UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 10 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC    Union Village Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Union Village

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER     W of Woonsocket RI 146 A

Great Road

_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN    Woonsocket vic,

North Smithfield    _ VICINITY OF    # 1 Fernand J. St. Germain

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE    Rhode Island    CODE 44 007    COUNTY Providence    CODE 44 07

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| X DISTRICT | _PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | _AGRICULTURE | _MUSEUM |
| _BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | _UNOCCUPIED | _COMMERCIAL | _PARK |
| _STRUCTURE | _BOTH | _WORK IN PROGRESS | _EDUCATIONAL | _PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| _SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | _ENTERTAINMENT | _RELIGIOUS |
| _OBJECT | _IN PROCESS | X YES: RESTRICTED | _GOVERNMENT | _SCIENTIFIC |
| | _BEING CONSIDERED | _YES: UNRESTRICTED | _INDUSTRIAL | _TRANSPORTATION |
| | | _NO | _MILITARY | _OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME    Multiple private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN    _ VICINITY OF    STATE

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.    Memorial Town Building

STREET & NUMBER    Main Street

CITY, TOWN    Slatersville, North Smithfield    STATE    Rhode Island 02876

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE    not so represented

DATE    _FEDERAL  _STATE  _COUNTY  _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN    STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Union Village Historic District is a half-mile-long linear strip in semi-rural North Smithfield. Following Great Road from Woonsocket Hill Road to beyond Westwood Road, the district includes a core of fifteen eighteenth-and early nineteenth-century structures, with twelve supporting late nineteenth-and twentieth-century buildings. (Each building within the district is listed individually in the inventory.)

Great Road (now Route 146A, and formerly known as the Louisquisset Turnpike in the nineteenth century and as the Great Road from Providence to Menden, Massachusetts in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries) is part of a road system which runs northwest from Providence to Worcester, Massachusetts. The road slopes gently downhill from Woonsocket Hill Road to the northwest with low hills on either side. Low stone walls, trees, picket fences, and shrubbery line much of the road. Buildings, though sited well back from the road on ample lots, are highly visible from the highway. Although the district now appears very much like a linear suburban strip, it began and grew as a nuclear village settlement, the town center of Smithfield.

English settlement of the area began in the third quarter of the seventeenth century when the Arnold and Comstock families settled on land claimed by both the Proprietors of Providence and the Proprietors of Menden, Massachusetts. The oldest extant building in Union Village is the Peleg Arnold Tavern, built by Richard Arnold in 1690 and enlarged to its present form by Peleg Arnold around 1790. It anchors the district on southeast end, at the intersection of Great Road and Woonsocket Hill Road. Two-and-a-half-storeys high with a flank-gable roof and center entrance, the Arnold Tavern establishes the basic format of Union Village architecture both historically and visually: the late eighteenth-century remodeling of the Arnold Tavern presaged the construction of similar structures north on Great Road in the early nineteenth century.
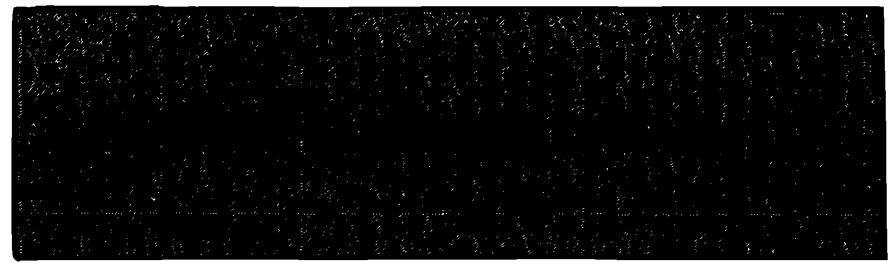
Many of the early nineteenth-century buildings in Union Village are two-and-a-half storey, flank-gable, 5-bay, center-entrance dwellings. Most have pedimented one-storey entrance porticoes, and three are further distinguished by the rustication of the wall surface under the portico. Typical of these are the Joel Aldrich House (ca. 1808) at 76 Great Road, the Walter Allen House (1802) at 138 Great Road, and the Daniel Arnold House (1714, remodeled ca. 1800) at 71 Great Road, which has a more elaborate entrance portico with reeded torus moulding and pierced dentils. This format was used as late as mid-century, when two Italianate 3-bay dwellings were built at 202 and 101 Great Road; their boldly modeled decorative trim provides a handsome counterpoint to the taut Federal forms.

Variations from the two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof format include the use of a hip roof in the Stephen Brownell House (ca. 1806)

See continuation sheet 1

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at 188 Great Road and the Captain Landers House (ca. 1825) at 171 Great Road.

Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century dwellings fill the remaining large lots along Great Road. From the two-and-a-half-storey house at 160 Great Road (Ca 1880) to the hip-roof Colonial Revival house of the 1930s at 150 Great Road, most are vernacular clapboard dwellings compatible in scale and type to earlier village buildings.

INVENTORY

All buildings are wood-frame construction.

53 Great Road

Gray's Homestead. 1810. Cyrus Arnold, builder. Federal, with Greek Revival and Queen Anne alterations; 2½ storeys; hip roof with monitor; 5-bay facade with corner pilaster strips and wide, hip-roof verandah, which continues along the southeast side.

