

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 8 1987  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Smithfield Road Historic District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Smithfield Road N.A. not for publication

city, town North Smithfield N.A. vicinity of

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. North Smithfield Town Hall

street & number Main Street

city, town Slatersville state Rhode Island 02876

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

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

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

Smithfield Road Historic District is a linear rural district in southwestern North Smithfield. The district encompasses ten residences, a dozen outbuildings, two family burial grounds, a dam and waterfall, and many stone walls. The district, 170 acres in area, is centered on a portion of Smithfield Road and is bisected by Spring Brook, a tributary of Crookfall Brook which forms the district's eastern boundary and serves as the boundary between North Smithfield and Lincoln. From the southern part of the district, near Manville Road, the western boundary follows the route of a former electric trolley line north for about five-eighths of a mile. The northwestern boundary of the district is a line, defined by fields, that extends in a general north-east-southwest direction, crossing Smithfield Road. The northeastern limit of the district is determined by a combination of field boundaries, property lines, and stone walls in the wooded tract that makes up the northeastern part of the district.

Smithfield Road, known historically as Great Road, a two-hundred-and-fifty-year-old transportation route, is the focus of the district. Its sinuous, narrow, old asphalt surface is lined in places by a number of sections of dry-laid stone walls, ranging from low, crudely-laid walls to the high, well constructed and well preserved walls at the Chase-Hendrick property.

The eight houses which contribute to the significance of the district, dating from the early nineteenth century to 1932, with one exception, are sited close to the road, while the two non-contributing twentieth-century houses are set back from the road. The two most important houses are the 1829 Isaac Wilkinson House (#2), and the 1811 Chase-Hendrick House (#4), a fine Federal residence with a large brick center chimney and a pedimented entry, originally five-bays long and subsequently enlarged by the addition of three bays at the rear. The Wilkinson House, slightly altered through remodeling, like the Chase-Hendrick house, also represents the early Rhode Island rural house, with its large center chimney and central entry in what was once a five-bay facade. These two fine houses were the homes of the two most prosperous and prominent families in the district, whose members held state political offices. The Ichabod Allen House (#1), erected before the mid-nineteenth century, manifests the smaller farm in its architectural simplicity. In contrast, the c. 1855 William Tucker House (#5) is a fine, well preserved example of Greek Revival architecture, typical of rural areas. Charles H. Smith's two-and-a-half-story dwelling (#3) is essentially a plain structure whose basic form, scale, and style link it architecturally with earlier Rhode Island houses, but its late nineteenth-century age is revealed in its tall, thin, twin chimneys. A Hendrick family house (#8), although of the same age as the Smith House, is a fine example of a simplified or rural example of the then-popular Queen Anne style, with its patterned shingle and wood clapboard surface and its irregular plan with several gables. Sometime around the turn of the nineteenth century a house (#6) was erected at 1138 Smithfield Road. A recent architectural publication calls this type house the "basic homestead." Although altered slightly, largely

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2

through re-siding, this 2-story vernacular descendant of the common American house forms of the past, with a rectangular plan and entrance of the gable end, stands as one of the road's interesting attractions. Its neighbor, (#7), a basically square house with large, hip-roofed dormers, and a front porch, is typical of houses erected during the first three decades of the century.

Several extant nineteenth-century barns include a fine two-story structure topped with a cupola, on the former Wilkinson Farm, a large, plain, two-and-a-half-story barn, with three large garage door openings, on the former Chase-Hendrick Farm, and a board-and-batten-sided building behind the William Tucker House. Most of the other outbuildings are twentieth-century garages, and are non-contributing.

Several family burial grounds associated with this rural neighborhood are located near each end of the district. The small Morrison-Freeman Cemetery near the I. Allen House is largely overgrown and contains only two standing stones, one a fine, well-carved slate marker with a vase and weeping willow motif. The relatively large Mann-Holley cemetery, atop a small hill not far from Manville Road, contains several dozen stones; some, with weeping willow and other decorations, are good examples of funerary art of the nineteenth century.

Dry-laid fieldstone walls are common in the district. In addition to those lining Smithfield Road, there are walls along the fields and in the woods that once separated properties and subdivided various farm lots. Along Spring Brook just east of Smithfield Road is a well-constructed dam of dry-laid stones with a concrete section near its east end. Because its origin and use are unknown, it is considered non-contributing.

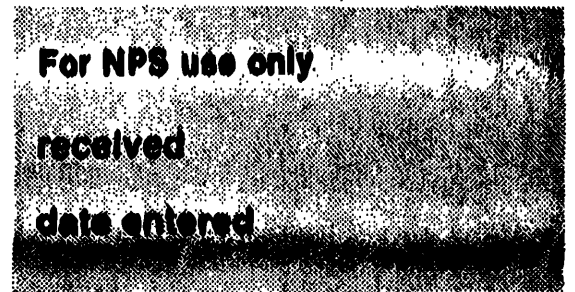
## INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES

Properties listed are contributing structures unless otherwise indicated.

