

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

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

----- Name of Property
----- County and State
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number      Page   1  

**Supplementary Listing Record**

NRIS Reference Number: SG100004532

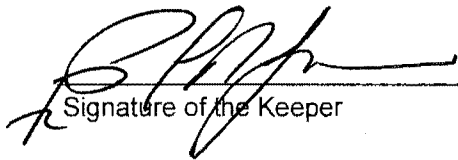
Date Listed: 10/21/2019

Property Name: Cumberland Town Hall Historic District

County: Providence

State: RI

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This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

  
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Signature of the Keeper

10/21/2019  
-----  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**SHPO Certification**

This certifies that the documentation was submitted as a *nomination* that *meets* the National Register Criteria, as verified by the Deputy SHPO in the documentation cover letter and via email. [The original SHPO certification block was not fully completed; the appropriate selection boxes have now been checked.]

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The RHODE ISLAND SHPO was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority** (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 45 Broad Street and 16 Mill Street

City or town: Cumberland State: RI County: Providence

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

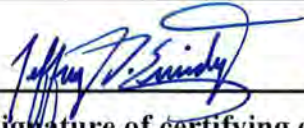
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	DEPUTY SHPO	23 August 2019
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

Name of Property

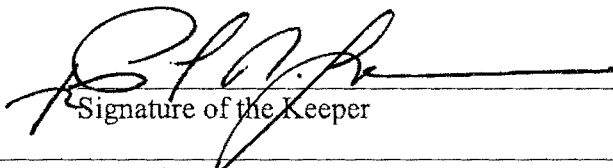
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

10/21/2019  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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 Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**  
**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- GOVERNMENT/government office/municipal building
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- EDUCATION/library
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- GOVERNMENT/government office/municipal building
- VACANT/not in use
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT/Commercial Style

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE/Sandstone, SLATE,  
TERRA COTTA, WOOD

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The Cumberland Town Hall Historic District is situated in the village of Valley Falls at the southern end of the town and includes two buildings and one statue standing at or near the northeast corner of Broad and Mill Streets. The Town Hall at 45 Broad Street, a 3-story Colonial Revival style brick structure with a prominent wooden clock tower, was designed by noted Rhode Island architect William R. Walker; built in 1894, it was the first purpose-built municipal building to be constructed in Cumberland. Near the southwest corner of Town Hall is a statue commemorating Cumberland's war dead. Next door to the east, at 16 Mill Street, is the former Valley Falls Post Office and Valley Falls Free Library: a 2-story brick commercial building with two handsomely detailed, wood-frame and plate-glass storefronts. Originally constructed ca. 1890 by the Valley Falls Company, one of Cumberland's major textile manufacturers, this building served municipal and civic purposes until 1921, before turning to mixed commercial and residential use. Both buildings retain good integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## Narrative Description

Cumberland is situated in northeastern Rhode Island, bounded by the City of Woonsocket and the Town of Lincoln on the west, by the City of Central Falls on the south, and by the Massachusetts state line on the east and north. The Blackstone River forms the western boundary of the town, then curves eastward at Cumberland's southern end before continuing southward again. Situated at that curve is Cumberland's southernmost mill village and town center: Valley Falls. (The village extends across the river into Central Falls, but this nomination concerns only the Cumberland portion.) The Historic District is located about 200 feet north of the river and the eponymous falls, at the northeast corner of Broad Street and Mill Street.

Broad Street is a major commercial corridor in western Cumberland, extending from the southern end of Mendon Road (State Route 122) in the neighboring mill village of Lonsdale, southward through Valley Falls and across the Blackstone River into the City of Central Falls (where it becomes State Route 114), with connections to Pawtucket and Providence. The picturesque, three-span, arched stone and concrete Broad Street Bridge that crosses the river and connects both sides of the village of Valley Falls was constructed in 1915.<sup>1</sup> Mill Street extends eastward from Broad Street, and quickly (in about one tenth of a mile) passes the former Valley Falls Railroad Station, a small ca. 1895 wood-frame structure, and crosses the Providence and Worcester railroad line. On the south side of Mill Street, partly across from the Historic District, is the site of the Valley Falls Company Mills which gave this street its name (built 1849, demolished 1934). This is now the Valley Falls Heritage Park (completed 1993), a 2.3-acre public open space with bikeways, walking paths, some mill artifacts, and interpretive signage; it is part of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, designated by the U.S. Congress in 1986.

The village of Valley Falls is densely developed with single- and multi-family housing as well as commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings, most constructed of wood or brick and standing between one and three stories tall. Buildings typically stand close to one another and to the streets; concrete sidewalks have granite curbing and few street trees. Cumberland Town Hall, larger in height and massing than most neighboring buildings, is a prominent visual landmark in the village: its clock tower can be seen from several blocks away. An asphalt-paved parking lot lies on the north side of Town Hall, and another occupies most of the block directly across Broad Street. While much of Valley Falls' building stock was constructed between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it currently possesses varying degrees of historic architectural integrity, ranging from good to poor. Some demolition of older buildings, replaced either with surface parking lots or recent new construction, has also occurred, notably immediately to the west, south, and east of the Historic District.

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<sup>1</sup> RIDOT, p. 58; also Kulik, p. 49. Broad Street Bridge No. 305 has been determined eligible for NR listing.

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## INVENTORY

### BROAD STREET

- 45 CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL (1894, William R. Walker & Son, architects):  
(*Photographs 1-10 and Figure 3*) Colonial Revival; three stories with raised basement; cross gable and hip slate roof; brick walls laid in running bond; brick, brownstone, terra cotta, and wood trim; granite block foundation. Large ornamented exterior chimney on the south side elevation near the front southwest corner. Another chimney is attached to the rear northeast corner. Sited on a corner lot that rises slightly above street level, the Town Hall faces Broad Street, to the west.

The dominant feature on the Broad Street façade is a projecting 2-story brick center pavilion featuring brick pilasters with brownstone caps; brownstone trim; a large arched window topped with a decorative terra cotta plaque with the date “1894,” and a fanlight, all recessed within a large arched opening topped with a dentiled wood cornice. Flanking this pavilion are two vertically proportioned rectangular window openings at the second floor level and two square window openings at the third floor level; all openings are trimmed with terra cotta surrounds. Above the pavilion is the brick clock tower, with brownstone quoins and trim, and a decorative terra cotta plaque inscribed with the words “Town of Cumberland” and the date “1746” (in Roman numerals) in relief; above the plaque is a large rectangular window opening framed with terra cotta surround at the front, original wood fanlight windows on the north and south sides, and a dentiled wood cornice. The wood-frame middle section of the tower, surrounded by a heavy balustrade with urn finials, has clocks in all four sides, each framed by corner pilasters (some of these have been replaced with fiberglass replicas as stealth telecommunications antenna enclosures). Above that is a wood-frame, hexagonal cupola, surrounded by a balustrade with urn finials, and capped with a domed standing-seam-copper roof. To the left (north) of the clock tower pavilion is a one-story, flat-roofed brick entrance porch with paired brick pilasters and a dentiled wood cornice, similar to the pavilion. The entrance porch is accessed by a flight of granite steps that runs through a large archway trimmed with terra cotta ornament, leading to deeply recessed, tall paneled wood double doors topped with a wood fanlight.

The Mill Street (south) elevation’s major architectural feature is a large projecting pavilion near the rear of the building, framed within paired brick pilasters and an open-pediment gable, with terra cotta ornamentation and a dentiled wood cornice. At the first-floor level of this pavilion is a one-story, flat-roofed projection with rounded corners, rectangular window openings infilled with glass block, and a wood cornice. The second-floor level of the pavilion features three tall bays of vertical window openings, framed by brick pilasters and topped by transoms; the center bay holds a pair of windows. Between the chimney and the pavilion are two bays of windows: rectangular at the first-floor level, arched at the second floor. Near the southeast corner of the building is a brick porch with

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similar detailing to the one at the main entrance, sheltering a secondary entrance that also has paneled wood double doors topped with a wood fanlight. Above this porch are a vertically proportioned rectangular window opening at the second floor level and a square window opening at the third floor level; both openings are trimmed with terra cotta surrounds.

Projecting from the front of the north elevation is a rounded corner stair tower with a partly conical roof integrated into the hipped main roof; this has small square windows at the first and third floor levels, and tall narrow windows at the second floor. Brick pilasters run between the window bays at the second- and third-floor levels. A large hip-roofed projecting pavilion with a large triple window at its second-floor level and very simple trim is a subdued echo of its more decorative counterpart on the south elevation. A tall arched window at the second-floor level is tucked in between the corner tower and the pavilion. This side of the building, which faces a surface parking lot, features a wheelchair-accessible entrance at the basement level, accessed by a short concrete ramp down and sheltered underneath a barrel-vaulted glass canopy. On either side of the canopy is a concrete deck that supports some mechanical equipment; a short concrete stairway rises from the parking lot at the southeast corner of the parking lot. Both alterations date from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup>

The rear (east) elevation has a center secondary entrance and one window at each floor near the two corners. A two-story brick elevator shaft (ca. 1991) is inconspicuously tucked into the building's rear northeast corner, partly obscuring a decorative exterior chimney there.

A photograph published in an 1895 portfolio of the William R. Walker & Son architectural firm (*Figure 3*) shows a view of Town Hall looking northeast from Broad and Mill Streets. The original wood windows were mostly double-hung, 1/1 sash, set into vertically proportioned rectangular openings, both singly and in pairs. Two, large, arched window openings on the south side, second-floor level, had multi-light windows with arched upper sashes. At the third-floor level, square openings held 6/6, double-hung sash. Elevation drawings dated 1948 show much the same conditions (the north side elevation had only one multi-light, arched window at the second floor level, and the third-floor windows were only 6/6 in the stair tower, otherwise single light sashes).<sup>3</sup> Nearly all of

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<sup>2</sup> No drawings or historic photographs reflecting William R. Walker's original design for the interior of Town Hall were found. Research conducted at Cumberland Town Hall yielded little information regarding later alterations to the building. A few plan and elevation drawings (dated 1941, 1948, 1966, and 1991) were found in storage, but none represent a complete set of renovation plans. Town Council meeting minutes from 1964, 1966-67, and 1985 referred to financial appropriations for repairs or alterations to Town Hall but did not describe what that work entailed.

<sup>3</sup>One set of drawings features all four elevations of the building, plans of the basement and first floor levels, and a sheet with some interior cross-sections and details. Only one of these drawings is dated 1948 and labeled with the



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these windows were replaced in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century with metal, multi-light window units with flat horizontal muntins and operable lower sashes; glass block was installed in all first-floor window openings in the pavilion on the south side. However, the original window openings and their brownstone or terra cotta surrounds are largely intact. The south chimney has been shortened; it originally matched the height and detailing of the surviving northeast chimney. Both the front and side pavilions have had ornate wood balustrades removed. Despite these alterations, the building is still recognizably representative of its historic architectural style, and some documentation exists to guide any future restoration efforts.

Interior Features: Some historic interior features survive, notably: the curved main stairway inside the northwest corner tower, with what appears to be an original paneled wood newel post and ornate carved balusters (*Photograph 7*); the back stairs at the east side of the building, with turned wood newel posts and vertical board railings at the bottom of the basement and first-floor stairs, and at the top of the second-floor stairs; paneled wood-and-glass office doors topped with transom windows at the first-floor level; some remnants of the original ceiling above what was previously a large assembly hall that occupied most of the second and third floors; and seven brick-walled, iron-gated holding cells on the west side of the basement, where the Police Department was originally situated (*Photograph 8*). The present layout of Town Hall and most of its interior architectural features and finishes resulted from several campaigns of alterations conducted between 1941 and 1991.

Architectural drawings from 1941 and 1948 (and a 1942 letter attached to the 1941 drawings<sup>4</sup>) describe both existing conditions and proposed changes. The basement and first floor levels were organized around a central east-west corridor which had short perpendicular hallways at each end and rooms of varying size and function arrayed around it. The northwest and east stairways provided vertical circulation between the basement and second floor levels. At the basement level were a Council Room, a Committee Room, the Police Department, and a Library, among other spaces.<sup>5</sup> The first floor was occupied by offices for the Town Clerk (including a proposed large records vault), Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, and proposed new space for the Police Department. A large Assembly Hall, measuring approximately 50 by 60 feet and with a platform on its

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names Linwood A. Gardiner, architect, and Edward J. Hayden, engineer, but as all of these appear to have been drawn by the same hand, they were assumed to be part of the same set.

<sup>4</sup> Letter to Town Clerk Stephen A. Fanning from Jenks & Ballou Consulting Engineers of Providence, dated January 22, 1942.

