

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Main Street, High Street, Robinson Street, Wright Avenue

City or town: South Kingstown State: RI County: Washington

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property __meets __does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local:
- Public – State:
- Public – Federal:

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s):
- District:
- Site:
- Building:
- Object:

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>54</u>	<u>17</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>59</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 53

Note: The above resource count replaces the resource count in the 1996 National Register nomination for the Wakefield Historic District. The 1996 resource count listed 53 contributing and 28 non-contributing resources, all of which were buildings.¹ Of the 53 contributing buildings, four have been demolished; two were joined together to become one property, now considered non-contributing due to loss of integrity; and two have sustained significant alterations since the district was originally listed and are now considered non-contributing due to loss of integrity. In addition, two buildings located within the district boundary were overlooked in 1996 and have been added to the resource count as contributing, and seven buildings have had their status revised to contributing, either because research determined an earlier construction date than was previously known or because the period of significance, which has been revised from ca. 1820 - ca. 1930 to ca. 1820 - 1962, now encompasses their dates of construction. In addition to buildings, another five resources (one site, two structures, and two objects) were overlooked in 1996 and have been added to the resource count as contributing.

Of the 28 non-contributing buildings in the 1996 resource count, three are no longer extant. Six buildings that were included in the 1996 count are secondary structures (e.g., garages, sheds) evaluated as not being of sufficient significance to be counted individually; they have therefore been removed from the count. As noted above, seven buildings have had their status revised from non-contributing to contributing. Two buildings have been constructed in the district since 1996 and are counted as non-contributing. Of the buildings counted as contributing in 1996, two have since been joined together to become one property and two have sustained significant alterations (see above); these buildings have been added to the resource count as three non-contributing buildings. In addition to buildings, another three resources (one site, two structures) have been added to the resource count as non-contributing.

In addition, one resource (344 Main Street, Kenyon's Department Store) was listed individually in the National Register in 1992.

¹ Only 49 contributing and 17 non-contributing buildings were listed and described in the inventory in Section 7 of the 1996 nomination.

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italiante

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN: Stick/Eastlake

LATE VICTORIAN: Shingle Style

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE; CONCRETE; BRICK; WOOD/Clapboard, Shingle; VINYL; ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Wakefield Historic District is located in the Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, and is comprised of 59 contributing and 20 non-contributing resources occupying approximately 40 acres.² This linear district contains the relatively dense commercial and industrial center of the village of Wakefield, development of which was largely driven by its proximity to major routes of transportation and commerce. Contributing resources are defined as those that relate to the early development of the village along the old Post Road and/or the area's subsequent growth into South Kingstown's central commercial district. The district consists primarily of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and includes examples of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival styles. Non-contributing resources are those that were constructed after the period of significance (ca. 1820-1962) or which no longer possess integrity.

² Note that an additional six resources (four contributing, two non-contributing) occupying approximately 1 acre are being added to the district through a separate document, being submitted in conjunction with this one, entitled *Wakefield Historic District: Boundary Increase*.

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Narrative Description

Note: The following narrative is taken substantially from the 1996 National Register nomination for the Wakefield Historic District.

The Wakefield Historic District (the “district”) encompasses most of what had become the prominent commercial development in the Town of South Kingstown by the end of the nineteenth century. The district runs generally northeast/southwest along Main Street (part of the historic Lower Post Road that was laid out in the early nineteenth century connecting Boston and New York). Here Main Street runs roughly parallel to the Saugatucket River, crossing it just south of the Wakefield Pond Dam, built in 1850 at the river’s falls line. The Saugatucket River had been a source of waterpower for small-scale milling operations since the eighteenth century, and by the nineteenth century it supported substantial textile milling. The river was navigable to this point; it had once provided limited transportation south to Point Judith Pond and to the Block Island Sound beyond. Through its period of significance, however, the most important transportation features of the district were the Post Road and the Narragansett Pier Railroad, the latter of which was run through the village in 1876, connecting it to the New York, Providence and Boston Railroad at West Kingston, Rhode Island.

What one sees in the district today is the juxtaposition of a linear village, fairly typical for rural Rhode Island, with early to mid-nineteenth-century residential, commercial, and mill buildings, over which has been laid a more urban, late-nineteenth-century through mid-twentieth-century downtown, undoubtedly a result of increased commercial development around the turn of the twentieth century that was fostered by the railroad and the advent and proliferation of the automobile. The buildings remaining today document each of the phases of Wakefield’s history, some reflecting larger spans of time due to adaptive reuse that has acquired significance over the past century. Small-scale landscape features from the historic period, such as stone retaining walls, granite curbing, and granite fence posts, enhance the district’s character. Concrete sidewalks line the streets in the district; some stretches of sidewalk were installed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s, as evidenced by small bronze medallions embedded in the concrete near 235, 236 and 250 Main Street. Shaped like a shield with a series of seven stars across the top and an eagle at the bottom, each medallion reads “BUILT / BY / WORKS PROGRESS / ADMINISTRATION / 1935-1938.”

The core of the district is where Main Street crosses the Saugatucket River just south of the Wakefield Pond Dam near High Street. Much of the mid-nineteenth-century character of the district is retained in this location. North of the Saugatucket River Bridge, abutting the Wakefield Pond Dam, is a pair of simple masonry mill buildings at 1 High Street (a one-story, rectangular brick building built ca. 1900) and 399 Main Street (a two-story granite building constructed by Gideon Reynolds ca. 1866). With its tall, wooden belfry (a late-twentieth-century reconstruction) serving as a village landmark, the three-story Wakefield Mill at 10 High Street, built by Gideon Reynolds ca. 1867, stands nearby on the opposite side of High Street. This textile mill, which is

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part of a small complex of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century buildings, is the most significant industrial building within the boundaries of the district.

South of the Saugatucket River Bridge are a group of significant nineteenth-century buildings. The two-story Sylvester Robinson Store (433 Main Street) was built in 1846 and is one of the more handsome wood-framed Greek Revival-style commercial buildings in Rhode Island. Robinson built his store immediately adjacent to his 1831 home, the Sylvester Robinson House at 445 Main Street, a two-story, hipped-roof, Federal/Greek Revival-style building with a monitor roof and small entry portico. Across Main Street, the two-story granite building at 430 Main Street was built ca. 1850 as the Bank of the South County, and a larger, much-altered commercial block immediately adjacent to the Saugatucket River Bridge was built for the Wakefield Institution for Savings (422 Main Street; 1889, altered 1924; NC). A two-story, wood clapboard-sided, Greek Revival-style building (428 Main Street) with a distinctive oval window in its gable end, visible at the south end of the alley between 430 Main Street and 445 Main Street, was built ca. 1834 as the first location of the Wakefield Bank and was probably moved to its current location between 1885 and 1891 to make room for construction of the larger building (422 Main Street) that now fronts on Main Street.

The mid-nineteenth-century character of this area of the district is also largely preserved on the north side of the Saugatucket River Bridge, with the one-and-one-half-story commercial building at 396 Main Street, built in 1866 as a dry goods store by William Kenyon, along with the one-story Daniel Burdick House (built before 1850) at 380 Main Street, and the two story, five-bay Greek Revival-style building located at 390 Main Street, built by William B. Robinson ca. 1845. On the parcel immediately northeast of the bridge, a group of one-story, late-twentieth-century commercial buildings (non-contributing) set within an asphalt parking are a relatively innocuous intrusion on the early character of the district.

To the northeast and southwest of the bridge, Main Street runs uphill at a moderate grade. A characteristic of Wakefield's development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was that businesses that were established or expanded at this time gravitated toward the railroad tracks and in proximity to the Narragansett Pier Railroad in general. The density of buildings increases in this area of the district and most of the buildings' storefronts abut the sidewalks, giving the streetscape a distinct turn-of-the-twentieth-century commercial character.

The streetscape of the southeast side of Main Street at this commercial center is comprised of relatively small, wood-framed buildings; the northwest side of the street is more urban and comprised of larger and taller commercial buildings. On the east side of Main Street, Kenyon's Department Store (344 Main Street) was built in 1891 by descendants of William Kenyon, who had established his dry goods store just down the street at 396 Main Street. Although altered in the early twentieth century, 344 Main Street remains primarily a two-and-one-half-story, wood-shingled, Queen Anne-style building, individually listed in the National Register in 1992 (NR #92001540).

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Opposite 344 Main Street, the Bell Block (345 Main Street) is a three-story, flat-roofed, Roman brick, mixed-use building constructed in 1899, a particularly good example of turn-of-the-twentieth-century commercial architecture and one of the most ambitious commercial buildings in Wakefield. Attached to the southwest elevation of this building is the three-and-one-half-story, mansard-roofed Sheldon Block (349 Main Street). Built by the Sheldon family as a furniture and hardware store before 1870 on a site southwest of the Saugatucket River Bridge, the building was moved to its current site, raised up one story, and enlarged in 1899. A wide, copper-clad oriel window was added to the façade of the building at that time, establishing an architectural relationship to the adjacent Bell Block, which is itself articulated by a series of copper-clad oriel windows at the second floor.

This urban construction pattern of densely and linearly placed commercial buildings extends southwest to Barber's Block, a two-story commercial block located at 365 Main Street (ca. 1900), and to the northeast to the two-story Clarke's Block (also known as the Bivona Block) at 311-317 Main Street (built between 1896 and 1901). Use of Roman brick in the construction of both buildings, matching the Bell Block, provides architectural continuity to the streetscape.

Several buildings within this commercial core, however, break from these earlier patterns. These early- and mid-twentieth-century buildings demonstrate the impact of the automobile on the district. The ca. 1930 Wakefield Auto Station (375 Main Street), a two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular brick commercial building and the ca. 1937 Northup's Filling Station (318 Main Street), a one-story, flat-roofed stucco building, are both examples of automobile-related service businesses that flourished in the district during the first half of the twentieth century. In 1927, a two-story, Classical Revival-style building (336 Main Street) was constructed as a new home for the Washington Trust Company in a location providing ample parking for bank customers. Across Main Street, 333 Main Street is a ca. 1940 one-story, flat-roofed commercial building built for the First National Supermarket, and although the building has since been divided into two storefronts, the original southwest storefront is still intact.

The Narragansett Pier Railroad crossed Main Street at the north end of this commercial core, just north of where Robinson Street now intersects Main Street from the east; today, the railroad right-of-way has been converted into the William C. O'Neill Bike Path. In 2015, the Wakefield Comfort Station (305 Main Street; NC), a one-story, hipped-roof, wood-frame building was constructed along the railroad's former right-of-way, in a design resembling the Narragansett Pier Railroad Wakefield passenger depot, which was demolished in 1948. At the north side of the abandoned railroad right-of-way is the Wakefield Branch Company at 297 Main Street, located to take advantage of the transportation services the railroad offered. The main building of the complex, built in 1892, was restored in 2012-2015.

The district continues to the top of the hill where Main Street turns sharply east and intersects with River Street. At this corner, known as Armstrong's Corner, there is a cluster of mid-nineteenth-century houses and the Wakefield Baptist Church (236 Main Street, 1852). The church building was designed by Thomas Tefft, one of Rhode Island's most prominent mid-nineteenth-century architects; the building was significantly but sympathetically altered in 1891

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and then again in 1950. The residential buildings located around Armstrong's Corner include the Nathaniel C. Armstrong House (between 1840 and 1850) at 235 Main Street, a two-story, five-bay, Greek Revival-style dwelling and his brother's residence, the John B. Armstrong House (225 Main Street), a one-and-one-half-story house built between 1857 and 1860 in the Gothic Revival style. The Armstrong brothers ran a carriage manufacturing business, one of the earliest manufacturing establishments in Wakefield, which operated in a complex nearby that included the now-altered building at 245 Main Street (before 1870; NC) that today serves as an automobile showroom.

To the southwest of the Saugatucket River Bridge, the district is more varied in character. The buildings in this area are mostly commercial, representing various, and sometimes multiple, phases of Wakefield's history. A three-and-one-half-story, mansard-roofed Store/Dwelling at 457 Main Street was constructed prior to 1870, possibly as a bank. This building also illustrates mid-twentieth-century development in the village, with its pre-1961, one-story storefront addition extending from the east elevation. Nearby, 476 Main Street (NC) is a large, two-story, hipped-roof commercial building constructed prior to 1857 which originally served as Carder Hazard's store.

Several early and mid-twentieth-century automobile-related business are also found in this area of the district, representing the significant impact of the automobile on the village. At 462 Main Street, Flanagan's Shell Station was constructed between 1921 and 1935 to serve both local patrons and out-of-towners traveling Main Street, then a portion of Route 1. The station consists of a small, one-story office with a tall, one-story, gable-roofed garage addition. Nearby, at 446 Main Street, a one- and two-story rectangular concrete block building with a street-front plate-glass extension was constructed ca. 1950; this likely originated as a Ford automobile dealership.

The southwest end of the district is residential in character, represented by several mid- and late-nineteenth-century single-family residences that line the south side of Main Street. These include the Carder Hazard House, a two-story, five-bay, Greek Revival-style dwelling at 500 Main Street, constructed before 1850; the Ann Watson House, a two-story, cross-gable-roofed, Queen Anne-style dwelling (522 Main Street, between 1857 and 1862), which also served for a period as the Holly House Annex to the now demolished Larchwood Inn (see below); and the Elisha Watson, Jr. House, a two-story Italianate building located at 546 Main Street and constructed before 1857.

Across the street, on the north side of Main Street, is the former site of the Larchwood Inn (521 Main Street), a large Federal building (ca. 1831; demolished in 2016) set above the street in the center of an impressive designed landscape. Numerous character-defining site features, including granite boundary walls, iron fencing, paths, and specimen trees, remain on the site. Adjacent to the Larchwood Inn parcel is another single-family dwelling (19 Wright Avenue) with ties to Stephen and Susan Wright, the most notable owners of the Larchwood Inn. Around 1890, the Wright's daughter, Frances "Fannie" Cross, built 19 Wright Avenue, a substantial two-and-one-half-story dwelling with elements of the Shingle Style, including a cross-gable, gambrel roof.

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Originally situated immediately adjacent to the Larchwood Inn, the building was moved to its present location between 1910 and 1921.

As Main Street continues southwest beyond the Larchwood Inn site, the character of the area changes to one of country estates—grander houses set on larger and more extensively landscaped parcels of land. There are several mid-nineteenth century and early-twentieth-century houses further along Main Street, outside the boundaries of the district; however, the architectural and historical relationship of these properties to the village of Wakefield during its period of significance is limited.

Summary of Previous National Register Documentation:

This Additional Documentation submission is the result of a reexamination of the Wakefield Historic District, which demonstrated that an extended period of significance is appropriate for this nomination. The preceding narrative and following inventory incorporates additional research, including support for an extended period of significance, into the 1996 National Register nomination form. The revised inventory:

- provides corrections to historical information, based on new research;
- includes resources not described in the inventory in Section 7 of the 1996 NR nomination, but located within the original district boundary;
- provides updated descriptions for every resource in the district, so that the descriptions are more thorough and reflect changes since the 1996 nomination;
- revises the status of some resources from non-contributing to contributing, based on new research that, for example, provides an earlier construction date;
- revises the status of some resources from non-contributing to contributing, based on the revised period of significance; and
- revises the status of some resources from contributing to non-contributing, based on loss of integrity since 1996 listing.

INVENTORY

HIGH STREET

- 1 Wakefield Mill Warehouse (ca. 1900): A one-story, rectangular-plan, brick building located between High Street and the Wakefield Pond Dam on the west bank of the Saugatucket River. The building has a low-pitch, asphalt-shingled, gable roof with simple wood brackets, a granite foundation, and a full-height basement level. The historic fenestration pattern appears largely intact, though window openings are filled with late-twentieth-century, paired, aluminum sash. The principal entrance is located on the north elevation, set within a small, brick, late-twentieth-century, hipped-roof addition. (A former entrance, centered on the west elevation, has been filled in.) This building was

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constructed as part of the Wakefield Mill complex ca. 1900 to replace an earlier wood-frame building on the site.³

- 10 Wakefield Mill (ca. 1867; twentieth-century additions and restoration work): The Wakefield Mill complex includes the Main Building (with additions) and the Superintendent's House.