Map Numbers

- #1 Ichabod Allen House (early 19th century; Smithfield Road): A plain, wood-shingled, 1½-story structure with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, a tapered, slightly off-center chimney, and a small ell at the right side. The house, which occupies the summit of a small hill, originally had wood clapboard siding. It was probably built by Ichabod Allen (1807-1882), who was born in Massachusetts. His farm, a small operation in 1850, consisted of 14 improved acres that produced 25 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 5 tons of hay, and 150 pounds of butter. The house has remained in the Allen family to the present. Most of the Allens were farmers. Edmund (1882-1932) also was a lumberman who operated a small, portable sawmill which was set up near the house but was also transported to other localities to saw wood.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7

Page 3

- A Historical Cemetery Number 10 (Morrison-Freeman): A small burial ground, heavily overgrown and punctured with woodchuck holes, bounded on three sides by two-foot high, crudely constructed, dry-laid stone walls, and on the southwest side by a deteriorated wooden fence. Few markers remain standing, but one is a fine, well-carved stone for Minerva, daughter of David Morrison, who died November 20, 1821. Adjacent is the weathered marble marker of Albert W. Freeman, who died in 1839.
- #2 Isaac Wilkinson House/South Run Farm (mid-18th century, 1829; 956 Smithfield Road): An L-plan house comprised of two parts. The main section, facing the road, is a standard 2½-story, center-chimney structure with a porticoed central entry, surmounted by a polygonal bay window, in a 3-bay facade. It has paired windows at the second story and two sets of four casement windows at the first story, a screened porch at the left side, and a small piazza at the right side. Attached at the right rear is the older part, a narrow, 2-story, hip-roofed structure with two brick chimneys. Behind the house is a handsome wood-shingled barn, or carriage house, with a cupola. Other outbuildings include a 1-story barn, a 1-story hip-roofed garage with a wood-shed attached, and, near a swimming pool, a 1-story building with multi-paned windows and a cupola. The house is set back from the road behind a neat, low, dry-laid stone wall, on a spacious grassy lot landscaped with foundation plantings. Surrounding the house are fields and woods, which comprise most of the 116-acre lot.

The property has been in the Wilkinson family for many generations. This branch of the Wilkinsons traces its American ancestry back to Laurance, who came to New England about 1647 and to Providence in 1657. Israel Wilkinson (1711-1784), once Smithfield's town treasurer, extensively engaged in the iron enterprises of his day and locality. In Boston he helped cast pre-Revolutionary cannon. His son, David (1748-1780) and his grandson, Isaac (1776-1863) were farmers. Isaac erected the house in 1829, on the 140-acre tract he owned and operated here, and made other improvements to the property. His farm in 1850 consisted of 45 improved acres, and contained a horse, five cows, 2 working oxen, and 7 swine, and produced 15 bushels of rye, 90 bushels of Indian corn, 4 bushels of peas and beans, 25 bushels of Irish potatoes, 20 tons of hay, and 1,000 pounds of butter. Isaac served as deputy sheriff of Providence County and in the state General Assembly and Senate. David Spear (1820-1907), Isaac's son, educated at the Bushee Academy in nearby Union Village, took up farming at the homestead with his father, then had sole charge of the farm after Isaac's death in 1863. In 1845, David married Almaria Hendrick, whose father owned the large estate contiguous to the Wilkinson farm. David Wilkinson conducted a successful dairy business and represented North Smithfield in the General Assembly. The farm went to David's daughter,

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 3

Item number 7

Page 4

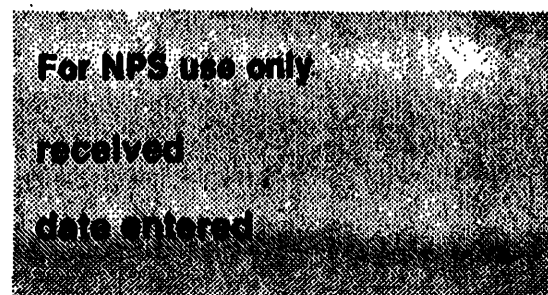
Seraphina, who married Charles H. Smith. Their only son, David Wilkinson Smith, was killed in 1909. In 1918, Roy B. Randall, proprietor of the Woonsocket Hotel, purchased the Wilkinson farm, then 200 acres in extent, from Charles Smith. For a time during the early 20th century, the place was rented to summer visitors. The farm remained in the Randall family until 1945. In 1958 it was acquired by Joseph and Georgina Souza. It is still owned by Georgina Souza. Today used as a permanent home, the large tract still includes a large acreage of open pasture land; its woods, which extend to the Crookfall Brook, are criss-crossed with many dry-laid stone walls, good examples of 18th-century stonework in this part of Rhode Island.

