. House is now used as a Masonic Temple. Alterations--a concrete block stairtower added to the front; dormers and chimneys removed.

740 Ten Rod Road. Walter Rodman Jr. House (1905): 2½-story, cross gable house with veranda and bay windows. Built by Walter Rodman for his son, upon his marriage.

750 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, 2-story, square house with hip roof and bracketed veranda.

\*770 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable with enclosed entrance porch.

781 Ten Rod Road. George and Hortense Rodman Allen House (1865, enlarged 1882): Clapboarded and shingled Late Victorian 2½-story mansion with verandas, porte-cochere, a turreted tower, and splendid interior spaces and finish. Hortense Allen was Robert Rodman's daughter.

790 Ten Rod Road. Will Noyce House: Mid or late 18th century, 1½-story, end gable house with central chimney over stone basement fully exposed on one side. Victorian ell to west. Four original fireplaces, one with rear bake oven, remain. Noyce family included several school teachers, who, tradition holds, maintained an early school in a second floor room of the house.

805 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 19th century, remodeled mid 20th

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century, 2-story, flank gable house with several porches and ells added. Once part of Robert Rodman's estate. Alterations--asbestos stone veneer on first story.

814 Ten Rod Road. School Number 9; later "Hazard's Hall" & "Union Hall"; (1866 and 1882): Now a 2-story, end gable, wood shingled building with boarded up display windows. It was built in 1866 as a 1-story school across the street to replace the 1842 Swamptown Road School. In 1882 it was raised and a new first story inserted and in 1901, when the schools were consolidated near the Old Castle, it was sold to Andrew Hazard. He moved it to its present location and used it as a movie theatre and social center.

819 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, extensively altered with asbestos shingling and 1-story additions to three sides.

\*825 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, 1-story, cross gable house. Alterations--vinyl siding, addition to front and enclosed front porch.

830 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 19th century, flank gable cottage inscribed "1859". Alterations--20th century addition and asbestos shingling.

\*835 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 20th century, split level house set back from street and surrounded by trees.

\*840 Ten Rod Road. Small 20th century, 1-story, cross gable building containing auto service business.

850 Ten Rod Road. Adfer Bartlett House: Late 19th century, extensively altered. Now an end gambrel house with a simple front porch. Asphalt shingling. Bartlett was a railroad conductor.

860 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, clapboarded, 5-bay house with 1-story ell.

865 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable house. Extensively remodeled with vertical boarding on first floor and large modern windows.

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868 Ten Rod Road. Burrill Arnold House (late 1870s): 2-story, flank gable shingled house with ell and bracketed doorhood. Second floor half windows are typical of area. Arnold was a track foreman.

871 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, 1½-story, flank gable with later end gable porch. Alterations--aluminum siding.

876 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable house with porch. Alterations--aluminum siding. Porch supports replaced by wrought iron.

881 Ten Rod Road. House: Mid 19th century, 1½-story, flank gable, clapboarded house, set back from street. Was moved from across road when Wickford Branch Railroad was built.

882 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, five-bay, flank gable type with later front wing. There are unusual round headed windows in wing and in newer dormer. House has clapboards and patterned shingles. A granite hitching post and picket fence remain. Several owners in first half of 20th century were tradesmen.

888 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, small, 1-story, end gable, clapboarded cottage with screened-in porch.

891 Ten Rod Road. House: Late 19th century, 2-story, cross gable, clapboard and pattern shingle house. Alterations--large front porch removed, jalousie portico added. House was built by Daniel Webster, one-time head weaver, who retired to do watch repairing and run a carriage service at Wickford Junction.

892 Ten Rod Road. House: Early 20th century, small, 1-story, gable shingled cottage with some clapboarding.

\*903 Ten Rod Road. Garage converted to house: Early 20th century, 1-story, end gable building.

905 Ten Rod Road. William Phillips House: Late 19th century, 2-story, clapboarded, flank gable with ell and doorhood. Once owned by William Phillips brother of James at 915 Ten Rod Road.

915 Ten Rod Road. James Phillips House: Late 19th century, 2-story, flank gable, clapboarded house with bracketed doorhood and delicate

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scrollwork supports to ell veranda. Phillips owned a Lafayette grocery store. Alterations--the roof has been raised at 2nd floor level.

921 Ten Rod Road. Store: Early 20th century, 1-story, end gable building with gable overhanging the entrance, creating a porch. Probably Gillette Franklin's Grocery Store which was moved at least three times, the last time in 1939 when the underpass was constructed. Now occupied by craftsman of lanterns.