<sup>5</sup> Town Hall provided space to the Valley Falls Free Library from 1921 until at least 1948. The 1948 basement plan also shows a proposed elimination of the original holding cells and creation of separate new cells for men and women; this change never happened.

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west wall, occupied the majority of the second floor;<sup>6</sup> behind it, a small office was located near the east stairway. Along the west side of the second floor were three proposed new spaces: an anteroom at the top of the main stairway, a Council Chamber with seating for public meetings (*Photograph 9*), and a conference room in the southwest corner; a new, narrow stairway near the east end of the second floor led up to the third floor. (*See Figures 7-1, 7-2, and 8*)

Plans dated 1966 only depict the first and second floor levels. These show the removal of the basement stairs inside the Broad Street entrance and some alteration of the offices on the north side of the first floor, including new plate glass cashier windows and Formica counters on the north wall of the main corridor. The second floor was substantially changed, with the Assembly Hall subdivided into multiple smaller spaces arrayed around a central corridor and two perpendicular side hallways (mimicking the existing circulation pattern on the first floor). The former anteroom and Council Chamber of the west side were converted to offices for the Building Inspector; new offices for Water and Engineering Departments were arrayed on the south side; and the remainder of the former Assembly Hall became a new Council Chamber, a conference room, and an office on the north side of the building. (*See Figure 9*)

Many interior finishes were likewise altered at this time: the 1966 plans reference vinyl asbestos tile flooring, Masonite walls, and suspended acoustic tile ceilings. The Assembly Hall ceiling, which had soared up to the third floor, was lowered by a full story except in the new Council Chamber, which retained a taller ceiling of roughly 1-1/2 stories. Some glass-covered openings in the west and south walls of the Council Chamber reveal the original cove moldings of the Assembly Hall ceiling as well as part of an archway that probably curved over Assembly Hall platform, originally. Supporting one end of that archway is what appears to be a simple wood column, which aligns vertically with (and may be on top of) a column made partly of metal and partly of fluted wood, standing on a granite and brick rectangular base that is several feet off the floor, located in the hallway outside the Council Chamber. A Corinthian capital atop this column rises into a recess in the hallway's suspended ceiling. None of the architectural drawings depict this column, so whether it was in fact originally part of the support system for the arch in the Assembly Hall ceiling could not be confirmed. But there are several fluted wood pilasters decorating the Council Chamber walls which appear to have been salvaged and reused for ornamental purposes during one of the interior renovation projects (similar pilasters are seen on the first-floor corridor walls); perhaps this exposed column was an original feature, likewise salvaged (*Photograph 10*).

The 1991 first and second floor plans show yet more changes. An elevator shaft was constructed at the northeast corner of the building and the east hallways on both floors

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<sup>6</sup> Various early 20<sup>th</sup> century newspaper articles indicate that the Assembly Hall was part of the original design of the Town Hall; see Section 8.

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were extended northward (not in a straight line) to the elevator, necessitating realignment of some partition walls. The first-floor level appeared much the same as it had nearly 30 years before, but on the second floor, the Mayor's Office had taken over the entire west side of the building;<sup>7</sup> a narrow enclosed stairway leading up to the third floor had been added between the Mayor's Office and the adjacent hallway; and the Council Chamber had expanded into the 1966-era conference room. Partition walls were also removed or rearranged in the offices on the south side of the second floor, creating a large open space flanked by enclosed offices at either end for the Public Works Department. (See *Figure 10.*)

No drawings of the third-floor level were discovered, but the narrow, wood-framed spaces along the perimeter of the building are currently (and may have been originally) used for storage. No plans of the basement level dated after 1948 were found, but a 1993 memorandum discussing accessibility improvements to Town Hall referred to "an existing access ramp from the parking area,"<sup>8</sup> so the wide exterior doorway in the north wall of the basement evidently was also introduced before 1993.

Town Hall today houses the following municipal offices: in the basement, Tax Assessor and Maintenance; on the first floor, Town Clerk (including the Board of Canvassers, Municipal Court, and Probate Court), Town Solicitor, Tax Collector, Finance Department, and Human Resources; second floor, Mayor, Chief of Staff, Public Works (including the Building & Zoning, Engineering, Sewer, and Trash & Recycling Departments), and Planning & Community Development.<sup>9</sup>

Site features: Small grassy areas line the west front and part of the south side of the building. A memorial to Cumberland's armed services veterans, as well as a freestanding granite block sign identifying "Cumberland Town Hall," stand near the southwest corner of the lot.

The veterans memorial consists of a granite statue, a small granite monument, and two flagpoles. The **World War II memorial statue** was erected in 1951, at a cost of \$4,727.20<sup>10</sup>. It depicts a male World War II soldier dressed in uniform shirt and trousers,

<sup>7</sup> After a new town charter was adopted in 1978, Cumberland changed to a Mayoral form of government in 1980.

<sup>8</sup> Memorandum to N. David Bouley, Cumberland Dept. of Community Development, from Ronald M. Wood, Urban Design Group, dated November 15, 1993.

<sup>9</sup> Additional functions of town government (Police and Fire, Library, Highway, Parks & Recreation, and Emergency Management departments, among others) have offices in other municipal buildings elsewhere in town.

<sup>10</sup> "Annual Report of the Town Treasurer for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1952." The monument appears to have been dedicated in the second half of 1951. Records of the August 9, 1951 meeting of the Town Council indicate acceptance of an invitation from the Cumberland Veterans Council to attend the dedication, though no date is given for the event. Town Council Records, Vol. 25, June 1950-April 1958, p. 98.

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boots, and helmet, striding forward with a rifle in his hands and various items (canteen, ammunition pouch, small backpack) strapped to his person. Two short, slender tree stumps frame the soldier's feet. The statue stands on a granite plinth inscribed: "Dedicated to the Glory of Almighty God in Memory of Cumberland's Men and Women Who By Their Unselfish Patriotism Have Advanced the American Ideals of Liberty and the Universal Brotherhood of Man." Near the bottom of the plinth is an inscribed quote from John Milton: "Servant of God Well Done ... Well Hast Thou Fought the Better Fight." This artist's name is not indicated, but there is a small maker's mark "Barre Guild" near the base of the plinth on its east side, which indicates the granite was quarried in Barre, Vermont.<sup>11</sup> Adjacent to the statue is a metal flagpole and a small triangular granite monument inscribed "Dedicated by a Grateful Community in Memory of All Veterans Who Have Championed the Cause of Freedom Through Service in the United States Armed Forces, Town of Cumberland, Edward L. Alger, Mayor, May 30, 1995."

A small asphalt-paved parking lot can be accessed from Mill Street, as can an asphalt driveway that leads to the garage behind 16 Mill Street. A larger asphalt-paved parking lot abutting the north side of Town Hall, accessed from Broad Street, has a decorative metal fence with concrete-capped brick posts along its west lot line. A grassy hill with some trees rises at the northeast corner of the lot.

## MILL STREET

- 16 VALLEY FALLS POST OFFICE and FREE LIBRARY (ca. 1890, built by the Valley Falls Company). (*Photographs 1, 2, 11-14*) Commercial-style; two stories; shallow-pitched rubber-membrane gable roof with brick parapet at front; brick walls; brick trim including a corbelled cornice wrapping around the entire building; foundation not visible. Four corbelled brick interior chimneys rise above the roofline, two on the east side and two on the west. After 1921, this building was occupied by a grocery store until at least 1988; its proprietors lived in a single-family apartment on the second floor. The building has been vacant for approximately 30 years.

The Mill Street (south) façade has two wood-framed storefronts at the first-floor level, set underneath an asphalt pent roof supported by simple corner brackets. Two pairs of doors occupy the two center bays, with plate glass windows in the end bays; the bays are separated by slender cast iron columns with Corinthian capitals. Multi-light transoms surmount the storefront doors and windows, while wire mesh screens in the paneled wood bulkheads at the base of the storefront ventilate the basement. Above the storefront

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<sup>11</sup> See 1950 photo of Town Hall on the Town of Cumberland website ([https://www.cumberlandri.org/sites/cumberlandri/files/uploads/progress\\_1950.pdf](https://www.cumberlandri.org/sites/cumberlandri/files/uploads/progress_1950.pdf)), and 1975 survey photo on file at RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. Barre Granite Association website: <http://barregranite.org/faqs>

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are two segmental-arch window openings with paired, wood, 2/2, double-hung sash windows; above each pair of windows is an ornamental wood trim piece filling in the arch.

The east side elevation has one plywood-covered wood 2/2 window on the first floor, near the rear northeast corner. Scarring in the brickwork indicates that there was previously an exterior stairway running up from the front southeast corner to a second-floor enclosure near the north end of this elevation. Sanborn maps indicate that these structures were constructed separately: the stairway by 1921, and the enclosure by 1947; both were removed after 2004 (*see Figures 4 and 5*). These alterations also changed the original fenestration pattern at the second floor: of the original three evenly-spaced, segmental arched, 2/2, wood windows with brick headers and sills (matching those on the west side elevation), the middle and northernmost windows were enlarged into doorways, while another arched window opening was inserted between them. (*See Figures 4 and 5.*)

The west side elevation (facing the Town Hall) has one wood, 2/2 window on the first floor, near the rear northwest corner, and three evenly-spaced similar windows on the second floor. All have segmental arched brick headers and brick sills, and plain wood infill above the upper sashes.

The north (rear) elevation has three bays of fenestration on both first and second floors. In the middle bay of the first floor is a secondary entrance, with a wood paneled door. All windows are wood, 2/2, double-hung sash. All six openings have segmental arched brick headers; the windows all have brick sills.

Interior Features: The first-floor level is mostly a large open space, with wood floors, lath and plaster walls and ceiling, and one metal load-bearing column in the middle of the room. (A former partition wall running from front to back, dividing the retail space in two, was removed between 1921 and 1947, according to the Sanborn maps). Interior wooden shutters on all windows appear to be original. A large, wood-frame, floor-to-ceiling, walk-in cold storage room is centered on the west wall. A wood-framed enclosure just inside the back door contains stairs down to the basement level. No access to the second floor is available from inside the building (nor from the exterior, since the east stairway was removed), but photographs dated 2004 on file at Cumberland's Office of Planning and Development show a single-family, two-bedroom-one-bath dwelling unit.

Site features: A concrete walkway runs from Mill Street along the east elevation and curves around the north elevation. The rear yard of the property is grass lawn. At the northwest corner of the lot is a one-story, shed-roofed, concrete block garage (seen on the 1923 Sanborn map) with three garage bays. East of the garage are the side and rear walls of a former concrete block storage shed (seen on the 1947 Sanborn map; *Figure 5*) Neither auxiliary structure contributes to the historic and architectural significance of the

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Historic District: the garage is not related to either the post office or library uses of the main building, and the storage shed now consists only of three walls.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1890-1969

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1890

1894

1921

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

William R. Walker & Son

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Cumberland Town Hall Historic District meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. Under Criterion A, Community Planning and Development, the district represents the evolution of Valley Falls over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century from a small



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mill village to a densely developed, urbanized manufacturing center that also became the locus of Cumberland's political and institutional life. The 1894 Town Hall was the first municipal building to be constructed in Cumberland, while the village post office and public library both occupied a ca. 1890 commercial building next door from at least 1892 until 1920. Together these two buildings represented community in several senses of that word: a group of people gathered together in the same place, having a common identity, and sharing social values, attitudes, and responsibilities despite their individual differences. Under Criterion C, Architecture, the Colonial Revival style, brick Town Hall designed by the prominent Rhode Island architect William R. Walker illustrates a popular and symbolic architectural style for public buildings of that era, while the adjacent brick commercial style building with paired wooden storefronts is a good example of its type and vintage. The period of significance is ca. 1890, when the commercial building was constructed, to 1969 (fifty years ago), as the Town Hall remains in its original use.

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

When William Blackstone, a cleric and scholar, left Boston in 1635 in search of a "sequestered life of contemplation and study,"<sup>12</sup> he found it at the remote western edge of Plymouth Colony, on the eastern bank of the river that now bears his name. By 1694, Blackstone's former homestead had become part of the township of Attleborough, Massachusetts, which abutted the northeast corner of Providence County, Rhode Island. The Blackstone River separated the two colonies until 1746, when a long-running boundary dispute was resolved by bringing 36 square miles of Attleborough into Rhode Island. This area was incorporated as the Town of Cumberland.

