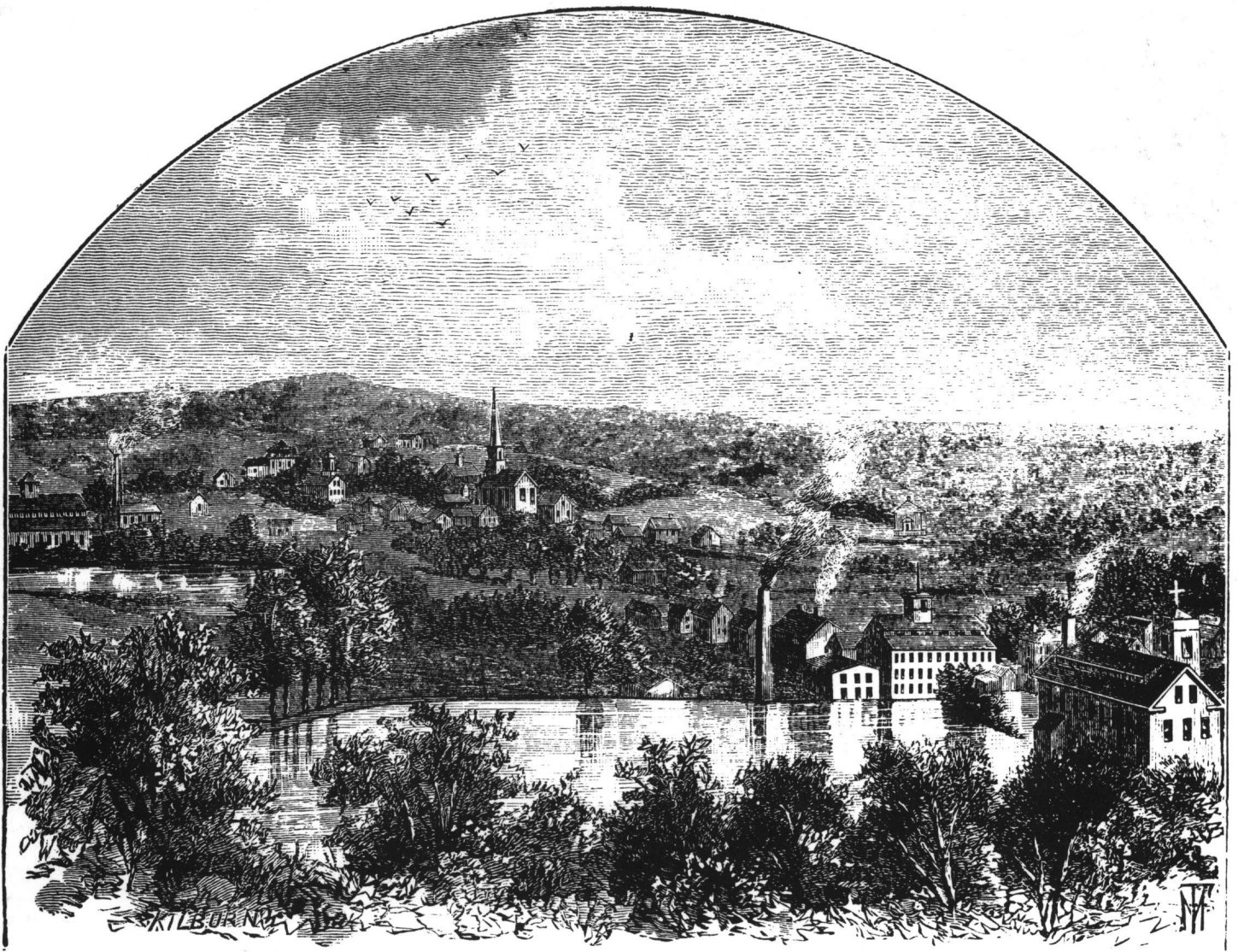


# Historic and Architectural Resources of Smithfield, Rhode Island:



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

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Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
1992

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

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

*Cover: "A View of Greenville." From Wilfred H. Munro's Picturesque Rhode Island, 1881. This old view shows the two West Greenville mills in the right foreground, the mill in Greenville, along Austin Avenue, at the left side of the engraving, the center of Greenville dominated by the tall Baptist Church in the left center. The building with the tower (left of the church) was the old Greenville academy.*

*Title page: Smith-Appleby House, 1713 et seq., Stillwater Road; photograph by Robert P. Foley, 1970. One of Rhode Island's finest early rural houses, the Smith-Appleby House was originally constructed with a salt-box roof. The original section of the house is at the left of the photo; on the right is a later addition. The west (left) half of the original house was two stories high and the east half possibly only one-and-a-half stories. About 1750, the house was enlarged to its present height. A gable roof was installed and large 12-over-8 window sash replaced the early casement windows. The two-story southeast ell (on the right in this photo) was built before 1776; the Federal-style main doorway was added about 1820. In the mid-1800s Stillwater Brook was dammed for industrial use, and the old Providence road was moved to the north side of the house. This remarkable house is now the headquarters for the Smithfield Historical Society.*

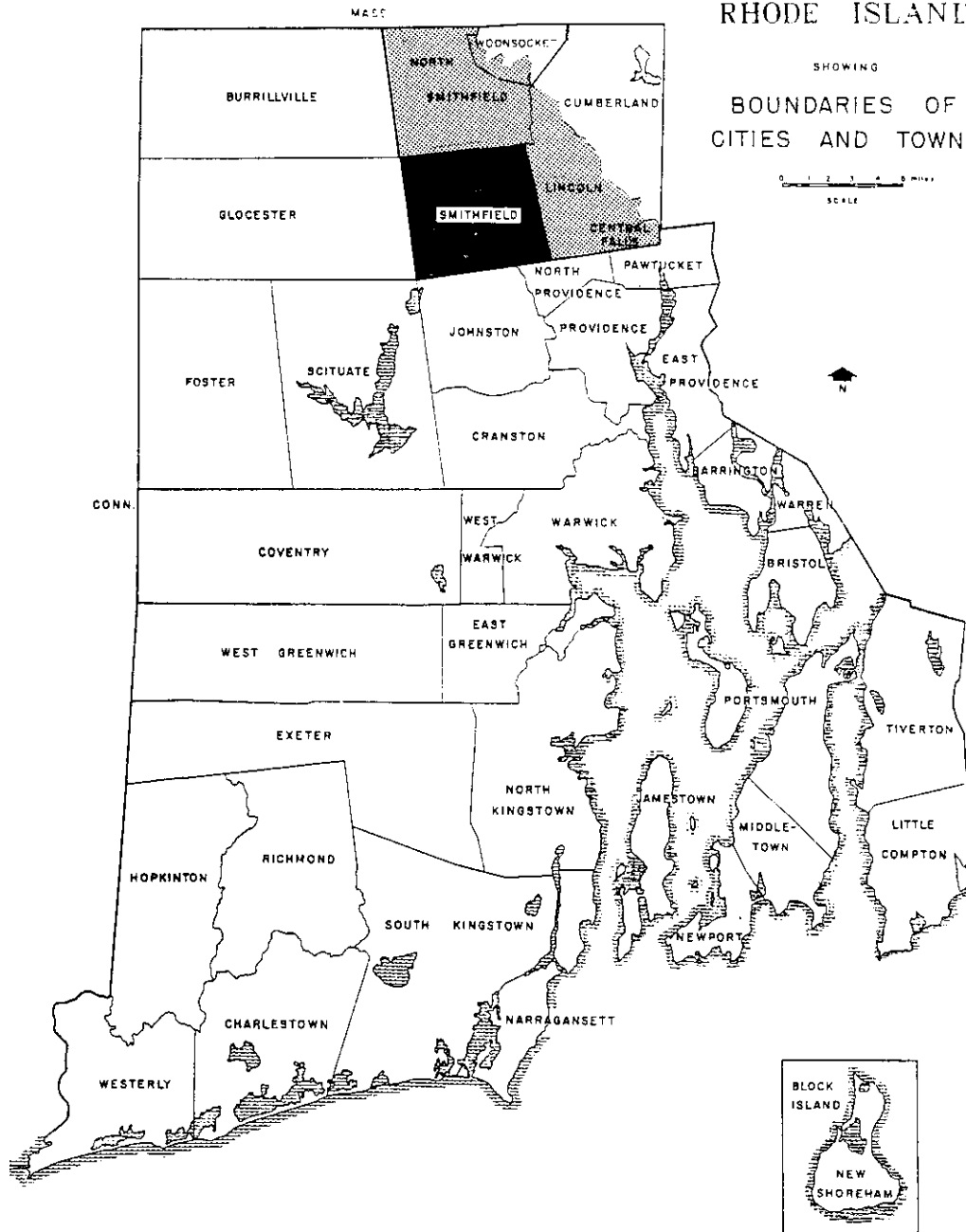
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MAP OF THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

SHOWING  
BOUNDARIES OF  
CITIES AND TOWNS



*Map of Rhode Island. The dark shaded area shows today's Smithfield. The lightly shaded area shows the area included in the old town of Smithfield created in 1731--including present-day Lincoln, Central Falls, North Smithfield, Smithfield and Woonsocket west of the Blackstone River.*

## PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, established by the General Assembly in 1968, is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding Rhode Island's cultural heritage. To provide an overview of the physical record of this heritage, the Historical Preservation Commission initiated a planning survey of the cities and towns of the state. The purpose of this initial survey is to identify and record properties of historical and architectural significance in each community. Presently, archeological resources are treated in a separate survey effort being conducted by the Preservation Commission. The surveys are designed to identify districts, structures, and sites eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (see Section IV), and suggest priorities for historic preservation.

Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are drawn and a brief report written. The resulting documentation provides information essential for local, state, and federal preservation planning.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission thanks the members of the Smithfield Historical Society for their cooperation in and review of this survey. The Smithfield Historical Society and its members, especially Deanna Guertin, Mary Mowry, and Dr. Daniel Russell, and Town Planner Jeanne Tracey, were helpful in reviewing the preliminary draft of this report.

## INTRODUCTION

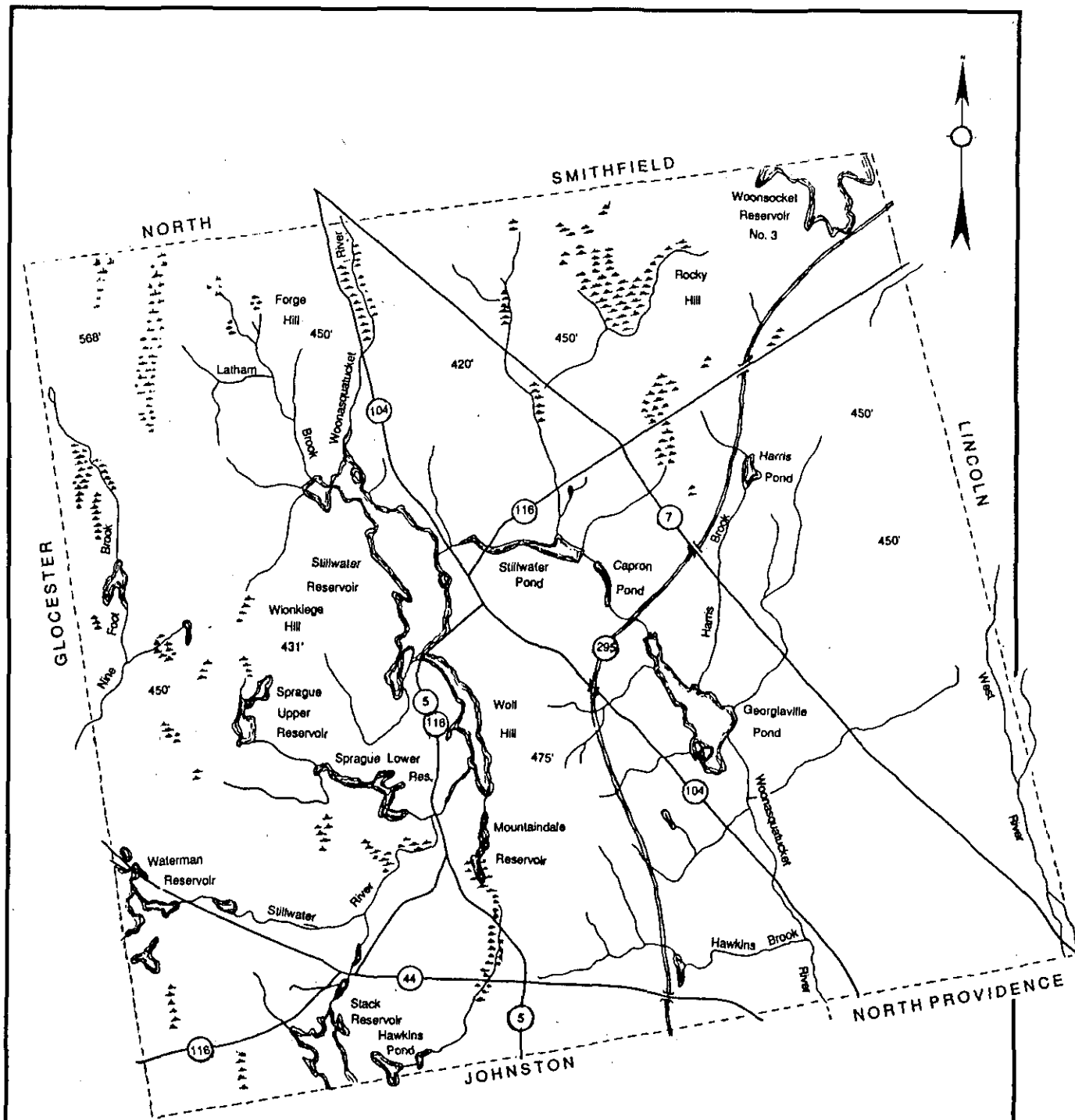
The following study covers the historical and architectural resources of the Town of Smithfield. The report includes a description of the town's physical setting in Section I, an outline of the evolution of political boundaries in Section II, and a short, illustrated account of Smithfield's architectural and developmental history in Section III. Section IV is a list of properties in Smithfield which are already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and of those which are proposed for further study and for future nomination to the National Register. Section V is an annotated inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town. The inventory numbers are keyed to small-scale locational maps in this report. The appendix contains a chronological and stylistic listing of the town's significant or interesting buildings. This report lists nine historic areas that include 127 structures and sites, and 103 individual structures and sites recorded outside these areas.



## METHODOLOGY

An initial survey of cultural resources in Smithfield was conducted in 1970-72. In 1979, some Smithfield properties were resurveyed; and the present survey was conducted in 1986-87. Several special surveys were also performed in the town in conjunction with review of projects involving U. S. Route 44, R. I. Route 104, and proposed Route I-84. Each of these cultural resource surveys was conducted by driving all public roads and noting on an appropriate map each building or site of apparent architectural, visual, cultural, or historical significance. Selected properties were then photographed and recorded on a standard data sheet which includes space for a physical description and notations regarding history, use, condition, and architectural style or period of construction. Survey data sheets and maps are filed at the office of the Historical Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence. Following completion of the survey fieldwork and historical research, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission staff members made a preliminary evaluation of each property, and districts, structures, and sites which appear to meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places were identified for further study and review (see Section IV). Archeological sites are mentioned only incidentally in these studies in order to provide historical context. The emphasis of the Smithfield survey and report is on existing buildings of historical and architectural significance.

Research for this survey was undertaken at several libraries, principally the Rhode Island Historical Society Library and the Providence Public Library. Information on several districts, structures, and sites in Smithfield was obtained from Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission's National Register files and from several reports completed in conjunction with environmental review projects. Several detailed nineteenth-century maps were especially useful in providing insights into the growth and development of the villages and for providing names of former property owners. Readily available sources of information, such as town and county histories, reports, gazetteers, and newspaper and travel accounts, were examined; they provided most of the information used in this report and are listed in the Bibliography. Richard M. Bayles's *History of Providence County, Rhode Island* (1891), and Thomas Steere's *History of Smithfield* (1881) were the most useful sources of information about the town.



**SMITHFIELD**  
**PHYSICAL FEATURES**

## I. THE PHYSICAL SETTING

The town of Smithfield is located in Providence County in northern Rhode Island. Roughly square in shape, Smithfield is bounded on the west by Glocester, on the north by North Smithfield, on the east by Lincoln, and on the south by Johnston and North Providence.

Smithfield has a population of about 19,000. The population is concentrated in and around a series of villages: Esmond, Georgiaville, Stillwater, and Greenville, whose developments date largely from the nineteenth century. Later development has occurred for the most part in more open areas outside the villages in former farm lands.

Smithfield is traversed by several major roads. Interstate 295 runs roughly north-south through the town. Several state roads cross the town in a roughly southeast-northwest direction--Putnam Pike (Route 44), Farnum Pike (Route 104), and Douglas Pike (Route 7)--linking the villages and providing connections to points outside the town. A small state airport, North Central, is set on the northeastern border of the town.

The most important factors in determining Smithfield's settlement patterns have been the town's accessibility to Providence, its transportation routes and patterns, and its geography. The topography of the town has presented opportunities and obstacles to generations of settlers, and even to this day helps account for Smithfield's uneven population distribution. Located in the upland section of New England, Smithfield's 27.8-square-mile land and water area is underlain by old crystalline rocks, mostly granite. The town's gentle hills are the worn remnants of part of an Appalachian Mountain system which was once higher, more rugged, and more extensive than today's. Millions of years of weathering and erosion, extremes of heat and cold, the rains of summer and the snow and ice of winter, gradually wore down the land.

In the recent geologic past, continental glaciers, vast ice sheets originating in eastern Canada, covered this area. The southward-moving ice masses carried large quantities of soil and boulders which were laid down indiscriminantly over the land when the ice sheet melted about 11,000 years ago. This unsorted material, a mixture of soil and rocks known to geologists as till, makes up most of the town's surface cover today. Large boulders, glacial erratics transported from elsewhere by the ice and left perched on the land, are common in Smithfield. In some places, particularly north of Greenville, large ice blocks were left standing on the land, then covered with glacial outwash material. After the ice blocks melted, a very irregular topography (known as kame-and-kettle) resulted. Enormous rivers that issued from the melting ice sheet carried material which was sorted out by the action of running water into deposits ranging from coarsely-sorted pebbly mixtures to fine sand and gravel. Glacial deposits also blocked preexisting waterways, resulting in many swampy areas, mostly in the western and northern part of town and along and near the headwaters of the town's rivers and brooks. Nipsachuck Swamp, in the northwest corner of town (and in adjacent North Smithfield) is one of the largest wetlands in the town. The esker found here, a very long and relatively undisturbed ridge of glacial debris in the middle of a depression, is one of the area's unique natural features.

Smithfield is a hilly town. The long period of erosion and the scouring effect of the glaciers resulted in a very irregular topography with smooth hilltops. Forge Hill, Rocky Hill, Wionkiege Hill, and Wolf Hill are well over 400 feet in elevation. The town's highest summit, 568 feet above sea level, is in the northwest corner of town. These hills, dispersed in an irregular pattern throughout the town, provide for a diversified, scenic topography, but the rugged slopes and rock outcrops have also acted as a deterrent to

settlement. The higher, more rugged areas have remained thinly populated to the present.

Most people live in the lower, broader, and more level river valleys. The Woonasquatucket River, fed by the Stillwater River and almost every brook in the town, is Smithfield's major waterway. Soon after leaving its headwaters in North Smithfield it flows in a general southeasterly direction across the town. The town's lowest elevation, about 135 feet above sea level, is along the Woonasquatucket where it leaves Smithfield.

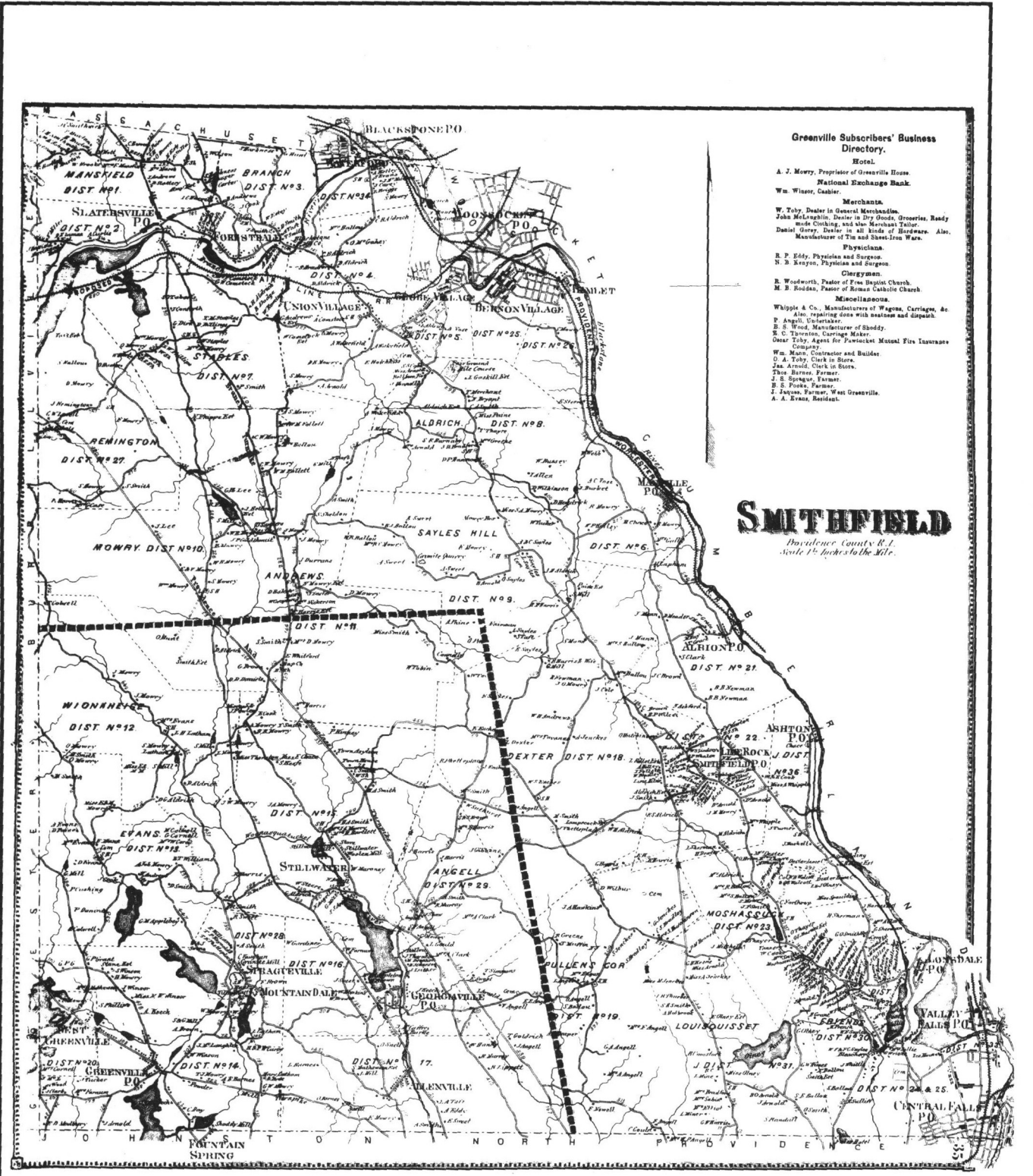
The Woonasquatucket and its major tributary, the Stillwater River, in the southwestern part of town, were the sites of the town's most important textile mills and villages in the nineteenth century. The town's brooks are small waterways, but some were the sites of water-powered saw and grist mills that were important to the town's growth and development during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of Smithfield's ponds and reservoirs were created during the nineteenth century in response to manufacturers' needs for a reliable source of water to power the textile mills. The largest impoundments are along the Woonasquatucket and include Stillwater Reservoir and Stillwater Pond. Waterman Reservoir, Slack Reservoir, and Hawkins Pond, in the southwestern corner of town, were created in the early nineteenth century to store water for textile mill operations. Woonsocket Reservoir Number 3, in the northeastern corner of town, and extending into North Smithfield, was constructed in the late nineteenth century; it is an important source of water for the city of Woonsocket.

Smithfield's natural features, landscape, and waterways have played an important role in the town's development. Its rough topography discouraged and precluded farming in many areas. The land generally was unfavorable for cultivation, and the soil, mostly glacial till, was thin, hard, and stony, requiring years of toil to clear. The field stones were piled up to serve as fences dividing fields and properties; today, with former fields and pastures overgrown, many stone fences are found in the town's second-growth forests. The glacial outwash deposits of sand and gravel are less agriculturally productive than glacial till, but were exploited for their use in road work and other construction projects in the twentieth century. The forests, which were a rich blend of hardwoods dominated by chestnut, oak, and other highly desirable trees, and the cedar swamps, supplied the basic building material for homes, outbuildings, and other structures, as well as for firewood, hoop poles, shingles, ship timbers, charcoal, and other products. The granite bedrock provided material for building foundations, chimney bases, and curb stones. Running water supplied power for industry, from the earliest small saw and grist mills to the later, larger textile mills of the nineteenth century.

## II. EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

In 1636, Roger Williams and a small group of men settled at the head of Narragansett Bay near the confluence of the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers. The settlement, called Providence, originally extended north to Pawtucket Falls, west to Neutaconkanut Hill (in today's eastern Johnston), south to the Pawtuxet River, and east to the Seekonk River.

This tract was granted to Roger Williams by the Narragansett sachems Miantonomi and Canonius. Between 1636 and 1659, Roger Williams received additional land from the Narragansetts that extended Providence westward for 20 miles from Foxes Hill (near Fox Point in Providence) to the Connecticut line and north to the present Massachusetts state line. This vast area included all of today's Providence County west of the Blackstone River.



**Greenlee Subscribers' Business Directory.**  
**Hotel.**  
 A. J. Mowry, Proprietor of Greenlee House  
**National Exchange Bank.**  
 Wm. W. Winsor, Cashier.  
**Merchants.**  
 W. T. Tobey, Dealer in General Merchandise.  
 John McLaughlin, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Ready  
 Made Clothing, and Men's Merchant Tailor.  
 Daniel Govey, Dealer in all kinds of Hardware, Also,  
 Manufacturer of Tin and Sheet-Iron Ware.  
**Physicians.**  
 R. P. Eddy, Physician and Surgeon.  
 N. B. Keyser, Physician and Surgeon.  
**Clergyman.**  
 R. Woodworth, Pastor of Free Baptist Church.  
 M. B. Roddan, Pastor of Roman Catholic Church.  
**Miscellaneous.**  
 Whipple & Co., Manufacturers of Wagons, Carriages, &c.  
 Also repairing done with neatness and dispatch.  
 F. Angell, Undertaker.  
 E. S. Wood, Manufacturer of Shoddy.  
 E. C. Thornton, Carriage Maker.  
 Oscar Tobey, Agent for Forester's Mutual Fire Insurance  
 Company.  
 Wm. Mann, Contractor and Builder.  
 D. A. Tobey, Clerk in Store.  
 Jas. Arnold, Clerk in Store.  
 Thos. Barnes, Farmer.  
 J. S. Sprague, Farmer.  
 B. S. Fooks, Farmer.  
 J. L. Quinn, Farmer, in West Greenlee.  
 A. A. Evans, Resident.

**SMITHFIELD**  
 Providence County R. I.  
 Scale 1/4 inch to the Mile.

Old Smithfield, from D.G. Beers and Company, Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1870. The dotted line marks the present-day boundary of the town of Smithfield. The additional area (today's Lincoln, North Smithfield, Central Falls, and part of Woonsocket) was included in the old boundaries of Smithfield.

In 1731, Providence County was divided into three large towns--Smithfield, Glocester, and Scituate--in addition to Providence. Smithfield then included present-day Lincoln, Central Falls, North Smithfield, and Woonsocket west of the Blackstone River. The final division of land involving Smithfield occurred in 1871 when part of Smithfield was annexed to Woonsocket; the rest was divided into the towns of Lincoln, North Smithfield, and present-day Smithfield.

### **III. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **EARLY SETTLEMENT IN SMITHFIELD (to 1800)**

##### **Native Americans**

Native Americans were present in the area which is now Smithfield for thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers in the eighteenth century. The Native Americans hunted, fished, gathered fruits and nuts, and probably planted some crops in clearings in the heavily wooded area. In the early colonial era, the area was probably common ground used by the Narragansetts, whose center of activities was in southern Rhode Island along Narragansett Bay, and the Wampanoags, whose territory included southeastern Massachusetts and eastern Narragansett Bay islands. Some archeological investigations of Smithfield suggest that the area was used only intermittently and was not the site of permanent villages.

When European settlement began in Rhode Island in the 1630s, the Smithfield area offered few immediate advantages to the first settlers who joined Roger Williams at the town of Providence. By 1660, Providence's borders expanded to the Connecticut line, and the town comprised two areas. Land lying east of a north-south dividing line, today's Smithfield-Glocester boundary, was known as the "Inlands" and included present-day Smithfield; land lying west of that line was referred to as the "Outlands" or the "Providence Woods."

The records of Smithfield's early history are fragmentary and incomplete, but it is clear that some European settlers did venture into the "Inlands" in the 1660s. Research on the Reaper's Brook area, for example, has revealed that in 1663 William Hawkins was granted land in "Wayunkeake" along both sides of Reaper's Brook, provided he would build a house and live there for three years. This house was evidently built along the brook near today's Smithfield-Johnston boundary, but its exact location and character are unknown.

##### **King Philip's War**

Thanks in large measure to Roger Williams's efforts, relations between Rhode Island's white settlers and the Narragansett Indians were generally peaceful. However, accord between the Wampanoags and the white settlers of Plymouth Colony was tenuous from the beginning, and in the 1670s their relationship gradually deteriorated. In 1675, major hostilities broke out between the Wampanoags, led by sachem Philip, and the colonists.

Smithfield's Nipsachuck Swamp, along the Smithfield-North Smithfield town line, was the site of two encounters between Wampanoag Indians and colonial troops during King Philip's War. The war began when Indians attacked residents of Swansea, Massachusetts, who were returning home from religious services on June 18, 1675. A force of colonial soldiers, led by Benjamin Church of Little Compton, pursued the Indians from the

Pocasset Swamp, in today's Tiverton, across the Blackstone River, where men from Providence joined Church in the pursuit to the northwest. On July 31, Philip camped at a field called Nipsachuck. On the following morning a skirmish ensued between Philip's men and the pursuing force on a hilly plain between some swamps. About thirty of Philip's men were killed before the others took refuge in a swamp, where they rested all day. Although Captain Daniel Henschman arrived with reinforcements and took command of the soldiers, delay in carrying on their fight allowed the surviving Wampanoags to escape to the Nipmuc country in Connecticut.

Philip's escape from Nipsachuck and his alliance with the Nipmuc tribe led to a general Indian uprising throughout New England. Although the "Great Swamp Fight" of December, 1675, in South Kingstown, took a heavy toll among the Narragansetts, hostilities continued.

In 1676, Major Talcott was in charge of a colonial force that was instructed to "range about Nipsohook and these parts." His contingent assaulted an Indian camp at Nipsachuck on July 1, 1676. Many of the Indians "inswamped themselves in a great spruce swamp" which was surrounded by colonial troops. Within three hours, 171 Indians were slain or taken prisoner, "of which prisoners being 41 women and children that ye Indians saved alive, and the other slain; in which engagement were slain 34 men." On August 12, Philip was killed in present-day Bristol, and the war came to an end.

After Philip's death, the settlement of the "Inlands" of Providence began in earnest. During the last decade of the seventeenth century a trickle of newcomers established homesteads and industries in Smithfield. In addition to William Hawkins, who had lived in Smithfield before the Indian war, Joshua Winsor and Resolved Waterman were granted land by the town of Providence, and soon after took up residence in the Greenville area. Waterman reportedly erected a grist mill a short time after settling. At nearby Reaper's Brook, a fulling mill, designed to shrink and finish woolen cloth and said to be the second one established in the colony, was erected in 1699. Major William Smith, took up residence in Esmond shortly after the turn of the century.

### Farms

Although some minor industries were established at an early date, for well over a century after Smithfield's initial settlement the majority of its inhabitants earned their livelihood from the land. The newcomers--families that included the Angells, Steeres, Smiths, Mowrys, Applebys, and Farnums--located their farms on the most productive land. Fertile, level land was not available in large or contiguous tracts because of the hilly and rocky terrain and numerous swamps, conditions that virtually eliminated the possibility of commercial agriculture and resulted in the location of farms scattered about the town.

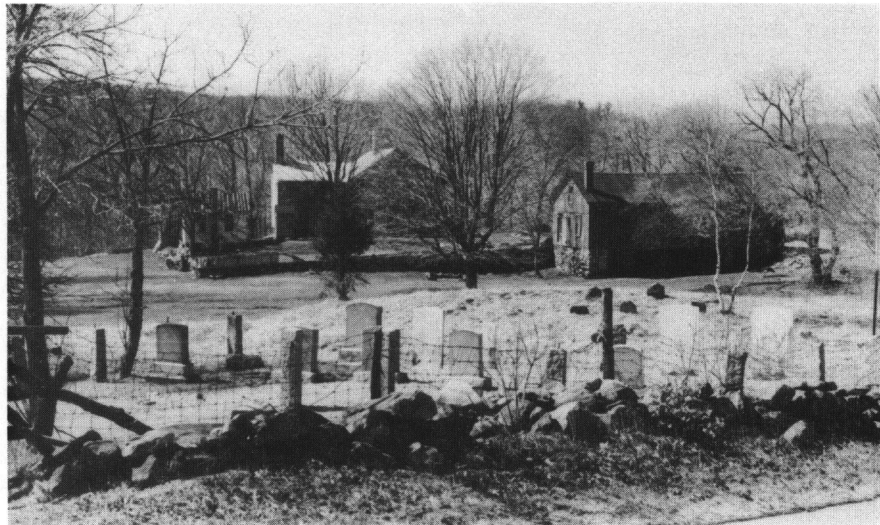
In the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Smithfield was on Rhode Island's frontier. The arduous task of establishing homesteads, clearing land for farms, and erecting houses, outbuildings, and other structures from readily-available materials obtained from the natural environment, required decades of hard work.

