

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 10 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lonsdale Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

Lonsdale Ave., Blackstone Ct., Front, Main, Cook, Broad,
mill, cross, and Blackstone Sts.

street & number (See Continuation Sheet #1) not for publication

city, town Lonsdale vicinity of Congressional District #1 -
Hon. Fernand J. St Germain

state Rhode Island code 004 county Providence code 007

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

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

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln Town Hall and Cumberland Town Hall

street & number Old River Road Broad Street

city, town Lincoln Cumberland
state Rhode Island

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lincoln, Rhode Island, P-L-1 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>c. 1915</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		<u>1572 Lonsdale Avenue</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lonsdale Historic District is a large, well-preserved industrial village, built in Rhode Island's heavily industrialized Blackstone Valley by the Lonsdale Company between 1833 and the 1920s. It includes two non-contiguous clusters of buildings, one on each side of the southern reach of the Blackstone River. The original settlement at Lonsdale was located on the eastern side of the river in the town of Lincoln; the village was later expanded to the western side of the river in the town of Cumberland; hence, the distinction between "old" and "new" Lonsdale. Both sections of the village retain industrial buildings, built from the 1830s through the turn of the century, and wood-frame and brick, company-built workers' housing; old Lonsdale, in addition, is the site of several institutions created and supported by the Lonsdale Company.

Old Lonsdale: The old village is set within a wide eastern bulge of the Blackstone River. The Blackstone Canal, a small transport artery, passes to the west of the village; it predates industrial development here and forms the west bound of the district. A major industrial complex is located on the low-lying land near the river. The residential and institutional buildings of the village are built on a ridge between the river and the canal (see map).

The industrial complex of the old village includes several mills (dating from 1833 to 1901), an unusual combined railroad bridge and dam (which carries a spur from the Providence-Worcester Railroad line to old Lonsdale), warehouses, and a section of the Blackstone Canal (this last already entered on the National Register).

The main road of the old village is Lonsdale Avenue, a major north-south artery. Midway through the district it is intersected by John Street (which becomes Front Street west of Lonsdale Avenue). This intersection is the institutional center of Lonsdale: located here are Christ Church, its parish house and cemetery, the Lonsdale Memorial School, the Lonsdale Post Office, Lonsdale Hall (which was the social and commercial center of the village), and the Lonsdale Baptist Church. The east side of Lonsdale Avenue is the location of residences of the company's management personnel as the Robertson, Dawber, and Magoun Houses--all relatively large single-family dwellings--attest.

Most of the workers' housing of old Lonsdale is located on Main Street, a dead-end road which roughly parallels Lonsdale Avenue; School Street, a short connector between Lonsdale Avenue and Main Street; and Grant Street, a short court off John Street. The company houses constitute by far the largest part of the built fabric of old Lonsdale. They date from the 1840s to the 1920s; the early ones for the most part are built of wood, the later ones of red brick. Despite the long span of construction, they are similar in form and scale: one-and-a-half or two-and-a-half stories, flank-gable, plain structures, built for two, four,

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1830s through 1920s Builder/Architect Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Lonsdale is one of the best preserved of the Blackstone Valley's many nineteenth-century factory villages. It was the seat of a regionally important textile concern and still documents in its physical form the representative industrial and community organization which dominated the Blackstone River valley a century ago--when a single manufacturing firm provided for and controlled not only the working lives of its operatives, but their educational, commercial, residential, and religious lives as well.

From its first years until well into this century Lonsdale was owned by the Browns of Providence. The leading family of Rhode Island commerce by the early nineteenth century, the Browns had made their fortune in the maritime trade and the minor industries (rum, candles, iron) they initiated to provide exports for their shipping. The first Brown to invest in the textile industry was Moses, whose correspondence with Samuel Slater resulted in Slater's employment by a Brown-dominated firm. The firm of Almy, Brown, and Slater built the famous mill at Pawtucket Falls, the prototype for the first generation of Rhode Island textile factories. Other Brown family leaders, however, still reaping profits in shipping, did not immediately follow up on Moses' early success in cotton manufacturing; only when a variety of factors, including the Embargo of 1807 and the War of 1812, began to limit their returns from maritime trade did they look to manufacturing. Even so, the Browns' first entry into the textile industry was small and tentative--they acquired a partial interest in the Blackstone Manufacturing Company (on the Rhode Island-Massachusetts border). By the 1820s, the firm of Brown and Ives, whose principals were Nicholas Brown and his son-in-law Thomas P. Ives, faced with discouraging returns from shipping and encouraged by the profits from the Blackstone Company, had determined on an important investment in textile manufacturing.

In 1831, Brown and Ives began to acquire land in Lincoln and to build their new mill. Between 1831 and 1833 they spent \$65,000 on land and construction and, in 1834, were granted a charter of incorporation for the Lonsdale Company. By contrast with earlier manufactories in the Blackstone Valley which were relatively small operations, owned and controlled by partnerships of local investors, the Lonsdale Company represented a second stage of textile industry investment and mill village construction. Built on a larger scale, Lonsdale required far greater

(See Continuation Sheet #18)

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Lincoln, Rhode Island--Statewide Historical Preservation Report, P-L-1,"
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, January, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Lincoln c. 45 acres; Cumberland c. 43 acres

Quadrangle name Pawtucket, RI

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

19	300400	4642600
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

19	300900	4642365
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

19	300540	4641660
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

19	300150	4642400
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

19	301180	4643120
Zone	Easting	Northing

F

19	301410	4642380
Zone	Easting	Northing

G

19	300720	4642540
Zone	Easting	Northing

H

19	300610	4643050
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

On the Lincoln side, the boundary of the Lonsdale Historic District begins at the NW corner of lot 45, plat 4, from there following the
(See Continuation Sheet #20)

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pamela A. Kennedy, National Register Coordinator

organization R.I. Historical Preservation Comm. date 20 February 1984

street & number 150 Benefit Street

telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence

state Rhode Island 02903

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Frank Williams*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/23/84

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

Thomas Lee Dwyer
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/25/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet 1

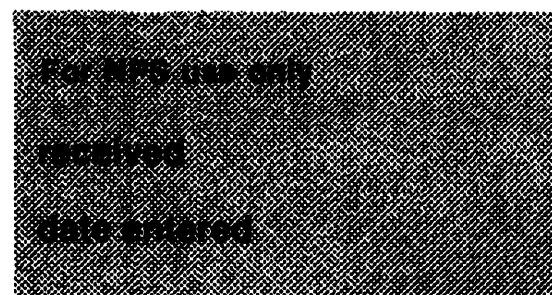
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Portions of Lonsdale Avenue, Front Street, Main Street, Cook Street,
~~Grant Street, and School Street~~ (in Lincoln); Broad Street, Mill Street,
Cross Street, Blackstone Street, Blackstone Court, and Main Street
(in Cumberland).