Built by Gideon Reynolds about 1867 to replace an earlier wood-frame building that had been damaged by fire, the Main Building of this mill complex is an east-facing, three-story, gable-front building constructed of quarry-faced granite laid in random bond, set with its gable end abutting High Street. It was constructed by the South Kingstown contracting firm of Kneeland P. Partelow and George Bullock.⁴ The flat-roofed brick tower at the north end of the façade is an addition, dating between 1921 and 1935. The wood-frame cupola on the roof ridge was added in the late twentieth century and designed to resemble an earlier cupola, which was damaged in the 1938 hurricane. The roofing is asphalt shingles; the windows are six-over-six, double-hung vinyl, but the building's historic fenestration pattern is preserved. The principal entrance is centered on the façade and consists of paired, modern steel doors.

A one-story brick extension was built off the rear (west) elevation of the Main Building between 1896 and 1903 and expanded by 1910. It housed the mill's packing and finishing activities. Between 1921 and 1935, by which time the mill was owned by the Wakefield Textile Company, a one-story brick addition was built off the north elevation of the Main Building. During the same period, the packing and finishing addition received a one-story brick addition off its north side and a two-story, brick, trapezoidal-plan addition off its south side.⁵ The trapezoidal-plan addition was expanded to the west sometime between 1962 and 1972.⁶ Though large and altered from their historic appearance, these additions are for the most part set back from the Main Building and do not detract significantly from its integrity.

Attached to the Main Building's south elevation, but set back behind a small parking lot, is the Superintendent's House: a one-story, three-bays-wide, center-entrance, side-gable building constructed ca. 1845 for use by a superintendent at the earlier mill at this location. The building, which features a tall granite foundation, exhibits elements of the Greek Revival style, including the flat fascia and corner boards. The siding is wood clapboard, the roofing is asphalt shingles, and the windows are double-hung, vinyl replacement sash. A two-story addition constructed of concrete block but sided at the

³ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885 and 1891.

⁴ *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island*. J.H. Beers & Co. Chicago, 1908.

⁵ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1896, 1903, 1921 and 1935.

⁶ Rhode Island Maps & Aerial Photos, 1962 and 1972, available at ridemgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html

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façade with wood clapboards was added to the south elevation of the Superintendent's House in the twentieth century.⁷

High Street at Main Street

Benjamin F. Robinson, Jr. Memorial Square Marker (1937): A granite boulder at the northeast corner of High and Main Streets, set within a small park. A bronze plaque is attached to the boulder; it reads "BENJAMIN F. ROBINSON / MEMORIAL SQUARE / DEDICATED 1937 / TO THE MEMORY OF / BENJAMIN F. ROBINSON / BORN FEB. 22 1858 DIED JAN. 14 1937 / ERECTED BY / SOUTH KINGSTOWN / POST NO. 39 / AMERICAN LEGION." Bronze rosettes mark the corners of the plaque, which is also adorned with an American Legion medallion. Benjamin F. Robinson, Jr. was the grandson of Wakefield businessman Sylvester Robinson, who served as a Rhode Island state senator, president of the Wakefield Trust Company, and was a trustee of Rhode Island State Agricultural School (now the University of Rhode Island). *Note: The marker was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but it is located within the original district boundary.*

MAIN STREET

219 House (between 1896 and 1903): A two-and-one-half-story, Queen Anne-style dwelling with an asphalt-shingled, multi-gable and hipped roof with dormers. An open porch with Tuscan columns stretches across much of the south façade, sheltering the front entry, and extending to the east to create a porte-cochere. Exterior walls are wood clapboard; some windows at the first and second stories have been replaced with vinyl sash (after 1996), but at the third story, original multi-paned wood sash remain intact. Research confirms that there was a dwelling built on this parcel before 1857 by Dr. John Rose that was moved prior to the construction of this building.⁸

Garage (former Barn/Carriage House) (between 1896 and 1903⁹): A one-and-one-half-story garage, originally built as a barn/carriage house, is located to the rear (north) of the house. It has a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof, and its walls are clad in wood clapboard. A vertical wood plank garage door is located slightly west of the center of the façade, beneath a gabled wall dormer that contains a hayloft door (now filled with vertical wood plank). A six-over-six, double-hung wood window is located to the east of the garage door. To the west of the garage door is what appears to be a top-hinged door composed of vertical wood plank and containing two six-pane, fixed wood sash. *Note: The garage was*

⁷ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island.* Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1921.

⁸ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, PA, 1857; 1870 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Wakefield Post Office, p. 62, dwelling 501, family 531, John Rose, NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1473; "Main Street, Wakefield, R.I. in 1887" by Miss Mary Whaley (available at South County History Center).

⁹ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island.* Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1896, and 1903.

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not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.

- 225 John B. Armstrong House (between 1857 and 1860): A mid-nineteenth century, one-and-one-half-story, Gothic Revival-style cottage with a cross-gable roof and a gabled wall dormer on the façade. The gable ends of its steep roof and dormer are trimmed with serpentine bargeboards. The foundation is granite block, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. The entrance is housed beneath a hipped-roof, enclosed porch. An ell extends off the rear of the building. Narrow paired second-story windows are round-headed, and round windows light the attic; a first story bay window is triangular in plan. Between 1996 and 2016, a fire occurred in the building, resulting in window and door replacements throughout and the building being re-sided in vinyl siding. Research has confirmed that John B. Armstrong was the original owner of this dwelling, with a date of construction between 1857 and 1860.¹⁰ *Note: In the 1996 NR nomination, this building was incorrectly identified as the “John H. Armstrong House.”*
- 235 Nathaniel C. Armstrong House (between 1840 and 1850): This two-story, five-bays-wide, Greek Revival-style house sits on a corner lot at River Street, across from what in the nineteenth century was Armstrong’s carriage shop.¹¹ Research suggests that the likely date of construction for this dwelling is between 1840 and 1850.¹² The building has an asphalt-shingled, side-gable roof with two corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, a granite foundation, and vinyl siding. The house is trimmed with a substantial entablature cornice and paneled corner boards. Window openings are filled with double-hung, six-over-six vinyl sash. Triangular attic window openings, now filled in, are framed by the pediment treatment at the gable ends of the main roof. A wide, late-nineteenth-century Eastlake porch with turned posts and decorative brackets protects the central front entry, which includes a late-nineteenth-century door framed by an original mid-nineteenth century transom and sidelights. Ca. 2003, the rear additions of the building were demolished, and a new addition was constructed.

A granite rubblestone wall, likely built before 1900, marks the perimeter of the property on Main Street. The wall is approximately thirty-six inches tall and is topped with a course of cut-granite blocks and a domed, rubblestone coping. Rubblestone piers mark the entrance to the front walk and the driveway.

¹⁰ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, PA, 1857; 1860 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, South Kingstown, p. 53, dwelling 350, family 391, John B. Armstrong, NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1211.

¹¹ *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.* D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870.

¹² The 1840 U.S. census does not appear to record Armstrong living in this location; however, the 1850 U.S. census does appear to record Armstrong living in this home. 1840 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, Town of South Kingstown, population schedule, p. 415, Nathaniel C. Armstrong, NARA microfilm publication M704; 1850 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, South Kingstown, p. 682, dwelling 117, family 133, Nathaniel C. Armstrong, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 847; *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, PA, 1857.

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236 Wakefield Baptist Church (1852, Thomas Tefft, architect; alterations 1891 and 1950): The main portion of this church was designed by Rhode Island architect Thomas Tefft to replace an earlier church on this site.¹³ It is a tall, one-story, wood-frame, Italianate-style building sheathed in vinyl siding and topped with a front-gable, asphalt-shingled roof with sawn brackets along the eaves. A square tower is centered on the west façade; it includes a wood octagonal belfry with louvers and a wood-shingled, pyramidal roof. The historic entrance is housed within the tower and consists of a pair of wood doors set within a round-arched opening and beneath a gabled hood. Tall, narrow, round-headed windows light the interior. At the north elevation, a new entrance wing, similar in detail to the main block, was added in 1891 when the interior pulpit was relocated to the south end of the sanctuary. In 1950, a large addition housing an assembly and recreation room was built off the east elevation and extends to the south.

A series of thirty-three granite posts mark the perimeter of the Wakefield Baptist Church property on Main Street. They are approximately forty-eight inches tall, square in plan, and have pyramidal tops. Historically, the posts were linked by two rows of iron chains. The chains do not survive, but the iron rings that attached the chains to the posts are extant. Historic photographs indicate the fence was in place by 1897.¹⁴

Wakefield Baptist Church Cemetery/South Kingstown Cemetery #44 (established ca. 1834): The historic cemetery located to the rear (east) of the Wakefield Baptist Church currently measures approximately 70 feet by 50 feet and contains about 50 grave markers, the oldest dating to 1834 and the most recent to 1928. Grave markers consist primarily of simple granite slabs, though the Hannah Armstrong Geisler obelisk (1862) is a notable exception. The eastern perimeter of the property is delineated by a historic stone wall. The cemetery was originally much larger, including what is now the church parking lot. When the lot was created, sometime after 1928, an unknown number of gravestones were relocated within the cemetery or moved to other burial grounds.¹⁵ *Note: The cemetery was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

245 C.H. Armstrong & Sons Carriage Works/South County Motors (before 1870, twentieth-century alterations and addition): Portions of this much-altered, two-story, wood-frame and concrete block building may date to the nineteenth century, when the Armstrong family operated a carriage manufacturing business at this location. The building has sustained numerous alterations over time, including the installation of vinyl siding and the replacement of most of the windows sometime after 1996. (The rear ell retains its

¹³ *Wakefield Baptist Church 1781-1981*. Mrs. Leonard (Mae) Ross, 1981.

¹⁴ *Wakefield and Peace Dale Directory 1897*. Local History and Directory Publishing Co.; South County History Center Photograph Collection.

¹⁵ "South Kingstown Cemetery #44," Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission.

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original industrial windows.) This is the only remaining building of the Armstrong's River Street carriage manufacturing complex.¹⁶

249-255

Store (between 1885 and 1891; altered after 1959): A two-story, hipped-roof, rectangular-plan building with a deep soffit. The symmetrical façade is six bays wide and embellished with a low-pitched, center wall dormer with a half-round window. At the first story, the façade features storefront windows and two central entries, all set beneath a bracketed cornice; research shows this is a late-twentieth-century reconfiguration of an earlier storefront.¹⁷ The siding is wood shingles, except at the first story of the façade, which is clad in wood clapboard, and the roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Window openings have simple wood trim and one-over-one vinyl sash. The storefront windows were also replaced with vinyl windows sometime after 1996.

250 Wakefield Baptist Church Rectory (1896¹⁸): A two-story, west-facing, simple Stick Style dwelling located to the southwest of the Wakefield Baptist Church (see 236 Main Street), facing Main Street. It has a cross-gable, asphalt-shingled roof and vinyl siding. Architectural features include decorated bargeboards and king post trusses at the gable ends and a one-story open porch with turned wood posts wrapping around the west and north elevations. The primary entrance is housed beneath this porch, on the west façade. Fenestration includes single and paired window openings, as well as a bay window on the west façade; sash are replacement, one-over-one vinyl. A small brick chimney pierces the north block of the building.

257 A Quick Tire & Auto Service Center (1927): A one-story, long, rectangular-plan, concrete block building with a slight barrel-shaped roof and a symmetrical brick "false front" façade. A center entrance, consisting of a modern aluminum door, is flanked by plate glass windows. (Research shows that the façade originally featured patterned brick, covered after a 1969 automobile accident.¹⁹) Some original steel industrial windows remain intact, though replacement sash are also present. A cast-concrete panel with a swag motif is centered on the parapet. A mid-twentieth century sign advertising "Tire & Auto Service" is attached to the roof behind the parapet. *Note: This building was listed as non-contributing in the 1996 NR nomination, which provided a construction date of "mid-20th century." Additional research shows the building was constructed in 1927, and its status has therefore been updated to contributing.*

¹⁶ *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1910 and 1921.

¹⁷ Photograph provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

¹⁸ *Wakefield Baptist Church 1781-1981*. Mrs. Leonard (Mae) Ross, 1981; *Wakefield and Peace Dale Directory 1897*. Local History and Directory Publishing Co.

¹⁹ Photographs and information provided by property's current owner.

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265 Store/South Kingstown Police Department (between 1921 and 1935²⁰): A two-story, four-bays-wide, hipped-roof, rectangular-plan commercial and residential building with wood-shingle cladding and an asphalt-shingled roof. The first story of the façade is treated as a single storefront, with a central, recessed entry flanked by large plate glass windows, all set beneath a molded wood cornice. Several original two-over-one, double-hung, wood sash remain intact at the second story behind aluminum storm windows. The South Kingstown Police Department was located in this building from the 1940s through the 1960s.²¹

269-271

Stores (1960): A one-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed, concrete block building with two original plate glass storefronts (one angled) above a base wall of artificial stone. The storefronts frame a recessed entrance. The building's original metal façade canopy awning survives, though it is currently obscured by a wrap-around fabric awning added in 2017. Rectangular window openings, some filled with glass block, are spaced evenly across the building's southwest elevation. *Note: This building was listed as non-contributing in the 1996 NR nomination, but its status has been updated to contributing due to the revised period of significance.*

297 Wakefield Branch Company/Arnold Lumber (1892 et seq.): The former Wakefield Branch Company property is home to a complex of interconnected buildings constructed over the course of nearly one hundred years. In 1874, William C. Caswell founded a business at this site. In 1879, the property was purchased by the J.C. Tucker Company, a hardware and building supply business headquartered in nearby Narragansett Pier, and became home to the company's "Wakefield Branch."²² (The former Narragansett Pier Railroad right-of-way is located directly adjacent to the complex, to the southwest; the railroad bed is now part of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path.) By 1935, the business was owned by the Wakefield Branch Co. and in 1990, it was purchased by the Arnold Lumber Company. Arnold Lumber undertook a significant restoration of the Main Building in 2012-15.

The Main Building (1892) is a Romanesque Revival-style, two-story, three-bays-wide, brick building with a flat roof and parapet. The recessed entry with double-leaf doors is centered on the façade, set within a round-arched opening with stepped brick pilasters and capitals between the first and second stories and a corbelled cornice. The arch is flanked by storefront windows that consist of metal frames and plate glass with rectangular, wood lintels, and simple granite sills, topped by a wood cornice between the

²⁰ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1921 and 1935.

²¹ Cotter, Betty J., *Images of America: Wakefield*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1997; *Historical Overview*. South Kingstown Police Department. The 1996 National Register nomination for the Wakefield Historic District states that this building may have been constructed by Samuel Siskind for a men's clothing store, but recent research does not confirm this claim.

²² *Wakefield Branch Company 100th Year Anniversary, 1874-1974* (booklet).

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first and second stories. The second story features a pair of windows above the round arch, flanked by single windows, with tall, brick lintels and granite sills. Windows are four-over-one, double-hung aluminum sash (installed during the 2012-15 restoration). The façade is topped with a wood cornice with brackets and a decorative wood parapet, all installed as part of the 2012-15 restoration. The parapet has a centrally-located, reproduction sign reading “Wakefield Branch Company est. 1874,” short sections of balustrade, and corner panels. A large, one-story, flat-roofed brick addition (1972) extends off the northeast elevation of the Main Building. It has a deep overhanging cornice and large plate glass windows facing Main Street. A similarly styled, but smaller, addition from the same period extends off the southwest elevation of the Main Building.²³

To the rear of the Main Building is a series of linear, interconnected additions, stretching northwest along the former right-of-way. These include a two- to three-story, flat-roof, concrete block addition faced with brick, which probably dates to the mid-twentieth century; a one-story, wood-frame, vinyl-sided, gable-roofed building with an uncertain construction date; and a one-story, concrete block, vinyl-sided building constructed sometime after 1962.²⁴

297 Rear

Lumber Shed (ca. 1930²⁵): A long, rectangular-plan, two-story, flat-roofed building located to the northwest of the Main Building of the Wakefield Branch Company/Arnold Lumber complex (see above), extending toward the Saugatucket River. Constructed of concrete block at three elevations, the southwest elevation has thirteen bays, each of which is occupied by a large door opening, at both the first and stories. At the first story, most of the openings are filled with overhead wood garage doors; at the second story, the openings retain their original paired, sliding wood doors. Each bay is marked with a number sign, which appear to be historic. Narrow walls between the door openings are sheathed with asphalt shingles. A wood walkway, with a wood railing and tall posts to the roofline, runs along the second story, providing second-floor access and also sheltering the story below. This building is largely intact and remains in active use. *Note: This building was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

305 Wakefield Comfort Station (2015, Richard Ventrone, architect): This one-story, hipped
NC roof, rectangular-plan building features wood clapboard siding, very deep eaves with large wood brackets, and segmental-arched window openings. Its design is intended to resemble the former Narragansett Pier Railroad Wakefield Depot, which had been located

²³ *Wakefield Branch Company 100th Year Anniversary, 1874-1974* (booklet).

