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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Wanskuck Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The triangle bounded by Branch Avenue,  
Veazie Street, and Woodward Road and adjacent areas N.A. not for publication  
city, town Providence N.A. vicinity of #1 - Hon. Fernand J. St Germain  
congressional district

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N.A. in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple--see owners list on file at Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Providence City Hall

street & number 25 Dorrance Street

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 0290

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet #1 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date See continuation sheet #1  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records See continuation sheet #1

city, town state

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Historic American Engineering Record  
1978

Historic American Engineering Record, Dept. of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-P-6: Providence  
Industrial Sites

July 1981

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
Providence, RI

Providence Citywide Survey (draft report)  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
Providence, RI

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wanskuck Historic District, located in the extreme northern corner of the city of Providence, contains two mill complexes, over sixty residences, two churches, and a former community hall, all representing the area's development as a mill site from the eighteenth through the early twentieth century (photo #1). West River, a narrow stream that disappears beneath the asphalt parking lot of a modern shopping center southeast of the district, was the focus for industrial development here and was dammed to form two mill ponds, Wanskuck and Whipple's Ponds. Wanskuck Pond, once a visually dominant physical feature, has been drained and its site is now a marsh within the triangle formed by the district's three major roads: Branch Avenue, Veazie Street, and Woodward Road. Its dam exists as an embankment along the eastern edge of the marsh, with an outlet for the river under a small bridge (see district map). Upstream, Whipple's Pond remains within the area north and west of Branch Avenue and Veazie Street, set well back from both streets, with a twentieth-century concrete dam and sluice and a concrete-walled trench running parallel to the river. The Wanskuck Mill stands east of the site of Wanskuck Pond and the Steere Mill east of Whipple's Pond. Both are extensive, rambling brick complexes that have evolved over the years since their beginnings in the mid- and late nineteenth century, respectively. North and south of the Wanskuck Pond site are two areas of mill-related housing, including two mansions that formerly housed the mills' upper-level managers, about sixty two-family tenements of the double-house and two-decker varieties, two block-long row houses, and single-family dwellings. Noteworthy intrusions include the construction of State Route 146 (which necessitated the realignment of the southeastern end of Woodward Road, the elimination of several short side streets, and the demolition or relocation of dwellings in the area), the erection of a few modern residences, and the application of modern aluminum and vinyl siding to some of the historic housing stock. Despite these changes, the community fabric that evolved here in conjunction with the growth of the Wanskuck Company from the 1860s through the 1920s remains relatively intact and well maintained.

The long, five-story brick mass of the Wanskuck Mill's main building,\* erected in the early 1860s along the north side of Branch Avenue, is fronted by an unusual tower with an octagonal belfry topped by an ogee-curve roof. The mill complex, now quarters of a number of small businesses, serves as a prominent local landmark and anchors the district's eastern edge. Opposite the west end of the mill is Wanskuck Hall (photo #4), built as a combination commercial building and community hall in 1884 and converted to office use in this century. This two-story brick structure is exuberantly ornamented with bands of burned brick and limestone, patterned brickwork, incised wooden panels, and delicate wooden braces supporting the broad eaves of its hip roof.

\*Photos #2 & #3.

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To the west, on a slight slope rising south of Branch Avenue, are twenty-five one-and-one-half-story, company-built double houses arranged within blocks delineated by an asymmetrical grid of streets (photos #5 and #6). Most are wood-frame buildings, the majority constructed at the same time as the 1860s mill. Though a number are now covered with modern siding, their visual unity as a group is largely unimpaired by virtue of the strong formal similarity of the houses. Within this housing group southwest of the mill is a block of eight identical, brick double houses, four facing Winchester Street and four facing Vicksburg Street, with back yards filling the center of the block (photo #7). The rather unusual pier-and-panel construction of these buildings and the composition of the group are reminiscent of English mill operatives' housing, perhaps not an accidental coincidence since the American woolen industry was greatly influenced by British practices. In addition to the wooden and brick double houses, this enclave of company-built housing includes five other wood-frame buildings: two single-family dwellings, a commercial-residential building with one flat above a storefront, and two multi-unit tenements, one of which (photo #8) was apparently constructed contemporaneously with an earlier, non-extant factory erected here in the second decade of the nineteenth century. Further south of and slightly removed from the assemblage described above are two long, two-story, brick row houses (photo #9) flanking a tree-shaded common courtyard and paved parking area in the block bounded by Shiloh and Hyacinth Streets and Harwol Court.

Between Veazie Street and Whipple's Pond is the district's other mill complex, built as the Steere Worsted Mill in the 1880s (photo #10 and #11). It is a large, asymmetrical brick structure comprising extensive wings and additions appended to a three-story, low-pitch gable-roof block accented by a handsome, flat-roof (originally hip-roof) tower with corner pilasters, blind arches, and circular windows. East of this factory, in the vicinity of the Veazie Street bridge over West River, is the site of an eighteenth-century sawmill, the first recorded mill activity at this waterpower site, while northwest of the factory a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel roof, wooden dwelling survives which may well be the homestead of the family that owned the sawmill and succeeding, no-longer-extant manufactories here that predated construction of the Steere Mill.

South of Steere Mill and Whipple's Pond, on Branch Avenue, are four structures that are current or former parish buildings of St. Edward Roman Catholic Church. The complex focusses on a large red-brick, stone-trimmed Gothic Revival church on the north side of the street (photo # ). This landmark edifice, with a prominent central foretower surmounted by a broach spire, was erected between 1885 and 1889 for a congregation founded in 1865 as a mission to serve the numerous Irish Catholic employees of the Wanskuck Mill. The church is flanked on the east by a two-story,

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flat-roof, red-brick school built in 1907-1908 (photo #13) and by a one-story, gable-on-hip-roof, brick parish hall built in 1916-1917 (photo #14). Across Branch Avenue is a one-and-one-half-story, mansard-roof, clapboard-sheathed dwelling with a bracketed door and hood and cornice (photo #15). This house, originally erected west of the church, served as the first rectory and, after the move to its present site, as the first convent for the parish.

The last major area of development lies along Woodward Road, which begins just east of the Wanskuck Mill and runs northwesterly in a curve around the mill complex. The residential building stock here is different in character than that south of Branch Avenue. The Greek Revival frame dwelling at 14 Newport Street was the home of Shadrach Manton, a farmer-turned-industrialist who owned much of the land north of Woodward Road between what is now Wanskuck Park and the Branch Avenue exit of State Route 146. Construction here of the large mansard-roof house at 180-182 Woodward, the assistant mill superintendent's house at 158 Woodward (photo #16), and the Metcalf Estate (now Wanskuck Park) in the 1870s seemed to indicate that a more exclusive residential area would evolve here. In the 1880s, however, several short dead-end streets were laid out on the Manton property, and this section was built up in ensuing years with the mix of modest single-family and two-decker, company-built and privately-built dwellings that now define the neighborhood's scale and character (photo #17). Despite the intrusions created by the construction of several mid-twentieth-century houses and the residing of several older houses with modern materials, the area appears essentially the same as it did by World War I.

The north end of the district encompasses Wanskuck Park, originally the estate of the Metcalf family, partners in and later exclusive proprietors of the Wanskuck Company. The main house is now gone but several outbuildings, a wrought-iron gate, and a stone wall along part of the Woodward Road frontage remain, together with informal plantings of trees and shrubs on an undulating expanse of lawn. Across Woodward Road from the park is the Roger Williams Baptist Church (photo #18), a handsome Gothic-style granite edifice erected under the auspices of the Wanskuck Mill proprietors for Protestant employees of the company. The church stands on a triangular plot adjacent to the terminus of Veazie Street. A recent housing project, southeast of the church off Veazie Street on former Wanskuck Company land, is excluded from the district as non-contributing development.

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## INVENTORY

Contributing structures include buildings erected during Wanskuck's period of growth and development as a prosperous manufacturing center--from the 1860s through the 1920s--together with a few earlier buildings which reflect prior development in the area and which are architecturally compatible with the company-built or company-oriented structures. Most of the buildings are vernacular structures which cannot be readily classified according to conventional stylistic terminology. The repetitive recurrence of several basic building types, especially among the company-built housing, is an important feature of the neighborhood fabric and has been a prime consideration in differentiating between structures which contribute to the significance of the district and those which do not. Although a number of structures have been resheathed with modern wall-cover materials, original trim elements such as door and window frames, corner boards, bargeboards, cornices, etc., often remain. Such buildings have been defined as contributing because they are an important part of the historical fabric of the district and they could be restored to their original appearance. In cases where trim elements have been removed or totally covered, the buildings have generally still been defined as contributing since their form, massing, and siting make them essentially parts of historic block-scapes. Unless otherwise noted, buildings are of wood-frame construction.

Much of the company-built housing can be classified into three types. These are described hereafter as Types A, B, and C and are referred to as such in the inventory below.

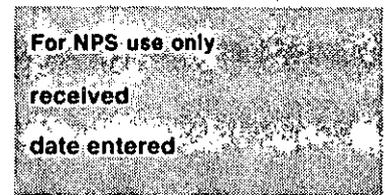
✓ Type A (photo # 5): A tall 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, wood-frame, two-family dwelling with paired interior chimneys of brick. The facade contains a single, sidelighted central entrance flanked by two windows on each side, with small second-floor windows. The entrance has flat-board pilaster-and-entablature trim with a projecting cornice above, an extremely simplified version of Greek Revival detailing. The door and windows are grouped toward the center of the facade, leaving broad, blank wall surfaces at each end. All houses of this type were originally covered with clapboards, but almost all have been resheathed. Present wall-cover materials are identified in the entries for individual buildings.

Type B (photo #19): A tall 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, wood-frame double house with paired interior chimneys of brick. Paired central entrances with transoms are sheltered by a single shed-roof hood carried by triangular braces. A shed-roof dormer breaks up through the eaves above the entrances. There are two windows on each side of the entrances at first-floor level and small second-story windows

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under the eaves over the space between the first-floor windows. The raking eaves are trimmed with plain bargeboards with circular cut-outs at the lower ends.

Type C (photo # 7): A tall 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, brick double house with pier-and-panel wall articulation, central gables breaking the eaves at front and rear, and paired interior chimneys of brick. The house is six bays wide and four bays deep. The facade contains paired, sidelighted central entrances, two first-floor windows on each side of the entrances, and second-floor windows in the gable above the entrances. All door and window openings have granite sills and lintels.

**CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES**

**ABRAM STREET** (The addresses listed are the ones in common use, though they do not conform to a rational numbering system)

1-23 Wanskuck Company Warehouse (ca 1880): This 2-story brick structure replaced an earlier wooden storehouse on this site. A pair of low gables face Abram Street. Each covers three bays, the central one of which holds large freight doors at both floors. The side bays are unbroken, recessed panels. An unsympathetically designed, recently constructed concrete addition connects the warehouse to Wanskuck Hall (754-56 Branch Avenue).

19-20 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling altered by the installation of wood shingles and aluminum awnings.

**BRANCH AVENUE**

725 Wanskuck Mill (1862-64, with additions): The 5-story brick mill stretches for about 400 feet along the north side of Branch Avenue. The top four stories are a flat vertical plane broken by a rectangular rhythm of segmental-arch windows. A slightly off-center tower projects forward, as does the first floor. The design of the tower is unusual: copper-flashed, sloping triangular panels effect a transition from its 3-story square base to an open, octagonal belfry topped by an ogee-curved, copper roof with a tall finial. A 2-story, brick structure with Romanesque Revival detailing, built as the mill's second office, edges the sidewalk in front of the mill's eastern half. A number of connected and free-standing structures, all of brick, complete the complex.

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Branch Avenue (cont.)