- #3 Charles H. Smith House (late 19th century; 957 Smithfield Road): A 2½-story structure with a central, flat-roofed porticoed-entry in a 5-bay facade, paired, tall, brick interior chimneys, and an ell, with a piazza, at the left side. South of the house, along the road, is a cinder-block-and-wood-frame outbuilding with a full basement at the back. This house may have been built by Charles H. Smith, who purchased the property in 1889. Smith married the daughter of David Wilkinson, owner of the large farm across the road. The house remained in the Smith family until 1934.
- #4 George Chase Farm/Hendrick Farm (1811; 1034 Smithfield Road): The Chase-Hendrick farm is centered on a large, 2½-story house, set gable end to, and near the road. The original part of the house is a traditional Federal era residence, with a large, brick, center chimney, and a central, pedimented entry in a 5-bay facade. Three more bays, including another doorway, were added at the rear. There is a one-story addition, with a very large brick chimney, at the rear of the house. Part of the house, the lower portion at the rear of the north side, has been unsympathetically altered by the use of white brick as a wall surface, behind a recent shed-roofed piazza. The house lot, behind a six-foot high stone wall and picket fence along the road, contains a large, 2½-story barn, a 1-story hip-roofed garage, and a 1-story, hip-roofed, mid-20th-century residence atop a hill several hundred feet northeast of the main house. A "sunken garden" at the south side of the house lot is enclosed by a 4-5 foot high, dry-laid wall constructed of small, flat stones. Surrounding the house and extending to Crookfall Brook to the east and Spring Brook to the south, are fields and woods which make up most of the 72-acre lot.

In 1836, the 200-acre Chase farm was settled by Daniel Hendrick (b. 1798), a descendant of Daniel Hendrick who was in Haverhill, Massachusetts, in 1645. The latter day Daniel came here from Cumberland and carried on a general farming and dairying business. In

(See Continuation Sheet #4)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet 4

Item number 7

Page 5

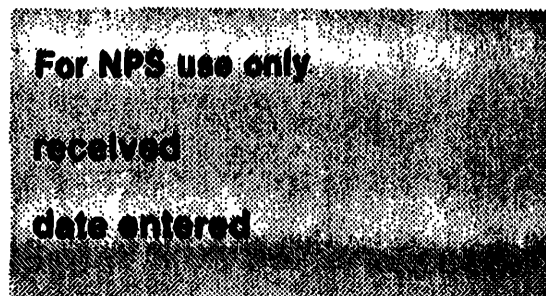
1845, Daniel's daughter, Almaria, married David S. Wilkinson, who owned the large track of land north of the Hendrick tract. Daniel's farm in 1850 was the most extensive in the present district. With 140 improved acres (out of a total of 170), the farm contained 2 horses, 9 milch cows, 2 working oxen, and 5 swine, and produced 150 bushels of Indian corn, 5 bushels of peas and beans, 250 bushels of Irish potatoes, 1,100 pounds of butter, and 45 tons of hay. There was also an orchard on the farm. Daniel's son, George Jencks, ran an extensive farming operation and large dairy business here and a wood and coal business in Manville. George also served in the state legislature and senate. William B., son of George, who attended commercial courses at Bryant and Stratton Business College in Providence, took over entire charge of the farm operation and the coal and wood business. In 1908, according to a contemporary biographical account, George kept the large 200-acre estate intact and built a residence for himself. The farm went to George's daughter, Phoebe, in 1930. In 1942, the property went out of the Hendrick family. Except for the erection of a non-obtrusive, mid-20th-century house and garage on the property, and the changes to the old house itself, the Hendrick farm today still largely retains its historical ambience as one of North Smithfield's finest farmsteads.

- (NC) B Dam/Waterfall: Along Spring Brook, just below (east of) Smithfield Road, is a fine, well-preserved dam with a 6-foot high waterfall, constructed of small, flat, fry-laid stones similar to the stones used in the walls along Smithfield Road north of here. Construction of this dam is similar to that of other early (18th century) North Smithfield dams. The south side of the dam contains a solid concrete portion, suggesting a continued use into the late 19th or early 20th centuries. The northern part was constructed at an angle, in "wing-like" fashion. The origin and use of the dam is unknown.
- #5 William Tucker House (c. 1855; 1111 Smithfield Road): A 1½-story Greek Revival residence with a brick center chimney, a central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a shed-roof addition at the rear. Behind the house is a large, board-and-batten-sided barn. Built about 1855 by William Tucker, a machinist who came here from Massachusetts, where he was born in 1817, the house went to Thomas A. Newell in 1881, then to a succession of owners. The house, on a large open lot, is one of the finest and best-preserved of its type in town.
- #6 William B. Hendrick House/Journey's End (early 20th century; 1138 Smithfield Road): A plain, 2½-story residence, set gable end to the road, with a small, brick, center chimney, a central entry in the front, and an addition at the rear. Changes to the original structure include asbestos shingle siding and a pent roof and a flat-roofed, iron-supported portico in the front. Behind the house is a recent

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 5

Item number 7

Page 56

garage. A wood fence stands in front of the house, a stone wall extends south of the driveway, and open fields surround the house. The house was built by William B. Hendrick in the early years of the 20th century.