In organizing its local government, Cumberland followed the typical New England "town meeting" model: the freemen of the town would meet annually to elect representatives to the General Assembly, a Town Clerk, a Town Council, and sundry other officials to carry out various executive, legislative, and judicial functions; and in addition, to vote on various items of public business, such as a tax levy. Cumberland's first Town Meeting was held in February 1747 at the home of Joseph Brown, located on Cumberland Hill in the northwest part of town. Those elected to public office (including Joseph Brown, to the Town Council) were all members of prominent local families; some served in multiple roles (for example, Job Bartlett was elected as delegate to the General Assembly, member of the Town Council, Town Clerk, and Town Meeting Moderator).<sup>13</sup> The Town Council's first item of official business was to order a highway to be laid out along the east side of the Blackstone River (now, Mendon Road/State Route 122).

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<sup>12</sup> Hayley, p. 21.

<sup>13</sup> Hayden, p. 7.

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Other early actions included the passage of laws regulating the times of year when sheep and rams would be allowed to roam freely about the town, and imposing penalties when one person's dog killed someone else's sheep.<sup>14</sup>

Initially, Cumberland officials did not designate a specific location where town affairs would be conducted. The Town Clerk stored municipal records in his own house, and Town Council meetings rotated amongst members' homes (these were common practices in Rhode Island at the time). Town Meetings were likewise held in private residences, but as it was considered a great honor to host these gatherings, vying for the privilege eventually created some conflict amongst the townspeople. "In order to allay any further bitterness of feeling, it was finally agreed to put up the meeting at public auction: the honor went to the highest bidder, and thereby put an end to the continual disputes."<sup>15</sup>

The first census of Cumberland, conducted in 1748, enumerated 806 residents. Throughout the remainder of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Cumberland's (and Rhode Island's) population rapidly increased; by 1800, Cumberland had 2,056 inhabitants.<sup>16</sup> While most townspeople at this time were subsistence farmers, Cumberland's wealth of natural resources – including numerous waterways, forests, and underground mineral deposits – prompted the early development of saw mills, grist mills, and iron foundries to serve local needs. As the population grew, small communities began to form around common gathering places such as a mill, a shop, or a church. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the village of Cumberland Hill, sited on a bluff overlooking the Blackstone River in the northwest corner of town, had become the de facto "town center" (despite being nowhere near the actual geographic middle), boasting several taverns, a church, a school, a bank, a Masonic Lodge, a post office, and a community library. With all this activity going on, Cumberland Hill reasonably became the seat of local government as well.<sup>17</sup> But still, no building was constructed for this purpose: instead the Town Clerk rented office space in the village, and a local church with the seating capacity for large groups would host Town Meetings.

Cumberland Hill is the northernmost of the town's five villages that grew up along the Blackstone River. The other four – moving downriver: Ashton, Berkeley, Lonsdale, and Valley Falls – all grew up around cotton textile mills that were established in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Each played an important role in Cumberland's transformation into a prominent manufacturing center during the industrial era,<sup>18</sup> but Valley Falls was where Cumberland's

<sup>14</sup> Wright, pp. 110-117; also Haley, pp. 7 and 106-107.

<sup>15</sup> Hayden, pp. 7-8; also Hayley, p. 107.

<sup>16</sup> Hayden, p. 20.

<sup>17</sup> RIHPC, Cumberland, pp. 11-12.

<sup>18</sup> See Ashton Historic District (NR, 1984), Berkeley Mill Village Historic District (NR, 1972), and Lonsdale Historic District (in Cumberland and Lincoln, NR 1984). In addition, the Arnold Mills Historic District (NR, 1978) is in eastern Cumberland.

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earliest textile mills were built, and where the town's political, business, and cultural life were concentrated by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Blackstone River drops 438 vertical feet along its 46-mile course from Worcester, Massachusetts, to Providence, Rhode Island.<sup>19</sup> Along the way, it borders the entire western and southern sides of Cumberland, with several tributaries (notably, Abbott Run) and ponds branching out through the town. "Valley Falls" was the name given to the waterfall at the southern end of Cumberland, where the river turns sharply eastward for about half a mile before turning southward again. About a mile and a half further downriver is Pawtucket Falls, where Slater Mill, America's first mechanized cotton mill, was built in 1793.<sup>20</sup> The Blackstone's fast current and many waterfalls made it an ideal source of hydropower for this nascent industry, and Rhode Island had several other advantages that facilitated the development of a manufacturing economy: a wealthy merchant class, with capital to invest and an established business network; an excellent port at Providence, for importing raw materials and shipping out finished goods; and a population with mechanical and domestic handicraft skills (such as making tools and equipment, spinning, and weaving) that could be utilized as an industrial labor force. The textile industry quickly took root:

[A] census of manufactures found 40 cotton mills operating within 30 miles of Providence in 1809, and these accounted for about two-thirds of the active spindles in New England. After a period of explosive growth ... [there were] 119 mills in Rhode Island alone in 1832. By then, the Blackstone had earned a reputation as America's "hardest working river."<sup>21</sup>

Related industries such as weaving, dyeing, and finishing, and the production of machine parts and tools needed to keep the mills running, also emerged in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These manufacturers typically followed the business model known as the "Rhode Island system" that had first been established at Slater Mill: a relatively small-scale mill located on a rural waterway that employed local families (men, women, and children) and was owned by individuals rather than a corporation. If a mill was built in a sparsely inhabited locale, the mill owner might also construct housing, a church, a store, a school, and other community buildings for his employees.<sup>22</sup> Dozens of mill villages developed in this manner on various rivers, streams, and ponds throughout Rhode Island.

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<sup>19</sup> Worcester Historical Museum, p. 1. Other sources give slightly varying distances for both the length (45, 48 miles) and vertical drop (430, 450 feet) of the Blackstone River.

<sup>20</sup> Old Slater Mill Historic Site, Pawtucket, RI (NHL, 1966).

<sup>21</sup> NPS, p. 21. In recognition of its critical historical significance to both Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor was designated by Congress in 1986.

<sup>22</sup> NPS, pp. 22-23.

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Cumberland's first cotton mill was erected in 1806 at Robin's Hollow on Abbott Run.<sup>23</sup> Six years later, the brothers Abraham, Isaac, and David Wilkinson, well-established manufacturers of iron goods in Pawtucket (and related to Samuel Slater by marriage), purchased the water privilege for the Valley Falls, along with 16 acres of surrounding land. Also in 1812, Isaac Wilkinson built the Valley Falls Turnpike; this is now Broad Street, which extends from Pawtucket through Central Falls to Mendon Road in Cumberland.<sup>24</sup> Mill owners would often initiate transportation improvements to improve access to and from their rural mills, so the construction of this turnpike probably signaled the Wilkinsons' intent to erect a cotton mill at Valley Falls, although it was not until 1820 that they built a dam at the falls and a small mill on its south side.<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, in 1818 Crawford Titus built a cotton mill on the north side of the falls at a place called Happy Hollow; and subsequently, several other manufacturers erected mills nearby, including a stone building on the Cumberland side constructed in 1833 by Providence businessman Crawford Allen, who later acquired several other nearby mills.

By the 1830s, the village of Valley Falls had begun to take shape. Several new streets were laid out, including High Street, parallel to and east of Broad Street; Mill Street, just north of and parallel to the river; and some additional cross streets north of Mill Street. Among approximately two dozen structures in the village were a tavern on High Street and some mill workers' houses built by the Abbott Run Cotton Company on the north side of Mill Street.<sup>26</sup> Valley Falls also extended southward across the river into present-day Central Falls (then the Town of Smithfield).<sup>27</sup>

For most of its length, the Blackstone River was only navigable with small boats, which had to be portaged over its numerous waterfalls. To solve that problem, encourage industrial expansion, and improve commerce between Worcester and Providence, the Blackstone Canal Company was incorporated in 1825, and the canal was completed in 1828. For about twenty years, this canal was used to move agricultural products, raw materials, finished goods, and passengers up and down the Blackstone River valley.<sup>28</sup> It was not, however, particularly convenient for Cumberland's manufacturers, as it ran along the west side of the river through the neighboring

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<sup>23</sup> Hayley, p. 108.

<sup>24</sup> NPS, p. 24; Hayden, p. 14.

<sup>25</sup> Grieve, p. 170.

<sup>26</sup> RIHPHC, Cumberland, p. 83.

<sup>27</sup> The southern part of Valley Falls remained in Smithfield until 1871; then was part of the Town of Lincoln until 1895; and finally, part of the City of Central Falls.

<sup>28</sup> Blackstone Canal Historic District National Register nomination (NR, 1971).

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town of Lincoln. The canal also had some operational problems, not least of which was the difficulty of maintaining regular water levels when riverfront mill owners continually diverted the water for their own purposes.

Meanwhile, some mill owners had problems of their own: a national economic depression in 1829 forced some of the mills at Valley Falls (and elsewhere) to close, and temporarily slowed the growth of manufacturing. But the misfortune of some became an opportunity for others, and soon the idled mills at Valley Falls caught the eye of Oliver Chace, a prosperous cotton manufacturer in Fall River, Massachusetts. In 1839, Chace paid \$65,050 for:

All those several parcels of land situate at Valley Falls in the Town of Cumberland and the Town of Smithfield which belonged to the said Crawford Allen on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1837, and were known as his "Valley Falls Mills Estate," together with three-fourths of the water of the Blackstone River and all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging ... along with all the Factory, Picker House, Water Wheels, Water Power, Main Gearing, Dam, Water Ways, Dwelling Houses, Trenches, and other Improvements thereon ...<sup>29</sup>

Seven dwelling houses were mentioned in this deed, but others may have existed, as the deed references the Valley Falls Plat with several dozen house lots in Smithfield.

Oliver Chace gave his sons Harvey Chace and Samuel B. Chace the task of making the Valley Falls mills profitable again. His foresight in acquiring these mills was rewarded when the Providence & Worcester Railroad line opened in 1847, providing passenger and freight service between the two cities. For the most part, the tracks followed much the same route as the Blackstone Canal (which closed the following year), but in Cumberland they ran along the east side of the river, passing through Valley Falls just east of the Chace mills and continuing northward through Berkeley, Lonsdale, and Ashton. Each of these villages gained its own small railroad station; the one in Valley Falls was built just north of the river, a few hundred feet east of the intersection of Broad and Mill Streets.<sup>30</sup> This set the stage for the next major phase of Valley Falls' growth and development, for which the Chace family was largely responsible.

Two years after the railroad came to Valley Falls, Samuel and Harvey Chace built a new brick mill on the Smithfield side of the village. "The 1850 census showed that the Chace mills employed 90 men and 120 women, operating 252 looms and 11,000 spindles."<sup>31</sup> In 1853, after

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<sup>29</sup> Central Falls Deed Book 21, Pages 184-186 (originally recorded in Smithfield). The other ¼ of the water privilege had previously been conveyed to the Abbot Run Company, in which Crawford Allen also had an interest.

<sup>30</sup> RIHPHC, Cumberland, p. 83: the original depot was replaced by the current building ca. 1895; now at 60 Mill Street.

<sup>31</sup> Worcester Historical Museum, p. 106. This 1849 mill still stands within the Valley Falls Mill Complex in the city of Central Falls (NR, 1978).

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their father died, the Chace brothers organized the Valley Falls Company, acquired two additional existing mills on the south side of the river, and built a new dam, giving them exclusive control over the water power at the Valley Falls.<sup>32</sup> Over the next fifty years, the Valley Falls Company became that village's biggest and most successful textile manufacturer, its largest employer, and one of its major landowners, with sprawling mill complexes on both sides of the dam as well as numerous other properties in the village.

The Chace family were leading industrialists in southern New England in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to their holdings at Valley Falls, they also owned successful mills in Albion and Manville (Lincoln), R.I., in Fall River, Mass., and in Moodus, Conn. They were also active in Rhode Island civic affairs: Samuel Chace and his wife, Elizabeth Buffum Chace, were prominent abolitionists (the couple's home was a stop on the Underground Railroad), and Mrs. Chace was also a highly visible and vocal leader in the women's suffrage and temperance movements, and in efforts to reform the state prisons. In Valley Falls, she organized numerous programs to benefit mill workers' families, including night classes and a reading room for adults, and day care and kindergarten for their children.<sup>33</sup>

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw several important developments in Cumberland. As of 1865, the town had 8,216 residents; two years later, when the northwest corner of Cumberland was set aside as the new town of Woonsocket, Cumberland's population dropped to 3,882, but it quickly rose again, to 8,925 by 1900.<sup>34</sup> Like other urbanized areas in Rhode Island during this period, Cumberland experienced a sizeable influx of new residents from other countries: an early wave of Irish immigrants who had helped to build the Blackstone Canal were later joined by large groups of French Canadians and Italians, many of whom came to work in the town's various industries. Valley Falls became more densely developed, with blocks of new single-family and multi-family houses, shops and other businesses, schools, churches, and other buildings, some built by mill owners for their employees.