50? The chronology of construction of the Wanskuck Woolen Mill is complex, beginning with demolition in 1862 of a 3-story, stone, gambrel-roofed cotton mill that had been on the site since about 1811. Between 1862 and 1864 William H. Salisbury, the mill's first superintendent, directed construction of the 4-story, gable-roofed brick mill that measured 300 by 500 feet with a 134 by 40-foot ell. (Within a few decades the gable roof was removed and a fifth story and flat roof were added). Built at the same time were a gas house, a round gasometer, a blacksmith shop, boiler house, engine house, and office (replaced in the late 19th century by the structure now on Branch Avenue). The gasworks provided gas lighting for the mill. Operations were powered by Corliss engines, and water from the West River was reserved for washing wool. In 1869 the company was one of the first in the United States to experiment with worsted production, and to house this expanding operation a 4-story, 348 by 71-foot extension to the west was completed in 1874 as well as a new dyehouse and power plant. A 3-story, 100 by 50-foot picker house and dyehouse had been added in the previous year. Machinery was constantly being upgraded and much of it, particularly that related to worsted production, was imported from England. In 1883 about \$20,000 was spent on electric lighting, making Wanskuck the first mill in Rhode Island to boast this modern convenience. By 1895 the mill also had a telephone connection. The 3-story, 306 by 72-foot eastern extension was added in 1906, as was a 1-story engine room and adjacent boiler room. There were few other changes after that time. The mill was closed in 1957, and the space has since been divided and rented to a number of small firms.

- 750 Wanskuck Company Garage and Stable (between 1908 and 1918): Two separate buildings constructed of brick. A long 1-story structure with a low, nearly flat shed roof is set parallel to Branch Avenue. Its facade, originally infilled entirely with garage doors, is now partly enclosed with a modern aluminum-frame storefront, and a concrete-block extension has been added on its east end. Behind the 1-story building is a 2-story, flat-roof structure with flat-top and segmental-arch doors and windows and a shallow corbeled cornice. According to a 1921 insurance map the 1-story building was used as a garage and the 2-story one as a stable.

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Branch Avenue (cont.)

- 754-756 Wanskuck Hall (1881): A handsome, 2-story brick structure built by the Wanskuck Company for use as a community hall. Broad eaves of the hip roof are supported by delicately arched, wooden braces. Stars and circles are cut in boards covering the rafter ends. A central front gable breaks through the eaves over three second-story, segmental-arch windows set under a segmental relieving arch infilled with patterned brickwork and a limestone block with the building's name carved in raised lettering. The first floor facade is divided by segmental arches into four unequal bays, one of which holds a recessed doorway while the others contain windows. The variety of materials and ornamentation reflects the era's love of "structural polychromy" and of the picturesque. Light limestone spandrels, stringcourses of limestone and blackened bricks, designs patterned by recessed brickwork and diapering, carved and molded wooden panels, and a granite foundation make a lively composition. An unsightly, windowless, concrete warehouse extension has recently been added to the rear to connect the hall with 1-23 Abram Street, the Wanskuck Company Warehouse. The interior has undergone several major renovations and is now used exclusively for office space.
- 758 Mill House (ca 1850?): A slightly different version of the Type A dwelling, with two small second-floor windows under the eaves, above the first-floor windows flanking the central entrance. The doors and windows are more closely grouped toward the center of the facade than they are on the standard Type A dwellings. Modern changes include shingle siding and shutters. The house is similar to 770 Branch Avenue. Both 758 and 770 Branch Avenue have stuccoed stone foundations, while the Type A dwellings have brick foundations. These slight differences indicate a construction date different from and probably earlier than that of the Type A dwellings. Old maps and deeds indicate that there were dwellings south of today's Branch Avenue, west of the mill, before Wanskuck Company development of the 1860s.
- 764 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling now covered with asbestos shingles.

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Branch Avenue (cont.)

- 770 Mill House (ca 1850?): Type A variant identical in form to 758 Branch Avenue, but with asbestos-shingle siding. See entry above for number 758.
- 776 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling now covered with shingles.
- 784 Mill House (ca 1850?; 1871?): A tall 1½-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with paired brick interior chimneys and a 5-bay facade with a central entrance. It is set on a sloping lot with a high brick foundation a full story above ground on the front (north side). There is a shed-roof hood on triangular braces over the main entrance and narrow, flat-board entablature trim across the front and back walls. Asbestos shingles have been installed over the original clapboards. Unique among the houses within the district, this may be the "new dwelling westerly of the factory, 1½-stories with brick basement" mentioned in an 1850 lease of the "Wenscott factory" property, or it may be one of the three new tenements erected by Wanskuck in 1871 and mentioned in company records of that year.
- 865 Wanskuck Company Store and House (ca 1895): A 2½-story, flank-gable-roof, shingle-sheathed residential and commercial building set at the northeast corner of Branch Avenue and Veazie Street, with asymmetrical facades on both streets. A surviving fascia band and projecting cornice mark the position of a street-corner storefront which has been partly filled in with wooden siding and now contains an entrance and a picture window. On the opposite end of the Branch Avenue front is an original doorway trimmed with a broad, plain, flat-board entablature and projecting cornice. A new doorway has also been cut into the Veazie Street facade. The building has broad, overhanging raking eaves with returns at the lower corners. The store was first occupied by Miss Etta Gillooly, a milliner, in 1896.

993 St. Edward Church Complex: A group of four structures, three north of Branch Avenue and one south, built over a period of forty-two years to serve the functional needs of this Roman Catholic congregation. The parish had its origin in a mission, first called St. Joseph Church of Geneva, established

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## Branch Avenue (cont.)

in 1865 by the Reverend Edward J. Cooney to serve the Irish Catholics attracted to the area by employment opportunities at the Wanskuck and Geneva Mills. The congregation was offered a building site by the Wanskuck Company but chose instead to purchase the properties on which the existing buildings stand. The first church was completed in 1867 on the site of the present church, and three years later a school was started in the church basement. In 1874 St. Joseph of Geneva became an independent parish and changed its name to St. Edward, for the Wanskuck area was annexed to Providence in that year and there was already an earlier St. Joseph Church in the city. The congregation grew steadily as the nearby mills attracted more Catholic workers, first Irish and later French Canadians and a few Germans and Italians, and in ensuing decades several major building projects were undertaken to improve accommodations for the parish and its clergy. A rectory to house the resident pastor was constructed west of the church in 1875 and a new, larger church (the present structure) was built on the site of the first one between 1885 and 1889. The old church, which had been moved north-easterly from its original location, was converted entirely to school use. In 1891 the old rectory was moved across Branch Avenue to its present location and a new rectory was built on its former site. The old rectory was then refitted as a convent for the nuns who operated the parochial school. The present school east of the church was built in 1907-08 and the old church/school was then demolished. In 1911 a new convent was established east of the old convent in what had been an addition on the rectory, detached, moved here, and remodeled for this purpose. The old rectory/convent was subsequently sold. The final project involved the construction of a parish hall northwesterly of the second rectory in 1916-1917; it was converted into a school annex in 1951. The second convent (1911) and second rectory (1891) have both been demolished within the past ten years but the other parish buildings are intact, including the original rectory/convent now in private ownership. These structures attest to the church's important role as the primary religious, cultural, and social center for the Catholic population of Wanskuck in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Architecturally, the church is a fine example of a late Victorian Gothic style ecclesiastical edifice with a landmark steeple visible from much of the Wanskuck district. In addition the old rectory is a well preserved example of a typical

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Branch Avenue (cont.)

late 19th-century dwelling with a mansard roof and bracketed trim, and the school is notable for the picturesque effect created by its inventive combination of classical detailing with richly textured paneled, banded, and corbeled brickwork.

- 979 St. Edward Parochial School (1907-1908; Murphy, Hindle & Wright, architects): A 2-story, flat-roof structure with a high basement, constructed of red brick with some limestone trim. It is a rectangular-block mass with entrances located in the sides of the main block and a wing attached to the rear. The street facade has eight banks of windows, two at each end of each floor, and a broad central wall panel containing a large incised-stone name plaque at main-floor level below an empty second-floor arched niche with engaged columns supporting a barrel hood. Exterior wall surfaces are articulated in a complex pattern of piers, recessed panels, projecting bands, stringcourses, and sills, topped by a corbel table and modillions at the cornice.
- 984 Original St. Edward Rectory, later St. Edward Convent (1875, 1892; John P. Murphy, architect): A handsome 1½-story, clapboard-sheathed, mansard-roof dwelling with a 5-bay facade containing a central entrance. The house is ornamented with a massive, bracketed door hood, architrave-trimmed windows surmounted by deep cornices, and eaves brackets. There is a bay window on the east side and a rear ell.
- 993 St. Edward Church (1885-1889; James Murphy, architect): A lofty late Gothic Revival structure built of red brick with a few contrasting stone trimmings. Set on a high basement, it is basilican in plan, with buttressed walls. Tall 1-story aisles flank a tall 2-story nave fronted by a slightly projecting, 3-story central tower. The tower is surmounted by a wooden belfry and a shingle-clad broach spire containing steeply gabled dormers. The nave, lighted by clerestory windows, is covered by a gable roof terminating in small hips on each side of the tower. The aisles have shed roofs over most of their lengths, but each has a steep cross-gable roof over its front bay, giving these units the appearance of small subsidiary towers. Projecting vestibules covered with complex combination end-gable-and-hip roofs are set in front of each aisle. They apparently contained doorways originally but the openings have been partly blocked up and filled with windows. The main entrance to the upper church

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## Branch Avenue (cont.)

is in the base of the tower, and there are entrances to the basement in the front of the nave mass on each side of the tower. Each aisle bay contains a triple window with a taller central unit; other fenestration is complex. All door and window openings are pointed Gothic arches. There is a 1-story sacristy connected to the northwest corner of the church.

- 1009 St. Edward Parish Hall (1916-1917; Thomas S. McLaughlin, architect): A plain, one-story, gable-on-hip-roof, rectangular brick structure set with its narrow end toward Branch Avenue. Its main entrance, on the south end, has a massive timberwork hood influenced by Craftman Bungalow design.

## DAKOTA STREET

- 14 John Bennett House (ca 1895): A tall 1½-story, end-gable-roof dwelling with subsidiary gables breaking through the eaves on each side; 1-story, polygonal bay windows on the front and southerly side; and a side-hall entrance under an unsupported hip-roof hood. The bay windows and door hood are all ornamented with rows of tiny cornice brackets. Wall surfaces below the gables were originally clapboarded but are now shingled; the gables themselves contain cut shinglework. The house was built for John Bennett, a weaver.
- 19 House (between 1910 and 1915): A 2-story, pyramidal-roof dwelling with an off-center, 1-story, polygonal bay window on the facade and a side-hall entrance sheltered by a porch. The first story is covered with clapboards and the second story with shingles. It is nearly identical to the houses at 20 Newport Street and 12 Squanto Street. This building was moved here in the late 1950s when construction work on State Route 146 necessitated the removal of houses on Branch Avenue, lower Woodward Road, and Illinois Street.
- 21 House (between 1895 and 1905): A tall 1½-story, end-gable-roof, shingled dwelling with side gables breaking the eaves line; a 1-story, off-center, polygonal bay window on the facade; and a side-hall entrance. It is similar to 14 Dakota. This building was moved here in the late 1950s when construction on State Route 146 necessitated removal of houses on Branch Avenue, lower Woodward Road, and Illinois Street.

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## HARWOL COURT

- 13-24 Wanskuck Company Row House (1863-64): A long, 2-story, flank-gable-roof, 12-unit brick structure with a 30-bay facade composed of six 5-bay, center-entry modular units. The broad entrance bays, with white-painted lintels, each contain slightly recessed paired doorways. There are entranceways on both the street and rear facades. On the street facade there is a single window, set off slightly to one side, over each entrance bay. The roof is punctuated by twelve brick interior chimneys. This is one of two identical rows that flank a courtyard-like space in the block bounded by Harwol Court (an L-shaped street with a 90° corner) and Shiloh and Hyacinth Streets. The companion building is at 1-12 Shiloh Street (see entry below).