Gray's Homestead is a handsome Federal house, noteable for its large monitor. The Queen Anne verandah is particularly well handled to create a lively stepped effect the full height of the house.

61 Great Road

Charles H. Stebbins House. 1909. 2½ storeys; high hip roof with stepped gable dormer over projecting center pavilion on facade, wide verandah, wood-shingle sheathing.

The Stebbins House is an acceptable background building to the early nineteenth-century village core and a good example of the early twentieth-century suburban residences that signal a change in the village's history.
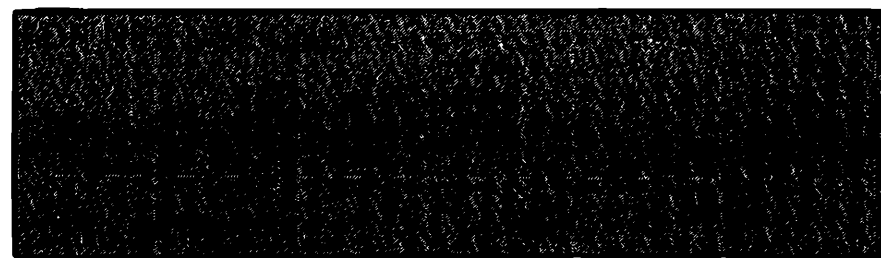
71 Great Road

Daniel Arnold House. 1714, ca 1800. Federal; 2½ storeys, flank-gable roof; 5 bay-facade, center entrance with semi-circular fanlight sur-

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rounded with rustication under the pedimented portico which has fluted pilasters and Tuscan columns.

One of the oldest structures in Union Village, the house was extensively remodeled by Arnold in the Federal style at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the portico was added, and the house was enlarged. Later changes include a 2-storey addition on the west side, a 2-storey bay window on the east side, and 2-over-2 sashes in the windows.

Daniel Arnold's daughter married Daniel Ide, whose family had a blacksmith shop on Warren Avenue, and the house remained in the Arnold-Ide family through the nineteenth century.


## 76 Great Road

David Aldrich House. ca 1808. Federal, 2½ storeys, flank gable roof, 5-bay facade, center entrance with elliptical fanlight surrounded with rustication under pedimented portico with fluted pilasters and Tuscan columns, splayed lintels over windows, 2-storey ell at western end; handsome entrance hall staircase. The Aldrich House is one of the finest early nineteenth-century houses in Union Village. The building was used for a time as a dormitory for the Linden Grove Seminary, a school for young ladies, before it moved to Pawtucket in the 1850s.
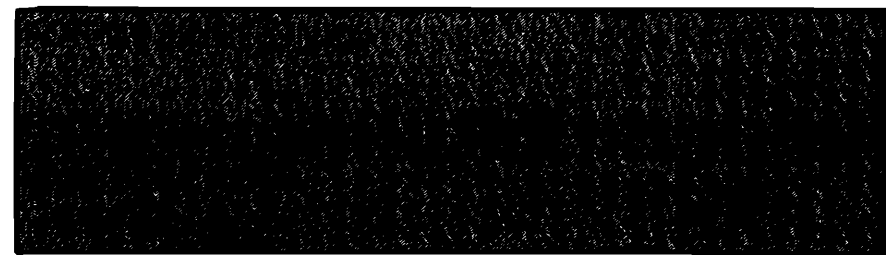

## 86 Great Road

Stephen Brownell House. 1806. Walter Allen, builder. Federal; 2 storeys, L-plan; hip roof; 5-bay facade, center entrance with enclosed hip-roof 1-storey portico.

The Brownell House was built in two sections, and the rear portion is probably the older part. The use of a hip roof is unusual in Union Village, where the flank-gable roof was standard, and the only other example is the monitor-on-hip roof on the Gray Homestead. The large, Late Victorian barn, with massive timber framing and a cupola, at the rear of the house, once served as a school for the village.

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91 Great Road

George W. Lothrop House.  1916.  2½ storeys; cross-gable roof, irregular fenestration, verandah across facade, wood-shingle sheathing.  The Lothrop House is similar in scale to other Union Village dwellings and fits well in its surroundings.  See also 115 Great Road.


101 Great Road

Jacob Morse House.  ca 1851.  Italianate, 2½ storeys, flank-gable roof with wide eaves and bracketed raking and eaves cornices, 3-bay facade with center entrance under bracketed portico, paired 4-over-4 sash windows under bracketed hoods on both storeys, bay windows on side elevations, quoined corners; picket fence surrounding property. The Morse House was the last of the large, architecturally significant dwellings built in Union Village.


108 Great Road

House.  ca 1920.  Bungalow Style; 2½ storeys, flank-gable roof with gambrel-roof ell at rear; 1-storey verandah with massive columns on facade and east elevation, brick sheathing on first story and stucco on second.  This large, commodious dwelling evinces Union Village's development into a suburb of nearby Woonsocket in the twentieth century.


115 Great Road

House.  ca 1900.  2½ storeys, cross-gable roof, irregular fenestration, verandah across front, clapboard with wood-shingle trim.

Almost identical to the Lothrop House at 91 Great Road, this structure makes a similar contribution to the integrity of the village.