Typically eighteenth-century farms included a residence, a barn, sheds, privies, corn cribs, and other outbuildings. The stones that lay in abundance over the land were used to erect fences as the land was cleared for farming. These walls, most crudely laid, served the important purpose of containing livestock--separating them from the farmyard, fields, and roadways--and marked the boundaries of properties. These boundaries can still be traced by the stone walls running through much of Smithfield's second- and third-growth woodlands today.

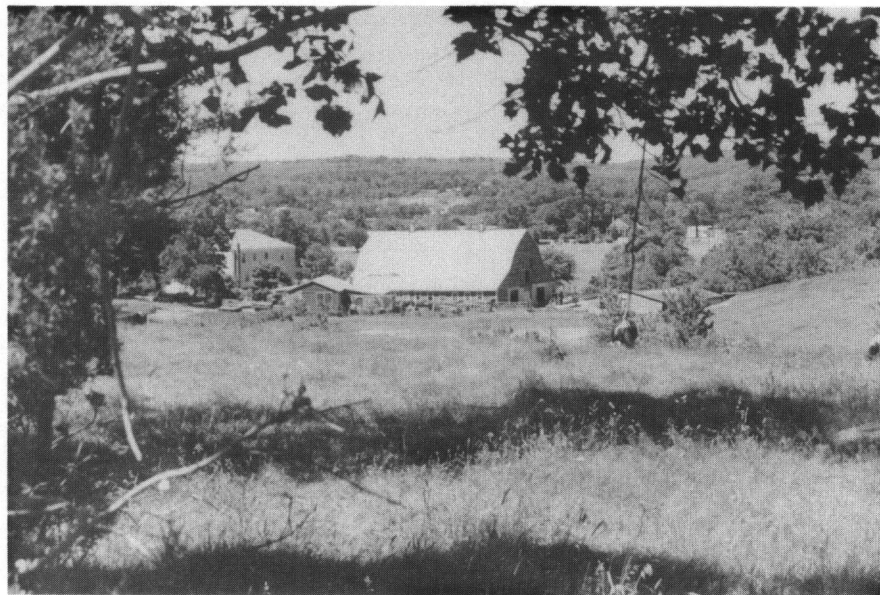
*Ridge Road. One of the earliest roads in Smithfield, Ridge Road was bypassed in 1809 when the Douglas Pike was constructed. Here, and in adjacent parts of northern Smithfield, exist remnants of the town's agricultural past.*



*Smith-Appleby House, 1713 et seq., Stillwater Road. This house, a large, asymmetrical structure, with a massive center chimney, is one of Smithfield's oldest buildings. The house, several outbuildings, and a mill that once stood along the nearby Woonasquatucket River, made up what was once known as Smith's Mills. In 1974 the Smithfield Historical Society acquired the property and restored the house. See also the title page.*

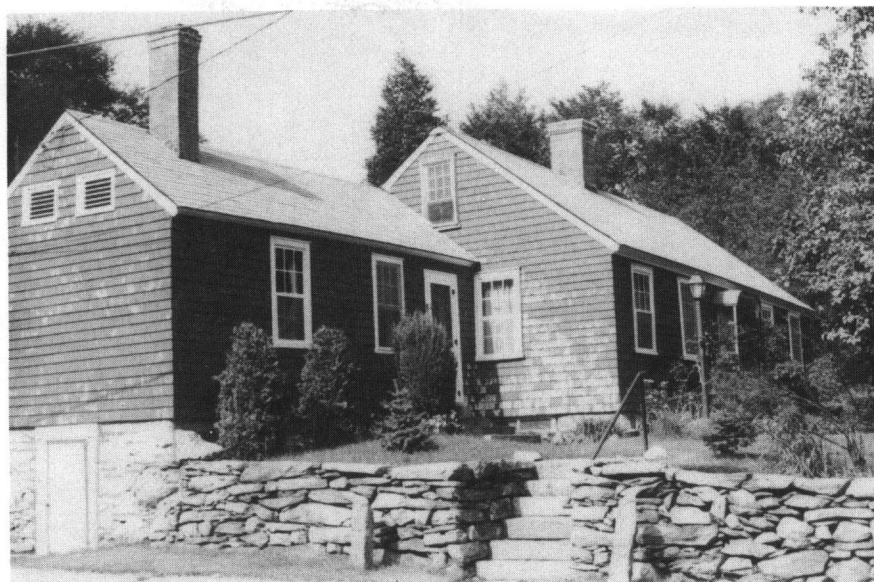


*Niles Dairy, 18th century, 1927, 60 Limerock Road. Until the late 1980s this farm, which supported a herd of 53 dairy cows, was one of the largest remaining dairy farms in Smithfield. The land has been farmed since the eighteenth century. The present houses and outbuildings date from 1927.*





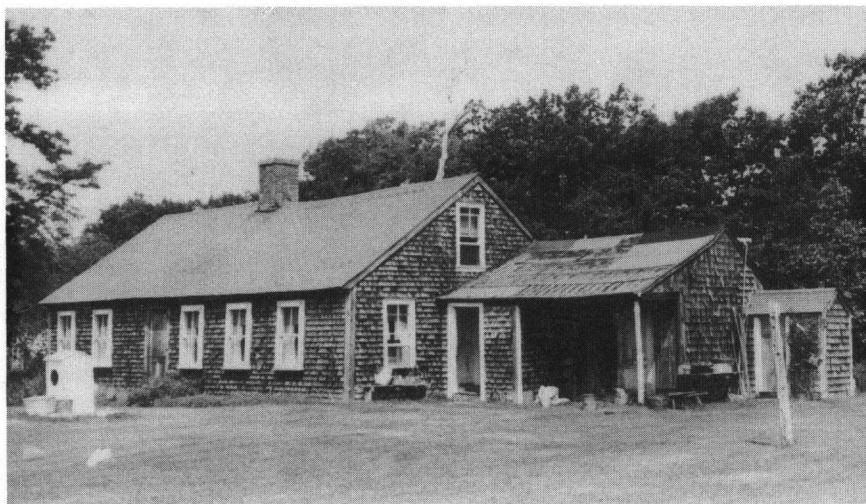
*Ebenezer Stephens House, c. 1801, 185 County Road. This south-facing Federal house is located close to the road. Its kitchen ell, added about 1860, incorporates a dry-laid stone wall terrace as part of its foundation.*



*Thomas Mann House, 18th century, 215 Mann School Road. This fine example of an early house is set gable end to the road. Thomas Mann, who built the house, was brother of the famous educator Horace Mann. The first school in the area was kept by Daniel Mann in the attic of this house.*



*Hopkins Farm, early 19th century, Branch Pike. This small shingled house, with a transom-light entry, is set gable end to the road. Behind is a carriage shed which was once used for the manufacture of sailboats.*



*Joseph Farnum-Brown House, c. 1770, 243 Old County Road. This typical Rhode Island farmhouse has a fine pedimented entry with a semi-elliptical fanlight of a type common in early Smithfield houses.*



*Farmhouse, late 18th century, 211 Harris Road. A large Rhode Island farmhouse. This one has a pedimented entry with transom lights.*



*Steere Farm, 1810, 40 West Greenville Road. A large, early farmhouse, built in the Federal period. The Greek Revival entry was added later. Until the late 1980s, it was part of an extensive fruit-growing operation here.*



Throughout the eighteenth century, crops and animals supplied food and material to feed and clothe the farm family and provide other basic necessities. Corn, rye, oats, barley, peas, and a variety of kitchen garden crops--cabbage, turnips, carrots, parsnips, onions, and herbs--were grown. Cattle, pigs, and sheep supplied meat, butter, milk, and cheese. Fruit trees, imported from Europe, included apples, which yielded cider, an important product, pear, plum, quince, and cherry. Some crops and animals were traded for tea, coffee, tools, crockery, and other items, but it is unlikely that any farms in Smithfield were operating as commercial enterprises in the eighteenth century.

By 1731 the population of rural Providence had sufficient numbers to warrant creating several towns--Smithfield, Glocester, and Scituate--from the outlying area of Providence. Smithfield's 73 square miles, which included present-day North Smithfield, Lincoln, Central Falls, and the western part of Woonsocket, extended north to the Massachusetts line and east to the Blackstone River.

### Early Houses

None of Smithfield's seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century houses has survived in its original form. Some structures have completely vanished, leaving no trace, but others remain as sites, evidenced by stonework foundations or ruins. The rear ell of the 1733 Waterman Tavern is one of Smithfield's earliest buildings which remain in place; it is vacant and unused today.

There is still a legacy of the later colonial era in a number of Smithfield's residences that survive to provide insights about the life of the town's pioneers; most of these structures are former farmhouses located on small country roads throughout the town.

Smithfield's eighteenth-century houses were typically gable-roofed rectangular structures, with heavy post-and-beam frames joined together with pegs. Features common to almost all of these homes include a massive central chimney, vertical plank sheathing and clapboard siding, and a central entrance in a five-bay-wide facade. The two-and-a-half-story type is the most common form found here and throughout the rest of Rhode Island. Several of Smithfield's late eighteenth-century, larger houses are distinguished by their fine pedimented entries, splayed lintels over the windows, corner quoins, and modillion or dentil courses at the cornices. Noteworthy are the Jesse Foster House and the Daniel Winsor House on Austin Avenue, the Colonel Elisha Mowry House on John Mowry Road, the Asahel Angell House on Limerock Road, the Joseph Farnum House on Old County Road, the Steere-Harris House on Pleasant View Avenue, and the Farnum Homestead on Whipple Avenue in Georgiaville. Among several one-and-a-half-story Colonial houses in town is a less common gambrel-roofed residence on Log Road. Other examples of the one-and-a-half-story type include two residences near the Woonasquatucket River on Capron Road, the Thomas Mann House on Mann School Road, and the Steere-Bennett-Harris House on Pleasant View Avenue. They are basically plain houses lacking architectural embellishment.

### Roads

A road network was established at an early date to connect the widely dispersed farmsteads and small mills. Later, roads were laid out across Smithfield connecting Connecticut and Providence. A few of these early roads, no more than cart paths, have retained some of their early character and remain relatively narrow and winding. Such primitive routes were the town's major thoroughfares during the first century after initial settlement. Austin Avenue, traversing the southwest corner of Smithfield and originally

called the Killingly Road, was the principal east-west route in the town before the construction of the more direct routes.

At an early date, settlers recognized the necessity for a highway to connect the sparsely settled hinterland with the bay and the colony's larger settlements. About 1733, the Providence-Woodstock Road, also known as the Great Country Road (today's Putnam Pike), was laid out. It was a vital link between the interior and coast, essential for transporting upcountry farm and forest products to the Providence market and providing the farmers of the interior area with manufactured goods, coffee, sugar, and other commodities. At first a narrow crude path, difficult to travel in poor weather, the road was relaid and opened to a three-rod width in 1788, after a successful petition to the General Assembly by the several towns along the highway.

### **Taverns**

The earliest tavern of record in Smithfield was erected in 1733 at the crossroads in Greenville by Resolved Waterman (1703-1746) upon completion of the Putnam Pike; part of the Waterman Tavern still stands. A short distance to the west, Andrew Waterman erected a "place of refreshment for man and beast" sometime before the Revolutionary War. During the war it served as a pest house, so-called because smallpox victims were quarantined there. The long, narrow structure, called the Long House, served as a hotel until 1833, then became a tenement house.

### **Industry**

The improving road network encouraged the creation of small, water-powered grist mills, saw mills, and iron manufactories, which were built along Smithfield's waterways. Some of these became the nuclei of later manufacturing villages.

In the early eighteenth century, Andrew Waterman established a saw mill and a grist mill along the Stillwater River in the vicinity of the Long House. These factories were later replaced by an iron forge and furnace. A grist mill set up by the first Resolved Waterman in Greenville continued operating into the nineteenth century, while at nearby Reaper's Brook, a new fulling mill replaced an earlier one in 1723; in 1740 it was converted into a saw mill. In 1733, Abraham Smith settled at Spragueville; by mid-century he had a grist mill working here, and may also have built a saw mill. About 1750, a saw mill and a forge, erected by John Appleby, were in operation along the Woonasquatucket River, near Forge Road. The forge operated until at least 1831; the saw mill continued cutting wood until at least 1870. Some distance downstream from Appleby's forge, in today's Georgiaville, the Farnum family began a blacksmithing and an iron business. Iron was also being manufactured along the Stillwater River near Austin Avenue by about 1777, when William Potter established a blacksmith shop and a grindstone house there. Potter also had a forge and manufactured edge tools and other iron items. A tanner was also located here in 1777.

### **Churches and Schools**

In addition to the highways and several industrial enterprises, the first churches and schools were built in Smithfield during the 1700s. Early in the century, a small meeting house was erected on the "road to Woonsocket" (today's Pleasant View Avenue). The structure was rebuilt several times, but the church never attracted a large congregation. Education was carried on in private homes for the most part, but several school houses were erected in the eighteenth century. One was built about 1750 on Austin Avenue

near Putnam Pike. A public school was standing in 1766 in what became the Angell District. By 1776 there was a school at today's Esmond.

## NINETEENTH-CENTURY SMITHFIELD (1800 to 1899)

The United States was transformed by the upheavals of the Industrial Revolution. In the nineteenth century, the United States became a major industrialized nation and Rhode Island became the most heavily industrialized state, with the textile industry setting the pace. The process of industrialization had important social and economic consequences, but it also modified the visual character of towns like Smithfield; the town's landscape was transformed from a rural area, dotted by farming homesteads and minor mills, to a series of discrete manufacturing villages.

During the early nineteenth century all of Smithfield's hamlets and villages were formed, and the town's basic settlement pattern was established. Cotton textile factories and turnpikes were the catalysts for Smithfield's transformation from a predominantly agricultural to an industrial town.

The early colonial industries had been grist mills, saw mills, and iron forges scattered about the town, small in size and serving a local neighborhood. The new industrial growth was devoted to the manufacture of cotton goods, whose raw materials were purchased and finished products marketed outside of the town. Like the earlier industries, the new factories were located along rivers at waterfalls which provided the power necessary to operate them. By the mid-nineteenth century, all of Smithfield's water power sites had been developed, and nine new textile factories had been constructed. Each served as the nucleus for a settlement.

Several turnpikes laid out through the town in the first two decades of the nineteenth century encouraged the creation and growth of villages by providing access to markets and promoting commerce and industry. Village stores, banks, post offices, blacksmith shops, and wheelwright shops served a population that extended beyond each village. A growing population in the nineteenth century created a need for schools, churches, and other institutions which gave form and identity to the villages.

During the second half of the nineteenth century the most dramatic change in Smithfield was the great growth of the villages, especially Georgiaville and Greenville, a population increase comprised largely of foreign workers who came to work in the expanding textile mills. Between 1850 and 1900, Smithfield changed from a town whose population was almost entirely native-born and Protestant to one with a large foreign-born and Roman Catholic population: in 1895, 28% of Smithfield's residents were foreign-born.

As the villages grew, the rural areas of Smithfield seem to have lost population. In 1875, after the division of old Smithfield, the population of the town was 2,847. From then until 1900 it decreased slightly, so that by 1900 only 2,107 inhabitants lived in the town. The population of individual villages was recorded as early as 1865, but these statistics are not reliable. In 1865, 1,499 people lived in four Smithfield villages; by 1895, there were an estimated 2,109 village dwellers, 893 in Georgiaville, 808 in Greenville, and 270 in Esmond. If these figures are accurate, in 1895 the village population constituted 90% of the total town population of 2,337.

## Changes in Transportation

New roads developed in the nineteenth century helped to link Smithfield to the center of population, government, trade, and commerce in Providence. The road from Providence to Chepachet, today's Putnam Pike (U. S. Route 44), was laid out in the eighteenth century, and in the nineteenth century became the town's first turnpike. Turnpikes were roads operated by companies which, in exchange for construction and maintenance, were allowed to charge a fee for the use of the road. For much of the nineteenth century, Putnam Pike in Smithfield had two different names and was owned and operated by two turnpike companies. The Gloucester Turnpike Company, created in 1804, was granted permission to use the old road from Waterman's Tavern in Greenville west to the Chepachet Bridge as a toll highway. It was known as the Chepachet Turnpike. A toll house was established in Smithfield just west of the Long House, near the junction with West Greenville Road. In 1810, the Powder Mill Turnpike Company was permitted to build a three-rod road from Waterman's Tavern eastward to the west line of Providence. This road was completed and opened for travelers in 1815, with a tollgate set up at "the corner of the road to Spragueville" (today's Route 5), where a tavern was established by George Mowry. Regular stagecoaches ran between Centerdale and Harmony.

The Douglas Turnpike Company was chartered in 1805, and work commenced on the road in 1807. In 1809, the name of the corporation was changed to the Providence and Douglas Turnpike Company. This company established a gate in Smithfield at the junction of the road to Slatersville, today's Providence Pike. Soon after the turnpike was constructed, Angell's Hotel was erected near the Pike's crossing with Limerock Road.

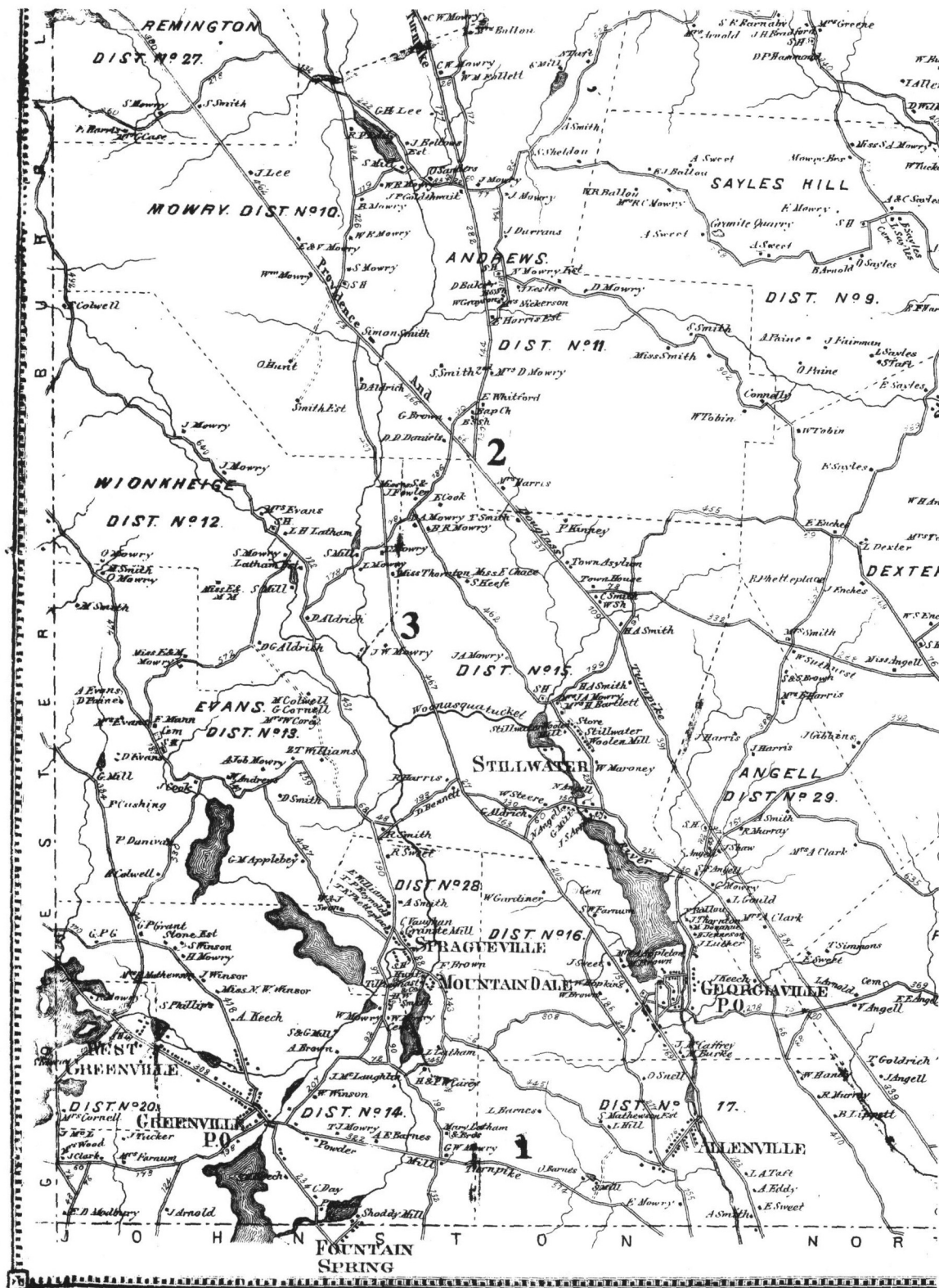
Smithfield's third toll road, eventually known as Farnum Pike, was started by Georgiaville's Farnum family in the late eighteenth century. It was intended to help facilitate the marketing of the Farnum iron products. In 1808, the Farnum and Providence Turnpike Company was created to build a road from Triptown, today's village of Manton in Providence, to Appleby's Road in Smithfield. However, the corporation encountered financial difficulties and, although some work was done, the road was not completed. The property was sold at auction to Stephen and Elisha Steere, who in 1819 obtained a renewal of the charter, with authority to finish the road. By this time, the Powder Mill Turnpike had been constructed and was made the southern terminus of the Farnum and Providence Pike, which was then completed as originally proposed north of Centerdale, perhaps to the junction with Pleasant View Avenue. The northern part of the road was not completed until about 1844, and the name Farnum Pike was not used until the early twentieth century.

The construction of these new roads tied Smithfield's industries to their sources of materials, their markets, and their center of trade information and capital; the new roads also helped to alter the patterns of Smithfield agriculture as the town's farmers could now more easily get their produce to local markets.

In the late nineteenth century, the new roads were supplemented by the construction of a rail line which provided cheaper and more secure transport of goods and materials. In 1873, the Providence and Springfield railroad was opened in Smithfield. The new line passed through Esmond, Georgiaville, and Stillwater, expediting the flow of raw materials in and manufactured goods out of these mill villages.

## Smithfield's Textile Industries

Following the successful operation of the first cotton mill in the United States in nearby Pawtucket, a number of textile mills were built in Smithfield. Independent



Map detail from the 1870 D.G. Beers & Company atlas showing present-day Smithfield. Number 1 marks the Gloucester Turnpike Company's Chepachet Turnpike, 1804 et seq., and the Powder Mill Turnpike, 1810-15, now Punam Pike; number 2 the Providence and Douglas Turnpike, 1807 et seq., now Douglas Pike; number 3 the Farnum and Providence Turnpike, 1808, 1819-44, now Farnum Pike.

*Mill Owner's House, c. 1830,  
294 Stillwater Road. This house  
is associated with Joseph Clark  
of Johnston, one of the first  
owners of the nearby mills. It  
has a fine, side-lighted entryway.*



*Angell's Hotel, c. 1810,  
620 Douglas Pike. This  
structure was probably used as  
a hotel when the Douglas  
turnpike was constructed in  
1809. It has a pedimented entry  
with a leaded fanlight.*



*Angell-Ballou House, early 19th  
century, 43 Ridge Road. A fine  
early farmhouse with paired  
brick chimneys and an ornately  
leaded semi-circular fanlight in  
a pedimented entry.*





entrepreneurs, sometimes local property owners with limited financial resources, sometimes wealthy capitalists from outside Smithfield, built mills along town's waterways. Throughout the nineteenth century, new factory construction was associated with good economic times. From 1807 through the War of 1812, the United States was unable to import British textiles, and the number of mills in Rhode Island grew rapidly; in 1813, two cotton factories were erected in Smithfield. The mid-1840s saw a similar burst of factory construction; three mills were constructed in Smithfield during that decade. The textile industry generally prospered during the last half of the century; several Smithfield mills were replaced by new, larger structures while others were expanded and improved. By the end of the century, Smithfield mills were beginning to decline and several mills had ceased operating.

### **Reservoirs**

The vagaries of New England weather, known to farmers in the region since the area was first settled, were also a source of difficulty for mill operators. Early mills were powered by water, and drought left mills idle at certain seasons of the year. In 1822 a group of Woonasquatucket Valley mill owners, led by Zachariah Allen, and including Philip Allen, Samuel G. Arnold, Thomas Thompson, and Samuel Nightingale, formed a corporation to ensure an adequate supply of water through the construction of reservoirs.

This was the first such corporation in America, and several reservoirs were built in Smithfield. In 1822, the first of these, Greenville (Slack's) Reservoir, was completed. In 1827 and 1836, the Sprague Lower and Upper reservoirs were completed. The Waterman Reservoir was in use by 1838; by mid-century the Hawkins Reservoir had been established along Reaper's Brook; and in 1853 the Stillwater Reservoir was added to the system.

### **Reaper's Brook/Fountain Spring**

Nehemiah Hawkins was probably the first in Smithfield to become involved with the cotton textile industry. After working at a mill in Pawtucket, he came to Reaper's Brook on the Smithfield-Johnston town line in the early nineteenth century, and converted an old saw mill for the manufacture of cotton machinery and reportedly also built a stone factory and a new dam. In 1820, Hawkins converted the factory for the manufacture of cotton cloth. In 1831, the mill was leased to Daniel Harkness and Isaac Saunders. Although several residences and a store were built near the factory, the tiny hamlet never grew beyond a half-dozen or so buildings.

By 1850, the mill was being run by Elisha Aldrich, whose 26 operatives made print goods; the hamlet then contained a store and several workers' houses, some of them on the Johnston side of the line. In 1870, the factory was identified on a map as a shoddy mill (indicating that it manufactured cloth from reclaimed fibers). The village was named Fountain Spring. By 1892, When Nicholas Windsor purchased the property, the mill was no longer operating and part of the building was being used for ice storage, a use which continued until 1927 at least. Although large enough to merit map identification in 1895, the place was not listed as a village in the census report for that year.

Over the course of the early twentieth century the mills and most of the houses were demolished; today only a single house remains. The site of the village is now overgrown, but the foundations of some elements of this early mill village can still be seen.

## Esmond

The Woonasquatucket River was first harnessed to run two new textile factories in the southeast corner of Smithfield in 1813. Philip Allen, brother of Zachariah (who later became a leading textile manufacturer and who erected a mill in nearby Georgiaville), erected a cotton mill and several subsidiary buildings, including a rubblestone storehouse which still stands at Esmond Avenue. Philip Allen created a small mill village by erecting houses for his workers along Esmond Street and Maple Avenue. In 1849, a schoolhouse was built, and in 1851, Allen built a church in the village. Through mid-century, the village was known as Allenville.

Esmond remained relatively unchanged during the second half of the nineteenth century. It continued as a residential community, with mill workers' houses concentrated along Esmond Street and several short side streets near the mill. A few private residences were built beyond the workers' houses on Esmond Street. By 1870, the village was owned and operated by the Smithfield Manufacturing Company; in 1879 it was purchased by the Enfield Mills Company who renamed the village Enfield. By the end of the century, Esmond, although still relatively small, was an active community; it had, in addition to its mills and houses, a railroad station, a church, a school, and a store. Its 1895 population was 270, only a few more than the 243 residents enumerated in 1865, and the 1895 map shows that the village had not changed substantially since 1870.

## Georgiaville

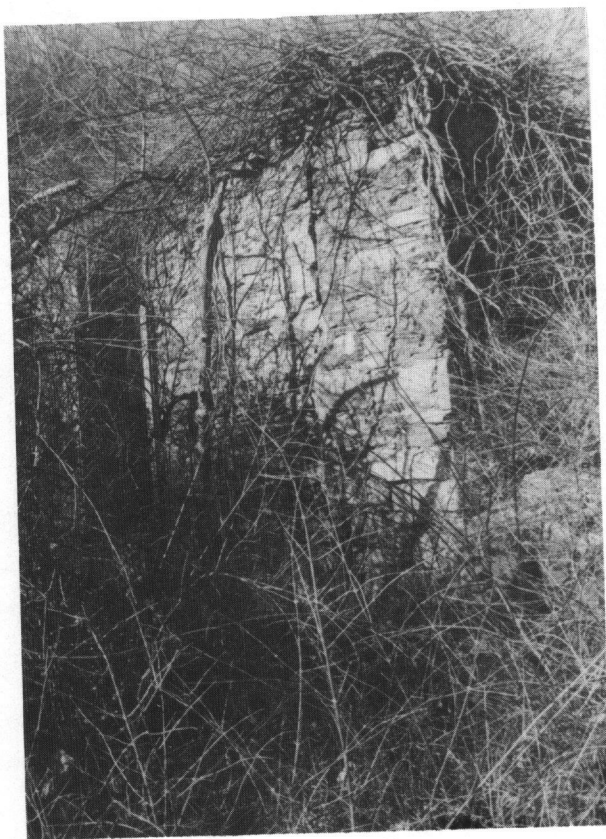
The Georgia Cotton Manufacturing Company, also erected a stone mill along the Woonasquatucket river in 1813. Mill workers were housed in two groups of stone houses built along Stillwater Road near the mill in a community known as Nightingale's Village or Georgia Factory. A short distance to the west, along Farnum Pike, another part of Georgiaville was developing. Here, a hotel and a row of houses lined the road.

Georgiaville grew slowly for several decades following the construction of the 1813 factory. By 1850, a store or two had been added to the village, but it remained predominantly residential, and its population had grown only slightly. A row of about eight houses were spread out along Farnum Pike while perhaps a dozen or so houses, mostly occupied by mill workers and their families, stood in the vicinity of the factory.

In 1853, Zachariah Allen, one of the state's leading industrialists, purchased the mill and replaced the 1813 factory with a new monumental Georgiaville Factory, the finest mill ever erected in the town. Allen also enlarged the reservoir, doubling the fall of water and increasing the water power considerably.

Under Allen's hand, Georgiaville grew rapidly. The increased operating capacity of the factory required the importation of laborers from outside the town. Many more houses were added to the village; most were erected near the factory, including a pair of four-story tenements, unusual for their size and scale. A Baptist church was built along the mill pond in 1857.

In 1871, a new company headed by Moses B. I. Goddard, acquired the mill property and further expanded the mill's working capacity. The 1875 census counted 608 village residents, an increase of more than 100 in ten years. Georgiaville's 179 American-born residents were by then outnumbered by 238 French-speaking Canadians, 84 Irish, 29 English, and 18 Scottish people in the village. To serve the religious needs of the new Canadian and Irish residents who were predominantly Roman Catholic, a mission was established in the village before St. Michael's Catholic Church was erected in 1876. A decade later a Universalist church was built on Farnum Pike.



*Ruins of Factory at Reaper's Brook/Fountain Spring, off Greenville Avenue. The remains of a factory are testimony to the presence of one of Rhode Island's earliest textile mill locations; a fulling mill was built here in 1699. Manufacturing was carried on here until the 1890s.*



*Esmond Mills, 1906 et seq., 340 Waterman Avenue. The present brick factory complex, erected in 1906 and later, is the successor to several earlier mill buildings, the first built in 1813 by Phillip Allen, who gave his name to the village. The twentieth-century factory manufactured Jacquard blankets. Textile manufacturing ceased in 1948.*

*Duplex House, early 20th century, Elm Court. This house is one of a group of four double houses built by the Esmond Mill Company between 1907 and 1920. They are among the last mill houses erected in Esmond, and in Rhode Island.*



*Two of three stone "courtyard" houses, c. 1813, built at 23-29 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville, with their entrances facing a common area. This grouping arrangement is very rare in Rhode Island.*



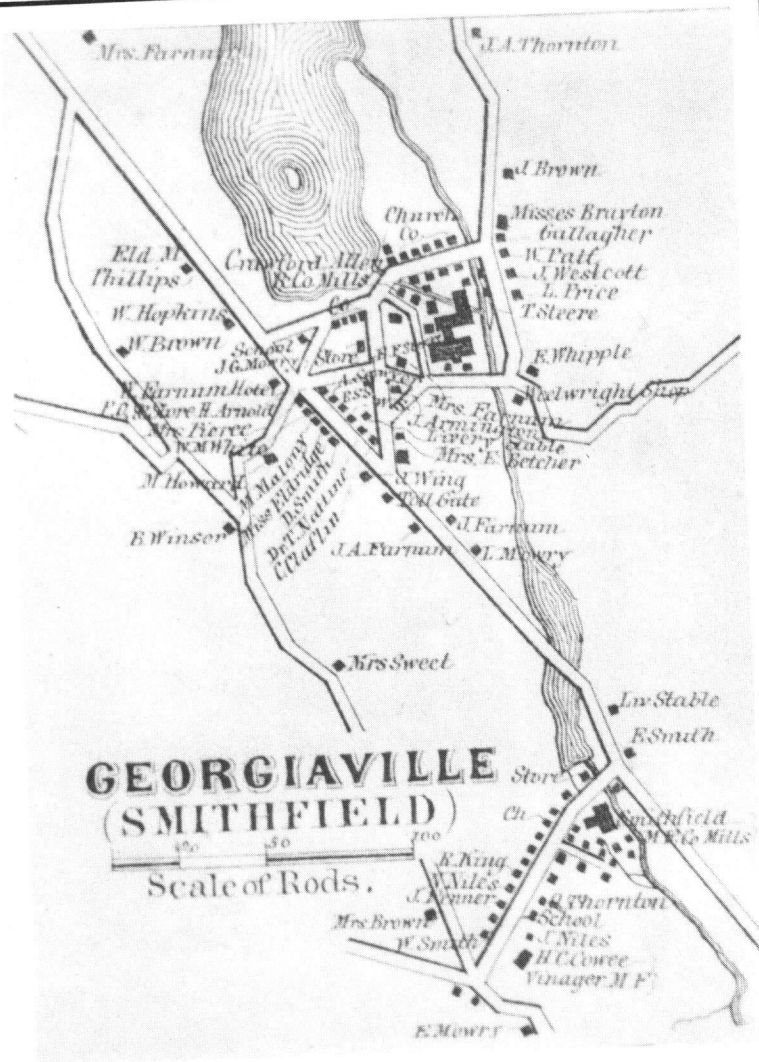
*These stone houses, 6-18 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville, were built for millworkers about the same time as the courtyard houses above, c. 1813.*



*Boarding Houses, 1854, 1855, 10-12 Whipple Road. These stone buildings, one for men and one for women, were erected soon after the construction of Zachariah Allen's factory nearby.*



Georgiaville section, H.F. Walling, Map of Rhode Island, 1862.



