

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Forestdale Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Smithfield

STATE: Rhode Island, 02824      CODE: 44      COUNTY: Providence      CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Memorial Town Building, Slatersville

CITY OR TOWN: North Smithfield      STATE: Rhode Island, 02876      CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Forestdale is embanked above the Branch River in the Blackstone Valley, near the centre of Rhode Island's northern borderline with Massachusetts, and is in the town of North Smithfield. It is a village which developed because of the two mills which were (as early as 1824 in the case of the first one) constructed near the river to use its water power. The built-up part of the village was and remains concentrated on (a) a stretch of about one-half mile along Main Street, whose central section runs east and west above mills and river and whose outer portions bend towards north-east and north-west and (b) a length of less than a quarter-mile on Maple Avenue, which runs northerly from the centre of Main Street; there is only one other short linking or intersecting street. This area comprises approximately fifty to fifty-two acres and to-day contains fifty or sixty buildings (a small number being modern insertions); only a few of the buildings, however, have individually as much as an acre of land. (An 1870 map shows closer to thirty buildings, and an 1895 lithographic view shows about thirty-five.)

Except that the first factory of 1824 and its dependencies have been pulled down and some of the workers' houses altered in exterior detail, Forestdale remains in size and aspect much as it was in the latter half of the XIX Century, and the most notable buildings or building types are described below:

The cotton mill was built in 1860 for Mansfield and Lamb, who had bought an adjacent scythe factory (of 1824) and the village. It is sited above falls in the Branch River, but on a level much lower than Main Street, and is a three-storey timber-framed structure walled in stone and carrying a gable roof with pedimented dormers; its dimensions before additions were 166 feet by 68 feet. Projecting massively from the centre of the north elevation is a tower which was originally of four storeys and which has entrance and freight doorways at the various levels and round, keystone windows in the fourth one. When the mill was enlarged c. 1885 this tower was built up another full storey in masonry, where slit windows appear, and trimmed at the top with machicolation; it was then capped by a fine Shingle Style open belfry of wood which shows some lattice-work and has a peaked roof with copper ornament. The other addition to the main building at that time was a four-storey western extension of 65 feet by 45 feet, of brick-pier construction covered by a low pitched roof.

The mill office is a small rectangular storey-and-a-half, gable-roofed building, apparently of the 1860's also, and is located on the high Main Street border of the mill site; a bridge connects it with an entrance in the third level of the mill tower. The office building is covered by clapboarding and displays Victorian-Italianate trim--

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

quoining, a deep cornice above paired brackets, strongly - moulded architraves enframing windows and bearing heavy crown mouldings. The schoolhouse near the eastern end of the village, though slightly larger (and originally having a little belfry) echoes this design.

The store-and-post-office building built in 1858 still stands in excellent condition across Main Street from the mill property, on a corner of Maple Avenue. It is L-shaped and gable-roofed, containing two-and-a-half storeys. Granite posts and lintels permit wide street-level door and window openings along its south front; above, that front is faced in brick, but stone entirely faces sides and rear. The eastern part of the "L," which still houses the post office, has a stepped brick "false front" concealing the gable facing Main Street. The west wing is now used for offices, and the whole structure has recently been renovated.

Houses formerly occupied by the proprietors and overseers of the mills are located in the Maple Street area, and are roomy but not excessively large or pretentious two-and-a-half-storey wooden structures in the Victorian bracketed and "stick" or "shingle" styles, set back on lawns and accompanied by stables or barns.