## HOUGHTON STREET

- 9 Whipple House (late 18th or early 19th century): A 1½-story, flank-gambrel-roof, shingled dwelling with a massive brick center chimney, a 4-bay facade, a front entrance in a small 1-story ell on the west side, and an entrance in the east side. The property from Whipple's Pond to Veazie Street, occupied in part by this house and the Steere Mill (see entry at 81 Wild Street), belonged to the Whipple family for more than a century prior to its acquisition by the Wanskuck Company in 1882. By 1772 Jonathan Whipple was operating a sawmill here on West River near a newly established road which is the present Veazie Street. This house may date from that period or earlier, and was certainly standing by the time Thomas J. Whipple was operating a factory near the site of Steere Mill in the early 19th century.

## HUGO STREET

- 11-12 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling altered by the installation of aluminum siding and shutters.
- 70 Wanskuck Company Store and House (ca 1898): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed structure with side gables breaking the eaves and an intact period storefront on the first-floor facade. The storefront has a recessed central entrance flanked by plate-glass show windows. Robert Lemay, a grocer, had opened a store here by 1899. The grocery was later operated by the Desjarlais brothers, one a former mill laborer, who eventually moved into the flat above the store.

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Hugo Street (cont.)

112-113 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling covered with asbestos shingles. A modern aluminum awning has been installed over the front entrance.

IOWA STREET

- 18 Martin J. Golden House (1914-15): A 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, shingled bungalow with a recessed front veranda and a shed-roof front dormer. The raking eaves of this dwelling have a wide overhang ornamented with massive triangular braces. The original owner, Martin J. Golden, was an overseer at the Wanskuck Mill.
- 24 George M. Scholefield House (1918): A 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, shingled bungalow with a recessed front veranda and a gabled front dormer. It was built for George M. Scholefield, an inspector at the Wanskuck Mill.
- 25 House (late 19th century): A tall 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, shingled dwelling with a 3-bay facade. It has a central entrance sheltered by a plain, hip-roof porch; a central gabled dormer breaking through the eaves above the entrance; and small second-floor windows under the eaves over the first-floor windows. It was moved here about 1957 when construction of State Route 146 necessitated the removal of houses along Branch Avenue, lower Woodward Road, and Illinois Street.
- 26 Carlton R. Weeks House (1923): A 1½-story, end-gable-roof, shingled dwelling with a hip-roof front veranda, shed-roof dormers on each side, and eaves bracketing formed by exposed rafters. It is identical to the house next door at number 30. The lots on which numbers 26 and 30 stand were purchased jointly by Carlton R. (aka Raymond C.) Weeks and James Blakely and then conveyed to a third party, who sold the lots back separately to Weeks and Blakely. Weeks was a chauffeur.
- 30 James Blakely House (1923): A 1½-story, end-gable-roof, shingled dwelling identical to number 26 (see entry above). Blakely was a percher (textile inspector) at the Wanskuck Mill.

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Iowa Street (cont.)

- 34 Norman Wakeling House (1927): A 1½-story, jerkin-head-roof, shingled dwelling with an off-center, 1-story front projection flanked by a glazed entrance porch, both covered by the same hip roof. It was built for Norman Wakeling, a railroad section hand.

MINNESOTA STREET

- 17 Patrick J. and Catherine McGee House (1927): A 1½-story, hip-roof, shingled dwelling set narrow end to the street, with hip-roof dormers at the front and rear and a screened veranda across the front. The shingles are laid in alternating wide and narrow rows, creating a banded wall surface. The Wanskuck Company sold this land to the McGees, who subsequently built the house. Mr. McGee was a finisher.
- 23 William and Margaret Walton House (1927): A 1-story, hip-roof, shingled dwelling set narrow end to the street, with a side-hall entrance sheltered by a hip-roof, glazed porch. The Wanskuck Company sold this property to the Waltons, who subsequently built the house. William Walton was a weaver.

NEWPORT STREET

- 14 Shadrach Manton House (ca 1852): A tall 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed Greek Revival dwelling with paired interior chimneys and a 5-bay facade containing a central entrance. The entranceway, with a recessed door, sidelights, and transom, is trimmed with paneled pilasters and an entablature with a projecting cornice. Broad entablature trim runs across the front and rear walls, broken by tiny second-floor windows under the eaves. There is a lower 1½-story ell extending from the north side. This well preserved and maintained house is set far back from the street on a large landscaped lot. This is a rare surviving example in the neighborhood of a moderately elaborate Greek Revival house type which served as a model for the plainer, vernacular Type A company-built housing. Shadrach Manton (1819-1893) was a one-time farmer who became involved in the manufacture of braid, perhaps in association with Heaton & Cowing at their mill at Geneva, up the West River less than a mile westerly of this house.

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Newport Street (cont.)

- 20 Samuel E. Slade House (1912-13): A 2-story, pyramidal-roof dwelling with a side-hall entrance under a hip-roof entrance porch adjoining a 1-story bay window on the facade. The porch has very thin Tuscan columns. The shingled wall surface has a banded effect created by alternating rows of narrow and broad butts. The house is nearly identical to 12 Squanto Street and was first occupied by Samuel E. Slade, a weaver at the Wanskuck Mills.

SHILOH STREET

- 1-12 Wanskuck Company Row House (1863-64): A long, 2-story, flank-gable-roof, 12-unit brick structure with a 30-bay facade, identical to the row at 13-24 Harwol Court. (See entry above).

SQUANTO STREET (originally Ohio Street; name changed in 1900)

- 11 George H. Thornton House (1893): A tall 1½-story, end-gable-roof dwelling with returns at the lower corners of the raking eaves, an irregular facade, a Tuscan-columned veranda across the facade, and small second-floor windows under the eaves along the sides. It is now covered with asbestos shingles. It was first occupied by George H. Thornton, a loomfixer at the Wanskuck Mill.
- 12 Frederick and Esther Gaisford House (1913): A 2-story, pyramidal-roof, clapboard-sheathed dwelling, with a side-hall entrance under a hip-roof entrance porch adjoining a 1-story bay window on the facade. It is nearly identical to houses at 19 Dakota and 20 Newport Streets. This dwelling was built for Frederick Gaisford, a weaver, owner and occupant of the house next door at the corner of Woodward Road and Squanto Street (129-131 Woodward). It was first occupied by Gaisford's son Henry G. Gaisford, a clerk at Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company. Frederick Gaisford and his wife Esther subsequently moved here.
- 14 Reynolds House (ca 1890): A tall 1½-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed dwelling with returns at the lower corner of the raking eaves, narrow corner boards and entablature-like trim along the sides, gabled side dormers breaking through the eaves, and a screened veranda across the front which extends beyond the southerly end of the

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Squanto Street (cont.)

house to shelter a projecting entrance vestibule. The porch cornice is trimmed with tiny brackets and there is a panel of patterned shingles in the front gable peak over the second-floor windows. Mrs. Harriet C. Reynolds, a widow, acquired two adjoining lots on the northwesterly side of Ohio (now Squanto) Street in 1889 and conveyed the one on which this house stands to Miss Josephine A. Reynolds, a teacher, the same year. The 1891 city directory lists Alzada W. and Josephine A. Reynolds, among others, as residents of 18 Ohio, the address of the empty lot next door belonging to Mrs. Reynolds. By 1895 a house at 14 Ohio was occupied by Sarah Collins, widow; Fred Collins, steam-fitter; and James Collins, molder.

VEAZIE STREET

374-376 Wanskuck Company Double House (1921): A 2-story, hip-roof dwelling with paired end-bay entrances under a full-width front porch roof supported by aluminum columns resting on footings in the ground. It was originally nearly identical to 652-654 Veazie (see entry below) but has been altered by removal of the front porch floor and balustrade and the application of brick veneer and aluminum siding. Constructed as housing for Wanskuck employees, it was first occupied by Howard C. Holden, a steward, and Charles A. Connell, an overseer.

652-654 Wanskuck Company Double House (1922): A 2-story, hip-roof shingled dwelling with a 1-story front veranda and paired end-bay entrances. It was nearly identical to 374-376 Veazie before the latter was altered. Built as housing for Wanskuck Company employees, this house was originally occupied by Henry A. Hunt, an overseer at Steere Mill.

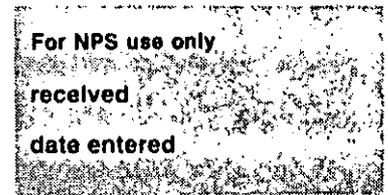
VICKSBURG STREET

29-30 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.

31-32 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.

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Vicksburg Street (cont.)

33-34 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.

35-36 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.

WILD STREET

59-61 Wanskuck Company Double House (1921-22): A 2-story, hip-roof, shingled dwelling with a 1-story front veranda and paired end-bay entrances. It was once identical to two other company-built houses, 374-376 and 652-654 Veazie Street. This building and 652-654 Veazie are still in original condition but 374-376 Veazie has been altered (see entries above).

81 Former Steere Mill (1884-86, with numerous subsequent additions and alterations): The Steere Mill, named after one of the founders of the Wanskuck company, was built to house the worsted operations of the Wanskuck Company that were expanding beyond the capacity of the Branch Avenue site. The main section is 3-stories tall with a nearly flat roof. Broad segmental-arched windows with granite sills alternate along the elevations with brick piers topped by corbelled capitals. The projecting central tower has clustered corner pilasters, circular windows, and a flat roof. A wool store house and a dyehouse were originally attached to the main building; other sections have been added over the past century. When first opened, the mill held 39 worsted spindles, and 5,880 twister spindles. Like the Wanskuck Mill, the Steere Mill was closed in 1957 when textile operations were no longer profitable. For the past eleven years American Tourister, Incorporated, has owned the mill, using it primarily as a warehouse.

WINCHESTER STREET (Buildings on this street are not numbered sequentially but addresses have been listed here in numerical order.)

13-14 Wanskuck Company House (1863-64): Type A dwelling altered by the installation of asbestos shingle wall cover and an aluminum awning over the entrance.

15-16 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling now covered with aluminum siding.

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## Winchester Street (cont.)

- 17 House (early 19th century?): A tall 1½-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed dwelling with three bays on the first-floor facade and a single central window in the gable above. The plain side-hall entrance is sheltered by a modern aluminum awning. The house has plain, narrow corner boards; molded cornice trim with returns at the lower corners of the raking eaves; small second-floor windows under the eaves on each side; and architrave window trim with plain, projecting fillets across the top. The simple vernacular style of this house, reflecting both Greek Revival and lingering Federal influences, seems to indicate that the building was constructed before the Wanskuck Company mill, possibly as housing for an employee of one of the earlier mills at this privilege.
- 21-22 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.
- 23-24 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.
- 25-26 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.
- 27-28 Wanskuck Company Double House (1863-64): Type C dwelling.
- 38-39 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling now covered with vinyl siding.
- 64-65-66 Wanskuck Company Tenement (ca 1811): A large 2½-story, flank-gambrel-roof, multi-family dwelling with three brick interior chimneys, gabled dormers, and an asymmetrical facade with three irregularly spaced, transom-topped entrances. It is now covered with asbestos shingles. Its unusual gambrel-roof form seems to indicate a construction date contemporaneous with the establishment of the first textile mill at this site, which is known to have been a gambrel-roof structure also.
- 67-68-69 Wanskuck Company Tenement (ca 1898): A large, 3½-story, flank-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed, multi-family dwelling with asymmetrical fenestration and three regularly spaced transom-topped entrances on the facade. The facade entrances are sheltered by shed-roof hoods on brackets with star-shaped cut-outs. The simple trim includes narrow corner boards, overhanging eaves with gable returns, and

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## Winchester Street (cont.)

window architraves with projecting fillets across the tops. This building was originally occupied primarily by French-Canadian operatives employed as weavers.

- 88-89 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling with wood shingles on the walls and vertical-board siding in the gables.
- 92-93 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling with the original clapboard siding intact. A modern aluminum awning has been added over the entrance.
- 96-97 Wanskuck Company Mill House (1863-64): Type A dwelling now covered with wood shingles.
- 114-115 Wanskuck Company Double House (1884): Type B dwelling now covered with shingles.
- 116-117 Wanskuck Company Double House (1884): Type B dwelling now covered with shingles.
- 118-119 Wanskuck Company Double House (1884): Type B dwelling now covered with aluminum siding.
- 120-121 Wanskuck Company Double House (1884): Type B dwelling with its original detailing and wall sheathing intact. It is covered with clapboards and has a shingled panel between the windows in the front dormer.