- #7 House (1932; 1172 Smithfield Road): A 1½-story, cross-hip-roofed residence with a central entry in a 3-bay facade in a porch that extends across the front, and an ell at the rear. There is a large, mid-late 20th century, multi-gabled garage behind the house. The large, mostly grassy lot, includes foundation plantings and trees. The house was built of wood cut from a nearby lot, by noted local contractor, Omer Guay, for Percival Hendrick, son of William (see #4). It remained in the Hendrick family until 1962.
- #8 Hendrick House (c. 1903; 1181 Smithfield Road): A 1½-story, L-plan, multi-gabled house with patterned wood shingle and wood clapboard sides, two shed-roofed piazzas, and an ell at the rear. Behind the house is a residence with a 2-car garage basement, and a shed. A low stone wall across the front was constructed in 1973. It was built by a Hendrick and remained in the family until 1957.
- C Historical Cemetery Number 13 (Mann-Holley): Atop a knoll in the woods, about 300 feet east of the road, are two contiguous burial grounds. One, identified with a marker, is bounded by low, crudely-laid, dry stone walls; it is in relatively good condition and contains at least a dozen stones, some slate; several are fine examples of funerary art, with weeping willows and other decorations, dating from about 1820 to 1880. Adjacent, on the east side, is a much-deteriorated burial ground which was once bounded by iron rails set into granite posts. Only a few rails survive; fallen trees have knocked down the rest. Most of the gravestones, of marble, are on the ground and covered with vegetation, leaves, and soil.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** mid-18th century **Builder/Architect** several unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Smithfield Road Historic District is significant for its architecture and for its ability to reflect the agricultural history of the locality. Unlike other heavily-suburbanized parts of northeastern Rhode Island, the district has remained relatively unchanged over the last half century and retains its historic buildings, roadscape, rural landscape and stone walls. Although its dwellings are neither magnificent or as distinguished architecturally as their urban counterparts, they are good representative examples of rural architecture from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries, including Federal, Greek Revival, Late Victorian, and several early twentieth-century types.

Smithfield Road itself, or more correctly Great Road, is one of the least altered sections along the entire route of the road in Rhode Island. It remains a narrow, winding, stone-wall-lined path much as it was when it was laid out almost two and a half centuries ago. Several miles to the south, in Lincoln, a section of the Great Road which has been much improved but still contains several seventeenth-century houses, is entered in the National Register, as is Lime Rock which lies astride the ancient highway. This section, if added to the National Register, would add another dimension of the road to the Register.

In addition to the stone walls along the road, the walls lining the fields and running through the woods represent several centuries of labor, mostly during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when the farms were established and expanded here. Wall building continued as fields were cleared of rocks and trees, until the area, like all of rural Rhode Island, was laced over with a fine-meshed network of stone. The walls, which often run in no discernible pattern through the woods today, mark off what were once open fields and lanes. The second-growth woods themselves, although considered "natural," are the indirect result of man's action, including clearing, then abandoning fields, burning, and harvesting lumber and firewood.

The Smithfield Road Historic District is a living document; it represents an exceptionally fine rural landscape, a blend of natural and man-made works, from the undulating fields and steeply-wooded hills, brooks bubbling over rocks and meandering gently through a flat floodplain and among the hills, and dramatic and unusable rock outcrops, to the immediate roadway where the road path itself, the walls, houses, outbuildings, dams, and burial grounds represent and reflect the various uses and perceptions of the land over the course of several centuries. The Smithfield Road Historic District is perhaps the finest landscape of this type in this part of Rhode Island.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 170 acres ±

Quadrangle name Pawtucket, R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
2	9
3	8
5	0

4	6
4	9
2	6
0	

B 

1	9
2	9
3	9
6	0

4	6
4	8
1	5
0	

C 

1	9
2	9
2	9
0	0

4	6
4	8
8	0
0	

D 

1	9
2	9
2	8
2	0

4	6
4	9
3	8
0	

E 

1	9
2	9
3	3
3	0

4	6
4	9
5	0
0	

F 



G 



H 



**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The eastern boundary follows Crookfall Brook, the southern boundary is Manville Road. The southwestern side follows the old trolley line,

(See Continuation Sheet #10)

**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 Walter A. Nebiker (assisted by Anne Dowd, R.I. Dept. of Transportation