Georgiaville Mill/The Homestead Mill, 1853 et seq., Higgins Avenue. This large, Greek Revival-Italianate, stuccoed factory, was built by Zachariah Allen in 1853 as a successor to several earlier mills here. Textile manufacturing was carried on until the 1930s. In the late 1980s it was sold and converted into a condominium/townhouse complex and renamed the Homestead Mill.



By 1895, Georgiaville was the largest village in Smithfield. Its 893 residents (outnumbering Greenville by 85) were spread out over a broad area between Cross Street-Stillwater Road, east of the Woonasquatucket River, and Farnum Pike, the latter highway lined by an almost continuous row of houses that extended northward beyond the earlier village limits. Three churches, a school, a bank, a post office, and two halls served the large village in 1895.

#### **Stillwater**

In 1824, Israel and Welcome Arnold purchased property at Stillwater, in central Smithfield, and erected a small cotton mill and two houses for workers. The small settlement was later purchased by Joseph Clark, and by mid-century Stillwater was still only a tiny hamlet--a mill, five houses, a school, and a store. A new woolen mill, built in 1866 by Edmund Brown and his partners, burned in 1872, but was immediately replaced by a new and larger mill, constructed for the manufacture of woolen cloth. The village remained small throughout the nineteenth century, with a population of 145 in 1870 and 138 in 1895. The mill owners effected a number of changes in the late nineteenth century, such as landscaping and housing renovations, that transformed Stillwater into a "model village." Stillwater was also the town's most distinct, compact, self-contained mill village--its residents almost entirely dependent on the mill for their livelihood. In addition to its mill and its workers' residences, it contained only a schoolhouse, a post office, and a store in 1895.

#### **Spragueville**

The Stillwater River was first used for textile manufacture about 1825, when Thomas Sprague acquired land at Spragueville and built a cotton factory there. Spragueville's greatest prosperity occurred in the several decades after 1850, when the Granite Mill was built here and produced cotton sheeting. The 1865 population was recorded at 137, but by 1875, only 88 Spragueville residents were counted. The factory here was inactive from 1886 to 1889, and the tiny hamlet apparently went into a decline. Spragueville was not listed as a village in the 1895 census report, though it was identified on the 1870 and 1895 maps. At the end of the century there were only about 13 buildings in the vicinity of the mill near or along Mountaindale Road.

#### **Mountaindale**

At Mountaindale, near the junction of Reaper's Brook with the Stillwater River, a machine shop was built in 1826-27 by Waterman Smith and Thomas Harris. The factory made spindles, rolls, and shuttles. It changed hands several times and in the 1850s was converted to the manufacture of Negro cloth, a coarse fabric. By 1850, there also were about a half-dozen buildings in this hamlet, a number that remained constant throughout the second half of the nineteenth century.

In 1878 it was reported that the Mountaindale Factory, which had recently been used to make hosiery and knit goods, had lately been idle for a portion of the time. Despite its small size, Mountaindale was recorded on the 1870 and 1895 maps.

#### **Greenville**

Greenville's early development, centered on the Waterman Tavern and the nearby saw and grist mills and iron works, was slow during the first decades of the nineteenth

century. An academy was established here in 1813, but ten years later Greenville was still only a small settlement, containing but five houses. A Baptist church was raised in 1822. The Smithfield Exchange Bank, chartered in 1823, used part of the old Waterman Tavern for its offices. Temple Lodge #18, F. & A. M., was organized here in 1826, and a post office was set up in the tavern during the 1830s. Several small industries operated in the village: by the mid-nineteenth century there were a tinsmith, a blacksmith, and a carriage and coffin manufacturer.

During the 1840s, three textile mills were built in Greenville on Smithfield's last three available water power sites. All three were within a short distance of each other along the Stillwater River. The first was at West Greenville, where a saw mill and a forge had been established in the eighteenth century. In 1817, Elisha Steere purchased this property, and in 1844 he built a cotton mill on the site of the earlier mills. A short distance downstream, Stephen and Albert Winsor and William F. Brown erected a factory in 1845. The third factory in Greenville, a stone mill built for the manufacture of woolen goods, was built along the Stillwater River near Austin Avenue in 1845-46 by William Pooke and Anthony Steere. In 1855, a weave shed was added to the mill complex. In the 1860s the mill produced cassimere; in the 1880s, after being acquired by a Woonsocket firm, the mills produced cottons.

By 1850 Greenville had become a substantial village. The three nearby textile factories attracted new workers, including many Irish. But Greenville also served as an institutional and commercial center for its surrounding area and for travelers along Putnam Pike. By mid-century, the village contained an academy (which later became a public school), a bank, a post office, a masonic lodge, and a Baptist church. An Episcopal church was built in the center of the village in 1851. A Roman Catholic mission was established in Greenville to serve the Irish population who began arriving in this area in the 1840s. In 1858, Greenville Catholics erected their first church here a short distance south of the village center, on Smith Street. The core of the village, near the brook that crosses the Putnam Pike, was the locale of several small industries--a tinsmith, a blacksmith, and a carriage and coffin manufacturer. In 1865, the bank located in a new building which went up in the village center. At that time, the village was the largest in town with a population of 622.

In the late nineteenth century Greenville continued to thrive. An 1870 business directory lists a hotel; a bank; three merchants dealing in general merchandise, dry goods, groceries, clothing, and hardware; a manufacturer of tin and sheet-iron wares; a manufacturer of wagons and carriages; two physicians; an undertaker; an insurance agent; and a contractor and builder. The last major building added in the nineteenth century was a public library, built in 1883.

By 1895, Greenville's 808 inhabitants were concentrated in a community located along the Powder Mill Turnpike, Austin Avenue, Church Street, and Smith Avenue; other residences were set to the north along Pleasant View Avenue. To the west of Greenville was the once-separate village of West Greenville, with its four stone mills and a few houses on Putnam Pike. Greenville's location along the town's major highway and its cluster of commercial, public, and industrial buildings allowed it to retain its position as Smithfield's most important village despite the fact that by 1895, Georgiaville had overtaken it in number of inhabitants.

#### **Nineteenth-Century Agriculture**

In addition to industry, agriculture continued to be an important economic activity in nineteenth-century Smithfield. The first detailed information on farming is available from



*Greenville Baptist Church, 1820, 582 Putnam Pike. This typical New England meetinghouse following the models of Wren and Gibbs was built by Clark Sayles. The present high brick basement and deep front pavilion were added in 1866.*



*St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1851 et seq., 578 Putnam Pike. This handsome Gothic Revival church was designed by noted Rhode Island architect Thomas A. Tefft. Its original bell gable in front was replaced by the present tower in 1891.*

*St. Thomas Episcopal Church Rectory, 1881, 1 Smith Avenue. This cross-gabled house, set behind the church, is one of a small number of Queen Anne style houses in Smithfield. Latticework screens and bargeboards decorate the house.*





*Barn, Clark Farm, c. 1862, 494 Douglas Pike. The Clark Farm contains several noteworthy outbuildings sited near the road. This one, a barn, has vertical board walls and a louvered cupola. Nearby are a corn crib and a shed.*



*Wionkhiege Valley Farm, 1920s, Log Road. This unusual farm building, sited directly on the road, has a series of doors and windows. A dairy farm was started here by the Latham family in 1873. Much of the produce was sold in Woonsocket until about 1940.*



the 1850 United States census. At mid-century, Smithfield farmers operated a great range of farm sizes, from small farms of 20 acres to large farms of over 200 acres.

The important grain crops were rye and Indian corn. John Foster's farm on Austin Avenue, for example, harvested 500 bushels of corn, an unusually high amount in Smithfield. Irish potatoes were an equally important crop. Foster produced 800 bushels of potatoes while his nearest rival, Sylvester Mowry, harvested 250 bushels, somewhat closer to the average of 204 bushels. Hay, used as fodder for animals, was also grown on all farms.

Most farms had modest numbers of livestock. On average, each Smithfield farm had one horse, two oxen, and six cows. The production of butter had become important for a few Smithfield farmers; John Foster's farm produced 2,000 pounds and Sylvester Mowry's 1700 pounds; but other farms produced no butter. Now that fabric was more commonly woven in factories than in farmhouses, sheep were less important, and only eleven were counted on two farms.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Smithfield farmers patronized the several grist mills and saw mills which were still operating in town. Most continued in operation until at least 1870, but by 1895 only one grist mill, on Capron Road, remained working.

With the growth of industrialism in the late nineteenth century, the nature of Smithfield's farming slowly changed, increasing the number and extent of markets and the participation of the town's farmers in a cash economy. The growth of local manufacturing villages and of the city of Providence created concentrated populations of non-farmers who did not produce their own food. With turnpikes and the railroad, Smithfield farmers could reach these new markets for their produce. While general farming continued to be important, there was increasing emphasis on production of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products which could be sold in nearby villages or in Providence. With the opening of new western lands to farming and the increasing importation of bulk western agricultural products, local farmers tended to concentrate on more perishable crops, producing foodstuffs that were not suitable for long-distance transport.

The 1875 census report of Rhode Island recorded 146 farms in Smithfield. After a drop to 121 in 1885, the number of farms increased to 163 in 1895. There was substantial variation in farm size; most farms were between 50 and 100 acres; an almost equal number of farms varied in size from 20 to 50 acres and from 100 to 200 acres. The principal agricultural products continued to be corn, barley, oats, and hay; modest numbers of livestock were maintained. In 1895, the town's 163 farms had only 354 horses and colts, 828 milk cows, 79 heifers, 25 bulls, 8 oxen, 40 sheep, and 789 swine.

Orchard crops, especially apples, were increasingly important, as Hoag and Wade noted in 1878: "More and more attention is being paid to the cultivation of this valuable product (orchards), and the enterprising farmer is annually purchasing choice varieties of the apple, pear, and plum trees, and transporting them to his fields, hitherto unprofitable for grain culture." In 1861, James Winsor, whose farm was on the outskirts of Greenville, began a commercial apple orchard, one of the first in the state. Cider, a by-product of apple growing, became more important in the farm economy. Almost 7,000 bushels of apples were harvested in Smithfield in 1895, about half of them used for cider.

By 1895, a variety of perishable fruits and vegetables were being grown in Smithfield, including strawberries, cucumbers, cabbage, lettuce, melons, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, squash, tomatoes, pears, and peaches. Poultry, eggs, and dairy products--especially milk--increased in importance and found a ready market in the nearby villages and cities.

## Rural Schools

The early years of the nineteenth century saw the construction of the first buildings in Smithfield to be used solely for education. The earliest rural schools were built in 1803 and in 1808; both are now gone. In 1826, a school was erected in the Mann District in the northwest section of town, and in 1832 a school house was built on Harris Road near the Douglas Pike. Both of these survive, in heavily altered form, as residences. The greatest impetus to school construction followed the passage of a 1828 State law that required the establishment of school districts and made provisions for the erection of schoolhouses in all Rhode Island's towns. Schoolhouses were usually located near the geographical center of each district to avoid an unusually long walk for rural schoolchildren.

## Smithfield's Architectural Legacy

Many of Smithfield's nineteenth-century houses survive in well-preserved condition to provide important insights into the town's development, testifying to the growing importance of industrialism. A few early mill houses survive, among the most interesting are the c. 1813 stone houses on Stillwater Road in Georgiaville, particularly the three arranged around a courtyard. Most of Smithfield's other early nineteenth-century houses were originally built as farmhouses. Dispersed throughout the town, they are evidence that agriculture was economically viable well into the nineteenth century.

Federal-era farmhouses continued an earlier building tradition and have much in common with their colonial predecessors. Frame construction and large center chimneys continued to be distinctive features of these houses. Clapboard was the most commonly used siding in Smithfield, but wood shingles were sometimes applied to the less visible sides and rear of the house. Many Federal houses manifest architectural details whose source is classical Roman and Greek architecture, details that set them apart from earlier and plainer rural dwellings. The most noteworthy features of these houses are their entrances, which no longer depend solely on transoms for lighting. The most sophisticated Federal houses exhibit semi-circular or semi-elliptical fan lights over the door, often incorporated into a more elaborate surround capped with a pediment. The Stephen Steere House on Capron Road, Angell's Hotel on Douglas Pike, the Angell-Ballou House on Ridge Road, and Windy Brow Farm on Williams Road have outstanding entryways. Other Federal architectural details are the use of corner quoins, splayed or keystone lintels over the windows, and modillion or dentil courses at the cornices. Several of Smithfield's outstanding Federal-era houses are recommended for nomination for the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register.

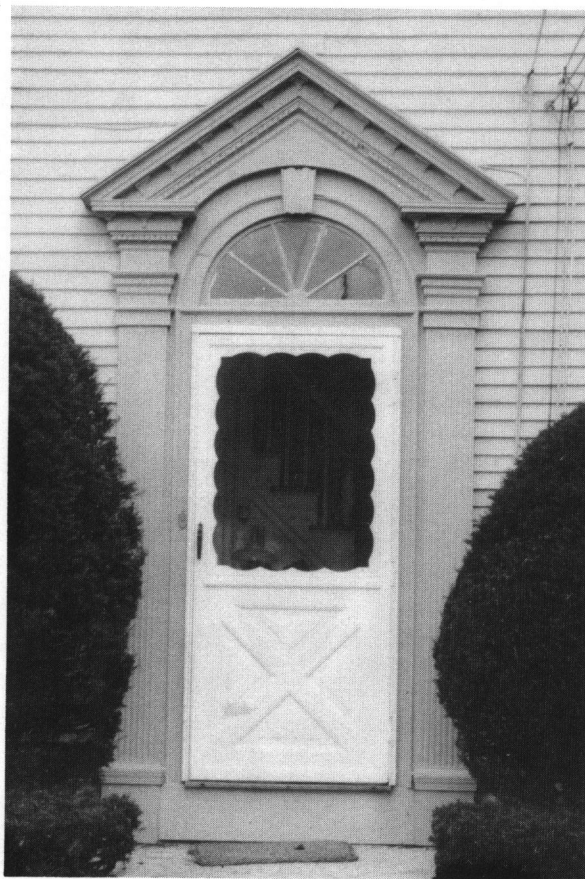
Beginning in the early decades of the nineteenth century there gradually evolved a new architectural style which was disseminated by carpenter's guides and pattern books and used by local artisans. An increasing number of trained architects in America designed high-style buildings in the Grecian mode, particularly urban commercial and public buildings, such as the Arcade in Providence. The Greek Revival style, as it became known, was dominant between about 1830 and 1860. Its occurrence in Smithfield building coincides with the areas of largest population growth during the period of its popularity, in the villages; twenty-seven Greek Revival houses are recorded in this survey and fourteen are located in Smithfield's major villages--Esmond, Georgiaville, and Greenville.

These houses are markedly different than earlier Federal houses. Distinctive Greek Revival features were meant to imitate the form of a Greek temple, and include the use of a wide band of undecorated boards at the cornice, sometimes containing small, narrow windows; a front entry, sometimes recessed, with a projecting molded cap, transom and

*Asahel Angell House, 1780,  
4 Limerock Road. Originally a  
traditional 5-bay residence, this  
house was later enlarged with  
three bays at the left side to  
create its present long facade.*



*The Angell-Ballou House entry  
is one of a number of fine  
Smithfield doorways described  
in the early twentieth century  
architectural periodical Pencil  
Points.*



*Entry, Asahel Angell House,  
1780, 4 Limerock Road.*

*Pierce House, c. 1850,  
76 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville.*



*L.B. Sweet House, c. 1875,  
38 Esmond Street, Esmond.*



*Former Stillwater Store, c. 1867,  
311 Stillwater Road. This  
atypical building, with a stepped  
false front and two separate  
entries, was probably built when  
a new factory was erected here  
in stillwater in 1867.*





*Richard Waterhouse House/  
Tucker Funeral Home, c. 1900,  
649 Putnam Pike. Built for the  
superintendent of a nearby mill,  
this house has been used as a  
funeral home for many years.*



*Facade of the Richard  
Waterhouse House/Tucker  
Funeral Home. This large  
asymmetrical structure is widely  
known for its impressive Queen  
Anne detailing.*

*Greenville Fire Company, 1939,  
Putnam Pike. This 2-story brick  
fire station, a fine example of  
the Neo-Colonial style, popular  
in the 1930s, is one of several of  
this style built in Smithfield.*



*J. S. Sweet House, c. 1865,  
108 Farnum Pike. Smithfield's  
only octagonal house, and one  
of perhaps only a dozen in the  
entire state, is sited on a small  
rise on a large open lot. False  
stone siding detracts from what  
would otherwise be an  
architecturally important house.*



*Entry Gate to Dr. Nutting  
House, c. 1850, 55 Farnum  
Pike. This handsome and  
unusual fence, with Tudor posts  
and an arched entry, leads to  
the Greek Revival Dr. T.  
Nutting House, erected in 1850.*



side lights; and wide corner boards which may have a recessed central panel. Among the many fine examples of this style in Smithfield are the Pierce House at 76 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville, which includes a second Greek Revival entry in its gable end; the Mowry House on Ridge Road; and a house at 73 Cross Street in Georgiaville.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, most of Smithfield's important and interesting buildings were erected in the villages. As before, most of these buildings were plain structures, meant to provide basic shelter; others were built to reflect a prevailing popular architectural style, their builders using shapes, materials, and details currently in vogue.

For the most part, Smithfield's mill houses are plain but functional, designed to provide inexpensive shelter for factory operatives. Among the good examples are two rows of multi-family houses on both sides of Hill Street in Georgiaville.

In the nineteenth century, Smithfield was not a wealthy town as compared, for example, with some of Rhode Island's bay communities. The most sophisticated houses in Smithfield were those built for the mill owners, supervisors and leading merchants. Two outstanding houses of the late nineteenth century are located in Greenville. A fine Italianate house at 93 Austin Avenue was the residence of Stephen Winsor, a Greenville banker and gentleman farmer. The most elaborate residence in Smithfield is a Queen Anne house on Putnam Pike built by Richard Waterhouse, a Greenville mill owner; its three-story polygonal corner tower, elaborate gabled dormer, modillion and dentil cornices, and a recessed open porch framed with carpenterwork detail make it a good example of the style. Simpler examples of the Italianate style are two houses on Homestead Avenue in Georgiaville, the mill superintendent's residence and St. Michael's Rectory, both boxy in form with wide, bracketed cornices. The E. C. Thornton House at 562 Putnam Pike, Greenville, with a two-story corner tower and shingle-and-clapboard exterior walls, is a less ornate Queen Anne dwelling.

The use of brackets, both under the cornice and as supports for entryways, was the most common form of detailing in the mid- and late nineteenth century (several good examples are listed in Appendix A). The George Smith House at 561 Putnam Pike includes paired bay windows flanking the front entryway and brackets on its porch ell. Brackets were also a feature common to Second Empire buildings, such as the L. B. Sweet House at 38 Esmond Street in Esmond and in the O. A. Tobey House at 563 Putnam Pike in Greenville. Without brackets but easily identified as Second Empire in style by the use of mansard roofs are the mill superintendent's house in Stillwater and a small mill office at 11 Higgins Lane in Georgiaville.

Although altered by modern composition siding, the octagonal residence at 108 Farnum Pike in Georgiaville is a rare example of its type. The octagon house was popularized by Orson Fowler's book *The Octagon House, A Home for All* (1849), and probably no more than a dozen examples still remain in Rhode Island.

## THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY (1900 to 1940)

At the beginning of the twentieth century Smithfield was a quiet and economically healthy town. Most of the town's inhabitants resided in its manufacturing villages, which were separated from each other by a pleasant environment of fields, pastures, and woods. A reporter for the *Providence Journal*, visiting Smithfield in 1903, found the route from Centerdale to Greenville bordered nearly all of the way by cool, fern-carpeted woods. Distant landscape views were afforded here and there, and along the route lay low-lying hills.



A stage still ran along Putnam Pike between Centerdale and Harmony, and the Providence and Springfield Railroad, which by 1903 had become the Pascoag branch of the New York, New Haven, and Hudson Railroad, was enjoying a prosperity due in no small measure to the textile mills along its route. Following the course of the Woonasquatucket, Tarkiln, and Clear Rivers, the road served 31 operating factories (more than half of which were in Burrillville), mostly woolen or worsted mills. In Smithfield the railroad ran by the cotton mill in Esmond, the Georgiaville cotton mill, Capron's grain mills at Stillwater Station, and the Stillwater Worsted Mills. In the early twentieth century, however, the stage, the railroad, and Smithfield's several trolley lines were eventually to become obsolete with the advent of automobile transportation and highway improvements beginning in the early years of the twentieth century. Industrial growth coupled with transportation improvements were important contributors to growth of the town's population, which more than doubled, from 2,107 to 4,611 inhabitants, between 1900 and 1940.

### **Transportation**

The development of the automobile and the rapid growth of the motoring public played a large role in the twentieth-century development of Smithfield. The modern highway era in Rhode Island began shortly after 1900, when the State Board of Public Roads was established and highway improvements were initiated. Within a few decades, the state's major roads had been improved by widening, by paving with bituminous macadam, and by eliminating curves. Farnum Pike, between Centerdale and Woonsocket, a fourteen-foot-wide road, was resurfaced in 1913. In 1933, a new road, the George Washington Highway, was opened for traffic north of Farnum Pike, eventually to join Mendon Road in Cumberland's Ashton village. This road required a long bridge over the Woonasquatucket River and the bed of the Providence and Springfield Railroad. When completed, the 450-foot long Stillwater Viaduct was the longest bridge in the state highway system. Putnam Pike was upgraded periodically during the early twentieth century. In 1936, in order to eliminate a sharp and dangerous curve in Greenville, the front part of the old Waterman Tavern was removed, leaving only the rear ell.

While highways were improved and automobile travel increased greatly, local rail service declined. The Providence and Springfield Railroad ceased operation in the early twentieth century; its tracks were later destroyed, leaving only a right-of-way to show its former path. A streetcar line operated briefly in the early twentieth century. The Chepachet line of the Providence Street Railway, opened in 1914, followed the Powder Mill and Putnam Turnpikes. It carried passengers until 1924, then carried only freight for several more years until closing in 1926.

### **Industrial Development and the Villages**

Among the most significant developments in the textile industry during the early twentieth century were changes in ownership, as Smithfield's factories became parts of larger companies. In Esmond, a group of New York capitalists headed by Henry C. Whitman acquired the mill complex, workers' houses, and other buildings. The old granite mill was torn down and replaced in 1907 by a large brick factory which manufactured Jacquard blankets. In 1916, over half of Smithfield's workers were employed in the Esmond mills; by 1939, the village work force had grown to 1,000, probably two-thirds of the town's industrial workers.

In October, 1906, Esmond was described as "not beautiful in any sense of the word;" it contained a score of "very ordinary tenements and a few private residences." By April, 1907, however, the mill was almost completed; by then, the tenement houses had all been

*Knight House/Ye Olde Tavern, early 20th century, 240 Farnum Pike. This stucco- and shingle-sided house, a copy of English cottage-style dwellings, occupies a rustic site. It was used as a tavern in the 1930s.*



*Tudor Revival House, early 20th century, 569 Putnam Pike. This picturesque stone house has decorative half-timbered walls.*



*Baker House, 1962, hidden from view, at 40 Walter Carey Road. Designed by Rhode Island architect Lloyd A. Baker, this frame house, built with redwood, has a flat roof with a wide overhang and a clerestory.*



put in excellent repair, and a number of attractive cottages were being built, forming a new street, Elm Court. In 1909, the village, which had been called Enfield for several decades, was renamed Esmond. In that year, a trolley service was established. A row of duplex houses was built along Waterman Avenue about 1920, and a large number of houses were erected in a small area east of Waterman Avenue. In 1930, Esmond was described as "a charming village of quaint colonial cottages, beautiful elm-shaded streets, and modern sunlit mills."

Georgiaville's factory was sold to the Manville-Jenks Corporation in 1907 and employed 230 workers in 1916. Several significant changes occurred in Georgiaville during the early twentieth century. In 1921, the town government was transferred here from Greenville, where the town clerk had previously had his office in a store for the past 40 years. The site of the new municipal offices were in the former Universalist church on Farnum Pike. It served as the town hall, and also housed the jail, until the present town hall was erected nearby in 1939. The Irving S. Cook School, a two-story elementary school, was built along the pike in 1925. A brick fire station was erected in 1942 adjacent to the town hall. In 1935, facing the financial difficulties of the Great Depression, the Manville-Jenks Company failed; the mills closed and the mill houses were sold at auction.

At Greenville the mill was leased to Austin T. Levy in 1909. He purchased the mill in 1925. Levy named his new company Stillwater Worsted Mills. He also acquired the two other Stillwater River mills in West Greenville. Levy was one of the textile industry's pioneers in attempting humanitarian reforms. In 1916 he instituted a profit sharing plan which gave all workers a share in the company's profits, and in 1924 stock ownership in the company was offered to employees. After 1921, Levy began a program of acquisition, purchasing other mills in Rhode Island and Virginia. Of Smithfield's three major villages, Greenville remained the least changed during the early twentieth century. The old Waterman Tavern ceased being a tavern in 1902, and in 1936 much of the structure was destroyed for a new highway project. The William Winsor Memorial School, was built on Putnam Pike in 1930 and a new fire station was erected in 1939.

The factory at Stillwater was part of the Centerdale Woolen Mills by 1901, and by 1937 became part of the Lister Worsted Company. Stillwater village remained virtually unchanged during this era, its mill employing a modest number of workers (only 150 in 1939, for example), most of whom probably resided in the village. Three factories, at West Greenville, at Mountaindale, and at Spragueville, were destroyed or torn down during the early twentieth century. At West Greenville, the Winsor Mill continued operating, and the community here remained small. West Greenville's lower mill, however, probably stopped operating before World War II and was torn down; a row of mill workers' houses along the turnpike near the mill was removed, probably for the sake of highway widening. The destruction of the textile mills at Mountaindale and Spragueville left only a few dams and waterfalls and several residences to mark the sites of these nineteenth-century communities.

### Early Twentieth-Century Farming

Farming continued to play an important role in Smithfield in the first half of the twentieth century. By 1900, Smithfield agriculture had already begun its transformation from a subsistence to commercial economy. Smithfield farmers found a market for their fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, meat, and other perishable products in nearby villages and cities. The Wionkhege Valley Farm, for example, was one of the town's leading dairy and vegetable farms as early as 1873; it remained active until at least the 1940s, selling much of its milk and produce in Woonsocket.

One specialized form of farming had great success. The apple growing industry, started here well before 1900, expanded substantially. By 1907, Thomas K. Winsor had 1,500 apple trees in his orchards along Austin Avenue. Other farmers followed his lead and set out apple trees, and several extensive apple orchards were established. By the 1940s, a large area around Greenville developed into Rhode Island's leading apple country. By the end of this period, however, farming had become an increasingly less attractive occupation as other opportunities for employment were increased. Sometimes, farming remained a secondary occupation interest while farm owners obtained more remunerative employment elsewhere. A number of smaller and less productive farms in Smithfield were abandoned, their fields and pastures reverting to forest.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (1941 to present)

Since the 1940s, Smithfield has become a growing suburban town, part of the large metropolitan area surrounding Providence. The dramatic shift in the character of the town has occurred since the end of World War II and is still shaping Smithfield's physical form. In the first half of the twentieth century, the town's population was relatively stable, but in the period between 1940 and 1960 especially, Smithfield's population grew significantly (4600 in 1940, 6700 in 1950, 9400 in 1960).

The process of suburbanization has resulted largely from the popularity of the automobile which has made previously outlying areas readily accessible from a wide region. New residential building in Smithfield has for the most part followed a suburban pattern: detached single-family ranch, split level, and Cape Cod houses on moderate-sized lots in large single-use tracts. The open spaces between mill villages were at least partially filled by such new tract developments. The first such tract was created in 1942 when the Federal Housing Authority built twenty-five four-room houses near the Slack Reservoir. In 1945, 300 houses were built on a 96-acre parcel near Greenville at the intersection of Putnam Pike and Pleasant View Avenue. In the 1940s and 1950s most suburban development occurred in the southern part of town, near Esmond, Georgiaville, and Greenville.

In the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the rate of Smithfield's population growth slowed somewhat (to 13,500 in 1970; 16,900 in 1980; and 17,500 in 1985), and the development of suburban tracts has shifted to the Limerock Road and Bryant College areas. Newer residential development also includes some condominiums, large clusters of semi-detached structures set in expansive open land, particularly in the southwest corner of town and near the Stillwater Reservoir.

Patterns of commerce have also altered since the 1940s. Strip commercial development, most of it non-descript, has been particularly characteristic of the major highways, especially Douglas, Farnum, and Putnam Pikes. The first of Smithfield's post-war shopping centers was opened in 1956 in Greenville; its stores are located in a one-story horizontal structure set behind a large parking lot.

The principal change in the town's highway system in the post-war years was the construction in 1975 of I-295, passing from south-central Smithfield to its northeast corner. The new highway provided direct access to the interstate highway system. It has brought centers of activity outside the town much closer to Smithfield residents and has made the town more accessible to others in the metropolitan region, making the town a good location for commercial and educational centers, such as the Apple Valley Mall and the new campus of Bryant College.

The process of suburbanization has affected industrial construction as well. Where earlier industries located along the rivers which provided their power, new industries are

located in open areas, along Farnum Pike and especially at an industrial park in the northwest corner of town; here manufacturers realize economies of scale not possible for earlier industries and have available a ready-made infrastructure of roads, cleared land for building and parking, electric power, water, and sewage lines.

Smithfield's older factories are now an under-utilized resource. Although several of the town's old textile mill buildings survive, the manufacture of cloth is now only a matter of historical record. The factories at Esmond and Greenville house several commercial and industrial uses, including storage and light manufacturing. Before its destruction by fire in the mid-1980s, the factory at Stillwater was manufacturing plexiglass items. Until early 1987, the Georgiaville Mill was the home of the Industrial Tool Corporation. Now it is a townhouse/condominium development known as the Homestead Mill. A similar change in use was proposed for the Winsor Mill in West Greenville, but has not taken place.

Aside from the apple industry, agriculture is not an economically important activity in Smithfield. A few vegetable farms still operate, and a few farms have some livestock. Smithfield's changing agricultural fortunes are graphically demonstrated in farm statistics. In 1888, 5,500 acres were devoted to various farming activities: 781 acres in plowed land, 2,555 mowing acres, and 3,295 acres used as pasture. Today, almost a century later, only 638 acres are farmed: 25 acres are tilled, 493 acres in hay or pasture, 101 acres in orchard, and 19 acres devoted to grassland.

Rhode Island's apple-growing industry, which began here in the late nineteenth century, remains centered in Smithfield. Smithfield's 101 acres of orchards are the highest for any town in the state. The orchards are farmed by several large apple growers; they also attract tourists during the spring flower season and the fall harvest, who combine a ride through the scenic and colorful countryside with the purchase of apples and cider at several local stands. However, large tracts of orchard land have been sold recently and converted to housing developments, particularly along Smith Avenue and West Greenville Road.

## SUMMARY

Smithfield has a long and varied history. For nearly a century after its initial settlement, the town was an outlying agricultural area. In the nineteenth century Smithfield's rivers became the scene of major industrial development. Villages were created along the Woonasquatucket and Stillwater Rivers, and the population of the town grew dramatically as workers were drawn from the surrounding area and from several foreign nations as well. By the early years of the twentieth century, Smithfield was an important textile-producing town. In the second half of the twentieth century, the town has become part of the suburban ring surrounding Providence, with hundreds of new houses and thousands of new residents.

Each phase of Smithfield's past has left physical evidence of itself, in houses, factories, and public buildings. This is a rich heritage which should be recognized and appreciated for its present-day value. Smithfield is a beautiful and historic town whose old farms and villages give it a special character and vitality. The preservation of this legacy is a challenge to town residents and officials.

#### **IV. NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES**

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of properties which are significant in American history and worthy of preservation. In Rhode Island, the State Register serves the same function. The State Historic Preservation Office of each state identifies properties which may be eligible for the National Register and, with the approval of the State Review Board, submits them to the Secretary of Interior for inclusion in the Register. The National and State Registers are important planning tools as well as records of the physical remains of America's and Rhode Island's past.

The benefits of being on the Registers include official recognition of the property's importance; eligibility to apply for federal planning and restoration grants when funds are available; eligibility for federal investment tax credits for certified substantial rehabilitations of income-producing property; eligibility to apply for low-interest loans; and protection from the adverse effects of state or federally funded or licensed projects through a project review process.

Listing on the Registers is a tool to encourage the preservation and recognition of our national heritage. The Registers are not intended to hinder progress; they are reminders that the preservation and re-use of properties which give our towns and cities their identity are part of our historical developmental process.

Listing in the Register does not require the owner to preserve or maintain the property. Unless the owner applies for and receives special federal or state benefits, she/he can do anything with the property which is permitted by local ordinances. Registration does not halt federal or state projects when these are shown to be in the public interest, but does require careful consideration and planning of such projects when they call for alteration or demolition of National Register properties.

#### **SMITHFIELD PROPERTIES ENTERED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND STATE REGISTER:**

Georgiaville Historic District, bounded roughly by Farnum Pike, Stillwater Road, Cross Street, and Whipple Avenue

Waterman-Winsor Farm, 85 Austin Avenue

Stephen Winsor House, 113 Austin Avenue

Esmond Mill Storehouse, 5 Esmond Street

Woonasquatucket River Archeological Site, Farnum Pike

St. Thomas Episcopal Church and Rectory, 578 Putnam Pike

Smith-Appleby Farm, 220 Stillwater Road

**SMITHFIELD PROPERTIES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR  
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND STATE REGISTER:**

Daniel Winsor House, 129 Austin Avenue  
Jesse Foster House, 147 Austin Avenue  
Stephen Steere House, 56 Capron Road  
Tucker-Steere-Colwell House, Pole 77, Colwell Road  
Angell's Hotel, 620 Douglas Pike  
Joseph Mowry House, 1150 Douglas Pike  
Silas Smith House, 200 Farnum Pike  
Harris House, 135 Harris Road  
Mowry House, 239 John Mowry Road  
Col. Elisha Mowry House, 10 John Mowry Road  
Asahel Angell House, 4 Limerock Road  
Daniel Angell House, 26 Limerock Road  
Thomas Mann House, 215 Mann School Road  
Ebenezer Stephens House, 185 Old County Road  
Joseph Farnum-Brown House, 243 Old County Road  
Ballou-Phettaplace House, 142 Pleasant View Avenue  
Steere-Harris House, 310 Pleasant View Avenue  
Hopkins Farm, Pole 9, Branch Pike  
Richard Waterhouse House, 649 Putnam Pike  
Mathewson House, 35 Steere Road  
Evans House, Pole 2, Tarkiln Road  
Steere Farm, 40 West Greenville Road  
Windy Brow Farm, 82 Williams Road

This list of recommended properties should not be considered final. As new research is conducted, as the town changes physically, and as perceptions of the community's history evolve, other candidates for the National and State Registers may be identified.