## WOODWARD ROAD

- 100-102 Wanskuck Company Double House (1913): A tall 1½-story, cross-gable-roof dwelling, set broad side to the street with entrance porches across each end. One porch retains jig-sawn braces which have been removed from the other. The building is now covered with asbestos shingles. It was built for the Wanskuck Company as employees' housing and was first occupied by Michael J. McCarthy, foreman, and James H. Fitzroy, finisher.
- 108-110 Martin-Dodge House, later Wanskuck Company Double House (ca 1850): An unusual 1½-story, gable-roof double house, set broad side to the street with entrances centered in each end. This was originally a handsome, clapboard-

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## Woodward Road (cont.)

sheathed Greek Revival building with paneled corner pilasters, entablature eaves trim, and sidelighted doorways framed by paneled pilasters and entablatures with projecting cornices. Within the past four years the house has been covered with blue and white aluminum siding, the white applied over the entablature and door frames to delineate former trim areas. Perhaps built for LeBaron Martin, this property was purchased in the 1850s by William and Herbert E. Dodge. Daniel N. Davis, trustee of Herbert E. Dodge, sold it to the Wanskuck Company in 1884, and it became company-owned workers' housing. In 1890 (the earliest information available) the house was occupied by Frank McEvoy, overseer, and John Tutin, finisher.

- 109 Albert and Sarah Ann Roberts House (1886): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with a side-hall entrance under a hood supported by massive brackets; an off-center, 1-story, polygonal bay window on the facade; side gables breaking the eaves line; and a rear entrance on the east side under a shed hood. It is now sheathed with aluminum siding. Sarah Ann Roberts purchased this property and the adjoining lots on Woodward Road and Illinois Street from Shadrach Manton in 1886 (Illinois Street originally ran along the southeasterly side of this lot; it was abandoned in the 1950s). Mrs. Roberts and her husband Albert built this house as an investment, renting out one of the units to John Bennett, a weaver, and the other to an unknown party. Financial problems apparently forced the Robertses to sell 109 Woodward in 1887 but they reacquired it in 1893. The Robertses subsequently built rental properties on the other lots they owned (see entry for 113-115 Woodward Road), purchased the adjoining Gardner properties (see entries for 119 and 123 Woodward), and erected another house on Illinois Avenue. They eventually sold off these investment properties after the First World War.

- 113-115 Albert and Sarah Roberts House (1912): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with paired side-hall entrances under a porch with its original roof balustrade and modern wrought-iron supports; a 2-story, off-center, polygonal bay on the facade; side gables breaking the eaves line; and gable returns. It is now sheathed with aluminum siding. The house was built as an investment property by Sarah Ann and Albert Roberts, owners of adjoining properties on Woodward Road and no-longer-extant Illinois Street (see entries

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Woodward Road (cont.)

for 109, 119, and 123 Woodward Road). The flats in this dwelling were first rented to Samuel A. Ogley, a foreman, and Arthur W. White, a painter.

- 119 Lewis T. and Fannie Gardner House (1888): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with a side-hall entrance under a modern shed-roof porch with wrought-iron supports and railing; a 2-story, off-center, rectangular bay window on the facade; a rear entrance on the east side under an aluminum hood; and returns at the lower corners of the gables. It is now covered with aluminum siding. Lewis T. Gardner and his wife Fannie purchased this property and the lot adjoining the west from Shadrach Manton in 1887. Gardner was a partner in Gardner & Weeks, later Lewis T. Gardner & Co., produce dealers on Canal Street. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner subsequently commissioned the construction of the dwellings which are now numbers 119 and 123 Woodward. Over the years the Gardners occupied first one house and then the other, moving back and forth a few times, and rented the other flats. The second flat in this house was first rented to Stephen A. Besser. In 1898, Fannie Gardner sold this dwelling to Albert Roberts, owner of the nearby house at 109 Woodward (see entries for 109, 113-115, and 123 Woodward).
- 120 Wanskuck Company Worker's House (ca 1897): An unusual single-family Colonial Revival dwelling, with its rectangular-block mass set narrow end to the street and its second floor and attic contained in a massive cross-gambrel roof. The entrance is placed at the end of the side leg of an arcaded, L-shaped, recessed front porch. The house is now covered with aluminum siding. Built for the Wanskuck Company, it was first occupied by George H. Shaw, an engineer, and later by Frank McEvoy, an overseer. The Wanskuck Company retained ownership of the property until it ceased operations here in 1957.
- 123 Lewis T. and Fannie Gardner House (1887): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with a side-hall entrance under a hood carried on massive brackets. It is now covered with asbestos shingles. This house and the one next door at 119 Woodward were built for Lewis T. Gardner, a produce dealer, and his wife Fannie (see entry above). It seems the Gardners built and lived in this house first before moving next door to number 119. In 1890 the flats in this building were rented

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to Mrs. Lydia Haskins and Frederick Hofeditz, a driver. In 1901 Fannie Gardner sold this dwelling to Albert Roberts, then owner of 109 Woodward and the former Gardner house at 119 Woodward (see entries above).

129-131 Frederick and Esther J. Gaisford House (1909): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with paired side-hall entrances sheltered by a Tuscan-columned porch with a Chinese chippen-dale roof balustrade; an off-center, 2-story, polygonal bay window on the facade; a rear entrance on the east side under a hood on massive supporting brackets; and gable returns. It is now covered with brick-textures asphalt roll siding and asphalt shingle. This dwelling was built for Frederick Gaisford, a weaver, and his wife Esther. The Gaisfords occupied one unit and rented the other to William F. Tully, another weaver. They later purchased the lot adjoining to the rear and built a single-family dwelling (see entry for 12 Squanto Street).

135 John Wattslong House (1889): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with a side-hall entrance sheltered by a square-post porch with a roof balustrade; an off-center, 2-story, rectangular bay window on the facade, with pent roof between the stories; a rear entrance on the east side with a hood on massive supporting brackets; side gables breaking the eaves line; and gable returns on the front and rear gables. It is now covered with asbestos shingles. This dwelling was built for John Wattslong, a textile finisher. Wattslong occupied one flat with his family and rented the other to Samuel Follett, an engineer at the Wanskuck Mill.

143 John and Gertrude S. Jarvie House (1893-94): A 2-story, cross-gable-roof, shingled two-family dwelling which looks like a single-family house. It has a side-hall entrance under a plain, unsupported hood; an off-center, 1-story, polygonal, bracket-trimmed bay window on the facade; eaves returns on the front and rear gables; and a 1-story porch on the east side which shelters a first-floor entrance and serves as a deck for the second-floor flat. The house was built for John Jarvie, a machinist, and his wife Gertrude and was first occupied by the Jarvies; C.H. Handy, an assistant foreman; and George H. Schofield, a machinist. By 1896 the Jarvies had moved out and the flats were rented to Schofield and to John Sledge, a laborer.

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Woodward Road (cont.)

- 149 Charles H. and Eliza Atteridge House (1907): A 2½-story, hip-roof dwelling with clapboard-sheathed first story and shingled second story. It has a Tuscan-columned porch with a roof balustrade extending across the front, broad overhanging eaves, and a hip-roof front dormer. It is nearly identical to 161 and 181 Woodward (see entries below). Numbers 149, 161, and 181 were all built as worker's housing for the Wanskuck Company. Shortly after its completion this house was sold by the company to Charles H. Atteridge, an overseer at the mill, and his wife Eliza. The Atteridges' son Charles worked as a second hand (assistant foreman) and their daughter Mary A. as a bookkeeper.
- 158 Wanskuck Company Assistant Superintendent's House (ca 1880): A large and handsome, complexly massed dwelling in the Modern Gothic or Stick Style, with clapboard and shingle wall cover, false "timberwork" of applied boards, carved decorative panels, shed hoods over some windows, braced post-and-beam porches, bracketed eaves, a steep slate-covered mansard roof with gabled and hipped projections over wings and chimneys with corbel caps. This well designed, well maintained house is set on a large landscaped lot with a circular drive leading up to the building. It was constructed as a residence for the Wanskuck Mill's Assistant Superintendent.
- 161 Wanskuck Company House (1907): A 2½-story, hip-roof, shingled dwelling nearly identical to 149 Woodward (entry above) except the Tuscan-columned entrance porch extends only partly across the facade here. This house, together with numbers 149 and 181 Woodward, was built as company housing for the Wanskuck Mills. It was first occupied by Winthrop B. Wood, a civil engineer employed by Wanskuck. The house remained in company ownership until 1956, shortly before textile manufacturing was discontinued here.
- 165-167 Wanskuck Company House (1911): A 2½-story, cross-gable-roof, shingled two-decker with a pair of side-hall entrances under a blind fan; a 2-story, polygonal bay on the east side; and broad overhanging eaves with gable returns roofed over to form small hip roofs at the lower corners of the gables. This house is somewhat unusual in not having the 2-story front porch or front bay window

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commonly found on Providence two-deckers of the period. The house was built for the Wanskuck Company and was originally occupied by John T. Rawdon, an overseer, and Thomas J. O'Neill, a pharmacist who operated a drugstore at 550 Charles Street. Wanskuck sold the property to Rawdon and his wife Margaret in 1923.

- 175 Wanskuck Company House (1916): A 1½-story, flank-gambrel-roof, shingled Dutch Colonial style dwelling with shed-roof front and rear dormers and a 3-bay facade with a central entrance under an elliptical-barrel-roof portico. Built for the Wanskuck Company, this house was first occupied by John Howarth, an overseer at the mill.
- 180-182 Former Harrison House (?), later Steere Mill Superintendent's House (ca 1870): A large 2½-story, mansard-roof dwelling with an asymmetrical facade and a modillion cornice. It has a bracketed front entrance porch recessed into the first floor at the northwesterly corner of the building, and two 2-story, rectangular bay windows with segmental-arch windows and bracketed trim, one on the east side and one slightly off-center on the facade. The house is now sheathed with asbestos shingles. It is set back from the street on a large lot, with a 2-story carriage house (now a garage) to the rear. The construction date of this house is difficult to determine. A deed from Benjamin A. Holbrook, one-time owner of Wenscott factory, to Mary B.F. Hughes, dated 1865, indicates there was a building on this property. An 1870 map shows two buildings here owned by "W. Huse," and a deed from William and Mary B.F. Hughes to Richard Harrison, dated 1869, mentions "buildings and improvements" on the property. Richard Harrison, a Pawtucket manufacturer who operated the nearby Heaton & Cowing Mill for a time, sold the property, with this house, to the Wanskuck Company in 1885. It was subsequently used as the residence of the Steere Mill superintendent.
- 181 Wanskuck Company House (1907): A 2½-story, hip-roof, shingled dwelling nearly identical to 149 and 161 Woodward, with a Tuscan column porch across part of the facade and no front dormer. Built as company housing, it was first occupied by Frank McEvoy, an overseer. Wanskuck retained ownership until 1953 and then sold the property.

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Woodward Road (cont.)