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and six families. Evenly spaced and separated by small yards, with similar setbacks and no architectural pretension, they are a uniform fabric against which the larger institutional structures and the new one-family houses stand in high relief.

The two sections of Lonsdale are connected by the Whipple Bridge which carries Lonsdale Avenue over the Blackstone. Constructed at the site of an historic ford, the Whipple Bridge has been rebuilt and replaced several times in its long history--most recently in 1979. It is not included in the historic district.

New Lonsdale: The new village is set north and east of the curve of the Blackstone River which encloses the old village. Its industrial buildings are located on Mill Street, which stretches between Lonsdale Avenue and the district's other major thoroughfare, Broad Street, and include several smaller buildings and the huge Ann & Hope Mill. The Providence-Worcester Railroad line was opened through this area in the 1840s; roughly paralleling Broad Street, the line crosses Mill Street where a small station, now vacant, stands (see map).

Workers' houses are located, for the most part, on Main Street, the west side of Broad Street, and Blackstone Court. Built between the 1860s and the 1920s, they are remarkably homogeneous: plain and utilitarian flank-gable houses, built of red brick, one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half stories.

Overseers' houses, somewhat larger and less plain though--in general--stylistically utilitarian, are set on Blackstone Street. A single large superintendant's house is set at the corner of Blackstone and Broad. The institutional and commercial requirements of the new village were served in buildings across the river in Old Lonsdale; a brick schoolhouse on Broad Street is the only such structure in the Cumberland side of the historic district.

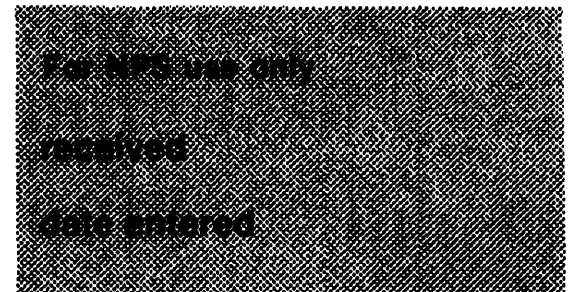
INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Contributing structures are defined as those built during Lonsdale's growth and development as an industrial village, from the 1830s through the 1920s. Some structures have been re-covered with asbestos, asphalt, vinyl, or aluminum siding. Such buildings have been defined as contributing if their original trim elements remain because they are important components of the historical development of the area and could be restored to their original appearance. Unless otherwise indicated, all buildings are of wood frame construction and have gable roofs set flanking

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the street. Properties are inventoried by street; streets are arranged alphabetically, those in Cumberland first, those in Lincoln second.

BLACKSTONE COURT (Cumberland)

- 1-2 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): A 2½-story brick, granite-trimmed, four-family mill house, six bays wide with an entrance at each end of the facade and bracketed cornice.
- 3-4 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 5-6 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 7-8 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 9-10 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 11-12 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 13-14 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.

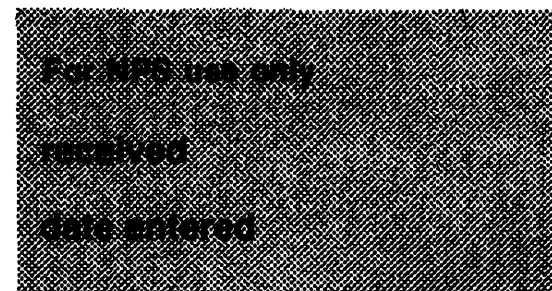
BLACKSTONE STREET (Cumberland)

- 2-4 Lonsdale Assistant Overseers' House (c. 1920): A 1½-story brick, double house, four bays long; the doors are set at each end of the facade under trellised porches, one sheltered by a curved hood, the other by a pitched roof.
- 3-5 Lonsdale Overseers' House (1880s): A 2½-story, overseers' double house. Built of red brick and trimmed with brownstone, the house is T-shaped and has a cross gable roof; its entrances are set under 1-story porches at the angles.
- 6-8 Lonsdale Assistant Overseers' House (c. 1920): A 1½-story brick, double house, four bays long; the doors are set at each end of the facade under curved hoods.
- 7-9 Lonsdale Overseers' House (1880s): Identical to 3-5 Blackstone Street.
- 10-12 Lonsdale Assistant Overseers' House (c. 1920): Identical to 6-8 Blackstone Street.
- 11-13 Lonsdale Overseers' House (1880s): Identical to 3-5 Blackstone Street.

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Blackstone Street (Cumberland) (cont.)

14-16 Lonsdale Assistant Overseers' House (c. 1920): Identical to 2-4 Blackstone Street.

15-17 Lonsdale Overseers' House (1880s): Identical to 3-5 Blackstone Street.

BROAD STREET (Cumberland)

Map #1 Blackstone Monument (1889): A monument raised by the descendents of William Blackstone to memorialize the grave of this early settler; an earlier monument stood nearer the river (and probably closer to the actual site of Blackstone's grave.) This is a plain, beige granite marker, inscribed with Blackstone's name, dates, and deeds (he is cited as the "founder of Boston" and the "first white settler of Rhode Island.")

Map #2 Blackstone School (1875): A 2-story, gable-roofed school building, of red brick with granite trim.

Map #3 Masonic Building (1928): A simple, 2-story, T-plan, Neoclassical building with a center door and cross-gable roof.

550-552 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): A 1½-story mill house, six bays wide. Its two doors are set at the center of the facade; the cornice is bracketed.

554-556 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 550-552 Broad Street.

558-560 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 550-552 Broad Street.

561 Kent House (early 19th century): An early house, preceding the industrial development of the area, the Kent House is a 1½-story, five-bay, center chimney house. A two-bay addition has been constructed on the southern end. Some windows have been modified and the house is now covered with aluminum siding.