²⁴ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1910, 1921, 1935, 1946 and 1962. The wood-frame addition may incorporate a coal and lumber warehouse that appears on the 1885 and subsequent Sanborn maps, though discrepancies in its dimensions and number of stories makes this difficult to determine without additional research.

²⁵ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1921 and 1935; Photograph provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

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nearby. *Note: The Comfort Station replaced a late-twentieth-century building on this site, which was listed as non-contributing in the 1996 NR nomination.*

311-317

Clarke's Block/Bivona Block (between 1896 and 1901): An early-twentieth-century, two-story, shed-roofed commercial building with a Roman brick façade. Narrow brick piers segment the façade into five sections. The narrow center section, with its original two-leafed wood door, provides entry to the building's second story office spaces. The remaining bays each have plate glass storefronts at the first story and three window openings with granite sills at the second story. Window openings are filled with double-hung, vinyl replacement sash. Decorative features at the façade include brick corbelling near the roofline and a frieze, composed of buff brick laid in a herringbone pattern, between the first and second stories of the building. The exposed side elevation (northeast) is covered in stucco. Research reveals that this building, described as "Clarke Block" or "Clarke's Block," was constructed between 1896 and 1901.²⁶ The name "Bivona Block" is more commonly associated with the building today.

318 Northup's Filling Station (ca. 1937): This small, one-story, flat-roofed building of simple Art Deco design sits diagonally on its corner lot and was originally constructed as an auto filling and service station.²⁷ Simple vertical piers articulate the façade of this stucco-faced building into three bays. The central and left-hand bay have rolling garage doors; the right-hand bay is treated with a simple storefront with extensive glazing and a pedestrian entry. Storefront windows have been replaced, and new overhead garage doors were installed sometime after 1996. Research reveals that this building replaced an earlier service station on the site that was destroyed by an explosion in July 1937.²⁸

321 Contemporary Theater Company Rehearsal Studio (1982): A one-story, flat-roofed, NC concrete block building with a rear addition with a steeply-pitched shed roof. This building, which currently houses rehearsal and performance space for a theater company, is set behind the buildings on Main Street, close to the east bank of the Saugatucket River. *Note: In the 1996 NR nomination, this building was identified as rear 305 Main Street.*

322 D.B. Griffin Apothecary (1886): A simple, one-story building with a tall, front-gable roof and a wide, mid-twentieth century aluminum and plate glass storefront with a recessed central entrance. (This replaced an earlier storefront of similar configuration.) The building is clad in wood clapboard, except for the first-floor of the façade, which features

²⁶ *Hardware: A Review of the American Hardware Market*. August 25, 1901, vol. 23, page 48. Hardware Publishing Company; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1896 and 1903.

²⁷ South County History Center Photograph Collection; Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

²⁸ South County History Center Photograph Collection; Photographs provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

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brick. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, with a small, internal, nineteenth-century corbelled brick chimney at the rear of the building. Research confirms that this building was constructed in 1886 as Daniel B. Griffin's Apothecary.²⁹

Near 322

Robert G. Thackeray Memorial Square Marker (1937): A polished granite slant marker set into the sidewalk near 322 Main Street. The marker has a bronze plaque that reads "ROBERT G. THACKERAY / MEMORIAL SQUARE / DEDICATED 1937 / TO THE MEMORY OF / COL. ROBERT G. THACKERAY / BORN MAY 30 1886 DIED JULY 18 1935 / ERECTED BY / SOUTH KINGSTOWN / POST NO. 39 / AMERICAN LEGION." Bronze rosettes mark the corners of the plaque, which is also adorned with an American Legion medallion. Robert G. Thackeray was a veteran of the Spanish American War, leader of the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Adams during World War I, and captain of the Rhode Island Coast Artillery, National Guard. *Note: The marker was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary*

323 Phil's Restaurant (before 1870): A two-story, wood-frame commercial building with vinyl siding (installed in 2012) and an asphalt-shingled, hipped roof. Cross-gable dormers on the façade were formerly embellished with simple sawn decoration (removed in 2012). Early plate-glass storefront windows and their wood surrounds remain intact; other window openings are filled with one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash. The building, which research reveals was built before 1870, was formerly occupied by a men's furnishing store, a barber shop, and the South Kingstown Police Department.³⁰ In 2012, a second-story bridge was added to this building, linking it to the building at 329 Main Street. *Note: In the 1996 NR nomination, this building was identified as 325 Main Street.*

326 Griffin's Block (between 1891 and 1895): A two-story, four-bays-wide, clapboarded, hipped-roof commercial building with a cross-gable wall dormer at the center of its façade. The dormer is treated with decorative wood shingles and bracketed eaves. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A bracketed cornice caps a pair of storefronts at the façade's first story. The historic fenestration pattern remains intact, but window openings are filled with vinyl two-over-two sash. Sometime between 1996 and 2016, the building's storefront windows were replaced with vinyl and paneled wood, double-leaf doors were installed in the two entrances, which are centered on the façade. Research reveals that

²⁹ File "Wakefield," South County History Center Vertical Files; South County History Center Postcard Collection; South County History Center Manuscript Collection.

³⁰ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, and 1910; *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870; *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island* [map]. O.H. Bailey & Co. Boston, MA, 1888; Information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

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when constructed between 1891 and 1895, this building housed the village post office.³¹

Note: In the 1996 NR nomination, this building was identified as “Griffen Block / Saywell’s.”

- 327 NC Hera Gallery/Contemporary Theater Company (between 1935-1946, altered after 1974): A plain, one-story, front-gable building with plywood exterior walls, entrances on its east and south elevations, and no window openings. Research reveals that this structure served as a storage building before 1946.³² Previously home to Hera Gallery, it is currently used as performance space for a local theater group.
- 328 Store (between 1885 and 1891): A small, two-story, clapboarded commercial building with an asphalt-shingled, low-pitched gable roof. Fish scale shingles decorate the gable end facing the street. The first-story storefront has plate glass windows and a recessed entry that contains two doors: one to access the store and one to access the upper stories of the building. (This replaced an earlier storefront of a different configuration.) Sometime after 1996, the second story windows were replaced with vinyl double-hung sash. Research suggests that this building was constructed between 1885 and 1891.³³
- 329 NC Commercial Building (2012): This one-story, rectangular, clapboard-sided building features a central, recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows and a roof deck. This is the former site of Whiting’s Diner (ca. 1920; demolished 2012), which housed a clothing store in the latter years of the twentieth century. The trolley or electric streetcar type diner included a later, one-story, flat-roofed, brick addition to its rear; this addition is still extant, having been incorporated into the rear of the existing building.³⁴ *Note: This building replaced Whiting’s Diner (ca. 1920s), which was listed as contributing in the 1996 NR nomination.*
- 330 Store (ca. 1910): A two-story, four-bays-wide, hipped-roof, wood-frame commercial building featuring an original storefront with a recessed entry flanked by wood-frame, plate-glass windows. A secondary entrance, located in the first bay of the façade, provides access to the second floor. Both entrances include wood-paneled doors and transom windows. Exterior walls are clad in wood-shingle siding, and the roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A wood cornice with diminutive brackets runs the width of the façade between the first and second stories of the building. A slim brick chimney extends from the southwest roof plane. Window openings are filled with original two-over-two, double-hung wood sash. Research reveals that this building replaced a ca. 1890

³¹ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island.* Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885 and 1891.

³² This building replaced an earlier automobile garage. *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island.* Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1921 and 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates).

³³ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island.* Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885 and 1891.

³⁴ Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

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gable-front building, which operated as a store, that was either removed from the site or demolished between 1896 and 1903.³⁵

333 First National Supermarket (ca. 1940): A simple, one-story, flat-roofed, brick commercial building with a copper cornice and brick piers. There are two storefronts. The configuration of the south storefront is original, with steel-frame, plate-glass windows flanking a pair of modern, glazed doors. Between 2008 and 2010, the plate glass windows in the north storefront were replaced with a set of six, twelve-over-one, double-hung, replacement sash. Research shows that the building was constructed ca. 1940 to house a First National Supermarket and was split into two storefronts after 1965.³⁶ *Note: This building was listed as non-contributing in the 1996 NR nomination, but its status has been updated to contributing due to the revised period of significance.*

336 Washington Trust Company (1927³⁷): A two-story, red brick and limestone, flat-roofed, Classical Revival-style former bank building set back from and elevated slightly above Main Street on a small grassy lot with a stone retaining wall. A shallow but monumental pedimented limestone portico with stylized Corinthian columns frames the primary entrance, which consists of a single aluminum door flanked by pilasters and capped with a broken pediment. A wide limestone cornice is set slightly below the roofline. Fenestration includes large arched windows, framed by limestone walls with intermittent pilasters on the side elevations, and rectangular window openings with limestone sills and keystones. Original window sash has been replaced with tinted plate glass throughout. An L-shaped, one-story, brick addition (between 1946-1962) wraps around the southwest and southeast (rear) elevations of the building.³⁸

A retaining wall composed of cut granite laid in random bond marks the perimeter of the property on Main Street. It is approximately thirty-six inches tall and is capped with large granite slabs. The wall incorporates a set of granite steps with an iron railing that lead to the front walkway to the building. The wall appears to have been built concurrent with the bank building.³⁹

344 Kenyon Building/Kenyon's Department Store (1891, Charles Chase, engineer; enlarged 1899 and 1924): This two-and-one-half-story commercial building with elements of the Queen Anne style was completed in 1891 from designs by Charles Chase, a Providence engineer. The main block of the building, now surrounded with additions dating from the

³⁵ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, and 1910; *Wakefield and Peace Dale Directory 1897*. Local History and Directory Publishing Co.; South County History Center Photograph Collection; South County History Center Postcard Collection.

³⁶ South County History Center Postcard Collection; South County History Center Photograph Collection; Information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

³⁷ Wakefield Trust Company 100th Anniversary publication, 1934.

³⁸ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates).

³⁹ Wakefield Trust Company 100th Anniversary publication, 1934.

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late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is capped by a gable-on-hip roof with a front gable dormer. The upper gables, front and rear, are filled with elliptical fanlight windows; the lower façade gable dormer is embellished with wood brackets and decorative lattice work in its peak. Corner brackets and jig-sawn rafter ends ornament overhanging roof eaves. The building's siding is wood shingle; the roofing is asphalt shingles. At the first story of the Main Street elevation, a one-story plate glass storefront with fluted pilasters, a paneled cornice, plate-glass windows and multi-pane transoms dates to 1924. Numerous original and early wood windows remain, including two-over-two double-hung sash and one-over-one fixed sash.

Kenyon's Department Store was founded by William Kenyon in 1866 in a building still standing at 396 Main Street.⁴⁰ This newer store (344 Main Street) was built by Kenyon's son Orrin and was individually listed in the National Register (NR #92001540) in 1992. Kenyon's Department Store remained in operation until 1996 when the Kenyon family closed the business and donated the property to South County Hospital (the hospital no longer owns it).⁴¹

345 Bell Block (1899; Louis F. Bell, builder⁴²): Built in 1899 and located in the center of the district, the Bell Block is one of the most substantial commercial buildings in Wakefield. It is a three-story, five-bays-wide building with a low-pitched side-gable roof with a parapet at the façade. The façade is characterized by extensive glazing, with bays articulated by piers of Roman brick and granite. The first story is composed of storefront bays with plate glass windows and recessed entrances. The second story features copper-clad oriel windows that serve interior offices. At the third story, which originally housed a spacious assembly hall, fenestration is more simply treated, with one-over-one double-hung sash. The center bay of the building houses a recessed entry at the first story, which provides access to the upper floors, and rounded bay windows at the second and third stories. The brick cornice has modillions and egg-and-dart molding and is surmounted by a copper parapet featuring three horizontal panels in each bay. The windows appear to be twentieth century replacement sash windows, and between 1996 and 2016, a small apartment with a garage was built off the rear of the building and the brick end wall (north elevation) was covered in vinyl siding. The property remains in Bell family ownership today.

349 Sheldon Block (before 1870; moved/enlarged 1899): Built before 1870 on the west side of the Saugatucket River Bridge (the site of 462 Main Street today), the Second Empire-style Sheldon Block was originally a three-story, mansard-roofed, rectangular-plan commercial building with a ground-floor storefront, three double-hung windows at the

⁴⁰ *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island*. J.H. Beers & Co. Chicago, 1908.

⁴¹ File "Kenyon's Department Store," South County History Center Vertical Files.

⁴² Information provided by current owner; *Historic and Architectural Resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, 1984.

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second story façade, and two gabled dormers in its front roof slope.⁴³ The building was moved in 1899 to be more centrally located within Wakefield's business district and was significantly altered at that time. It was widened as well as raised from three stories to four. The first story now has a plate-glass storefront with a double-leaf wood entry in the recessed center bay and a copper cornice. A decorative, two-story, copper-clad bay window is located on the center of the façade, above the storefront. Three gabled dormers with segmental-arched window openings and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash pierce the front roof slope. One-over-one and two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash are present elsewhere. The cornice features paired, decorative wood brackets. The Sheldon Block's foundation is granite; exterior walls are sheathed in asbestos shingles; and around 2010 the lower slope of the mansard roof was clad in vinyl siding. At the time of the move, a narrow addition was constructed to connect the building with the neighboring Bell Block (345 Main Street) at the second and third stories, above an alley.⁴⁴ This connector features a copper cornice and parapet. This building has housed the Sheldon Furniture Company, still in Sheldon family ownership, for almost 150 years.

- 355 Store (between 1888 and 1891): This is a two-story, wood-shingled commercial building with a flat roof and parapet. The symmetrical façade is composed of a pair of two-story projecting angled bays framing a central, recessed entry, which consists of a single door flanked by plate glass windows and set beneath a slightly flared, wood-shingled overhang. The bays contain plate glass windows at the first story and two-over-two double-hung wood sash above. Centered on the façade's second story is a small, rectangular, fixed wood window with multi-color glass lights.⁴⁵ Research has refined this building's construction date to between 1888 and 1891.⁴⁶

355 Rear

Shed/Cottage (ca. 1890): Located directly behind 355 Main Street, this is a two-story building with an asphalt-shingled, gable roof and walls clad in a mix of wood shingles and board-and-batten siding. The southeast elevation features a flared overhang between the first and second stories and a wood paneled door with six lights. A small brick chimney is located on the southwest roof slope. Numerous six-over-six, double-hung wood sash remain. *Note: This building was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

⁴³ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896 and 1903; *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island [map]*. O.H. Bailey & Co. Boston, MA, 1888; *Topographical Atlas of Southern Rhode Island*. Everts & Richards. 1895; *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield [map]*. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870; South County History Center Photograph Collection.

⁴⁴ Robert and Diane Smith Collection and Allen Glass Plate Negative Collection at the South County History Center.

⁴⁵ South County History Center Photograph Collection.

⁴⁶ *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island [map]*. O.H. Bailey & Co. Boston, MA, 1888; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885 and 1891.