In 1868, the seat of Cumberland's town government relocated to Valley Falls which, like Cumberland Hill, was far from the geographic middle of town, but had become its largest population and business center. The Town Clerk's office rented space in a privately-owned building, as it had previously done in Cumberland Hill, and a place to hold the annual Town Meeting was found as needed. That same year, Samuel and Harvey Chace divided up their extensive family business, giving Samuel sole control of the Valley Falls Company while Harvey took over the Albion Company in Cumberland and the factories outside of Rhode Island. Samuel

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<sup>32</sup> Grieve, p. 170; also, Valley Falls Mill NR nomination.

<sup>33</sup> Valley Falls walking tour brochure, p. 2. Samuel and Elizabeth Chace's home, which stood in the southern part of Valley Falls at the corner of Broad and Hunt Streets (now, in Central Falls), no longer exists.

<sup>34</sup> RIHPHC, Cumberland, p. 11.

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B. Chace then embarked on a major expansion of the Valley Falls Company, eventually doubling the size of the mills on the Cumberland side.

The 1870 atlas (*Figure 1*) shows approximately 100 structures on both sides of the river in Valley Falls, including houses; stores selling groceries, dry goods, grain, and general merchandise; at least half a dozen manufacturers of items such as cotton goods, print cloths, soap, boots and shoes, wagons, farming equipment, and iron goods; and two churches, including Cumberland's first Roman Catholic edifice, built to serve its immigrant community: St. Patrick's Church on Broad Street (1861, remodeled 1936).<sup>35</sup> A schoolhouse stood just one block east of High Street and one block north of Mill Street. A post office stood on a lot at the northeast corner of Broad and Mill Streets, on land owned by the Valley Falls Company.

Cumberland's first post office had opened in 1820 in what was then the town center at Cumberland Hill. Over time, other post offices opened at Lonsdale (1838), Valley Falls (1846), Diamond Hill and Albion (both 1847), Ashton (1866), East Cumberland (1874), Abbott Run and Arnold Mills (both 1884) and Grant's Mills (1902).<sup>36</sup> The 1870 atlas of Valley Falls did not indicate the location of the Town Clerk's office, but a "Subscribers' Business Directory" printed on the map indicated that Samuel Fessenden was both Town Clerk and Postmaster, so it would have made sense for the Town Clerk's office to be situated in the same building as the post office.

The Valley Falls Company, and the village along with it, continued to grow. In 1877 the Valley Falls-Franklin [Mass.] branch railroad line was built, offering additional passenger and freight service from the same depot used by Providence & Worcester trains. The following year, the Cumberland Street Railway Company, a horse-drawn streetcar line, began operating from Valley Falls to Cumberland Hill. (After about 20 years, this system was replaced by electric streetcars operated by the Pawtucket Street Railway System.)<sup>37</sup> Some of Cumberland's wealthier residents began to build homes in Valley Falls, including John F. Clark, whose Queen Anne style home (ca. 1882) still survives as one of the most elaborate residential buildings in town. Located at the intersection of Broad and Titus Streets, one block north of Mill Street, the Clark House was reportedly designed by the architectural firm of William R. Walker & Sons.<sup>38</sup> This may be how the firm came to the attention of town officials when it came time to build a new Town Hall.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> RIHPC, Cumberland, pp. 11-13.

<sup>36</sup> Merolla, pp. 12-14, 35-37, 66.

<sup>37</sup> Hayden, p. 11: Both streetcars and passenger rail service ceased operating in Valley Falls by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, supplanted by the automobile.

<sup>38</sup> RIHPHC, Cumberland, p. 13.

<sup>39</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 43, Page 229: the Town's purchase of the new Town Hall site was recorded by John F. Clark, Town Clerk. Also, Town Council records, Vol. 15, p. 30: John F. Clark was appointed as a member of the committee charged with building a new Town House.

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At the “Tax Payers” (Financial) Town Meeting of 1892, a committee was appointed “to select and purchase a site for a Town House;” and by early August of 1893 the Town Treasurer requested Council approval to spend \$5,000 to buy the designated site.<sup>40</sup> As the *Pawtucket Tribune* reported:

The site for Cumberland’s new Town House has been selected and all arrangements made for its purchase by the committee having the matter in charge. The land upon which the new building will sit belongs at present to the Valley Falls Company ...

The site selected is a very suitable one and will commend itself to the judgment of the taxpayers. The price agreed upon is understood to be a moderate one and the committee are of the opinion that they have made an exceptionally good bargain, although the details of it have not been made public as yet.

The land is situated at the corner of Mill and Broad Streets and upon a portion of it the old Town House now stands. There are besides the Town House two other buildings on the land, one occupied as a fish market ... and the other as a confectionery bazaar ... All of these buildings will be removed to other land belonging to the Valley Falls Company close by.<sup>41</sup>

Presumably, the existing “Town House” was rented from the Valley Falls Company. A bird’s eye view of Valley Falls, ca. 1890, shows a large 3-story commercial building in the same location where the post office stood on the 1870 map; this building appears to have had plenty of space for a post office as well as a “Town House” that would have included the Town Clerk’s office and a meeting hall. (*See Figure 6.*)<sup>42</sup> This map also appears to show the commercial building now known as 16 Mill Street: it looks to be drawn at an exaggerated scale relative to its actual size, but it has a storefront across the south façade with two bays of windows above, and three bays of windows on the second-floor level of its west side, all of which features can be seen at 16 Mill Street. (As drawn, the two windows on the first floor of the west elevation do not match current conditions, but the building itself shows no sign of any windows relocated or infilled there, so this detail may represent artistic license.) The land upon which this building stood belonged to the Valley Falls Company until 1894, so it may initially have been constructed as a company store.

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<sup>40</sup> Town Council Records, Vol. 11 (1889-1892), p. 520, August 7, 1893.

<sup>41</sup> *Pawtucket Tribune*, August 3, 1893, p. 1.

<sup>42</sup> Worcester Historical Museum, p. 106. The caption for the published image of the bird’s eye map of Valley Falls does not indicate its date.



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The Town of Cumberland acquired the lot at the northeast corner of Broad and Mill Streets from the Valley Falls Company, for \$5,000, on August 3, 1893.<sup>43</sup> Town Council records did not mention seeking proposals or executing a contract for architectural services, but at some point over the next eight months, the Town hired the architectural firm of William R. Walker & Son to design a new “Town House.”

Major General William R. Walker (1830-1905) and his son William Howard Walker (1856-1922) were among Rhode Island’s most prominent architects. The senior Walker had established a solo architectural practice in Providence in 1864; between 1876 and 1881, he partnered with Thomas J. Gould; and then after Walker and Gould parted ways, Walker elevated his son to partner. Both Walkers also long held leadership positions in the Rhode Island militia and in the Masons, and General Walker also served in local and state public offices. These connections undoubtedly helped the firm to secure numerous commissions for public, commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings in Rhode Island, including schools, churches, libraries, armories, theatres, hotels, mills, courthouses, and municipal buildings. They also designed several high-profile residential buildings for some of Rhode Island’s leading textile manufacturers. William Russell Walker II (1884-1936) eventually joined his father and grandfather in the business. The firm exhibited remarkable facility in a wide variety of popular architectural styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>44</sup> Many Walker-designed buildings are listed on the National Register, including the building that may have served as the inspiration for Cumberland’s new Town Hall: Warwick Town Hall in Warwick, built in 1893-1894.<sup>45</sup>

Warwick Town (later, City) Hall bore a strong resemblance to Cumberland Town Hall (*see Figure 3*). Both are three-story, Colonial Revival style, nearly cubical brick structures with symmetrical facades, projecting front bays, a classical cornice with dentil moldings, and a square clock tower rising above the façade. The similarities originally extended to the interiors of both buildings:

Offices for town departments were located on the first floor, where they would be readily accessible for everyday business, while the upper two floors were taken up by a huge assembly hall for town meetings. The architectural treatment of the building was intended to be a reflection of the important purpose for which the edifice had been erected, and as an exhibition of civic pride.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 43, Page 229.

<sup>44</sup> Jordy, p. 238.

<sup>45</sup> Warwick Civic Center Historic District (NR, 1980).

<sup>46</sup> Warwick Civic Center Historic District, continuation sheets 10 and 11.

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The Colonial Revival style, which evoked a nostalgia for America's "simpler" past and for tradition, stability, and conservatism in a time of rapid and often unsettling changes to demographic, political, social, and cultural norms, gained wide popularity for public buildings from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Cumberland's Town Council, in selecting the architects and the design for the new Town Hall to be built in Valley Falls (where a manufacturing base was supported by a largely immigrant population), evidently intended the building to be a visual landmark in the community, representing what its members considered to be important civic virtues.

In January of 1894, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed "An Act to Authorize the Town of Cumberland to Issue Town House Bonds" to pay for the construction. On April 5 that year, the Town Council appointed a Committee to "erect, complete and furnish a Town House upon the lot now owned by this town at the corner of Broad and Mill Streets in the village of Valley Falls, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000." Several weeks later, on April 30, the Council voted to approve the plans and specifications for the Town House as presented by the Committee, and to sign a contract with William F. Dearborn & Son of Worcester, Mass. to build the structure. They also voted to authorize the Town Clerk to rent a nearby lot from Andrew J. Currier and to move the Town Clerk's office there while the new building was under construction. On June 23, the Council passed a resolution to issue forty \$1,000 "Town House Bonds" to finance the new building (in accordance with the General Assembly's authorization).<sup>47</sup>

The new "Town House" (as it was called then) was evidently completed by the spring of 1895, when the Town Council assigned the Town Clerk the task of allocating office space to various town departments. The second-floor Assembly Hall evidently was intended to serve various community needs: in 1896, the Council approved the Democratic Town Committee's request to caucus at the Town House, as well as another proposal by Cumberland High School to hold a reception and dance there. Later Council records and newspaper reports indicate that high school graduation receptions, School Committee meetings, Fire Department socials, and other such events were held at the Town House for several decades. In 1906, a Committee on Town Property was established to handle "the letting of the Town Hall for all occasions." (This is one of the earliest uses of the phrase "Town Hall" in town records, appearing to refer specifically to the Assembly Hall rather than the entire building.) Architectural plans from 1941 show an Assembly Hall occupying most of the second-floor level of the building, with a platform on its west side that probably served as a dais or stage. (See *Figure 7-2.*)<sup>48</sup>

At about the same time that work began on the new Town House, all the mills and additional lands in Valley Falls owned by the Valley Falls Company were transferred to the Albion Company. In exchange, everything in the village of Albion that was owned by the Albion

<sup>47</sup> Cumberland Town Council records, Vol. 15 (1893-1897), pp. 30, 36-37, and 65.

<sup>48</sup> Cumberland Town Council Records, Vols. 16 (1897-1903) and 17 (1903-1910).

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Company was conveyed to the Valley Falls Company.<sup>49</sup> Thus, the Albion Company became the owner of the company store at 16 Mill Street. As the new Town House displaced the Valley Falls Post Office, it found a new home around the corner at 16 Mill Street. How exactly this came about was not discovered, but putting the village post office inside a company store owned by, and located directly across the street from, the village's largest employer made a lot of sense. The 1895 atlas depicts both the new Town Hall and the post office in its new location on Mill Street (*see Figure 2*).

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, local newspapers regularly mentioned the Valley Falls post office, with notices of: letters awaiting collection; the appointment of a new postmaster; the rental of a room in the "Post Office Building" to a local clergyman, and that clergyman's offering of a bible study class there; and some pending renovations to the building:

For a number of years the Post Office has been located on Mill Street in a building owned by the Albion Company, occupying the east store. The room was fitted with store fixtures, with the office proper in the rear. ...

When [Postmaster Alvin] Miller assumed his office [the previous year], he did not make use of the store fixtures. He decided on changes, and to move into the west room of the building. The fixtures were abandoned, and the new office was divided by a partition, in one part of which are the 200 [P.O.] boxes, drawers, a stamp window and a general delivery window, with a door. The boxes are at a sufficient height to be seen well by any person. In the public office is a neat desk and the usual accommodations for those who wish to write. The office is well lighted.

The private part of the office is arranged to meet the demands that have been noticed by experience. Besides, the window in the side of the office overlooks the lawn of the Town House and commands a view of Broad Street. This also affords plenty of fresh air.<sup>50</sup>

The "east and west stores" in this building are illustrated on the 1923 Sanborn map, which shows the building address as 12-16 Mill Street (*see Figure 4*).