Principal Historic Preservation Planner

organization R.I. Historical Preservation Comm. date April, 1986

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

*See xeroxed copy for SHPO date, signature and level of significance*

title

date

**For NPS use only**

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

*for* William B. Bushong  
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/18/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

[Copy w/ SHPO signature]

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

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 170 acres  
Quadrangle name Pawtucket, R.I. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 9	2 9 3 8 5 0	4 6 4 9 2 6 0	B	1 9	2 9 3 9 6 0	4 6 4 8 1 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 9	2 9 2 9 0 0	4 6 4 8 8 0 0	D	1 9	2 9 2 8 2 0	4 6 4 9 3 8 0
E	1 9	2 9 3 3 3 0	4 6 4 9 5 0 0	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The eastern boundary follows Crookfall Brook, the southern boundary is Manville Road. The southwestern side follows the old trolley line,  
(See Continuation Sheet #10)

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 Walter A. Nebiker (assisted by Anne Dowd, R.I. Dept. of Transportation)  
Principal Historic Preservation Planner  
organization R.I. Historical Preservation Comm. date April, 1986  
street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678  
city or town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

### 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frederick R. Williamson

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 12-24-86

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 6

Item number 8

Page 2

While Providence was settled in 1636, and by 1647 had expanded northward to an area known as Louisquisset (between today's Lime Rock and Saylesville), the land north of that remained an outland of Providence. In 1666, William Minnion of Punkapaug, in the Massachusetts Bay colony, sold to Edward Inman and John Mawry (Mowry) about 2,000 acres west of the Pawtucket (Blackstone) River and north of Louisquisset, at Wesquadomeset--the country around Sayles Hill and the present Crookfall Brook.

Within several decades of the settlement of Providence, a radial pattern of roads was laid out to other urban centers. The first highway along the Blackstone River, along the east side, known as Mendon Road, was constructed about 1650. A highway was laid out along the west side of the river, across Sayles Hill, before 1675; by 1683 it was opened to Mendon, Massachusetts, and subsequently to Worcester. During the seventeenth century, at least two houses were erected along the road, known as the Great Road and later as the Providence-Worcester Road. The road also served a limestone quarry at Lime Rock operating by about 1670, about three miles south of the district.

During the eighteenth century the tempo of activity increased along Great Road, and taverns were licensed along its entire length. Several taverns were established in this area of present North Smithfield, including one licensed to Stephen Sly about 1733<sup>1</sup> and another to John Balckom in 1735. The original route of Great Road traversed the eastern slope of Sayles Hill, necessitating a slight climb and some effort to negotiate. In 1741, the road was re-routed along flatter terrain, including today's Smithfield Road, to make traveling easier. Israel Wilkinson, whose descendants subsequently settled on Gread Road here, was involved in the iron industry in the locality in the mid-eighteenth century and helped cast pre-Revolutionary cannon in Boston. At Manville, originally known as Unity Furnace, slightly more than a mile from the eastern end of the present district, a pre-Revolutionary saw mill and grist mill were operating; later, a foundry and smelting furnace were set up here which included some Wilkinsons, who owned land on both sides of the river. The settlement and industrial development at Unity Furnace was small and the overwhelming economic activity remained farming through the eighteenth century.

<sup>1</sup> An 1823 deed to George Chase mentions a seven-acre tract here known as "Sly Meadows." Sly's tavern was somewhere in or near the district, but its exact location is unknown.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 7

Item number 8

Page 3

The nineteenth century ushered in a new era. Samuel Slater's small cotton factory of 1790, several miles down the Blackstone River at Pawtucket, the first to operate successfully in America, spawned a vast network of factories that were constructed on almost every waterway in the state, including several during the century along the small Crookfall Brook. In 1811, the Unity Manufacturing Company, with David Wilkinson as one of its partners, was formed and a small cotton factory to spin yarn was built. The Louisquisset Turnpike, opened to Lime Rock in 1806, was but one of a series of radial toll roads leading from Providence that were created during the first decades of the nineteenth century. While mill villages sprang up along brooks and rivers and Rhode Island became an urban state, the rural areas remained essentially agricultural, and farmers could take advantage of the new markets created by these new villages.