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Stores (ca. 1930): A one-story, flat-roofed, brick building with three storefronts of varying widths. Plate glass windows frame the building's deeply recessed shop entrances. The individual shops are delineated by brick piers; each pier was previously adorned with decorative terracotta elements in geometric Art Deco designs, which were removed between 1996 and 2008. Research also shows that the brick on the façade was originally laid in a decorative pattern; currently, the brick is in a simple running bond.⁴⁷

365 Barber's Block (ca. 1900; Louis F. Bell, builder⁴⁸): A two-story, shed-roofed commercial building faced with yellow, Roman brick on its façade and red brick on the side elevations. The façade features a cornice with brick modillions and egg-and-dart elements, pilasters with Ionic capitals, and brick corbelling. Original plate-glass storefronts with center entrances (now closed) flank the narrow central bay, which features a recessed entrance consisting of a pair of wood paneled doors with a transom above. A broad, copper-clad oriel window projects above each storefront and contains four one-over-one double-hung replacement sash windows with rectangular fixed transoms above (an alteration from the original sash configuration). Research has revealed that the name "Barber's Block" is most historically accurate.⁴⁹

366 Church of the Ascension (1883, J.C. Cady, architect): This one-story, granite block building with a steeply-pitched gable roof and Gothic Revival-style elements is set above Main Street on an elevated grass terrace behind a cut granite retaining wall. The northwest elevation, which faces Main Street, features a large, lancet-arched, stained-glass window; a small attenuated lancet window is in the gable peak. Smaller stained-glass lancet-arched windows detail the sacristy at the rear of the church. The small open belfry at the top of the steeply pitched roof was added in the early twentieth century.⁵⁰ Two small, gable-roofed ells extend off either end of the southwest elevation. The one at the west end is a former porch, now enclosed and serving as the principal entrance. The one at the south end houses a secondary entrance. The roof is asphalt shingled; the overhanging soffit features flat wood brackets. Research has confirmed that the stone used in the construction of the church was salvaged from a Rodman family mill in Rocky Brook, which was destroyed by fire, and donated by George C. Robinson.⁵¹

Church of the Ascension Parish House (1950; Louis F. Bell, builder⁵²): A one-and-one-half-story, rectangular-plan, front-gable, concrete-block building with a one-story rear addition (constructed sometime after 1962) located to the southwest of the church. Fenestration at the main block consists mostly of twelve-light, steel casement sash; the

⁴⁷ Information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

⁴⁸ Information provided by current owner and builder's grandson.

⁴⁹ *The South Kingstown and Narragansett Rhode Island Directory 1910*. White, Gordon Co. Providence, RI, 1910.

⁵⁰ South County History Center Postcard Collection; *100th Anniversary 1839-1939* (booklet). Church of the Ascension, reprinted 1989.

⁵¹ *100th Anniversary 1839-1939* (booklet). Church of the Ascension, reprinted 1989.

⁵² *100th Anniversary 1839-1939* (booklet). Church of the Ascension, reprinted 1989.

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gable peaks feature circular windows. Two sets of double-leaf wood doors (one original, one replacement) with three fixed lights provide access at the northeast elevation. Simple concrete-block buttresses with rounded caps characterize each elevation. The roofing is asphalt shingles. *Note: The Parish House was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

Church of the Ascension Rectory⁵³ (ca. 1952⁵⁴): This two-story, five-bays-wide, side-gable, Garrison Colonial dwelling is located to the rear (southeast) of the church. It has a concrete foundation, wood clapboard siding, and an asphalt-shingled roof with a concrete block chimney at its ridge. The principal entrance is centered on the façade and consists of a single door framed by sidelights and Doric pilasters. Windows are double-hung vinyl replacement units with shutters. The second story slightly overhangs the first, with pendants decorating the overhang. An original single-bay garage is attached to the rear of the building. *Note: The Rectory was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

A late-nineteenth-century retaining wall composed of cut granite laid in random bond marks the perimeter of the Church of the Ascension property on Main Street and Kenyon Avenue. The wall is approximately thirty-six inches tall on Main Street, but tapers to ground level on Kenyon Avenue, where it is topped with a granite capstone. The wall incorporates a set of granite steps with iron railings that lead to a walkway that runs between the Church and the Parish House. This wall matches those at 380 Main Street and 390 Main Street.

375 Wakefield Auto Station/Paul Masse Chevrolet (ca. 1930): A two-story, three-bays-wide, flat-roofed, rectangular brick commercial building with a façade parapet, concrete foundation, and an extensive one-story extension at the rear. A pair of large plate glass show windows flank a recessed central entry at the building's street façade; elsewhere, the original industrial-type, multi-pane steel units have been replaced with large, fixed, vinyl sash. The rear extension was clad in vinyl siding and its windows replaced with vinyl sash sometime after 1996. Built for W. Murray Gates, Jr. as a garage and auto sales room, this building replaced an earlier wood-frame building on this site. Research has revealed the original name of this building, Wakefield Auto Station, and a refined construction date, ca. 1930.⁵⁵

380 Daniel Burdick House (before 1850): Set slightly back from and elevated above Main Street behind a cut stone retaining wall, this is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bays-wide,

⁵³ The Rectory is located on the Church of the Ascension property at 366 Main Street, but the Rectory's address is sometimes referred to as 326 Kenyon Avenue.

⁵⁴ The Town of South Kingstown records a 1952 construction date for the rectory, and it appears on a 1962 map in its present configuration. *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates).

⁵⁵ Photographs and information provided by Gates family and members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook Group.

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side-gable dwelling with a one-story rear ell. Walls are sheathed in wood clapboard, and the roof is asphalt-shingled. There are two small corbelled brick chimneys at the roof ridge on the main block, and one brick chimney on the ell. The building has elements of the Federal style, including a central entry framed with a transom and sidelights. Six-over-one double-hung, wood sash windows remain at the second story, while first-story windows are one-over-one, vinyl sash. Research has revealed that the building likely dates to before 1850.⁵⁶

An approximately forty-eight-inches-tall, late-nineteenth-century retaining wall composed of cut granite laid in random bond marks the perimeter of the property on Main Street. The wall incorporates a set of granite steps with iron railings that lead to the front walkway to the house. It matches the stone perimeter walls at 366 Main Street (Church of the Ascension) and 390 Main Street.

382 Stable/House (before 1885; enlarged between 1921 and 1935): A two-story, L-plan, gable-roofed, wood-frame dwelling with a one-story hipped roof entry block at the intersection of the two ells. The building's roof is clad in asphalt shingles and, sometime after 1996, its exterior walls were sheathed in cementitious siding and vinyl windows were installed. The building is set back from the street, to the rear of the Daniel Burdick House (380 Main Street); it likely originated as a stable for that property.⁵⁷

390 William B. Robinson House (ca. 1845): A two-story, five-bays-wide, side-gable dwelling built in the Greek Revival style. Details include an entablature cornice and pilaster corner boards, with similar detailing framing the façade's central entry, which includes a wood-paneled door with sidelights. The gable ends of the building are treated as pediments with semi-elliptical fanlight windows. The building has a granite foundation, wood clapboard siding, and an asphalt-shingled roof. The historic fenestration pattern is intact, and window openings are filled with six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. The building is set slightly back from and elevated above Main Street on a small lawn behind a cut stone retaining wall. It is currently used as offices.

An approximately thirty-six-inches-tall, late-nineteenth-century retaining wall composed of cut granite laid in random bond marks the perimeter of the property on Main Street. The wall incorporates a set of granite steps with iron railings that lead to the front entry. It matches the stone perimeter walls at 366 Main Street (Church of the Ascension) and 380 Main Street.

⁵⁶ This home was most likely constructed by Daniel Burdick, who was born in 1808 and died in 1857. The 1850 U.S. census appears to list Burdick living in the home. *Gravestone Search*. Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission; 1850 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, South Kingstown, p. 680, dwelling 107, family 121, Daniel Burdick, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 847.

⁵⁷ The building appears as a rectangular-plan outbuilding on Sanborn atlases through 1921. By 1935, it had been enlarged to its current L-plan and is shown as a dwelling. *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1910, 1921, and 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates).

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396 Kenyon Store (1866, enlarged 1880s): A simple, one-and-one-half-story, wood-frame building with a gable roof, set with its end to the street, and a truncated, two-story square tower (added in the 1880s), capped by a pyramidal roof with a small cupola at its southwest corner.⁵⁸ The asphalt-shingled roof features eaves brackets and walls are sheathed in wood clapboard. At the façade, a deeply projecting shed roof shelters a ca. 1880s storefront,⁵⁹ with plate glass window bays on either side of a central, recessed entrance with double-leaf doors. Window openings are currently filled with one-over-one vinyl sash.

Research has determined that this building was constructed in 1866 by William B. Robinson, owner of the neighboring dwelling at 390 Main Street, and purchased by William G. Kenyon in 1866, following the sale of his earlier Wakefield business, “Kenyon and Barber,” which was located at the present site of the Rivers Edge Shopping Center (402-408 Main Street).⁶⁰ The building was enlarged to its present massing, three times its original capacity. The Kenyon family erected a larger department store nearby at 344 Main Street in 1891, after which time this building housed several specialty food stores.⁶¹

399 Mill Warehouse/Automotive Sales Showroom (ca. 1866; enlarged between 1945 and 1962): A two-story, granite building with a low-pitched side-gable roof, sited along Main Street on the east bank of the Saugatucket River, adjacent to the Saugatucket River Bridge and Main Street Dam. Regularly spaced window openings are filled with six-over-six vinyl sash. Constructed ca. 1866 to replace an earlier mill at this site, which burned in 1865, the building served as a weave house annex to the Wakefield Mill on High Street. It originally had a tower on its front elevation, which has been removed. Between 1945 and 1962, a one-story, heavily glazed automobile showroom with a deeply overhanging pressed metal cornice was built off the façade of the original building and abuts the sidewalk. The building has been used for automobile sales for nearly a century.⁶²

402, 406, 408

NC River’s Edge Shopping Center (late twentieth century): A group of three gable-roofed,

⁵⁸ South County Museum Photograph Collection.

⁵⁹ *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island*. J.H. Beers & Co. Chicago, 1908.

⁶⁰ *Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. Henry F. Walling. Providence, RI, 1862;

Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island. J.H. Beers & Co. Chicago, 1908; *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870.

⁶¹ *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island* [map]. O.H. Bailey & Co. Boston, MA, 1888; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1896, 1903 and 1910; Ledger of Eldred Market, formerly of Wakefield, RI, South County History Center; *Wakefield and Peace Dale Directory 1897*. Local History and Directory Publishing Co.

⁶² South County History Center Photograph Collection; Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook Group.

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concrete-block, wood-sided commercial buildings surrounded by a paved parking lot. This was the site of the Colonial Inn/Wakefield House Hotel. *Note: In the 1996 NR nomination, these buildings were identified as 400-408 Main Street.*

422 NC Bank Block (1889, altered 1924): This two-story commercial building on the west bank of the Saugatucket River was built by the South Kingstown contracting firm of Kneeland P. Partelow and George Bullock, with James W. Brown, for the Wakefield Institution for Savings.⁶³ It was originally a three-and-one-half-story building with the bank and stores at the first story, offices on the second story, and an assembly hall on the third. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building had a hipped roof, gabled dormer windows, a corner tower and a full-height, turreted bay on its façade. Fenestration included one-over-one, double-hung sash with multi-light transoms at the second story, and Palladian windows at the third story. The first-floor featured plate-glass storefronts with multi-light transoms. In 1924, a fire destroyed the building's attic and much of the third floor.⁶⁴ The building is now topped with a shed roof; it is sheathed in a combination of cementitious, vinyl, and aluminum siding; some window openings have been filled in; and no original window sash remain. *Note: This building was listed as contributing in the 1996 NR nomination but has experienced significant alterations and is now considered non-contributing due to loss of integrity.*

428 Wakefield Bank/House (ca. 1834; moved between 1885 and 1891⁶⁵): This two-story, three-bays-wide, side-hall, front-gable dwelling is located at the end of a narrow alley between two buildings that front Main Street (422 Main Street and 430 Main Street). It rests on a granite foundation, has walls clad in vinyl siding, and exhibits elements of the Greek Revival style. The gable-end façade is pedimented, with a tall cornice and an oval window in the peak. The entry consists of a late nineteenth-century paneled wood door slightly recessed beneath a simple cornice. The historic fenestration pattern remains, though sash are now mostly one-over-one vinyl replacements and window trim has been covered with vinyl. Research has confirmed that this building was the first home of the Wakefield Bank, later known as the Wakefield National Bank and the Wakefield Trust Company.⁶⁶ The building was moved to its current location between 1885 and 1891, possibly to make room for the construction of the Bank Block at 422 Main Street.⁶⁷

430 Bank of the South County (ca. 1850): A two-story, three-bays-wide, granite building with a hipped-roof featuring hipped-roof dormers on all four slopes and a small brick

⁶³ *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island*. J.H. Beers & Co. Chicago, 1908

⁶⁴ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1910, and 1921; *Wakefield and Peace Dale Directory 1897*. Local History and Directory Publishing Co.; South County History Center Photograph Collection.

⁶⁵ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885 and 1891.

⁶⁶ Wakefield Trust Company 100th Anniversary publication, 1934.

⁶⁷ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885 and 1891.

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corbelled chimney on the north slope. A two-story, wood-frame ell is attached to the rear elevation of the main block. Fenestration consists mostly of regularly-spaced, segmental-arch window openings; at the first story, these are filled with vinyl sash, but six-over-six double-hung wood sash are preserved at the second story and in the dormers. At the façade, the first story features two plate-glass bay windows flanking a central entrance, all set beneath a shallow, copper-clad, hipped-roof overhang. Research has revealed that the building originated as the Bank of the South County.⁶⁸ In use for banking through the nineteenth century, the building now houses offices.⁶⁹

433 Sylvester Robinson Store (1846): This two-story, hipped-roof, Greek Revival-style commercial building was built in 1846 by Sylvester Robinson, a prominent local businessman who had previously built his residence on the abutting parcel, 445 Main Street. The building's low-pitched hipped roof, now covered with asphalt shingles, is bisected by a gable-roofed bay. The building has wood clapboard siding, a tall entablature cornice, and wide pilaster corner boards. The street façade retains its early five-bays-wide storefront with a recessed central entry. An additional entry, also recessed and set beneath a transom and with windows to either side, is located at the east elevation. Several alterations were made to the rear of the building during the twentieth century, including the addition of a large, two-bay garage.⁷⁰ Sometime after 1996, the storefront and sash windows were replaced with vinyl sash; the garage doors have also been altered.

445 Sylvester Robinson House (1831): A two-story, five-bays-wide, hipped-roof building with a hipped-roof monitor, wood clapboard walls, and elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. A one-story portico with Tuscan columns protects a central front entry with fluted pilasters and a leaded transom and sidelights. Wide, fluted corner boards are treated as Ionic pilasters, and a tall cornice is embellished with a dentil molding. The roofing is asphalt shingles, and there is a single brick chimney at the west roof slope. The foundation is granite. The fenestration pattern remains unaltered, though the sash were replaced with double-hung vinyl units sometimes after 1996. A one-story, flat-roofed addition is attached at the east elevation, and a one-story, gable-roofed addition extends from the rear of the building. The dwelling was built by Sylvester Robinson, who first opened a store in Wakefield in 1821, later built the store next door (433 Main Street) and was President of the Wakefield Bank (located across the street at 428 Main Street) from 1841-1867.

⁶⁸ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island*. Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, 1857.

⁶⁹ Through the late nineteenth century, the building housed the bank and served as a dwelling. By 1903, the building served solely as a dwelling, eventually returning to commercial use in the mid-twentieth century. *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1910, 1921, and 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates).

⁷⁰ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1896, 1903, 1910, 1921, and 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates).

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- 446 Auto Dealership (ca. 1950): A one- and two- story, rectangular-plan, flat-roof, concrete-block building faced with common bond yellow brick on its street façade. A one-story, heavily-glazed extension with a flat roof with deep overhangs projects from the façade to the sidewalk. Although the doors and some window sash have been replaced, the historic fenestration pattern appears to be largely unchanged and several original steel-sash windows survive, as does the historic plate-glass storefront. Research suggests that this building originated as a Ford dealership ca. 1950.⁷¹ *Note: This building was listed as non-contributing in the 1996 NR nomination, but its status has been updated to contributing due to the revised period of significance.*
- 456 Mews Tavern (former tenement and stables, before 1885; major additions/alterations, ca. NC 1998⁷²): In the late twentieth century, two separate buildings (458 Main Street and 460 Main Street) were significantly expanded and connected to one another, creating one large building, the present Mews Tavern, with an address of 456 Main Street. The western half of the building (formerly 460 Main Street) was a tenement built before 1885.⁷³ It is a two-story, rectangular-plan, wood-frame building with a low-pitched, gable roof; shed-roof additions now extend off the north (front) and west elevations. The eastern half of the building (formerly 458 Main Street) was built as a freestanding stables for the tenement, set back from and running parallel to Main Street.⁷⁴ The street elevation has been obscured by a large new addition that extends to the sidewalk and links the former stables with the former tenement. Today, the building has a fieldstone-faced foundation, new wood clapboard and shingle siding, and new vinyl windows. *Note: In the 1996 NR nomination, the two buildings on this site (458 and 460 Main Street), since joined, were individually described and listed as contributing.*
- 457 People's Exchange Bank (before 1870): A tall, three-bays-wide, three-and-one-half-story building with a granite-block foundation and a mansard roof. The side and rear elevations have wood clapboard siding; the façade has been faced with brick and remodeled in a vaguely Colonial Revival style. The historic fenestration pattern, which includes paired windows and pedimented roof dormers, remains intact. Oriel windows are located on the second story of the west and east elevations. A one-story storefront addition was built off the building's east elevation sometime between 1946 and 1961.⁷⁵ Between 2008 and 2012, the window sash were replaced with double-hung, vinyl units; the wood-shingled roof was replaced with asphalt shingles; and the eave brackets were removed. Research reveals that the building may have originated as the People's Exchange Bank.⁷⁶

⁷¹ *Narragansett District Telephone Directory*. New England Telephone & Telegraph Company. May 1957; Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

⁷² Photographs provided by the Mews Tavern.