- 189 Herbert S. and Elizabeth R. Roberts House (1892-93): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with a side-hall entrance under a plain front porch with a roof balustrade; a 2-story, rectangular bay window on the facade, and side gables breaking up through the eaves. It is similar to 135 and 195 Woodward Road but its detailing was stripped off. The house is now vinyl-sided. It was built for Herbert S. Roberts, a weaver, and his wife Elizabeth. The Robertses occupied one flat and rented the other, first to John J. Seibold, a brass finisher, later to Henry Langford, a weaver.
- 195 Henry and Harriet Bennett House (1893): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof, shingled two-decker with a side-hall entrance under a bracketed hood carried by modern wrought-iron supports; a 2-story, rectangular bracketed bay window on the facade; and side gables breaking through the eaves. The gables are filled with cut shingle work and are ornamented with Eastlake bargeboards and simple bracework in the peaks. This building is nearly identical to 135 and 189 Woodward Road, with more intact detailing. It was built for Henry Bennett, a gas fitter, and his wife Harriet, and remained in the Bennett family until 1976. The Bennetts occupied one flat and rented the other to Charles F. Ruberry, who also was a gasfitter.
- 196 Wanskuck Company House (mid-late 19th century): A small 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed dwelling with a side-hall entrance surmounted by a transom and shelf-like hood, small second-floor windows under the eaves, and a small 1-story rear ell off the southeast corner. The house is not shown on maps prior to 1895 but appears to date earlier and may have been moved here from another site.
- 201 Roger Williams Baptist Church Parsonage (1934): A 2½-story, hip-roof, shingle-sheathed dwelling with a 3-bay facade, a central projecting vestibule fronted by an elliptical-barrel-roof portico, a doorway with sidelights and elliptical fanlight under the portico, and a hip-roof front dormer. The house was first occupied by the Reverend Artemas Goodwin.
- 224 Roger Williams Baptist Church (1866, 1889, 1906): A picturesque, complexly massed, Late Gothic Revival style building of random-coursed granite ashlar masonry. Though

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## Woodward Road (cont.)

modeled after the medieval parish churches of rural England, its squat proportions, horizontality, and massive unifying roof forms reflect the influence of contemporary Shingle Style design principles. The church is basilican in plan, with a pyramidal-roof, 3-story, central entrance tower at the front (southeasterly end) and a polygonal apse at the opposite end. The nave is crossed by two transepts: a relatively short, broad one as tall as the nave, atypically placed immediately behind the tower; the other--narrower, shorter, and longer--in the traditional position marking the division between nave and choir. The nave is covered by a large gable roof with broken, elongated slopes sweeping down to cover the aisles, while the transepts are covered with cross-gables. The nave roof is pierced by gabled dormers containing pointed-arch clerestory windows. Over the cross of the nave and choir transept there is a cupola topped by an unusual ogee-curve hip roof with an attenuated pinnacle. There is a gabled entrance porch on the southwesterly side, adjoining the tower transept, and the corners between the apse and choir transept wings are filled with symmetrically disposed hip-roof blocks (analogous to the subsidiary chapels of a real Gothic church) and shorter hip-roof entrance vestibules. The entrance tower contains a belfry with pairs of louver-filled pointed arches on each side, and each end of the tower transept has a single, large pointed-arch window with "Roger Williams Baptist Church" in bronze lettering applied in a line undulating over each window.

The congregation's inception dates from 1865, with the organization of Sunday school that met first in a private home, then in a room at the Thomas Whipple Mill (formerly near the site of the Steere Mill, now demolished). In 1866 the Metcalf family donated the triangular plot at the corner of Veazie Street and Woodward Road to the congregation, together with a sizeable sum for the construction of a church on the site. The original building, seating 250, was built by Orin T. Angell of North Providence in 1866. In the late 1880s the edifice was enlarged according to designs by Edmund Willson of the Providence architectural firm Stone, Carpenter & Willson, under the supervision of Jesse Metcalf. By the early 1900s, the increasing membership and activity of the congregation necessitated another major addition. In the 1930s the vestry was enlarged and a new room was excavated under the building. The development of this

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Woodward Road (cont.)

church under sponsorship of the Metcalf family illustrates the paternalistic attitude of many 19th century industrialists, who sought to foster responsible, sober, and upright behavior among their employees through the establishment of religious societies. Architecturally the Roger Williams Church is significant as one of the most unusual and well designed Late Victorian ecclesiastical buildings in Rhode Island.

229-295 Wanskuck Park (ca 1870, 1949): Jesse Metcalf, a founder of the Wanskuck Company, created an estate on this site around 1870. The house, a large, 2½-story structure with a cross-gable roof and wrap-around veranda, was demolished in 1949 as stipulated in the will of Louisa D. Sharpe Metcalf, who bequeathed the land to the city for a public park. The house's foundation is still visible. A double row of trees outline the drive that once led to the building. A large barn was also destroyed in 1949, and a stable that suffered from periodic vandalism was removed in 1979. Three clapboarded buildings remain: a shed-roofed garage, a barn with a jerkinhead hay hatch, and a 1½-story caretaker's cottage with a veranda overlooking the estate. A stone wall and a screen of trees separate the property from Woodward Road.

383 Gilbane House (early or mid-19th century? moved here ca 1905): A 2½-story, clapboard-sheathed dwelling set narrow end to the street, with a low-pitch, end-gable roof; a blind lunette in the front gable; an asymmetrical facade; and a 1-story, arcaded porch across the front (the last a later addition). It is in the Victorian vernacular style derived from the Greek Revival, with plain, narrow corner and fascia boards and eaves cornice carried across the end gables to delineate pediments. This property was an empty lot through the 1890s, when Bernard McGuinness purchased it from devisees of the estates of Thomas and James M. Whipple. In 1903 McGuinness' heirs sold the property to Thomas F. and Mary S. Gilbane of the Gilbane Construction Company family. By 1906 Robert G. Fleming, a milkman, was renting this house from Mary S. Gilbane. The dwelling style, however, seems to indicate a much earlier construction date. It seems more likely that this house was built in the early or mid-19th century, and was later moved here from another location in

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Woodward Road (cont.)

the district. Several old maps show dwellings that existed on the adjacent Metcalf Estate (now Wanskuck Park) before the Metcalf house was built.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

DAKOTA STREET

- 11 House (ca 1960): A 1-story, gable-roof dwelling with its long, rectangular mass set end to the street. It has an off-center, end-gabled front projection containing the main entrance.

HOUGHTON STREET

- 100 Vocational Resources, Inc., Building (1960s): A 1-story flat-roof, concrete block industrial structure.

IOWA STREET

- 15 House (ca 1965): A 1½-story flank-gable-roof "Cape Cod Colonial" dwelling with a 5-bay facade and a central entrance. It is sheathed with aluminum siding.
- 19 House (ca 1965): This 1½-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling is a modified "Cape Cod Colonial" type house, with an irregular 3-bay facade containing a central entrance flanked by a double-hung window on one side and a picture window on the other.

VEAZIE STREET

- 388 Airway Equipment Company Buildings (1970): Two warehouse/garage structures, one a 1-story, gable-roof building with vertical-groove plywood panel siding; the other a 1-story, gable-roof building with vertical aluminum-panel siding.

WILD STREET

- 65 Industrial Building (1960s): A 1-story, flat-roof, concrete-block structure with a brick-veneer facade.

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WOODWARD ROAD

- 136 House (1957-58): A 1-story, gable-roof, L-shaped, ranch-type dwelling with a picture window in the facade of the transverse wing and an entrance under a gabled portico set off-center on the facade of the frontal wing.
- 138 House (1957-58): A 1-story, gable-roof, L-shaped, ranch-type dwelling with a picture window in the facade of the transverse wing and an entrance set off-center on the facade of the frontal wing.
- 139 House (1957-58): A 1-story, gable-roof dwelling with its long, rectangular mass turned end to the street. The asymmetrical, end-gabled facade contains a slightly off-center entrance with a gabled portico, set between a picture window and an awning-type window.
- 140 House (1957-58): A 1-story, gable-roof dwelling with its long, rectangular mass set end to the street. It has an off-center, end-gabled front projection containing a picture window and an entrance under a gabled hood.
- 146 House (1957-58): A 1-story, gable-roof, L-shaped, ranch-type dwelling with a picture window in the facade of the transverse wing and an entrance set off-center in the facade of the frontal wing. A 1-bay, end-gable garage is connected to the end of the transverse wing by a breezeway.
- 174 House (c. 1955): A 1-story, flank-gable-roof, ranch-type dwelling with an asymmetrical facade containing a slightly recessed entrance and a picture window mounted on a shallow projection. It has an attached 1-bay garage connected to the main block by an enclosed breezeway.
- 190 House (ca 1955): A 1-story, flank-gable-roof, ranch-type dwelling with a central, projecting, end-gable front pavilion containing a picture window on its facade and an entrance in one flank.
- 205 House (ca 1970): A 1½-story, flank-gable-roof, brick dwelling with an asymmetrical facade containing a recessed entrance and a bow window; a long 1-story, flank-gable wing with garage bays in the end; and a broad chimney and front gable rising from the front slope of the main roof mass.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1811, 1862-64, 1884-86 **Builder/Architect** Various unknown; Stone, Carpenter & Willson (Roger Williams Baptist Church)

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

The Wanskuck Historic District is significant as a visually distinctive concentration of buildings and sites related to the area's development as a mill privilege over a period of two centuries. Though its physical fabric is principally the product of the establishment and growth here of the Wanskuck Company in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the district also contains remnants of milling activity dating back possibly as far as the 1700s. The factories erected by the Wanskuck Company reflect broad development trends in the textile industry both in Rhode Island and in the United States as a whole. Together, the mills, hall, church, and housing in the district serve as an important artifact of social history, for they illustrate a mode of life that flourished and disappeared with the expansion and termination of mill operation.

The buildings erected by the Wanskuck Company constitute a fine example of a paternalistic, company-built mill village, a type of planned community which evolved from nineteenth-century industrial development patterns. Architecturally, a number of buildings here--the Roger Williams Baptist Church, the Wanskuck Company Assistant Superintendent's House, and the Shadrach Manton House--are significant for their superior design quality. Other structures are important as representative examples of vernacular building types commonly found in Rhode Island mill villages. The company-built housing units, though undistinguished individually, are significant as a group for the unity and strong impact of their repetitive forms. Dominating the district is the Wanskuck Mill itself, a landmark structure typical of contemporary factories in its massing, simple detailing, and brick construction but differentiated by its handsome, unusual foretower.

Wanskuck appears in Providence records as early as 1655. The name--also spelled Wanscott, Wenscott, or Wenscutt in old documents and still pronounced with a final "t" by present-day residents--is an Indian word perhaps meaning "low lands," an apt designation for this territory bracketed by steep hillsides (see USGS map). The area was part of a section of the Providence "north woods" set off as a separate town in 1765. Residents petitioned to have the new municipality called "Wenscutt" but officials insisted that it be called North Providence (the Wanskuck vicinity was reannexed to Providence in 1874).

In 1772 the North Providence town council authorized the layout of a road through Wanskuck "...leading by Jonathan Whipple's sawmill."

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That highway, known for many years as Old Sawmill Road, is now Veazie Street, and the sawmill stood near the Veazie Street bridge over West River. Though the mill is gone, a gambrel-roof, center-chimney dwelling still standing at 9 Houghton Street, behind the Steere Mill, may well be the old Whipple homestead.

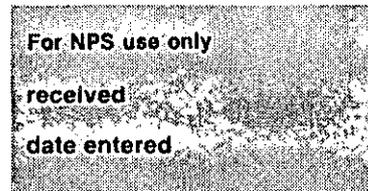
The coming of the American Industrial Revolution and attendant improvements in the state's transportation system were to have a significant impact on the Wanskuck area. The success of Samuel Slater's attempt at waterpowered cotton spinning at Pawtucket in 1790 turned the attention of entrepreneurs to the industrial-development potential of waterpower sites along rivers and streams of rural Rhode Island. To improve accessibility and transportation of raw materials and finished goods, turnpikes were constructed linking Providence to satellite centers in its southeastern New England hinterland, most routed through country mill villages or areas suitable for the founding of such villages. One such highway was the turnpike from Providence to Douglas, Massachusetts, today's Douglas Avenue, chartered in 1805 and constructed three years later. A subsidiary route branching off the main one was also constructed and known as the Douglas Branch Turnpike on Branch Turnpike Road. Now Branch Avenue, this route extended easterly and southeasterly from Douglas Pike to Pawtucket Turnpike (now North Main Street), roughly following the course of West River. Woodward Road, named after a nearby landowner, also evolved in the early nineteenth century as a route from the Branch Turnpike to Old Sawmill Road (Veazie Street), continuing northwesterly to connect with the Mineral Spring Turnpike.