120 Great Road

Seth Allen Tavern.  ca 1804.  Walter Allen, builder.  Federal; 2½ storeys; flank-gable roof; 5-bay facade, center entrance with transom light under balustraded portico, balustraded terrace across facade sits on

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a high rusticated and arcaded basement.  The Seth Allen Tavern, one of
the major Union Village stagecoach stops, was built as an inn on the
well-traveled road between Providence and Worcester.  It remained in
lively competition with the George Aldrich Inn across the street through-
out the stagecoach era and served such notables as the Marquis de
Lafayette during his 1825 visit to this country.  In spite of the
village's decline as a transportation center (brought on by the growth
of the railroads), the building remained in use as a tavern until
converted into a private residence in the early twentieth century.


127-129 Great Road

The George Aldrich Inn.  1804 et seq.  Federal; 2½ storeys; flank-
gable roof with large Late Victorian 3½-storey central cross-gable
tower; 8-bay facade with entrances in third and sixth bays under
hip-roof porticoes, north doorway with circular fanlight, south
doorway with transom and side lights.

The southern half of the building was added in the mid-nineteenth
century, and other structural changes, including the bay window on
the facade and the central cross gable, were effected in 1898 and
1902.  With the waning of the village's importance to major trans-
portation routes, the structure was used as a dwelling.  It was
occupied by James Bushee, the headmaster of the Smithfield Academy,
during the 1830s and 1840s, and he conducted the school's classes in
this structure from 1843 to 1852.


137 Great Road

Dency Wilbur House.  1812.  Federal; 2½ storeys, flank gable roof,
center chimney, 5-bay facade with center entrance, 1-storey pedimented
entrance pavilion with semi-circular fan light and fluted pilaster
strips, splayed lintels over first storey windows.  This house was
constructed by John Osborne, the son-in-law of Union Village's Master
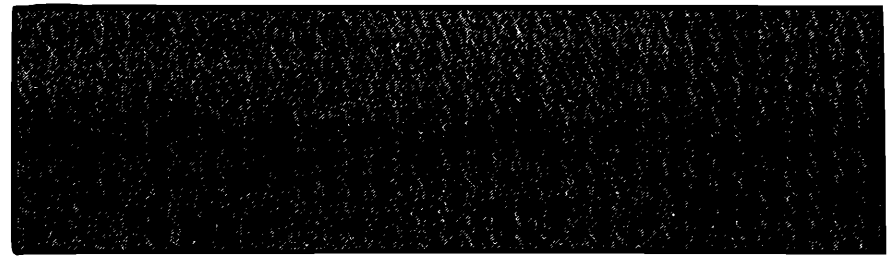builder, Walter Allen.


138 Great Road

Walter Allen House.  1802.  Walter Allen, builder.  Federal; 2½ storeys;
flank-gable roof; 5-bay facade, center entrance with semi-circular

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fanlight surrounded with rustication under a pedimented portico which
has fluted pilasters and Tuscan columns, splayed lintels over windows,
Colonial Revival alterations on rear elevation include a verandah, a
2-storey bay window, a Palladian window on second storey; 2-storey
ell on western end.

Built by Union Village's early nineteenth-century master builder, the
Allen House is the earliest structure within the Village associated
with Allen and demonstrates characteristics associated with his work,
such as the rusticated wall surface under the portico.  The Allen
House was the site of the first Roman Catholic services in the area,
held in 1829, and it later functioned as a tavern.  The Colonial
Revival alterations were effected by Edgar M. Slocomb early in the
twentieth century.


150 Great Road

House.  ca 1935.  Georgian Revival; 2 storeys; hip roof; 3-bay facade,
enclosed center entrance portico with segmental-arch roof, tripartite
windows on first floor of facade, sash windows elsewhere.

This house, because of its scale and articulation, is a particularly
compatible addition to the early nineteenth-century core of Union
Village.


160 Great Road

House.  ca 1880.  2½ storeys; gable roof set end to the street; 2-bay
facade, verandah across first storey of facade; 2-storey brick, flat-
roof addition at rear.  The only Late Victorian house in Union Village,
this simple background structure is an indication of the relative
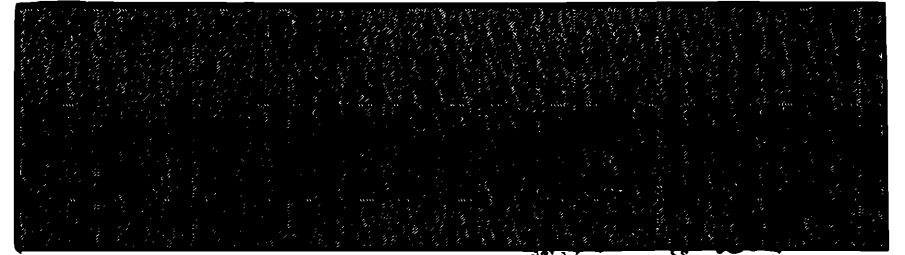stagnation of Union Village in the late nineteenth century.


163 Great Road

James H. Jewell House.  ca 1925.  Colonial Revival Bungalow; 2½-storeys,
flank-gambrel roof with shed dormers, 1-storey segmental-arch roof
entrance portico at center of facade flanked by triple complexes of

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6-over-1 sash windows.  This early twentieth-century dwelling is
sufficiently similar in scale and articulation to contribute to the
continuity to the Great Road streetscape.


171 Great Road

Miss Southwick House.  ca 1825.  Federal/Greek Revival Transition;
1½ storeys; flank-gable roof with two small, symmetrically placed
dormers; 5-bay facade, center entrance with side lights and transom
light, splayed lintels over first-storey windows, 1-storey ell at
western end.