## V. INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

This inventory is an annotated list of some of Smithfield's historic buildings and sites. Historic village areas are listed first in alphabetical order. Individual properties are listed alphabetically by street name and then numerically by street number.

Properties which do not have street numbers (or whose numbers are not known) are listed in the order they appear on the street; pole numbers are provided for some unnumbered properties. Properties located in one of Smithfield's historic villages are designated by a letter code next to their street number:

ES: Esmond  
FS: Fountain Spring  
GE: Georgiaville  
GR: Greenville  
MO: Mountaindale  
SP: Spragueville  
ST: Stillwater  
WG: West Greenville

The dates of construction are sometimes determined on the basis of markers, documents, maps, or special knowledge of a resident, but more often are based on analysis of architectural style and structure.

Unless otherwise noted, all structures are of wood frame construction, with gable roof set flank to the street, and covered by wood clapboard.

The following is a list of the architectural period designations used in this report:

Colonial: From the time of settlement to 1775  
Federal: 1775-1830  
Greek Revival: 1825-1860  
Early Victorian: 1840-1870  
Late Victorian: 1870-1900  
Early 20th Century: 1900-1945  
Mid-20th Century: 1945-1975  
Late 20th Century: 1975 to present

Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are marked with an asterisk (\*); those recommended for National Register consideration are marked with a double asterisk (\*\*).

### HISTORIC AREAS

#### ESMOND (ES)

Esmond is one of Smithfield's several mill villages; it is located in the southeast corner of the town, along the Woonasquatucket River, and along and off Waterman Avenue and Esmond Street. Once a small compact village including an early 19th-century textile mill and mill workers' houses at the north end of Esmond Street, subsequent residential and commercial development in the twentieth century has created an amorphous group of buildings that sprawls in all directions from the original node of the village. The integrity of the 19th-century village has been altered by the replacement of the old factory by a



## HISTORIC AREAS - Esmond

new, brick industrial complex, and by exterior changes to the company-built workers' houses.

Major William Smith, who arrived here in 1703, was the first settler in the area. In 1813, Esek Smith, a descendant of William Smith, sold a tract along the south side of the river to Governor Philip Allen and probably built the large Federal residence at 363 Waterman Avenue. Allen erected a cotton mill that began the transformation of the place, which was known as Allenville (and also identified on maps from 1833 to 1862 as Philip Allen's Factory). Allen made several additions and improvements to the factory and built houses for his workers along Esmond Street and Maple Avenue. In 1820 he established a house for use as a public school and church. A school house was erected in 1849, and in 1851 Allen built a church which he donated to the people of the village.

The core of the village--the mill, workers' dwellings, a store, and the church--were part of the company-owned "cotton mill estate." Non-company-owned houses were built along Esmond Street beginning in mid-century, as the village began its expansion, while Waterman Avenue remained relatively undeveloped; only the Smith house stood along the road near the village throughout the nineteenth century. A nearby toll gate was gone after 1862. Philip Allen sold the mill property in 1857 but the village retained his name. An 1858 plat map detailed the village: along the river was the 1-, 2-, and 4-story cotton mill and a collection of related structures; along Esmond Street was a store and the church; dwellings, mostly 1- and 1-1/2-story structures, lined Esmond Street and Maple Avenue. By 1870, about 15 buildings stood along Esmond Street in the mill estate, now owned by the Smithfield Manufacturing Company. Beyond the mill property were a few private residences and School House Number 11. In 1873 the Providence and Springfield Railroad began servicing the village. In 1879 the mill property changed hands again. The new owners, the Enfield Mills Company, renamed the place Enfield in 1881. For several decades thereafter the village remained dormant, experiencing little change, but was jolted from its quiescence during the first decade of the twentieth century when the mill estate was sold to the Esmond Mills Company, a corporation backed by New York capitalists, in 1905. Much of the old mill was torn down, a number of old houses were removed, and construction of a new mill started. A *Providence Journal* account of the village (October 21, 1906), under the headline "Big New Mill Will Transform Esmond," painted an unflattering picture of the place. The newspaper reported that "the village of Esmond is not beautiful in any sense of the word. It consists of about a score of very ordinary mill tenements and a few private residences, clustered in a haphazard way along the highway and the eastern side of the railroad". By the following April, the mill was almost completed, and, according to another *Journal* account, "tenement houses all put in excellent repair, in and out, and a number of very attractive cottages (were) being built, forming a new street" (probably Elm Court). On January 1, 1909, the village was renamed Esmond.

In 1930, *The Book of Rhode Island* stated that "today Esmond is a charming village of quaint colonial cottages, beautiful elm-shaded streets, and modern sunlit mills." A row of duplex houses, the last company-owned dwellings to be built in Esmond, were constructed along Waterman Avenue in the 1930s. In 1939, the Esmond Mills had a work force of 1,000. Some time after World War II, textile manufacturing came to an end, and the large industrial complex was put to other uses. Today, the large factory and dwellings that housed mill workers and their families for more than a century and a half remain as a legacy of one of Smithfield's early mill villages.

(See entries at Elm Court, Esmond Street, Maple Avenue, and Whitman Street.)

## Fountain Spring/Reaper's Brook - HISTORIC AREAS

### FOUNTAIN SPRING/REAPER'S BROOK (FS)

There are only a few remnants of this former hamlet: a small, 1-1/2-story, former mill worker's residence at the end of a private drive off Greenville Avenue; the vine-enshrouded stonework remains of a c. 1800 factory; other stonework structure remains; and a nearby pond, contained by an earth and rock dam, along Reaper's Brook. Most of the land around the factory ruins is in grass while the brook and pond area is wooded.

The first settler in what later became Fountain Spring was William Hawkins, one of Roger Williams's original band. At the July 3, 1663, Providence town meeting, Hawkins was granted land here in "Wayunkeake" on condition that "he shall this summer go there, cut hay and build houses there and so also go there in the winter ensuing to inhabit, possessing the land by dwelling upon it for the full term of three years, and not to sell the said land so possessed nor any part thereof to any person without this town's consent, nor to remove from this place without the knowledge and consent of the town, but after the three years enjoyment as aforesaid by his liberty to make the best use of it by sale or otherwise." Hawkins's land lay beside the Nipmuc Trail connecting Providence with Connecticut, along both sides of "Reaper's Brook." Here, as required, he built the dwelling and some barns. The land remained in his family for almost two centuries. In 1695, the first fulling mill in Rhode Island was built by John Micarter, of Providence, at Apponaug. Before that time, all the cloth woven by the early settlers had to be shrunk, or fulling, by immersing it in tubs of water and kneading it, usually with bare feet. Micarter's fulling mill proved so successful that when Robert Saunders arrived in Providence from England and his trade as fuller became known, William Hawkins and David Williams entered into partnership and engaged Saunders to build and operate a fulling mill with them at Reaper's Brook. Williams furnished the capital and Hawkins the site and water power. The fulling mill, the second established in Rhode Island, began operating in 1699.

Robert Saunders continued to operate the mill until 1723, when he and Moses Bartlett, a blacksmith living at Reaper's Brook, entered into a partnership. Bartlett would furnish the land and share the cost of the mill if Saunders would build the dam and supply the water power. It was done, and the second mill at Reaper's Brook was erected. Saunders apparently prospered for he acquired considerable land in this area. The marriage of his daughter to Hawkins's son united their families.

About 1740, William Hawkins's son, Joseph, converted the fulling mill into a saw mill. The men of the Hawkins family at that time were carpenters. In 1787, Reaper's Brook began its association with the early cotton industry of America when Nehemiah Hawkins was employed as a carpenter to assist in the manufacture of machinery for the manufacture of cotton cloth by Daniel Anthony, Anthony Dexter, and Lewis Peck of Providence. Samuel Slater had manufactured cotton yarn by machinery for the first time in this country in 1791 in Pawtucket, but the machinery and equipment had to be made before the yarn could be spun. Nehemiah Hawkins, who was striving to perfect cotton machinery in a Pawtucket mill before Slater arrived, worked with Slater for several years, learning the business. Soon, others who were inspired by Slater's success started businesses for themselves, establishing cotton mills elsewhere.

Almost exactly a century after the first mill was established at the Reaper's Brook site, the advent of the new cotton textile industry generated another industrial use here. In 1800, Nehemiah Hawkins, realizing the great demand for cotton machinery, converted the saw mill for the manufacture of cotton machinery. Success at this venture prompted the construction of a new stone mill, a 3-story structure built about one hundred feet south

## HISTORIC AREAS - Fountain Spring / Reaper's Brook

of the old mill. Hawkins also constructed a dam and created the pond that bears his name. Some stones from the old saw mill and dam that were dismantled were used in the new structure.

In 1817, new machinery for weaving cotton cloth was introduced into Rhode Island. Nehemiah Hawkins was among the first to adopt this new machinery, converting his machine shop into a cotton weaving plant in 1820.

Alpheus Hawkins, son of Nehemiah, leased the factory to Daniel Harkness and Isaac Saunders of Attleboro in 1831, under an agreement that Hawkins would install a total of 24 looms and 800 spindles. Harkness and Saunders agreed in turn not to erect stores in the area as some stores were being operated by the Hawkins family. In the following year, the cotton mill passed out of the Hawkins family (who lost control of virtually all of their property by 1845).

The 1850 United States Census recorded that Elisha Aldrich's mill, operated by eleven males and fifteen females, manufactured print goods with 32 looms and 1,080 spindles. The 1850s maps show Fisk and Aldrich's Mill, a store at or on the town line, and several houses. In the 1840s and 1850s, the area was known as Skeeterville or Fountain Spring.

During the Civil War, Brown S. Wood and John Brayton operated a shoddy mill here. Brayton was the last to run a cotton mill here.

By 1892, when Nicholas S. Winsor of Smithfield, cashier of the Greenville Bank, purchased the property, the mill had stopped operation. Winsor's efforts to find an operator for the factory proved fruitless. One of the building's wings was used for ice storage, a use that continued until at least 1927. In 1895, as depicted on the map, the village was still relatively intact and was comprised of several stone buildings and outbuildings associated with manufacturing, and several mill houses.

Dr. Fred W. Thrift, an Olneyville dentist, purchased the property in 1905. The 100-acre tract included a 40- by 100-foot stone mill that had been "fitted with a peak roof" two years earlier; a 2-story, wooden "old fashioned" house; four small, wooden, mill tenements; a small pond; and Hawkins Reservoir. Thrift, who planned to convert the property into a summer colony, moved the largest house, a former mill tenement, from near the pond to the top of a hill, and lived there for at least 16 years. A 1905 newspaper reported visiting the village wrote that "the view from the big house is picturesque in the distance." However, continued the reporter, "the foreground view is of the mill cottages, which are as homely and as squalid as mill cottages usually appear, in city or country, although not without advantages of their own." The floors of the old mill, which still contained some machinery, were in good condition and the building itself in need of few repairs. The "remarkably beautiful" locality in summer also had the drawback of a plentiful mosquito population, explaining the name Skeeterville.

This locality was described in three early 20th-century newspaper articles (1905, 1918, 1927), each with slightly different accounts of the place's history. The 1918 account is the only one to describe the location of the early fulling mill, and a trench; it was across the highway, upstream and south of the present mill structure. At that time the owner was removing the last remains of the fulling mill and trench which were constructed two hundred years earlier. The downstream pond, according to this version, was created by construction of a dam for the Aldrich-Fisk factory.

## Fountain Spring / Reaper's Brook - HISTORIC AREAS

Dr. A. W. Hughes of Esmond purchased the property in 1921. During the decade of the 1920s, several of the smaller buildings were razed, as a 1927 news report suggests: "Today the 'Lost Village' is indeed lost. Only the half-ruined remains of the old mill testify to the former busy character of the place. The two other mills which once stood there have disappeared. There is no trace of the several stores which once were operated here. Instead of a village of a score or more houses, only two small cottages, in addition to the large house on the hill, now remain. The casual visitor of today would never dream that here, for nearly a century, was once the busiest little village."

(See entry at Greenville Avenue.)

### GEORGIAVILLE (GE)

Georgiaville is a large village in the southeastern part of Smithfield. The village encompasses densely settled Farnum Pike (Route 104) and an irregular maze of streets to the east that extend to Cross Street-Stillwater Road across the Woonasquatucket River. Within the village are a large number of houses, municipal and public buildings, churches, and an extensive former industrial complex. The lower part of the village, along and near the river, is historically related to the factory and includes Georgiaville's mill housing. Most of this part of the village was owned by mill owners until 1935. Farnum Pike has a less thematically unified history. Along this highway are some of the village's finer homes, a former hotel, and churches dating from the formative years of the village's development. In the early twentieth century, the Town Hall, a brick school, and a fire station were located along the Pike, but only a small number of twentieth-century buildings were constructed in Georgiaville.

John Farnum of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was the first settler of note in today's Georgiaville. He and his sons Joseph and Noah established a blacksmith shop and an iron forge on the Woonasquatucket River. John also built a road to Providence to facilitate the marketing of his products. Joseph erected a house in 1770 (which today is the oldest residence in the village), but the place remained virtually undeveloped until the construction of the first textile mill here by the Georgia Cotton Manufacturing Company in 1813. Built with the factory were several groups of rubblestone houses for the mill's first group of workers. They were built along Stillwater Road, close to the factory, and included an unusual group of three arranged around a courtyard. The Farnum and Providence Turnpike Company was chartered in 1808 to build a road to today's Manton, but the company failed and it was not until 1819 that the turnpike materialized. It connected Georgiaville with a recently constructed east-west turnpike (now Route 44) at Centerdale. An addition to the mill in 1828 brought in more workers, requiring the construction of more houses; in the 1830s, about 150 people were working in the factory. In 1846, at the time that the mill was enlarged again, the place was identified as Georgia Factory. By mid-century, a row of houses had been erected along Farnum Pike. Several were in the then-popular Greek Revival style, including the residence of Dr. Thomas Nutting, a local physician.

Georgiaville, whose tempo of growth essentially paralleled the growth of the mill, became a full-blown village in 1853, when Zachariah Allen, one of the state's leading industrialists, erected a large, handsome, cotton mill and two interesting 4-story tenement houses nearby, one for men and one for women. Other houses were erected in the vicinity of the mill to accommodate the expanding Georgiaville work force, and growth of population stimulated an increase of buildings along the Pike. Most houses were built individually and expanded gradually during the course of the century; an exception was a compact group of eight houses added about 1889 along newly created Hill Street, east of

## HISTORIC AREAS - Georgiaville

the river. In 1857, the Baptist society erected a church along the pond. A new company, headed by Moses Goddard, acquired Georgiaville in 1871; the mills' operating capacity was further expanded, and more housing units were put up. Several years later, the Providence and Springfield Railroad ran its first train through the village, one of a line of factory villages strung out along the Woonasquatucket Valley and extending to Burrillville.

New workers settling in the village resulted in a dramatic change in the character of the population. In 1875, the village had 179 American-born residents. They were far outnumbered by 238 French-speaking Canadians, 89 Irish, 29 English, and 18 Scottish-born inhabitants. The religious needs of most of the newcomers was served by the construction of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in the "lower village" in 1875. A small and relatively short-lived Universalist Church was erected on Farnum Pike in 1886. By the end of the century, the village was a thriving community. There were five stores, several churches, and a post office, in addition to the many residences, many of them extending northward along the Pike.

In 1907 a new Baptist church was constructed along the Pike and the old building vacated. Manufacturing and control of the village by the mill company continued well into the twentieth century. The Bernon Mills Company employed 230 workers in 1916. St. Michael's Church counted 939 parishioners in 1913, 745 of Irish and French Canadian descent and 194 of Italian and Portuguese descent. Georgiaville has slowly but gradually outgrown Greenville, with which it was engaged in a struggle for the location of the seat of government. The Town Hall was moved here in the early twentieth century and eventually a large new brick building was erected along the Pike in 1939. It stands across the road from the Irving S. Cook School erected in 1925; the school served an area far beyond the village and marked the end of the era of one-room rural schoolhouses. A new brick fire station was built next to the Town Hall in 1942. In the 1960s, the Catholics, like the Baptists before them, built a modern structure along Farnum Pike in response to a growing congregation; the old church was vacated, then torn down and a parcel of land behind the church became the site of a substantial elderly housing project, the largest structure erected in the village in more than 125 years. Zachariah Allen's large cotton mill had ceased to manufacture textiles before mid-century, when it was purchased by the Industrial Tool Company, who continued to use the structures for industrial purposes. In 1987, however, the former mill complex was sold, and like several other Rhode Island industrial complexes in the decades of the 1970s and 1980s, was converted to residential use as town houses and condominiums, and renamed the Homestead Mill.

(See entries at Cross Street, Farnum Pike, Higgins Avenue, Hill Street, Homestead Avenue, River Street, Stillwater Road and Whipple Avenue.)

## GREENVILLE (GR)

Greenville, the town's largest village, named for Revolutionary War General Nathanael Greene, is located in the southwest corner of Smithfield. Most of the district's residential, commercial, and industrial buildings are strung out in an east-west direction along Putnam Pike, Route 44, the town's major transportation artery. The core of the village, containing stores, a former bank building, a former tavern, two churches, a fire station, and a Masonic temple, is near the junction of Route 44 with Pleasant View Avenue and Smith Avenue (which are part of north-south Route 116), and Austin Avenue. As in some other Rhode Island villages, Greenville's individual identity as a village has been blurred by twentieth-century residential and commercial development.

## Greenville - HISTORIC AREAS

Resolved Waterman (1667-1719) became Greenville's first settler when he erected a house and a grist mill along today's Putnam Pike in 1689. When a highway was constructed between Providence and Connecticut in 1733, Resolved Waterman's son, also named Resolved (1703-1746), built a tavern along the road. Sometime in mid-century, his son Andrew Waterman (1724-1812) erected a saw mill, and subsequently a grist mill, on the Stillwater River near today's Austin Avenue. About 1777, a blacksmith shop and trip-hammer, and a grinder house, were also established here.

The village continued its role as a small center providing services for the neighborhood, remaining essentially a hamlet, well into the nineteenth century. The Greene Academy opened in 1813; it was replaced by a public school in 1843. A Six Principle Baptist Society, which erected a meeting house on today's Pleasant View Avenue in 1706, eventually dissolved. Some of its members helped organize a new congregation that erected a Free Will Baptist Church, a large, handsome, wooden edifice, on the Pike in 1822. In that year, when there were only five houses here, the Smithfield Exchange Bank leased rooms in the Waterman Tavern; by the 1830s, a post office was located in the tavern. As population gradually increased more houses were added to the village. This inventory records eight Greek Revival houses, probably erected in the 1840s. During the decade of the 1840s, three textile mills were constructed along the Stillwater River in the Greenville area, a woolen factory near Austin Avenue at the outskirts of the village, and two west of the village, in West Greenville (see separate inventory entry.)

Shortly before 1850, an Episcopal missionary served Greenville for several years before the Episcopal society erected a stone, Gothic Revival meeting house. Several minor industries operated here; including a tin smith, a blacksmith, and a carriage and coffin maker. The Smithfield Exchange Bank, after occupying rooms in the Waterman Tavern, in 1856 erected its own structure, a fine brick building on the lot adjacent to the tavern. A decade later, Temple Lodge Number 18, A. & F. M., which was started in Greenville in 1824, built a new hall in the heart of the village (it burned in 1915 and was replaced.) By 1865, the census counted 622 people in Greenville; it was the largest village in Smithfield. St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church was erected in 1873 for the Irish population of the village; its site was along Smith Street about one quarter of a mile south of the village center. In 1883, the Greenville Public Library was established. Although Greenville's population of about 800 was exceeded by Georgiaville in 1895, by the end of the century Greenville was a thriving village, containing three schools, two banks, a hotel, a school house, a good library, and a number of stores, in addition to its residences. The later 19th-century houses included a small but interesting variety of architectural types, encompassing Bracketed, Italianate, mansard-roofed, and Queen Anne styles.

The village continued its growth and evolution in the twentieth century; old businesses and institutions ceased, new ones started, and many new houses were added as the village grew outward. The Waterman Tavern stopped doing business in 1902 after serving the public for almost 170 years. The blacksmith and carriage shop were operating until the 1920s, then were replaced by gasoline service stations which served the increasingly popular automobile. Travel between Greenville and Providence was aided by an electric streetcar service between Providence and Chepachet, but it ran for only a short time, between 1914 and 1924. In 1930, the William Winsor Memorial School was erected along the Pike, and in 1939 a fire station was added to the village scene. Both buildings reflected the then-popular neo-classical style of architecture. Widening of the highway in 1930 necessitated the removal of the front part of the old Waterman Tavern; the rear section was converted into a residence, but has been unoccupied for many years. The adjoining bank building now houses other professional offices as banking institutions in

## HISTORIC AREAS - Greenville

the village have taken up more modern quarters. Several old houses and buildings in the center of the village have been demolished, including several between the Baptist and Episcopal churches, an early one-story duplex at the north end of Smith Avenue, and the several industrial buildings near the Stillwater River which were destroyed by fire and replaced by other structures.

In 1956 a modern shopping center was built at the corner of Putnam Pike and Austin Avenue, replacing three mid-19th-century houses. One was removed (and only recently demolished), the other two demolished at that time. The shopping center, according to a contemporary newspaper account, "changed Greenville from a country crossroads to a busy shopping hub." Recent development has centered on the Mowry Corner area, at the junction of routes 44 and 5, about one mile east of the village. Proposed improvements to Putnam Pike, or a new road bypassing the village, will bring further changes to Greenville.

(See entries at Austin Avenue, Church Street, Pleasant View Avenue, Putnam Pike and Smith Street.)

## MOUNTAINDALE (MO)

Little remains today to suggest that Mountindale was once one of Smithfield's manufacturing villages. Along Mountindale Road is a 4-step masonry dam. Nearby is a cellar hole and in the immediate area are two residences possibly associated with manufacturing here.

In 1826-27 a machine shop was started at the foot of Wolf Hill. Later the factory manufactured spindles, rolls, shuttles, and cloth. Contemporary maps show Pooke and Steere's mill and about six buildings here in 1851, 1855, and 1862. In 1870, when the mill property was owned by Tillinghast & Company, it was identified on the D. G. Beers map. Hoag and Wade in 1878 reported that the mill had lately been idle for a portion of the time, but when operating it manufactured hosiery and knit goods. By 1881 the factory was the Mountain Dale Hosiery Mill of J. P. & J. G. Ray. A structure near the brook, perhaps the factory, was owned by J. & W. Ray. Little is known about the mill after the 1880s. It is likely that it became idle, deteriorated, and was eventually dismantled or destroyed.

Nearby is a plain, 1-1/2-story residence, overlooking the mill site, and probably associated with the former mill. At the foot of the hill close to the road, is a larger residence, erected during the 1860s. A duplex with two separate entries at the road-facing gable end, it was also probably associated with manufacturing at Mountindale.

(See entry for Mountindale Road.)

## SPRAGUEVILLE (SP)

This small industrial community near the Stillwater River is comprised of a dam near the site of the mill, several mill workers' houses, a mill superintendent's house on Mountindale Road, and a farmhouse with a fruit and vegetable stand along Pleasant View Avenue.

The potential water power of the Stillwater River was the reason for the settlement of Spragueville. In 1733, the place was settled by Abraham Smith. Later, a grist mill (and possibly also a saw mill) was erected by James Sprague, whose name was applied to the

## Spragueville - HISTORIC AREAS

settlement. About 1825, Thomas Sprague purchased the site and erected a cotton mill which he equipped with 20 looms and 1,000 spindles. In 1846 the place was identified as Stillwater Factory. According to historical accounts, Benjamin R. Vaughn purchased the property in 1847. In 1850, the Granite Mills, so called in the United States census, was equipped with 58 looms and 2,268 spindles and employed 20 males and 25 females in the manufacture of cotton sheetings. Although the mill remained in the Vaughn family, 1851 and 1855 maps identify the factory as the T. Sprague & Sons Mill. By 1870, the locality, with a small cluster of buildings, principally the Granite Mill of C. Vaughn, was labeled Spragueville on the map.

In 1871, William Vaughn and his brother Charles, who also operated the nearby store, acquired the property. By now the 80-by-120-foot stone factory was operating 118 looms and 5,000 spindles; its products were described as being of excellent quality. The mill was inactive from 1886 to 1889. In 1888 it was acquired by Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn. Bayles's 1891 history stated that the mill's operating capacity was 108 looms and 6,500 spindles. In 1895, Spragueville was comprised of about fourteen buildings, including the Granite Mill, at or near Mountaindale Road, owned by Mercer Brothers. According to a local resident, the mill was destroyed by fire in 1902. Today, only a few structures survive as reminders of the once-thriving community of Spragueville.

(See entries at Mountaindale Road and Pleasant View Avenue.)

### STILLWATER (ST)

Stillwater, the northernmost of the Woonasquatucket River Valley's mill villages, is located near the geographic center of Smithfield. A small linear village, it extends for a distance of about four-tenths of a mile along Stillwater Road. Most of the structures, predominantly mill workers' houses and a former store, line the northeast side of the road. Two houses, once occupied by mill owners or mill supervisors, are set on the southwest side of the road; between them are the remains of the Stillwater factory complex. A school house, beyond the bend in the road north of the compact village, is associated with the mid-19th-century community and is somewhat physically removed from the other structures. Stillwater, unlike Smithfield's other villages, is still a discrete concentration, well defined and easily recognizable as a village, for its approaches have retained their rural character.

Settled in 1733 by Daniel Smith, the place remained undeveloped for about a century. In 1824, Israel and Welcome Arnold purchased the property that includes present-day Stillwater, and subsequently erected a cotton mill. A mill owner's residence and a pair of mill-related houses were also constructed, marking the beginning of the village. Joseph Clark of Johnston purchased the property, shown on the 1851 map as J. Clark's Mill; a store had been established by this time. In 1851, Joslin acquired the property; the place was identified on 1855 and 1862 maps simply as Joslin's Mill. In addition to the mill, the village, more than hamlet, contained a school and five houses.

Edward Brown and his partners purchased the place in 1866 and built a fine woolen mill known as the Stillwater Worsted Mill, which gave its name to the village. The Providence and Springfield Railroad, connecting a number of mill villages in the Woonasquatucket River Valley, was completed in 1867. Its route lay along the southwest bank of the river in this area. Stillwater Depot, located where Capron Road crossed the railroad and river, was about one quarter mile south of the village proper. The new factory burned in 1872 and was replaced by a large structure. The 1865 Rhode Island census report did not include Stillwater among a large number of other villages listed.



## HISTORIC AREAS - Stillwater

By 1875, the new mill was in operation with 175 workers employed. The 1875 census report listed a village population of 145. Although still relatively small in terms of population the mill owners developed Stillwater into a "model village". Thomas Steere, who wrote the town's history in 1881, said, "The village is neat, the tenements commodious, and supplied with pure water, and everything pertaining to the establishment is pleasant." By 1895, a new school had been erected, but, according to the census report, the village population was only 138.

In 1901, 225 workers were employed in the factory, then the property of the Centerdale Woolen Mills. The secluded village remained unchanged into the twentieth century. A newspaper account of 1903 stated that the village "consists of a fabric mill, a handsome community with plenty of trees, and on the other side of the common from the mill, some neat company houses and the usual company store." In 1937, the Lister Worsted Company, employing 125 hands, owned the place; it operated the mill for several decades thereafter. In the mid-1980s, a fire destroyed most of the mill complex, leaving only two rubblestone structures along the dam and pond. Most of the village's historic structures survive, and because there are few intrusions, the village appears much as it did in the nineteenth century.

(See entries at Stillwater Road.)

## WEST GREENVILLE (WG)

West Greenville is a small area in the southwest corner of the town, west of the village of Greenville and east of West Greenville Road. Included in what was once a more discrete community are a mill complex and a mill site along the Stillwater River and several 19th-century houses and house sites along Putnam Pike.

Manufacturing began here shortly before the Revolutionary War when Andrew Waterman, grandson of Resolved Waterman, erected a saw mill and grist mill, later replaced by a forge or furnace. Near the junction of West Greenville Road and Putnam Pike, Waterman also built a long narrow structure for use as a tavern. During the Revolutionary War it served as a "pest house," where smallpox victims were quarantined. The structure, which once contained 50 rooms on its five floors, was used as a hotel until 1833, then became a tenement house until the early twentieth century, when it was destroyed.

In 1844, Elisha Waterman erected a cotton mill on or near the site of the earlier mills, and a year or so later, Stephen and Albert Winsor constructed another cotton factory a short distance downstream. The latter was later owned by Jeremiah Knight, and during his time of ownership, the place took his name. Accompanying the mills were several houses, which stood along the highway near Knight's mill. They are now gone. During the twentieth century, the mill was also demolished or destroyed. The older mill, known as the Winsor Mill, continued manufacturing into the twentieth century. It is no longer in industrial use. The loss of the Knight Mill and several houses, and the infilling of vacant spaces between older houses, has resulted in a nondescript area which today is scarcely recognizable as one of Smithfield's small mill villages.

(See entries for Putnam Pike.)

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

### AUSTIN AVENUE

**GR**            **Industrial Site (late 18th century et seq):** Along the Stillwater River at Austin Avenue is an industrial site, used from the late eighteenth until the early twentieth century, comprising a network of masonry dams, embankments, raceways, culverts, foundations, and retaining walls. The stone culverts, with their dry-laid rubblestone foundations and retaining walls on both sides of the raceway north of Austin Avenue, are examples of early industrial period construction.

In 1733 William Potter, a blacksmith, purchased the site, part of a 27-acre parcel. In 1761, Potter also purchased a dwelling house near the site and by 1777 had constructed a dam with two flumes along the river; he built a blacksmith shop and a trip-hammer and grindstone house. The water-powered trip-hammer and grindstones indicate that Potter had a forge used for the manufacture of edged tools and a wide range of iron items. Potter sold shares in the mill privilege to Joseph Bassett, a tanner, in 1777, and to Samuel Holmes, a blacksmith, in 1778. An 1802 deed mentions the grindstone house and blacksmith shop.

During the early nineteenth century, with the growth and spread of the textile manufacturing industry to rural areas, tool and utensil manufacture for the farming population was supplanted by the manufacture of machinery for the textile industry. By 1844 the shop here was referred to as a machine shop. Soon after, in 1845-46, William Pooke and Anthony(?) Steere erected a woolen mill a short distance upstream from this site.

Thomas Barnes, a calico printer from Glocester, Rhode Island, acquired the Austin Avenue property in 1847. In 1854-55 the existing shops were apparently abandoned when Barnes redesigned the water power system and built a grist and saw mill on a new raceway. His logwood and grist mills are shown on an 1870 map, but only an unidentified outbuilding is shown on an 1895 map.

The grist mill was still standing in 1910, but gone by 1924, when George and Stephen Kemp built a laundry on the site and rehabilitated the mill privilege. The laundry stopped operating in 1933 (and was subsequently dismantled), ending the occupancy of the old Potter site, which has since become overgrown with vegetation.

20  
GR

**Pooke and Steere Woolen Mill/Greenville Manufacturing Company/Stillwater Worsted Mills (1845-1846 et seq):** An industrial complex along the north side of the Stillwater River comprised of several buildings, connected or in close proximity to each other, ranging from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Near the road is an early twentieth-century, one-story building dominated by large multi-paned windows. Behind it are a low-pitched, gable-roofed, 3-story brick structure; a 2-story, flat-roofed, brick building with a stone section (part of the original mill); and a brick boiler house with a tall square brick chimney.

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Austin Avenue

William Pooke and Anthony(?) Steere erected a stone woolen mill here in 1845-46 which they ran for several decades along with a mill upstream a short distance, at West Greenville, which is contemporary with this mill. Known originally as the Pooke and Steere Mill, the place was acquired by Sterry Whipple in 1872. In 1891, the Whipple Mill, or Greenville Woolen Mill, was manufacturing fancy cassimeres using both water and steam power. A 52- by 150-foot, 2-story stone building was used for dry and wet finishing, weaving, carding, and spinning, while a mortar-covered stone building was being used as a stock and dye room, a machine shop for repairs, engine and boiler rooms, and picker and dry rooms.

Manufacturing continued well into the twentieth century. Austin T. Levy leased the mill from the Waterhouse family in 1909 and named his new company Stillwater Worsted Mills. In 1916, 53 men and 17 women were employed in the manufacture of worsteds. In 1925, Levy purchased the Greenville mill. Men's wear, worsted, and yarns were manufactured here.

**67**      **House (c. 1885):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a central entry in a 4-bay facade (the left side has a bay window.) The hooded entryway is the only architectural detail on an otherwise plain house. This house, and adjacent #73, were owned by P. McAuley in 1895.

**73**      **House (c. 1885):** An essentially plain yet handsome and well preserved Early Victorian residence, set gable end to the road, distinguished by a fine entryway at the right side with a flat hood with a full cornice of modillion and dentil courses, drop pendants, jigsawed spandrels, and transom and side lights. The house, with two tall interior chimneys and an ell at the rear, is set back from the road; its architectural value is enhanced by a landscaped lot. In 1895 this residence, and adjacent #67-69, was owned by P. McAuley.

**\*85**      **Waterman-Winsor Farm (1774):** This old Rhode Island farmhouse is typical of early houses in its large size, large center chimney, multi-paned windows, and south facing facade, which has a pedimented, transom-lighted entry. Less common features are its asymmetrical 4-bay facade and an overhanging roof at the gable end. At the rear is a 1-1/2-story gambrel-roofed ell. The house was recently restored, the most visible change being the removal of a (later) one-story open porch across the front.