935 Ten Rod Road. House or Railroad Building: Late 19th century, 1-story, end gable building situated next to railroad. Presently a residence.

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 29)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 56)

\*686 Rear Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 23)

\*680 Rear Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 22)

\*Rear 645 Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 68)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 11)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 7)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 6)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 26)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 30)

\*Ten Rod Road. Vacant lot. (Lot 55)

Warburton Avenue

\*24 Warburton Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house.

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\*25 Warburton Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable.

\*35 Warburton Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with curved bay window.

\*36 Warburton Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable.

47 Warburton Avenue. House: Early 20th century, small, 1½-story, flank gable, shingled house with projecting front wing.

\*48 Warburton Avenue. House: Mid 20th century, 1-story, flank gable house with concrete block garage attached.

\*Warburton Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 67)

\*Warburton Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 68)

\*Warburton Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 48)

\*Warburton Avenue. Vacant lot. (Lot 47)

Himes Street

\*Himes Street. Vacant lot. (Lot 98)

\*Himes Street. Vacant lot. (Lot 97)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Lafayette is significant in the history of industry, society, community planning, and architecture. It is, above all, a community-scaled monument to the industrial and civic enterprise of an energetic and widely admired industrialist, Robert Rodman. Operating within the southern Rhode Island tradition of small, highly paternalistic textile industries, the woolen firm began operations in the 1840s, was incorporated as the Rodman Manufacturing Company in 1883, employed 500 workers by 1900, and lasted until the late 1940s, still wholly owned by the Rodman family. (Its demise, according to its last president, was due to competition from synthetic fibers.)

Both sides of the industrial equation, workers and management, today are proud of the fact that the company paid well and was never unionized. Rodman family members stayed within the community, seldom leaving for schooling or other walks of life, and thus faced on a day-to-day basis, in mill and in village, the workers. These, too, came from generation after generation of locally based Yankee families, often with roots in the area's farming community older than those of Rodman. "One big family" (and "all English") are the way it is remembered, a stable social network that serves as a contrast to contemporary conditions in big urban textile towns.

As an example of nineteenth century planning procedure, Lafayette exemplifies a type of informally arranged community which is probably loosely based on a tradition of intentionally planned mill villages but which is not characterized by any strong organizational or aesthetic conceptions. There is no visible indication of an intense involvement with nineteenth century ideals of environmental or social theory which can be found in the work of other, perhaps more intellectual mill owners. (Robert Rodman, after all, did not build a library.) The village's qualities are, rather of an additive, ad hoc arrangement of standard building units. The procedure in retrospect seems happily in tune with the informal social and recreational events (games and magical shows) that Rodman offered to his workers and which are so fondly remembered by old mill hands today.

Architecturally the buildings are good representatives of their type for their period: mansion, church, boarding house, mill house.

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The brick mill buildings have some of that quality of fine tuning as designed objects that constitutes architectural distinction. There is a consistency and strength in the styling of the main mill and its outbuildings which renders this part of the village worthy of preservation on architectural grounds alone, even if, by some stroke of poor fortune, the rest of Lafayette had not survived.

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History of the State of R.I., Hoag and Wade and Co., Philadelphia, 1878.

North Kingstown Planning Department (Ellen Dodge), Community Development -- A study of Lafayette, R.I., 1974.

Providence Sunday Journal, October 9, 1903.

The Village Fair News, July 1956 (reprint of article in Westerly News and R.I. Telephone, Sept. 12, 1885.)

Wickford Standard, March 16, 1889.

Sanborn Map Co., Wickford, 1903 (RIHSL).

"Rodman Mfg. Co." File of newspaper articles at Providence Journal Company Entries 1937-1956.

Interviews with Robert F. Rodman, Jr., March 1977, and Hope Rodman Ryan, December 1976.

A scrapbook of photographs, c. 1915, of the mills and workers and a volume of company store records from the 1860s are preserved at the North Kingstown Free Library. With the exception of a few items in the possession of Robert F. Rodman, Jr., all company records have been lost.

The contracts between Rodman and William and Alpheus Sherman, builders of the mill cottages and the specification, are with Mr. Lloyd A. Sherman in North Kingstown.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Freeman, Samuel T. and Co., The Real Estate Machinery and Equipment of the Rodman Mfg. Co., Boston, 1952 (auction catalog) (RIHSL).