The Landers House combines the monumentality of scale of the emerging
Greek Revival with Federal detailing.

Miss Southwick, a mistress at the nearby Linden Grove Seminary for
young ladies, built this house.  It was soon thereafter occupied by
Captain Landers, a supporter of Thomas Dorr during the Dorr Rebellion
of 1842. According to tradition, Landers kept a cannon on his front
lawn as a memorial to the Dorr struggle for equal suffrage.


172 Great Road

House.  ca 1920.  Bungalow Style, 1½ storeys; flank-gable roof;
central recessed entrance flanked on each side by three double-
hung sash windows, large hip-roof dormer with paired sash windows centered
in roof above front door.

A typical suburban cottage which recalls the village's rise in this
century as a bedroom community for nearby Woonsocket,  In scale
and detailing it is quite compatible with its older neighbors.
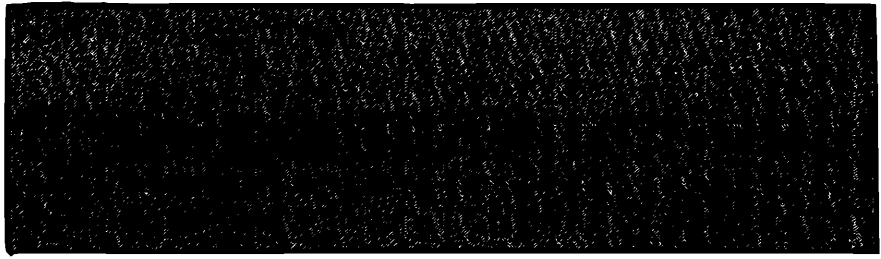

178 Great Road

Almy-Marble House.  ca 1805.  Federal; 2½ storeys; flank-gable roof;
5-bay facade, center entrance with transom light under pedimented
entrance portico.

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Christopher Almy built this house in the early years of the nineteenth century, and it served as the area post office until 1844. Around mid-century, the house passed to Almy's daughter, Phoebe Marble, who taught reading, chemistry, and mineralogy at Rhode Island Normal School for many years. Mrs. Marble made several additions to the house, including a new kitchen built around the original well.

188 Great Road

Anson Arnold House. 1806. Federal; 1½ storeys; flank-gable roof; 5-bay facade, center entrance; 1-storey ell with verandah on east side. Arnold, who was a whetstone finisher, occupied this modest vernacular dwelling.

202 Great Road

House. ca 1860. Italianate: 2½ storeys; flank-gable roof; 3-bay facade, center entrance under pedimented portico, paired double-hung sash windows under projecting lintels on facade. This dwelling follows the form of early nineteenth-century Union Village buildings, but is embellished with mid-century Italianate detail.

212 Great Road

Lapham House. 1790. Federal. 1½ storeys; flank-gable roof; 5-bay facade, center entrance with side lights and transom light, 12-over-12 double-hung windows, 3 symmetrically placed dormers in attic, center chimney; small ell at eastern end.

This well-preserved house remained in the Lapham family until the 1940s.
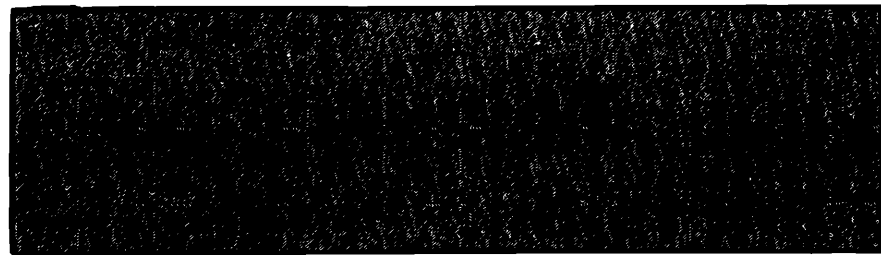
6 Pound Hill Road

House (formerly a barn). ca 1830. Greek Revival; 2½ storeys; flank-gable roof; 3-bay facade, glass-enclosed verandah across first storey, corner pilaster strips.

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Built as a barn behind Gray's Homestead at 53 Great Road, this structure was moved to its present location in 1920 and converted to residential use.

## 21 Pound Hill Road

Smithfield Union Bank Building.  Mid-eighteenth century, 1804, 1851. 2½-story; flank-gable roof; irregular fenestration.

Originally located at the corner of Pound Hill Road and Great Road, the building was used as a dwelling and store by Union Village's early nineteenth-century master builder, Walter Allen, before he built his house at 138 Great Road.  In 1805, the Union Bank, from which the village takes its name, opened in this building and continued to operate in here until 1851, when the bank transferred its facilities to Woonsocket, and the building was moved to its present location.  Since then, it has been a dwelling.