The Post Office Building also housed another important village institution and community center: the Valley Falls Free Library.

Cumberland's first public library (meaning a collection of books made available for general use, albeit sometimes for a fee) was the Social Library in the northwest part of town (1792). The Cumberland Library (1812) and the Cumberland Literary Society and Union Library (1820) in

<sup>49</sup> Central Falls Deed Book 70, Pages 170-186, May 12, 1894 (originally recorded in Lincoln). Also Cumberland Deed Book 42, Pages 568-575, May 12, 1894. Also Hayley, pp. 115-116.

<sup>50</sup> *Pawtucket Evening Times*, August 9, 1899, p. 5.

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Cumberland Hill soon followed. These were among dozens of early libraries established all over Rhode Island, which were “organized because of the zeal and initiative of a smaller number of persons in each instance, were popular and thrived for a time, were too poorly patronized and inadequately supported after the initial enthusiasm to renew collections by purchasing new books, and were scattered by carelessness or discontinued by agreement. The average life was 25 or 30 years ...”<sup>51</sup> Of over sixty libraries established in Rhode Island before 1870, barely a dozen still survived that year, typically thanks to substantial private financial support. One example was the Carrington Library (1853), later reorganized as the Harris Institute (1868) in Cumberland.<sup>52</sup>

In 1875, the General Assembly enacted legislation “providing state support for free public libraries maintaining collections of books and library service approved by the State Board of Education.” The one essential requirement was that ‘the books must be free to all comers ...’ ” (The Harris Institute in Cumberland qualified for state funding in 1876.) Over the next two decades, 45 free libraries were established across Rhode Island, all with state funding for the purchase of books, while the local community was responsible for operational control and expenses. Among these was the Valley Falls Free Library, opened by 1885 and reorganized in 1899.<sup>53</sup> A *Pawtucket Times* article from 1898 reported:

In the Post Office Building at Valley Falls there is a good library which at one time was open to the public. It did not receive the support it deserved and those who took an interest in it gradually let it go down until at the present time it is closed to the public. ...

[I]t is believed that if a library association were organized, the membership fee of which would be small, many of the citizens would join it. The cost of maintaining the library would not be great and even if the membership fee did not meet the expenses it is believed that a sufficient amount could be raised by holding entertainments from time to time.

The library is well stocked with books, most of which have been contributed by the residents of Valley Falls and Central Falls. Mrs. Chace at one time took an active interest in the library and under her direction it met with a fair measure of success, but since she withdrew from the management of it, it has not been so well patronized.<sup>54</sup>

A subsequent article noted that the library had occupied the Mill Street building since at least 1892 (before the post office moved in):

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<sup>51</sup> Carroll, p. 1072.

<sup>52</sup> Carroll, p. 1075.

<sup>53</sup> Carroll, pp. 1075-1076.

<sup>54</sup> *Pawtucket Times*, October 22, 1898, p. 7.

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The library was open to the public for many years prior to February 17, 1897, when its doors were closed to the public for want of support. During the last five years of its being open it was under the direction of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. There are on the shelves of the library between 1,900 and 2,000 books, many of them being high priced volumes and as a whole they form an assortment from which the tastes of all book-lovers may be suited.<sup>55</sup>

The references in each article to Mrs. [Elizabeth Buffum] Chace and the Women's Christian Temperance Union being directors of the library probably meant service on the board of trustees, rather than as library staff. Mrs. Chace was active in the temperance movement (among her many other reform interests), and she also worked to improve the welfare of her husband's mill employees through a variety of initiatives. Whether she was directly involved in the initial decision to provide a free library within the Valley Falls Company store is unknown.

The reorganized Valley Falls Library Association first met in 1898 "in the library room in the Post Office Building in Valley Falls."<sup>56</sup> Within a few weeks the Association had hired a temporary librarian, set a schedule of regular opening hours (four nights a week), and introduced a separate reading room stocked with magazines and newspapers. The library reopened in November 1898. The Association established a membership fee of \$1 per year for those interested in library governance or in providing financial support, but any Valley Falls resident could borrow books at no charge.<sup>57</sup> To bring in additional revenue, the Association organized regular entertainments at the library, such as lectures, musical performances, and magic lantern shows.

A 1900 newspaper article about a new "Boys' Parlour" at the library (a gathering space across the hall from the main library, where boys aged 9 to 16 could meet to play games and other amusements, under supervision, and thus avoid disturbing other patrons with their noisy "high spirits") confirmed the location of the library spaces within the Mill Street building:

The Valley Falls Library occupies one large room in a building owned by the Albion Company on Mill Street, just east of the Cumberland Town House, this room being half of the upper floor. A part of this is devoted to library purposes and a part is used as a reading room.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> *Pawtucket Times*, November 2, 1898, p. 5.

<sup>56</sup> *Pawtucket Times*, October 3, 1899, p. 5.

<sup>57</sup> *Pawtucket Times*, November 19, 1898, p. 5.

<sup>58</sup> *Pawtucket Times*, March 1, 1900, p. 5.

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In 1903, the Town of Cumberland purchased from the Albion Company an additional lot of land of about 1,500 square feet behind (east of) the Town Hall.<sup>59</sup>

Three years later, the Albion Company transferred ownership of thirty lots and parcels of land in Valley Falls (including the lot on which 16 Mill Street stood) to the Cumberland Land Company.<sup>60</sup> The following year, 1907, the first-floor level of the Mill Street building was renovated to accommodate both the post office and the library (both were still renting space here). “This room is better adapted for library purposes than the upper one, as it is more easily accessible and in a position to attract attention from the street,” making the library much more visible to passersby.<sup>61</sup> This seems to have been a very positive move: by 1910, the library was serving 200 regular patrons and counted 3,000 books in circulation; and those numbers continued to increase as time went on. The first town directory of Cumberland (1909) listed the Valley Falls Free Library at 14 Mill Street; it remained at that address for another eleven years.

In 1920, in response to a petition from the Valley Falls Public Library Association, the Cumberland Town Council approved the use of the basement of the Town Hall for library purposes.<sup>62</sup> (Architectural plans dated 1948 show a library space in the southwest corner of the basement level; *see Figure 8*.) The library’s relocation was prompted by the Cumberland Land Company’s sale of the Mill Street building to Seraphim C. Cardanha and Ezequiel A. Pires. These men were part of a wave of Portuguese immigrants who began arriving in Rhode Island around 1910, many of them settling in Valley Falls.<sup>63</sup> Both first appeared in the 1919 town directory as proprietors of a grocery store called Pires & Cardanha at 125 Broad Street, just a couple of blocks north of Town Hall. The men evidently purchased the Mill Street building to expand this business: the 1922 business directory lists Mr. Cardanha (under what was apparently his middle name, Cerfina) as a grocer at 125 Broad Street, and Mr. Pires as a grocer at 125 Broad Street and 12-16 Mill Street. (The 1922 residents’ directory listed both Pires and Cardanha as grocers at 12-16 Mill Street, and as residents of the same address with their wives Alda and Zulmira). This confirms when the second floor was converted into an apartment. (The garage behind the building, shown on the 1923 Sanborn map, was likely built by Pires and Cardanha for their personal automobiles.) The two families continued to live together above the grocery through the 1920s.

<sup>59</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 49, Page 380, April 25, 1903.

<sup>60</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 53, Pages 246-257, and specifically p. 249; October 25, 1906.

<sup>61</sup> *Pawtucket Times*, December 11, 1907, p. 7.

<sup>62</sup> Cumberland Town Council Records, Vol. 19 (1917-1925), p. 191.

<sup>63</sup> Cunha et al., pp. 8-10.

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By the time the Great Depression hit in 1929, the textile industry was already beginning to decline in New England. Valley Falls took a particularly hard hit in the 1930s: most of the mill complex on the south side of the Blackstone was lost to fire, and the north side mills were torn down. Today, only some foundation ruins, hydraulic mechanisms, the raceways, and the dam survive within the Valley Falls Heritage Park (built 1993-1995).

Pires and Cardanha parted ways as business partners in 1937, when Ezequiel Pires quitclaimed to Seraphim Cardanha all his title and interest in the property at 12-16 Mill Street. Three years later, Cardanha sold both the property and the grocery business to Joaquim and Maria Amaral; this sale included “Two (2) scales; ice box; counter; show case; sales slip register; safe; platform scale; shelves; together with any and all other similar articles located upon said premises.”<sup>64</sup> The Amarals operated their own grocery business in this location, and lived in the second floor apartment, until at least 1988. Joaquim Amaral also served on the Zoning Board of Review for nearly 30 years; when he retired, a Town Council resolution directed that “a letter of appreciation to be forwarded to Mr. Joaquim Amaral for his very loyal and fantastic performance of duty as a member of the Zoning Board of Review since the organizational meeting held on December 17, 1952, and on behalf of the Town of Cumberland, extend to him a most sincere wish for the best of luck and good health in his retirement.”<sup>65</sup> In 1996, Joaquim Amaral transferred the Mill Street property (which by then was vacant) to his daughters, Margaret Amaral and Miquelina Neves; after her sister Margaret’s death, Mrs. Neves sold the property to the Town of Cumberland in 2007.<sup>66</sup>

Cumberland embarked on several campaigns of exterior and interior repairs and alterations to Town Hall in the 1940s, 1960s, and 1990s (see Section 7 for more information). The town also acquired, in 1968, several neighboring lots to the north (next to Town Hall) and west (across Broad Street), demolished the existing buildings and paved the sites for surface parking.<sup>67</sup>

Cumberland has also made some changes to its form of government: Edward J. Hayden, formerly the Town Engineer, served as the first Town Administrator from 1966 to 1978. He was succeeded by Francis Stetkiewicz, who in 1980 became Cumberland’s first Mayor after the Town adopted a Home Rule Charter.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 88, Page 60, November 9, 1937. Also Deed Book 90, Pages 555 and 556, June 6, 1940.

<sup>65</sup> Cumberland Town Council records, Vol. 29 (March 1977-April 1982), p. 281.

<sup>66</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 665, Page 423, April 5, 1996; Deed Book 1377, Page 322, April 4, 2007.

<sup>67</sup> Cumberland Deed Book 212, Pages 121-124, February 14, 1968.

<sup>68</sup> Balfour, p. 190.

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In 1975, the Cumberland Town Council voted to establish a town-wide public library, which was subsequently situated on the grounds of the former Monastery of Our Lady of the Valley on Diamond Hill Road. The new library was named for Town Administrator Edward J. Hayden, an early supporter of this plan.<sup>69</sup>

Today, Cumberland Town Hall remains a landmark Colonial Revival style public building in Valley Falls, and a symbol of civic pride in Cumberland. The former Post Office and Library Building notably remains one of the few nearly intact late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings in Valley Falls. The siting of these two buildings next door to each other on either side of a prominent corner, and the location of a veterans' memorial in that same spot, visually emphasizes their historic roles as community centers: places where people of different economic and social strata came together to exercise their right of self-government, to communicate with others near and far, to debate, to learn, to socialize, and to foster their sense of community, identity, and commonality. Both buildings remain historically and architecturally significant to Valley Falls and to Cumberland, and merit listing on the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>69</sup> Town Council Records, Vol. 28, Nov. 1970-Mar. 1977, p. 407.



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Pawtucket Times, October 22, 1898, p. 7; November 2, 1898; October 3, 1899, p. 5; November 8, 1898, p. 5; November 15, 1898, p. 5; February 22, 1899, p. 5; March 4, 1899, p. 5; March 23, 1899, p. 5; October 10, 1899, p. 5; February 6, 1906, p. 5; December 11, 1907, p. 7; February 25, 1909, p. 5; October 24, 1910, p. 7; February 18, 1916, p. 9; May 26, 1995, Cumberland-Lincoln Edition, p. 4.

Woonsocket Call, November 13, 1951, Suburban Edition, p.2.