With this road system in place, water privileges along this section of West River were opened to development. In March 1811 Providence merchants John Davis, William Lee, and John Callahan purchased a tract of land with a mill privilege on West River, downstream from the Whipple land and sawmill. By the following August the three men were operating a mill for spinning cotton yarn, known as the Wenscutt Factory. Within two years the Wenscutt Manufacturing Company was formed with Davis, Lee, Samuel Young 2nd, Obediah Penniman, John H. Carpenter, and Wilbur Kelley as partners (they were later joined by Josiah Lawton). The firm was apparently aggressive, expansionary, and innovative, for it purchased surrounding property to enlarge the mill estate, raised capital by mortgaging the property to prominent merchants such as Edward Carrington of Providence and Gardiner Greene of Boston, and erected a gasworks here in 1815, making Wenscutt Mill the first in Providence to be illuminated by gas. The company foundered, however, and in 1816 and 1817 various creditors brought suits against the partners for repayment of debts. An execution entered in town records lists the buildings here at the time as "...a Mill Three Stories high, and a Stone store Two Stories high,

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a Die-House of Stone Two Stories high, Two Dwelling Houses built of Wood and painted Red,... Also, One Dwelling House with Gambriel Roofe, and painted white..." The factory buildings and "Gambriel-Roofe" house, the latter the residence of mill agent Josiah Lawton, have all been demolished, but the tenement surviving at 64-65 Winchester Street is probably one of the other "Dwelling Houses" mentioned in the old document.

The Wenscutt property was seized and sold at public auction. Shares were purchased by several bidders but Providence merchant Edward Carrington eventually obtained exclusive right to the property. In 1822 Carrington sold the mill estate to Stephen Randall, a Providence physician, who subsequently conveyed it to his son Stephen Randall in 1830. In 1845 the younger Randall sold the property to David Burt, John Veazie, Benjamin A. Holbrook, and Albert Snow. Holbrook apparently bought out the other partners, for he sold the mill estate to Edward P. Knowles and Charles S. Bradley in 1856.

Available records concerning the occupation and use of the Wenscutt Mill estate during the years 1816-1862 illustrate the vicissitudes of the textile industry in the early nineteenth century. The optimism and ambition prevalent in the early days of the Industrial Revolution had led to the establishment of numerous milling operations, many of which failed to survive the intense competition that ensued. The various Wenscott proprietors leased the mill property to a succession of parties, some of whom were English immigrants. The buildings were often let separately and the mill itself was subdivided for different uses by different lessees. Attempts were made through the 1820s and 1830s to operate businesses related to cotton-textile production, including spinning, weaving, dyeing, and printing. The Panic of 1837 forced a trend toward retrenchment and consolidation in the industry and contributed to many failures. Thereafter cloth production ceased at Wenscutt. The mill was divided and the lower part was used as a gristmill, the upper part first as a carpenters' plane manufactory and later as a sash and blind factory. Dyeing was continued in the dye house, and another building south of Branch Avenue was used as a soap factory. In this period more tenements were apparently built here. The double houses at 758 and 770 Branch Avenue are probably survivors from this period and the dwelling at 784 Branch may be as well.

In 1862 Stephen T. Olney, Jesse Metcalf, and Henry J. Steere purchased the Wenscott mill estate and adjoining property. The partners incorporated as the Wanskuck Company and prepared to start a woollen manufactory. In 1811 mill and adjacent structures north of Branch Avenue were torn down, a new 600-foot-long mill dam was constructed upstream

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from the original one, and a new brick mill complex was put up, including a main building and a subsidiary building, a boiler house, an engine house, a gas house and gasometer, and an office, among other buildings.

At the time the mill was in a relatively isolated location beyond the compact part of Providence. Special provisions had to be made at Wanskuck, as in all country mill villages, for facilities and institutions that met the daily needs of the workers and contributed to the community's quality of life and stability. The involvement of the mill proprietors in making such provisions varied. In some cases the company built and maintained facilities itself, while in others it gave encouragement and partial financial support to institutions that were more or less independent. The Wanskuck Company initially built twenty double houses for its employees and erected more as the mill expanded over the years. The company also constructed Wanskuck Hall, a library and community-function building, in 1884. In addition the company aided the establishment of religious societies nearby. In 1865 Mrs. Jesse Metcalf, wife of a Wanskuck Company partner, and Mrs. Shadrach Manton started a children's Suncay School here and a year later, under patronage of the Metcalf family, Roger Williams Chapel (now much altered and enlarged) was constructed on a plot at the intersection of Veazie Street and Woodward Road. Originally, nondenominational, the chapel apparently served the religious needs of all the village's Protestant families for a decade. In 1877, after the Epsicopalians in the area had erected a church of their own on Douglas Avenue, the chapel was reorganized and became a Baptist church (the congregation of St. Thomas Episcopal Church was dissolved in 1970 and the church edifice burned in 1972.)

In 1865, St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, a mission of the now-defunct Immaculate Conception parish, was established to serve the Irish operatives at Wanskuck. The company offered to donate a building site to the Catholics, but the offer was declined when the company refused to grant full title to the land. The congregation purchased property on both sides of Branch Avenue, west of the village, and completed construction of its first church in 1867. The church became an independent parish in 1874 and was renamed St. Edward. Over the years additional buildings were erected to accommodate parochial growth. The Wanskuck Company did not play as large a role in the affairs of St. Edward Church as it did in other aspects of village life, but this was a result of the parish's peculiar position in the community. Since nearly all of St. Edward's communicants were Wanskuck employees, the church corporation was reluctant to accept aid from the company because it did not want to have obligations to the mill management in the event of a labor dispute arise. However, when the second, existing church edifice was built between 1885 and 1889, the parish received a \$1,000

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contribution from the Wanskuck Company and a stained-glass window given by Mrs. Jesse Metcalf.

The company-built structures of the 1860s at Wanskuck constitute a fine surviving example of a typical nineteenth-century Rhode Island mill-village complex. Employment practices determined the sort of residential quarters that were built. Operation of a woolen-goods manufactory necessitated importation of English workers skilled in such production. To attract labor the Wanskuck Company had to provide decent housing that would accommodate wives and children as well as the men engaged by the company. Rhode Island mill owners commonly employed children in their factories as well, and two-family tenements were consequently the most common mill village housing type in this state, for they permitted efficient means of sheltering entire families near the factory. This system differed from the system followed in many of the large mills of Massachusetts, which relied on the employment of single young women who could be put up in boarding houses. The rows of dwellings south of Branch Avenue are notable for the strong visual unity achieved by clustering identical or nearly identical buildings. The brick, pier-and-panel houses are somewhat unusual for Rhode Island, but similar ones once stood in Woonsocket and still exist at Lonsdale, making them not unique but rather an alternative form of standard housing remarkable for its rarity.

The establishment and early success of the Wanskuck Company reflects the effect of the Civil War upon the textile industry. The unavailability of Southern cotton caused many mills to convert to woolen production to stay in business. At the same time the need for uniforms and blankets for Union troops brought a fortuitous upswing in the demand for woolen goods. The Wanskuck Company capitalized on these factors and even managed to weather the decline from the peak war demand and the Panic of 1873. This may be attributable in part to the firm's early involvement in worsted-goods production. Until the 1870s worsteds--fine-grade woolen fabrics--had not been manufactured in the United States and had to be imported. Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Rockville, Connecticut, claim the distinction of producing the first material of this type in America in the year 1869. However, worsted manufacture began contemporaneously at Wanskuck, and in January 1870 the Wanskuck Company shipped its first batch of worsted cloth to clients. If the Rhode Island company was not in fact the first producer, it was nevertheless one of the pioneers in the field. In 1874-1875 a large addition was made to the main mill to house worsted operations.

The Wanskuck Company continued to prosper through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In 1882 it purchased the Whipple

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Estate further up West River, site of the old eighteenth-century sawmill and a later cotton mill established by 1835 and known as Thomas Whipple's Factory. Two years later the Steere Worsted Mill was built on the Whipple property. Steere Mill was a separate corporation but the Wanskuck Company held all its capital stock (Wanskuck eventually absorbed Steere Mill, Inc. in 1913). In 1892 the Metcalfs acquired the Oakland Mill in Burrillville and operated it as the Oakland Worsted Company. To expand production capacity yet more, the Wanskuck Company purchased the Geneva Mill, at the next West River privilege upstream from the Steere Mill, in 1896 and the Mohegan Mill, also in Burrillville, in 1898.

Meanwhile, Wanskuck mill village was growing to accommodate more workers and their families. A few more tenements were built in the Branch Avenue neighborhood, but from the 1870s through the 1920s, Woodward Road was a focus for residential construction. The company built a number of houses here, notably the Assistant Superintendent's House (1876) at 150 Woodward and the houses at 161 and 181 Woodward (1907). The installation of the Branch Avenue trolley line in 1884, however, gave operatives more mobility and made them less dependent upon housing provided near the mill by the company. Living arrangements consequently grew more varied. In the 1880s the Shadrach Manton homestead north-easterly of Woodward Road was subdivided and over the next thirty years the house lots were built upon. A large part of the tract was acquired by Wanskuck and the company built and maintained several dwellings. However, the company also sold lots to employees so that they could build their own houses (for example, 24, 26, 30, and 34 Iowa Street) and in one case built a dwelling and sold it to an employee (the Attridge House, 149 Woodward Road). Many two-family houses of the two-decker variety were built here, some by employees for use as their own residences (e.g., 129-131, 189, and 195 Woodward), others as income properties by people who were not mill employees but who rented to company workers (119 and 123 Woodward). Residency as revealed by city directories of the period show an interesting change in demographic patterns. While English immigrants and their descendants continued to predominate among Wanskuck employees, Irish and Scottish operatives constituted a sizeable minority. By the 1890s, the first decade for which city directories provided documentation, many French Canadians had come to work at Wanskuck. By the turn of the century the French Canadians were concentrated in the older company housing south of Branch Avenue, while the Woodward Road dwellings housed the English, Irish, Scottish, and native Americans of United Kingdom descent.

The profitable period of World War I and the boom years of the 1920s were brought to an end by the crash of 1929 and the ensuing depression. Recovery was more difficult than it had been after previous economic slumps because of competition from Southern mills, a decline

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in demand brought on by the production of clothing requiring less material, and increasing reliance on synthetic-fiber fabrics. World War II gave Wanskuck a temporary boost, but the company had trouble accommodating itself to the requirements of the civilian market after 1945. By mid-century the company found it necessary to replace much outmoded machinery, and from 1938 through the 1950s it sold off its residential properties to raise capital. Operations were reorganized and consolidated. The Geneva Mill was closed in 1952 and two years later Geneva Mill was sold and the Mohegan Mill was closed. In 1955 the Wanskuck Company merged with the New England Butt Company and the Metcalf family sold its interest to the Chace family, owners of New England Butt. The production of worsted goods at the Wanskuck, Steere, and Oakland Mills was terminated in 1957. Since then the Wanskuck Mill has been sold to a realty company and subdivided for lease to small businesses, and Steere Mill has been acquired by American Tourister, a luggage manufacturer. The Wanskuck Company itself survives as a holding company that owns a number of firms involved in the manufacture of wire standing machines, textile- and wire-braiding machines, and steel reels.