Built by Captain Andrew Waterman (1724-1812), son of Richard Waterman (who built the Greenville Tavern in 1733), the house was acquired by the Winsor family, who owned it from before 1862 until the mid-twentieth century. The Winsors owned a large tract of land here. The Thomas K. Winsor farm, probably this one, according to a 1907 newspaper account, had about 1,500 apple trees, with a harvest of 1,500 barrels of cider, perhaps the largest grower in the state.

**\*113**      **Stephen Winsor House (mid-19th century):** A high and wide 2-1/2-story residence, built in a simple but imaginative version of the Italian Villa and Bracketed styles, with cross-gabled projections giving it the

## Austin Avenue - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

asymmetry popular in its era. The main entrance, with a flat, bracketed hood, has a wide doorway with side and transom lights.

The house, surrounded by dry-laid stone walls at the front and sides is set back from the road on a lot of almost 11 acres. In front of the house are two parallel rows of very tall evergreens, a small rectangular orchard of apple trees, and, along the stone wall at Austin Avenue, a Winsor family burying ground (Historical Cemetery Number 31.) Behind the house are three wooden outbuildings: a four-level barn, a one-story carriage and wagon shed, and a privy. Behind these is another small rectangular orchard, a garden, and pasture land.

Stephen Winsor, a prosperous and locally prominent man, and one of Rhode Island's early bankers, was a gentleman farmer. He designed this carefully planned, well run, medium-sized country estate in the mid-nineteenth century. Since his time, the Winsor house and property here have retained their space and seclusion, and its excellent Italianate house has survived in relatively unaltered condition.

- \*\*129**      **Daniel Winsor House/Redwood Farm (c. 1739-1749):** A large, early farmhouse with a large brick center chimney; a fine pedimented central entry with pilasters and a closed fan; splayed window lintels; twelve-over-twelve-paned windows; a slightly overhanging second floor at the gable end; and an ell (built in 1805) at the right side. This simple and handsome wood-shingled residence is complemented by several frame outbuildings and a large landscaped lot. The house, described in Antoinette Downing's *Early Homes of Rhode Island*, was in the Winsor family for many years.

- \*\*147**      **Jesse Foster House (before 1750):** This large, early farmhouse has a large brick center chimney; a fine pedimented central entry in a 5-bay facade; six-over-six-paned windows, with splayed lintels; and a 1-story hip-roofed piazza across the right side. Contributing to the character of the wood-shingled Foster house are a simply landscaped lot fronted by a wood picket fence and several outbuildings behind the house. The property was once owned by Resolved Waterman, a descendant of Greenville's first settler.

## BRANCH PIKE

- 60**      **Central Union Church/Smithfield Union Chapel (1859):** A relatively plain, 1-story meeting house, set gable end to the road, with a lower and narrower entry, a central, double door flanked by a window on each side. The structure occupies a small triangular lot at the junction with Brayton Road. The church was dedicated 1859, as the Central Union Church and chartered as the Smithfield United Society in 1862. A library, once containing 500 volumes, was housed in the building when the Central Union Lyceum met here, at least for several winters during the 1870s. In 1900 the Central Union Church changed its name to the Union Chapel of Smithfield.

- \*\***      **Hopkins Farm (early 19th century):** A 1-1/2-story wood-shingled, end-gable residence with a medium-sized brick chimney near the center, an off-center entry with a 4-light transom, in an asymmetrical 6-bay facade,

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Branch Pike

a large shed dormer at the rear, and an ell at the right side. A nearby nineteenth-century carriage shed was used for the manufacture of sailboats at one time. There is a relatively large expanse of cleared land around the house.

### BRAYTON ROAD

- 18        **Abraham Mowry House/Brayton's Farm (c. 1875):** A 1-1/2-story, square-shaped house, with wood-shingle sides (painted white), a hip-roofed open porch extending across the front and beyond it on the left side, and a hip-roofed portico entry at the right side. The house is located close to the road; behind it is a mid-19th-century barn with 20th-century additions and a pasture, which in the recent past was used by a herd of 100 cattle.
- 22        **A. Burlingame House (c. 1845):** A small, 1-1/2-story residence with a large center chimney, a central sidelighted entry in a 5-bay facade, and corner boards with recessed centers typical of Greek Revival style buildings. Along the road is a wood picket fence. Behind the house are several small sheds. The house was owned by A. Burlingame in 1851.
- 37        **Rogler House (early 20th century):** A 2-1/2-story, brick-sided Georgian Revival residence with a brick exterior chimney and a fine, classical, porticoed entry in a 3-bay facade. There are flanking 1-story wings and a 2-bay garage at the left side. The house is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture which was the dominant style for domestic building throughout the United States during the first half of the century.
- 48        **Phillips Farm (1888):** A plain farmhouse, a barn, a grain house, a garage (c. 1930), pasture, woodland, and remnants of an orchard, comprise the Phillips farm. The house, a 1-1/2-story wood-shingled structure with a central entry, has been somewhat changed from its original appearance by an eight-foot extension at the right side and replacement of the original windows and chimney. The fine, well preserved barn contains six-over-six-paned windows.

The Reverend S. Phillips, the last rector of the Smithfield Baptist Church, built this house with \$1,000 donated by parishioners upon his retirement; he also built the barn. The property has remained in the Phillips family.

### BURLINGAME ROAD

- 51        **Sayles-Mowry House (mid-19th century):** A fine, well preserved residence with narrow, tall brick interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade in an elliptical portico; a central gabled roof dormer; and a rear ell (which may have been moved here from Log Road.) The large lot is fronted by stone embankments and a simply landscaped yard with some large trees. A carriage shed is located behind the house. Although reportedly built in 1870, maps show a house on this site (owned by J. Latham) as early as 1851. Other 19th-century owners included Sayles Mowry and D. C. Estes.

## Burlingame Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Pole 14-  
15

**Colonel Daniel Mowry House (18th century):** A large, 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a large brick center chimney; a central, sidelighted entry with a later hood, in a 5-bay facade; paired gable dormers in front; there is also a clapboard-sided barn with a cupola. The style of the house suggests an eighteenth-century origin, but it does not appear on the 1851 and 1855 maps. Thereafter it was the residence of Col. Sessions Mowry (1862), D. G. Aldrich (1870), and B. W. Burlingame (1895.)

### CAPRON ROAD

\*\*56

**Stephen Steere House and Farm (1825-30):** This working farm, a large tract atop a hill with a view of the Woonasquatucket Valley to the east, is centered on a large 2-1/2-story house with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, a large brick center chimney, and an ell at the left side. Several frame and cinder block barns and a silo are located near the house, comprising a snug farm cluster. The house is distinguished by an exceptionally fine pedimented doorway with a leaded fanlight, modillion course, and fluted pilasters. A photograph and measured drawing of the doorway are included in one of the architectural monographs of the White Pine series, which also depicts other similar Smithfield doorways.

The house was probably built by Stephen Steere (1780-1853) and remained in the Steere family for much of the nineteenth century. By 1908 the farm was occupied by Philip Andres; it was still the residence of P. R. Andres in 1847, when it was known as Twin Oak Farm. Together with the adjoining property at 18 Kane Road, the Stephen Steere farm constitutes a significant historic agricultural landscape.

81

**Angell House (18th century):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a brick center chimney and a simply framed center entry in a 3-bay facade. It was in the Angell family during the last half of the nineteenth century.

—

**Adin D. Capron Memorial Bridge (early 20th century):** A concrete slab bridge carries Capron Road over the Woonasquatucket River just below Capron Road at what was once Stillwater Station. The bridge now honors former Congressman Adin D. Capon, who once resided in the area and was the hamlet's most prominent citizen. He owned the nearby house and a large one that was destroyed when Route I-295 was constructed in the 1960s. The bridge is also a memorial to the men of Stillwater who served in the armed forces during World War I.

—

**Capron Pond/Stillwater Pond Dam (1885):** This dam along the Woonasquatucket River, just above Capron Road, is a wide, 14-foot high, stone structure. It holds back the waters of a small pond. Some small mills were located nearby. The earliest known was a paper mill. In 1855 and 1862, a saw mill was operating here, in 1870 there was a grist mill, and in 1895, the grain mill of Adin Capron.

90

**Angell House (18th century):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a brick center chimney, an interesting off-center entryway (date unknown) with fluted pilasters, star motifs in the caps, and flat, dentil-trimmed lintels, and a long 1-story addition at the rear. The house is sited near the road; the long grassy lot slopes gently down to the Woonasquatucket

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Capron Road

River a short distance west of the house. The property was owned by N. Angell and Adin Capron, both associated with the local mills, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

- 100**      **House (early 20th century):** A large, square, hip-roofed residence, with two tall interior brick chimneys; a pair of hip-roofed dormers in front; an elliptical-roofed central entry with side lights in a 3-bay facade; and an ell at the left side. The house occupies the summit of a low gently sloping landscaped lot featuring a center island in front of the house planted in shrubs. Two stone piers topped with lanterns mark the driveway entrance. The house is a fine example of its type.

## CHURCH STREET

- 1**      **House (mid-19th century):** A 2-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a small brick center chimney; a central porticoed entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and panelled corner boards. The house occupies a plain grassy lot adjacent to the Baptist church.

## COLWELL ROAD

- 60**      **Blossom Trail Orchard (18th century?):** A 2-1/2-story, wood-shingled farmhouse with a large brick center chimney; an off-center entry in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; and a small weather entry at the right side. Beyond the landscaped house lot are apple orchards. A barn along the road and almost opposite the house is used for peeling and storing apples. In the mid-nineteenth century the place was known as the A. Winsor Farm; later it was owned by P. Danivan (1870) and M. Horrigan (1895.)
- \*\*Pole**      **Tucker-Steere-Colwell House (1815):** A 2-1/2-story Federal farmhouse with a large brick center chimney; a central entry with double doors and transom lights in a 5-bay facade; a c. 1900 porch across the front; and a 2-story ell with a 2-story porch at the right rear. There is a carriage barn behind the house. Set back from the road behind a broad expanse of lawn, the house occupies the summit of a small hill. Along the road are stone walls, a picket fence, and a row of four large maples. Built by Daniel Tucker in 1815, it was in the H. Steere and W. Colwell families during the second half of the nineteenth century.

## CROSS STREET

- \*15**      **Pierce House (c. 1853):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a small brick chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and an open porch with a geometrically styled railing across the front. The house is on a slight hill, or terrace, behind a concrete embankment. Foundations of two 19th-century barns are behind the house, which was probably built by L. Pierce about 1853 and remained in the Pierce family for the rest of the century.
- \*24**      **J. Brophey House (c. 1856):** The Brophey House set close, to the road, has a full basement at the rear, and a side entry in a 3-bay facade. The entrance, with a molded cap and side lights, is typical of Greek Revival houses, whereas the scalloped bargeboards at the gable ends are a

Cross Street - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Victorian detail. The property was in the Brophay family from at least 1870 until 1895.

\*26  
GE

**O. Brayton House (c. 1853):** The northernmost of a series of three small houses built into the riverbank and sited near the road, this 1-1/2-story Greek Revival residence had a radical facelift in the late 1980s when its facade was covered with brick. The property was in the O. Brayton family during the second half of the nineteenth century.

\*27  
GE

**House (c. 1846):** This 1-1/2-story residence has a brick center chimney, a central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a later 1-story, flat-roofed ell at the right rear. A fine and well preserved example of rural Greek Revival architecture it has a doorway with molded caps and side lights, centered in a 5-bay facade, wide corner boards, and a broad frieze across the front containing a pair of small windows near the sides.

\*29  
GE

**Brayton House (c. 1845):** A fine Greek Revival structure, this 1-1/2-story residence has a pair of interior brick chimneys; a central entry with an elliptical-roofed portico in a 5-bay facade; wide corner boards; and a broad frieze under the cornice. A hip-roofed piazza across the right (south) side extends as a 1-story ell at the southeast corner. The appearance of the house is enhanced by a white picket fence with granite posts in the front, and a landscaped house lot. Behind the house are a 2-story barn and several sheds.

**DOUGLAS PIKE (State Route 7)**

**Douglas Pike (1805-1808):** The Douglas Turnpike is a long, straight, two-lane highway extending six miles through Smithfield from the North Providence line northwesterly to the North Smithfield line. Although sections of the road have been widened and its entire length macadamized in the early twentieth century, the road still faithfully follows the original roadbed. One of a series of toll roads radiating from Providence, at the hub, to outlying towns and villages, and extending into adjacent Connecticut and Massachusetts, the Douglas Turnpike was chartered in 1805 as the Smithfield Turnpike Company. The company was authorized to lay out the route from Providence to the Massachusetts line in the town of Douglas. In 1808, the company was renamed the Providence and Douglas Turnpike Company, and a branch was authorized to be constructed to what became Slatersville. By then, the road was open from Providence through North Providence, Smithfield, and Burrillville, to the "country road" in Douglas. Several toll gates were set up and taverns established on the road. In Smithfield there was a tollgate--Angell's Gate--at the intersection with Brayton Road; Angell's Hotel was established near Limerock Road in the early years of the turnpike. By mid-century, the turnpike had become a public road and since then has continued its role of moving travelers to and from Providence and rural northwestern Rhode Island.

219

**Clotola Farm (late 19th century):** A 2-story, hip-roofed farmhouse, set gable end to the road, with two front doors, and a porch across the left (north) side. Several 19th-century outbuildings, which survived until about 1980, are now gone, and little remains of the original farmland,



## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Douglas Pike

now overgrown, but the place has historical interest as one of a number of farms on the outskirts of the Providence urban area that were taken up by Italian immigrants soon after their arrival in Rhode Island just before the turn of the nineteenth century.

- 494 **Mrs. A. Clark Farm (c. 1862):** The Clark farm is comprised of a farmhouse and several outbuildings, most near the road. The residence, a 2-1/2-story structure, has several small brick chimneys, a central entry with a flat hood in a slightly asymmetrical 5-bay facade, and a 1-story ell at the left side. North of the house are a corn crib, a shed, and a vertical-board-sided barn with a louvered cupola. The house first appears on maps in 1870 as the residence of Mrs. Clarke; by 1895, it was occupied by Mrs. A. Burbank.
- 495 **Thomas Burbank Farm (early 19th century):** A 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a small brick center chimney; a central entry with transom lights in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-1/2-story ell with a tall brick chimney at the right rear. The house occupies a terrace behind a cut-granite embankment, with a flight of steps, along the road. North of the house are several early 20th-century sheds. There are fields to the south. According to maps it had 3 different owners during the second half of the nineteenth century, Thomas Burbank in 1851, A. Angell in 1862, and the Sayles family in 1895.
- \*\*620 **Angell's Hotel (c. 1810):** One of Smithfield's finest buildings, this residence, once known as Angell's Hotel, has two brick chimneys; a pedimented central entry with a leaded fanlight (a photograph of which is included in the White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs) in a 5-bay facade; corner quoins; a dentil cornice; and 1- and 2-story ells. Two large maples flanking the house dominate the minimally landscaped lot. Along the road are granite posts which once supported a wood picket fence. The building was probably erected here near the crossroad with Limerock Road, one of the town's early roads, when the Douglas Turnpike was constructed in the first decade of the nineteenth century. It was Angell's Hotel, owned by Daniel Angell, in 1831. Thereafter it had several owners.
- 660 **Fruit Stand and Apple Orchard (early to mid-20th century):** At the northwest corner of the intersection of Douglas Pike with Limerock Road is a small, 1-story, frame, wood-clapboard-sided roadside stand with a lean-to roof. The well maintained structure, surrounded by an orchard named "Injun Acres," is typical of roadside produce stands. The orchard occupies a large rectangular lot and is associated with the Daniel Angell House at 26 Limerock Road. Near the stand is the site of the school house for Angell District Number 29.
- 1071 **Town Asylum (early to mid-19th century):** The Smithfield Asylum, or Poor Farm, is a large tract of open land containing a house and several out-buildings. The house is a plain, 2-1/2-story stuccoed stone structure, its utilitarian nature emphasized by a lack of landscaping--it is a stark solitary building. Nearby are the outbuildings, dominated by a large long gambrel-roofed, early 20th-century dairy barn with a row of small windows along the sides of a small metal ventilator at the peak of the

## Douglas Pike - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

roof; behind it is a gable-roofed 19th-century barn, perhaps contemporaneous with the house.

The asylum was established sometime between 1820 and 1850. Before then, the town's poor were kept in the homes of citizens who bid for them. In 1851, the 150-acre farm produced farm products with a value of \$600; the average number of paupers about that time was between 20 and 25. It was still the town farm in 1895. In the twentieth century it became a dairy farm. The town house once occupied a site just south of the poor farm.

1150

**Bryant College (1970-71):** Bryant College, a business school, comprises a cluster of buildings sited far back from the road atop a hill overlooking the Woonasquatucket Valley. The dominant and most interesting building is the Unistructure, designed by architect J. Robert Hillier of Princeton. Named for Sol Koffler, the 4-story structure, with a floor area of 3,700 square feet and covering a space of 215,000 square feet, contains classrooms, a library, study rooms, faculty and admission offices, an auditorium, a dining room, and other facilities. The special glass walls were designed to reflect the changing colors of the surrounding landscape; their sloping effect was intended to bring the building into balance with the hilltop site. The 220-acre campus, occupying the site of the former Smithfield airport, contains outdoor sports facilities, a large parking lot, and three old houses, two of which, along John Mowry Road (see individual entries) have been adapted for college use.

Bryant College was founded in 1863 as a small specialized school in downtown Providence. In 1935 it moved to a new campus on College Hill, adjacent to Brown University, but a growing enrollment necessitated another relocation. The property in Smithfield was acquired as an outright gift from Earl S. Tupper of the Tupper Corporation in the late 1960s and the college erected its buildings and moved here soon after.

**Amy Mowry House (1828):** A typical Rhode Island farmhouse, this transitional structure exhibits the large brick center chimney and windows that extend to the cornice line, both characteristic of early houses, and an entry with a full entablature and side lights common to Greek Revival buildings. This well preserved and maintained structure, formerly connected to the adjacent Joseph Mowry House (see following entry), was moved to this site by Bryant College after they purchased the property here. The building was adapted for reuse by the college.

\*\*

**Joseph Mowry House (1708):** A large, 2-1/2-story, Colonial farmhouse, with a large brick center chimney, and a Greek Revival entry near the center of an asymmetrical 4-bay facade. The building, which served as the first Smithfield town house while the residence of Joseph Mowry, was moved to this site from its original nearby location after Bryant College acquired the property.

### ELM COURT

5-14  
ES

**Duplex Mill Houses (1907 to 1920):** A group of four double houses built by the Esmond Mills Company between 1907, soon after they had acquired and began enlarging the mill, and 1920, when construction was

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Elm Court

completed. The houses are arranged in a "U" pattern around the end of this dead end street. All the houses have hip roofs with rafters exposed under the eaves, two interior brick chimneys, and hip-roofed extreme porticoes near the end of the facades. Siding varies; it includes brick and wood clapboard, asphalt, and asbestos.

## ESMOND STREET

- \*5**  
**ES**      **Esmond Mill Storehouse (1813):** A 2-1/2-story, 30-foot square, stuccoed rubblestone building, with a small, brick, center chimney, a recessed central entry in an asymmetrical 3-bay facade, and a 2-story frame ell at the rear. Although altered from its original appearance by changes to windows and the front door, the structure is important as the only surviving industrial building from the early stages of manufacturing. Although it was once considered the original cotton mill erected in 1813 by Philip Allen, it is more likely that this sole surviving stone structure of that early period was the company storehouse. It is recorded as such on an 1858 plat map. In the early twentieth century it was used as a post office; today it is used as a residence.
- 6-8,**  
**10-12,**  
**14-16**  
**ES**      **Mill Houses (early 19th century):** Houses to accommodate mill workers and their families were constructed in Esmond for a period of at least 100 years. These houses along Esmond Street (and the adjacent #3-11 Maple Avenue), close to the mill, probably represent the first group of houses of their kind in the village. All these 1-1/2-story residences have small brick chimneys, suggesting that possibly they are not contemporary with the first (1813) mill. All have one or two entries at the side(s), and they have all been resided with aluminum, asbestos, or shingles over the original clapboards. Although they are plain houses, and have been altered from their original appearance they are locally important as the first mill houses in Esmond.
- 18**  
**ES**      **House (mid-19th century):** A 2-story residence with a small, brick chimney near the center and a central, porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade. The house is a relatively plain but well preserved structure.
- 20**  
**ES**      **O. Thornton House (c. 1845):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a small, brick center chimney; a shed roof dormer across the front; a central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a transom-lighted entry at the right side. The house is sited close to the street.
- 23**  
**ES**      **Mrs. Otlay House (c. 1845):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival house with a small, brick center chimney, a central, sidelighted entry, and an entry at the right side with transom lights. Along the sidewalk is a white picket fence.
- 28**  
**ES**      **Niles House (mid-19th century):** A 1-1/2-story bracketed residence, set on a small corner lot, with a hip-roofed porch across the front sheltering a central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a flat-roofed porch at the left side with another entry.
- 31**  
**ES**      **Two-Decker (c. 1907):** A large, 2-story, hip-roofed tenement house with a 2-level porch across the front, a porticoed entry at the right rear, and a hip-roofed dormer in front. Probably contemporary with the 1907 mill,

## Esmond Street - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

this type of residence, common to the Blackstone Valley, is relatively rare in Smithfield. Its original wood shingle exterior is now covered with vinyl siding.

- 34** **H. C. Cowee House (c. 1865):** A large, 2-story, hip-roofed, multi-family  
**ES** residence, with ornate brackets under the broad cornice; hip-roofed dormers in front; a central entrance at the flank side; a bracketed entry hood at the front of the left side; and brick interior chimneys. Behind the house is a carriage barn. The house, now sheathed in aluminum siding, is set back from the road behind a cut granite block wall topped with a low iron fence, or railing. The landscaped lot includes several large trees.
- 38** **L. B. Sweet House (c. 1870):** A 1-1/2-story, mansard-roofed residence  
**ES** with bracketed eaves; a pair of brick interior chimneys; three gabled dormers; a central entry, with a bracketed hood, in a 3-bay facade; 1-story bay windows flanking the front entry; and an ell at the right rear. There is a fine, large, clapboard-sided barn at the end of the driveway. The house, perhaps the finest on the street, is set well back from the road.
- 43** **J. Venner House (c. 1845):** This 1-1/2-story Greek Revival has a small,  
**ES** brick, center chimney, a central entry with side lights, a 5-bay facade, a hip-roofed porch, and a shed-roofed dormer across the front. The replacement of original windows detracts from the otherwise historic appearance. Another later residence, is attached at the left side.

## FARNUM PIKE (State Highway 104)

**Farnum Pike/State Route 104 (1808, 1819, 1844 et seq.):** One of the state's early toll roads, Farnum Pike runs in a general northwest-southeast direction through Smithfield, roughly paralleling the course of the Woonasquatucket River. Part of the section of the former turnpike in Smithfield, that part between the North Providence town line and Georgiaville, was renamed Waterman Avenue in 1875.

In 1808, a charter for the Farnum and Providence Turnpike Company was granted to Joseph Farnum, Caleb Farnum, Stephen Steere, and others, who planned the road from today's Manton to Appleby's Road in Smithfield. However, the corporation encountered financial difficulties and, although some work was done, the road was not completed. The property was sold at auction to Stephen and Elisha Steere, who in 1819 obtained a renewal of the charter with authority to finish the road. By this time, the Powder Mill Turnpike (today's U. S. Route 44) had been constructed and became the southern terminus of the Farnum Turnpike, which was then completed as originally planned north of Centerdale. At first, and for some time thereafter, the road did not follow the route of the present highway, but turned west along Pleasant View Avenue; then north-bound travelers continued along Log Road, Forge Road, and Brayton Road. By 1844, the section north of Pleasant View Avenue was completed. A contemporary deed for the John Appleby farm shows the "New Road leading to Slatersville," which is described in the text as the Farnum Turnpike road. It then followed its present alignment. In 1873,

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Farnum Pike

the turnpike became a free road by act of the General Assembly. Although the turnpike, as incorporated, only extended from Centerdale to Pleasant View Avenue, the name Farnum Pike was gradually applied to the entire stretch of highway from Georgiaville to the Woonsocket city line. Part of the old turnpike was renamed Waterman Avenue.

In 1906, three years after the State Board of Public Roads instituted the original state highway plan and system, Farnum Pike between Woonsocket and Greenville was designated the Greenville Road, a name that did not stick in Smithfield and one which is used only locally in North Smithfield. During the next few decades the highway was upgraded several times and a new surface, mostly of bituminous macadam, was laid on the fourteen-foot wide road. Later, part of the road was widened; its new right-of-way of sixty feet necessitated the loss of some sheds and barns and the new road ran very close to some houses.

- \* **Woonasquatucket River Archaeological Site:** This is a prehistoric archaeological site from the Late Archaic period (6,000-3,700 years before the present.) The site was discovered during a study of the area prior to the widening of Farnum Pike. Artifacts at the site are mainly flakes of quartz, indicating that it was used as a tool-making place. Rhode Island has many archaeological sites, but most are concentrated on the coast--inland sites, such as this one, are more rare. When examined by trained archaeologists, sites like this allow scholars to study patterns of settlement and subsistence.
  
- \*43 **GE** **Claffin House (mid-19th century):** A 1-1/2-story, stuccoed stone residence with a full basement in front; a pair of end interior chimneys; a 2-story porch in front; and a 1-1/2-story ell at the rear. The house, one of several stuccoed stone structures in Georgiaville, is set on a small triangular lot at the junction with Homestead Avenue.
  
- \*47 **GE** **Former Universalist Church (1886):** A large, hip-roofed structure with a central entry with transom lights, in a 3-bay facade, set under a large, arched hood which breaks the cornice line, and a blank oculus above the door. There are 1-story hip-roofed projections at the two front corners, flanking the entrance, and four hip-roofed dormers that break the cornice line along the sides. The building is sited close to the sidewalk, flanked by a small, terraced, grassy lot containing a monument (a bronze plaque set into a large granite boulder) to the right, and a school playground at the left side.
  
- \*48 **GE** **Former Tin Shop (late 19th century):** A small, 1-story, shingled structure, gable end to the road. This plain building may have been a tin shop as shown on 1870 map.
  
- \*50 **GE** **L. Bouchard House (late 19th century):** A 1-1/2-story residence, set gable end to the road, with an entrance at the left side. An otherwise plain, rectangular structure, its hip-roofed porch across the front and along the right side present the asymmetry of typical Queen Anne buildings. In addition to the porch, which contains a corner pediment, turned posts, and spindlework, other architectural details include

## Farnum Pike - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

patterned shingles in the gable end and a bargeboard marked with grooves.

- \*51**  
**GE**      **Irving S. Cook School (1925):** A 2-story, flat-roofed, brick-sided school building with a central entrance between banks of windows; a granite-capped brick parapet with a pediment marked by a cartouche, over the entrance; copper paneling below the second floor windows; and a copper-sheathed cornice set above a granite belt course. The original appearance of the building has been somewhat altered by the substitution of louvered aluminum sash windows and front door for those formerly of wood. The school is fronted by a small lawn, but otherwise is surrounded by a paved playground.
- \*54**  
**GE**      **Wilcox House (c. 1883):** A 2-story, cross-gabled residence with a bracketed hood over the entry at the right side of the front; a 1-story bay window at the left side front; and a 1-story, hip-roofed porch with turned posts, brackets, and spindlework railing. The original wood clapboard siding has been covered with wood shingles in the recent past.
- \*55**  
**GE**      **Dr. T. Nutting House (c. 1850):** A 2-story Greek Revival residence with a central, side-lighted entry, in a 5-bay facade; panelled corner boards; a row of five small windows under the cornice; and a 1-story enclosed porch at the right side. The house is set back from the street behind an unusual and handsome white picket fence with Tudor posts and an arched entryway. At the left rear of the property is an outbuilding (see following entry.) This house was the residence of Dr. Thomas Nutting, who carried on a medical practice for more than 40 years until his death in 1886 at the age of 76. Then the house was occupied by his granddaughter, Mrs. Carrie I. Waldron. Dr. Nutting was instrumental in organizing the nearby Universalist Church.
- \*55**  
**(rear)**  
**GE**      **Former Livery Stable/Auto Showroom (c. 1850 et seq.):** A large, vertical board-sided structure, fronted by a 2-story, square, false front with a large double entry in the center, and a 1-story, Early Victorian Bracketed addition at the right side. This building was probably originally a livery stable (as shown on an 1862 map.) In the early twentieth century it was the first showroom for Emin Motors.
- \*59**  
**GE**      **Commercial Building (early 20th century):** A small, rectangular, 1-story structure, set close to the road. Its street-facing end gable is masked by a square false front that contains a central entry flanked by large, multi-paned windows. Probably dating from the early years of the nineteenth century, it has housed a variety of different businesses and uses, including the village post office.
- \*61**  
**GE**      **J. B. Newell House (c. 1880):** A 2-story, wood-shingled house, with a complex plan. The main entrance is in the right corner, in a recessed porch. This basically plain house, which also includes bracketed cornices and several gable-roofed dormers, is set behind a wood picket fence.
- \*64**  
**GE**      **Smithfield Town Hall (1939):** A large, red brick, Colonial Revival structure with a 2-story, 5-bay, central pavilion containing a central pedimented entry and fronted by a 2-story pedimented portico. At the

INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Farnum Pike

sides are 1-story, 2-bay ells, with hipped roofs, set back from the facade of the main block. Other noteworthy architectural details include a cupola and 12-over-12-paned windows, those in the sides with round heads. The building is set back from the road, with a semi-circular drive in front. A small lawn includes a monument at the right side of the lot.

Smithfield's town hall was located in several different buildings before the present structure was erected. This Public Works Administration project, designed by architect Linwood A. Gardiner and built by contractor Joseph P. Flynn at a cost of \$77,400, was dedicated December 2, 1939.

- \*66**  
**GE**      **Georgiaville Fire Station (1942):** A 1-1/2-story, red brick building with a 3-bay central block containing round-headed garage doors; asymmetrical flanking wings; a short, louvered cupola at the center of the roof; and tall brick chimneys. The Colonial Revival building, sited close to the road on a small lot, was designed by Linwood A. Gardiner, architect of the adjacent Town Hall.
- \*76**  
**GE**      **Pierce House (c. 1850):** A handsome, 1-1/2-story, Greek Revival residence with paired end interior chimneys; a recessed entry in a 5-bay facade; an identical entry at the right side, facing Wolf Hill Road; a wide frieze; channeled corner posts; and a 1-story ell at the rear. The house occupies a relatively small, landscaped corner lot. Probably built by a member of the Pierce family around the middle of the nineteenth century, it was later owned by the Taylor and White families.
- \*78**  
**GE**      **Farnum Hotel/Burke Hotel (early 19th century):** A large, 2-1/2-story structure, with a central entry in a 5-bay facade; two brick interior chimneys; an overhanging roof at the gable end; and a large 2-story ell at the rear. This aluminum-clad, multi-family dwelling occupies a small corner lot at the junction with Wolf Hill Road.
- GE**      **St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church (1976):** Georgiaville's Roman Catholic church is a 1-story modern building set on a large lot. This structure, designed by architect William O'Rourke, is significant as an important continuing part of the area's religious history. Two parcels of land along Homestead Avenue were donated to Bishop McFarland by Thomas White and Sarah J. Farnum in the early 1870s, and a church building was erected. Named St. Michael's, it was dedicated October 24, 1875. In 1913, of the 939 people in the Georgiaville parish, 745 were Irish or French Canadian and 194 were Italian and Portuguese. Unfortunately, the handsome Carpenter Gothic building, the finest in Smithfield, was found unsuitable for continued use during the post-World War II era, and was vacated and eventually demolished. This larger site was selected for a new building, which was completed and dedicated in December, 1967.
- 94**  
**GE**      **W. Hopkins House (c. 1850):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival dwelling, with a pair of asymmetrical brick chimneys, a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story ell at the right side. The house occupies a relatively large lot.

Farnum Pike - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

- 100  
GE      **Georgiaville Baptist Church (1907):** A 1-1/2-story, complex plan structure, with a square tower with a pyramidal roof, a porte-cochere, and a Palladian window. Originally covered with dark-stained wood shingles, the building is now aluminum sided. This Baptist congregation originally met in 1835 and held services intermittently until 1856 in the homes of members. The Baptists were incorporated as the Georgiaville Evangelical Society in 1856 and in the following year built a small stone Gothic building on the shore of Georgiaville Pond. In 1907 the society erected the present edifice here, and the original meeting house was subsequently destroyed.
- 102  
GE      **Baptist Parsonage (c. 1872):** A large, 2-1/2-story, L-plan structure with a pavilion at the left side of the front containing a 1-story bay window. The main part of the structure has paired, brick interior end chimneys and a flat-roofed portico entry. There is a 1-story wing at the left side with a veranda across the front and left side. The residence, set back from the road on a semi-circular drive, predates the adjacent church and may have been built here when the Baptist Church on the pond was renovated in 1872.
- 108  
GE      **J. S. Sweet House (c. 1865):** A 2-story octagonal residence with a bracketed cornice, two brick interior chimneys, and an entry with side and transom lights. The house is on a small rise on a relatively large, simply landscaped lot. Although a relatively plain structure and altered from its original appearance by the application of false stone siding, the house is important since it is a rare example of its type.
- 112  
GE      **R. C. McCormick House (c. 1885):** A large, 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled house, set back from the road on a large terraced lot. It is distinguished by novelty shingles in the gable end, facing the road, and 1-story, hip-roofed verandas, with turned railing and posts, across the front and left sides.
- 121  
GE      **House (c. 1875):** A fine, 1-1/2-story residence, noteworthy for a central sidelighted entryway with a large hood on consoles, in a 5-bay facade, and a pair of gabled dormers in front that break the cornice line.
- 129  
GE      **House (c. 1875):** A 1-1/2-story house featuring a central, sidelighted entry with a large hood on ornate consoles. Behind is a fine barn with a cupola (used as a ventilator) and a pedimented gable in front containing a round-headed window.
- \*\*200      **Silas Smith House (early 19th century):** A 2-1/2-story Federal farmhouse with brick interior chimneys; a central entry with side lights, in a 5-bay facade, and an ell at the left side. There is a wood picket fence in front. The property contains stone walls and several outbuildings, including a gambrel-roofed barn. The farm complex lies about 800 feet south of Farnum Pike and about 200 feet west of Interstate Route 295. The original owner of this place may have been Silas Smith, who reportedly worked in the granite business in nearby Graniteville. A later owner was William Gardiner, described in one source as a "successful farmer."



INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Farnum Pike

- 240            **Knight House/Ye Olde Tavern (early 20th century):** A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled structure with stuccoed-and-shingled sides; a slate roof; large multi-paned windows; large shed-roofed dormers; and a large, tapered, cemented, stone chimney at the right side. This English Cottage-style building is sited very close to the road in a verdant setting, with a small garden north of the house and woods behind. In the 1930s, the house was used as a tavern. The house was built by a Mr. Balchin, who also built the nearby Camelot (see following entry.)
- 256            **Camelot (c. 1924):** A 1-1/2-story end-gable house with a large stone center chimney and several additions at the left side rear. There is a garage-shed, set end to the road, near the road, and a garden and lawn, with a row of columns, to the right. The house, which occupies a large wooded corner lot at the intersection with Pleasant View Avenue, was built by Mr. Balchin, who built the nearby Knight House (see previous entry.) It is said that the idea, and the hardware, for Camelot, came from England. The row of columns on the lawn, from the Halles Palmer estate in Apponaug, was brought here soon after being knocked down in the 1938 hurricane.
- **Woonasquatucket River Bridge, Number 144 (1919):** A reinforced concrete arch bridge, 25-feet wide, about 40-feet long, with an arch span of about 35-feet, carries Farnum Pike over the Woonasquatucket River. Built by George F. Austin, it replaced a narrow wooden structure; its construction featured colored spandrel walls and rail panels similar to those used on the Fairbanks Bridge in Coventry.
- **Stillwater Reservoir Dam, Number 108 (1918):** A concrete dam, about 600 feet long, with a square concrete gate house at the center, under which the reservoir's waters flow. The present dam, which holds back the waters of the Stillwater and Woonasquatucket Rivers, replaced an earlier dam on or near the site of the present one. A reservoir was built here, probably in 1853, in association with the new mill in Georgiaville, several miles downstream. The reservoir is shown on the 1855 and 1862 maps, but not on the 1870 and 1895 maps. It was apparently rebuilt in 1918. Known cartographically as the Stillwater Reservoir and the Woonasquatucket Reservoir, it is known locally as Stump Pond.
- **Rhode Island Carbide Tool Company (1962-63):** A 1-story, flat-roofed industrial building with cement-block walls, set on a landscaped lot. The company was founded in 1959 in an old mill building on Douglas Avenue in North Providence. In 1963 it moved to this 12-acre tract. The building immediately south of this was constructed for Paul Gilbert of B. & G. industries in 1968. In 1976, it was purchased by D. & S. Screen Products Company, who moved here from Centerdale.
- 338            **Reuben Mowry House (early 19th century):** A 2-1/2-story Federal farmhouse with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom and side lights; 1-story bay windows flanking the front door, and at the front of the east side; and a long, 1-story ell with a tall brick chimney at the west side. The house is set well back from Farnum Pike on a private drive, sited on a hill above the Stillwater Reservoir. There

## Farnum Pike - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

is a barn nearby. This house was probably built by Reuben Mowry, who ran the tavern at Smithfield Crossing. Jabez W. Mowry, a mid-nineteenth-century owner, was a state representative for seventeen years. The house still remains in the Mowry family.

**Site of Providence and Springfield Railroad (1873):** From a point near the Stillwater Reservoir dam and extending northward is the roadbed of the former Providence and Springfield Railroad, which closely parallels Farnum Pike in the town of Smithfield. The route is easily identified by its raised roadbed, essentially a straight, open path through the woods.

In 1856, the preliminary survey of the railroad was done, and in the following year a charter was granted to the Woonasquatucket Railroad. After several delays a new company was formed in 1871. William Tinkham, a Burrillville manufacturer and president of the company, helped revive the charter of the old company, whose name was changed to the Providence and Springfield Railroad. The railroad was completed to Pascoag in 1873; the first passenger train ran on August 11, 1873. Although originally projected to Springfield, Massachusetts, tracks were laid only a short distance into Massachusetts. In the early years of the twentieth century, when the line was the Pascoag branch of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, it served thirty-one mills operating along the route, including sixteen in Burrillville, almost all of them worsted mills. Later, like other railroads, it experienced a decline in passenger traffic due to competition from the automobile, and by the mid-twentieth century the railroad had ceased operating. After World War II the tracks were torn up and the right-of-way sold.

- 378 **Old Yellow Tavern/The Halfway House/Reuben Mowry Tavern (c. 1810):** A 2-1/2-story building with two brick interior chimneys and a central double door entry in a 5-bay facade. The structure, sited near the road at the corner of the Old Forge Road, is set on a plain lot. The exact date of the tavern is unknown. In 1815 it was run by Reuben Mowry who also operated a blacksmith shop located across Old Forge Road. This building was known as the Halfway House because it is approximately equidistant between Providence and Woonsocket. It was also known as the Old Yellow Tavern because of its exterior color. It remained in the Mowry family until the late 1930s, when it was sold. Extensive changes were subsequently made to the building. Now, it is a multi-family house. Although the old tavern has lost much of its architectural integrity, it remains historically important as one of the state's surviving turnpike taverns, a reminder of a former era.

- 453 **Welcome Mowry Farm (18th century):** This small farm along the east side of the road is centered on a 1-1/2-story house with a small brick center chimney, a small brick exterior chimney at the rear, and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. The outbuildings, like the house, are sited close to the road. A barn is north of the house and a shed to the south. Open fields extend north and west of the farm complex, but a house has recently (1986) been erected in the southern pasture. The house has experienced several changes, including removal of its original large chimney and interior alterations. However, the style, scale, materials, type of construction and outbuildings retain the flavor of a small

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Farnum Pike

farmstead. The property has been in the Mowry family for most of its history.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY

**Stillwater Viaduct, Number 278 (1933):** A reinforced concrete arched span carries the George Washington Highway over the Woonasquatucket River and the bed of the Providence and Springfield Railroad. The 80-foot long open spandrel arch is flanked by nine concrete "T" beams, from thirty-three to forty-two feet long. The 450-foot long bridge, built by C. W. Blakesee & Sons of New Haven, was the longest in the state highway system when completed. Its 52-foot width contains a 40-foot roadway and two 4-1/2-feet wide sidewalks.

## GREENVILLE AVENUE

**891 FS Mill Workers' House (mid-19th century):** At the end of a private drive off Greenville Avenue is this small, 1-story former mill worker's residence. Although changed from its original appearance, it is important as the only surviving building of the hamlet of Fountain Spring, or Reaper's Brook (see separate entry for historic villages.) It was once part of a row of houses along this short road. The Johnston-Smithfield town line runs through this house. The other houses were in Johnston. In the fields beyond the house are the ruins of the factory.

**931 C. Day House (mid-19th century):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a central, brick chimney, a central entry in an asymmetrical 5-bay facade; and a small ell at the right side flush with the facade. The house is sited close to the road; the large rear property contains several outbuildings.

## HARRIS ROAD

**30 Angell District School, Number 29 (1832):** A 1-1/2-story house set gable end to the road, with a small brick center chimney, an exterior chimney in front, a central entrance in the gable end, a hip-roofed piazza across the front, and an ell at the rear. The Angell District had a school as early as 1766. This structure was built as a school house in 1832, and it continued to serve that use until the early twentieth century, then was converted into a residence.

**\*\*135 Harris House (1841):** A 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a large brick center chimney, a central entry with full entablature and side lights in a 5-bay facade, and a 1-story ell at the right side. Reportedly built in 1841 or 1842, the house is a late example of the early Rhode Island farmhouse with its windows extending to the cornice, but its doorway is typical of Greek Revival architecture which was becoming popular in Rhode Island during the 1840s. A white picket fence in front enhances the attractiveness of the residence, while outbuildings and a horse pasture across the road, provide a rural ambience. The house has always been in the Harris family. North of the Harris House is a 1-1/2-story structure with a large central chimney, now a residence, which is said to

## Harris Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

date from 1740. One of the fireplaces, a massive structure, was built for use as a forge.

- 160 **Rockwood (1780):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a large brick center chimney, a central entry with transom lights in a 5-bay facade, and two small gabled dormers in front. The house is well back from the road on a large lot that includes a garden, a landscaped driveway, a pine grove, and a modern garage and guest house.
- 211 **Farmhouse (late 18th century):** A 2-1/2-story residence with a large brick center chimney; a pedimented transom-lighted, central entry in a 5-bay facade; wood-shingled sides; and a 1-story ell at the right side. Behind a stone wall along the road the front yard contains several large trees and foundation plantings. At the rear are several farm outbuildings and a recent garage. The property was in the Whitaker, Harris, and Siddall families during the second half of the nineteenth century.
- 249 **Harris-Brown House (mid-19th century):** This fine, 1-1/2-story Greek Revival farmhouse has a small brick center chimney, a central entry with sidelights in a 5-bay facade, and an ell at the right side. The residence of Mrs. Harris in 1851, it was later (before 1862) in the Brown family.
- 275 **R. Harris-Suthurst House (mid-19th century):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival farmhouse with paired brick, interior chimneys and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. This plain, well preserved residence, probably built by R. Harris, was in the Suthurst family for most of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

## HIGGINS STREET

\*15-25  
GE

**Georgiaville Mill Complex (1828, 1846, 1853, 1865 et seq.)/The Homestead Mill (1989):** The Georgiaville mill complex, between Higgins Lane on the west and River Road and the Woonasquatucket River to the east, comprises a group of two industrial buildings and a former mill office. The principal building, Zachariah Allen's Greek Revival-Italianate, 4-story, stuccoed stone structure, built in 1853, has a pedimented central pavilion on the south side and pedimented east and west gables which have been shortened by a flat-roofed, brick, 4-story addition. A stone tower (originally with a mansard roof, now flat roofed) was added to the north side of the mill in 1865. Attached to the 70- by 250-foot main structure are earlier rubblestone mills constructed in 1828 and 1846 and subsequently heavily altered. Nearby, along Higgins Street (see separate entry) is a former mill office; behind it is a 3-story brick warehouse built about 1880, with a shallow-pitched roof and a 1970 concrete addition on the east and west ends. Originally also part of the Georgiaville Cotton Manufacturing Company industrial complex were two rubblestone buildings, now residences (at 57-59 River Road and 25-27 Stillwater Road), used initially as a dye house and a store house, respectively (see separate entries.) The original mill, built in 1813, was demolished in 1951.

As with other large Rhode Island textile mills, additions, improvements, and changes occurred at various times during the 174-year history of the mills here, changes that reflect and document the historical evolution of

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Higgins Street

the Rhode Island cotton manufacturing industry. In 1813, Samuel Nightingale, Samuel G. Arnold, and Thomas Thompson organized the Georgia Cotton Manufacturing Company and purchased a large tract of land here which became the core of the mill village. They constructed a dam upstream that created an eighteen-foot fall of water, and erected a 3-story, 36- by 80-foot stone factory with a long trap-door monitor and an open belfry, which was fitted with 1,000 spindles to spin the cotton. The cotton cloth was "put out" to families in the surrounding area for weaving. A dye house was also constructed at this time. The mill, one of the earliest stone factories in Rhode Island, was a plain, crude building with rough masonry walls, unevenly spaced windows, and a simple wooden-frame belfry. In 1819, power looms were installed and the factory began manufacturing sheetings. In 1828, a 40- by 80-foot stone addition to the factory more than doubled its capacity, to 2,400 spindles. According to an 1831 account, the mill was 180 feet long. An 1832 schedule of manufacturing--the McLane Report--listed 104 looms and 3,800 spindles, a considerable increase in only a few years. Printed cloth was then made by a predominantly young and female work force, 70 children and 50 women, while only 20 men were employed. The finer products were sold to printers in Providence; the coarse goods were sent to other states, and to Mexico, South America, China and the Manila markets by commercial merchants. Another 40- by 80-foot section was added in 1846. By 1850, according to the United States Census, the work force had decreased slightly to 110 (56 men, 64 women), but the capacity of the mill continued its upward course; it now contained 200 looms and 6,860 spindles.

The greatest change in the mill's history occurred in 1853 when Zachariah Allen acquired the mill estate and began a major revitalization and expansion. His new monumental mill had, according to Henry-Russell Hitchcock (1939), "something of the grandeur of a baroque palace and the solemnity of Greek Revival public buildings." The reservoir was enlarged, now providing a fall of 36 feet, double the original amount, allowing an increase of operating capacity to 396 looms and 16,650 spindles. Allen made a number of new and radical innovations, including the introduction of hollow shafting without pulleys for the operation of the belt-driven machinery. Zachariah's brother Crawford assumed control in 1858 and carried on the manufacturing of print cloth and sheetings.

Improvements to the mill continued under the direction of a new company, headed by Moses B. I. Goddard, who acquired the mill property in 1871. The factory was enlarged and its capacity increased to 26,000 spindles. In 1889 the firm was reincorporated as the Bernon Mills Company. By 1901 the company manufactured cloth and twilled goods with 641 looms and 30,000 spindles. The company was acquired by Manville-Jenckes in 1907. In 1916, the work force of 132 males and 90 females made twills and satins. In 1935 the mills (and village) were sold at public auction. From 1972 to 1987, the Industrial Machine Corporation occupied the mill complex. In 1987, it was sold to the Boston-based CDM Development Corporation and Whittier and Dalton who, in 1989, converted the mill to a 125-unit, six building condominium and townhouse complex, and renamed the Homestead Mill.

## Higgins Street - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

- \*27**  
**GE**      **Mill Office (c. 1871):** A square, 1-1/2-story, mansard-roofed office building with a false entry at the right side of the 3-bay front, an entry at the center of the right side, and gabled dormers. Architectural details include entries with elaborate hoods on consoles, windows with heavy Italianate lintels on consoles, and jigsaw inserts in the dormers. It is now a townhouse in the Homestead Mill complex.
- \***  
**GE**      **Dam and Raceway (1813 et seq.):** Since at least 1813 the Woonasquatucket River has been dammed at Georgiaville to provide water power for industry. The 1813 dam created an eighteen-foot drop of water; a later dam, constructed after Zachariah Allen purchased the place in 1853, increased the amount of fall to thirty-six feet. Along a steep rocky ravine the dams and gatehouses were constructed. West of the dam, a raceway was constructed. It ran in a southeasterly direction under the north end of the mill complex and through a wheel which supplied power to run the mill's machinery. The semi-circular opening in the factory, and the tail race, where it rejoins the river, can still be seen today.

## HILL STREET

- \*1-16**  
**GE**      **Mill Workers' Houses (c. 1889):** Two rows of mill houses document the growth of the village in direct response to the growth of industry and the need to house more workers and their families in Georgiaville. The houses are identical in form, all 2-1/2-story, flank gable duplexes, with small paired interior brick chimneys, six-bay facades with two plain entries, and small attic windows at the cornices. Originally clapboard-sided, five of the eight houses have been re-sided. Typical of mill houses, they are architecturally plain, but they command attention in their grouping as a unit.

## HOMESTEAD AVENUE

- \*22**  
**GE**      **Mill Superintendent's House (c. 1860):** A 2-story, flat-roofed, Italianate house with a wide, bracketed cornice, and a 1-story veranda, also with a bracketed cornice, across the front and one side. The front porch includes a pediment at the entrance to the house. There is a flat-roofed, 1-story ell at the left side. Reflecting the importance of its original occupant, this former mill superintendent's house occupies a commanding site atop a hill. Its well landscaped grounds occupy a terrace behind a six-foot stone walls topped with a picket fence.
- \*24-34**  
**GE**      **Boss Row (c. 1860, c. 1871):** A row of three, 1-1/2-story, 6-bay window houses along the west side of the street, Number 24-26 the earliest, built about 1860 as a store and converted into a mill supervisor's residence about 1865, has a large central dormer, a flat-roofed porch across the center of the front flanked by bay windows, and a dormer at the rear. Numbers 28-30 and 32-34, probably built in 1871, have porticoed entries at either side of the front, two hip-roofed dormers in front that break the cornice line, and bay windows at the gable ends.
- \*31**  
**GE**      **Former St. Michael's Church Rectory (1876):** A 2-1/2-story structure, set close to the road, with a small brick center chimney; a central entry flanked by bracketed 1-story bay windows; a piazza at the right side; and

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Homestead Avenue

a 2-story ell at the rear. Built for the Reverend William J. Wiseman who founded St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in 1875, the building served as a rectory until the recent past when a new church structure was erected a short distance away on Farnum Pike. About 1980, the old church, which stood just south of the parish house, was demolished.

## JOHN MOWRY ROAD

- 7 **House (mid-19th century):** A 2-1/2-story residence with a large brick center chimney, a simply framed entry at the gable end (right side), a full cornice return at the gable end, and ells at the left side and rear. It was moved here from another site in the mid-twentieth century.
- \*\*10** **Colonel Ellsha Mowry House (1759):** A typical early Rhode Island farmhouse with a large brick center chimney; a fine pedimented entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; a transom-lighted entry at the left side; windows with splayed lintels; and a large ell at the left rear. The house occupies a large, simply landscaped lot.
- \*\*239** **Mowry House (18th century):** A large, 2-1/2-story residence with large brick interior chimneys, two transom-lighted entries in a 7-bay facade, and a 1-story shed roof ell at the right side. This unusually long house has a clapboard-sided facade and asbestos siding on the gable end.

## KANE ROAD

- \*\*18** **House (mid-19th century):** A 1-1/2-story structure with a small brick center chimney, a central Greek Revival entry in a 5-bay facade, and an ell at the rear. This house is a good example of the small vernacular country dwelling. Together with the adjoining property at 56 Capron Road, the property constitutes a significant historic agricultural landscape.

## LIMEROCK ROAD

- \*\*4** **Asahel Angell House (1780):** An unusually large, handsome, and well preserved farmhouse, this structure is typical of early Rhode Island farmhouses, with a large brick center chimney; a pedimented central entrance in a 5-bay facade; and 12-over-12-paned windows with splayed lintels. It was lengthened by the addition of a 3-bay, 2-story ell at the left side, flush with the facade, which contains a simply framed entryway and a large chimney near the end. The house is set back from the road. Except for foundation plantings, landscaping is sparse. Long recognized as one of Smithfield's most important houses, it was included in the White Pine series of architectural monographs about 1930.
- \*\*26** **Daniel Angell House (mid-19th century):** A 2-story Greek Revival residence with a brick chimney near the center, a central entry with sidelights and Doric pilasters, a 5-bay facade, a row of three small windows under the cornice, and a recent (1967) ell at the right side. The house, with foundation plantings, is set back from the road behind a grassy front lawn and a white board fence. The large, triangular-shaped lot includes stone walls, an orchard to the east, and a fruit stand along

Limerock Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Douglas Pike. Daniel Angell, keeper of the nearby Angell's Tavern (see 620 Douglas Pike), built this house as a retirement home.

- 60 **Niles Dairy (18th century; 1927):** The Niles Dairy, once a 43-acre tract devoted mostly to pasture and cattle raising, is centered on a farm complex near the road, which includes a 2-story, hip-roofed plain house, a large, gambrel-roofed dairy barn and several other outbuildings. An historical cemetery is also located on the property. The original farmhouse dates from the eighteenth century; then the farm contained 146 acres. The dairy farm was established at least one hundred years ago. The present farm, part of which has been stripped for gravel, still sustains a small number of animals.
- 122 **J. Gibbons House (c. 1865):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival farmhouse with a small brick center chimney, a central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a broad frieze under the cornice. The house is set back from the road on a simply landscaped lot that includes a barn. A nineteenth-century barn was recently lost. The house, probably built by J. Gibbons, was in the Gibbons family until the mid-twentieth century.

**LOG ROAD**

- **Wionkhiege Valley Farm (1890, 1900):** Along the north side of Log Road near the junction with Burlingame Road is a cluster of buildings comprised of two residences, a long barn along the road, and several other outbuildings. A member of the Latham family started a dairy farm here in 1873, which along with a vegetable farm, was active into the late 1930s or early 1940s. Much of the milk and produce was sold in Woonsocket.
- 331 **Latham House (1890):** A 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled residence, with clapboard and wood-shingled sides, two tall brick chimneys, two porches, and a 1-story ell at the right side. There is a 1-1/2-story residence behind this main house. The large lot is fronted by a lawn; fields extend behind and to the east side of the house lot.
- 337 **Latham House (1900):** A 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled house, covered with wood shingles and asbestos. A 1-story, hip-roofed porch extends across the front and along part of the right side.
- **Outbuildings (late 19th century; 1920s):** Just west of the most recent Latham House are a group of outbuildings. The most unusual part of this group is a long, 1-story, wood frame building that contains a row of doors, including a large one near the left end, and six-over-six-paned windows. It was built during the 1920s as a replacement for a barn that burned. At the left side of the property, at a right angle to the road, is a row of outbuildings, one of them a large open shed.
- 343 **Former Wionkhiege District Number 12 School House (1856):** A plain, 1-1/2-story residence, set gable end to the road with its entrance at the flank side, unlike other early schoolhouses which typically had gable end entries. The house is set back from the road on a mostly grassy lot.



## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Log Road

This building was used as a schoolhouse until the 1920s when it was replaced by the larger consolidated school in Georgiaville.

- 355 **N. Evans House (18th century):** A good example of the Rhode Island farmhouse, this gambrel-roofed structure has the customary large brick center chimney, central entry in a 5-bay facade, windows extending to the cornice line, and an ell at the right side. Its sidelighted entry is a later change. Associated with the house are a nearby wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed barn, stonework ruins north of the house, and a fine stone wall across the road. The property was in the Evans family during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

## MANN SCHOOL ROAD

- 69 **Williams House (mid-19th century):** A 2-story residence with 2 small paired brick chimneys; a large and out-of-scale pedimented entry with side and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a long, recently constructed ell at the right side ending in a 2-car garage. The house, set back from the road on a grassy lot, was in the Williams family in the nineteenth century.
- 205 **Former Mann School/Evans District Number 13 School (1853):** This structure, a 1-story building set gable end to the road, has been heavily altered from its original appearance by the addition of a large, shed-roofed addition at the right side. Although little of the integrity of the old schoolhouse is left, it is still locally significant as one of Smithfield's early one-room schools. The first school in this area was kept in the attic of the home of Daniel Mann. In 1826, the first schoolhouse was erected; it was replaced by the present structure in 1853.
- \*\*215 **Thomas Mann House (18th century):** A fine, well preserved, 1-1/2-story farmhouse, set gable end to the road, with a large, stuccoed brick center chimney, a plain slightly off-center chimney, an asymmetrical 5-bay facade, and a small ell at the right side, flush with the facade. The large property includes a grassy lot, trees, stone walls, and a tree farm. South of the lot is an old family burying ground. This house was the homestead of Thomas Mann, brother of the noted educator, Horace Mann. The first school in this area was kept in the attic by Daniel Mann before the first schoolhouse was built in 1826.

## MAPLE AVENUE

- 3, 5-7  
ES **Mill Workers' Houses (mid-19th century):** At the west end of Maple Street, near Esmond Street, and close to the mills, are two 1-1/2-story houses built for mill workers in the mid-19th century. They are typically plain structures, and both have been somewhat altered from their original appearance by residing and the addition of porches.
- 9-11  
ES **Mill Workers' House (early to mid-19th century):** This residence, built and owned by the company, like most other mill workers' houses, is a plain structure that has been resided, but its roof is the less common gambrel form.

## Mountaindale Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

### MOUNTAINDALE ROAD

- 261 MO**      **Duplex (mid-19th century):** At the foot of Wolf Hill, not far from the site of manufacturing here, along the Stillwater River in what was known as Mountaindale, is a 2 1/2-story double house. The central entry has a flat cornice transom and sidelights flanking its 2 doors.
- SP**      **Dam:** Along the Stillwater River is a masonry dam which holds back the waters of a small pond once used to power the mill at Spragueville. Across the road are the ruins of the mill.
- 311 SP**      **Mill Owner's House (early to mid-19th century):** A large 2-1/2-story structure with a pair of brick chimneys, small 1-story porches at the flank sides, and small shed-roofed dormers (whose windows have been closed up on each side.) This unprepossessing house, once the residence of the owner of the nearby mill, occupies a slightly hilly location overlooking the site of the old factory.
- 316, 322 SP**      **Mill Workers' Housing (c. 1825):** A pair of early duplex mill houses, each with a pair of brick interior chimneys and a monitor roof. Both also have central entries in 5-bay facades, but only one of the houses retains the original pair of single doors. These are good examples of mill workers' housing of the early nineteenth century.

### OLD COUNTY ROAD

- \*\*185**      **Ebenezer Stephens House (c. 1801):** A 1-1/2-story Federal farmhouse, set gable end to the road, with a medium-size brick chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. The ell, with a tall brick chimney and a full basement, is at the left side, very close to the road. Its foundation wall is flanked by dry laid stone walls that form a terrace and contain a set of granite steps. Between 1800 and 1806, Ebenezer Stephens purchased six acres here from Joseph Farnum and built this house. The ell was added in the 1860s.
- 214**      **Steere House (early 19th century):** A 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a large brick center chimney at the left side of the road-facing gable end. At the left rear (southwest) corner of the house is a 2-1/2-story ell, recently rehabilitated, with a small brick chimney and another entry, and a salt box roof. The house was in the Steere family for more than a century.
- \*\*243**      **Joseph Farnum-Brown House (c. 1770):** A 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a large stuccoed brick center chimney; a fine pedimented entry, with a semi-elliptical fan light, centered in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a 1-story wing at the rear. The landscaped lot has two large evergreen trees in front and two outbuildings at the rear. The house was in the Brown family during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

### OLD FORGE ROAD

- 10**      **John Appleby-Mowry House (18th century):** A 2-1/2-story house set back from the road, with a large brick center chimney and several small

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Old Forge Road

additions. In 1845, Lameck Mowry came here. The house has been in the Mowry family since.

- **John Appleby Forge & Sawmill Site (18th century et seq.):** Just below the John Appleby House, along the Woonasquatucket River, is a dry laid rubblestone dam and a recently built wooden bridge leading to a cleared picnic area. About seventy-five feet below the bridge are foundations and cinders that mark the site of an early forge. A saw mill was also located here, probably at the upper site. The forge, which gave its name to the road, began operating about 1750; it was run by John Appleby until at least 1831. The saw mill was constructed about the same time as the forge and was run until at least 1870.
- 40 **Joseph Ottaviano House (1903):** An interesting and unusual 1-story square house, with rubblestone walls constructed of local stone, a hip roof, an entry at the left side of the facade, and corner quoins. This residence was designed and built by Joseph Ottaviano, a native of Rome, in what he described as the "Roman Style."

## PLEASANT VIEW AVENUE (R. I. Route 116)

- 12  
GR **William Winsor House (c. 1845):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival dwelling with a central, recessed, sidelighted entry in a 5-bay facade, wide corner boards, entablature trim, a shed roof dormer, a porch at the south side, and a 1- and 2-story rear ell. Asa Winsor had this house built about 1845. In 1846, Asa gave it to his son William, two years after his marriage to Harriet Steere. William Winsor sold it in 1857 to James Armington (and built a new house at 25 Pleasant View Avenue.)
- 25  
GR **William Winsor House (c. 1857):** A 2-1/2-story residence with a pair of small brick interior chimneys, a central entry, with a hood on consoles, flanked by 1-story bay windows, and a 2-story ell with a 2-story open porch at the right side. This fine building is set back from the road on a landscaped lot. A Smithfield Seminary graduate, William Winsor was employed by the Smithfield Exchange Bank as a clerk in 1845, then served as a cashier until 1895. He was also treasurer of the Smithfield Savings Bank from its organization in 1872 until his death.
- 141  
SP **Pleasant View Orchards (mid-19th century):** A fruit and vegetable stand across from and once part of the Phetteplace farm (see following entry.) This former outbuilding was once used as a barn, as a carriage shed, and also as a gasoline station. It is said to be the oldest fruit stand in Smithfield.
- 142  
SP **Ballou-Phetteplace House (18th century et seq.):** A large, tripartite house at the corner of Swan Road. The oldest part, fronting Swan Road, is a 1-1/2-story Cape with an asymmetrical facade and a small shed dormer. Its original center chimney has been removed. Facing Pleasant View Avenue is a large, 2-1/2-story, Federal-era section with a brick center chimney and a fine entryway, with a 5-light transom, at the left side of the facade. The most recent component, a 2-1/2-story Italianate section at the corner, joins together the older parts. It is

Pleasant View Avenue - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

noteworthy for its bracketed cornice, 2-story porches across the front (facing Pleasant View Avenue), and a 2-story bay at the left side.

- 305**            **Steere-Bennett-Harris House (18th century):** A 1-1/2-story residence with large brick center chimney and a plain central entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a low stone wall in front of the property. The house is a well preserved and good example of the eighteenth-century houses common to rural Rhode Island.
- \*\*310**           **Steere-Harris House (c. 1760):** A 2-1/2-story house with a large brick center chimney, a central entry in its 5-bay facade, and a 2-story wing at the left side rear. There are several outbuildings on a spacious, well maintained lot, including a corn crib and a wash house. There is a low stone wall and several mature nut trees in front of the property. A nearby family burial ground, bounded by several granite posts, contains four sets of stones of the Harris family. The house site was severely compromised in the mid-1980s by the construction of a large number of housing units, some only a short distance from the house. This handsome and well maintained house was built by Elisha Steere about 1760 and until 1979 was owned by members of the Steere and Harris families (who were interrelated.) Stephen Steere and Elisha Steere, who once resided here, were among the incorporators of the Farnum Turnpike.

**PUTNAM PIKE (U. S. Route 44)**

- 519**            **Winsor-Barnes House (c. 1845):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival house with a brick center chimney; a central entry with side lights in a 5-bay facade; a 1-story, flat-roofed and bracketed piazza at the right side; and an ell at the rear. The small landscaped corner lot is bounded by a low cemented stone wall in front and a picket fence along Danforth Road.
- GR**
- 548**            **Ethan Thornton House (c. 1885):** A large, 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled house with a 2-story octagonal tower at the right front corner, a 1-story flat roofed open porch across the front, and a 2-story ell at the rear. The house is set back from the road on a grassy lot.
- GR**
- 561**            **George Smith House (c. 1885):** A 1-1/2-story Bracketed house with a small off-center brick chimney, a central entry with a bracketed hood, 1-story bay windows, an ell at the left side, and a piazza across the front.
- GR**
- 563**            **Oscar A. Tobey House (c. 1885):** A 1-1/2-story mansard-roofed residence, with three interior brick chimneys and a large bell-cast gambrel dormer in the center of the right side. There are two separate entries, both sheltered by 1-story, flat-roofed verandas. This L-plan house, set back from the road on a plain, grassy lot, was the residence of (and probably built by) Oscar Tobey, who was Town Clerk of Smithfield from its division in 1871 until at least 1903.
- GR**
- William Winsor Memorial School (1930, 1967):** A 1-story, brick, hip-roofed, Neo-Georgian school, typical of its era. An addition at the right side extends beyond the front of the older building and comprises its integrity.

INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Putnam Pike

- 564**            **T. Barnes House (c. 1860):** A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled, eclectic  
**GR**                    structure, with a variety of architectural features. The broad frieze under  
the cornice and the recessed entry with side lights are typical of Greek  
Revival buildings. Its steeply pitched front gable, containing a Palladian  
window over the pedimented entry, may be a later change. There are a  
pair of tall brick interior chimneys, and a 1-story ell at the rear. This  
interesting building, now an office, occupies a small lot at a busy  
intersection across from the southern end of Pleasant View Avenue.
- 569**            **House (early 20th century):** A picturesque, 1-1/2-story Tudor Revival,  
**GR**                    former residence, set back from the road on a landscaped lot, with  
exterior stone chimneys, a large gabled dormer at the right side  
containing decorative half-timbering, a small shed dormer at the left side,  
and a gabled enclosed entry with a round-arched door in the stone-sided  
first story. This is probably the town's finest dwelling of this type.
- \*578**            **St. Thomas Episcopal Church (1851 et seq.):** A handsome Gothic  
**GR**                    Revival building of coursed-rubble masonry comprising a tall, end-gable  
nave block, a 4-story central foretower, and a rectangular gable-roofed  
chancel. The tower has a Gothic arch entrance at the base, lancet  
windows at the second story level, circular windows at the third story  
level, a belfry with louver-filled Gothic arches, and a battlemented  
parapet with short corner pinnacles. The walls of the nave block are  
articulated by buttresses set diagonally at the corners and contain stained  
glass lancet windows. As originally constructed in 1851 the building had  
a bell gable on the front. St. Thomas was designed by the distinguished  
Rhode Island architect Thomas A. Tefft; it is the only known Gothic  
church by Tefft. Some stained glass memorial windows were installed in  
1866 and other improvements were made in 1879 and 1889. In 1891 the  
bell gable was replaced by the present tower, a memorial to the  
Reverend Benjamin H. Chase.
- In 1950 the interior of the church was partially renovated and a 1-story  
Parish Hall built west of the church, to which it was connected with a  
passageway. A flat-roofed structure with a central Gothic arch entrance,  
it is constructed of concrete blocks of two different sizes, laid in  
alternating courses to stimulate the texture of the church's masonry.
- The first Episcopal services at Greenville were conducted by visiting  
clergymen in the 1840s. In 1849 or 1850 regular services were instituted  
in the old Green Academy until the church was erected. The church  
was consecrated by Bishop J. P. K. Henshaw on March 9, 1852.
- **Greenville Common (1821 et seq.):** A small, triangular, grassy plot  
informally planted with trees, the Greenville Common includes benches; a  
flag pole; a tiny rock garden; an old watering trough--a hollowed-out  
rectangular granite block, set on stones, now used as a planter for  
flowers; and a World War I monument, a rough-hewn, thirty inch high  
boulder containing a bronze plaque. The park was created in 1821 when  
several men deeded this land to the Baptist church for use as a common.
- 580**            **Mowry-Evans House / Winfield Funeral Home (1860s):** A 2-1/2-story  
**GR**                    structure with a symmetrical 5-bay facade containing a central entrance, a

Putnam Pike - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

stickwork front veranda, deep bracket-trimmed eaves with gable-end returns, and a rear ell. There are one-story additions at the east side and the rear to accommodate the building's current use, but the structure's original mid-19th-century character is still visually prominent.