## 4 Woonsocket Hill Road

Peleg Arnold Tavern.  1690, ca 1790.  Federal; 2½ storeys; flank-gable roof; 7-bay facade, center entrance with entablature.
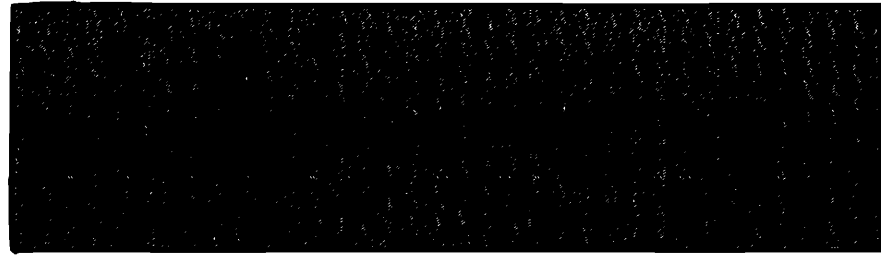
The original portion of the structure was the twenty-foot-square Richard Arnold House, now the southern part of the building.  Arnold's grandson Peleg expanded the building to its present size toward the end of the eighteenth century.

The first building in Union Village, the Richard Arnold House began to function as a tavern in 1739.  In 1765, it became the home of Peleg Arnold, patriot, delegate to the Continental Congress, and Chief Justice of both the Rhode Island Superior Court and the Rhode Island Supreme Court.  The building remained a tavern into the twentieth century, but has since been converted into apartments. The Arnold Tavern is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

56 Great Road

House. ca 1950.  1 storey; flank-gable roof, irregular fenestration
includes picture window on western part of facade; aluminum siding.
Incompatible in massing and articulation with other structures in
Union Village, this house does not contribute to the integrity of
the district.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

**SPECIFIC DATES**                    **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the intersection of two major roads connecting Providence with Worcester and eastern Connecticut with Boston, Union Village was a thriving commercial center serving travelers as a way station, and the surrounding agricultural district as a marketplace, for almost a hundred and fifty years. It was, further, the town center of Smithfield, and later of North Smithfield, after it was set off as a separate township in 1841. During its peak years in the early nineteenth century, the village contained three major taverns; the eponymous Union Bank; several stores; prestigious schools, the Smithfield Academy and the Linden Grove Seminary for Girls; and a number of handsome Colonial and Federal dwellings. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the village had been bypassed because of technological developments in transportation and industry; as a backwater, the village was not dramatically affected by the boom years of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and, as a result, much of the village remains today as important evidence of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century architectural, commercial, educational, and transportation history.

The area around Union Village was settled in the late seventeenth century by Richard Arnold, Jr., his brother John Arnold, and their uncle Samuel Comstock; they merely "occupied" the land until 1707, when the Proprietors of Providence formally granted title to the territory they had settled. The first structure in what was to become Union Village, a small house about twenty feet square, was built by Richard Arnold, Jr. about 1690. During the following century growth was slow and sporadic. Hazadiah Comstock built the second house in the village shortly after the turn of the century where the Walter Allen House now stands, and around 1714 the dwelling now known as the Captain Daniel Arnold House was erected nearby.

Most of the early inhabitants in the area were Quakers, and in 1719 the Society of Friends built a meetinghouse and established a cemetery on John Arnold's land. This was the first meetinghouse in the Woonsocket area (the meetinghouse in Lincoln precedes it by fifteen years), and for over 100 years it provided the only place of worship in the immediate area. The structure burned in 1881 and was replaced by the present building.

# **9** MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MAPS
Harris, Caleb, "A Map of the State of Rhode Island", taken mostly
  from surveys.  1795
Lockwood, Benoni, "Map of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations",
  corrected and enlarged with many editions.  1819.

# **10** GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY __16 acres__

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,9| |2|8,9|7,8,0| |4,6|5,1|9,7,0|    B |1,9| |2|9,0|2,6,0| |4,6|5,1|4,2,0|
  ZONE  EASTING      NORTHING             ZONE  EASTING       NORTHING
C |1,9| |2|8,9|5,4,0| |4,6|5,1|6,9,0|    D |   | |   |   |   | |   |   |   |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

in North Smithfield, lots 32, 33, 34, 43, 52, 53, 55, 61, and 63 of
Plat 6 and lots 3, 6, 15, 16, 20, 26, 27, 28, 46, 47, 110, 603, 606,
655, 668, 677, and 772 of plat 9.

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
Wm McKenzie Woodward, Walter A. Nebiker, Judi L. Sullivan

ORGANIZATION                                          DATE
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      June 1978

STREET & NUMBER                                      TELEPHONE
150 Benefit Street                                   401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN                                         STATE
Providence                                           Rhode Island

# **12** STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___          STATE _X_          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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE   State Historic Preservation Officer          DATE June 30, 1978