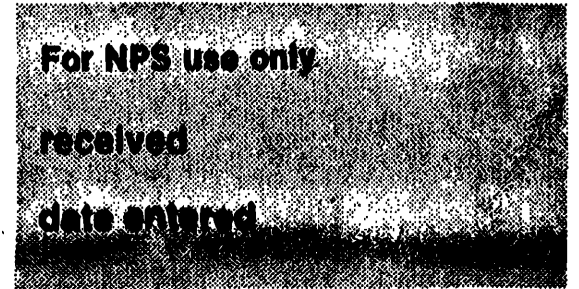
The early part of the nineteenth century was a period of development, expansion, and growth of the district's farms. In 1811, the George Chase House, a fine Federal structure, was erected and in 1819, Isaac Wilkinson built a house adjacent to the Chase farm. Daniel Hendrick, a Cumberland resident, purchased the Chase farm in 1836 and carried on a general farming and dairying business. In 1845, Daniel's daughter married David Wilkinson, uniting the two largest farms in the district. The proximity of this part of Rhode Island to large manufacturing villages, notably Manville to the east and Woonsocket to the north, and the ability to transport agricultural products easily and relatively rapidly, made dairy products (milk and butter) the mainstay of the local economy. Fields were used to graze cattle and to raise field crops to feed the animals. The Hendrick farm also contained an orchard.

Shortly after the mid-nineteenth century, William Tucker, a machinist born in Massachusetts, erected a handsome Greek Revival dwelling. Both the Wilkinson and Hendrick families were active in politics, serving in state political offices, and both ran successful dairy businesses. In addition, the Hendrick family owned and operated a wood and coal business in Manville. It is highly probable that during this period of prosperity in the late nineteenth century, the high, flat, well-constructed stone walls along the road at the Hendrick property were constructed and the house lot landscaped. A sunken garden south of the house may have been built at this time and the large barn erected. During the last decades of the nineteenth century, Charles Smith built a plain, traditional dwelling across the road from David Wilkinson's house, and married David Wilkinson's daughter. At the southern end of the district, on Hendrick land, three houses were built for family members. The William B. Hendrick House (#6) in the first decade of the century, a fine, simple version of the Queen Anne style house (#8), and, in 1932, a cross-hip-roofed residence (#7) for William Hendrick's son, Percival.

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

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

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



Continuation sheet 8

Item number 8

Page 4

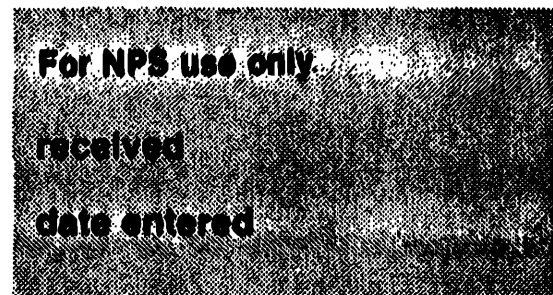
In 1904, an electric trolley began operating on tracks running close to and parallel to Smithfield Road, and although it had no apparent impact on development in the district, it ended the ownership by the Wilkinsons of the family homestead when David Wilkinson Smith, only son of David Wilkinson's daughter, was killed by a streetcar. Thereafter, the house had several owners. The Hendrick farm remained in the family until 1942, and two of the three 20th-century houses at the southern end of the district remained in the family until 1957 and 1962, but the small Allen farmhouse at the northern end of the district has remained in the original family to the present. Improvements to the Louisquisset Pike in the 1920s, and increased use of the automobile, brought more traffic through the district, but only two new houses were erected, near its south end, the last one in 1932. The increased use of automobiles put an end to streetcar service in 1930. During the 1940s, a new section of Louisquisset Pike was constructed west of Smithfield Road, bypassing the old highway, which has remained virtually unchanged to this day although the road immediately north of the district line has been heavily suburbanized

The significance of the Smithfield Road Historic District has been evaluated in the context of a townwide survey of historical resources published by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission in 1980.



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

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



Continuation sheet 9

Item number 9

Page 2

Meinig, Donald W., ed., 1979. The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes.

Nebiker, Walter A., 1976. History of North Smithfield.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1980. Historical and Architectural Resources of North Smithfield, Rhode Island, A Preliminary Report. Walter Nebiker, author.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1979. "A Report on Historical and Cultural Resources Within the Proposed Highway Corridor for the Woonsocket Industrial Highway." W. Nebiker, author.

U.S. Census, 1850. Schedule of Agriculture (Smithfield).

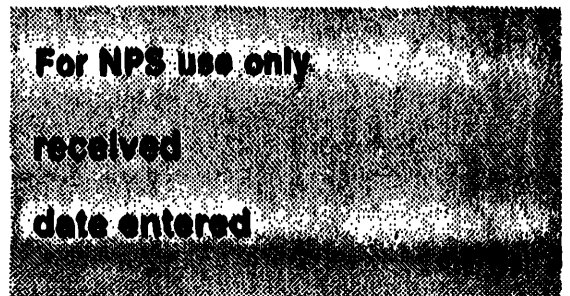
Informant: Ruth Pacheco

MAOS

- 1831,  
1846. "A New Topographical Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," surveyed by James Stevens (with additions and corrections by S.B. Cushing and H.F. Walling in the 1846 edition).
1851. "Map of Providence County, Rhode Island." H.F. Walling.
1855. "Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," H.F. Walling.
1862. "Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations." H.F. Walling.
1870. Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. D.G. Beers and Company.
1895. New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, Rhode Island. Everts and Richards.