582  
GR

**Greenville Baptist Church (1820 et seq.):** This church is a typical white clapboard New England meeting house, in the Wren-Gibbs mode as interpreted and disseminated in America by Asher Benjamin. The main part of the church consists of an end-gable-roof nave block fronted by a broad, shallow, end gable pavilion surmounted by a steeple. This portion of the building constitutes the original structure. In 1866, it was raised onto the present high brick basement and a deep entrance pavilion was added to the front. The central main section, containing a double-leaf door entry and a blind fan, framed by pilasters supporting a narrow fascia and a cornice, is topped by a Palladian window. Paired round-head windows are set in the facade of the shallow nave-front projection. The steeple has a square stage supporting an irregular octagonal belfry surmounted by an octagonal drum and a spire.

At the rear of the church is a 1951 addition, a large, 2-story, L-plan brick structure that contains church offices. The church is prominently sited on a corner lot facing Greenville Common. A granite-post white picket fence extends along the front of the property.

In 1701, Pardon Tillinghast persuaded Joshua Winsor II to travel to the outlands of Providence to preach to the few Baptist inhabitants of Greenville. A meeting house was erected in 1706 on today's Pleasant View Avenue, midway between Greenville and Spragueville. It was destroyed by fire several times, and by wind, and rebuilt each time. After 1768, the Baptists became divided in their beliefs, the congregation lost many members, and by 1806 the church was completely abandoned. In 1820, the Greenville Baptist Church, officially named the First Freewill Baptist Church of Smithfield, was organized by a remnant of the earlier Baptist group, which held services in the old Green Academy until a church building was erected. The society was the second Freewill Baptist church founded in Rhode Island.

Clark Sayles, the architect, was a Rhode Island builder with an extensive practice that took him far afield. Born in Gloucester in 1779, he worked for Elias Carter, a master builder of Thompson, Connecticut. In 1820 he returned to Rhode Island and built a meeting house for his brother Nicholas in Foster. He also designed the Greenville meeting house and a church in North Scituate before establishing himself in Pawtucket, where he planned the First Congregational Church. Clark Sayles made several extended trips to the South, where he built homes for Georgia planters and helped erect the Burke County Courthouse in Georgia.

584  
GR

**Greenville Hardware (early to mid-19th century):** A 2-1/2-story end gable building with a 1-story side ell and a long L-plan addition extending to the rear. Covered partly with clapboards and partly with asphalt shingles, this structure is domestic in scale and character though it is used commercially. Projecting window frames suggest a late 18th- or early 19th-century date, but the roof, with its deep eaves and gable-

INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Putnam Pike

end returns, is typical of mid-19th-century vernacular building practice. The facade contains an architecturally sympathetic storefront with plain, wood framed, plate glass display windows and a wood entrance.

586  
GR

**House and Commercial Building (late 18th-early 19th century; mid-20th century):** This structure is comprised of two parts. The original portion, at the rear, is a 1-1/2-story, gable-roofed, wood-shingled Federal era dwelling, containing heavy window frames and a massive brick chimney. A modern, 1-story, flat-roofed, concrete block commercial structure with a brick parapet, added to the house, extends to the edge of the sidewalk. The storefront has simple neo-Colonial detailing consisting of narrow shutters flanking the display windows and a pedimented entrance enframingent.

590  
GR

**House (mid-19th century):** A 2-story, cubical-mass, flat-roofed dwelling with a rectangular front bay, a side-hall entrance, a turned-post wraparound veranda with a spindlework frieze, and a 1-story ell at the west side. The house is now covered with asbestos shingles. The massing of the main block is typical of Italianate style dwellings of the 1850s and 1860s, while the bay window and veranda are characteristic of Queen Anne work of the late nineteenth century. Originally an office, this is now an office.

592  
GR

**House (1840s):** A handsome, 1-1/2-story Greek Revival structure with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, paneled corner pilasters, entablature trim, deep eaves with gable end returns, and a 1-story ell on the east side. A picket fence runs along the front of the property. Originally a residence, it is now a real estate office.

595  
GR

**Smithfield Exchange Bank Building (1856):** A handsome, 2-story, cubical-mass brick building with a corbel cornice and a low-pitched hip roof. At the center of the facade a broad elliptical relieving arch marks the main entrance, now sheltered by a semicircular, early twentieth-century Georgian Revival vestibule intricately ornamented with fluted pilasters, imposts with floral-boss reliefs, a reed-and-bead molding, and a wrought iron roof balustrade. A small date stone and a clock are set above the main entrance. Window openings are trimmed with granite sills and lintels. The building is set on a terrace with a curving stone retaining wall in front. On the east (right) side, at basement level, is the broad, partly closed but still visible doorway for the fire company's engine.

This building was constructed for the Smithfield Exchange Bank, which was founded in 1822; it originally occupied rooms in a rear ell of the adjacent Waterman Tavern (see 599.) Later, this building housed the Greenville Trust Company and a branch of Citizens Bank of Providence before being converted to office use.

596  
GR

**House (1840s):** An unusual clapboard-sided Greek Revival dwelling comprising two 1-1/2-story units, equal in size, arranged perpendicular to each other and joined at their corners. The flank gable section has a recessed central entrance in a 5-bay facade. There is also a small, diagonal entrance vestibule set in the corner formed by the two wings of

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the house. Noteworthy details include bay windows on the sides, paneled corner pilasters, entablature trim, window architraves with shallow triangular-top lintels, and deep eaves with gable end returns. There is a barn at the rear.

599  
GR

**Resolved Waterman Tavern Ell (1733, 1936):** This structure, located very close to the road, is a 2-1/2-story, end gable, shingled dwelling with an asymmetrical facade containing a side hall entrance, and a large brick chimney at the rear. The main entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed portico with segmental arch and keystone detailing and a lattice panel. Heavy mortise-and-tenon window frames and large scale ovolo cornice moldings remain as evidence of the building's 18th-century construction date.

This building was originally a rear ell of the Resolved Waterman Tavern, a stagecoach stop along the road between Providence and Chepachet. The Smithfield Exchange Bank, founded here in 1822, occupied rooms in the ell until 1856; the bank vault reportedly still exists on the second floor. The main portion of the tavern was demolished when Putnam Pike was widened in 1936, leaving the building's two rear ells (the other ell was subsequently demolished.) The structure was then "restored" with a new facade containing heavy window frames and a Colonial-style front portico, as a residence. The house has been vacant since 1969 and is now badly deteriorated.

600  
GR

**House (1840):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival structure with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, narrow fascia board trim, and deep eaves with gable-end returns. This former residence was converted to commercial use in the late 1970s.

604  
GR

**Dr. Eddy House (1840s):** A handsome 2-1/2-story Greek Revival dwelling with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, paneled corner pilasters, and entablature trim. This house was owned by Dr. R. P. Eddy, a physician and surgeon, in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

611  
GR

**Greenville Fire Company (1939):** A 2-story, brick, Neo-Colonial fire station with two large brick simulated end chimneys; a tall central bell tower; a Palladian window and two large round-headed garage doors in front; a row of gabled dormers along the side; a gable-roofed ell with a round-headed garage door at the left side; and a one-story, flat-roofed ell at the right side with square door openings. This building is one of several of this style constructed in Smithfield during the 1930s.

624

**W. Pooke House (1840s):** A fine, 1-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a small brick center chimney, a recessed central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a 1-1/2-story ell at the rear. The house is set back from the road on a large lot that contains several trees in front of the house and stone walls bounding the property on the north and west sides.

645  
GR

**D. Gary House (c. 1865):** A 2-story, hip-roofed Bracketed house, with a central, bracketed-hood entry in a 3-bay facade. The right side contains a 1-story bay, a small, hip-roofed dormer, and an entry in a 1-story piazza. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries this house



INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Putnam Pike

marked the western end of Greenville village. Originally a residence it now houses professional offices. It has been resided with aluminum.

- 647**  
**GR**      **House (c. 1860):** A 1-1/2-story Bracketed structure, located behind Number 645, with a central bracketed entry flanked by 1-story bay windows, and a large addition at the north side. Built as a residence, it was probably moved here from the site of the nearby shopping center and converted to a mental health office. It is now aluminum sided.
- \*\*649**  
**GR**      **Richard Waterhouse House/Tucker Funeral Home (c. 1900):** A large, 2-1/2-story, hip-roofed Queen Anne structure with a large brick center chimney, a 3-story polygonal tower at the right side, an elaborate gabled dormer in the center of the front, a modillion and dentil cornice, an open porch with double posts across the front, and an entrance portico at the rear. This building was probably built about 1900 by Richard Waterhouse, superintendent of a nearby woolen mill. In 1903 it was considered the "finest modern dwelling" in Greenville.
- 659**      **Sprague House (early 19th century):** A 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a pair of large brick interior chimneys, a central entry in a 5-bay facade, a piazza across the front, and a 1-1/2-story wing at the rear. The house is set back from the road on a large lot that includes several outbuildings. In 1842, during the Dorr War, the Algerine army camped one night on this farm on their way to Chepachet. The farm was then owned by John S. Sprague. The place remained in the family for many years.
- 666**      **House (1840s):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival house with a small brick chimney, slightly off center, and a center entry in a 5-bay facade. The house is set back from the road on a slight elevation.
- 686**  
**WG**      **House (1840s):** A small, 1-1/2-story Greek Revival dwelling with a small brick center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade.
- 688**  
**WG**      **Building (mid-19th century):** A long, 1-1/2-story structure, with several door and window openings, including two modern (and inappropriate) bay windows, across the front, and a row of smaller windows under the cornice. The building, once associated with the Winsor Mill across the road, served a variety of uses, most recently as the location of an adult day care center.
- 711**  
**WG**      **West Greenville Mills (c. 1775 et seq.):** Along the Stillwater River, just below Waterman Reservoir, and near Putnam Pike, close to one another, are an industrial complex and the site of a mill, both operated as textile mills from the mid-nineteenth century into the twentieth century.

The mill complex includes an old factory which was known variously as the Elisha Steere Mill, Pooke and Steere's Mill, and the Winsor Mill. This 3-story, stuccoed stone building, with a trap-door monitor roof and a 4-story, square, flat-roofed central tower, is sited along the river. It is back from the road. Along the river is a 17-foot high waterfall and a mill trench leading from the pond to the mill.

## Putnam Pike - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Before 1775, Andrew Waterman, grandson of Resolved, erected a saw mill at this site. He also started a grist mill here as well as a forge or furnace. Beginning in 1817, Elisha Steere (1783-1849) purchased two Waterman farms bordering the Waterman Reservoir. In 1844, Elisha erected a cotton mill on the site of Waterman's mills. William Pooke and Anthony Steere purchased the property in 1855. They added a weave shop and enlarged the building which was now operating as a woolen mill. In 1862 Pooke & Steere, who also had a mill at Mountindale, manufactured fancy cassimeres. The Winsor Mills Corporation purchased the property in 1873; their improvements included raising the roof and installing modern machinery. By 1887 the property comprised four stone mills, the largest a 3-story, 40- by 100-foot structure, which were used for carding, picking, weaving, and spinning operations, and which contained 6,000 spindles. In 1888, J.P. & E.K. Ray of Woonsocket purchased the mill, which employed 50 workers and which was again manufacturing cotton goods. The name Winsor Mills was retained into the twentieth century, when the mill became part of the Greenville Manufacturing Company's operation. Although the buildings are no longer used for the manufacture of textiles, they serve several industrial uses.

West Greenville's lower mill, now a site comprised of a large stone and earth dam, a mill trench, and stone foundations, was originally known as Winsor and Brown's Mill for Stephen and Albert Winsor and William F. Brown who erected a mill here about 1845. In 1857, the property was acquired by Jeremiah Knight, who owned it for several decades. The small community here was then known as Knightsville. In 1874, when Frank E. Sprague purchased a half interest in the property, the old wooden wheels were replaced by iron ones and steam power was introduced to supplement the existing water power for the manufacture of sheetings. By 1895, the cotton mill was in the hands of the Greenville Manufacturing Company. The 20th-century history of the mill is not well known, but no above-ground structures have survived.

733

**P. Mowry House (c. 1865):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, a small brick center chimney, and a 1-story hip-roofed porch at the right side with a porticoed entry. On the property are a shed and a barn. Along the highway is a white picket fence set into granite posts.

—

**Steere's Beach Club (early 20th century):** A collection of wood frame buildings were erected along the northeastern shore of Waterman Reservoir during the early years of the century. This place served as a popular recreation area. Dancing was carried on in 1947, as evidenced by a contemporary map, and the place was used for a grange fair about 1970.

### RIDGE ROAD

28

**Mowry House (c. 1840):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a small brick center chimney, a central, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade, a pair of small windows under the cornice in front, and a 1-story ell at the right side with a small tall brick chimney. The house occupies a terrace above the road behind a stone wall. On the property are a 1-story

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Ridge Road

woodshed and a wash house, and across the road is a later bank barn. The house was in the Mowry family until the mid-twentieth century.

- 40 **Watson Homestead (mid-19th century):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival dwelling with a small brick center chimney, a central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a pair of small windows under the cornice at the rear. The house, set back from the road on a large lot that includes a stone watering trough in front, was in the Gould family during the second half of the nineteenth century.
- 43 **Angell-Ballou House (early 19th century):** A fine and well preserved 2-1/2-story farmhouse with a pair of brick interior chimneys, a pedimented central entry, with an ornately leaded semi-circular fanlight, in a 5-bay facade, and windows with splayed lintels. The doorway of this house, particularly its beautiful metalwork fanlight, was one of several Smithfield residences singled out as exceptional in a White Pine Monograph series article of about 1930, which called this residence Angell House Number Two. This house is set behind a white picket fence on a lot that includes several large maples in front.
- 67 **Joseph Olney House/Angell House/Cottage House (mid-18th century):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a pair of brick interior chimneys near the ends and a central entry in an asymmetrical 6-bay facade. The house is sited relatively close to the road behind a white picket fence. Nearby, along the southwest side, are a cemetery and the site of a wheelwright shop. The house was built by Joseph Olney, who bought the land here in 1750. His widow Elizabeth sold the house to Elisha Angell; it was reportedly in the Angell family for 99 years (however, the 1851 map shows the property in the name of J. Luther, who also owned it in 1870.)
- 70 **A. A. Lippitt House (1870s):** This residence, at the southeast end of the district, is a tall, 1-1/2-story structure, with a central, bracketed entry in a 5-bay facade, and pair of small gabled dormers in front. On the property is a fine carriage house and a shed.

## RIVER ROAD

- \*57-59  
GE **Former Dye House (1813):** A long, 1-1/2-story, rubblestone, duplex residence, with an enclosed weather entrance at the center of the 3-bay gable end and at the right side of a 5-bay facade, and two large brick interior chimneys. This structure was erected as a dye house for the original cotton mill in Georgiaville and is the only surviving industrial building from the era of the village's industrial development. It was later converted for residential use. The Dye House was used as a school between 1820 and 1827.

## ROCKY HILL ROAD

- **E. Enches House (c. 1850):** A tall, 1-1/2-story farmhouse with a brick center chimney, a central entry with a flat projecting cornice, a 5-bay facade, and a 1-1/2-story ell at the right side with its own chimney and entrance. The house occupies a grassy lot.

## Smith Avenue - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

### SMITH AVENUE

- 1**  
**GR**      **Episcopal Parsonage (1881):** A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled, Queen Anne dwelling with a front entrance porch with latticework trim at the eaves, bargeboards and latticework screens at the gable ends, and a 1-story bay window at the right side. The grassy rectory lot, behind St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, was given to the church by Richard Waterman in 1880.
- 11**  
**GR**      **W. A. Whipple House (c. 1860):** A 1-1/2-story residence with paired brick interior chimneys and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. This otherwise plain house, on a small corner lot, has classical hoods over the entry and windows in front.
- 28**  
**GR**      **Former St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church (1858):** A plain, 1-story, wood-clapboard-sided structure, set gable end to and near the road, with a central entry and two small brick interior chimneys. Behind the church is a 1-1/2-story rectory. In 1855 the Reverend Philip Gillick came to Greenville, which then had a Catholic population of 350. In 1858, St. Philip's Church was dedicated. It served the Greenville area until the mid-twentieth century when a new Roman Catholic church was erected on Putnam Pike west of the village.
- 135**      **Farm Complex (mid-19th century):** At the corner of West Greenville Road is an area that until the recent past was devoted to apple orchards. A group of buildings here includes a 1-1/2-story vernacular dwelling with a small brick center chimney, a simply framed central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a 1-story wing at the left side. Nearby along Smith Avenue is a large, wood-shingle-sided barn, and a vertical board-sided structure used as an apple stand. The former orchards across the road have recently (1980s) been replaced by houses.

### STEERE ROAD

- \*\*35**      **Mathewson House (early 19th century):** A handsome, 2-1/2-story Federal dwelling with paired brick interior chimneys near the ends, a central entry with a projecting flat cornice, in a 5-bay facade, and a 1-story ell with an enclosed porch, at the left side. The house occupies a fine, simply landscaped lot behind a wood picket fence with granite posts, but its surrounding farmland and orchards have been encroached upon by houses in the recent past. Near the Mathewson House is a large cinder block structure.

### STILLWATER ROAD

- \*6-8,**  
**\*10-12,**  
**\*14-16,**  
**\*18**  
**GE**      **Mill Workers' Houses (c. 1813):** Along the north side of Stillwater Road, east of School Street, is a row of four rubblestone buildings, set gable end to the road, contemporaneous with the first mill erected in Georgiaville. Number 6-8 is the largest of the group, a 2-1/2-story structure with an entry at the center of each of its two long sides and two large, tall, brick chimneys centered on each roof slope. Number 10-12 is a 1-1/2-story residence with stuccoed sides, a central entrance on the flank side, and a pair of large, brick, interior chimneys near the ends. Number 14-16 is similar to its neighbor, but includes a small

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Stillwater Road

gabled dormer on one side and retains most of its original rubblestone exterior wall. Number 18, sited on a larger lot, is unlike the others in the row. It has a jerkinhead roof, a small porticoed entry, which repeats the jerkinhead gable of the house, and an ell formed by the continuation of the roof line at the right side.

\*23,  
\*25-27,  
\*29  
GE

**Courtyard Houses (c. 1813):** Close to the mill, along the south side of the road, are three early 1-1/2-story rubblestone houses arranged in a "U," or courtyard plan. Numbers 23 and 29 are sited with their gable ends close to the road. They are set into a small hill which allows for a full basement at the road side, and each had an entrance at the left side of the gable end. Each has another entry in the center of the flank sides, which face each other across the courtyard. Number 23 has a pair of large brick end interior chimneys, while number 29 has only a small brick chimney near the end of the rear of the building.

\*32  
GE

**House (c. 1813):** A 1-1/2-story Federal residence, set gable end to the road, with a large brick center chimney. There is an entrance in the center of the long side and in a porticoed entry at the left side of the front. This structure, set close to the road behind a white picket fence, was used as mill worker's housing throughout most of its existence. It is unlike most other mill houses and bears a greater resemblance to early Rhode Island farmhouses.

\*33-35  
GE

**Former School and Mill Workers' House (1853):** A 2-story, T-shaped residence, with paired doors at the right side of the 2-bay street-facing end, and a small brick chimney. This structure may originally have been a school house. Zachariah Allen noted in his diary that he moved a school house to this site and raised it one story to serve as housing for workers in his mill. Its original clapboard sides have been resided with aluminum.

\*36  
GE

**House (c. 1813):** A 1-1/2-story Federal residence, similar in age and style to number 32, and also sited close to the road and re-sided with modern material. It has a shed-roofed enclosed porch along the right side.

\*37-39  
GE

**Mill Workers' House (1853):** A large, 2-1/2-story multi-family residence, set close to the road, with simply framed doorways with transom lights in the second and fifth bays of a six-bay facade, two small windows under the cornice in front, and a pair of brick interior chimneys. It was built by Zachariah Allen when he erected his mill in 1853.

\*  
GE

**Stillwater Road Bridge (c. 1900):** A Parker pony truss iron bridge with metal end posts, and a plank-and-timber deck supported by massive, random-coursed ashlar embankments; it carries Stillwater Road over the Woonasquatucket River.

\*45  
GE

**Brayton House (c. 1860):** A 2-1/2-story residence with a central, bracketed entry in a 5-bay facade; a pair of round-headed windows under each gable; a 1-story, flat-roofed wing at the left side; and a 1-story enclosed porch at the right side. The house was in the Brayton family in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Stillwater Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

- \*53**            **J. A. Brown House (c. 1860):** A 2-1/2-story, flat-roofed, Italianate residence.  
**GE**
- \*220**            **Smith-Appleby House (1713 et seq.):** This residence, one of the town's oldest extant structures, is a 2-1/2-story, south-facing Colonial house with a massive center chimney, a side lighted central entry, a 2-story ell in front, and a 1-story "shed" addition on the north side. The house and a 1-1/2-story barn (erected in 1860), a shed, and a privy, occupy a relatively large tract of land bounded by Stillwater Road to the east and the north end of Georgiaville Pond, part of the Woonasquatucket River system, to the west. An old family burial ground lies near the road.
- The house, originally in saltbox form, was erected in 1713 by Elisha Smith (1794-1873), a grandson of Roger Williams' compatriot John Smith. In 1750 a raising of the roof eliminated the saltbox roofline. At an early date, perhaps in the mid-eighteenth century, a mill was erected along the river not far from the house, and the place was known as Smith's Mills (it is shown thus on an 1846 map.) A saw mill is shown on maps of the 1850s, but was apparently gone, or unused, by 1862. An Appleby married a Smith, and Smith-Appleby descendants owned and occupied the house until 1959. The Smithfield Historical Society purchased the property in 1974 and restored the house as a museum.
- 275**            **W. Maroney House (c. 1851):** A 1-1/2-story vernacular dwelling with a full basement in front, near the road, containing an entry. There is another entry, with transom lights, at the right side of the 2-bay right gable end, and a small brick chimney atop the ridge. The large lot, which rises from behind a stone embankment along the road, contains a barn and a garage.
- ST**              **Site of Stillwater Mills:** Along the Woonasquatucket River at the Stillwater Reservoir dam, are two rubblestone buildings with low-pitched gable roofs. They are all that remain of a large industrial complex that was destroyed by fire in the 1980s, putting an end to a century and a half of manufacturing here. In 1824, Israel Arnold and his brother Welcome purchased land and erected a small cotton mill (possibly in 1836.) The mill property was subsequently acquired by Joseph Clark of Johnston. In 1850, his water-powered factory was manufacturing printing goods with 24 looms and 1,000 spindles, a relatively small operation for that time. Clark sold the property to Robert Joslin in 1851. During Joslin's ownership the mill was destroyed by fire. In 1866, Edward W. Brown and others acquired the mill estate and erected a fine woolen mill. Their Stillwater Woolen Mill Company was chartered in 1867. Fire destroyed this mill in 1872; it was immediately rebuilt but not operating until April, 1875. The new 5-story structure was much bigger than the previous mill. It had a 52- by 130-foot main block with 40- by 65 and 32- by 45-foot wings. The water fall of twenty two feet afforded 100 horse power, which was supplemented by steam power of about equal force. Fancy cassimeres were manufactured by 175 workers. In 1901, Stillwater was the property of the Centerdale Woolen Mills. The 55- by 337-foot structure employed 225 workers, who ran 6,000 worsted spinning spindles. In 1937, as part of the Lister Worsted Company, only 125 workers were employed in the manufacture of yarn. The place was acquired in 1973 by J. Warner Murray of Bellingham, Massachusetts,

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Stillwater Road

whose textile empire of the 1950s and 1960s included five prosperous plants in Woonsocket and in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The Lister name as well as the real estate and machinery were acquired by Murray, who began the manufacture of high grade synthetic knitting yarns for the hand and machine trades. Its rebirth as a textile manufacturing plant was short-lived. By the 1980s, Crystal Craft, Incorporated, a manufacturer and designer of plexiglass, wood, aluminum displays, store fixtures, and plexiglass furniture was using the Stillwater factory. In the mid-1980s, the plant was destroyed by a huge fire which spared only a few auxiliary buildings near the river. The factory was never rebuilt.

- 283-295  
ST** **Row of Mill Houses (c. 1867):** A row of six former mill workers' houses, along the north side of Stillwater Road, set on a slight elevation. They are plain, 2-story, hip-roofed structures with a central entry in a 5-bay facade. All but one of the row retains their paired brick interior chimneys. Differences among the houses have been created by re-siding, installation of new windows, and changes to the entries. These houses were probably erected with the Stillwater Woolen Mill in 1866.
- 294  
ST** **Mill Owner's House (c. 1830):** A fine, 2-1/2-story, late Federal era residence with paired brick interior chimneys, 5-bay facade, and a 1-story ell at the rear. In 1851, the property was owned by J. Clark, owner of the nearby mill, and probably used as his residence.
- 297, 299  
ST** **Pair of Mill Houses (c. 1836):** Along and slightly above the east side of Stillwater Road are two long 2-1/2-story former mill workers' houses. Each has simply framed, transom-lighted entries at the ends of their 6-bay facades, paired brick interior chimneys, and a small shed dormer at the center of the roof. These houses probably date from the construction of the first mill here.
- 311  
ST** **Former Store (c. 1867):** A large, flat-roofed commercial building, with a stepped false front parapet. In front are a flat-roofed portico entry, with double columns, at the left side, and a recessed doorway flanked by display windows at the right side. This store was built when the new Stillwater Mill was erected in 1867.
- 320  
ST** **Mill Superintendent's Residence (c. 1867):** A fine, 1-1/2-story, mansard-roofed, T-plan residence with two brick interior chimneys, ornate dormer window surrounds, and an entry in a flat-roofed, enclosed porch at the northwest corner of the house.
- 347  
ST** **Former Stillwater (District Number 15) School (c. 1856):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a small brick center chimney near the right end, an exterior chimney at the left side, a central entry with a 2-light transom in a 5-bay facade, and a pair of small attic windows under the cornice. On the lot is a carriage shed with a ventilator. The first school in this area was kept in John S. Appleby's residence. A school house was erected in 1828 near the factory. It was demolished in 1854 and a new school house, this structure, was erected soon after. Reportedly it was abandoned in 1864, but is still indicated as a school house on the 1870 map. It was converted into a private residence after a new school house was erected closer to the heart of the village sometime before 1895.

Swan Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

SWAN ROAD

- 8           **Former School (1870s):** A long, 1-1/2-story residence with a double door entry at the center of the 5-bay facade, a row of small windows under the cornice, and a large, rectangular, brick chimney off the ridge. The original entry, in the street-facing gable end, was replaced by the flank side entry in 1931.

TARKILN ROAD

- \*\*2           **Evans House (1805):** A 2-1/2-story residence, with a large brick center chimney; a central entry, with a flat cornice, in a 5-bay facade; multi-paned windows with splayed lintels; and a 1-story shed-roofed ell at the right rear. The house was in the Evans family in the latter part of the nineteenth century. There was (at least until 1870) a grist mill at the south end of the pond across the road.

WALTER CAREY ROAD

**Baker House (1962):** A modern house with a redwood, modular wood frame, a flat roof with a three-foot overhang and a clerestory, and mostly glass walls. A slab floor encloses the plumbing and heating ducts. Designed by architect Lloyd A. Baker for the Baker family, the residence occupies a hilly site on the slope of Wolf Hill. A deck and south-facing glass walls provide views of the wooded lot. The house, restored in the 1980s by Florence and John Butler, is one of the first examples of modern architecture in Smithfield.

WATERMAN AVENUE

- 274           **A. Smith House (c. 1865):** A 1-1/2-story residence with paired brick interior chimneys near the center; a fine central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade; a small porch addition at the right side, and an ell at the right side. The house is set back from the road. Near the road are granite fence posts, vestiges of a picket fence.
- \*\*277           **Ephraim Sweet House (1852):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival house with small brick chimneys, one at the center of the roof and one at the left side; a central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the right rear. The house is set back from the road, on a small terrace formed by a fine granite block wall. The house was built by Ephraim Sweet and remained in the Sweet family until 1930.
- 279           **Former School (mid-19th century):** A 1-story structure with a small brick center chimney, an entry at the left side of a 2-bay gable end, and an ell perpendicular to the house at the rear. The building, reportedly built as a school, was enlarged by an addition to the rear of the original structure and a two-part addition at the rear. The original location of the school house is unknown; it is not shown at this location on nineteenth-century maps.



## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - Waterman Avenue

320-322,  
324-326,  
328-330,  
332-334,  
336-338  
ES

**Workers' Houses (1930s):** Along the south side of Waterman Avenue is a row of five, brick, 1-1/2-story houses, constructed in the 1930s for employees of the nearby Esmond Mills, in three different architectural styles. Number 320-322 is a simple version of the Tudor style houses that were popular during this period. They have tall paired chimneys crowned by round chimney pots near the end of the ridge of their hip roofs, two sets of windows, grouped in threes, under a long shed-roofed dormer in front, and a 1-story hip-roofed entry at each side. Numbers 324-326 and 332-334, gable-roofed duplexes, have siding of asbestos shingle over brick, a gable-roofed dormer at each end connected by a shed-roof hyphen in the front facade, and an entry at each side. Number 328-330, in the center of the group, has a jerkinhead gable roof, paired brick interior chimneys, stuccoed walls, a hip-roof dormer across most of the front, and porticoed entries at each end. Number 336-338, once a Tudor style house, was radically altered in 1989.

340  
ES

**Esmond Mills (1906 et seq.):** The Esmond Mills, along the west bank of the Woonasquatucket River, and off Waterman Avenue and Esmond Street, are centered on a 55-foot high, 3-story, 230- by 348-foot, brick pier, flat-roofed, early 20th-century mill. This building contains segmental double windows and bracketed eaves, and a handsome and unusually narrow tower with a flat bracketed roof and narrow windows. Nearby is a long, sawtooth-roofed weave shed containing about 300 early 20th-century Jacquard looms, most built by Crompton and Knowles of Worcester, Massachusetts, as well as Jacquard card-punching machinery. Ancillary buildings include several brick buildings, warehouses, and a frame, 1-story office building near Esmond Street.

Manufacturing started here in 1813 when Governor Philip Allen, brother of Zachariah Allen, erected a small granite cotton mill. In 1825, it was enlarged with a 40- by 80-foot addition, and improved. By 1820, the mill was operating 1,000 spindles. Following the improvements the mill in 1828 ran 3,200 spindles. An 1831 account described the mill as "a stone building 125 feet long, with several ramifications of brick and wood, all painted white, which gives an aspect of neatness and beauty;" 4,300 spindles and 100 looms were run, employing 130 operatives (35 men, 60 women, and 35 children). The capacity of the mills continued to increase. The 1850 United States census reported that Philip Allen & Son manufactured print goods using 134 looms and 4,456 spindles, powered by both steam and water, and employed 55 men and 56 women. Allen sold the mill property in 1857 to Earl P. Mason, Henry Lippitt, and others. A map of the "cotton mill estate," recorded in 1858, shows the village centered on a large mill with a stone, 4-story section; a 1-story stone and a 2-story wooden addition at the sides, and a 2-story stone weave shed at the rear. Trenches leading from the mill pond carried water under the mill and the weave shed. Several smaller mill structures were located nearby. The mill's operating capacity had increased somewhat to 144 looms and 5,104 spindles. In 1867 it was known as the Smithfield Manufacturing Company. William H. Pope purchased the property in 1879 and manufactured print goods, using 150 workers, operating as the Enfield Mills Company.

In 1901, the factory used 220 looms and 10,536 spindles in the manufacture of fancy cotton goods. In 1905, the property was sold and

## Waterman Avenue - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

the machinery removed. The new firm, Esmond Mills Company, a corporation backed by New York capitalists headed by Henry C. Whitman, tore down the old granite mill the following year, using its stone for the foundation of the new brick building. Described as "a model blanket mill," the brick mill was constructed several hundred yards south of the old factory. Boilers were installed, and a dye house, and a weave shed also completed in 1906. New machinery, powered entirely by steam (1,650 h.p.), manufactured European-style Jacquard blankets and established for the mill a reputation as a technologically advanced fine goods producer. New construction continued into the 1920s as the company took advantage of improvements in conveyor handling. By the late 1920s, the mill's primary products were the well-known Esmond blankets of fine camel's hair, pure wool, cotton, and wool and cotton mixtures. In 1916, the Esmond Mills employed 522 men, 210 women, and 26 children. By 1939, the work force had grown to 1,000; the mills contained 37 cards, 564 looms, and almost 12,500 spindles, and manufactured cotton and woolen blankets, bath robes, and napped fabrics. In 1948, faced with an impending strike, the Whitman owners sold the complex to the Textron Corporation, and textile manufacturing ended.

Today the industrial complex houses a Benny's office and warehouse, the Mine Safety Corporation, and several small concerns.

363  
ES

**Esek Smith House (c. 1813):** This large, 2-1/2-story Federal residence, along the east side of the road opposite Esmond Street, has a pair of tall brick chimneys at the right side and one at the left side, a central entry, with a semi-elliptical fan and side lights, in a 5-bay facade, and a 2-story wing at the right rear. The buildings is set back from the road on a simply landscaped lot. It was probably built by Esek Smith, a descendant of Major William Smith, the first settler of this area in 1703, about the time Esek sold a tract of land along the west side of the river to Philip Allen. A nearby toll gate was operated here until at least 1862. The house remained in the Smith family into the twentieth century.