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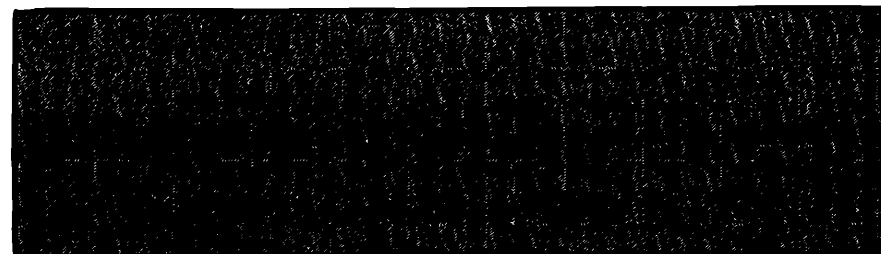| CONTINUATION SHEET | 10 | ITEM NUMBER | 8 | PAGE | 2 |
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By 1720, several routes of travel converged in and passed through the village. Great Road, the principal Providence-to-Worcester route, became the main street of Union Village. It apparently began as a foot path in the mid-seventeenth century, and by the early eighteenth century had grown into a major north-south thoroughfare. Leading to the west, Pound Hill Road linked Union Village with eastern Connecticut. Woonsocket Hill Road led to the southern part of Smithfield and to the western part of the state. To the northeast ran the road through Woonsocket Falls to Boston. An increasing number of travelers prompted the establishment of the first inn in the settlement in 1733. The inn-keeper was Joseph Arnold, and the inn had been the original dwelling house of Hazadiah Comstock. Upon Joseph's death in 1745, ownership passed to his widow, Patience, who kept tavern there until September of 1773. During these forty years courts were held, town councils assembled, and soldiers for the French and Indian War recruited and quartered in the Arnold Tavern. In 1739 Thomas Arnold, the brother of Joseph, opened a second tavern in Union Village in the Richard Arnold House. His son Peleg operated the tavern during the American Revolution, using it as a recruitment center and later as a depository for arms. Peleg attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Continental Army and after the war served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. During this period the tavern gained renown and was enlarged by Peleg in 1780.

The opening decades of the nineteenth century can be considered the Golden Age of Union Village. Within the short span of about ten years, almost a dozen buildings were erected as the settlement reached its peak years as a major transportation nexus for northern Rhode Island and as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural hinterland. During this period Union Village contained two taverns, two stores, two schools, a bank, a post office and two blacksmith shops; resident professionals included three carpenters, two painters, a lawyer, and -- at different times -- two judges of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. In 1805 the Smithfield Union Bank was incorporated as the first bank in northern Rhode Island. It operated here for forty-six years until its business was transferred to Woonsocket in 1851. It was this bank from which the name Union Village was derived. By 1807 a schoolhouse had been erected on the present Pound Hill Road, and in 1808 the Smithfield Academic Society was incorporated. The same year George Aldrich built the George Aldrich Inn on the east side of Great Road and kept tavern there until 1832. The Smithfield Academy, built in

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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1810 on a knoll behind the Captain Daniel Arnold House, attracted students from New England and more distant areas. It was later known as the Linden Grove Academy and was reputed to have had the best equipment for the teaching of science of any academy. The Linden Grove Seminary for Girls, which eventually moved to Pawtucket, used the 1808 Joel Aldrich House as a dormitory during the years immediately before its move.

Walter Allen, a local master builder, was responsible for several of the largest buildings including the tavern operated by Seth Allen. The rusticated doorways which he designed for his own home at 138 Great Road are also seen on two other houses at 71 and 76 Great Road. Five of these Federal houses

> are distinguished by their unusual pedimented porches with vaulted ceilings. They are evidently the work of one builder-designer (probably Walter Allen, as he is known to have built 137 and 138 Great Road) for in most instances they repeat the same detail: the house wall is rusticated just under the porch section.[1]
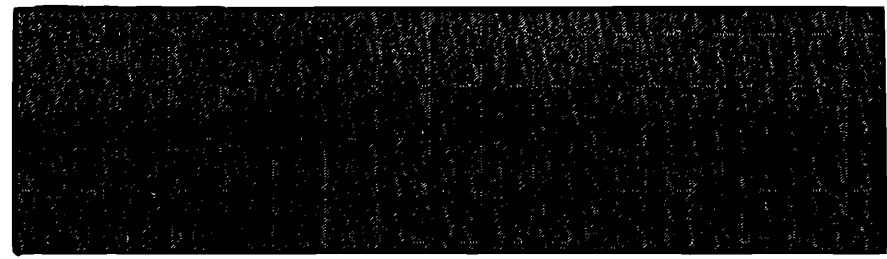
By the second half of the nineteenth century Union Village was no longer a thriving center of business and learning. While many villages in the area, and in much of Rhode Island, were rapidly growing around a mill at a water power site, Union Village was static, for it had no waterway that could be harnessed for power, and the recently built railroad connecting Providence and Worcester had supplanted the former stage lines, thereby obviating the need for accommodations along the Great Road. The taverns began to close in the 1830s, the bank moved in 1851, the academy closed in 1852, and the post office moved to nearby Woonsocket.

Union Village's residents were listed in the 1870 census as predominantly farmers and housewives of Yankee origin at a time when Rhode Island was becoming dominated by people of foreign birth or parentage occupied in manufacturing. Steam and water power had drawn all the business to Woonsocket which developed into a thriving industrial center. By 1891 Union Village had sunk into genteel decline

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[1] Antoinette F. Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1937), p. 345.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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as a secluded hamlet in a well-industrialized state, as a history of
Providence County published that year points out:

> For the last 40 years there has been no increase
> in the number of dwelling houses in Union Village;
> two have been removed, and two have been erected,
> and yet there is... no land for sale. The
> population is 125, and the picturesqueness and
> the quiet of this ancient village are equalled
> by the intelligence, conservation and virtues of
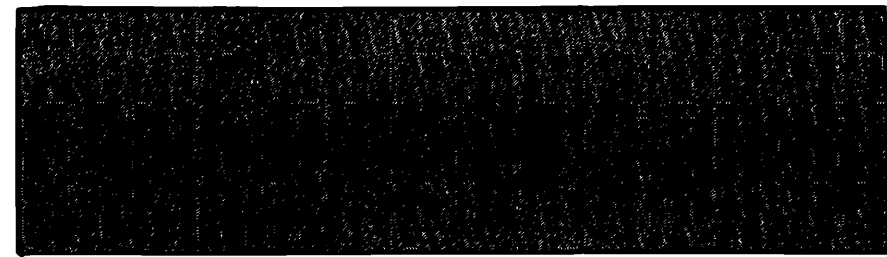> its inhabitants.[2]