The workers' housing is ranged along the south side of Main Street's north-eastern stretch and along the north side of its north-western stretch. With one exception, it consists of clapboarded, gable-roofed duplex dwellings of either one-and-a-half or two-and-a-half storeys. These houses mostly have paired central front doors of simple Greek Revival style with sidelights, and are trimmed with panelled corner pilasters. Strikingly different is a single one-and-one-half-storey house opposite the mill: it is faced in local stone in alternating tall and short ashlar courses whose varying coloration produces a striped effect; here the two entrances are placed at the end of the front elevation rather than paired at its centre. Most of these houses have in front of them grass plots contained by stone retaining-walls. Some houses have had alteration in the form of new exterior wall coverings, modern porches and changed window openings or sash; the numerous privies ranged along behind the houses and noticeable in the 1895 view are no longer present.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century;       18th Century;       20th Century  
 15th Century;       17th Century;       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1824, 1860, 1885

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Forestdale, little changed physically, is typical of the many mill villages which have formed Rhode Island's heritage of early industrial architecture, which Henry-Russell Hitchcock has said to be "unique in America (and possibly the world)." The use of Forestdale as an industrial site dates from at least 1824, when water rights were acquired by Newton Darling to establish there a scythe manufactory. This was the dominant local industry until 1860, when Mansfield and Lamb, who had acquired the scythe works, erected above the 14-foot waterfalls a neighbouring stone mill for the production of cotton. During excavation, a large quantity of usable small flat stones was found and was employed in the building of the cotton mill itself and in enlarging the scythe shops and other buildings.

The village had its heyday in the latter half of the XIX Century, and during that period its prosperity and its paternalistic management were constant and successful; a small railroad station (no longer standing) and a public school were built. Now, matters are different: the scythe factory is gone; so are paternalism and company ownership. Persons living in houses now owned by themselves drive out to work elsewhere, and other workers drive in to work in the cotton mill.

Yet the visual entity still exists. From a distance, on an interstate highway, the mill tower remains a landmark, and in the village the mill and tower are still the presiding elements. Much stands as it did one hundred years ago: there remains the basic layout; the old buildings are still there--with some changes, some new construction (the latter mostly away from the centre and the mill). There are telephone wires and a few electric signs. Some workers' houses display in minor exterior applications the fancies of present owners, but they nevertheless remain in their original planned placement, size and form.

This small locale presents in intimate and quickly understandable form an excellent picture of mid-XIX-Century rural, industrial Rhode Island, both sociologically and architecturally. Fortunately, people in Forestdale, and the North Smithfield Heritage Association as well, wish to preserve this presentation: a first goal is restoration of the mill tower, which is looked upon as the village's "symbol" and which still, with its high and picturesque help, announces Forestdale to those far away.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chase, David: An Historical Survey of Rhode Island Textile Mills (Unpublished for the Department of Fine Arts, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 1969), Listing number 22.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr.: Rhode Island Architecture (Providence, Rhode Island, 1939), pp. 36 ff.

Nebiker, Walter: "North Smithfield a Century Ago" (in The 1972 Rhode Island Yearbook, Providence, Rhode Island, 1972, pp. 77-78).

Steere, Thomas: History of the Town of Smithfield (Providence, Rhode Island, 1881), pp. 94-95.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41° 50' 57.95N	71° 34' 01.82W		°	'	"
NE	41° 59' 57.89N	71° 33' 35.15W				
SE	41° 59' 47.29N	71° 33' 34.49W				
SW	41° 59' 16.04N	71° 34' 03.86W				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50-52 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: April 22, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906