### WEST GREENVILLE ROAD

\*\* (40)

**Steere Farm (1810):** The Steere Farm is centered on a 2-1/2-story Federal farmhouse with a large brick center chimney, a central entry with a Greek Revival entry and a long 1-story ell with a tall brick chimney and two shed roof dormers at the south side, at a right angle at the rear. The house occupies a slight elevation behind a wood picket fence along the road. Outbuildings include a long carriage shed, an ice house, and a corn crib, near the house, and a farm stand along the road. Part of the farmland, orchards across the road subdivided and new houses erected, while the field surrounding the house is now untended and overgrown.

In 1817, Elisha Steere (1783-1849) purchased this property from Thomas Waterman. He also purchased an adjoining parcel, and in 1836-44 ran a saw and grist mill along the Stillwater River in West Greenville before erecting a cotton mill there. Elisha's son, Stephen (1824-1899), who acquired the farm after his father's death, was a director of the Exchange Bank in Greenville. His son, Elisha (1854-1890) also spent his

## INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS - West Greenville Road

life on the farm and served as a director of the bank. Charles Steere (born in 1899) next acquired the property, which remains in the Steere family until the recent past.

### WHIPPLE AVENUE

- \*18  
GE**      **Joseph Farnum House (c. 1770):** A 2-1/2-story house with a slightly off-center brick chimney; a porticoed central entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the right rear with a small brick chimney. Along the road is a wood picket fence and behind the house is a barn. Joseph Farnum (c. 1751-1832), son of the first settler of Georgiaville, was involved in the iron business with his father and brother here at an early date. Joseph also was one of the builders of the Farnum Turnpike. His grandson Edwin (1820-1853) married Sarah Randall, who lived here. One of her four sons, Herbert (1853-1901), was superintendent of the local mills from 1871 until his death.
- \*19, 21  
GE**      **Blanchard House (c. 1875):** This unusual structure is comprised of two 1-1/2-story houses, their gable ends fronting the road, joined at the rear to form one unit. Each has a 1-story flat-roofed porch across the front, a central entry in the center of the 5-bay flank side, and large shed-roofed dormers. The eastern half (left side) is shown as an outbuilding on the 1895 map; it was probably used for commercial purposes by owner H. N. Blanchard, who was called the oldest trader in Georgiaville in 1891.
- \*34, 38  
GE**      **Boarding Houses (1854, 1855):** A pair of nearly identical, 4-1/2-story rubblestone structures, set gable end to the road, with granite window lintels, corbelled brick interior chimneys, and a brick belt course under a modillion cornice. Number 34 was built as a boarding house for men. Number 38, built for women workers, differs from its companion structure in its piers separating the bays, and use of round-arched windows at the fourth story. These rare and unusual buildings were built by Zachariah Allen to accommodate workers in his new factory.

### WHIPPLE ROAD

- 130**      **Arnold Farm (18th century et seq.):** The Arnold Farm, one of the last surviving tracts of agricultural land in Smithfield, is centered on a 1-1/2-story, gambrel-roofed Colonial house with a large, off-center brick chimney, a porticoed entry at the left side of the front, and a shed-roofed dormer. The most significant outbuilding is a large, late nineteenth-century, clapboard-sided barn near the road. West of the house and across the road are stone-wall-bounded fields. In the late nineteenth century the farm was in the Arnold and Meenan families; in 1947 it was McQuade's Dairy Farm.
- 195**      **John Angell Farm (18th century et seq.):** At the northern boundary with Lincoln is a group of buildings--a house, a former blacksmith shop, and several outbuildings. The 1-1/2-story house has a large brick chimney (which has recently been replaced), a central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a 1-story shed-roofed addition at the rear. The former blacksmith shop, located on the Lincoln side of the town line, is a 1-1/2-story structure with a brick center chimney, an entrance at the right side of the front, and a full basement at the right side. A rubblestone and brick forge and

## Whipple Road - INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

the remains of a bellows and vise in the basement are the only remnants of the former blacksmith shop.

### WHITMAN STREET

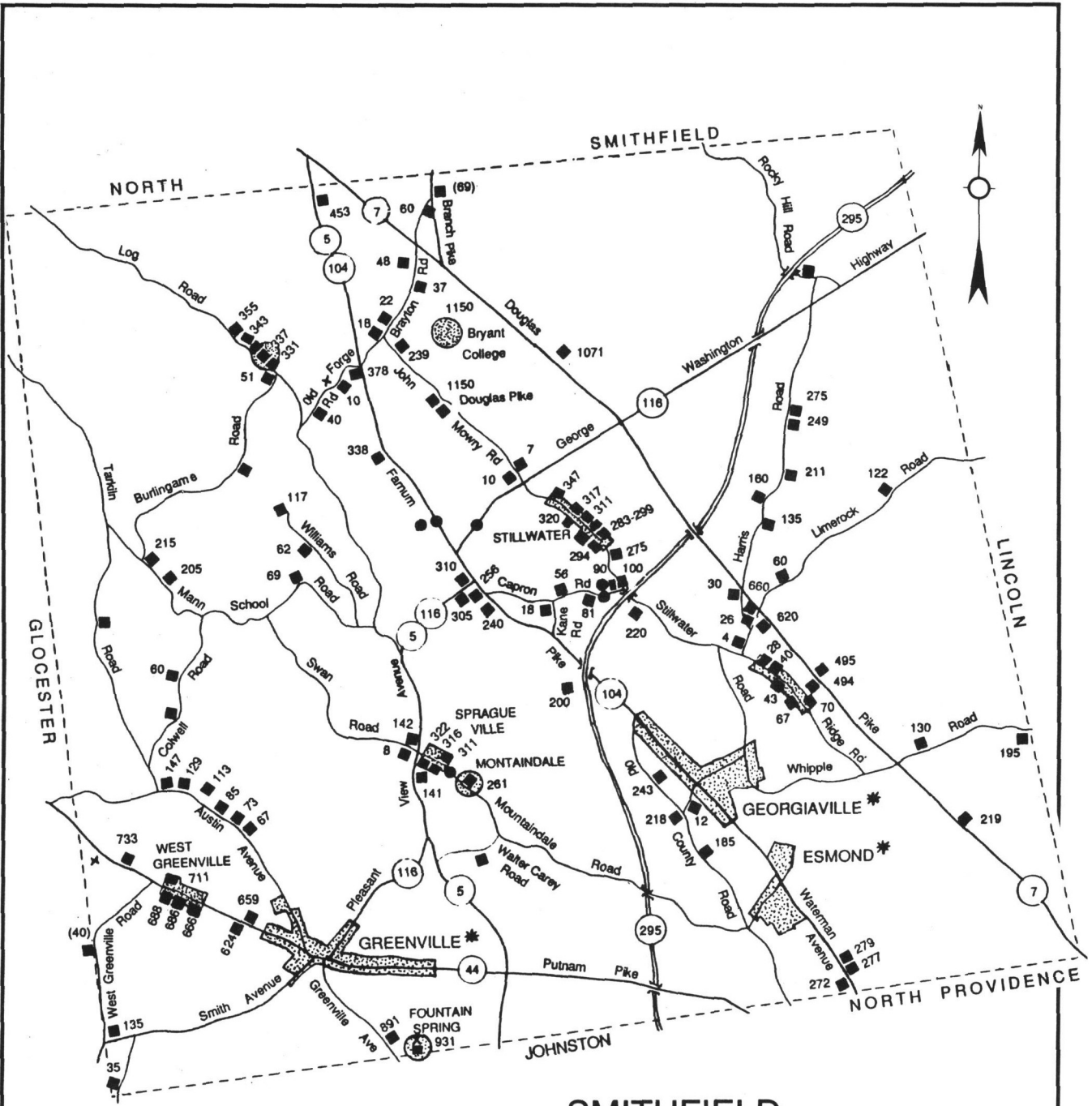
- ES**            **Mill Workers Houses (c. 1907-1920):** Along and east of Waterman Avenue is a several-acre tract containing a variety of multi-family houses, mostly duplex residences, but also a former boarding house, built for workers in the Esmond Mills between 1907 and 1920. In contrast to the earlier workers' houses, ample lots here give this housing tract the appearance of a suburban development.

### WILLIAMS ROAD

- \*\*82**           **Windy Brow Farm (early 19th century):** Appropriately named, this farm is sited atop Wionkhiege Hill with a broad view of the Woonasquatucket Valley to the east. The house is a typical early 2-1/2-story residence, with a large brick center chimney; a fine central entry, with a closed elliptical fan light and sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the left rear. The house occupies a small terrace behind a stone wall along the road. Near the house is a fine, large, 2-section barn with a ventilator. Around the house and across the road are open fields; at the edge of one field is a family burial ground. Nineteenth-century maps list several different owners for this property. Foundation plantings, landscaping, an open site atop a hill, and a location near the end of a dead end road, contribute to the preservation of the farm's nineteenth-century ambience.
- 117**            **Carey Farm/Maple Lane Farm (c. 1865):** A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival farmhouse with a tall brick center chimney; a recessed central entry; pedimented gable dormers in front that break the cornice line, connected by a shed-roofed hyphen; and a 1-story ell at the right side. Across the end of the dead end road is a barn. The house lot is landscaped while much of the surrounding land is in open fields. This property was in the Carey family in the late nineteenth century.






### WOLF HILL ROAD

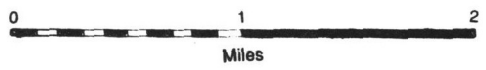
- 12**            **M. Maloney House (c. 1860):** A 1-1/2-story residence with a pedimented portico entry in a 3-bay facade and a 1-story ell at the rear. This house was in the Maloney and Howard families in the late nineteenth century.

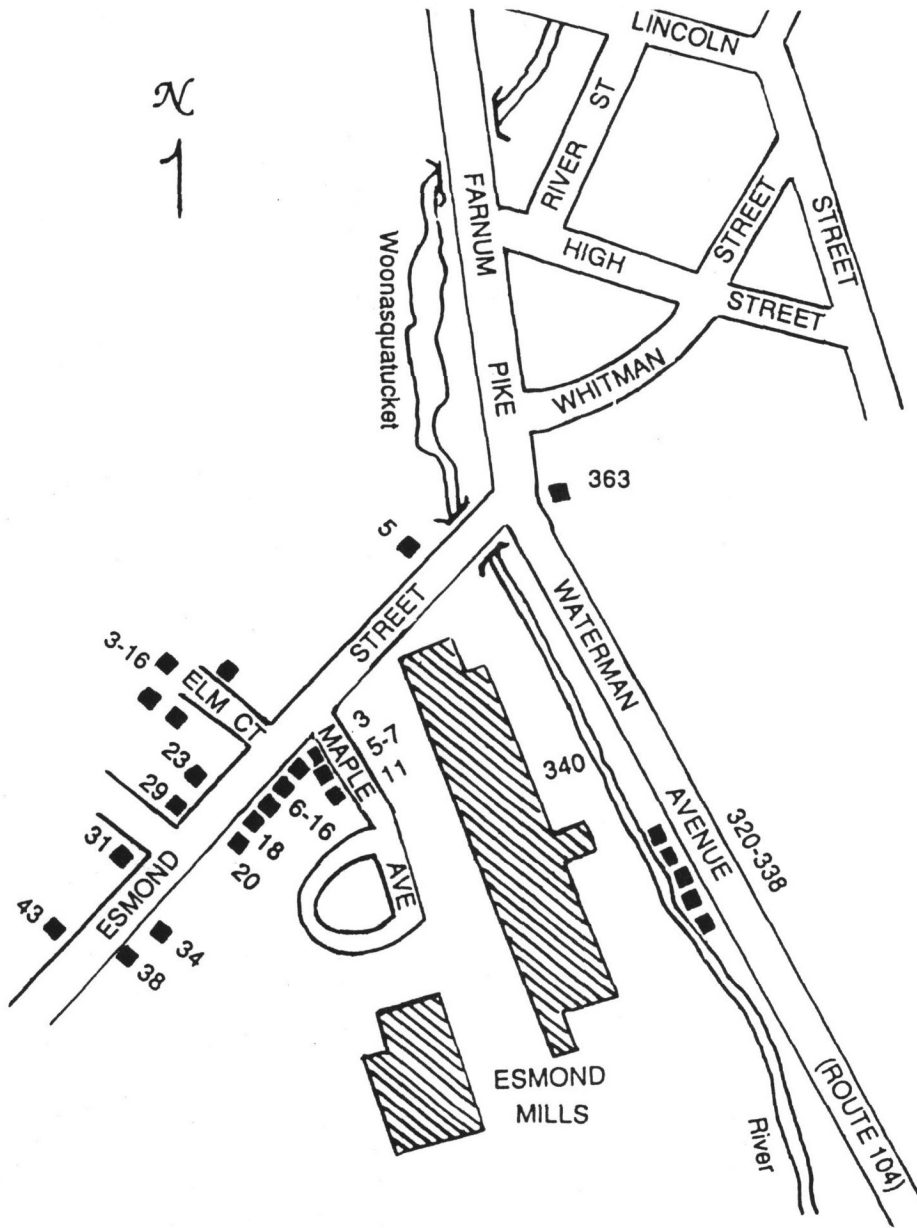


# SMITHFIELD



## CULTURAL RESOURCES

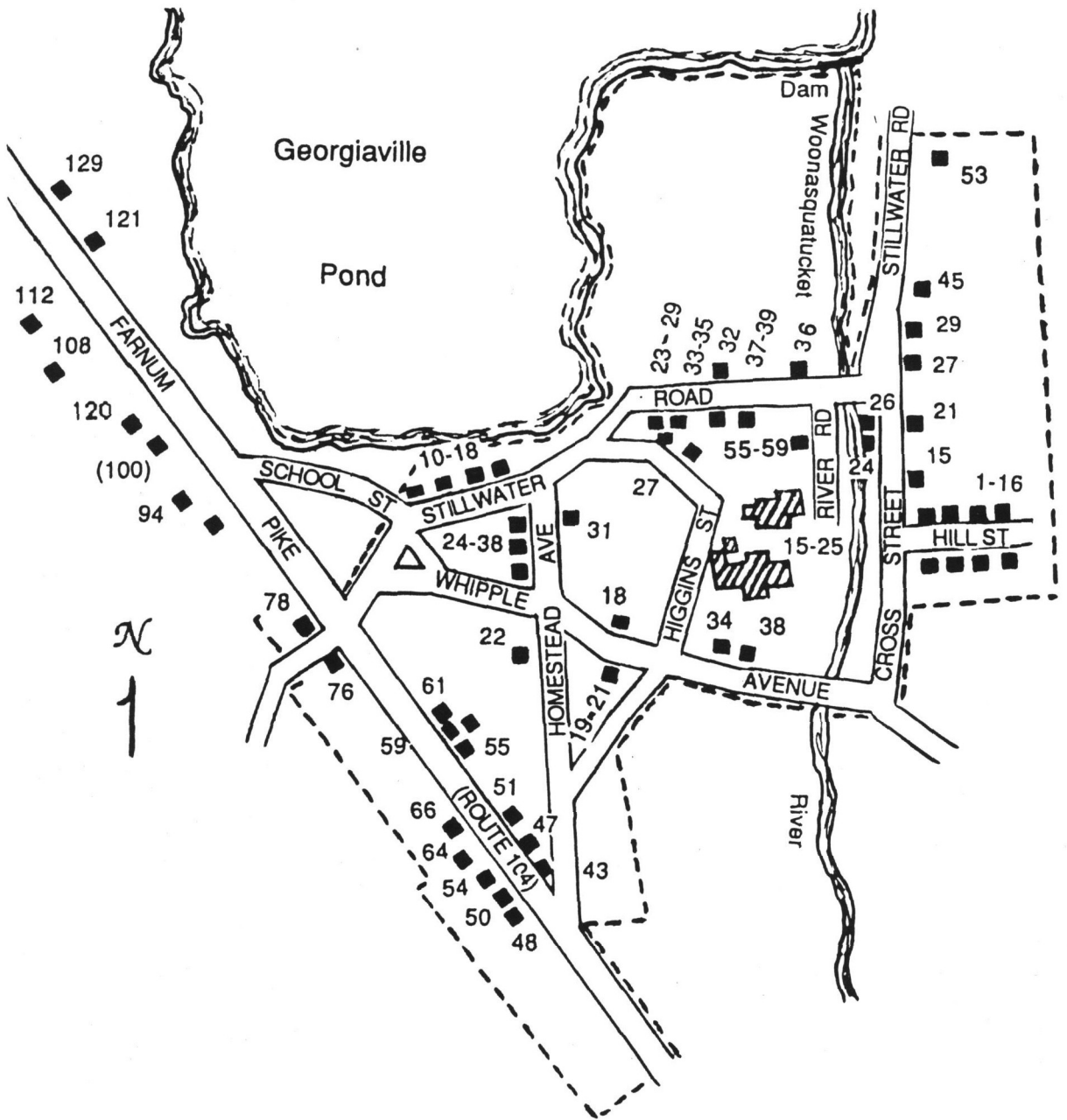
-  Districts & Areas
-  Individual Structures
-  Bridges & Dams
-  Sites
-  See Enlarged Maps





# ESMOND

-  Mill Complex
-  Individual Structures



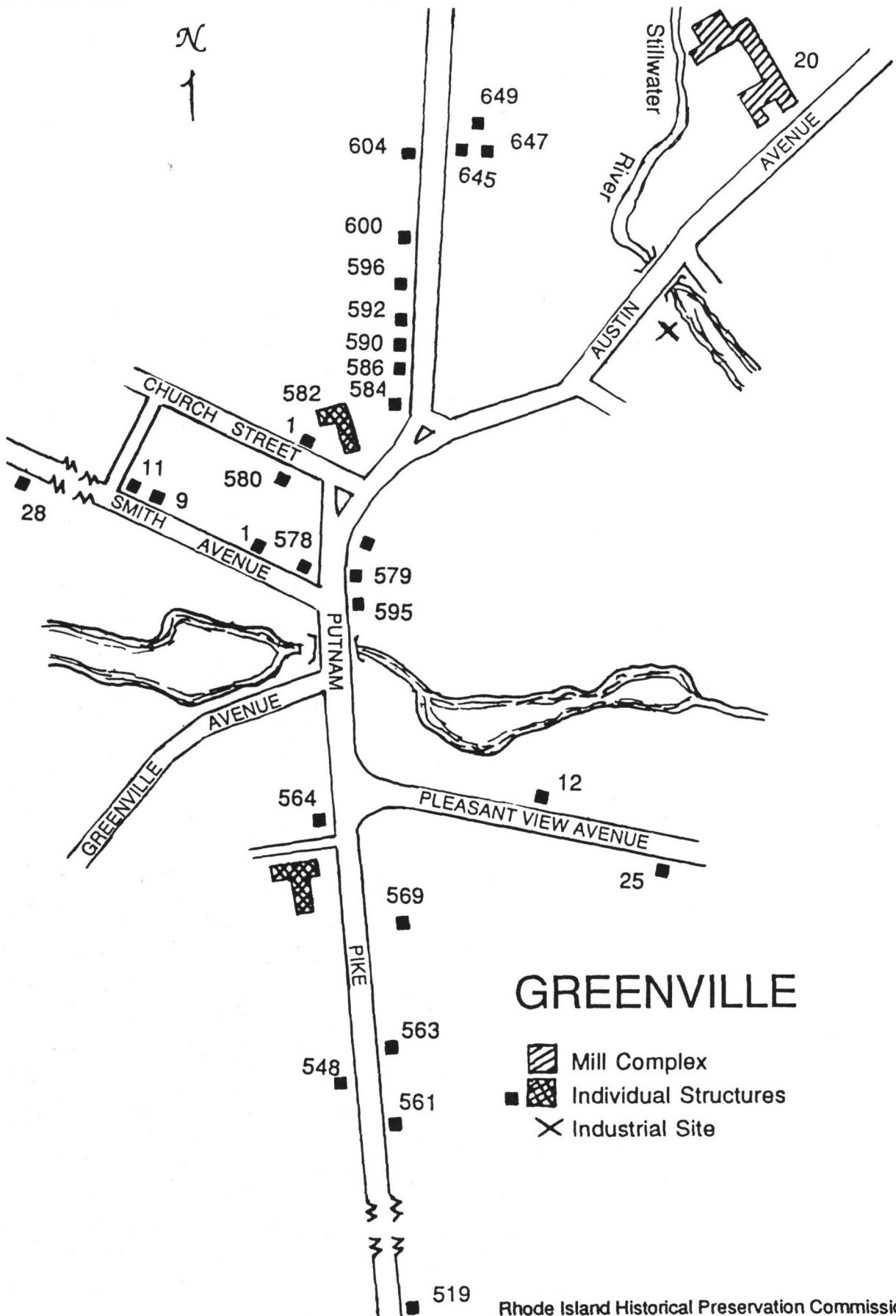
# GEORGIAVILLE

▨ Former Mill Complex




■ Individual Structures

-- Boundaries of National Register District

N  
↑



# GREENVILLE

-  Mill Complex
-  Individual Structures
-  Industrial Site



## APPENDIX: SMITHFIELD'S HISTORIC RESOURCES

The following list is provided as a key to the historic buildings listed in the inventory. While the inventory is arranged by street location, this list organizes Smithfield's historic buildings by their period, their architectural style, and their function.

- \* Listed in a National Register district
- \*\* Listed in the National Register individually
- + Recommended for nomination to the National Register

### COLONIAL PERIOD (TO ABOUT 1787)

#### Houses

**	Waterman-Winsor House	79 Austin Avenue
+	Daniel Winsor House/Redwood Farm	107 Austin Avenue
+	Jesse Foster House	147 Austin Avenue
	Col. Daniel Mowry House	Burlingame Road
	Angell House	81 Capron Road
	Angell House	90 Capron Road
	Blossom Trail Orchard	60 Colwell Road
	Joseph Mowry House	1150 Douglas Pike
	Welcome Mowry Farm	453 Farnum Pike
+	Col. Elisha Mowry House	10 John Mowry Road
+	Mowry House	239 John Mowry Road
+	Asahel Angell House	4 Limerock Road
+	Daniel Angell House	26 Limerock Road
	N. Evans House	355 Log Road
+	Thomas Mann House	215 Mann School Road
+	Joseph Farnum-Brown House	243 Old County Road
	John Appleby-Mowry House	10 Old Forge Road
	Steere-Bennett House	305 Pleasant View Avenue
+	Steere-Harris House	310 Pleasant View Avenue
	Resolved Waterman Tavern Ell	599 Putnam Pike, Greenville
	Joseph Olney House/Angell House/ Cottage House	67 Ridge Road
**	Smith-Appleby House	220 Stillwater Road
*	Joseph Farnum House	18 Whipple Avenue, Greenville
	Arnold Farmhouse	130 Whipple Road
	John Angell Farmhouse	195 Whipple Road

### FEDERAL PERIOD (1787-1840)

#### Houses

+	Hopkins Farm	Branch Pike
+	Stephen Steere House	56 Capron Road
+	Tucker-Steere-Colwell House	Colwell Road
	Thomas Burbank Farm	495 Douglas Pike
+	Angell's Hotel	620 Douglas Pike
	Town Asylum/Poor Farm	1071 Douglas Pike
+	Silas Smith House	200 Farnum Pike
	Reuben Mowry House	338 Farnum Pike

	Farmhouse	211 Harris Avenue
+	Ebenezer Stephens House	185 Old County Road
	Steere House	214 Old County Road
	Ballou-Phetteplace House	142 Pleasant View Avenue, Spragueville
	Sprague House	659 Putnam Pike
	Angell-Ballou House	43 Ridge Road
+	Matthewson House	35 Steere Road
+	Evans House	2 Tarkilm Road
+	Steere Farmhouse	(40) West Greenville Road
	Windy Brow Farm	82 Williams Road

#### Transitional houses (with Federal and Greek Revival details)

	Amy Mowry House	1150 Douglas Pike
+	Harris House	135 Harris Avenue
	Mill Owner's House	294 Stillwater Road, Stillwater
	Esek Smith House	363 Waterman Avenue, Esmond

#### Mill Houses

	Esmond Mill Houses	6-16 Esmond Street, Esmond
	Spragueville Mill Houses	316, 322 Mountindale Road, Spragueville
*	Georgiaville Mill Houses	6-18 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville
*	Stone "Courtyard" Houses	23-29 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville
	Stillwater Mill Houses	297, 299 Stillwater Road, Stillwater

#### Other Federal era structures

**	Esmond Mills Storehouse	5 Esmond Street, Esmond
*	Farnum Hotel/Burke Hotel	78 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
	The Halfway House/Old Yellow Tavern/Reuben Mowry Tavern	378 Farnum Pike
	Greenville Baptist Church	582 Putnam Pike, Greenville
*	Former Dye House	57-59 River Road, Georgiaville
*	House	32 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville
*	House	36 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville
	Dam and Raceway	Woonasquatucket River, Georgiaville

### GREEK REVIVAL (1825-1860)

#### Houses

	A. Burlingame House	22 Brayton Road
	House	1 Church Street, Greenville
*	J. Westcott House	21 Cross Street, Georgiaville
*	J. Brophy House	24 Cross Street, Georgiaville
*	O. Brayton House	26 Cross Street, Georgiaville
*	House	27 Cross Street, Georgiaville
*	Brayton House	29 Cross Street, Georgiaville
	O. Thornton House	20 Esmond Street, Esmond
	Mrs. Otlay House	23 Esmond Street, Esmond
	J. Venner House	43 Esmond Street, Esmond
*	Dr. T. Nutting House	55 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
	Pierce House	76 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
	W. Hopkins House	94 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville

Harris-Brown House	249 Harris Avenue
R.Harris-Suthwurst House	275 Harris Avenue
House	18 Kane Road
Daniel Angell House	26 Limerock Road
J. Gibbons House	122 Limerock Road
William Winsor House	12 Pleasant View Avenue, Greenville
Winsor-Barnes House	519 Putnam Pike, Greenville
T. Barnes House	564 Putnam Pike, Greenville
House	592 Putnam Pike, Greenville
House	596 Putnam Pike, Greenville
House	600 Putnam Pike, Greenville
House	604 Putnam Pike, Greenville
W. Pooke House	624 Putnam Pike, W. Greenville
House	666 Putnam Pike, W. Greenville
House	685 Putnam Pike, W. Greenville
House	686 Putnam Pike, W. Greenville
Mowry House	28 Ridge Road
Watson Homestead	40 Ridge Road
E. Enches House	Rocky Hill Road
Eddy-Sweet House	277 Waterman Avenue
Carey Farm/Maple Lane Farm	117 Williams Lane

## MID-19TH CENTURY PLAIN OR NON-STYLISTIC (1840-1870)

### Houses

A. Mowry House/Brayton Farm	18 Brayton Road
Sayles Mowry House	51 Burlingame Road
Mrs. A. Clark House	494 Douglas Pike
House	18 Esmond Street, Esmond
Clafin House	43 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
C. Day House	931 Greenville Avenue
Double House	261 Mountaindale Road, Mountaindale
Mill Owner's House	311 Mountaindale Road, Spragueville
S. Gross House	705 Putnam Pike, W. Greenville
P. Mowry House	733 Putnam Pike
W. A. Whipple House	11 Smith Avenue, Greenville
House	135 Smith Avenue
W. Maroney House	275 Stillwater Road
A. Smith House	272 Waterman Avenue

### Mill Workers' Houses

Mill Worker's House	891 Greenville Avenue, Fountain Spring
* Boss Row	24-34 Homestead Avenue, Georgiaville
Mill Worker's Houses	3, 5-7 Maple Avenue, Esmond
Stillwater Mill Worker's House	37-39 Stillwater Road, Greenville
Mill Worker's Houses	283-295 Stillwater Road, Stillwater
* Mill Worker's Boarding Houses	34, 38 Whipple Road, Georgiaville

### Houses, Bracketed

Niles House	28 Esmond Street, Esmond
H. C. Cowee House	34 Esmond Street, Esmond
* Wilcox House	54 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville

- |   |                                               |                              |
|---|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| * | J. B. Newell House                            | 61 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville |
|   | George Smith House                            | 561 Putnam Pike, Greenville  |
|   | Mowry Evans House/Winfield<br>Funeral<br>Home | 580 Putnam Pike, Greenville  |
|   | Dr. Gary House                                | 645 Putnam Pike, Greenville  |
|   | House                                         | 647 Putnam Pike, Greenville  |

**Houses, Italianate**

- |    |                              |                                   |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ** | Stephen Winsor House         | 93 Austin Avenue                  |
| *  | St. Michael's Church Rectory | 19 Homestead Avenue, Georgiaville |
| *  | Mill Superintendent's House  | 22 Homestead Avenue, Georgiaville |
|    | J. A. Brown House            | 53 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville  |

**Houses, Second Empire**

- |   |                             |                                 |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * | L. B. Sweet House           | 38 Esmond Street, Esmond        |
|   | Mill Office                 | 27 Higgins Street, Georgiaville |
|   | Oscar Tobey House           | 563 Putnam Pike, Greenville     |
|   | House                       | 590 Putnam Pike, Greenville     |
|   | Mill Superintendent's House | 320 Stillwater Road, Stillwater |

**Houses, Octagonal**

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| J. S. Sweet House | 108 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|

**Houses with a Greek Revival Door or Bracketed Hood**

- |                      |                                     |                                  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| House                | 121 Farnum Pike                     |                                  |
| House                | 129 Farnum Pike                     |                                  |
| William Winsor House | 25 Pleasant View Avenue, Greenville |                                  |
| A.A. Lippitt House   | 70 Ridge Road                       |                                  |
| D. Steere House      | 9 Smith Avenue, Greenville          |                                  |
| *                    | Brayton House                       | 45 Stillwater Road, Georgiaville |
|                      | M. Maloney House                    | 12 Wolf Hill Road, Mountaindale  |

**Non-Residential Structures**

- |    |                                               |                                    |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| *  | Smithfield Union Chapel                       | 60 Branch Pike                     |
|    | Georgiaville Mill                             | 15-25 Higgins Street, Georgiaville |
|    | Wionkhiege District Number 12<br>School       | 343 Log Road                       |
| ** | House                                         |                                    |
|    | St. Thomas Episcopal Church                   | 578 Putnam Pike, Greenville        |
|    | Smithfield Exchange Bank Building             | 595 Putnam Pike, Greenville        |
|    | Former St. Phillip's Roman Catholic<br>Church | 28 Smith Avenue, Greenville        |
|    | Former Store                                  | 311 Stillwater Road, Stillwater    |
|    | Former Stillwater School                      | Stillwater Road, Stillwater        |
|    | District Number 8 School House                | 8 Swan Road                        |
|    | School House                                  | 279 Waterman Avenue                |

## LATE 19TH CENTURY (1865-1900)

### Houses, Queen Anne

- |                                                   |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ethan Thornton House                              | 562 Putnam Pike, Greenville |
| + Richard Waterhouse House/Tucker<br>Funeral Home | 649 Putnam Pike, Greenville |
| Episcopal Parsonage                               | 1 Smith Avenue, Greenville  |

### Plain or Non-Stylistic Houses

- |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| P. McAuley House      | 67 Austin Avenue                  |
| P. McAuley House      | 73 Austin Avenue                  |
| Philips Farmhouse     | 48 Brayton Road                   |
| Sayles Mowry House    | Burlingame Road                   |
| * Price House         | 15 Cross Street, Georgiaville     |
| * Claflin House       | 43 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville      |
| * L. Bouchard House   | 50 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville      |
| Wilcox House          | 54 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville      |
| * J. B. Newell House  | 61 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville      |
| Baptist Parsonage     | 102 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville     |
| R. C. McCormick House | 112 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville     |
| House                 | 129 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville     |
| D. W. Latham House    | 331 Log Road                      |
| D. W. Latham House    | 337 Log Road                      |
| Ethan Thornton House  | 548 Putnam Pike, Greenville       |
| A. A. Lippitt House   | 70 Ridge Road                     |
| * Blanchard House     | 19, 21 Whipple Road, Georgiaville |

### Mill Worker's Houses

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * Mill Worker's Houses | 1-16 Hill Street, Georgiaville |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|

### Other Buildings and Structures

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| * Capron Pond/Stillwater Dam | Capron Road                  |
| Universalist Church          | 47 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville |

## EARLY 20TH CENTURY (1900-1945)

### Houses, Miscellaneous

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| "Two Decker"           | 31 Esmond Street  |
| Camelot                | 256 Farnum Pike   |
| Joseph Ottaviano House | 40 Old Forge Road |

### Houses, Colonial Revival

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Rogler House | 37 Brayton Road |
| House        | 100 Capron Road |

### Houses, English Cottage Style

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Knight House/Ye Olde Tavern | 240 Farnum Pike |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

### Houses, Tudor Revival

House 569 Putnam Pike, Greenville

### Houses for Mill Employees

Esmond Mill Houses 5-14 Elm Court, Esmond  
Esmond Mill Houses 320-338 Waterman Avenue, Esmond  
Esmond Mill Houses Whitman and other streets, Esmond

### Other Buildings and Structures

Adam D. Capron Memorial Bridge	Capron Road
Stillwater Reservoir Dam #108	Farnum Pike
* Irving Cook School	51 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
* Commercial Building	59 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
* Smithfield Town Hall	64 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
* Georgiaville Fire Station	66 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
* Georgiaville Baptist Church	100 Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
Woonasquatucket River Bridge, Number 144	Farnum Pike
Stillwater Viaduct #278	George Washington Highway
William Winsor Memorial School	Putnam Pike, Greenville
Greenville Fire Company	611 Putnam Pike, Greenville
Steere's Beach Club	Putnam Pike
Esmond Mills	340 Waterman Avenue, Esmond

## MID- TO LATE 20TH CENTURY (1945 to present)

### Structures

Bryant College	1150 Douglas Pike
St. Michael's Church	Farnum Pike, Georgiaville
R. I. Carbide Tool Company	Farnum Pike
Stillwater Viaduct, Number 278	George Washington Highway
Baker House	Walter Carey Road

### Farms and Farm Complexes

Stephen Steere Farm	56 Capron Road
Mrs. A. Clark Farm	494 Douglas Pike
Niles Dairy	60 Limerock Road
Wionkhiege Valley Farm	Log Road
Farm Complex	135 Smith Avenue
Arnold Farm	130 Whipple Road
Windy Brow Farm	82 Williams Road

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**THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
The Old State House  
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Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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