Recent growth has little marred Union Village. During the first
half of the twentieth century, Union Village became a residential
suburb of nearby Woonsocket, and nine houses were built in the old
village. This suburbanization was aided by the construction of the
street railway from Woonsocket to Pascoag along Great Road. Traffic
along Great Road remained moderately heavy until the North Smithfield
Expressway (1960) absorbed much of the major traffic to Worcester.
In the surrounding area, streets were laid out and buildings erected
to house a growing population in the boom years after World War II.
The well-preserved state of the village's major buildings of
significance and the importance of the village to the development
of northern Rhode Island recommend its inclusion in the National
Register of Historic Places.

[2]Richard M. Bayles, History of Providence County, Rhode Island,
(New York: W. W. Preston, 1891), V.2, p. 493.

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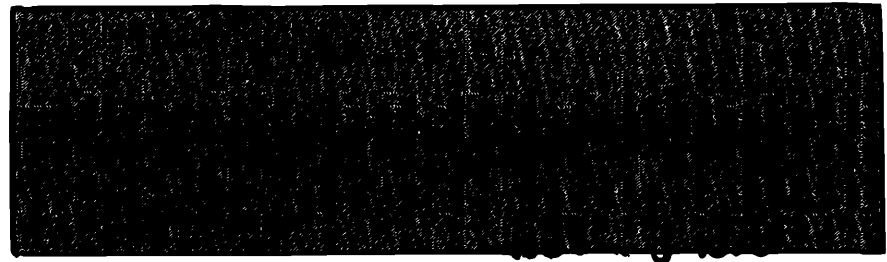Harvey, George, North Smithfield Centennial, 1971.

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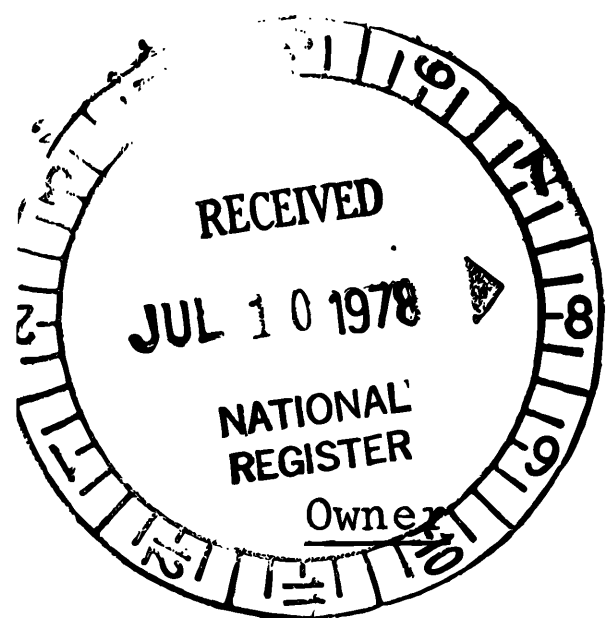Richardson, E., History of Woonsocket. 1876.

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Woonsocket Patriot, Feb. 11, 1870. Account of Union Village.

