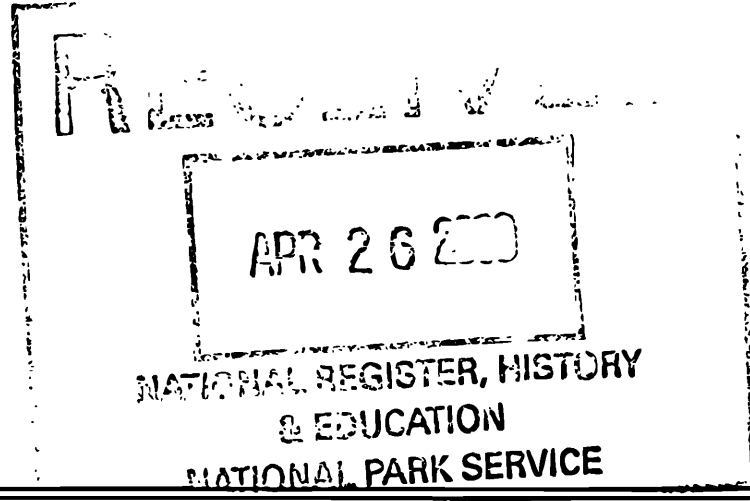


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Rice City Historic District--Boundary Increase

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number: 2172 Plainfield Pike

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Coventry vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Kent code: 003 zip code: 02816

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>2</u>		structures
		objects
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Frederick C. Williamson  
Signature of certifying official

19 April 2000  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.

     determined eligible for the  
National Register

     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the  
National Register

     removed from the National Register

     other (explain):     

Elson A. Beall

5/26/00

      
Signature of Keeper

Date  
of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic: DOMESTIC  
AGRICULTURE

Sub: single dwelling  
agricultural outbuilding

Current: DOMESTIC  
AGRICULTURE

Sub: single dwelling  
agricultural outbuilding

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

Greek Revival

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation STONE roof ASPHALT  
walls WOOD, Weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: mid-19th century \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: c.1845 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

**9. Major BibliographicalReferences**

See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: less than 10 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>268540</u>	<u>4620170</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Elizabeth S. Warren, Principal Historic Preservation Planner

Organization: R. I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission Date: 7/99

Street & Number: 150 Benefit Street Telephone: 401-222-2678

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02903

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 7

Page 5

Description

PLAINFIELD PIKE

2172 William Carpenter Farm (ca. 1845 et seq.; restored 1986): This early nineteenth-century, 1 1/2-story, 5-bay, flank-gabled roof, center-chimney house has two 1-story side additions. It is located in a quiet rural area on a slight rise, set off from the road by stone walls. The entrance has a Greek Revival frame with narrow sidelights and paired small Victorian brackets. The east ell (rebuilt in the 1980s) has a full-width porch with oversize scrolled brackets; the west ell is a new addition which repeats both roofline and detailing of the main section.

Contributing outbuildings include:

A. A mid-nineteenth-century, 4-story, clapboarded barn with a gable roof and an attached twentieth-century wing with a lower gable roof on the east end. In the 1920s, it was used for raising poultry.

B. A small wooden, gable-roof, well house (ca. 1855), set close to the east wing of the house.

C. A small, mid-nineteenth-century wood shed set just west of the large barn, now in use as a tool shed.

Contributing structures include:

D. The stone walls (early nineteenth century) which line the road and are found in the uplands of this former 60-acre farm.

E. The dam for the small pond which is located to the east of the house and sets it off from the farm outbuildings.

Non-contributing outbuildings include:

F. A 1-story, 2-bay sheep barn (1989), set on a rise to the east of the large barn.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 7

Page 6

---

---

G. A rustic wooden wood-shed (late 1900s), set higher on the hill to the east of the large barn.

Photographs

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: March, 1999

Negative filed at: RIHP&HC, 150 Benefit St., Providence, RI

(The above information applies to all photographs)

View: William Carpenter House, south side.

Photo #1

View: Barn, south side.