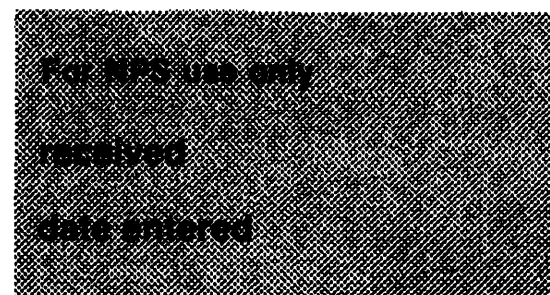
Map #4 Superintendent's House (c. 1870): A 2½-story, T-plan, Italianate, red-brick house with granite trim; a one-story porch across the Broad Street facade has been closed in and is now covered with asbestos siding. A large board-and-batten carriage barn is set to the rear of the lot.

Map #5 Garvin House (between 1870 and 1888): A 2-story Italianate house.

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Broad Street (Cumberland) (cont.)

This was the residence of Lucius F.C. Garvin who came to Lonsdale in 1867 to practice medicine. Garvin served several terms in the state General Assembly and was elected governor for a single term in the early 20th century.

- 562-564 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): A 2½-story brick, granite-trimmed, four-family mill house, six bays wide with an entrance at each end of the facade and a bracketed cornice.
- 566-568 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): A 1½-story, brick mill house, six bays wide. Its two doors are set in the center of the facade; the cornice is bracketed.
- 570-572 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): A 1½-story, brick mill house, six bays wide. Its two doors are set in the center of the facade; the cornice is bracketed.
- 574-576 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1880s): A 1½-story, brick mill house, four bays wide; the two doors are set at the center of the facade; the cornice is bracketed.
- 578-580 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 574-576 Broad Street.
- 582-584 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 574-576 Broad Street.
- 586-588 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 574-576 Broad Street.
- 590-592 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 574-576 Broad Street.
- 594-596 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 574-576 Broad Street.
- 598-600 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 574-576 Broad Street.
- 602-604- Lonsdale Mill House (before 1870; probably 1860s): A 2-story,
606 wood-frame house, eight bays long, with simple Greek Revival doorways in the third and sixth bays.

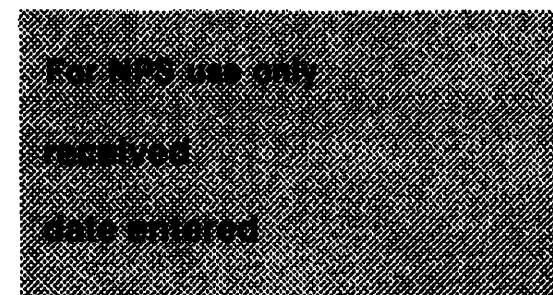
CROSS STREET (Cumberland)

- Map #6 Lonsdale Tenements; later Warehouses (c. 1870): Two long, 1-story, red brick blocks, 19 bays long, built on stone foundations and trimmed with granite. The doors are set in the first, fifth, ninth, thirteenth, and seventeenth bays. Built for residential use, the structures were later modified for use as warehouses--the doors and

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Cross Street (Cumberland) (cont.)

windows have been boarded over and freight doors opened at the gable ends.

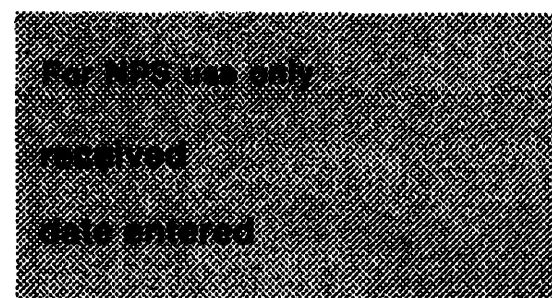
MAIN STREET (Cumberland)

- 1-3 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): A 1½-story mill house, six bays wide. Its paired doors are set in the center of the facade. The cornice is bracketed.
- 2-4 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-3 Main Street.
- 5-7 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-3 Main Street.
- 6-8 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-3 Main Street.
- 9-11 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-3 Main Street.
- 10-12 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-3 Main Street.
- 13 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 14-16 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 17-19 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 18-20 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 21-23 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1870): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 22-24 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 25-27 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 26-28 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 29-31 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 30-32 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 33-35 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 34-36 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.

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Main Street (Cumberland) (cont.)

- 37-39 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 38-40 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 41-43 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 45-47 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 49-51 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.
- 53-55 Lonsdale Mill House (1880s): Identical to 1-2 Blackstone Court.

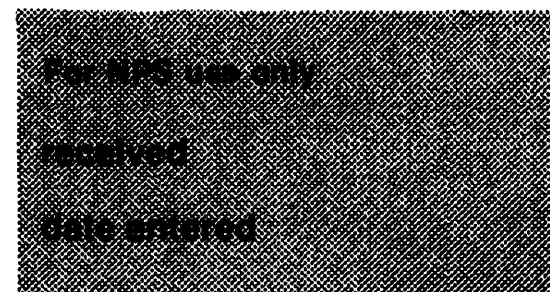
MILL STREET (Cumberland)

- Map #7 Ann & Hope Mill (1886): Designed by Frank Sheldon, the Providence mill architect, the Ann & Hope is a long, four-story brick textile mill, with double-hung, six-over-six sash set under segmental arches and above granite sills. The main building is 498 feet long, with a bracketed cornice and flat roof; a flat-roofed bracketed tower projects from the center of the west facade. In 1901, a 2-story addition with a matching tower was constructed on the mill's south end. Both sections are now fronted with one-story, cinder-block and corrugated metal additions along the west facade. The mill, centerpiece of the Lonsdale Company's plant in Cumberland, was one of the nation's largest textile factories when built. It now houses a discount store, a food market, and warehouse operations.
- Map #8 Lonsdale Mill (c. 1913): A small 4-story, brick, textile mill; its first floor has been modified, with some openings now closed and a large mural painted over the surface. The mill was part of a larger complex built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and demolished for the most part in the 1930s.
- Map #9 Lonsdale Warehouse (c. 1870): A tall, windowless, flat-roofed brick warehouse, built over the railroad line.
- Map #10 Railroad Depot (early 20th century): A 1-story, gable-roofed, brick train station, with broad overhanging eaves.
- Map #11 Lonsdale Boiler House (probably c. 1886): A square, brick boiler house, with a brick stack.