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#### **Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

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**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** approx. 1.2 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. (A). Latitude: 41.901150 | Longitude: -71.390957 |
| 2. (B.) Latitude: 41.901257 | Longitude: -71.390478 |
| 3. (C). Latitude: 41.900677 | Longitude: -71.390256 |
| 4. (D). Latitude: 41.900725 | Longitude: -71.390077 |
| 5. (E). Latitude: 41.900332 | Longitude: -71.390026 |
| 6. (F). Latitude: 41.900302 | Longitude: -71.390646 |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

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

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

The district boundaries conform exactly with the bounds of two abutting properties that the Town of Cumberland's Tax Assessor identifies as 45 Broad Street (Assessor's Plat 2, Lot 95) and 16 Mill Street (Assessor's Plat 2, Lot 96). (*See Figure 11.*)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the entirety of the two properties owned by the Town of Cumberland, which were in municipal ownership and/or public use during the period of significance.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh, Preservation Consultant  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 82 Larch Street  
city or town: Providence state: RI zip code: 02906  
e-mail kathycavanaugh@cox.net  
telephone: 401-273-4715  
date: April 15, 2019

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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Figure 1:

Beers atlas of 1870, showing the future site of the Cumberland Town Hall Historic District at the corner of Broad and Mill Streets, owned by the Valley Falls Company. The Valley Falls Post Office was already situated here. The Valley Falls Company Mills stood on both sides of the Blackstone River, with direct access to the Providence & Worcester Railroad line.

Detail below.



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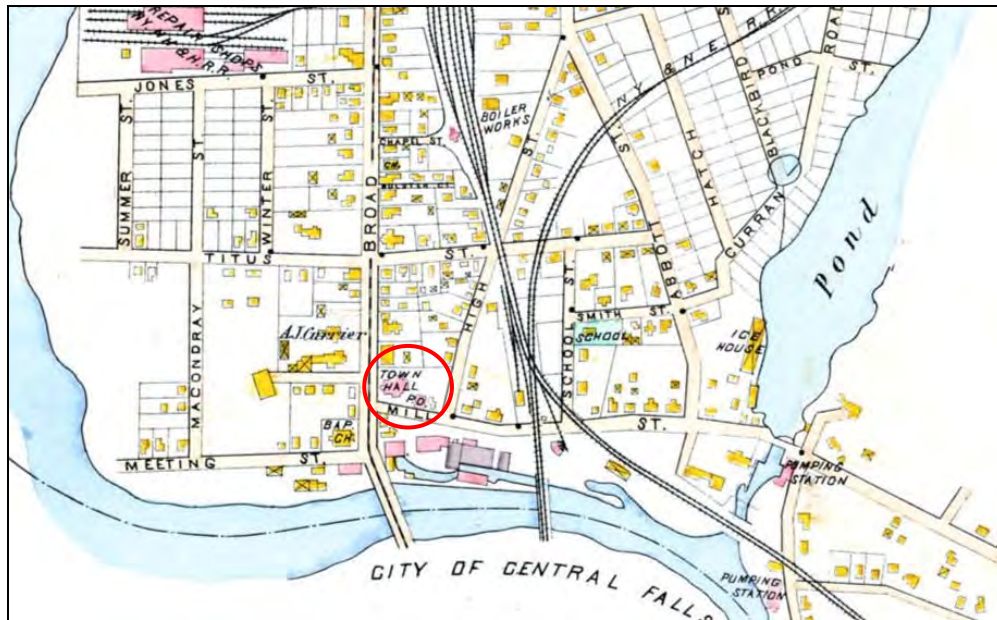


Figure 2:

Everts & Richards atlas of 1895, showing the new Town Hall and Post Office in Valley Falls. Detail below.



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**Figure 3:**  
1895 images of Cumberland Town Hall, at left,  
and its contemporary, Warwick Town Hall, at right.

Source: William R. Walker Architectural Portfolio

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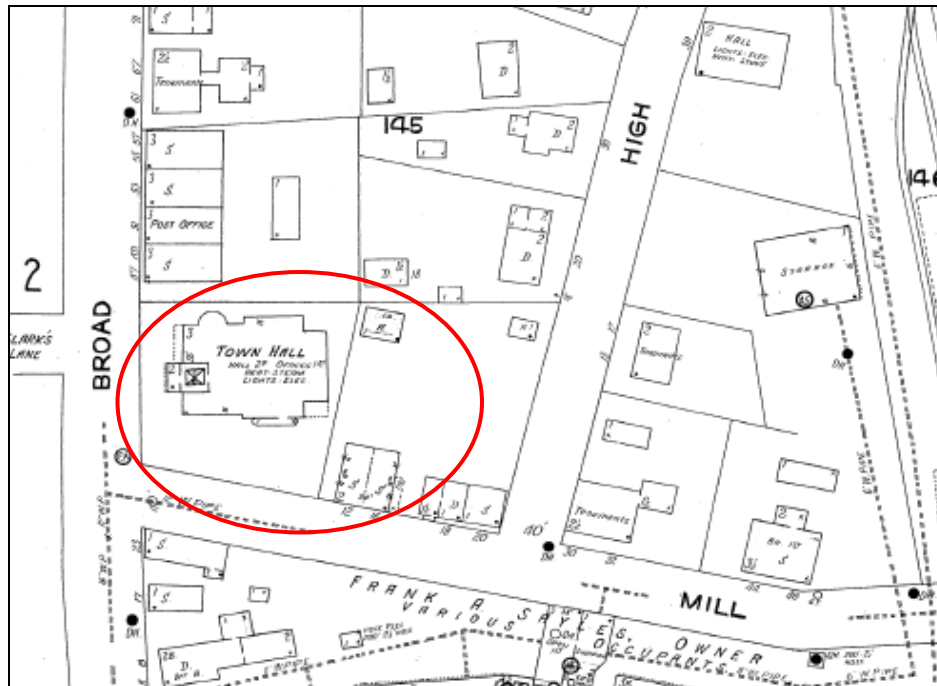
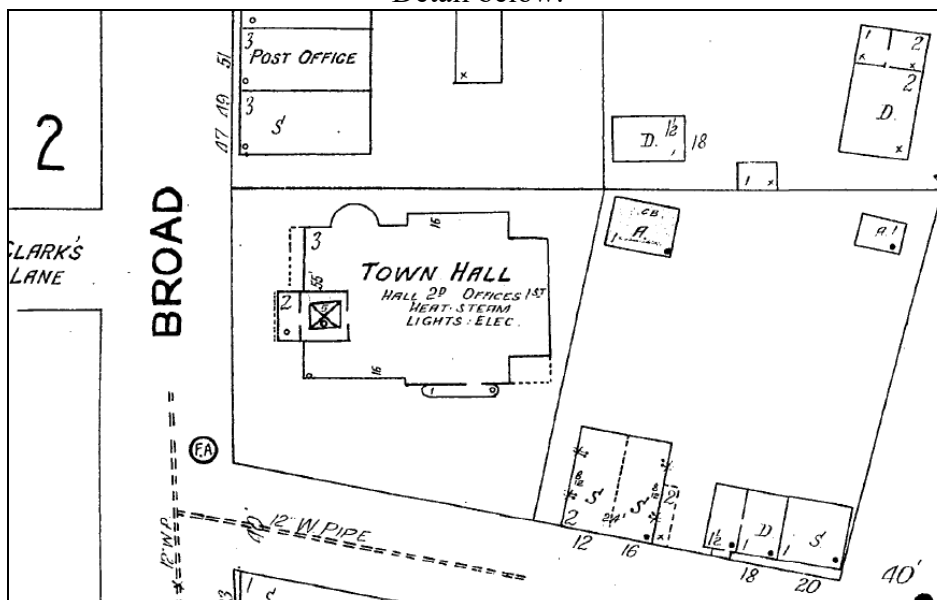


Figure 4:

Sanborn map of 1923, showing the 3-story Town Hall and the adjacent commercial building at “12-16” Mill Street, here identified as a 2-story, two-unit “store,” with a 2-story open structure (likely, an exterior stairway) on its east side and a 1-story garage behind it. The post office had relocated to another multi-unit commercial building just north of Town Hall (now a municipal parking lot), while the library had moved into the Town Hall by this time.

Detail below.

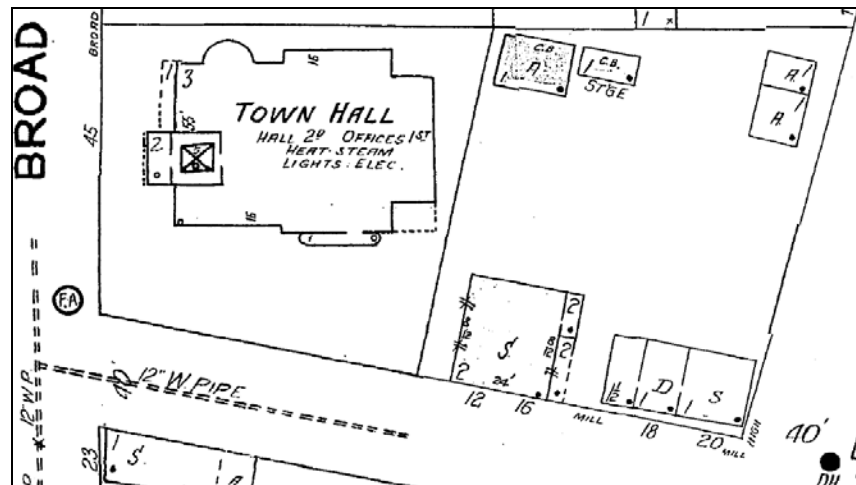


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**Figure 5:**

1947 Sanborn map, showing some minor changes to "12-16" Mill Street: now a single store, with two small 2-story structures on its east side, and a 1-story concrete block storage building next to the garage. (The building at 18-20 Mill Street and its garages no longer exist.)



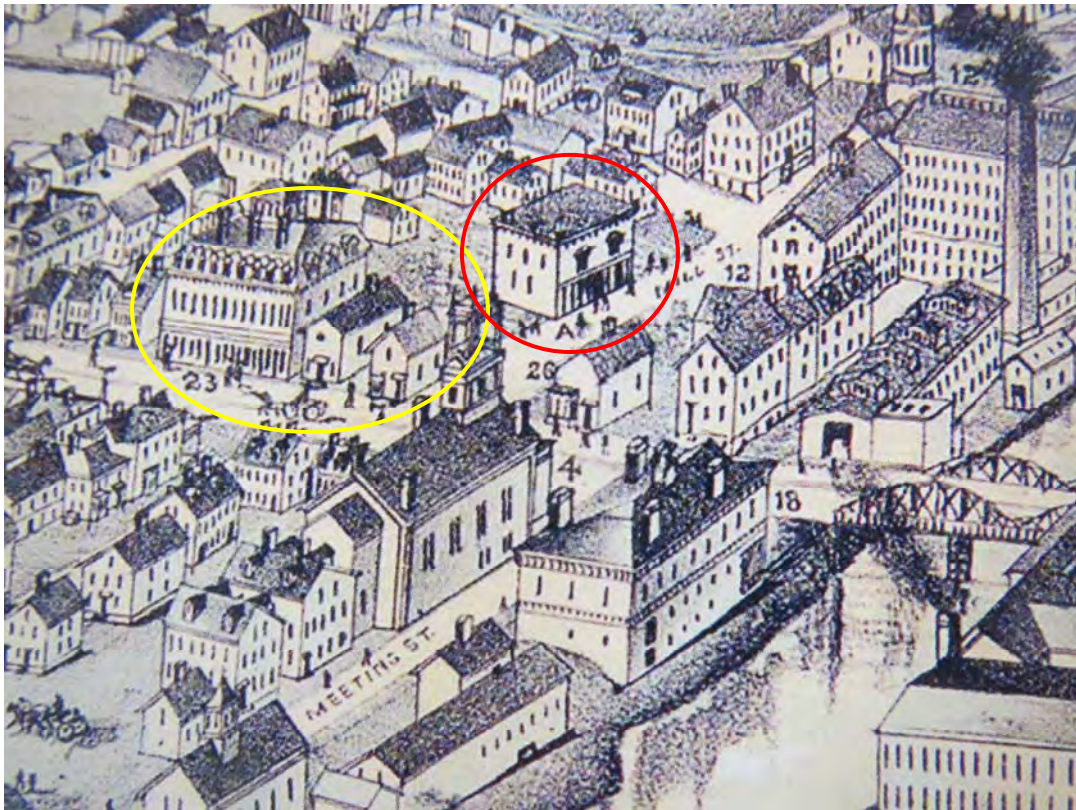
2004 photo of 16 Mill Street, showing the exterior stairway and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor enclosure illustrated on the 1947 Sanborn map, before removal.  
(Source: Cumberland Office of Planning and Community Development)

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**Figure 6:**

Bird's Eye View of Valley Falls, RI - this map was evidently drawn at some point between the 1870 and 1895 atlases. If the buildings circled in yellow are the same ones shown on the 1870 atlas (see Figure 1), all on the current site of Town Hall, then the large commercial building at left was the site of the post office, and could easily also have accommodated the Town Clerk's office and the existing "Town House" [meeting hall] referenced in an 1893 newspaper article. The building circled in red appears to be the commercial building at 16 Mill Street, confirming that it predates Town Hall.