Photo #2

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 8

Page 7

Significance

The historical significance of Rice City Historic District derives from its rural character and its capacity to document the appearance of western Rhode Island's country villages. The William Carpenter Farm contributes to this character in its visual aspect and its historic function. The farm's outbuildings (barn, well house, and wood shed), its remnant stone walls, and its dam and pond reflect its long use as a farm. It is also a useful example of a late rural Greek Revival house, its form popular for decades, its simple stylistic markers concentrated on the entry. The farm is located on Plainfield Pike, the spine of the Rice City settlement, between the boundary of the previously listed district and the state boundary with Connecticut.

It is not immediately clear why the Carpenter Farm was not originally included in the National Register listing for the Rice City Historic District; it may have been inadvertently omitted from the survey on which the National Register nomination was based. It is manifest, however, that the farm participates in the significance of the district, both as a document of nineteenth-century agriculture and an example of the rural vernacular Greek Revival.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 9

Page 8

---

---

Major Bibliographical References

Barbour, Ardis & Bates, Frank G. How Coventry Came To Be and Coventry:  
Our Town (Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet) 1941.

Fowler, Gail. Rice City: An Evaluation of the Evidence. (Master's Thesis,  
Brown University) 1976.

Hopkins, Samuel r. A Short Account of the Reformation and Establishment of  
the Church of Christ or Christian Church of Coventry since 1812.  
Providence, 1821.

Place, John W. Rice City and its Suburbs. (text of speech given at  
Western R.I. Civic Historical Society) 1949.

Pugh, William E. "Rice City: You can enter it, but you can't leave it."  
Providence Journal Bulletin, August 6, 1971: 1-2.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 10

Page 9

Geographical Data

Beginning at the northeast corner, at and including Plat 321, Lot 17.1, the boundary of the district runs west and south following the northern and western lot lines of lot 17.1 and lot 17.2 to a point fifty feet north of the center line of Plainfield Pike. From there the boundary turns west, following the center line of Plainfield Pike but fifty feet to the north, across lots 62, 61, 60, 59, 58, 57, 56.1, 55, 54, and 53, across Lionel Pierson Road, lots 103, 102, 101, and 100, until it meets the eastern lot line of Plat 320, lot 99. It then runs north along the eastern lot lines of lots 99, 106 and 43, to meet the southerly corner of lot 42.1; the boundary continues east and north following the southern and eastern lot lines of lot 42.1 on Plat 320 and Plat 326. From there the district boundary proceeds northwesterly, at the same angle as the northern lot line of lot Plat 326, lot 42.1 about 80 feet, until it meets the southeast corner of Plat 326, lot 16, thence northeast along the east bound of lot 16 to the town of Foster's southern border.

The boundary proceeds due west along the town boundary to the northwest corner of Plat 326, lot 8, then due south along the west bound of lot 8, across Barb's Hill Road, to the north corner of lot 41, then across the forest land in a southwest direction to meet a point in the Moosup River, which is also the southeast bound of lot 41, then following northeast along the Moosup River, and continuing along the south bound of lot 1, to meet Barb's Hill Road. The boundary proceeds southeast on the center line of the road to the northwest corner of Plat 320, lot 39, and then southwest on the west bounds of lots 39, 38, to meet the north bound of lot 37, then west and southwest following the north and west lines of lot 37 to meet lot 31.1, then running west on the north bound of lot 31.1 and southeasterly on the west bound of lot 31.1 to meet the north bound of lot 24; then due west to meet the Moosup River at the northwest corner of lot 24, then following the river southerly and easterly on the west edge of lots 24, 23 and 22 to a point 50 feet north of the center line of Plainfield Pike.