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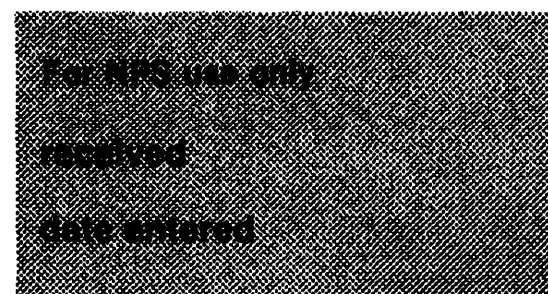
COOK STREET (Lincoln)

- 9-11 Lonsdale Mill Tenement (between 1851 and 1862): A 2½-story, brick block, eight bays long, its doors set at the 2nd and 7th bays; the Lonsdale Company's first mill housing built in brick.
- Map #13 Lonsdale Mill Number Three (1833): A small, rubble stone mill, originally four stories, now reduced to a single story and resurfaced. A 2-story ell on the north side with granite quoins, sills, and lintels, survives intact. This is the earliest extant factory at Lonsdale; another ell has been replaced in brick.
- Map #14 Lonsdale Boiler House (between 1862 and 1870): A 1-story brick boiler house with large freight doors.
- Map #15 Lonsdale Mill (1850s): A small 1-story, flat-roofed, brick, industrial building, adjacent to Mill #3.
- Map #21 Lonsdale Mill Office (probably 1901): A 2-story, hip-roof, brick office building, probably built with the 1901 mill. The mill office is five bays long with a center door; its foundation is granite, as are its sills and lintels. It is set at the entrance to the mill yard.
- Map #22 Lonsdale Mill (early twentieth century): A 1-story brick structure, with a gable roof and corbeled cornice.
- Map #23 Lonsdale Mill (early twentieth century): A 1-story factory building with a flat roof of both wood and brick; a sheet metal addition is set at the east side.
- Map #24 Lonsdale Mill (early twentieth century): A 1- and 2-story brick industrial building with a flat roof; the structure is set adjacent to the Blackstone River.
- Map #25 Lonsdale Mill (1901): A long 2- and 3-story red brick textile mill, with flat roofs, corbeled cornice, granite sills, and segmental arches over the windows. A hip-roof tower projects from the east side. This is the Lonsdale Company's largest industrial building constructed on the west side of the Blackstone River--by the twentieth century most of its operations were carried on in mills on the east side in Cumberland. The 1901 mill was constructed on the site of the 1832 Number Two Mill; multiple additions have been constructed on the mill's west side.

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Cook Street (Lincoln) (cont.)

- Map #26 Lonsdale Mill (between 1856 and 1888): A 1- and 3-story, flat-roofed red brick mill building, its windows have granite sills and are set under segmental arches. The mill is built over the Blackstone Canal and was probably used for bleaching and dyeing operations.
- Map #27 Lonsdale Mill Warehouse (early twentieth century): A 2-story brick warehouse.
- Map #28 Lonsdale Mill Warehouse (between 1870 and 1888): A 3- and 4-story red brick warehouse, with corbeled cornice, small windows set under segmental arches between the piers, and fire walls dividing the structure. The warehouse is adjacent to the railroad, which carried goods out and materials in to Lonsdale.
- Map #29 Lonsdale Dam and Bridge (1893-94): A combination railroad bridge and dam across the Blackstone River. The curved dam is constructed of rubble, faced with granite ashlar. Five stone piers, built out and up from the dam, support the railroad track. The dam/bridge was built by the Lonsdale Company to connect the old village of Lonsdale to the newer village where the spur connected to the main line of the Providence Worcester line. The railroad track remained in use until 1954.
- Map #30 Water Gate (probably mid-nineteenth century): Built over the mill canal just north of Front Street, the water gate controlled the flow of water into Scotts Pond. The gatehouse has been destroyed and the gate and its hoists, now deteriorating and rusted, are exposed to the weather.

FRONT STREET (Lincoln)

- Map #16 House (probably 1850s): A simple 1-story house; its door is set at the gable end.

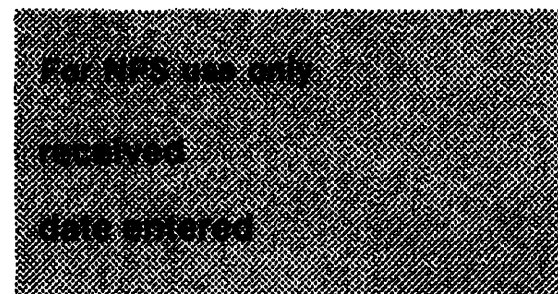
GRANT STREET (Lincoln)

- 1-3 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1870 and 1888): A 2½-story, 4-family, workers' house. The red brick building is trimmed with granite sills and lintels; the building is six bays long, with a door at each end of the facade.

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Grant Street (Lincoln) (cont.)

- 2-4 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1870 and 1888): Identical to 1-3
Grant Street.
- 5-7 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1870 and 1888): Identical to 1-3
Grant Street.
- 6-8 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1870 and 1888): Identical to 1-3
Grant Street.
- 9-11 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1870 and 1888): Identical to 1-3
Grant Street.
- 10-12 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1870 and 1888): Identical to 1-3
Grant Street.

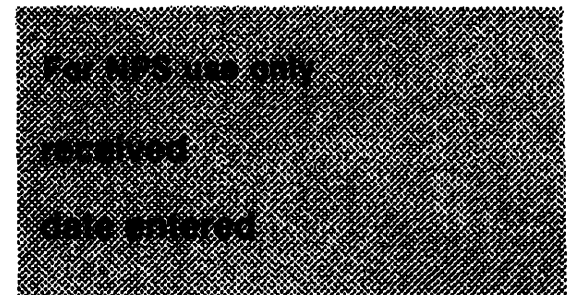
LONSDALE AVENUE (Lincoln)

- 1501 Robertson House (c. 1900): A 2½-story, brick, granite-trimmed Queen Anne House with Colonial Revival details, dentil cornice, turret at southwest corner, and a wide porch which wraps around the side and front. There is a clapboarded carriage house north of the house. Charles N. Robertson was manager of the Lonsdale Bleachery in the early 20th century.
- 1565-1567 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): A 2½-story, hip-roof, 6-bay brick mill house; its center door is set within a small porch.
- 1568 Lonsdale Baptist Church (1911): A brick, granite-trimmed church, its windows set under pointed arches. The entrance is at the base of the flat-roofed tower on the northeast corner. This is the second church built for the Baptist congregation at Lonsdale.
- 1570 Baptist Church Parsonage (1897): A simple, 2½-story, cross-gable Queen Anne house with wrap-around porch and decorated bargeboards. This parsonage is the second constructed for the congregation.
- 1571 Baptist Church Parsonage (1850s): A 5-bay, 1½-story, Greek Revival house with flat-roofed Doric porch and two large dormers. It was replaced as parsonage by 1570 Lonsdale Avenue in 1897.
- 1572 Lonsdale Baptist Church (between 1843 and 1847): A small, 1-story, end-gable Greek Revival church building, with panelled corner boards and wide cornice board. The door, centered in the 3-bay