⁷³ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885.

⁷⁴ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885.

⁷⁵ Map of South Kingstown, Rhode Island. Creator unknown. Ca. 1961.

⁷⁶ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island*. Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, 1857.

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- 462 Flanagan's Shell Station (between 1921 and 1935; enlarged between 1946 and 1961⁷⁷): This building, which likely originated as Flanagan's Shell Station, is comprised of two blocks.⁷⁸ The eastern block, built between 1921 and 1935, is a small, one-story, square-plan building with a hipped roof and a center entry flanked by plate-glass windows with divided-light transoms. The western block, added between 1946 and 1961, is a one-story, gable-front building with two service bays at the façade and four more along the south elevation. Most of the service bays are filled with modern overhead garage doors, but two of the bays on the south elevation retain their historic glazed doors. The building has wood clapboard siding and asphalt-shingle roofing. This is the original location of John L. Sheldon's building that was moved into the center of the village in 1899 (see 349 Main Street).⁷⁹ *Note: This building was listed as non-contributing in the 1996 NR nomination, which provided a construction date of "mid-20th century." Additional research shows the building was constructed between 1921 and 1935, with an addition built between 1946 and 1961, and its status has therefore been updated to contributing.*
- 468 George W. Sheldon House (before 1870⁸⁰): This dwelling is set above the Saugatucket River behind several commercial buildings on Main Street. Built for George W. Sheldon, it is comprised of a two-and-one-half-story, five-bays-wide, side-gable main block with a central entry sheltered under a one-story, flat-roof porch that stretches across the east façade. A two-story ell with a shallow-pitched, gable roof extends off the southeast corner of the main block. An angled bay window is located on the building's north elevation, at the first story. The dwelling is clad in vinyl siding, which obscures all window trim (if any remains), and window openings are filled with vinyl replacement sash. A ca. 1900 photograph⁸¹ shows the building's north and west elevations. At that time, the building was elevated on a slight rise. The main block had paneled corner pilasters and its gable-end was pedimented, indicating it was originally built in the Greek Revival style. Window openings were filled with six-over-one, double-hung sash; the second story of the north elevation, which now has paired windows, had single windows. The bay window, added sometime between 1896 and 1903, featured two-over-one sash, patterned shingles, and a bracketed cornice. The porch that extends across the east

⁷⁷ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1921 and 1935; Robert and Diane Smith Collection at the South County History Center; Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

⁷⁸ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1921 and 1935; *Narragansett District Telephone Directory*. New England Telephone & Telegraph Company. May 1957; Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

⁷⁹ *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1896 and 1903; *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island* [map]. O.H. Bailey & Co. Boston, MA, 1888; *Topographical Atlas of Southern Rhode Island*. Everts & Richards. 1895; *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870.

⁸⁰ *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870. "Main Street, Wakefield, R.I. in 1887" by Miss Mary Whaley (available at South County History Center).

⁸¹ This historic photograph is in the possession of David R. Gates, who shared a copy with the RIHPHC.

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elevation also had decorative brackets and sawn trim. It was accessed via a set of stairs with shingled knee walls. *Note: This building was listed as contributing in the 1996 NR nomination but has experienced significant alterations and is now considered non-contributing due to loss of integrity.*

- 471 Belmont Cottage (before 1870): A three-story, three-bays-wide, hipped-roof, wood-frame building with a brick chimney, asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, and a granite foundation. Fenestration includes single and paired sash, as well as two prominent second-story oriel windows on the façade. Historic window sash were replaced with double-hung, vinyl sash sometime after 1996. The entry, much altered, is centered on the façade. The building, which has additions at the west and north (rear) elevations, now houses apartments above a first-story office. The building, which was constructed by Matthew Donahue before 1870, is labeled on an 1895 map as “Belmont Cottage.”⁸²
- 473 Stores (after 1962): A two-story, gable-roofed, concrete-block commercial building. NC Sometime after 1996, the façade, which had been clad in wood-shingle siding, was sheathed in vinyl siding, and the plate glass fixed and casement windows were replaced with tinted, vinyl windows.
- 476 Carder Hazard Store (before 1857): A two-story, hipped-roof commercial building that NC has sustained significant alteration, including the installation of a plate glass storefront (flanking an early wood entry door) sometime before 1961, aluminum siding, vinyl double-hung sash windows, and two second-story oriel windows at the façade (added sometime after 1961).⁸³ The roofing is asphalt shingle; the foundation is granite. Research has determined that this building was constructed before 1857 by Carder Hazard, a merchant, on this property, then shared by his home (500 Main Street).⁸⁴
- 480 Thomas A. Gardner House (between 1875 and 1880): A two-story, cross-gable dwelling with a one-story open porch with Tuscan columns that wraps around much of the north façade and the east elevation, sheltering three entrances. A small, hipped-roof addition rises from the porch roof, where the two wings of the building intersect. A brick chimney is located on the roof ridge. The roofing is asphalt shingle, the siding is vinyl, and the windows are one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash. Research suggests that the dwelling was built between 1875 and 1880 by Thomas A. Gardner, a florist; 1885 and 1895 maps show Gardner’s greenhouse (not extant) located to the south of this building.⁸⁵

⁸² “Main Street, Wakefield, R.I. in 1887,” by Miss Mary Whaley (available at South County History Center); *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870; *Topographical Atlas of Southern Rhode Island*. Everts & Richards. 1895.

⁸³ Map of South Kingstown, Rhode Island. Creator unknown. Ca. 1961.

⁸⁴ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island*. Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, 1857; *Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. Henry F. Walling. Providence, RI, 1862.

⁸⁵ Early maps record Thomas A. Gardner as the owner of the Saugatucket Green House and this house, and he is recorded as living in this location in the 1880 U.S. census. Gardner was recorded as living in nearby Kingston in the 1875 Rhode Island census. *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and*

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- 481 NC South County Veterinary Hospital (1982): A two-story, gable-roofed building, almost “saltbox” in form, with wood-shingle siding. The street façade is dominated by large plate glass windows.
- 484 NC Professional Offices (1986): A one-story rectangular-plan building with a gable-on-hip roof and wood clapboard siding set close to the street with a large paved parking area behind. A two-story addition was attached to the rear (south) of the building sometime between 1996 and 2016.
- 491 NC Sunoco Service Center (ca. 1950; addition between 1996 and 2000): One-story commercial building with wood-clapboard siding and a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof, topped with a small cupola. A large gabled wall dormer is offset (to the west) on the north façade; two window openings and a pedestrian entry are set beneath the dormer. Two service bays are located on the east end of the facade. All of the doors and window sash, including the service-bay doors and original plate glass windows, were replaced sometime after 1996. A large addition with a side-gable roof and two over-sized garage door openings was attached to the southwest elevation in the late 20th century. A one-story gable-roof connector, located between the original building and the addition, was constructed at the same time. This building originated as a Sunoco Service Center ca. 1950.⁸⁶
- 500 Carder Hazard House (before 1850): A two-story, five-bays-wide, Greek Revival-style dwelling with an asphalt-shingled, side-gable roof. A central entrance with sidelights is protected by a small shed-roof portico (the remains of a former full-width porch). The house is treated as a temple form with a wide entablature cornice, stylized pilaster corner boards, and semi-elliptical windows in the gable peaks.⁸⁷ A one-story, flat-roof ell extends off the west (side) elevation. The building, once clad in vinyl siding, is now sheathed in wood clapboard. The symmetrical fenestration pattern remains intact, and numerous historic six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash survive. Research reveals that Carder Hazard was the original owner of the building, which was constructed before 1850. It was later owned by his son, Charles H. Hazard.⁸⁸

Providence Plantations. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870; *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island* [map]. O.H. Bailey & Co. Boston, MA, 1888; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885; Rhode Island State Census, 1875. Microfilm. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts; 1880 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, enumeration district 159, p. 418, dwelling 20, family 21; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1211.⁸⁶ *Narragansett District Telephone Directory*. New England Telephone & Telegraph Company. May 1957; Kenneth T. Mars, Jr. Photograph Collection at the South County History Center; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1935 (with 1946 and 1962 updates); Photographs and information provided by members of the Narragansett/South Kingstown Memories Facebook group.

⁸⁷ Allen Glass Plate Negative Collection at the South County History Center.

⁸⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, South Kingstown, p. 679, dwelling 96, family 108, Carder Hazard, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 847; *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870.

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- 512 Eliza Hazard House (before 1857⁸⁹): A one-and-one-half-story, L-plan, cross-gable dwelling of vernacular Victorian style. The roof has a deep, bracketed cornice and is sheathed in asphalt shingle; there are two corbelled brick chimneys. The primary wing of the house is surrounded on three sides by an open porch with a hipped roof, square-plan columns, a balustrade (not historic) and lattice at the porch foundation.⁹⁰ The entry, sheltered by the porch, consists of a single, wood, paneled door with sidelights. Fenestration includes symmetrically placed window openings, some with shed-roof hoods and louvered wood shutters, and gabled wall dormers. Between 1996 and 2016, accessibility ramps were added at the west end of the façade and the siding and windows were replaced with vinyl. *Note: Listed as the "Wright House" in 1996 NR nomination; research shows the earliest documented resident of the dwelling was Mrs. Eliza Hazard in 1870.*⁹¹
- 521 Site of The Larches/Larchwood Inn: The Larches was a two-story, five-bays-wide, NC single-family dwelling built around 1831 for James Robinson, who owned the nearby Wakefield Mill with his brother William. Set well back from Main Street on a large lot, The Larches was bought around 1850 by Stephen and Susan Wright, former South Kingstown residents who had just returned from California where they made a fortune in land investments. The Wrights enlarged the house to three stories and seven bays and transformed the property into an estate. In 1925, George Phillips bought the estate and established the Larchwood Inn. The historic building was demolished in 2016, but numerous historic site features remain and continue to enhance the streetscape. A granite block retaining wall, approximately thirty-six-inches tall and featuring granite piers with pyramidal tops, runs along the south (Main Street) side of the property. Roughly at its midpoint, the wall curves inward, framing a set of granite steps that lead to a granite path which originally led to the front of the house; the curved portions of the wall are topped with a simple wrought iron fence. A low, rubblestone wall marks the east perimeter of the property; the wall is interrupted by an entry drive, marked with rubblestone piers. Within the nearly 3½-acre property, paved pathways and remnants of historic vegetation – including several mature beech trees – evoke the site's history. *Note: At the time of the 1996 NR nomination, the Larchwood Inn was still standing, and this property was listed as contributing.*
- 522 Ann Watson House/Holley House Annex (between 1857 and 1862): A two-story, cross-gable, Queen Anne-style building with a square tower set at the intersection of the gable roofs. The tower, which is capped by a curving hipped roof, shelters a second-floor balcony and is supported by an open, shed-roof, one-story entry porch with slender posts

⁸⁹ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, 1857

⁹⁰ Allen Glass Plate Negative Collection at the South County History Center.

⁹¹ Mrs. Eliza Hazard, widow of Carder Hazard and mother of Charles H. Hazard, appears to have lived in this home from 1870-1880. *Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, Wakefield* [map]. In: *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.* D.G. Beers & Co. Philadelphia, PA, 1870; 1880 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, enumeration district 159, p. 418, dwelling 22, family 23; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1211.

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(not original). The building has a granite foundation, vinyl siding and shutters, asphalt-shingle roofing, and a corbelled brick chimney. The fenestration pattern, which includes some paired windows, appears intact and many original double-hung, wood sash, with small divided lights in the upper sash, remain. A one-and-one-half-story ell extends off the rear elevation. Research reveals that Ann Watson was likely the original owner of this dwelling and constructed it between 1857 and 1862.⁹²

- 546 Elisha Watson, Jr. House (before 1857): Set on a large, landscaped lot, this Italianate-style dwelling is comprised of a two-story, nearly square-plan main block with a hipped roof and deep, bracketed eaves and a one-story, hipped-roof rear ell. The symmetrical façade is three-bays wide with a wide, one-story, copper-roofed piazza with slender posts and highly decorative wooden scrollwork that shelters a central entry with sidelights and paired, narrow, floor-to-ceiling windows. At the second story, paired narrow windows are capped by shallow, bracketed window hoods. Window openings are filled with original, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash. The siding of the building is wood clapboard, and the roofing is asphalt shingles. Research suggests that the original owner of this dwelling, constructed before 1857, was Elisha Watson, Jr.⁹³

Barn (ca. 1857): Located to the southeast of the house and facing Pond Street is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gable barn with a one-story, shed-roofed addition at the west elevation. The building has wood-shingle walls and asphalt-shingle roofing. The north elevation of the main block features two garage door openings and a vertical wood-plank, hayloft door. *Note: The barn was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

Main Street near High Street

Saugatucket River Bridge (ca. 1886; rebuilt 1920 and 1998): A concrete vehicular bridge with pedestrian sidewalks, which carries Main Street over the Saugatucket River. The decking and railing date to 1998, but portions of the stone abutments and stone walls that line the river south of the bridge likely date to ca. 1886, when an iron bridge was built at this crossing, and 1920, when that bridge was rebuilt.⁹⁴ *Note: The bridge was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

Main Street near High Street

Wakefield Pond Dam/RIDEM Dam #425 (1850): A granite dam with earthfill located immediately north of the bridge that carries Main Street over the Saugatucket River. The dam is arch-shaped in plan, approximately one-hundred feet in length, and eight feet tall.

⁹² *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, 1857; *Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.* Henry F. Walling. Providence, RI, 1862.

⁹³ *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* Henry F. Walling. Philadelphia, 1857; 1860 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, South Kingstown, p. 27, dwelling 186, family 197, Elisha Watson, NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1211.

⁹⁴ File "Wakefield," South County History Center Vertical Files; Federal Highway Administration, "US 1A Main Street over Saugatucket River;" South County History Center Photograph Collection.

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Large stone riprap fills the riverbed on the upstream side of the dam. The dam was likely constructed in 1850 to impound water for use by the nearby Wakefield Mill. *Note: The dam was not described in the 1996 NR nomination, but is located within the original district boundary.*

Main Street near High Street

NC Fish Ladder (2016): A concrete fish ladder with 23 wooden baffles constructed in 2016 on the east side of the Wakefield Pond Dam, through a partnership between the Town of South Kingstown, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fish ladder facilitates the passage of river herring from the tidal waters of the Atlantic Ocean, through Point Judith Pond, to their spawning grounds in the Saugatucket River. The existing structure replaced an earlier (1969) fish ladder in this location.

Main Street along the Saugatucket River

NC Saugatucket River Walk (2014): A walking path that begins on the north side of Main Street, immediately east of the Saugatucket River Bridge, and runs east along the south bank of the river for approximately .1 mile. The western half of the path is an elevated boardwalk with composite decking and metal rails, while the eastern half is at grade and paved. Several benches offer views of the river. An interpretive sign near Main Street marks the entry to the path's west end, providing information about the nearby fish ladder. At its east end, the path connects with a pedestrian bridge over the river.

ROBINSON STREET

254 Stores (2006): A two-story, irregularly-shaped commercial building with a cross-gable roof and numerous multi-light storefront windows at the first story.