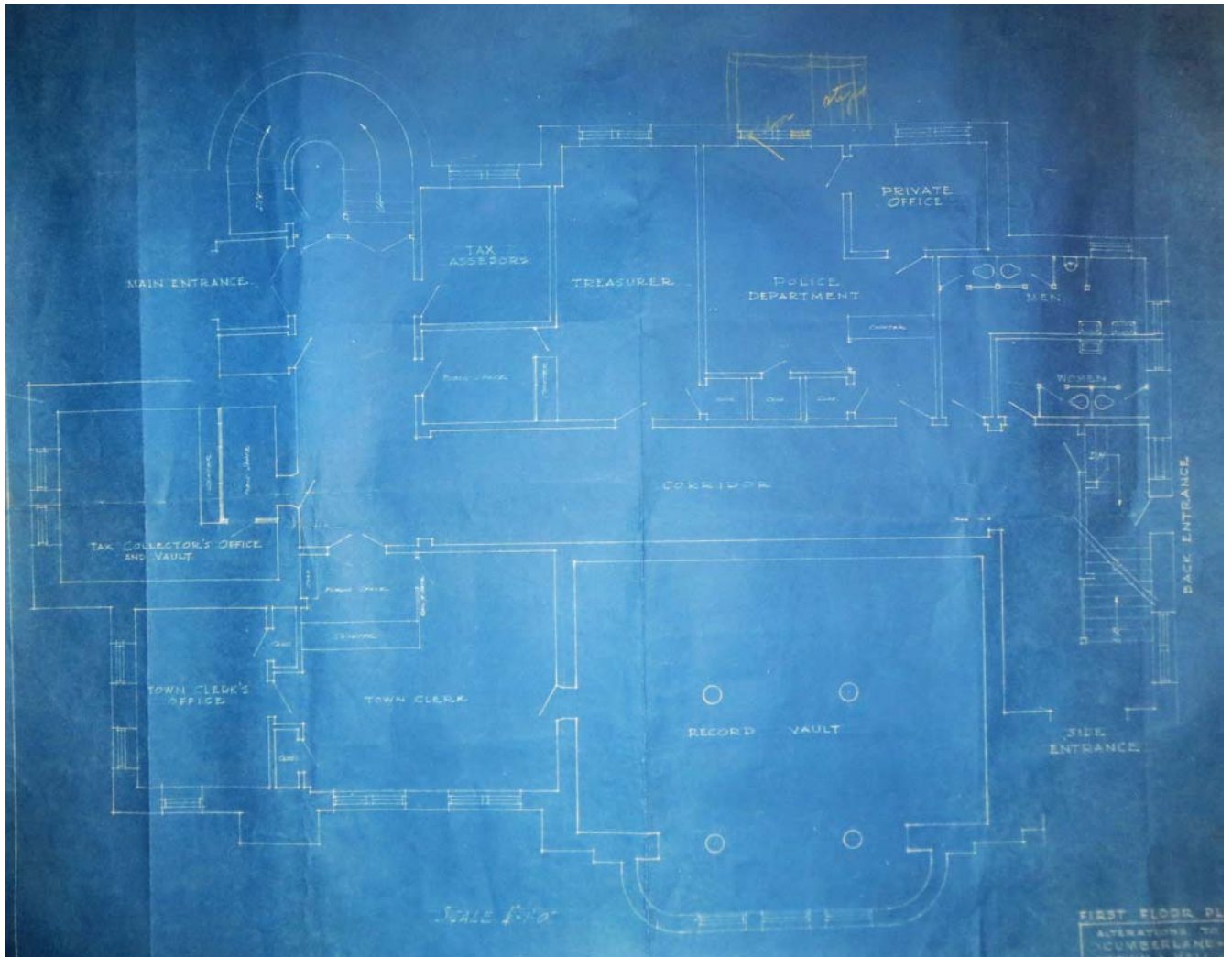


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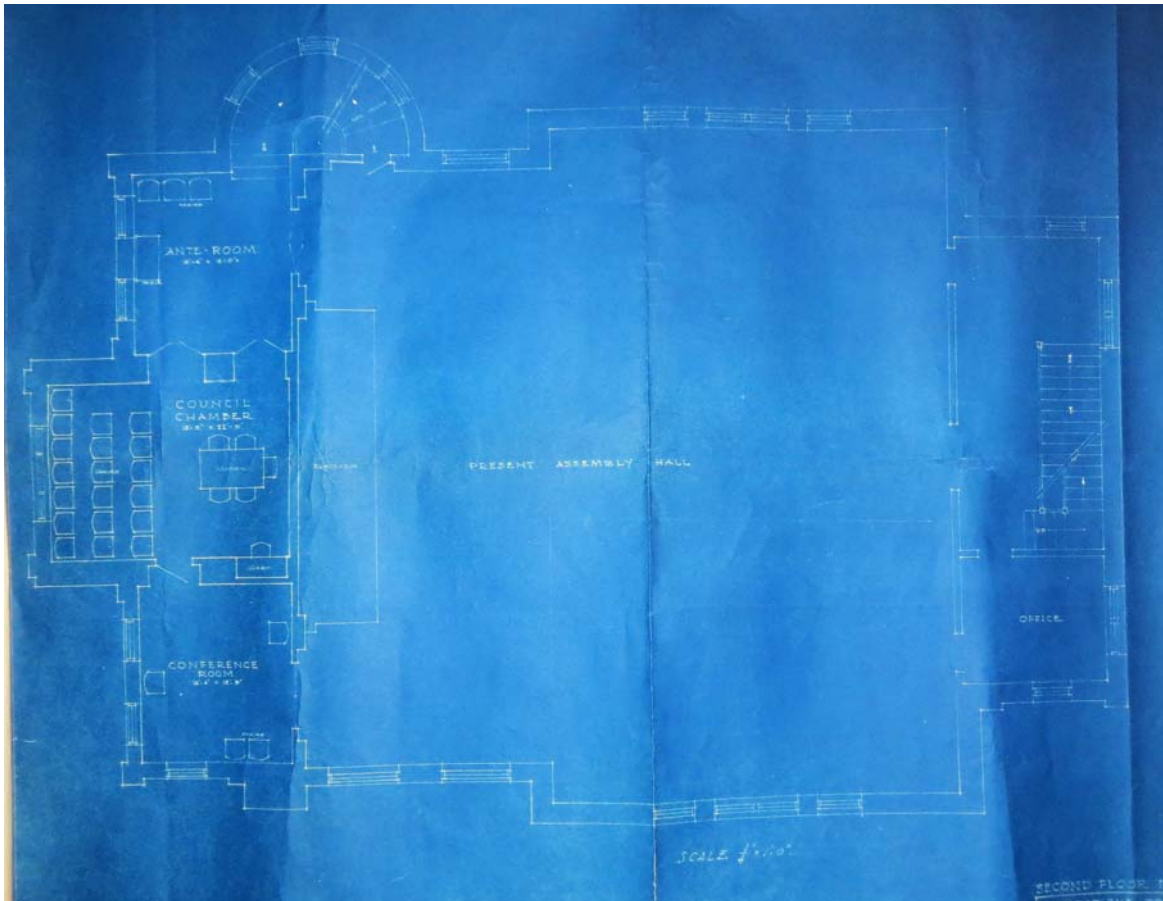
**Figure 7-1:**  
1941 plan of Cumberland Town Hall, first floor.

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**Figure 7-2:**  
1941 plan of Cumberland Town Hall, second floor, showing the  
former Assembly Hall and Council Chamber.