Today the Wanskuck Historic District stands as an artifact of industrial development patterns closely related to the economic history of the State, region, and nation, and of the lives of the owners, managers, and laborers associated with the mills' operations. The mill privileges and the structures thereon chronicle the early exploration of waterpower sources at the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution, the decline that beset many companies during the consolidation period thereafter, the shift to steam-powered woolen manufacture and the production boom of the Civil War era, the general prosperity and growth of the period from the 1860s to the 1920s, and the subsequent decline of the New England textile industry in the face of competition, changing demands, and technological improvements. The housing stock that remains reflects the mode of life of company employees and changes in their life ways. The company-built dwellings, church, and hall are a fine example of the paternalistic mill village designed to meet the daily needs of the workers and the company. As the workers grew less dependent upon the company, there were more opportunities for different living arrangements, as indicated by the variety of single- and two-family, privately- and company-owned housing in the Woodward Road neighborhood. Architecturally, most of the residential buildings are not individually distinguished, but as a group they are notable for the harmonious character resulting from their unity of scale, simple but pleasing vernacular design, and repetition of a few basic building types. The company-built housing south of Branch Avenue is especially striking in its visual continuity. Among the residential buildings, the Shadrach Manton House and Assistant Superintendent's House stand out, the former

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as a handsome, well maintained example of a typical Greek Revival house, the latter (probably by architects Stone and Carpenter) as a fine example of Late Victorian eclectic domestic architecture. Victorian picturesque eclecticism is also ably represented by Wanskuck Hall. Roger Williams Church, with its English Gothic-derived design modified by influences of the late nineteenth-century shingle style, is one of the finest Late Victorian ecclesiastical edifices in Rhode Island. The Wanskuck and Steere Mills stand as landmarks significant for their design quality in addition to their historical associations. With their simple, utilitarian masses highlighted by particularly well designed and unusual towers, they serve as monumental symbols of this industrial community, a remarkable, environmentally differentiated survival amid the fabric of the city of Providence.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet 37

Item number 9

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Cole, Arthur Harrison, The American Woolen Manufacture  
(2 vols., Cambridge: 1926) passim.

Kulik, Gary and Julia C. Bonham, Rhode Island: An Inventory of  
Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington: 1978)  
pp. 177-8.

Land Evidence Records (unpublished) at City and Town Halls of  
Providence, North Providence and Pawtucket.

Providence city directories and house directories, 1874-present.

Providence Journal, 3 December 1864.

Providence Journal, 16 January 1882.

Providence Journal, 31 October 1893.

Rhode Island Conference of Business Organizations,  
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Thornton, Grace E., "History of the Roger Williams Baptist  
Sunday School and Church" (privately printed for the 100th  
anniversary of the Sunday School, 1977).

Transcript of Bill, Answer, Replication, and Proofs of Silver  
Spring Bleaching and Dyeing Company vs. the Wanskuck Company,  
October 1877 (2 vols., Providence: 1880).

Wanskuck Company Records (unpublished; deposited at Rhode  
Island Historical Society) 1863-1949.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

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Item number 10

Page 2

District, Providence, Rhode Island," and drawn at a scale of 160 feet to the inch.

The boundary of the Wanskuck Historic District has been drawn to encompass the Wanskuck and Steere Mill complexes, surviving elements of the water system associated with these complexes (i.e. Whipple Pond, Whipple Pond dam, and the trench in front of the Steere Mill), and a core of reasonably well preserved surrounding buildings (hall, church, and housing) linked to the mills by historical associations, physical proximity, and/or visual compatibility. At the same time, the boundary has been drawn to exclude as much as possible non-contributing or intrusive modern buildings. The segment of the West River that flows past and connects the two mill complexes has been incorporated within the district as a historically significant geographical feature instrumental in the establishment and development of successive mills in this location. The large, open, marshy area between the Wanskuck Mill and Veazie Street, formerly site of the Wanskuck Mill Pond (Assessor's Plat 103, lots 85 and 86) and Wanskuck Park, formerly the Metcalf Estate, are included because they have historically been integral parts of the village and their status as open space has been and remains an important component of the district's environmental character. The company-built row houses on Harwol Court and Shiloh Street, and the Saint Edward Church complex, though physically separated from the other buildings that compose the district, are included as part of the district because of their historical associations to the Wanskuck district.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Armstrong, Fred, "A History of the Wanskuck Company" (unpublished student paper, Brown University) January 1977.

(See Continuation Sheet #37)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property c. 119 acres

Quadrangle name Providence

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	2	9	7	6	2	0	4	6	3	6	0	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	9	2	9	8	2	2	0	4	6	3	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	9	2	9	8	5	0	0	4	6	3	6	1	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	9	2	9	8	0	6	0	4	6	3	5	8	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Wanskuck Historic District nomination is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Wanskuck Historic" (See Continuation Sheet #38)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert O. Jones, Senior Historic Preservation Planner

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date May, 1983

street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frederick William Smith

title   date 24 June 1983

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date <u> </u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date <u> </u>
Chief of Registration	

Wanskuck Historic District  
Providence, Rhode Island

CLASSIFICATIONS ARE BASED ON STYLE RATHER THAN CONSTRUCTION DATE

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Colonial/Federal        | ▨ Greek Revival    |
| ▩ 19th-century Vernacular | ▧ Late Victorian   |
| ▪ Early 20th century      | □ Non-contributing |



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission 1983





WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Robert O. Jones

Date: October 1982

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903 /

General view, facing easterly from Hyacinth Street,  
showing Wanskuck Company housing on Branch Avenue  
and Hugo Street and the main buildings of the  
Wanskuck Mill in the background.

Photo #1



WANSKUCK MILL  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1981  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

View of main mill building facing northwesterly,  
with the two-story mill office in front.

Photo #2

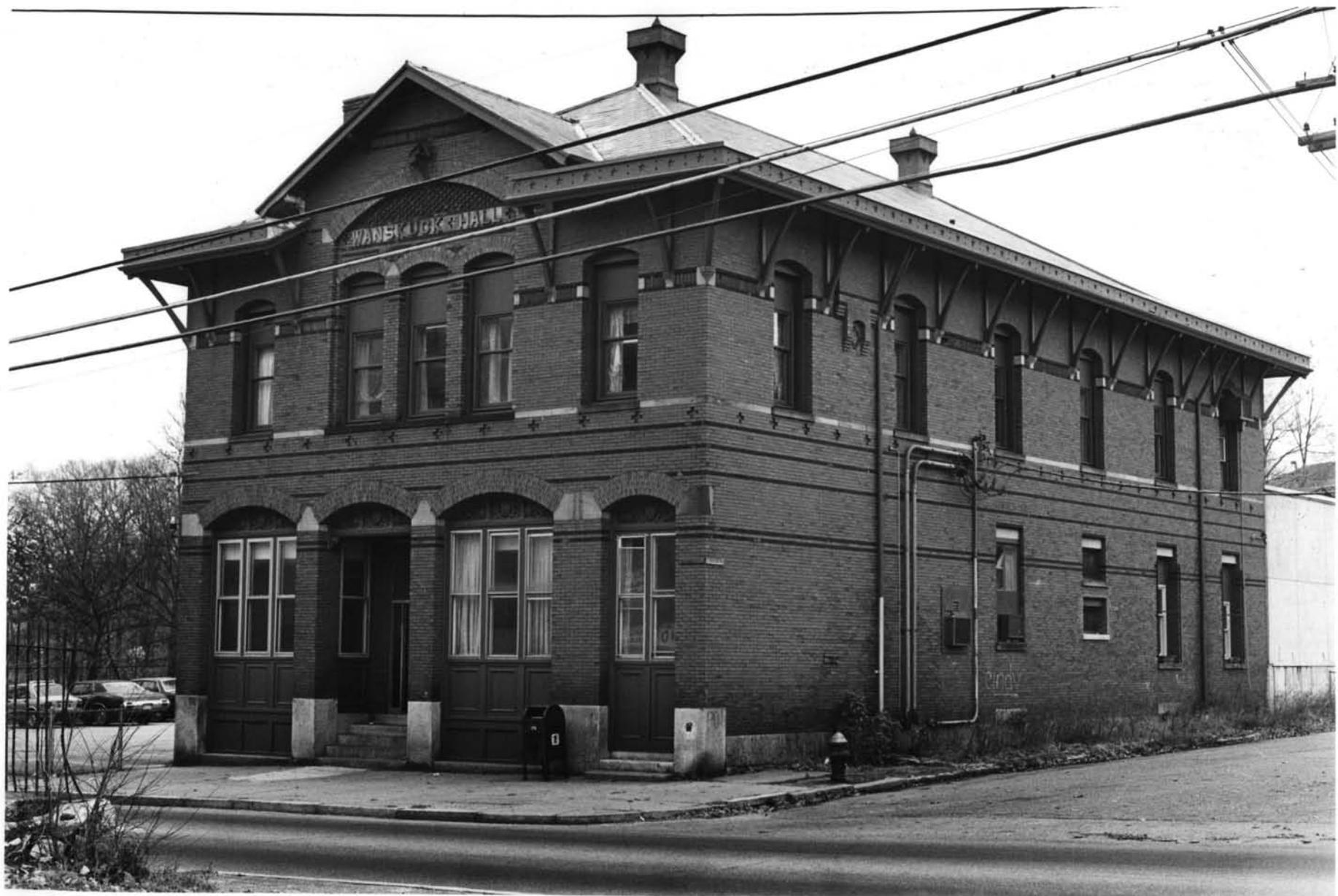


WANSKUCK MILL  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: October 1980  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Detail view of the tower of the main building,  
facing northwesterly.

Photo #3



WANSKUCK HALL  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Robert O. Jones  
Date: October 1982  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Exterior view facing southeasterly.

Photo #4



WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island

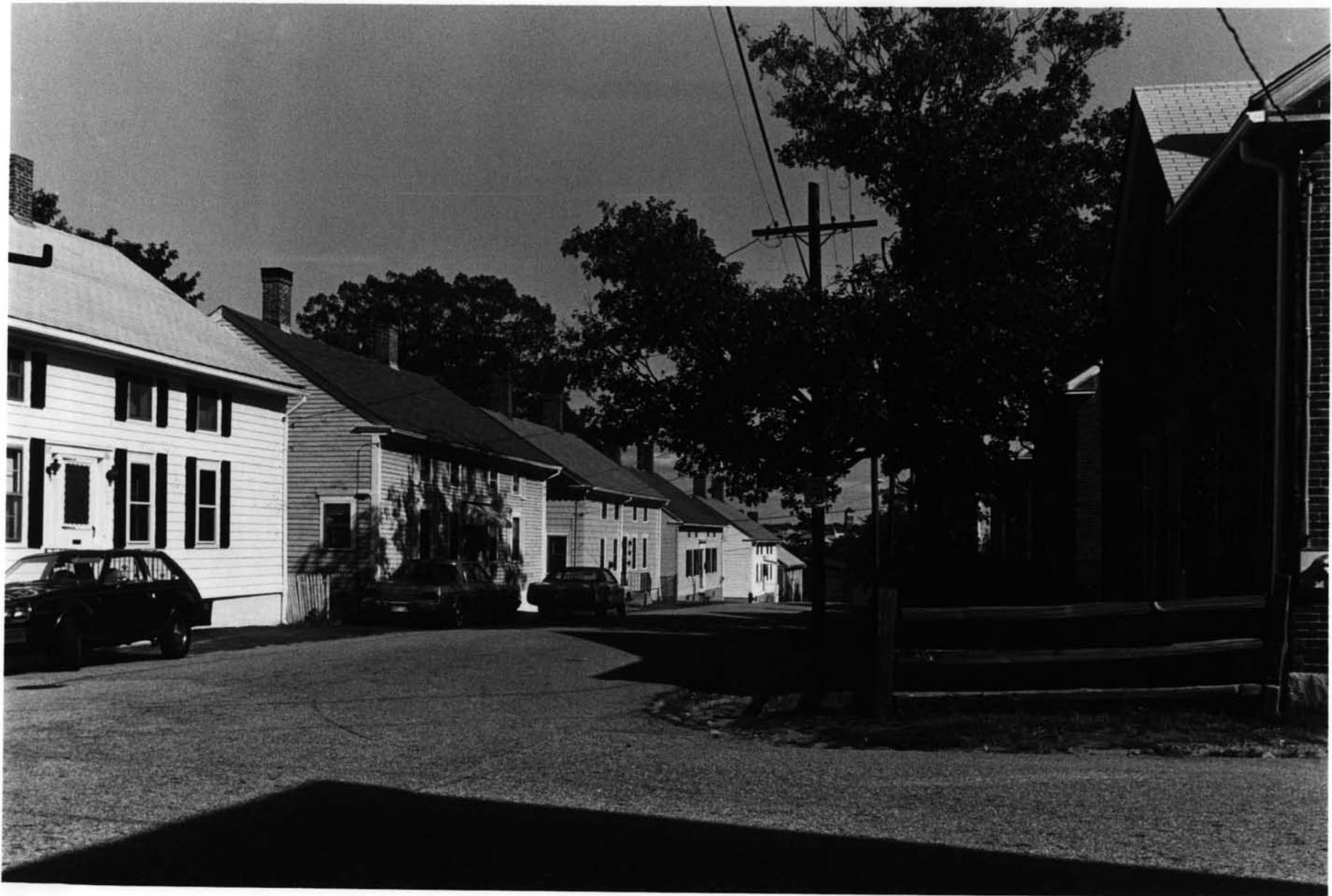
Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise

Date: September 1981

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
· Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903

View of Branch Avenue facing southwesterly, showing  
(left to right) numbers 758, 764, 770, and 776  
Branch Avenue. These are Type A dwellings as  
described in the Inventory introduction.