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Lonsdale Avenue (Lincoln) (cont.)

facade (and probably reworked), is set under a transom with fret-work and a molded cap on consoles. The church was originally located at the junction of Lonsdale Avenue and Main Street and was built for one of the first religious groups at Lonsdale. It was replaced in 1911 by the newer church at 1568 Lonsdale Avenue and sold to the Town of Lincoln which moved it to the present site, removed its steeple, and used it as Town Hall for a number of years; despite its modifications and its move, it remains a key historical and architectural landmark in Lonsdale.

1577 Kent House (1850s): A 2½-story, shingled Greek Revival house with a 1½-story gabled extension from the facade. The extension is 3 bays wide, and the door is set under a broad entablature. Members of the Kent family lived on both sides of the Blackstone at Lonsdale.

1589-1591 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1862 and 1870): A 2½-story, brick, granite-trimmed house; a 1-story wing with porch extends from south side. In 1909, George Hyde, chief engineer for the Lonsdale Bleachery, lived here with Charles Robinson, postmaster, as boarder.

1598 House (c. 1850s): A 2½-story, 5-bay, clapboarded house; a bracketed hood shelters the center door; there is a 1-story, gable-roofed addition on the south side.

1603 House (between 1846 and 1862): A plain 2½-story dwelling with 5-bay facade and first floor porch.

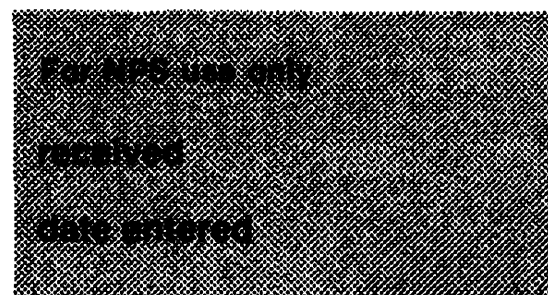
1612-1614 Sherman House (between 1851 and 1862): A 2½-story, end gable, Greek Revival house with 4-bay facade. There is a flat-roofed, 1-story addition on the north side. The first floor facade has been altered--a porch removed, and a second door added. On an 1862 map, the house is identified as the residence of H. & P. Sherman, with a store and post office located in the building.

1638-1640 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1862 and 1870): A 2½-story mill house; six bays long, its doors (with transom lights) are set at each end of the facade; probably it was built for four families. With 1650-1652 and 1662-1664 Lonsdale Avenue and the frame houses on the south end of Main Street, this house represents the Lonsdale Company's last residential building effort in wood--later worker's houses were built of brick.

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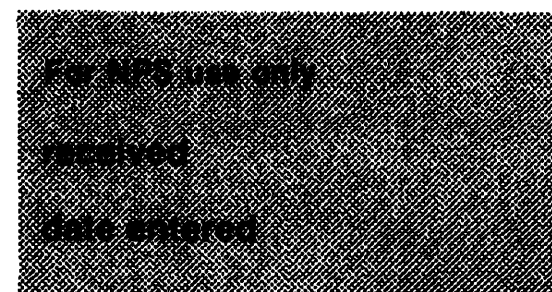
Lonsdale Avenue (Lincoln) (cont.)

- 1647 Lonsdale Post Office (1909): A brick-veneered, flat-roofed building, 1½-stories high, with 1-story wings on each side. Its pedimented door is set within an Ionic distyle in antis porch. Despite its small size (the facade is only 50 feet long), the Post Office has a monumental character entirely in keeping with the institutional character of its neighbors at the intersection of Lonsdale Avenue and Front Street. Designed by Hoppin and Field, the Post Office was built by the Lonsdale Company and leased to the federal government. It is now used as a church.
- 1649 Christ Church Parish House (1897): Christ Church Parish House, designed by Cram, Wentworth, and Goodhue, is a large, brick, gable-roofed hall, set gable end to the street, with 1-story extension on both sides. Built in a simplified Jacobean style, the parish house's heavy central door is placed under a Tudor arch; over it is set a large window with stone tracery. All of the rectangular windows have stone surrounds and mullions contrasting with the flat brick surface of the walls.
- Map #17 Christ Church (1883): This vaguely Romanesque, late Victorian church is built of rough cut granite with brownstone trim, the walls buttressed, with a broad, high roof which rises into a small belfry. The two front entrances are set in small gable-roofed extensions under round arches. The parish cemetery is just behind the church.
- Map #18 Lincoln Memorial Schoolhouse (1920-1922): A 2½-story, flat-roofed, Neoclassical brick structure, U-shaped, with its two wings enclosing a columned portico. Lincoln's memorial to its World War I servicemen, the school is on the site of an earlier school built and operated by the Lonsdale Company.
- 1650-1652 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): Identical to 1638-1640 Lonsdale Avenue.
- 1661 Lonsdale Hall (1869): A long, 3½-story, brick building; its cornice is bracketed and its windows set under segmental arches between the brick piers. The first floor has been modified with large plate glass windows and a stucco covering. The Hall was built by the Lonsdale Company as a community meeting place and commercial center. It housed the local library, club rooms, and a meeting hall on the upper floors; small shops occupied the

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Lonsdale Avenue (Lincoln) (cont.)

first floor--in 1888 there were a drug store, barber shop, dry goods store, and bakery here.

1662-1664 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): Identical to 1638-1640 Lonsdale Avenue.

1672-1674 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1862 and 1870): Identical to 85-87 Main Street.

1693 Magoun House (c. 1885): A 2½-story house built in a simplified version of the Queen Anne style; the first story is brick, the upper story and a half is covered with shingles. The roof is a flank gable intersected by a hipped extension; at the corner the roof sweeps down from the ridge to shelter a small porch cut into the mass of the house. The end wall chimney stack is elaborated with picturesque variations in the wall plane--on the first story the wall is angled in to set off the chimney; on the second story the shingled wall is pulled out to form a small, shed-roofed bay which engulfs the chimney. The house was the residence of Hazen Magoun, a native of Quebec who emigrated to Lonsdale in 1870 and managed the company farm whose acreage stretched behind his unusual house.