CODE: RI

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

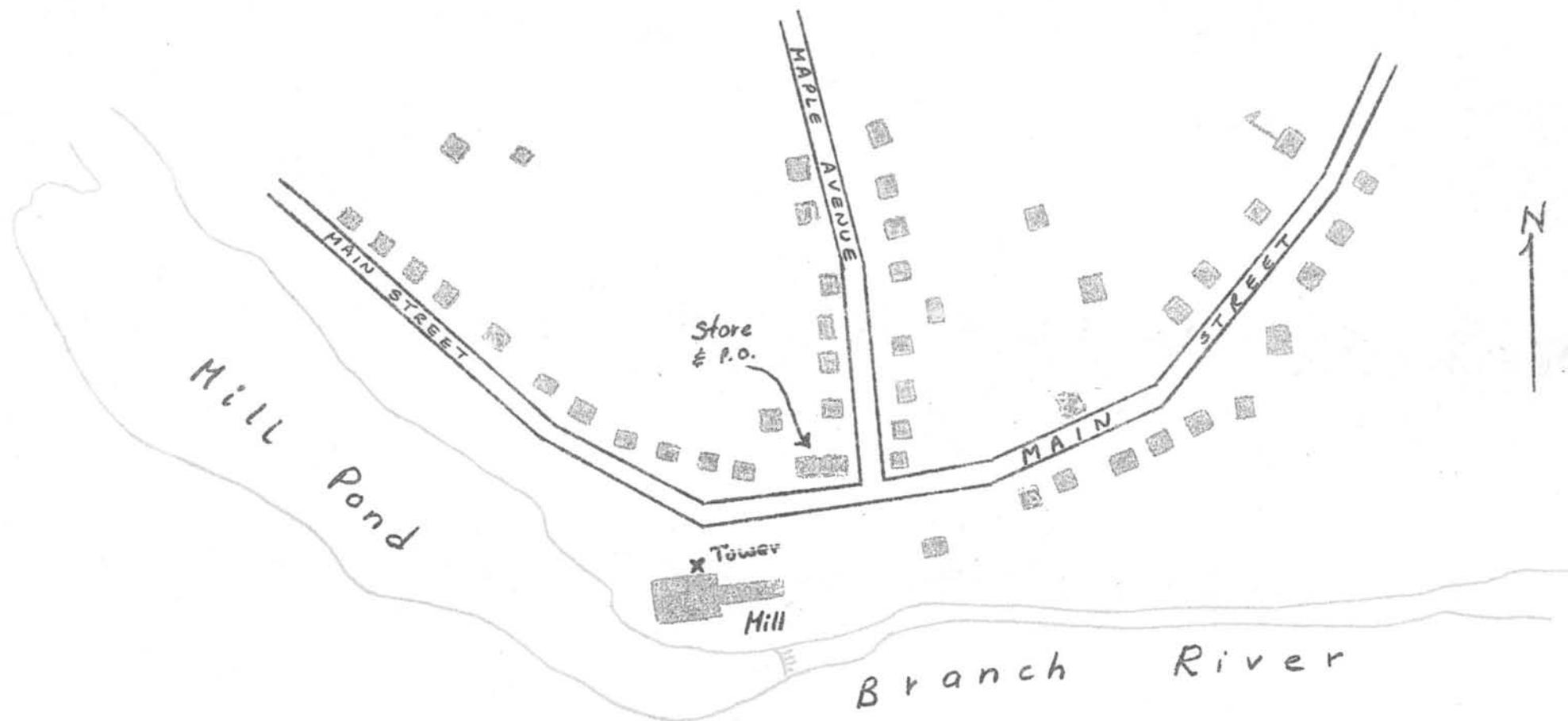
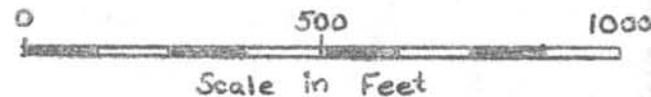
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# Forestdale Mill Villiage Historical Dist.

FOREST DALE, R.I.

After U.S.G.S., 1954



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

North Smithfield

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Walter Nebiker, after U. S. G. S. map, Georriaville quadrant,  
1954

SCALE: 3": 1,000'

DATE: 1954; adaptation, 1972

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: North Smithfield			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Hertfelder			
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: North Smithfield			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Hertfelder			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Cotton mill, showing tower, seen from the north-west.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

North Smithfield

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: April, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,  
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Mill office on Main Street in front of the mill, seen from the north-east.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: North Smithfield			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene			
DATE OF PHOTO: April, 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Store and post-office building of 1858, on Main Street at the corner of Maple Avenue, seen from the south-east.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

North Smithfield

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Hertfelder

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,  
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Two-family workers' house of stone from the factory site across  
Main Street.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Running east and west along Main Street, northerly upon Maple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