Photo #5



WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1982  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

General view of Winchester Street, facing easterly,  
showing part of 96-97 Winchester on the left and  
27-28 Winchester on the right.

Photo #6



WANSKUCK COMPANY DOUBLE HOUSES  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1981  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903

View from Hugo Street of brick double houses on  
Winchester Street, facing northwesterly.  
These are Type C dwellings as described in  
the Inventory introduction.

Photo #7



WENSCUTT MILL TENEMENT  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1981  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

View of 64-65-66 Winchester Street facing north-  
westerly with Winchester Street houses in  
background.

Photo #8



WANSKUCK COMPANY ROW HOUSE  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1981  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

View of 13-24 Harwol Court, facing northwesterly.

Photo #9



STEERE WORSTED MILL  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1981  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Overall view of mill exterior facing northwesterly.

Photo #.10



STEERE WORSTED MILL  
Wanskuck Historic District  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Date: September 1981  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Detail view of the main facade facing easterly,  
showing the tower, with a portion of the mill trench  
visible in the foreground.

Photo #11



**BINGO**  
MONDAY NIGHTS  
STARTING @ 7:00PM

ST. EDWARD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert O. Jones

Date: January 1983

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Exterior view of the facade, facing northwesterly.

Photo #12

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ST. EDWARD PAROCHIAL SCHOOL  
WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert O. Jones

Date: January 1983

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Exterior view facing northeasterly.

Photo #13







WANSKUCK COMPANY ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE  
Wanskuck Historic District  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert O. Jones  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

Date: October 1982

View of the exterior facing west-southwesterly.

Photo #16



WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert O. Jones

Date: October 1982

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

View of Woodward Road facing northwesterly, showing  
(left to right) numbers 143, 135, 129-131 and  
123 Woodward Road.

Photo #17



ROGER WILLIAMS BAPTIST CHURCH  
Wanskuck Historic District  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Charlene Kay Roise  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commiaaion  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

View of the exterior facing northeasterly

Photo #18

September, 1981



WANSKUCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert O. Jones  
Date: May 1983  
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903

General view of Winchester Street facing  
southwesterly, showing Type B dwellings  
described in the Inventory introduction.  
114-115 Winchester Street is on the left.

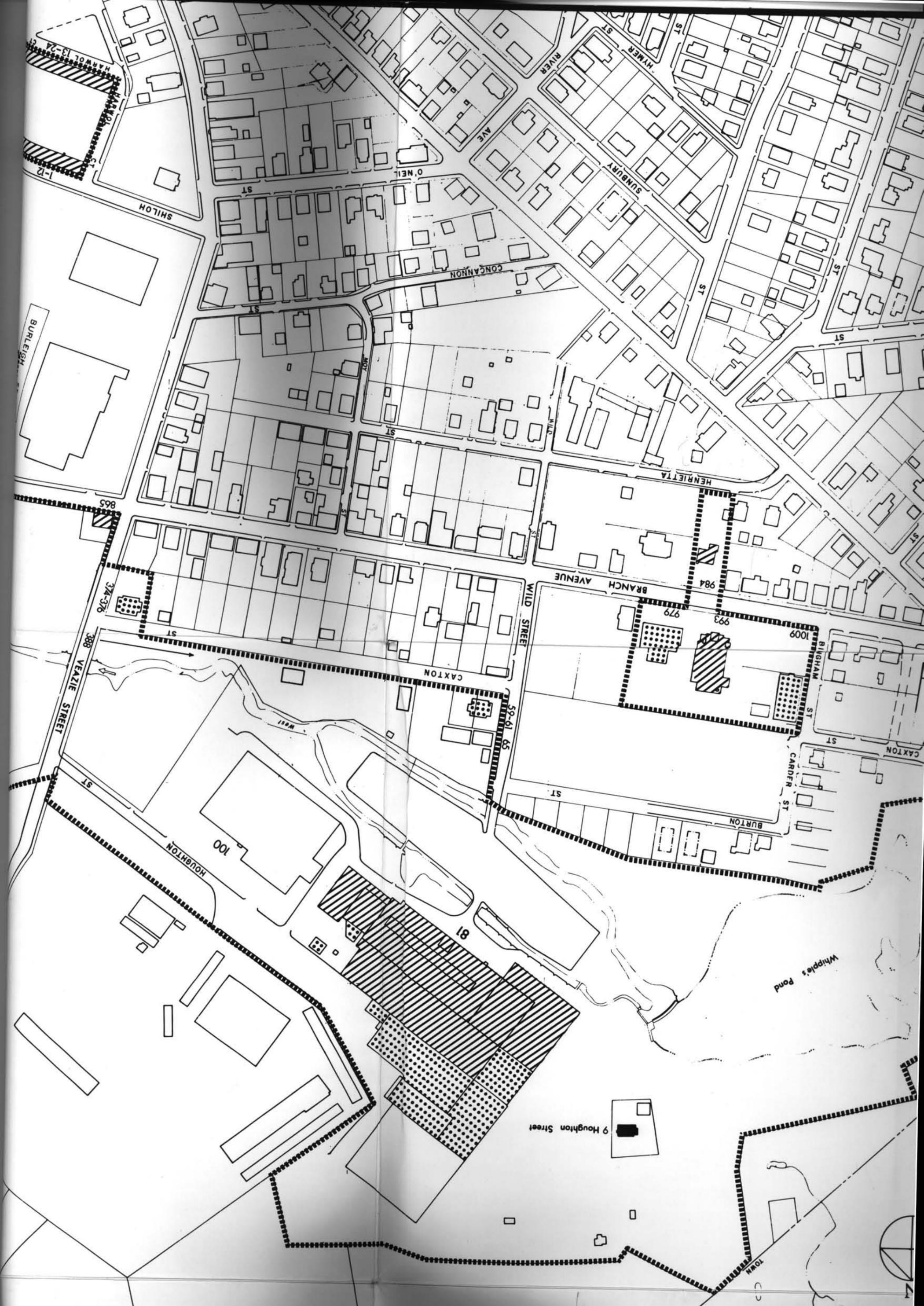
Photo #19



Wanskuck Historic District  
 Providence, R.I. 02904

A	19	297620	4636020
B	19	298220	4637280
C	19	298500	4636180
D	19	298060	4635820





SHILOH

O'NEIL

CONCANNON

SUNBURY

BURLEIGH

HENRIETTA

BRANCH AVENUE

CAXTON

VEAZIE STREET

WILD STREET

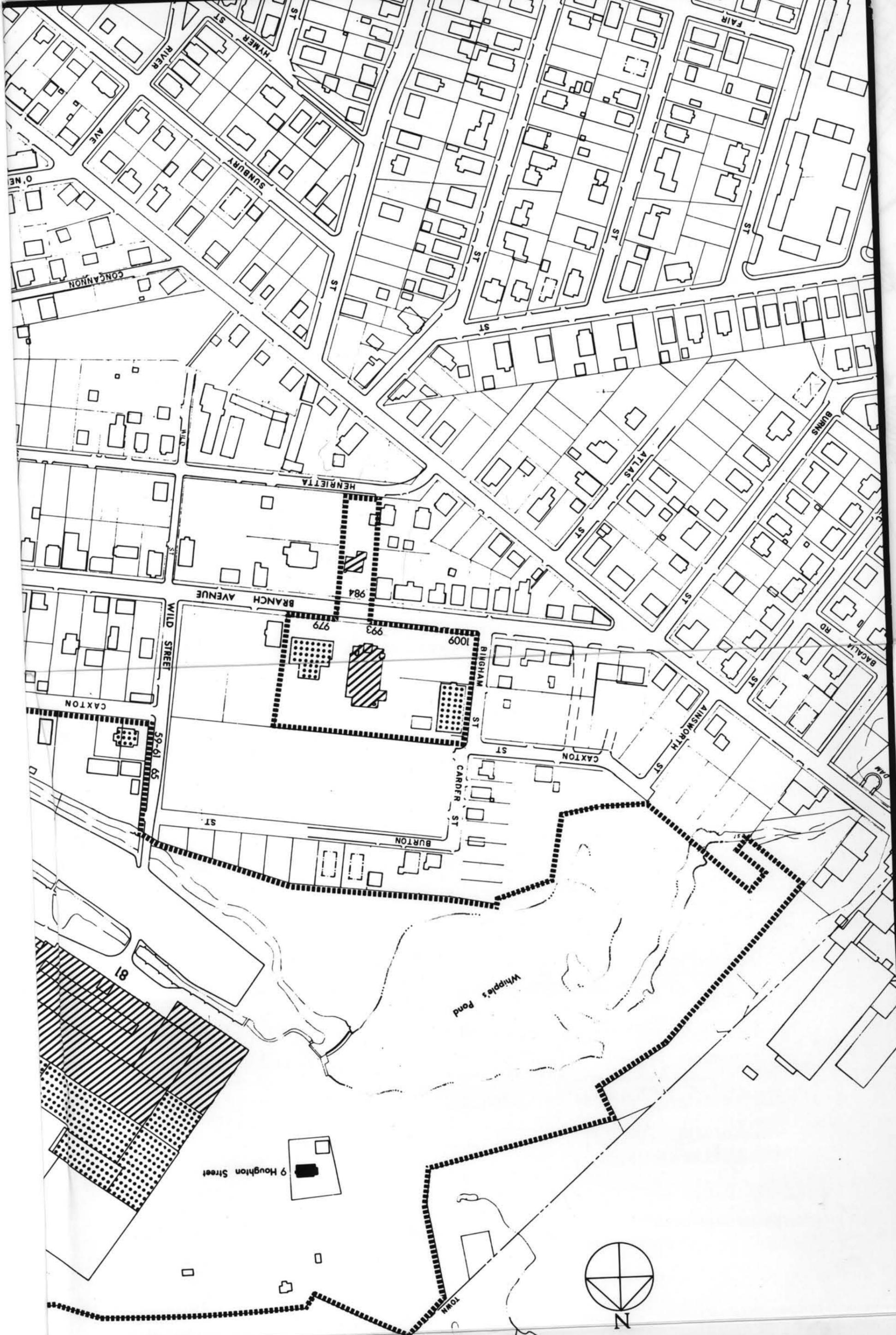
BIGHAM

HOUGHTON

Whipple's Pond

9 Houghton Street

TOWN



O'NE

CONGANNON

SUNBURY

AVE

RIVER

HMER

ST

ST

HENRIETTA

BRANCH AVENUE

984

979

993

1009

BINGHAM

ST

ST

ST

ATLAS

ST

BURNS

RD

BACALIA

DAM

CAXTON

WILD STREET

59-61 65

ST

BURTON

ST

CARDER

ST

CAXTON

ST

AINSWORTH

ST

81

Whipple's Pond

9 Houghton Street





# Wanskuck Historic District Providence, Rhode Island

CLASSIFICATIONS ARE BASED ON STYLE RATHER THAN CONSTRUCTION DATE

- Colonial/Federal
- ▨ 19th-century Vernacular
- ▩ Early 20th century
- ▤ Greek Revival
- ▧ Late Victorian
- Non-contributing



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission 1983