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

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



Continuation sheet 10

Item number 10

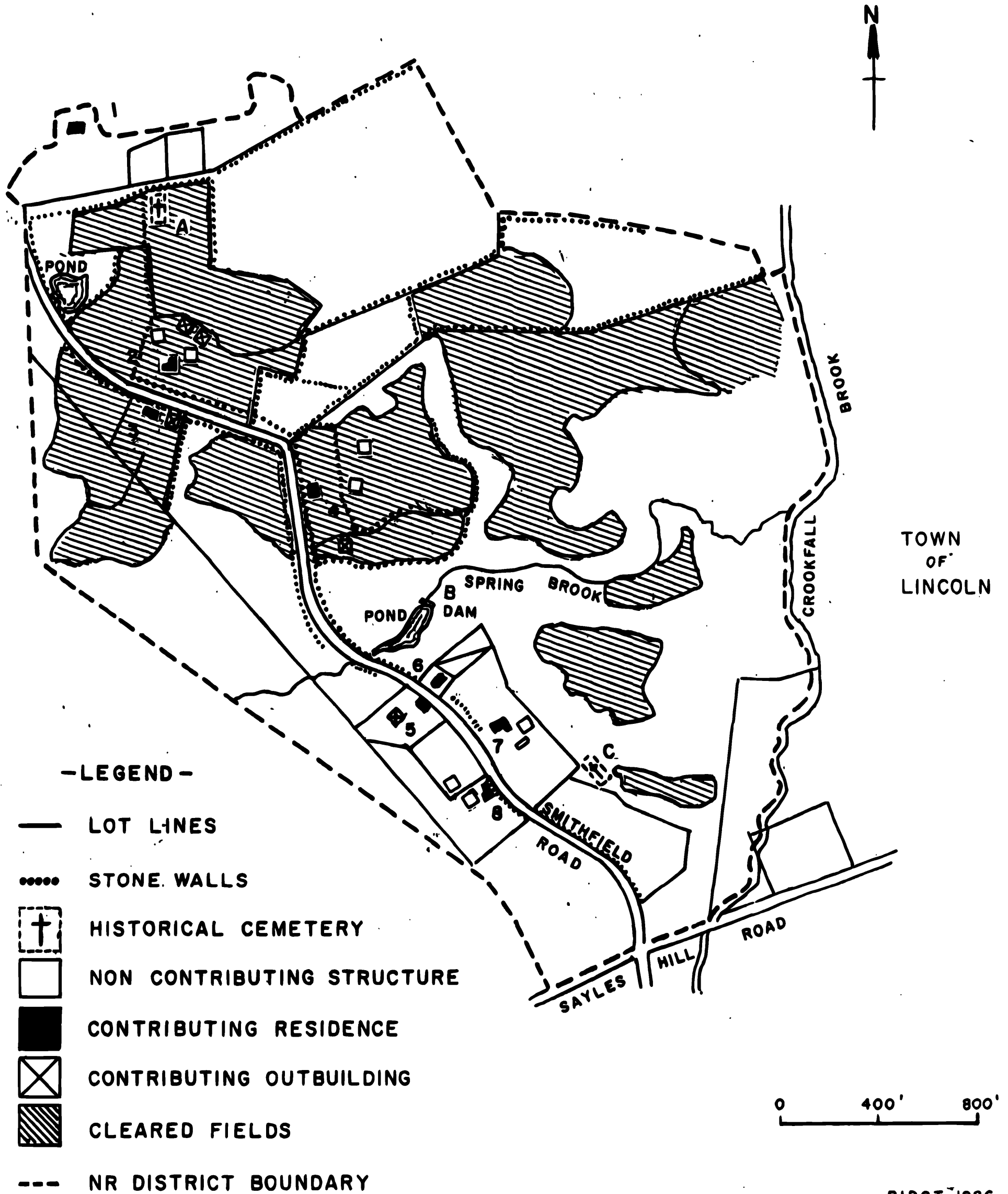
Page 2

approximately parallel to and west of Smithfield Road, then the line goes north along a property line to Smithfield Road, which it follows for a short distance, to a private drive. The northern boundary leads east along the private drive, encircles a small lot north of the drive that includes the old Allen House, then, after leading south a short distance, follows a property line marked by stone walls, to a point where the line cuts across a lot in a northwest-southeast direction to the Crookfall Brook.