North Smithfield

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

11

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Hertfelder

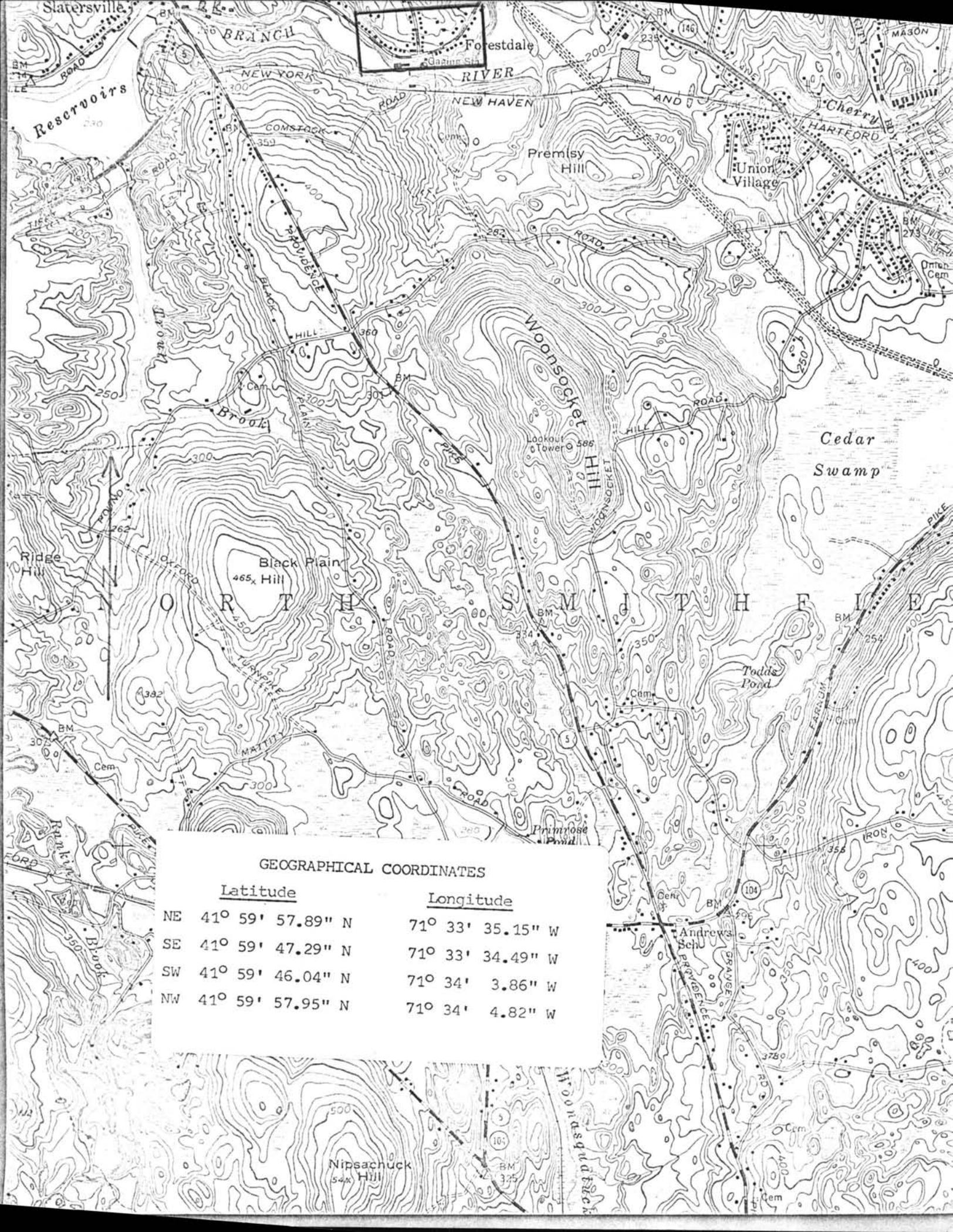
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,  
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Typical workers' housing along Main Street.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
NE	41° 59' 57.89" N	71° 33' 35.15" W
SE	41° 59' 47.29" N	71° 33' 34.49" W
SW	41° 59' 46.04" N	71° 34' 3.86" W
NW	41° 59' 57.95" N	71° 34' 4.82" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Forestdale Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Running east and west along Main Street, northerly along Maple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

North Smithfield

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1954

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.