1700 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): A 2-story double house, its entrances set under porches formed by extension of the roof.

1740-1744 Lonsdale Mill Tenement (between 1851 and 1862): A 2½-story, brick block, 8 bays long, its doors set at the second and seventh bays. This is the Lonsdale Company's first mill housing built in brick.

1746-1760 Lonsdale Mill Tenement (between 1851 and 1862): Identical to 1740-1744 Lonsdale Avenue

MAIN STREET (Lincoln)

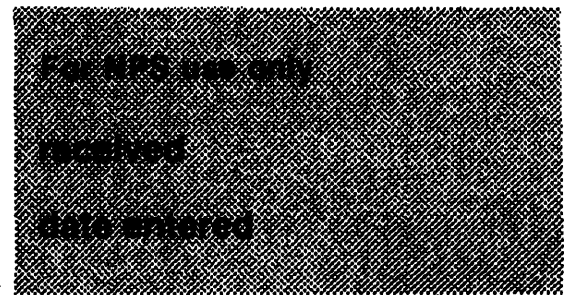
84-88 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1862 and 1870): A 1½-story, mansard-roofed dwelling; the facade is 6 bays long, with a door at each end.

85-87 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1862 and 1870): A 2½-story, 4-bay, workers' house; the paired center doors have flat surrounds and transom lights and are sheltered by a modern hood. A row of small attic windows is set just below the eaves. The house has been re-sided with asbestos shingles.

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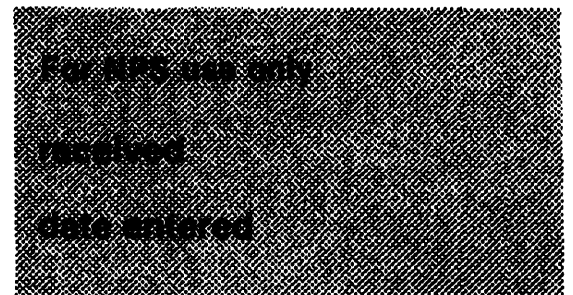
Main Street (Lincoln) (cont.)

- 89-91 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1862 and 1870): Identical to 85-87 Main Street, except that the doorway lacks the added modern hood.
- 90-92 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): A 2-story double brick mill house, 4-bays wide, with doors set under trellis work porches.
- 93 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): Identical to 85-87 Main Street, except that the paired doors have been replaced by a single door under a pediment and the first floor windows have been replaced with smaller substitutes.
- 94 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): Identical to 90-92 Main Street.
- 97-99 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): Identical to 85-87 Main Street.
- 109-111 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): A 2½-story mill house; 6 bays long, its doors (with transom lights) are set at each end of the facade; probably built for 4 families.
- 113-115 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1832 and 1846): The row of small mill houses on the west side of Main Street (113-115, 117-119, 121-123, 125-127, 129-131, 133-135, and 137-139) are the earliest workers' houses to survive in Lonsdale and are among the oldest extant in the Blackstone Valley, rare documents of the look of early nineteenth-century industrial village. As built, they were utilitarian wood-frame buildings, 1½-stories high with flank gable roofs, paired center doors with transom lights, paired small windows under the eaves, clapboarded walls, 6/6 double-hung sash, and cut granite foundations. In the century and a half since their construction, the houses have undergone a number of modifications--but the buildings' form is so plain and their decoration so spare, that they retain the ability to convey their historic identity as simple, unpretentious buildings. Most have been re-sided; sash has been altered in some examples; some windows have been closed over. However, their regular spacing and boxy form remain to create the distinctive streetscape of Main Street. All have been defined as contributing; modifications have been noted in the entry for each individual house.
- Number 113-115 has been re-sided with asbestos shingles and has a shed dormer in the front roof face.
- 137-139 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1832 and 1846): Identical to 113-115

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Main Street (Lincoln) (cont.)

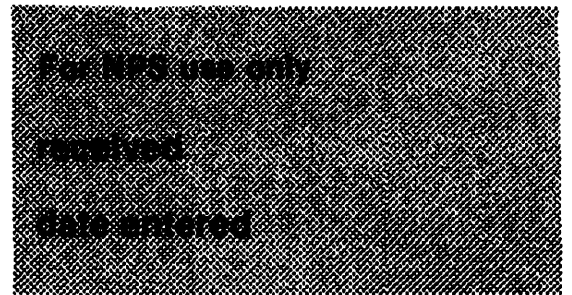
Main Street; re-sided with aluminum; transom lights covered.

- 138-140 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): A 2½-story, flank-gable, 6-bay mill house with entrances at each end of facade.
- 141-143 Lonsdale Mill House (1840s): A 2½-story, flank-gable, mill house, 6 bays wide, with center door.
- 148-150 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): A 2-story, flank-gable, brick house, built in two sections, one set slightly behind the other. The southern section has two large gabled dormers. The entrances are both set under trellis-work porches.
- 152-154 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): A 2-story, brick double house, 4 bays wide, with entrances set under trellis-work porches.
- 156-162 Lonsdale Mill House (c. 1920): A 2-story, brick mill house, 4 units long, its north entrance under a shed-roof porch, its south door under a curved hood.
- 166-168 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1846 and 1857): A simple 1½-story, clapboarded, flank-gable, 5-bay dwelling; its paired doors are set under a modern hood; the attic windows under the eaves have been closed. With 172 Main Street, this is the only remaining early house on the west side of Main Street--once lined with similar houses. The east side of Main Street is still lined with houses of similar age and form.
- 172 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1846 and 1851): Similar to 168-170 Main Street, this 1½-story, 5-bay mill house has undergone more extensive alterations. Its windows have been replaced with smaller modern substitutes and a single door replaces the original paired doors. There is a 1-story garage addition on the north side.
- 195-197 Lonsdale Mill House (1840s): A plain 2½-story, flank-gable workers' house, 5 bays wide with double door at center. One window on second floor has been closed and the dwelling has been re-sided.