The boundary proceeds west from that point, following Plainfield Pike, fifty feet north of its center line across lots 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, and 16, then turning to the north 20 feet at lot 15 and following the northern, western and southern lot lines of lot 15, to include a cemetery, returning to fifty feet north of Plainfield Pike's center line and continuing west across lots 13, 12, and lot 7 on Plat 320 and Plat 319, until it meets the eastern bound of Plat 319, lot 17. From there the boundary proceeds north,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 10

Page 10

west, and south along the eastern, northern and western lot lines of lot 17 to meet a point on the east bound of lot 12; then due west across lot 12 to meet the southeast corner of lot 11, then north along the east bound of lot 12 to meet the northeast corner of lot 11.2; then west on the north bound of lot 11.2 across Gibson Hill Road to meet the northeast corner of lot 3.05 and continuing west on the north bound of lot 3.05 to the Connecticut state border.

The district then runs south along the state line to the southwest corner of Plat 319, lot 3.02, then turning northeasterly along the south bound of lot 3.02 to meet the northwest corner of lot 3.07, then turning southerly along the west bounds of lots 3.07, 3.06, and 3.04 to meet the northeast corner of Plat 313, lot 13, then west to the northwest corner of lot 13, then turning southeasterly along the west bound of lot 13 to meet the northeast corner of lot 11, then turning southwesterly to meet the northwest corner of lot 11 and continuing south, northeast and southeast along the west bound of lot 11 to meet Plainfield Pike.

The boundary crosses Plainfield Pike and turns easterly along the southern edge of Plainfield Pike, to the northwest corner of Plat 313, lot 2, south and southeast on the west and south bounds of lot 2 to meet the western bound of lot 1 on the edge of Carbuncle Pond; south on the west bound of lot 1 to, and including, the railroad right-of-way of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railrad which forms the southern bounds of lot Plat 313, lot 1 and Plat 314, lot 1; following easterly on the south bound of the right-of-way to meet the Moosup River; then following the river generally north to the south bound of Plat 320, lot 6; east on this bound across Flat River Road to the south corner of Plat 320 lot 97.

The boundary continues east and northwest on the south and east bounds of lot 97 then west on the north line of lot 97 to a point 100 feet east of the center line of Flat River Road; then due north across lot 96 to the southern bound of Plat 320, lot 95, then west fifty feet, then north following the center lines of Flat River Road and Plainfield Pike, but fifty feet to the east across lots 95 and 94 to the south line of lot 92. From there the district boundary follows the southern, eastern and northern bounds of lot 92, east, north and west to a point 50 feet south of the center line of Plainfield Pike. Thence the boundary turns and follows Plainfield Pike fifty feet south of its center line easterly across lots 91, 90, and 89 across Rice City Road to lots 75, 74, 73, 72, 70, 69, 68, 67, 66, 65.2, 64, 63 and Plat 321, lots 16, 15, 14, 13, and 12. Then the boundary crosses lot 12 to the southwest corner of lot 11, then east on the south bound of lot 11 to Sisson Road, turning northwest on Sisson Road to

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Property name Rice City H.D. Boundary Increase, Kent Cty., Coventry, RI