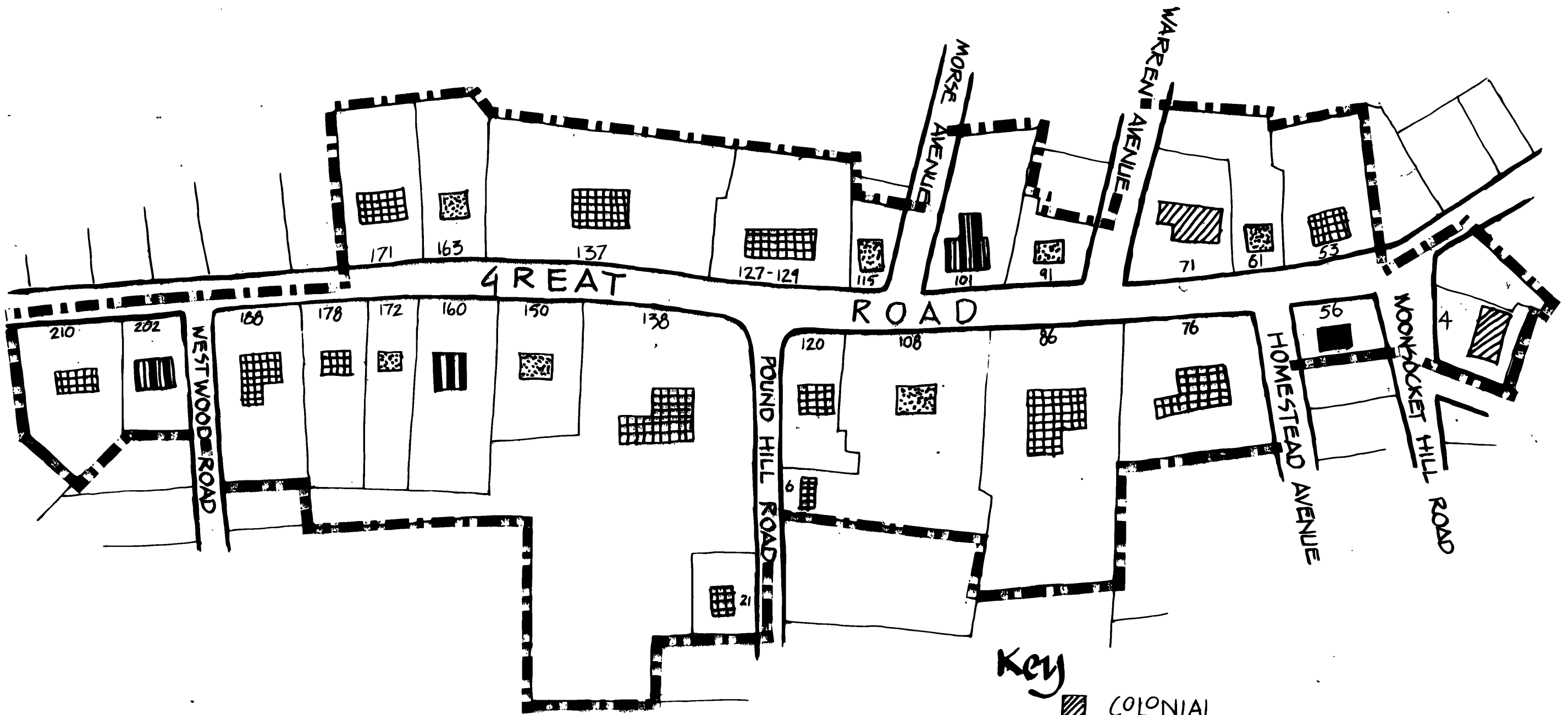# UNION VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

| Owner | Address of Property in District | Plat | Lot |
|---|---|---|---|
| Robert K. & Nancy S. Ash 212 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 212 Great Road | 6 | 63 |
| Chester J. & Margaret Straube 202 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 202 Great Road | 6 | 61 |
| William R. & Rita V. Richmond 188 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 188 Great Road | 6 | 32 |
| John F. & Patricia H. Scullin 178 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 178 Great Road | 6 | 52 |
| Julia Pavao 172 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 172 Great Road | 6 | 33 |
| Annette R. Caron P.O. Box 1541 Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 160 Great Road | 6 | 34 |
| Dennis L. & Linda A. Larson 137 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 137 Great Road | 6 | 55 |
| Blanche P. L. Schmitt 163 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 163 Great Road | 6 | 53 |
| Beatrice C. Byrne 171 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 171 Great Road | 6 | 43 |
| Richard & Bernice F. Salzberg 150 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 150 Great Road | 9 | 606 |

| Owner | Address of Property in District | Plat | Lot |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mark S. & Elizabeth Baker Hough 138 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 138 Great Road | 9 | 3 |
| Agnes C. Cagnon 21 Pound Hill Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 21 Pound Hill Road | 9 | 668 |
| Ella L. Carpenter 120 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 120 Great Road | 9 | 26 |
| Eugene M. & Jeanne Berthe Boutiette 108 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 108 Great Road | 9 | 27 |
| David A. & Jeannine R. Rogers 86 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 86 Great Road | 9 | 28 |
| Randolph C. & Doris R. Holt 76 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 76 Great Road | 9 | 603 |
| Vera E. Koly 56 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 56 Great Road | 9 | 46 |
| Roger R. & Barbara Ann Peloquin 4 Woonsocket Hill Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 4 Woonsocket Hill Road | 9 | 47 |
| Roger R. & Barbara Ann Peloquin 4 Woonsocket Hill Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 4 Woonsocket Hill Road | 9 | 110 |
| Mary & Leo Koury 53 Great Road Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 53 Great Road | 9 | 20 |

| Owner | Address of Property in District | Plat | Lot |
|---|---|---|---|
| Frank M. & Katherine Kennedy<br>65 Great Road<br>Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 65 Great Road | 9 | 16 |
| Albert E., Jr. & Leslie Lafrenais<br>71 Great Road<br>Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 71 Great Road | 9 | 15 |
| Raymond R. & Palma R. Biron<br>91 Great Road<br>Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 91 Great Road | 9 | 772 |
| Joseph A. & Constance T. Ruggieri<br>101 Great Road<br>Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 101 Great Road | 9 | 677 |
| Lawrence A. & Helen L. Oakland<br>115 Great Road<br>Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 115 Great Road | 9 | 655 |
| Joseph H. & Esmond G. O'Donnell<br>7 Bamford St.<br>Woonsocket, RI 02895 | 127-129 Great Road | 9 | 6 |

UNION VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

N

NOT TO SCALE

MORSE AVENUE

WARREN AVENUE

171  163  GREAT  137  127-129  115  101  91  71  61  53

ROAD

210  202  WESTWOOD ROAD  188  178  172  160  150  138  120  108  86  76  56  4

POUND HILL ROAD

HOMESTEAD AVENUE

WOONSOCKET HILL ROAD

6

21

Key

▨ COLONIAL
▦ FEDERAL
▥ EARLY VICTORIAN
▥ LATE VICTORIAN
▦ EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
■ NON-CONTRIBUTING