WRIGHT AVENUE

19 Frances Cross House (ca. 1890; moved between 1910 and 1921): This two-and-one-half-story dwelling exhibits elements of the Shingle Style, including a cross-gambrel roof, two first-story entry porches with turned wood columns (one with a second story sleeping porch), wood clapboard and shingle siding, and a two-story, half-round window bay at the façade. The foundation is granite rubble stone, the roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and there are two corbelled brick chimneys. The fenestration pattern includes windows grouped in twos and threes; double-hung, vinyl replacement sash were installed sometime after 1996. Frances "Fannie" Cross, daughter of Stephen and Susan Wright, was the initial owner of this house, which was originally located adjacent to her parents' dwelling, The Larches, but between 1910 and 1921 was moved across Wright Avenue to its present location.⁹⁵

⁹⁵ *Topographical Atlas of Southern Rhode Island*. Everts & Richards. 1895; *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company. New York, 1885, 1891, 1910 and 1921.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or building
- F. A commemorative property.
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

ca. 1820-1962

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Louis Bell, Builder; J.C. Cady, Architect; Charles Chase, Engineer; Kneeland P. Partelow and George Bullock, Contractors; Thomas Tefft, Architect

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Wakefield Historic District contains the largest and densest collection of extant nineteenth to mid-twentieth century commercial, industrial, residential, and civic buildings in the Town of South Kingstown. A variety of architectural styles, including the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival, represent the village's development over the course of over 200 years, and streetscapes within the district are well-preserved and retain their turn-of-the-twentieth-century "downtown" character. While Wakefield's eighteenth-century development mirrored growth around other New England manufacturing enterprises, the creation of many of its most distinctive features was influenced by the construction of the Narragansett Pier Railroad in 1876. The Wakefield Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register **Criterion A** in the areas of commerce and industry and under **Criterion C** in the area of architecture.

The period of significance of the Wakefield Historic District extends from ca. 1820, the initial period of the village's development, to 1962, when the Route 1 Bypass was constructed and coincided with a shift of commercial activity to the intersection of Main Street, Kingstown Road and Old Tower Hill Road (known locally as Dale Carlia Corner), to the east of the district.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Note: The following narrative is taken substantially from the 1996 National Register nomination for the Wakefield Historic District, with additional information provided to reflect recent research and changes to the district since 1996, and to support the extension of the period of significance to 1962.

The Wakefield Historic District is a fabric of buildings that was woven over almost two centuries of industrial, commercial, and residential development. During its period of significance, the district became the most important commercial center in the Town of South Kingstown. Many of the buildings standing in the district exemplify the wide variety of American architectural styles that have been in fashion from the early nineteenth through the twentieth centuries. Standing together, these buildings form an architectural group that is both visually distinctive and illustrative of the historical development of Wakefield. Although much of the built fabric of the Wakefield district is typical of rural, regional centers in Rhode Island, the relatively urban commercial core of the village, with its solid row of two- and three-story wood-frame and brick masonry business blocks, is almost unique in southern Rhode Island. Only Westerly retains a similar turn-of-the-twentieth-century “downtown” area.

The initial development of the village of Wakefield was largely a consequence of its location along the Old Post Road where it runs roughly parallel to the Saugatucket River (one of the larger and more steadily flowing rivers in South Kingstown) near its falls line. The village was established by the early eighteenth century when a grist mill, sawmill, and cording mill were built several hundred feet above the present Saugatucket River Dam, and a handful of houses were built along the Post Road. By 1765, a snuff mill had also been built. At this time, village life was centered southwest of the district, at Dockray Corner where the Willard Hazard Tavern and a stagecoach stop was established by 1745, and the name “Wakefield” does not appear on land purchase documents until 1816. Although the Willard Hazard Tavern stood into this century (demolished 1956), none of the area’s eighteenth-century buildings remain today.

The character of the village we now see was significantly influenced by the development of textile milling activities beginning in the early nineteenth century (see Figures 1 and 2) and the construction of the Narragansett Pier Railroad, which was put through the village in 1876 (see Figures 3 and 4). In the early- to mid-twentieth century, the advent and proliferation of the automobile also left its mark on the village.

A cording mill was established in the vicinity of the village ca. 1807 by Joseph Congdon. By 1820, this mill was acquired by James Robinson, whose family expanded the operation over the next several decades. In 1831, Robinson built a two-story dwelling on a large property, “The Larches” (521 Main Street; demolished) which defined the south end of the district. This dwelling was significantly enlarged in about 1850 by subsequent owners and in the early 1900s was converted into the Larchwood Inn, a center of business and civic life in Wakefield for nearly a century until its demolition in 2016.

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In 1822, Sylvester Robinson moved to Wakefield from Westerly and built a store (no longer standing), and in 1831, he constructed a dwelling at 445 Main Street. Sylvester Robinson became a locally prominent entrepreneur, establishing a bank (which later became the Wakefield Trust Company) in the Greek Revival-style dwelling now located at 428 Main Street (ca. 1834, moved between 1885 and 1891). In 1846, Robinson built a new store at 433 Main Street, at the corner of High Street, in the Greek Revival style.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, two churches were established in the district. The First Baptist Church of South Kingstown was started in 1829, and the Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal church, was built in 1840. Both buildings were removed and replaced later in the nineteenth century with the handsome church buildings that remain intact today (236 Main Street and 366 Main Street). The Wakefield Pond Dam that stands just north of the Saugatucket River Bridge was built in 1850, as were a pair of stone mill buildings on either side of the river which have since been replaced by later buildings (see Figure 5). Around the same time (1850), the stone building located at 430 Main Street was built for the Bank of the South County, and by 1866, William Kenyon had established a dry goods store at 396 Main Street. In the years before the Civil War, several single-family dwelling houses joined these industrial and commercial ventures in Wakefield, many of which remain in well-preserved condition today. In addition to Sylvester Robinson's dwelling at 445 Main Street are the Daniel Burdick House, a five-bay Federal-period Cape at 380 Main Street (before 1850), and several five-bay wide, two-story, houses in the Greek Revival style, including the William B. Robinson House (390 Main Street, ca. 1845), the Nathaniel C. Armstrong House (235 Main Street; between 1840 and 1850), and the Carder Hazard House (500 Main Street; before 1850). Other houses in the district from the mid-nineteenth century include the John B. Armstrong House, a Gothic Revival cottage with sawn bargeboards (225 Main Street; between 1857 and 1860) at the northeast end of the district, and the Elisha Watson, Jr. House, constructed before 1857 in the Italianate style, located at 546 Main Street at the southwest end of the district.

The decades following the Civil War were a period of growth and prosperity for Wakefield, which had become the commercial center and most populous settlement in South Kingstown by the end of the nineteenth century; in 1895, the village's population was 1,543. After passing through several ownerships, the former Robinson Mill was purchased about 1862 by Gideon Reynolds, who continued to manufacture cotton and wool fabric under the firm name the Wakefield Manufacturing Company. Around 1867, when the earlier wooden mill was damaged by fire, Reynolds built the three-story, granite, steam-powered mill still standing at 10 High Street. In 1875, the property was purchased by Robert Rodman, who incorporated it into his extensive textile business which manufactured "Kentucky jeans" and "doeskins" fabrics at a number of sites throughout South County. By 1870, another manufacturing enterprise, a carriage works owned by the Armstrong family, had been established at the northeast end of the district. This firm, which manufactured the first carriages in South Kingstown, developed from the Armstrong family's wheelwright and blacksmith shops which, prior to 1855, had stood on the banks of the Saugatucket River at the north end of the district. The auto showroom located at 245 Main Street (before 1870; NC) was built as part of the carriage works.

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During the second half of the nineteenth century, the two churches in the district erected architecturally distinguished new buildings, both of which remain well-preserved today. About 1852 the Italianate-style Wakefield Baptist Church (236 Main Street) was designed by Thomas Tefft, one of Rhode Island's most prominent nineteenth-century architects. The church was enlarged and altered in a sympathetic style in 1891. In 1883, the Church of the Ascension (366 Main Street) was built in a Gothic Revival style reminiscent of an English country chapel, re-using granite blocks from a mill at nearby Rocky Brook that had recently been destroyed by fire.

It was during the late nineteenth century that Wakefield developed into the leading commercial district in South Kingstown, largely as a result of the construction of the Narragansett Pier Railroad, put through the village in 1876. This short spur of railroad was built to connect nearby Narragansett Pier, then a developing summer resort at the mouth of Narragansett Bay, with the Boston, Providence, and New York Railroad in West Kingstown. Largely supported by the Hazard family, owners of an extensive textile mill in nearby Peace Dale, the railroad provided transportation links both to open coastal waters and to the main East Coast railway corridor.

The railroad crossed Main Street just north of Robinson Street, influencing the direction and scale of commercial development in the late nineteenth century. Whereas the commercial buildings of the village at the mid-nineteenth century clustered around the Saugatucket River Bridge, more substantial business blocks were constructed further northeast on Main Street, in proximity to the railroad, at the turn of the twentieth century.

In 1874, William C. Caswell established a lumber and coal company at present-day 297 Main Street, adjacent to what would become the Narragansett Pier Railroad.⁹⁶ The property was purchased and enlarged in 1879 by the J. C. Tucker Company, a hardware and building supply company established in nearby Narragansett Pier (see Figure 6). The J. C. Tucker Company was succeeded by the Wakefield Branch Company, which purchased the remaining holdings of the Narragansett Pier Railroad in 1953, shortly after passenger service on the line had ceased.

In 1891, the Queen Anne style building at 344 Main Street was built for Kenyon's Department Store, to expand the family's dry goods operations which was begun by William A. Kenyon in 1857. Riding the wave of Wakefield's commercial prosperity, Kenyon's was enlarged considerably in the 1920s and remained in business, under the ownership of the family that had established it, until 1996. This building was individually listed in the National Register (NR #92001540) in 1992.

The Bell Block (345 Main Street), a three-story commercial block with Roman brick and decorative copper-clad oriel windows at its façade, was built in 1899 and is one of the more ambitious commercial buildings in the district. In that same year, the two-story building built by the Sheldon family prior to 1870 to house their furniture and hardware business was moved from

⁹⁶ Though the railroad did not open for business until 1876, Rowland G. Hazard had obtained a charter for the company in 1868 and surveyors laid out a right-of-way soon after.

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the south side of the Saugatucket River Bridge to the parcel at 349 Main Street, abutting the Bell Block and closer to the center of the district's commercial activities at the time (see Figure 7). At that time, the building was significantly enlarged and altered with the addition of decorative features, including copper-clad oriel windows, to complement its new neighbor. Several other commercial blocks were built along the west side of Main Street by the first decade of the century, forming an almost continuous row of buildings with a markedly urban character.

By the turn of the twentieth century, commercial activities in Wakefield had expanded to the point that most new residential construction was concentrated outside of the district, and just one single-family dwelling from that period, the Frances Cross House at 19 Wright Avenue (ca. 1890, moved between 1910 and 1921) which reflects elements of the Shingle Style, is located within the district. Substantial houses were built adjacent to the district along both Kenyon Avenue and Highland Avenue. The Kenyon family, which owned a large farm just south of the district, was responsible for much of the nearby residential development. Additional residential construction along Columbia Street, High Street, and Kingstown Road connected the commercial center of Wakefield with the nearby mill villages of Peace Dale and Rocky Brook.

The new residential construction outside the district and the expansion of commercial interests within it led to the conversion of some earlier houses, including the Daniel Burdick House (380 Main Street) and the William B. Robinson House (390 Main Street), into professional office space. In 1925, the private residence "The Larches" (521 Main Street, demolished, NC) was purchased by George Phillips, previously the county jailkeeper, who converted it into commercial use as the Larchwood Inn. Business boomed during this period and in 1927, the Wakefield Trust Company, which for nearly 100 years had operated near the Saugatucket River Bridge, built a new bank building at 336 Main Street. By the 1940s, the South Kingstown Police Department relocated from 323 Main Street to 265 Main Street, a larger building in a more central location.

Municipal improvements, specifically the introduction of telephone poles and electrical wires in the 1930s and 1940s, significantly altered the appearance of the streetscapes in the district (see Figure 8). During the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed sidewalks throughout the village, sections of which remain intact and are marked with small bronze medallions embedded in the concrete. In response to the dramatic increase in automobile ownership after WWII, the State of Rhode Island widened Main Street in 1947 to accommodate the increased need for parking (see Figure 9).

Impacted by new modes of transportation and changing commercial trends in the first half of the twentieth century, some of Wakefield's oldest businesses were forced to adjust their business models or to close. Most prominent was the failure of the C. H. Armstrong & Son carriage works, one of New England's largest carriage repositories in 1901, which shut down in 1935. A late-nineteenth-century livery business at 323 Main Street, started by a son of Stephen Wright, closed before 1921. Other businesses were more successful at adapting, including the Wakefield Branch Company, which offered extensive delivery services in the early 20th century and opened a filling station (now demolished) adjacent to their existing operation at 297 Main Street.

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The rise of automobile use also created business opportunities for many Wakefield residents. In the 1920s, John Yemma purchased the Wakefield Mill Warehouse (399 Main Street; ca. 1866, enlarged between 1945 and 1962) and converted the mid-nineteenth century industrial building into an automobile sales and service business called Main Street Garage (see Figure 10). A series of other automobile-related businesses have continuously operated in the building for nearly a century. Filling stations would come to dot Main Street by the 1950s, some of which are still used for related businesses, including Flanagan's Service Center (462 Main Street, between 1921 and 1935), while others have been adaptively reused, such as the ca. 1937 Northup's Filling Station at 318 Main Street.

Like many villages and small towns across the United States, Wakefield was affected by the dominance of the automobile during the second half of the twentieth century. Customers seeking more conveniences, including easy parking and a wider variety of stores, shifted their shopping habits to areas outside of the historic village center. Some store owners chose to relocate to the newer and larger shopping complexes being constructed to the east of the district, at the intersection of Main Street, Kingstown Road, and Old Tower Hill Road (known locally as Dale Carlia Corner). In 1962, the State of Rhode Island opened the Route 1 Bypass, circumventing Wakefield, which led to a drastic reduction in traffic through the village and marked an end to the village's commercial dominance in South Kingstown. In recent years, the Wakefield Historic District has returned to its roots as a walkable downtown, with small businesses occupying many of the historic buildings alongside civic and residential properties.

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1885 Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*. (also 1891, 1896, 1903, 1910, 1921, 1935, 1946 and 1962)

1888 Bailey, O.H. & Co. *Wakefield and Peace Dale, Rhode Island*.*

1895 Everts & Richards. *Topographical Atlas of Southern Rhode Island*.

1961 Creator unknown. Map of South Kingstown Rhode Island.*

2000 Historic Downtown Merchants Association. *Historic Wakefield Village*.*

*These maps are available at South County History Center in Kingston, RI.

Collections of the South County History Center in Kingston, RI

100th Anniversary 1839-1939 (booklet). Church of the Ascension, reprinted 1989.

Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY. 1921, with notations. South County History Center, Kingston, RI.

Ledger of Eldred Market, formerly of Wakefield, RI, early twentieth century.

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Washington, Rhode Island

Name of Property

County and State

Manuscript Collection (including Robert and Diane Smith Collection), Postcard Collection, Photograph Collection (including Allen Glass Plate Negative Collection and Kenneth T. Mars, Jr. Photograph Collection), and Vertical Files.

Wakefield Baptist Church 1781-1981 (booklet). Mrs. Leonard (Mae) Ross, 1981.

Wakefield Branch Company 100th Year Anniversary, 1874-1974 (booklet). Wakefield Branch Company, 1974.

Wakefield Trust Company 100th Anniversary publication, 1934.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: South County History Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Approximately 40 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Washington, Rhode Island
County and State

Name of Property

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. Latitude: | <u>41.436775°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.505803°</u> |
| 2. Latitude: | <u>41.437864°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.503394°</u> |
| 3. Latitude: | <u>41.441099°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.497864°</u> |
| 4. Latitude: | <u>41.441386°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.496367°</u> |
| 5. Latitude: | <u>41.440071°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.496254°</u> |
| 6. Latitude: | <u>41.438701°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.498121°</u> |
| 7. Latitude: | <u>41.436536°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.500209°</u> |
| 8. Latitude: | <u>41.435396°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.501470°</u> |
| 9. Latitude: | <u>41.435119°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.502994°</u> |
| 10. Latitude: | <u>41.434798°</u> | Longitude: | <u>-71.505576°</u> |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Eastings: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Eastings: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Eastings: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Eastings: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary encompasses the following lots, all in the Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island:

Map 56-3, Lots 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 55, 56, 57, 58 (part), 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 123, 124, 210

Map 57-1, Lots 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 48, 49

Map 57-4, Lots 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 225, 241

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundary contains the historical commercial and industrial center of the village of Wakefield that developed in generally linear form from the early eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The district includes the contiguous properties along Main Street (part of the old Post Road), an adjacent complex of mill buildings on High Street, and a dwelling on Wright Avenue.