Section number 10

Page 11

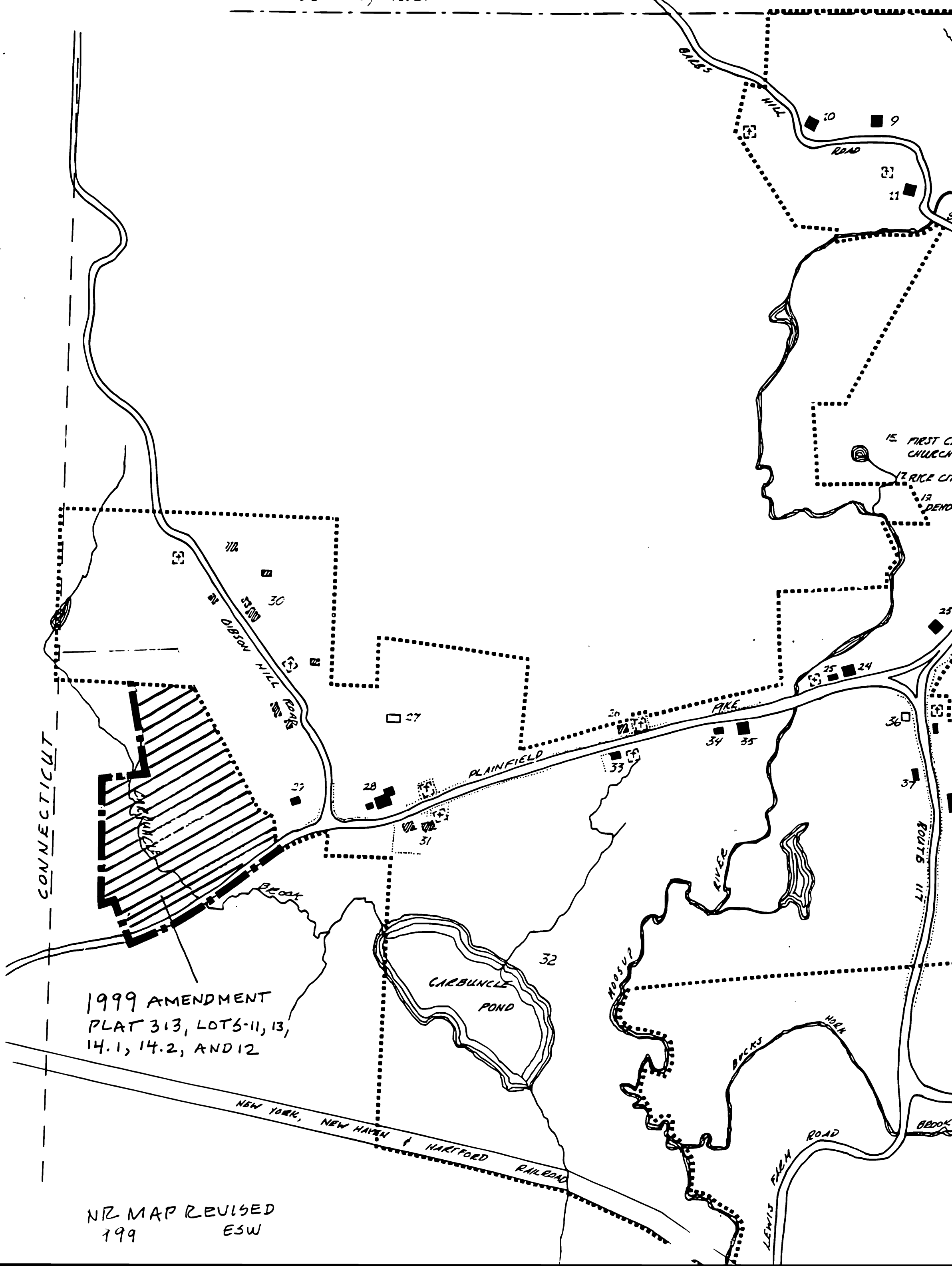
---

---

the Plainfield Pike; east on the south bound of Plainfield Pike to the southeast corner of Plat 321, lot 17.1, then northwest along its east bound to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundary description above includes the previously listed Rice City Historic District and the boundary increase nominated here (to include the William Carpenter Farm). The additional property includes those assessor's lots which contain the resources listed in #7: house, barn, well house, shed, stone walls, dam, & pond.