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# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 164 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	29,211,0	4,60,62,0,0	B	1,9	29,38,7,0	4,60,48,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	29,37,4,0	4,60,43,2,0	D	1,9	29,23,8,0	4,60,51,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southwest corner, the Lafayette Historic District boundary follows the back (south) lot lines of properties on the south side of Ten Rod Road from the Penn Central Railroad right-of-way intersection with Ten Rod Road southeasterly to and across the Shewatuck River; thence north, east, south, and southeast  
See continuation sheet 27

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

Ellen Weiss, Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island 02903

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard Williams*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 31, 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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET 27







ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

along the south bank of the River until it meets Lafayette Road; thence south along the center line of Lafayette Road to the south border of the Wickford Branch Penn Central Railroad right-of-way; thence southeast along the south side of the right-of-way to the southeast corner of Lot 100, Plat 94; thence north along the back (east) lot lines of lots on the east side of Angel Avenue to Ten Rod Road; north to the north side of Ten Rod Road and east to the southeast corner of Lot 84, Plat 94; thence north and west on the east and north lot lines of Lot 84, Plat 94; thence west along the north lot lines of properties on the north side of Ten Rod Road to the northwest corner of Lot 58, Plat 114; thence north 200 feet (to include the house) then west to the northwest corner of Lot 51, Plat 114. The boundary then runs northwest on the east bound of Lot 52, Plat 114, and on the back (east) lot lines of lots on the east side of King Street and the properties on the north side of Indian Street; and then southwest on the northwest boundary of lots on Indian Street; thence south on the west lot lines of properties on the west side of Queen Street to meet the back (north) lot lines of lots on the north side of Ten Rod Road; thence west following the back lot lines of properties on the north side of Ten Rod Road until it meets the back (east) lot line of Lot 2, Plat 114. The boundary runs north and then west on the east and north lot lines of Lot 2, runs north and then west on the east and north lot lines of Lot 2, Plat 114, until it reaches Advent Street. It follows the east side of Advent Street north to a point opposite the back (north) lot lines of properties on the north side of Ten Rod Road, thence across Advent Street and in a line following the back (rear) lot lines of lots on the north side of Ten Rod Road in a generally northwesterly direction until it reaches the Penn Central Railroad right-of-way; thence south along the east side of the right-of-way to the point of beginning.

LAFAYETTE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND



-  COLONIAL
  -  GREEK REVIVAL
  -  EARLY VICTORIAN
  -  LATE VICTORIAN
  -  EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
  -  MID TWENTIETH CENTURY
- NOT TO SCALE



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View across Ten Rod Road, looking southeast,  
toward mills.

Photo 1





Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Walter Rodman House (715 Ten Rod Road).

Photo 2





Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Lafayette Advent Church.

Photo 3



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

25 Dillon Avenue. House in "New Village."

Photo 4



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: August 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Ten Rod Road in East Lafayette.

Photo 5





Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Rodman mill houses on Arnold Street.

Photo 6





Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Old boarding house.

Photo 7



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: March, 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View east across mill pond toward mill.

Photo 8



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: March, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View of Rodman mill from southeast.



**SCHWARTZ LUMBER**  
DISCOUNTS

**We Spectacular**  
PRE-FINISHED PLYWOOD PLASTIC COUNTER TOPS

**SAPOLIN**

**STOP**  
PLEASE DO NOT  
ENTER WITHOUT  
BEING READY  
TO LOAD YOUR  
PURCHASES

**STOP**  
PLEASE DO NOT  
ENTER WITHOUT  
BEING READY  
TO LOAD YOUR  
PURCHASES

**SAPOLIN**

Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: August, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Rodman mill from north.

Photo 10





Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: March, 1977

Warehouse at Rodman mill.

Photo 11



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Kim-Elizabeth Viall  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

Date: March, 1977

Barn at Rodman Mill.

Photo 12



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown

Date: c. 1915

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Historical view of interior of mill,  
third floor.

Photo 13



Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: August, 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Interior of mill, third floor.

Photo 14





Lafayette  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Photographer: Walter A. Nebiker

Date: March, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Wickford Junction, north side.  
(Numbers 881-905 Ten Rod Road).

Lafayette Village Historic District  
 North Kingstown, Rhode Island

UTM Coordinates:

A	19:	292110:	4605200
B	19:	293870:	4604840
C	19:	293740:	4604320
D	19:	292380:	4605140