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SCHOOL STREET (Lincoln)

- 3 House (between 1846 and 1851): A simple, 2½-story, gable-end, Greek Revival house; the center door is set under a flat entablature. The house is shown on an 1862 map as a store.
- 6-8 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): A 2½-story mill house; the facade is 6 bays long, with a door under a transom at each end of the facade; now re-sided.
- 7-9 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1846 and 1851): Identical to 6-8 School Street, except for 2-story rear ell added between 1888 and 1895.
- 14-16 Lonsdale Mill House (between 1851 and 1862): Identical to 6-8 School Street except that, during re-siding, the transom lights were closed and covered.
- 17 House (between 1851 and 1862): A 2-story, end-gable, Greek Revival house, 3 bays wide; the entrance is located on the east side of the house under a pedimented porch. The building is shown on an 1862 map as a school--this was probably a small private operation as the Lonsdale Company's school on Lonsdale Avenue (now demolished) had already been constructed by this date.

INVENTORY OF NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

BLACKSTONE STREET (Cumberland)

- 1½ House (c. 1960): A small "colonial" house.
- Map #12 House (c. 1960): A small wood-frame house.

BROAD STREET (Cumberland)

- Map # 6 Gas Station (c. 1960): A small filling station with pump islands on the street side.

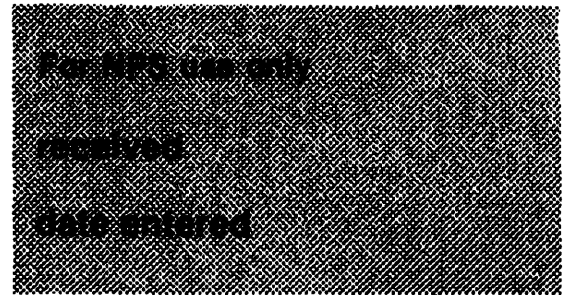
CARRINGTON STREET (Lincoln)

- Map #18 Car Wash (c. 1960): A multi-bay cinder block car wash facility; small gas station at east end.

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COOK STREET (Lincoln)

- Map #31 Lonsdale Bleachery (1840s with later additions): A vacant and ruined pair of brick buildings. These are the remnants of the Lonsdale Bleachery, now dilapidated and apparently beyond repair; construction of the Bleachery made the Lonsdale Mills one of the first truly integrated textile producers in the Blackstone Valley.

LONSDALE AVENUE (Lincoln)

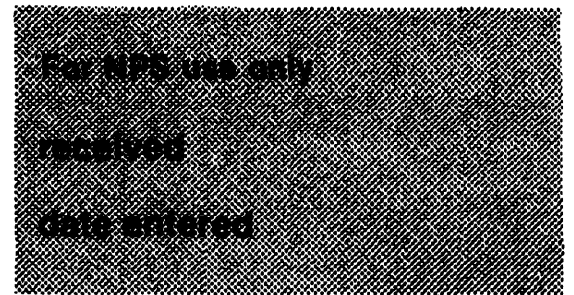
- Map #20 Dawber House (between 1846 and 1850): Once a handsome, 2½-story Greek Revival house, now much altered. An 1888 drawing and a 19th century photograph show a flat roofed porch with Ionic columns on the gable end, six-over-six sash, a roof balustrade, and flat cornerboards--now all removed. The entrance is now on the side and the sash are now replaced with modern versions, including the first floor bow window on the facade. A 2-story rear ell with a wrap-around porch was added between 1851 and 1888--it has been closed in. This is one of the largest single-family houses built in Lonsdale; it is set on the east side of Lonsdale Avenue, where the Lonsdale Company's management personnel traditionally resided. John Dawber, master mechanic and later assistant superintendent, lived here in the 1880s.

MAIN STREET (Lincoln)

- Map #19 House (c. 1955): A small modern house built of orange brick set over a large garage.

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capital, was owned by a corporation which limited the risk of investors, and was personally managed not by its owners but by a mill superintendent.

The first and second mills built by the Lonsdale Company were completed in 1831 and 1832; neither survives. Mill Number Three, built in 1833, still exists though it has been altered and is not clearly recognizable as an early mill. It was originally four stories high but is now reduced in height and has had its facade modified; a well-preserved rear ell, built of granite-trimmed rubble, documents its original appearance.

By 1844 the Lonsdale Company's stock was held by John Carter Brown, Moses Brown Ives, Robert H. Ives, and Charlotte R. Goddard, all direct descendants of Nicholas Brown. Bound together by their intricately interwoven relationships of family and business, they were the owners of one of the largest textile firms in Rhode Island. Before the Civil War, they owned not only the Blackstone and Lonsdale mills, but also the Hope Cotton Manufacturing Company, and had worked out a system of coordinated purchasing and sales for their mills. Each of their mills produced a specialized product--the Lonsdale mills were used to produce fine umbrella cloth. In an attempt to integrate further their textile operations, Brown and Ives built a bleachery and dye works at Lonsdale to finish the cloth produced at all three of their mills. By 1850, they had constructed a bleach house and dye house and had, in addition, a calendar room, mangle room, and finishing and packing rooms. The dilapidated buildings at the northern end of the present mill complex (Map #12) are probably the remnants of the bleachery. With these additions, the Lonsdale Company became one of the first truly integrated factories in Lincoln. Cloth produced at all three of the Brown and Ives mills was brought to Lonsdale for finishing.

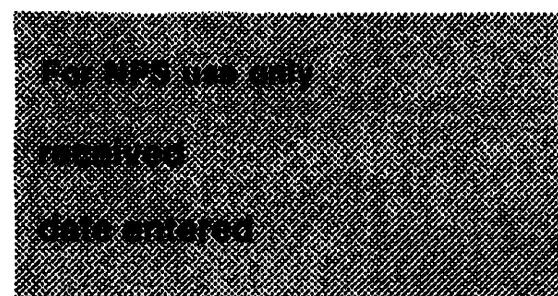
After the Civil War, most of the Lonsdale Company's industrial building was concentrated on the Cumberland side of the Blackstone. A mill was constructed in Lincoln in 1901, but the several new factories on the Cumberland side provided far more space. The most important of these is the great Ann & Hope (1886), which was, upon completion, among the nation's largest textile mills.