Boundary Justification:

The district boundaries have been drawn to include the well-preserved section of Smithfield Road from Manville Road north to the limit of new (mid-20th century) house construction, just north of the Smith House, and to encompass fields, houses, and properties that comprise the historic area. The line of the electric streetcar, or trolley, makes a convenient southwestern boundary, and includes cleared fields that extend beyond a property line here. Manville Road makes a sharply-defined southern boundary, while Crookfall Brook serves as a convenient eastern edge; much of it is also a property line in the district. The northeastern boundary has been more arbitrarily defined by straight lines to separate fields, and woods containing stone walls--former farm land--from woods which contain few, if any, structures that might suggest their former use.

# SMITHFIELD ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT NORTH SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND



(BLACKSTONE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

295000m E. 296

71°30' 500 000 FEET (R.I.)

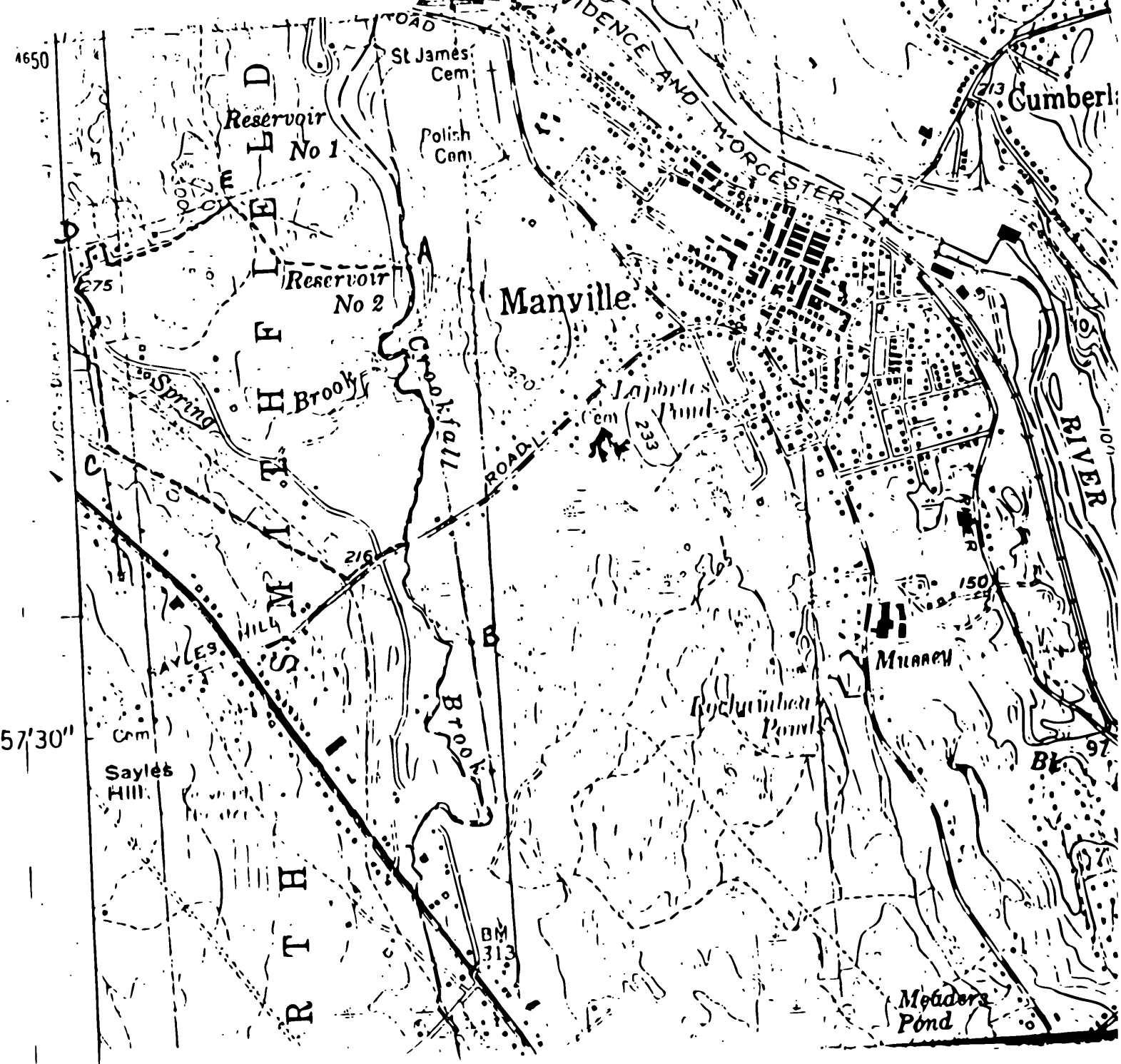
42°00'

330 000 FEET (R.I.)

465,1000m N

Smithfield Road Historic District  
North Smithfield, Rhode Island

- A 19 293850 4649260 D 19 292820 4649380
- B 19 293960 4648150 E 19 293330 4649500
- C 19 292900 4648800



57'30"

4650

BM 313

Munnery Pond