The northeast end of the district is defined by a cluster of mid-nineteenth century houses and a church, located where Main Street takes a turn to the east. Directly east of the district is a group of primarily late-nineteenth-century commercial buildings that together form “Columbia Corner” (see *Wakefield Historic District: Boundary Increase*).

The southwest end of the district is defined by the former site of the Larchwood Inn and several adjacent mid-nineteenth century residences. Although there are residential buildings of significance to the west of this boundary, they are more representative of the development of the area for rural country estates than the development of Wakefield village.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Erica Luke, Executive Director, South County History Center; edited by
Joanna M. Doherty, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
organization: South County History Center
street & number: 2636 Kingstown Road
city or town: Kingston state: RI zip code: 02881
e-mail: erica@southcountyhistorycenter.org
telephone: 401-783-1328
date: October 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Washington, Rhode Island
County and State

Name of Property

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City or Vicinity:	South Kingstown
County:	Washington
State:	Rhode Island
Name of Photographer:	Erica Luke
Date of Photographs:	January-May 2019
Location of Original Digital Files:	Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence RI 02906
Number of Photographs:	15

- Photo #1 Nathaniel C. Armstrong House, 235 Main Street (left) and John B. Armstrong House, 225 Main Street (right). Camera facing northeast.
- Photo #2 Wakefield Baptist Church, 236 Main Street. Camera facing east.
- Photo #3 Wakefield Branch Co./Arnold Lumber, 297 Main Street. Camera facing north.
- Photo #4 Wakefield Branch Co./Arnold Lumber Shed, 297 Main Street (Rear). Camera facing east.
- Photo #5 Clarke's Block/Bivona Block, 311-317 Main Street. Camera facing northwest.
- Photo #6 Bell Block, 345 Main Street. Camera facing northwest.
- Photo #7 Sheldon Block, 349 Main Street. Camera facing west.
- Photo #8 William B. Robinson House, 390 Main Street. Camera facing southeast.
- Photo #9 Kenyon Store, 396 Main Street. Camera facing southeast.
- Photo #10 Mill Warehouse/Automotive Sales Showroom, 399 Main Street. Camera facing northwest.
- Photo #11 Sylvester Robinson House, 445 Main Street. Camera facing northwest.

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State

Photo #12 Carder Hazard House, 500 Main Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #13 Ann Watson House/Holley House Annex, 522 Main Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #14 Elisha Watson, Jr. House, 546 Main Street. Camera facing south.

Photo #15 Wakefield Pond Dam, Fish Ladder and River Walk, from Saugatucket River Bridge, Main Street near High Street. Camera facing northeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State

Additional Information

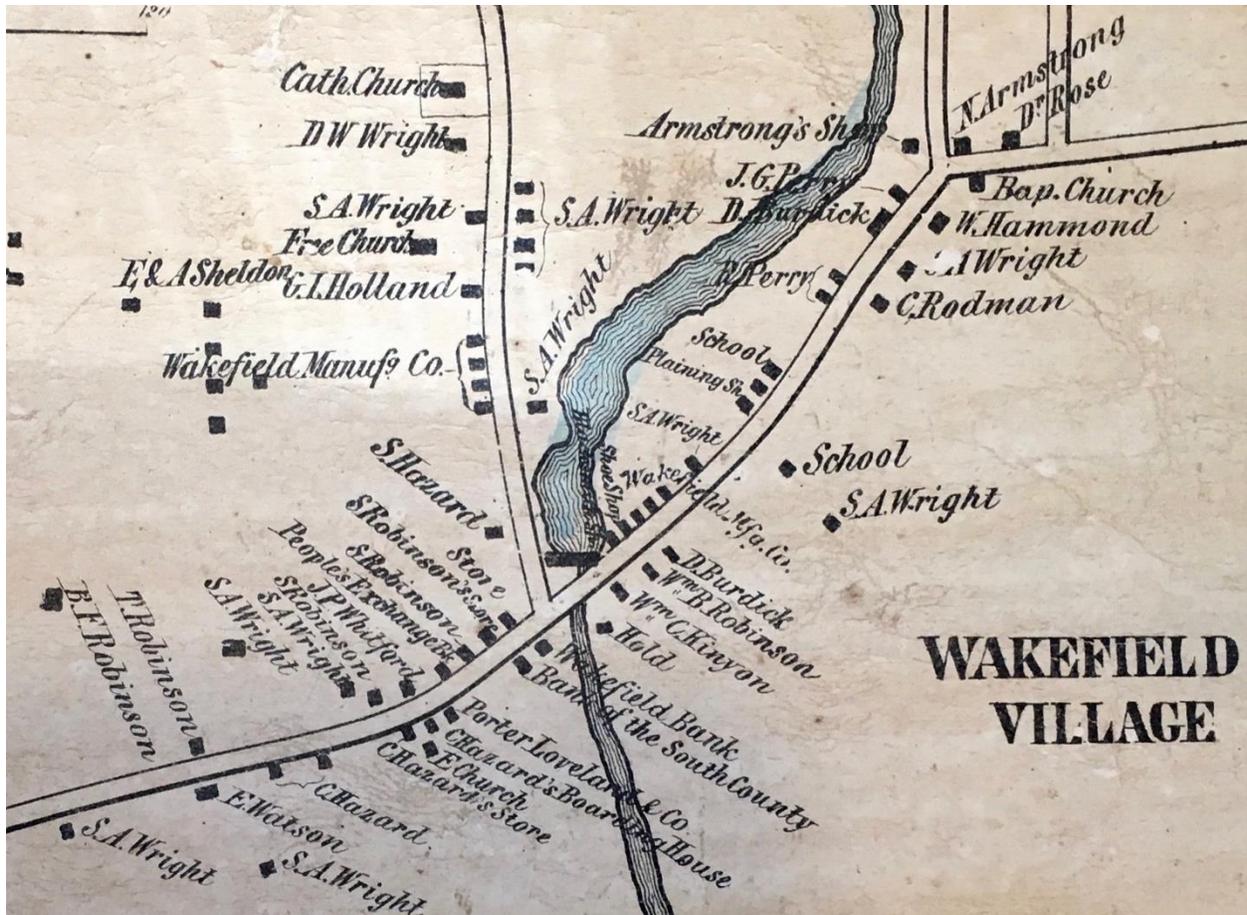


Figure 1

Detail from *Map of the Town of South Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island*,
Henry F. Walling (1857)

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Washington, Rhode Island
County and State

Name of Property

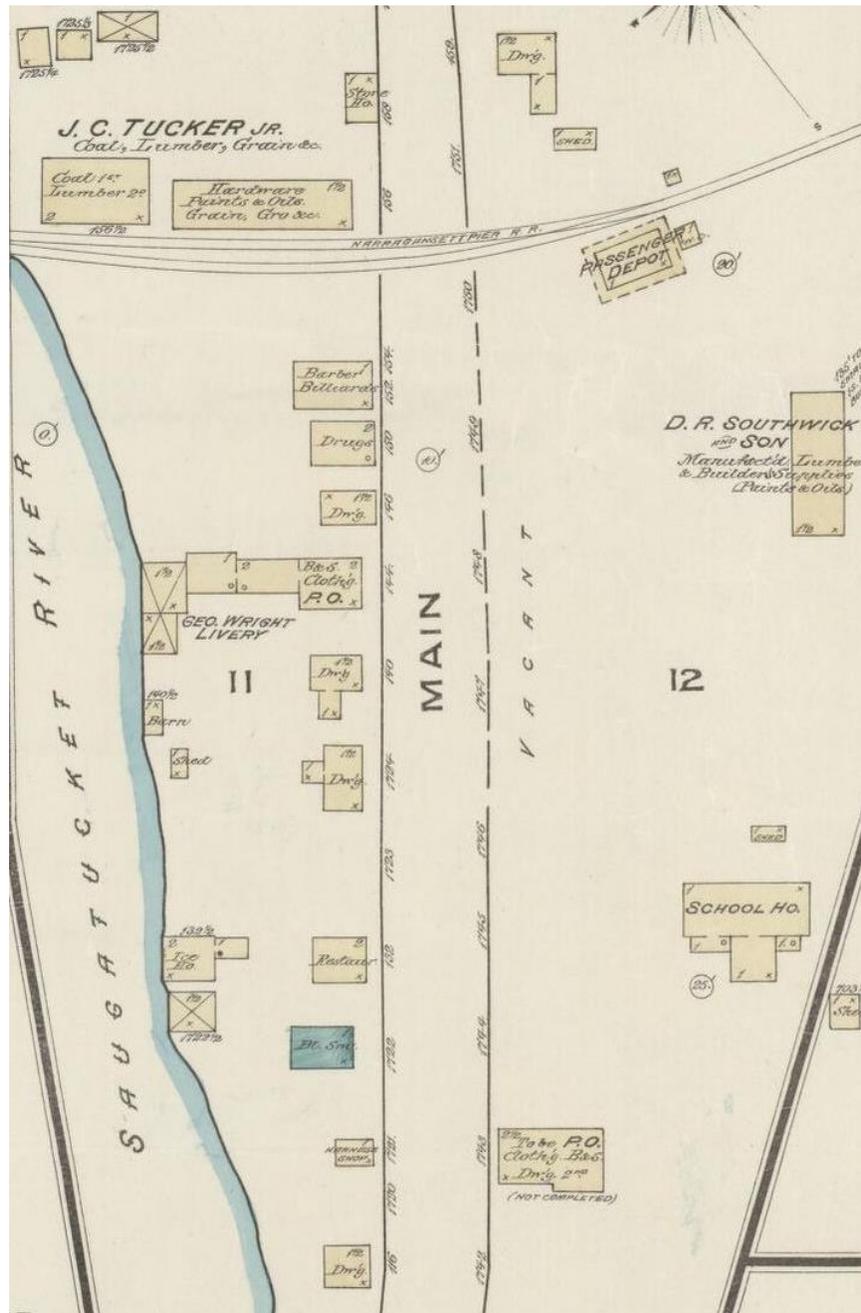


Figure 3

Detail of Wakefield, Main Street at crossing of the Narragansett Pier Railroad right-of-way, from *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*, Sanborn Map Company (1885)

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State

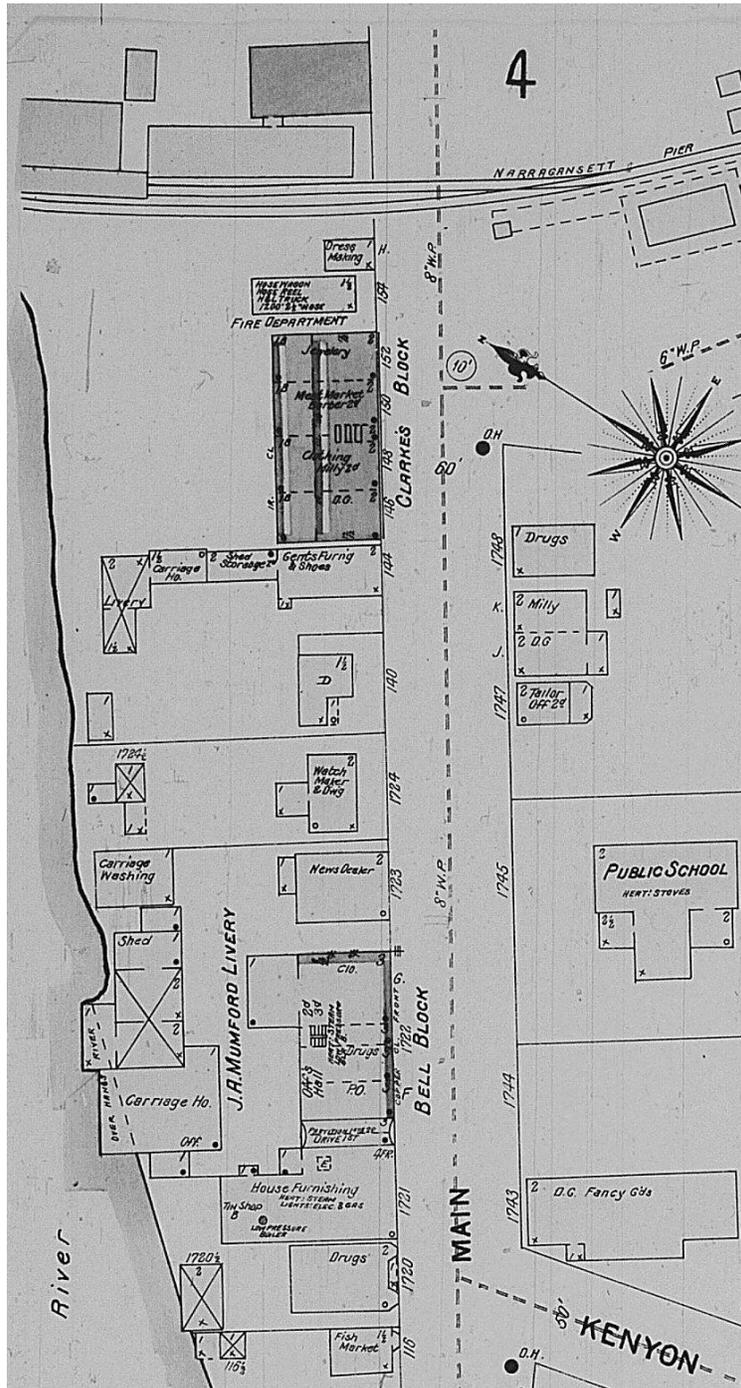


Figure 4

Detail of Wakefield, Main Street at crossing of the Narragansett Pier Railroad right-of-way, from *Insurance Map of South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island*, Sanborn Map Company (1903)

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State



Figure 5

Wakefield Pond Dam, Bridge over Saugatucket River, and Bank Block (422 Main Street),
looking southwest, ca. 1890

South County History Center Photograph Collection

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State



Figure 6

Wakefield Branch of the J.C. Tucker Company (297 Main Street)
looking north, ca. 1910

South County History Center Photograph Collection

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State



Figure 7

John L. Sheldon's Store, ca. 1898, prior to its 1899 move and enlargement

Allen Glass Plate Negative Collection, South County History Center

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island
County and State

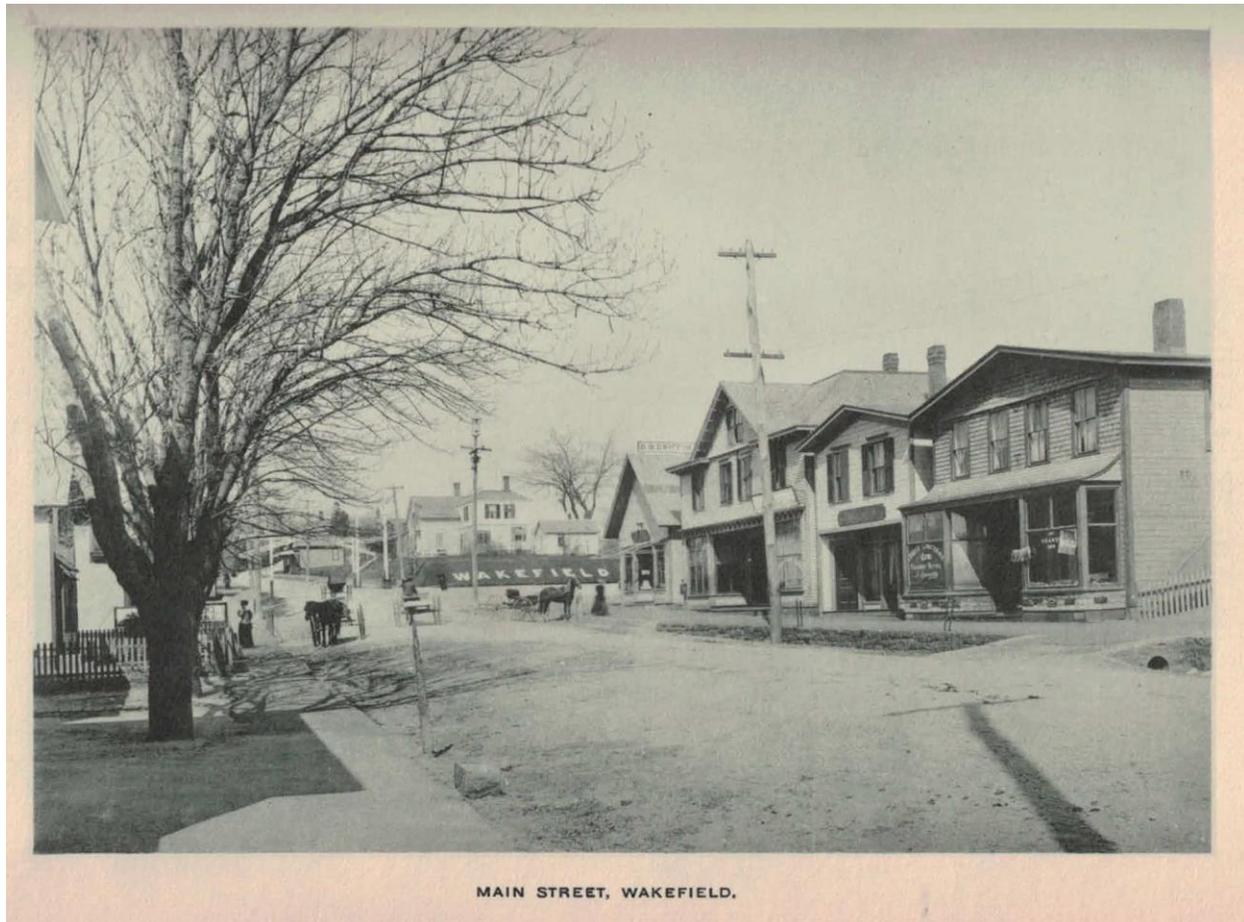


Figure 8

322-330 Main Street (left to right), prior to the advent of the automobile
looking northeast, ca. 1897

From *Wakefield and Peace Dale Directory 1897*

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State



Figure 9

345 Main Street, looking northeast, with influx of automobile traffic, ca. 1940

South County History Center Postcard Collection

Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, Rhode Island

County and State

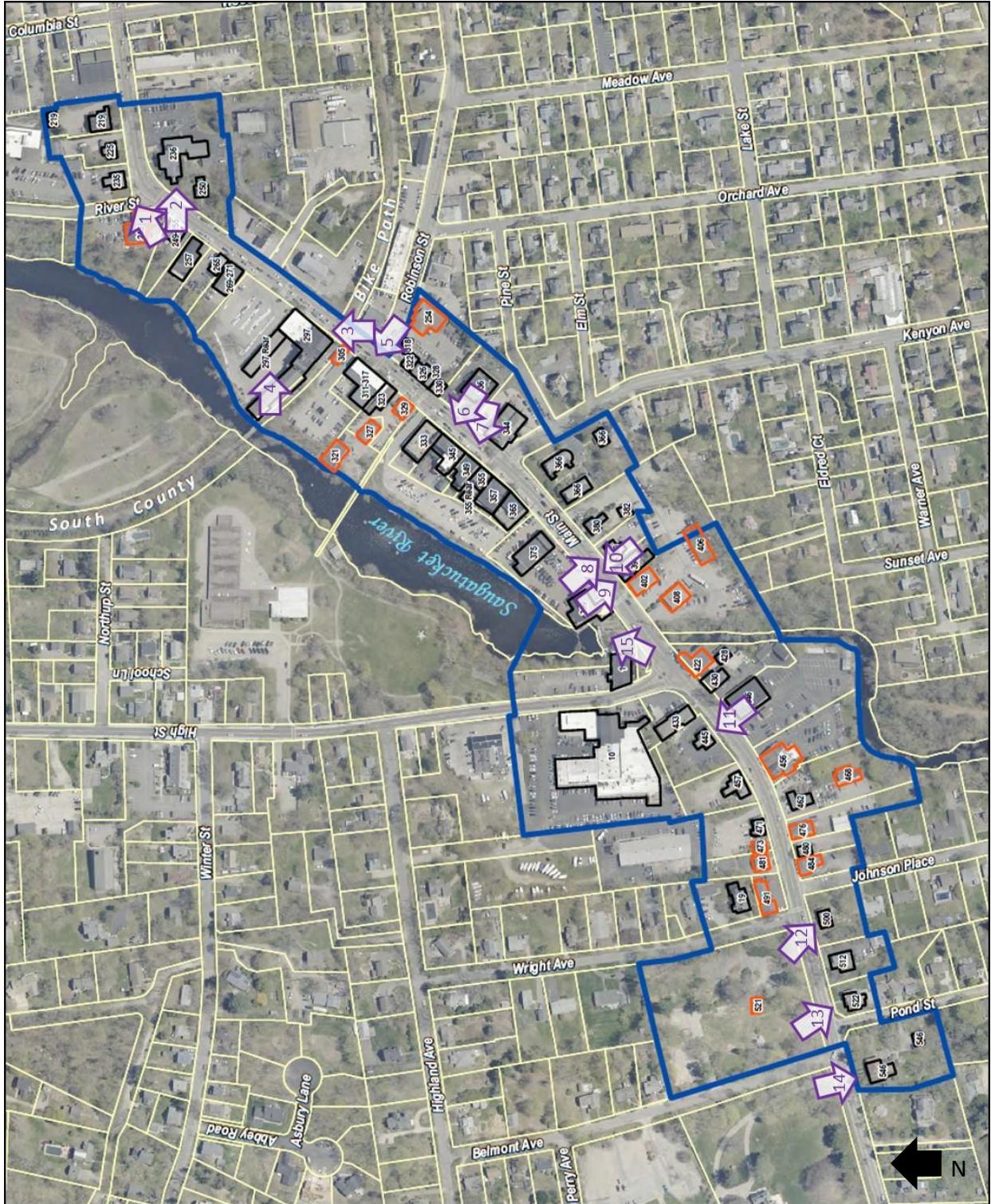


Figure 10

399 Main Street converted for use as an automobile showroom by John Yemma
looking northwest, ca. 1920s

Robert and Diane Smith Collection, South County History Center

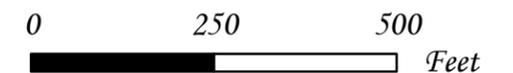
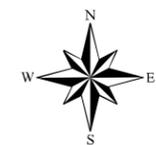
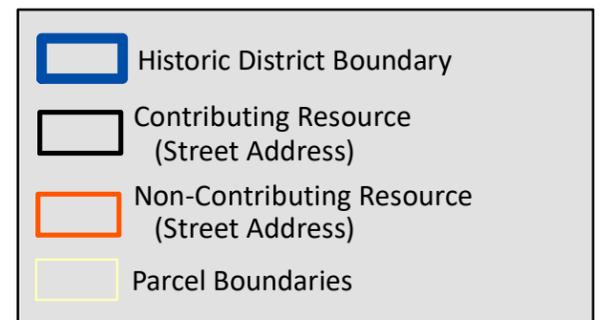
Photo Key Map
Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)
South Kingstown, RI



Town of
South Kingstown

WAKEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Additional Documentation



Scale 1 : 3000
One inch = 250 feet

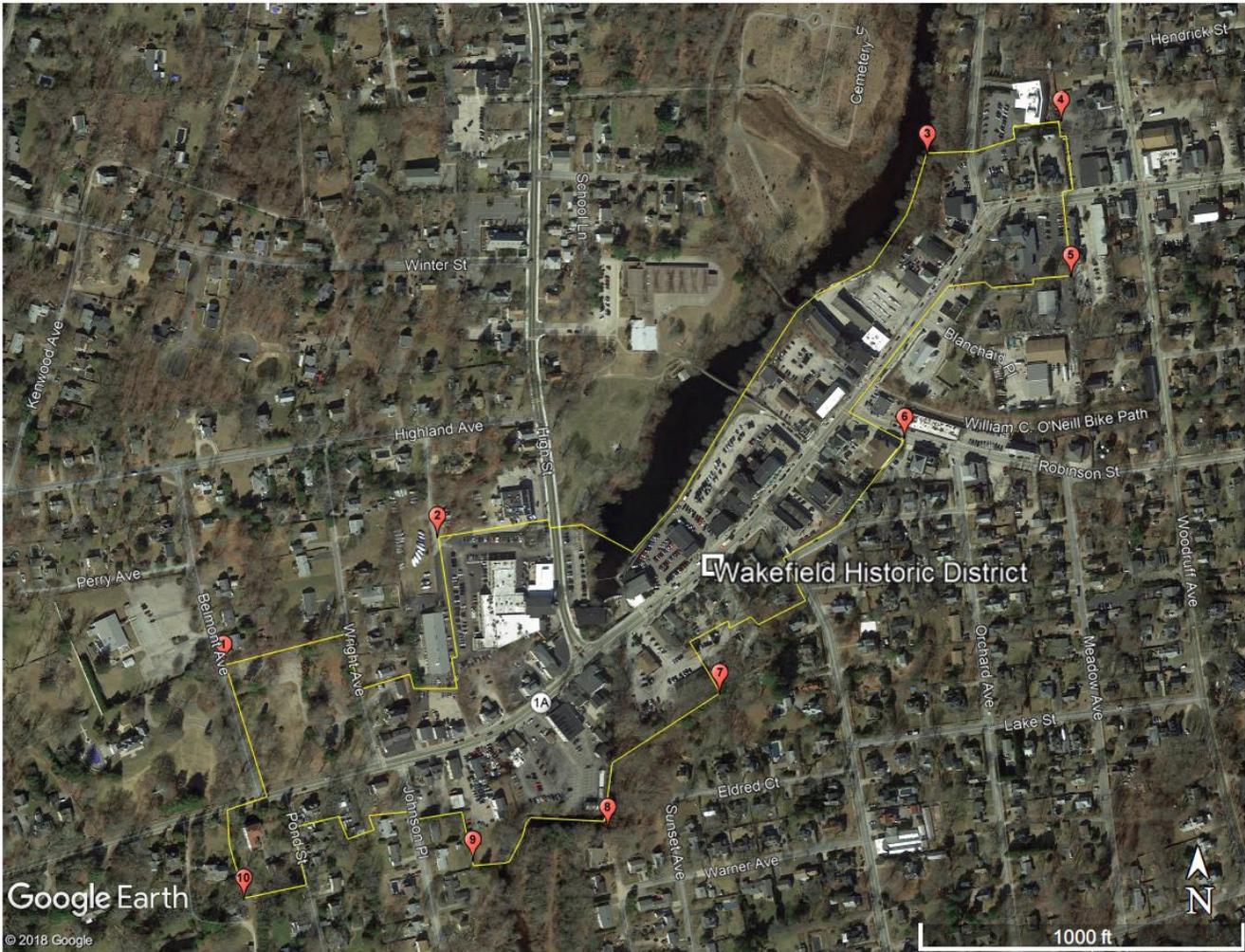


Geographic
Information
System

Aerial Photo: RIGIS Spring 2019
Parcel Boundaries: SKGIS August 2019

PL19-19 cpb 9/19

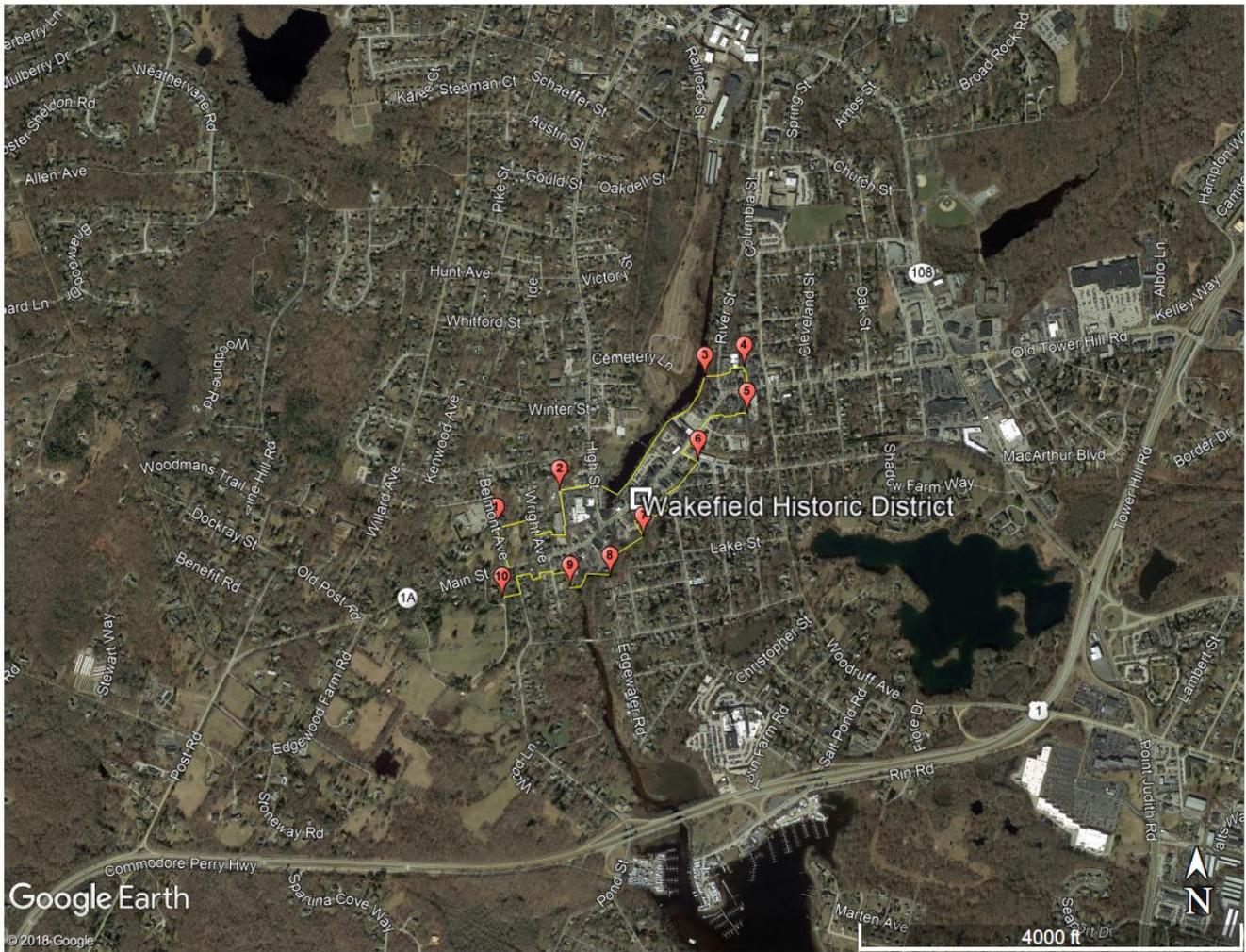




Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation) South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island

Coordinates

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Latitude: 41.436775° | Longitude: -71.505803° |
| 2. | Latitude: 41.437864° | Longitude: -71.503394° |
| 3. | Latitude: 41.441099° | Longitude: -71.497864° |
| 4. | Latitude: 41.441386° | Longitude: -71.496367° |
| 5. | Latitude: 41.440071° | Longitude: -71.496254° |
| 6. | Latitude: 41.438701° | Longitude: -71.498121° |
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| 10. | Latitude: 41.434798° | Longitude: -71.505576° |



Wakefield Historic District (Additional Documentation)
South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island

Coordinates

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| 9. | Latitude: 41.435119° | Longitude: -71.502994° |
| 10. | Latitude: 41.434798° | Longitude: -71.505576° |





WAKEFIELD
BAPTIST CHURCH

All Are Welcome

Worship for All Ages
Sundays - 10:00 a.m.
783-2472

An American Baptist Church



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BRANCH COMPANY

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ARNOLD
LUMBER

NO
MOTOR
VEHICLE





ALL THAT Matters yog + holistic health center

ALL THAT Matters

yoga + gift boutique

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CUSTOM FRAMING



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BELL BLOCK.

Hair on Mane

therapy

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TIME



PAUL MASSE