From its beginnings the Lonsdale Company housed its operatives in company-owned buildings, the construction and operation of which were intended both to attract workers to the mill and to maintain a degree of social control over the workers, since rents and living arrangements were prescribed by the company-landlord. From the 1840s to the end of the century, the Lonsdale Company built a variety of workers' houses and

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many examples survive; most are multi-family houses. The earliest, dating from the 1840s, are the one-and-a-half-story wood-frame double houses built along the east side of Main Street. The Lonsdale Company continued to build such frame houses well into the 1860s, though later examples are somewhat larger. By the 1850s, however, the Company was building in brick and continued to do so through the 1920s. While there are some brick houses on the Lincoln side, the Cumberland workers' houses are exclusively brick. The company's management personnel traditionally built and lived on the east side of Lonsdale Avenue, where several large single-family houses relieve the homogeneity of the workers' houses. By the early twentieth century, the company had constructed a superintendent's house and several overseers' houses--larger than the operatives' houses though still harmonious in scale and material, they give physical expression to the hierarchy of company organization.

As in most mill villages, the Lonsdale Company provided for its community's institutional and commercial life. The company built the village's first school in the 1850s; it no longer stands, but a later brick schoolhouse built in the 1880s remains. Even as late as the 1920s when the Town of Lincoln built a new school in Lonsdale as a war memorial, the school land was a gift of the Lonsdale Company.

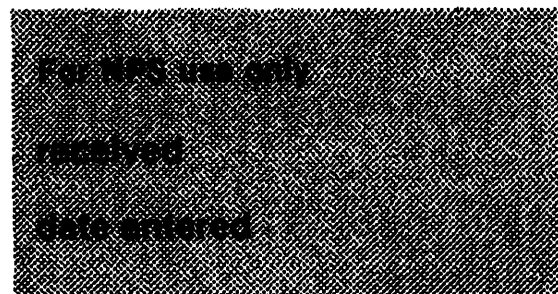
Both church congregations at Lonsdale also enjoyed company support. In 1835, the Christ Church (Episcopal) was constructed on Lonsdale Avenue; it was replaced by the company in 1883 with present church. The first Baptist Church has also been replaced but the original building still stands--it was sold to the Town of Lincoln and used as Town Hall for a number of years in the early twentieth century.

Company control over the lives of workers extended to commerce as well. In 1869 Lonsdale Hall was built. Designed as a commercial and community center, it housed a lending library, a reading room and space for a variety of special events, while its first floor storefronts were rented to small businesses.

The Lonsdale Historic District is remarkably well preserved. The only major loss was the demolition of the barns at the company farm in 1980. The village's industrial and residential buildings were replaced and modified as the Lonsdale Company's requirements changed over its decades of operation, but most still remain to testify to the presence here of a major industrial concern and to the company's motives of care for and control over the community which it built.

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western lines of lots 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 and the southern line of lot 50, crossing Main Street to the NW corner of lot 54 and running along the western line of lot 54, crossing Lonsdale Avenue to the eastern line of lot 80, then south to the SW corner of lot 81, following the southern line of lot 81 to its SE corner; from that point along the eastern lines of lots 81, 80, 64, 65, and 66 to Grant Court, along the northern line of lot 74, across Grant Court to the SE corner of lot 75, along the eastern lines of lots 75, 76, and 77 to the NE corner of lot 77; from there along the northern line of lot 77, across Grant Street, along the eastern line of lot 71 and 70 across John Street to the southern line of lot 24, plat 5, east and following that line around lot 24 to the SE corner of lot 25; from there along the eastern lines of lots 25, 26, and 27 to the north corner of lot 27, across Lonsdale Avenue to the eastern line of lot 38, turning north and following the eastern line of lots 38, 40, 45, and 46, to the NW corner of lot 46 south to the NE corner of lot 44, along the northern, then western, lines of lot 44 to Cook Street; from there, following the curblin of Cook Street to the SE corner of lot 58; from there, north and west to the NE corner of lot 61, east to the SE corner of lot 63, north and east to the SE corner of lot 62 at the Blackstone River; from there along the bank of the river to the dam, across the river to the dam footings on the Cumberland side and west along the dam once more to the NW corner of lot 74; then south along the west bounds of lots 74, 85, 65, 55, 67, the mill pond, and 68 to Front Street; from there west along Front Street and across the street to the point of beginning.

On the Cumberland side, the boundary begins at the NE corner of lot 122, plat 11, and moved north along the east lines of lots 121, 120, 119, 118, 117, to the NE corner of lot 117; then west along the north lines of lots 117 and 144; then south along the west lines of lots 144, a43 and 142, crossing Main Street to the NE corner of lot 145, passing along its north and west lines and along the west lines of lots 146, 147, and 148, to the NE corner of lot 156, then west along the north lines of lots 156 and 157, south along the west line of lot 157, east along the south lines of lots 157 and 156; crossing Cross Street to the NW corner of lot 153, passing along the west lines of lots 153, 154, and 155 to Mill Street; then along the north curblin of Mill Street to a point directly opposite the SE corner of the Lonsdale railroad station, passing north, west, and south around the railroad station's foundation line to a point on the north curblin of Mill Street directly opposite the station's SW corner; then crossing Mill Street to the north line of lot 11, plat 12, passing south and east along the west and south lines of lots 11 and 3 to the southernmost point of lot 3; then crossing the railroad line (lot 160, plat 11) to the southernmost corner of lot 159, plat 11, passing north

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along the east line of lot 159 to a point opposite the NW corner of the School Lot, crossing Broad Street and passing along the south, east, and north lines of the School Lot, the east lines of lots 59 and 163, and the south line of lot 166; crossing Blackstone Terrace and passing east along the south line of lot 113, south and east along the west and south lines of lots 114, 113, and 112; passing north along the east lines of lots 112, 176, and 100; west along the north lines of lots 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, and 106; crossing the Blackstone Court north extension to the NE corner of lot 193, moving west along the north lines of lots 193, 192, and 60 to the curbline of Broad Street, crossing Broad Street to the point of beginning.

The boundaries of the district have been drawn to include all extant buildings built by the Lonsdale Company and others which have some historical relationship to the life of the village as an industrial community. In one case (1½ and #12 Blackstone Street), non-contributing properties have been included to encompass both sides of a street. The district's lack of contiguity derives both from historical appropriateness and convenience. Separating the two sections of the village are a drive-in theater (built on the site of the company farm), a small shopping center, a car wash, and a numti-story elderly housing complex. The bridge connecting the two sections dates from 1979. Despite the physical break between old and new Lonsdale, however, the village has historically operated and been perceived as a single unit: owned by the same company, built by that company, sharing institutional buildings, commercial buildings, and churches; workers often lived on one side of the river and worked on the other.