CONNECTICUT

1999 AMENDMENT  
PLAT 313, LOTS 11, 13,  
14.1, 14.2, AND 12

NZ MAP REVISED  
199 ESW

GIBSON HILL ROAD

PLAINFIELD PIKE

CARBUNCLE POND

NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN & HARTFORD RAILROAD

15 FIRST CHURCH

17 RICE CHURCH

12 DEMO

ROUTE 117

LEWIS FARM ROAD

BECKS RIVER

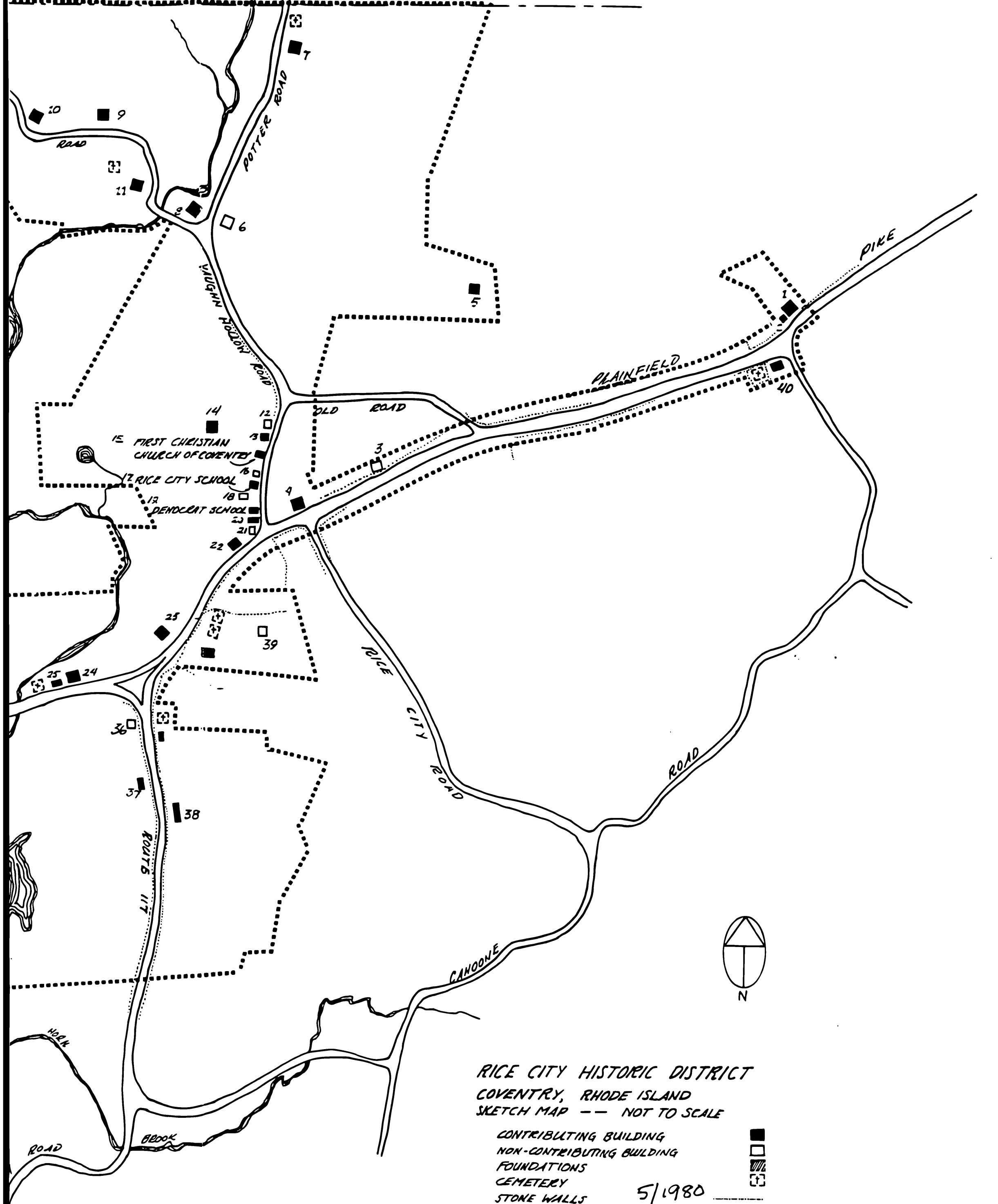
MOOSUP RIVER

BROOK

BROOK

ROAD

GIBSON HILL ROAD



RICE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND  
 SKETCH MAP -- NOT TO SCALE

- CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
  - NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
  - FOUNDATIONS
  - CEMETERY
  - STONE WALLS
- 5/1980

NOTE: SEE 1999 COVENTRY-REVISED  
 PLAT MAPS-NO. 313, 314, 314, 320+326