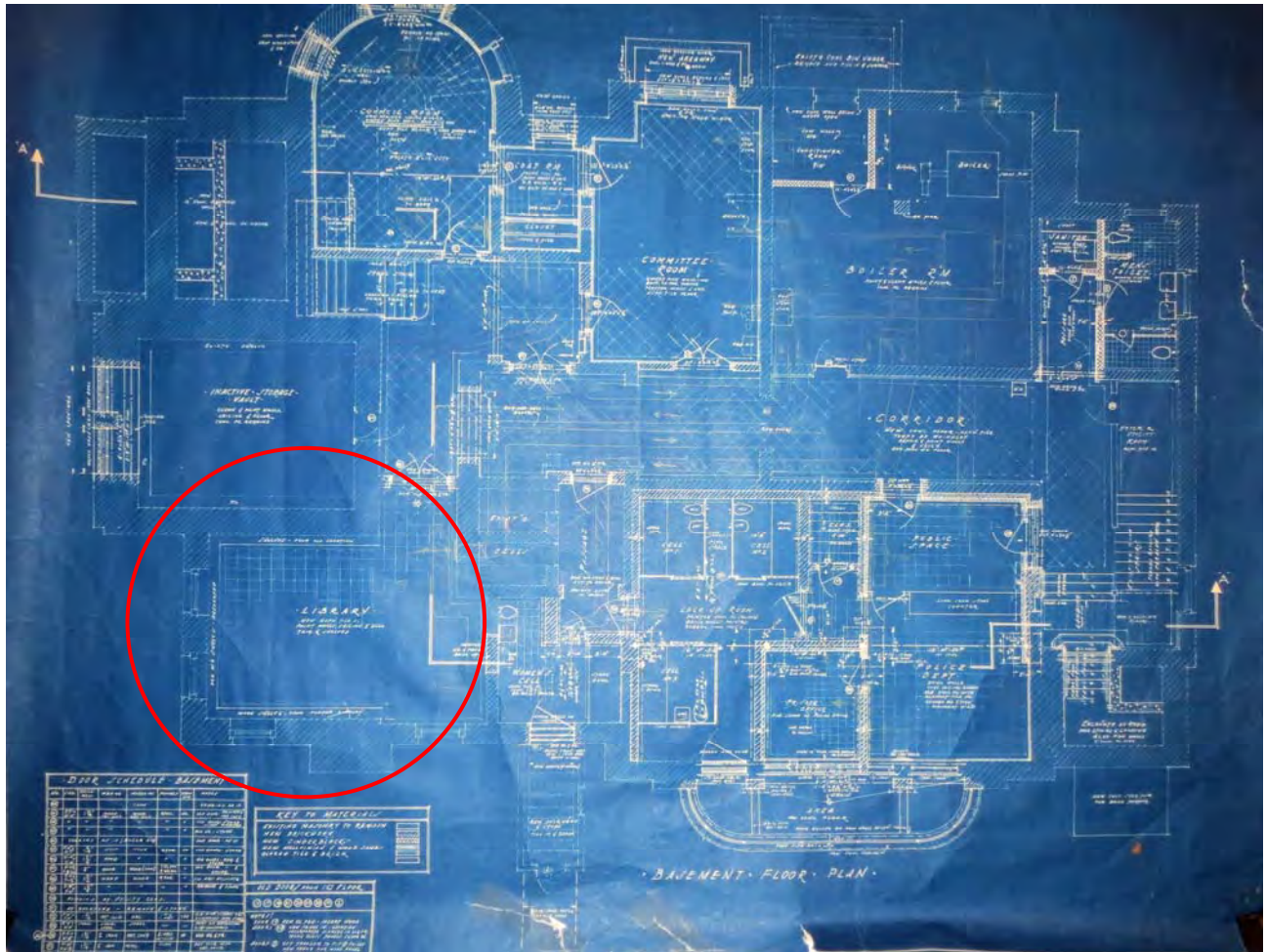


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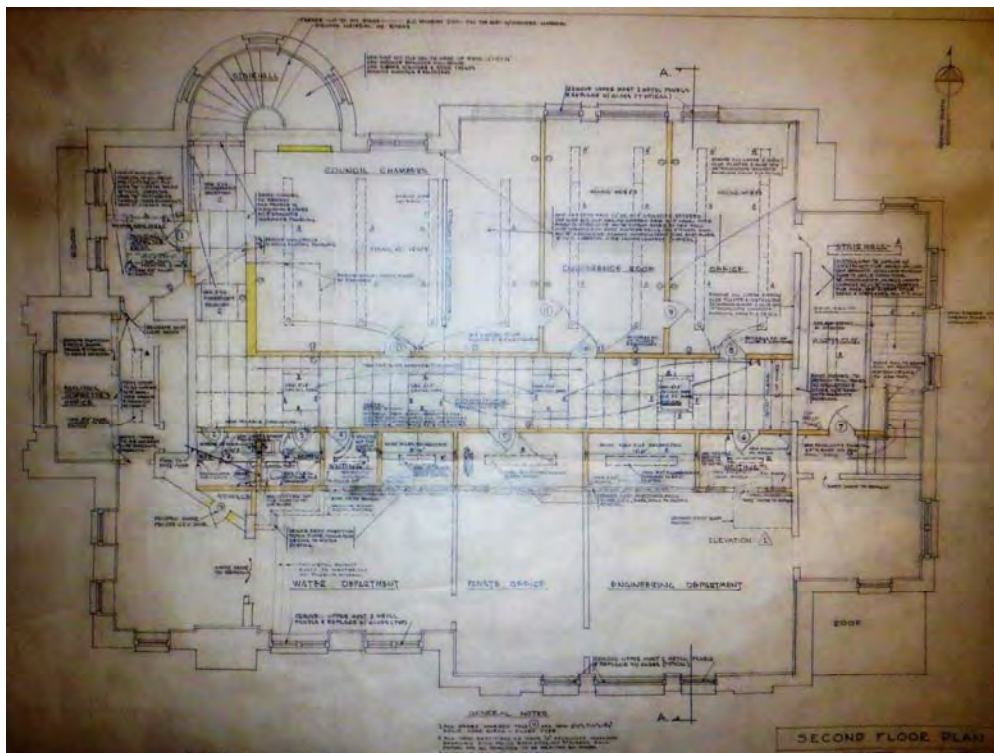
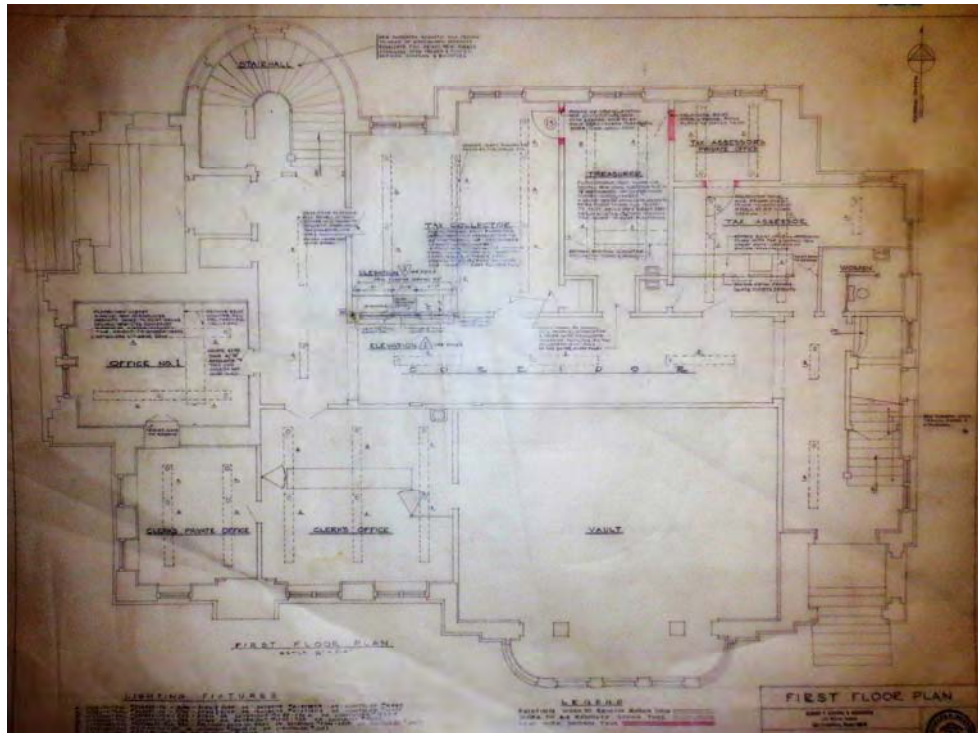
**Figure 8:**  
1948 basement plan of Cumberland Town Hall, showing the Valley Falls Free Library space in the southwest corner.

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name of Property

PROVIDENCE CO., R.I.

County and State



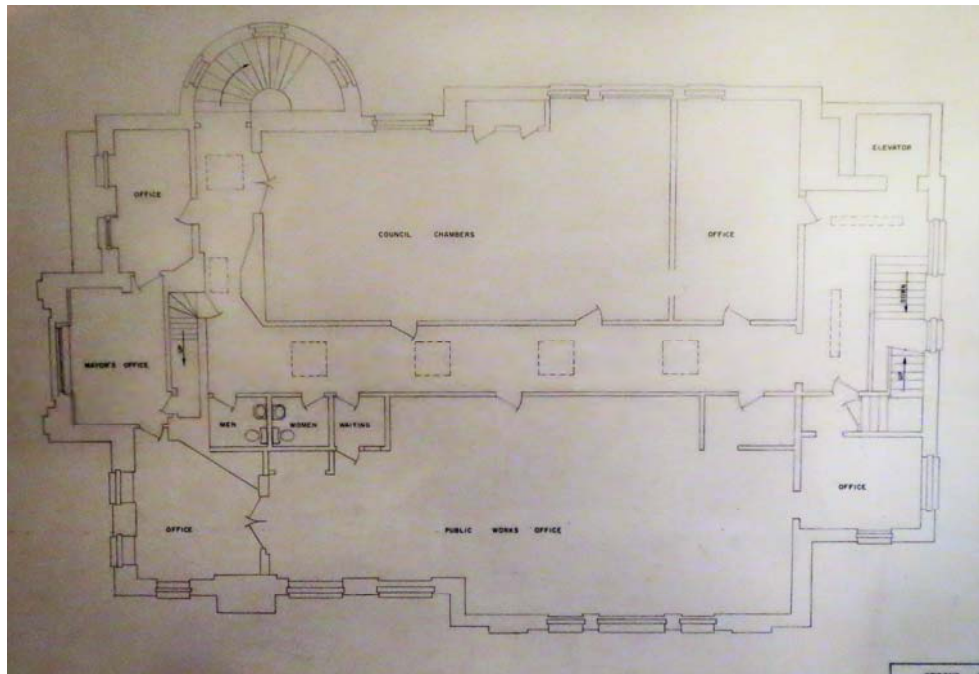
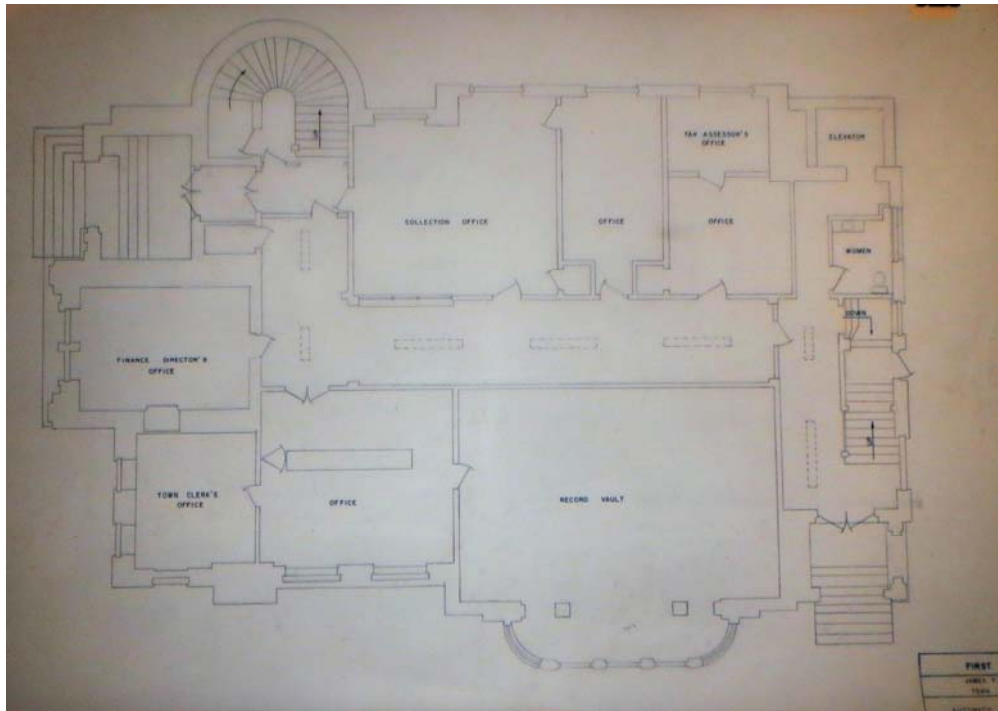
**Figure 9:**  
1966 renovation plans for Town Hall, first and second floors

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

Name of Property

PROVIDENCE CO., R.I.

County and State



**Figure 10:**  
1966 renovation plans for Town Hall, first and second floors

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name of Property

PROVIDENCE CO., R.I.

County and State



**Figure 11:**  
Cumberland Town Assessor's Plat 2, Lot 95 (45 Broad Street) and Lot 96 (16 Mill Street).

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

Name of Property

PROVIDENCE CO., R.I.

County and State

### Photographs

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

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Cumberland Town Hall Historic District

City or Vicinity: Cumberland

County: Providence

State: RI

Photographer: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh

Date Photographed: November 2018 and February 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0001  
View of Town Hall (45 Broad Street) and the former Post Office & Library (16 Mill Street), looking northeast.
- 2 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0002  
View of the former Post Office & Library (16 Mill Street) and Town Hall (45 Broad Street), looking northwest.
- 3 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0003  
View of Town Hall, west (Broad Street) façade, looking southeast.
- 4 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0004  
View of Town Hall, south (Mill Street) elevation, looking northwest.
- 5 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0005  
View of Town Hall, east (rear) elevation, looking west.
- 6 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0006  
View of Town Hall, north elevation, looking southeast.
- 7 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0007  
Town Hall, stair from basement to first floor, northwest corner of building, looking north.

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

Name of Property

PROVIDENCE CO., R.I.

County and State

- 8 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0008  
Town Hall, four basement jail cells, looking west.
- 9 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0009  
Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Town Council chamber, showing (through high windows)  
arch over original Assembly Hall platform, looking southwest.
- 10 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0010  
Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, column supporting north end of arch over original Assembly  
Hall platform, looking south.
- 11 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0011  
View of the former Post Office & Library, south façade, looking north.
- 12 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0012  
View of the former Post Office & Library, south façade and east elevation,  
looking northwest.
- 13 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0013  
View of the former Post Office & Library, north (rear) and west elevations,  
looking southeast.
- 14 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0014  
View of the former Post Office & Library, south façade and east elevation,  
showing the garage at rear, looking northeast.
- 15 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0015  
View of the garage at 16 Mill Street, looking northeast.
- 16 of 16 RI\_ProvidenceCo\_CumberlandTownHallHD\_0016  
View of the statue on the Town Hall property, looking northeast.

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

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



SPEED  
LIMIT  
25



CUMBERLAND  
TOWN HALL





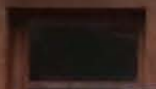


Clock face on the tower.

TOWN OF CUMBERLAND MICHIGAN



NO PARKING













EXIT

CAPACITY OF THIS ROOM IS NOT TO EXCEED 100

NOTICE

NOTICE



















DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF  
ALMIGHTY GOD IN MEMORY OF  
CUMBERLAND MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO BY THEIR UNSELFISH  
PATRIOTISM HAVE ADVANCED  
THE AMERICAN IDEALS OF  
LIBERTY AND THE UNIVERSAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

SERVANT OF GOD WELL DONE.  
WELL HAST THOU FOUGHT  
THE BETTER FIGHT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Cumberland Town Hall Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: RHODE ISLAND, Providence

Date Received: 9/6/2019      Date of Pending List: 9/20/2019      Date of 16th Day: 10/7/2019      Date of 45th Day: 10/21/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004532

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      10/21/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Cumberland Town Hall Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Politics/Government, Education, and Architecture. Dominated by the three-story brick City Hall (1894), the district represents the civic and governmental heart of the small mill village of Valley Falls/Cumberland. Civic efforts to construct the community's first purpose-built municipal building at this location reflected the growing importance of the Valley Falls area of Cumberland as the business, governmental, and industrial focal point of the area. The adjacent re-purposed mill property served as the local post office and municipal library for many years reinforcing the civic nature of the district. Both buildings reflect well-preserved local examples of late-nineteenth century brick construction, with the City Hall in particular conveying a sense of the wealth and prosperity of the mill town during the historic period.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criteria A and C

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan      Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229      Date: 10/21/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : **Yes**



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209  
TEL (401) 222-2678 FAX (401) 222-2968  
TTY / Relay 711 Website [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)



28 August 2019

Dr. Julie Ernstein  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the **Cumberland Town Hall Historic District** in Cumberland, Rhode Island, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Notification procedures required by law have been followed. The nomination has been reviewed by the Rhode Island Review Board and approved.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Emidy  
Deputy Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure