

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smithfield Exchange Bank

other names/site number Resolved Waterman Tavern Ell, Greenville Hotel

2. Location

street & number 599 Putnam Pike not for publication

city or town Smithfield vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007 zip code 02828

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edward Sanderson Date 3 MARCH 2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

4.19.06
Date of Action

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Name of Property

Providence County, RI

County and State

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.)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FEDERAL

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: shingle

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

7

Page

1

DESCRIPTION

The Smithfield Exchange Bank is a two-story, end gable, frame building located on Putnam Pike in the village of Greenville in Smithfield, Rhode Island. The building is located on a heavily-used, mostly commercial section of U.S. Route 44, a former 18th- and 19th-century turnpike road which ran from Providence, Rhode Island, west to Putnam, Connecticut.

A tavern built by Resolved Waterman in 1733 served turnpike travelers on this road until 1902. The Smithfield Exchange Bank was built as one of two ells on the tavern. The main section of the tavern was demolished in 1936 as part of a road improvement project. At that time, both of the tavern's ells were modified to stand alone. One of the ells has since been demolished, but the ell housing the bank has survived.

After the 1936 demolition of the tavern, a new façade and a partial west wall were constructed for the bank building—twentieth-century balloon framing was integrated into the earlier post-and-beam construction of the bank. The resulting structure was a residence from 1936 to 1969; it has been vacant since.

Exterior

The foundation combines dry- and wet-laid fieldstone and ashlar with some 20th-century concrete fill. Fieldstone bulkheads leading to a full cellar are on the west and north sides of the building. Integral with the north (rear) wall is a massive stone chimney for a hearth on each floor. The three fireplaces and the chimney from the garret up are brick, built onto one side of the stone stack; the stone work provides the support and structural security for the vault on the second floor. The cellar fireplace, which is in deteriorated condition, also includes a beehive oven. The chimney has been dismantled above the roofline.

The building is 30' wide by 26' deep. Weathered wood shingles cover original narrow clapboard sheathing. The roof pitches are asymmetrical; the original tavern had a hipped roof, the east slope of which was matched when the bank wing was built. Not visible from the street, the west slope was not required to match the east. The reconstruction of the four-bay façade in 1936 revealed this asymmetry. The building has a plain box cornice with a partial return.

Windows are wood and double hung, with simple trim, a mix of 12/12, 2/2, and 6/6 patterns. The 12/12 pattern has been identified as the original window form. Of the 21 window openings on the building, 17 are of this original 12/12 pattern. There are two exterior doors. The main entrance on the façade was originally a porch entrance. This two-story porch extended along the front of the tavern and wrapped around part of the east elevation to the bank ell. After the demolition of the tavern, this former porch entrance was fitted with a shed-roofed portico and fluted pilaster molding.¹ Although the portico has been removed recently, much of this detailing survives. A simple entrance is located on the west elevation.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

7

Page

2

Basement

In the northeast corner of the basement there is some evidence of a stairwell to the first floor. The present stairwell is of 20th-century construction. Before the demolition of the tavern, it is likely that passage between the first and second floors of the ell was provided from within the tavern proper. The large, stone chimney base on the north wall has a fireplace and a beehive oven.

Interior

The building has an almost-square footprint. A simple stair is located against the south wall of the building. A long wall, running south-to-north, separates each floor into two rooms, each about 24 feet by 14 feet. The walls and ceilings are unadorned plaster; the floors are wide wood planks.

On the first floor (see Figure 1), the western half of the building is further divided in two by a partition dating from the second half of the 20th-century; the northwest section of the western half of the first floor was outfitted as a kitchen. At the northeast corner of the kitchen is a small fireplace, set kitty-corner to the room. It has a simple Federal mantel. On the eastern side of the first floor is a large room, interrupted by the stair (on the south side), a large cupboard, about four feet by seven feet (at the north end), and a modern partition for a bathroom (also on the north end).

On the second floor (see Figure 2), the plan is repeated. The larger chamber on the western half of the building has a cove ceiling. As on the first floor, there is a modern bathroom partitioned off from the northeast corner of the east room.

Banking Features

Vault (north wall): A three-foot-square, masonry enclosure is located on the north wall of the second floor and incorporated into the masonry of the chimney. This vault is completely sheathed with narrow, wrought-iron plates bolted to the stonework. The outer doorway is composed of monolithic granite posts and a heavy lintel. The outer door is missing, but the inner door (also wrought iron plate) is in place. The masonry pier rising from the basement forms a two-foot thick enclosure around the vault.

Directors' Room (west side): The large room on the west side of the second floor served as a directors' meeting room, its cove ceiling marking it as a formal space. A later partition now divides the room, but the ceiling shows that it was once a single chamber. In the northeast corner of the room is a simple Federal mantel over an obliquely-set fireplace. There is also a molded chair rail. A six-panel door provides access between this room and the eastern room.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

7

Page

3

Bank Room (east side): The room on the east side of the second floor is roughly the same size as the Directors' Room, except for the space occupied by the vault and the stairwell. A 20th-century partition also encloses a bathroom in the northeast corner of the space. Mortices in the floor of this room (and patterns of wear on the floorboards) suggest that a banking counter was once located at the northern end of this room, separating the area around the vault from the open hall at the southern end of the room.

Smithfield Exchange Bank
Name of Property

Providence County, RI
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1822-1856

Significant Dates

1822

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

8

Page

1

SIGNIFICANCE

Though its integrity has been somewhat compromised, the Smithfield Exchange Bank (1822) is significant as a rare example of a 19th-century rural Rhode Island bank. The bank building embodies in its history several important aspects of the state's commercial history—it is typical of the banks of its era in its location, its capitalization, its leadership, and its patterns of lending. Even more significant, the bank building retains the distinctive physical characteristics of an early rural bank. A number of small bank buildings from the early 19th century survive in Rhode Island, but (so far as is known) the Smithfield Exchange is the only one whose interior physical arrangements still reflect their historic appearance and function. The presence here of the important elements of a typical bank plan, including the Directors' Room (with its fireplace and cove ceiling), the Bank Room (including the ghosts of the bank counter), and the stone-encased vault (with its steel plating), make this a unique document of the state's economic history.

Banking Features:

Naomi Lamoreaux's 1994 study of early southern New England banking practices, *Insider Lending*, provides a depiction of the spatial requirements of a 19th-century rural bank: a Directors' Room where decisions were made on loans, a vault to store paper currency and specie, and a Bank Room, with a counter separating an open hall from the vault. Frequently, the sole employee of a rural bank was the cashier, and his principal station would have been at the counter near the vault.

No counter survives at the Smithfield Exchange Bank (though its location can be determined from mortices and wear patterns in the floor), but in all other particulars this bank's second-floor spatial arrangements and finishes are typical of their time and rural location. Lamoreaux reproduces in *Insider Lending* an 1825 proposed floor plan for a bank in nearby Mendon, Massachusetts, which shows interior spatial arrangements similar in proportion and scale to the Smithfield Exchange Bank (see Figure 3).

The Smithfield Exchange Bank

In 1822 a group of shareholders in northwestern Rhode Island incorporated themselves as the Smithfield Exchange Bank. Economic historian Naomi Lamoreaux described this type of bank in *Insider Lending*.

Despite their large numbers [more than 300 by the 1830s], early banks—unlike modern institutions—rarely provided financial services to ordinary households. Their customers consisted almost entirely of local businessmen whose borrowings took a very different form from what is common today. Typically, early-nineteenth-century businessmen brought notes (IOUs) to their banks to have them “discounted.” Banks would advance borrowers an amount

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

8

Page

2

equal to the face value of their notes less an interest charge, and borrowers were then liable for the full value of the notes at maturity.ⁱⁱ

Lamoreaux has also pointed out that these banks “should be viewed less as commercial banks in the conventional sense of the term than as pools of capital managed by, and in the interests of, the institution’s directors.”ⁱⁱⁱ The Smithfield Exchange Bank fits this model well. Capitalized at \$40,000 (1000 shares at \$40 each), the bank was incorporated by Daniel Winsor^{iv} (who served as its first president until his death in 1823), Asa Winsor, Stephen Steere, Elisha Steere, Richard Smith, Silas Smith, Nathan B. Sprague, Joseph Mathewson, Dexter Irons, John S. Appleby, and Reuben Mowry.^v

Rhode Island historian Edward Field has defined four general periods of state banking:

1. *1791 to 1809*: A period of “chartered banking,” free from state supervision and organized for agricultural and commercial interests.
2. *1809 to 1840*: A period marked by the beginnings of state supervision and banking carried out almost wholly in the interests of manufacturing.
3. *1840 to 1865*: a period marked by inflation due to gold discovery and the Civil War, further state supervision, and industry reorganized by the use of steam power, and carried out by incorporated companies as opposed to co-partnerships.
4. *1865 to 1900*: A period marked by the importance of deposit and trust companies and a reorganization of industries due to better methods of credit and improved mechanical devices.^{vi}

The structure of the Smithfield Exchange Bank at the time of its incorporation appears to correspond to elements of the first and second periods as defined by Field. Although this was a state-chartered and regulated bank characteristic of the period from 1809-1840, it was established to serve the interests of an agricultural and small-scale industrial clientele in rural northwestern Rhode Island, a condition more characteristic of the first period (1791-1809).

Lamoreaux notes that “The operation of New England banks was shaped primarily by kinship networks—alliances of industrial enterprises and partnerships that were cemented by ties of marriage and consanguinity.”^{vii} A brief examination of the livelihood and family connections of a few of the original directors indicates these tightly knit financial and social bonds. Director Elisha Steere (1783-1849), for example, was a farmer who purchased two Smithfield farmsteads from the descendants of Resolved Waterman, Sr. He married Esther

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

8

Page

3

Appleby, the daughter of Thomas and Waite (Smith) Appleby. Esther was, in turn, related to another original director, farmer John Smith Appleby (1787-1857). Both Steere and Appleby were also small-scale industrialists, operating saw- and gristmills in the first half of the 19th-century.

Based on an “Abstract of the Returns of the several Banks made to the General Assembly, May Session, 1823,” Smithfield Exchange Bank ranked among the smallest of Rhode Island banks in terms of capital stock paid in and deposits (\$17,730 and \$2,476 respectively). A comparison between this level of financial activity and that of the Providence Bank in the same year gives some indication of the wide range of investment and deposit among Rhode Island banks: the Providence Bank had capital stock paid in of \$422,000 and deposits of \$24,124. The Smithfield Exchange Bank was the thirty-third state-chartered bank established in Rhode Island and the sixth in the northwestern part of the state.

It was a common practice in the early 19th century to house banks in public buildings or residences. Exchange banks of the type established in Greenville in 1822 did not seek general business from a broad clientele. For this reason, the establishment of a bank on a second floor rear ell of a tavern was entirely appropriate to the purpose of the institution—the making of loans to its directors. The physical layout of the bank, as suggested by the spatial arrangements of the surviving ell, reflects this purpose: a Directors’ Room, a Bank Room, and a vault. Nicholas Winsor (1797-1885) was the cashier of the bank from its inception to 1845 and the only salaried employee.^{viii} His nephew (and son of director Asa Winsor) held the position from 1845 to 1891.

The connection between the bank and its proximity to the tavern can be found in the by-laws governing Directors’ meetings:

The members of the Board of Directors will endeavor to be at the bank at 2:00 p.m. on Discount Day and continue in the bank rooms only two hours, unless on some urgent business, and leave sooner if possible. During our stay at the bank we will endeavor to have no needless conversation, such as storytelling, etc. but do the business with all possible dispatch. We shall drink no spirits in the bank room.^{ix}

The Smithfield Exchange Bank continued its operations in the rear ell of the tavern until 1856, at which time it was relocated to a new building next door that survives at 595 Putnam Pike.

Resolved Waterman Tavern

Resolved Waterman, Sr. (1667-1719) settled in Greenville in 1689. His migration to western Rhode Island was part of a broader pattern in which colonists from the settlement along Narragansett Bay moved to the interior to establish farmsteads. There is some evidence that Waterman established a gristmill along a stream that flows

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank	Smithfield	Providence County, RI
Name of Property	City/Town	County and State
Section Number <u>8</u>	Page <u>4</u>	

northerly in the village.^x Also typical of a regional settlement pattern, a village grew up around this small-scale industrial site which, by 1706, included a Six Principle Baptist Church.

By 1733 the various segments of a rural turnpike from Smith Hill in Providence to Putnam, Connecticut, had come together in the Putnam Pike (U.S. Route 44). This roughly 35-mile journey could take as long as two days. To address the needs of travelers for food and lodging, entrepreneurs, among them Resolved Waterman, Jr. (1703-1746), son of the original settler of Greenville, erected a series of taverns along the road. Waterman built his tavern in 1733 in the center of Greenville. Although the original size is unknown, a description of the tavern in its fullest development appeared in a 1947 *Providence Journal* article:

...a sprawling structure of twenty bedrooms and ten big fireplaces...a ballroom with iron chandeliers and a 10-foot music rack for the fiddlers, a wine cellar, mighty brick ovens and cooking kettles, a spacious barroom, a genteel parlor, a broad hall, and a big barn.^{xi}

The tavern apparently operated as a profitable enterprise, remaining in the Waterman family for a few generations and passing to the Mowry family by 1840. The Putnam Pike saw a significant decrease in highway traffic with the establishment of the Providence & Springfield Railroad, laid out along the path of the Woonasquatucket River in 1872. Commencing service in August 1873, this 21-mile line originated in Providence and terminated in Pascoag, Rhode Island, a route that bypassed Greenville.^{xii} The Mowry family, the last proprietors of the tavern, closed it in 1902, converting the building to a private home.^{xiii}

Increasing automobile use in the early 20th century generated significant traffic along Route 44 in Greenville. This was due in large measure to the establishment of the Washington Highway (State Route 116) in the early 1930s. This route, most of which was assembled from existing roads, entered Greenville, joining Route 44 for a short distance, and continuing south. This dogleg contributed to the inevitable backup that occurred when stagecoach-era turnpikes carried auto traffic.^{xiv} In 1935 the State of Rhode Island began planning a widening project for Route 44 that would also eliminate a dangerous curve in the vicinity of the tavern. The new highway line, passing through the tavern, required the demolition of the original building flanking the Putnam Pike (see Figure 5).

The state salvaged the two rear ells of the tavern. The west ell, which housed a ballroom, has since been demolished. The east ell, which housed the Smithfield Exchange Bank for over thirty years, was rebuilt as a freestanding structure.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

9

Page

1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books

Bayles, Richard M., Ed. *History of Providence County, Rhode Island*. New York: W.W. Preston and Co., 1891.

Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island. Providence: National Biographical Publishing Co., 1881.

Davis, William T. (Ed.). *The New England States*, Vol. IV. Boston: D.H. Hurd and Co., 1897. Chapters 57-60: "Banking and Currency in Rhode Island." John W. Vernon.

Field, Edward. *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century*, Vol. III. Boston: Mason Publishing Co., 1902.

Jones, Daniel. *The Economic and Social Transformation of Rural Rhode Island, 1780-1850*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1992.

Lamoreaux, Naomi. *Insider Lending*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Steere, Thomas. *History of the Town of Smithfield, Rhode Island*. Providence: E.L. Freeman, 1881.

Wood, Frederic J. *The Turnpikes of New England*. Boston: Marshall Jones Co., 1919.

Articles

"In Ye Days of Ye Stage Coach." 19 January 1908, in the RIHS Scrapbook Collection, Vol. XVI, p. 37.

Lamoreaux, Naomi. "The Structure of Early Banks in Southeastern New England: Some Social and Economic Implications." *Business and Economic History* 13 (1984): 171-83.

_____. "Banks, Kinship, and Economic Development: The New England Case." *Journal of Economic History* 46 (September 1986): 647-67. Typescript on file, R.I. Historical Society Library.

Sasso, Laurence J. "Greenville's Past Has a Future." *The Observer* 47, (9 January 2003): 1.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

9

Page

2

Wheeler, Robert. "Greenville Bank Vault." *Providence Sunday Journal* (9 February 1947): M14.

Government Publications

Historical and Architectural Resources of Smithfield, Rhode Island. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1992.

Schedules. "An Act to incorporate the stockholders of the Smithfield Exchange Bank" (June 1822, pp. 39-44).

Schedules. Abstract of the Returns of the Several Banks, made to the General Assembly, May Session, 1823.

Schedules. An Act in amendment of and in addition to the act entitled "An Act to incorporate the stockholders of the Smithfield Exchange Bank" (June 1823, p. 15).

Unpublished sources

Simister, Florence. "The Greenville Inn." 1966-7 Typescript, *Streets of the City* 15 (pp. 39-40). On file, Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

Greenville Historic District. National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1985. Manuscript copy on file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Architectural and Engineering Drawings

Pozzi, Lombard J. *Restoration of the Resolved Waterman Tavern Ell*, Drawings A-1 to A-15 (2005).

Rhode Island Department of Public Works. Plat 474 (1935).

Rhode Island Department of Public Works. Plat 486 (1936).

Administrative Subdivision of A.P. 7, Lots 67 and 68. Garofalo Associates (2003). Cumberland Farms Inc. to Town of Smithfield, R.I.

Maps

1870 D. G. Beers Co. *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.*

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

9

Page

3

1895 Everts and Richards. *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, RI.*

1924 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

Smithfield Exchange Bank
Name of Property

Providence County, RI
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 0.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	9	2	8	8	1	0	0	4	6	3	8	7	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										
2															

3															
Zone	Easting				Northing										
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward Connors, Principal

organization Edward Connors and Associates

date May 2005

street & number P.O. Box 154522

telephone 401 595-0699

city or town Riverside

state Rhode Island

zip code 02915

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 amend 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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Smithfield Exchange Bank	Smithfield	Providence County, RI
Name of Property	City/Town	County and State
Section Number <u>10</u>	Page <u>1</u>	

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Smithfield Exchange Building is drawn as a line surrounding the building on three sides parallel to the north, east, and west elevations of the building. On the east side of the building, the boundary line is drawn one foot from the building's foundation; on the west side, the boundary line is drawn 10 feet from the building's foundation; and on the north (rear) side, the boundary line is drawn at the foundation line. On the south (street) side, the boundary line is drawn at the sidewalk edge.

The east boundary is drawn only a single foot away from the building because another lot line passes only two to three feet from the foundation. The west side boundary provides a 10-foot buffer between the Bank and a nearby fire station. The north boundary is drawn at the foundation line because a lot line passes within one inch of the building.

Boundary Justification

The boundary drawn around the Smithfield Exchange Bank is an arbitrary line, offering only a small buffer between the bank building and its surroundings. The ownership of the bank building is now separated from the ownership of the land. The building is owned by the Historical Society of Smithfield; the land is owned by the Town of Smithfield. Indeed, it is possible that the bank building may be moved in the future, in order to preserve its significant interior features.

In many ways, the historic setting of the bank building has been thoroughly altered. Once an ell on a larger building, the bank is now a separate, free-standing building. Once hidden from the highway, the bank building now fronts directly on the highway. The historic buildings which once surrounded the bank building are now largely altered or demolished; the village of Greenville has been evaluated for National Register eligibility—it appears that it does not meet the eligibility criteria. Indeed, so much has changed in the vicinity of the bank building that the bank has become an object in a 20th-century landscape.

Further, the significance of the bank building is largely found in its interior spatial arrangements and its interior finishes. Absent the survival of the plan and the vault, it is not likely that the building would meet the National Register eligibility criteria, as the exterior has undergone a number of changes. Given that the real significance of the bank building lies in its interior, the boundaries are drawn so that they do not include substantial land surrounding the building. There are no significant features, natural or built, to demarcate these boundaries—they represent only a minor visual buffer on three sides and the curblin along the façade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Smithfield Exchange Bank	Smithfield	Providence County, RI
Name of Property	City/Town	County and State
Section Number	Figures	Page 1

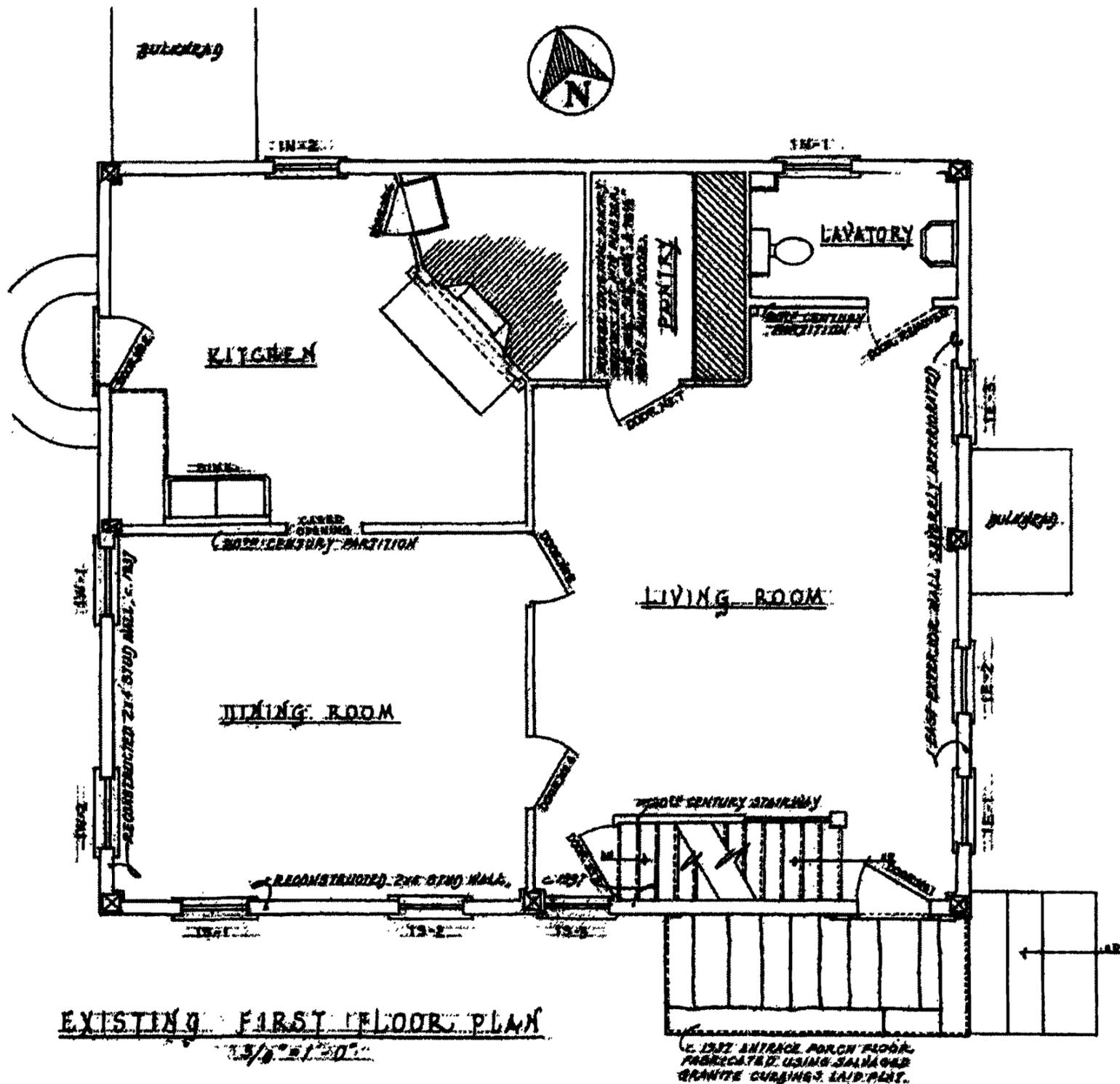


Figure 1
Floor plan of Smithfield Exchange Bank
Existing First floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

Figures

Page

2

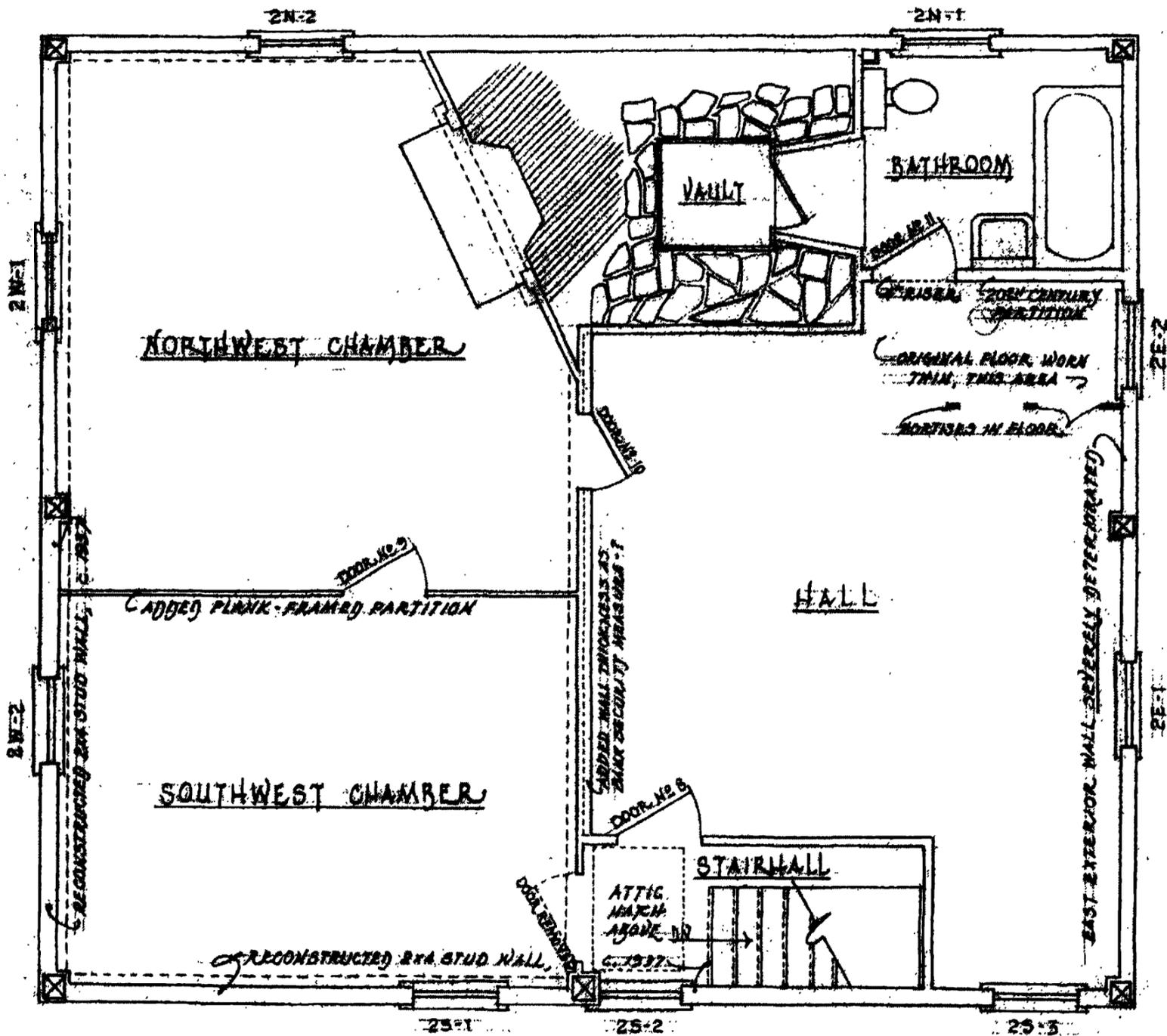


Figure 2
Floor plan of Smithfield Exchange Bank
detail from Drawing A-2
Existing Second floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

Figures

Page

3

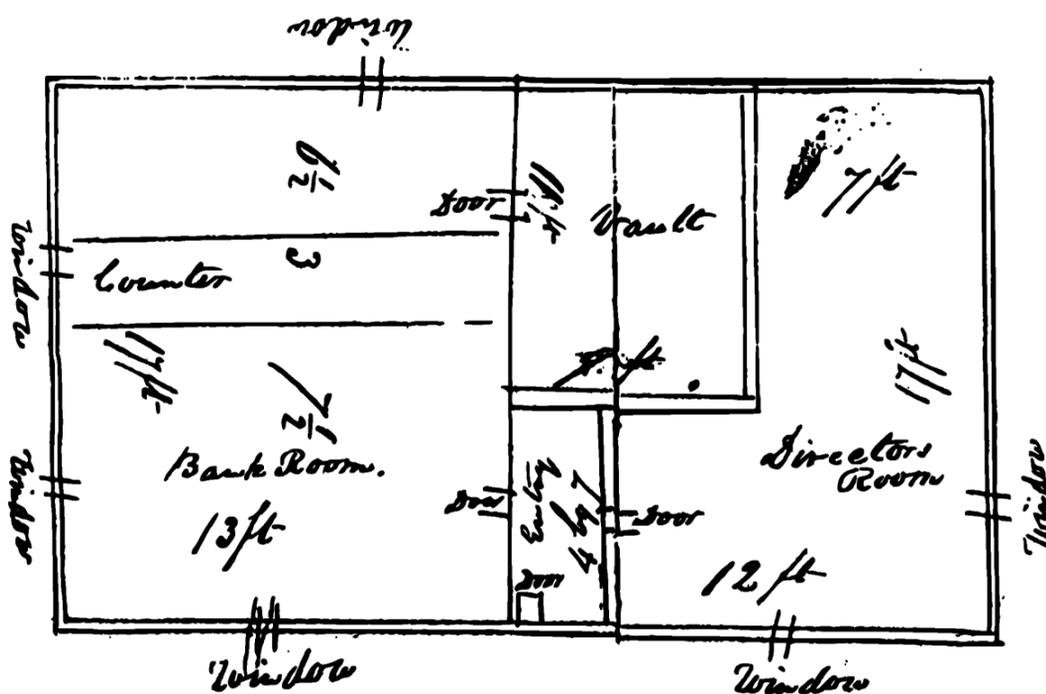


Figure 3
Floor Plan of Mendon Bank
as reproduced in *Insider Lending*



Figure 4
Postcard view of Resolved Waterman Tavern
Showing rear ell that housed bank (right end of building)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Smithfield Exchange Bank

Smithfield

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number

Figures

Page

4

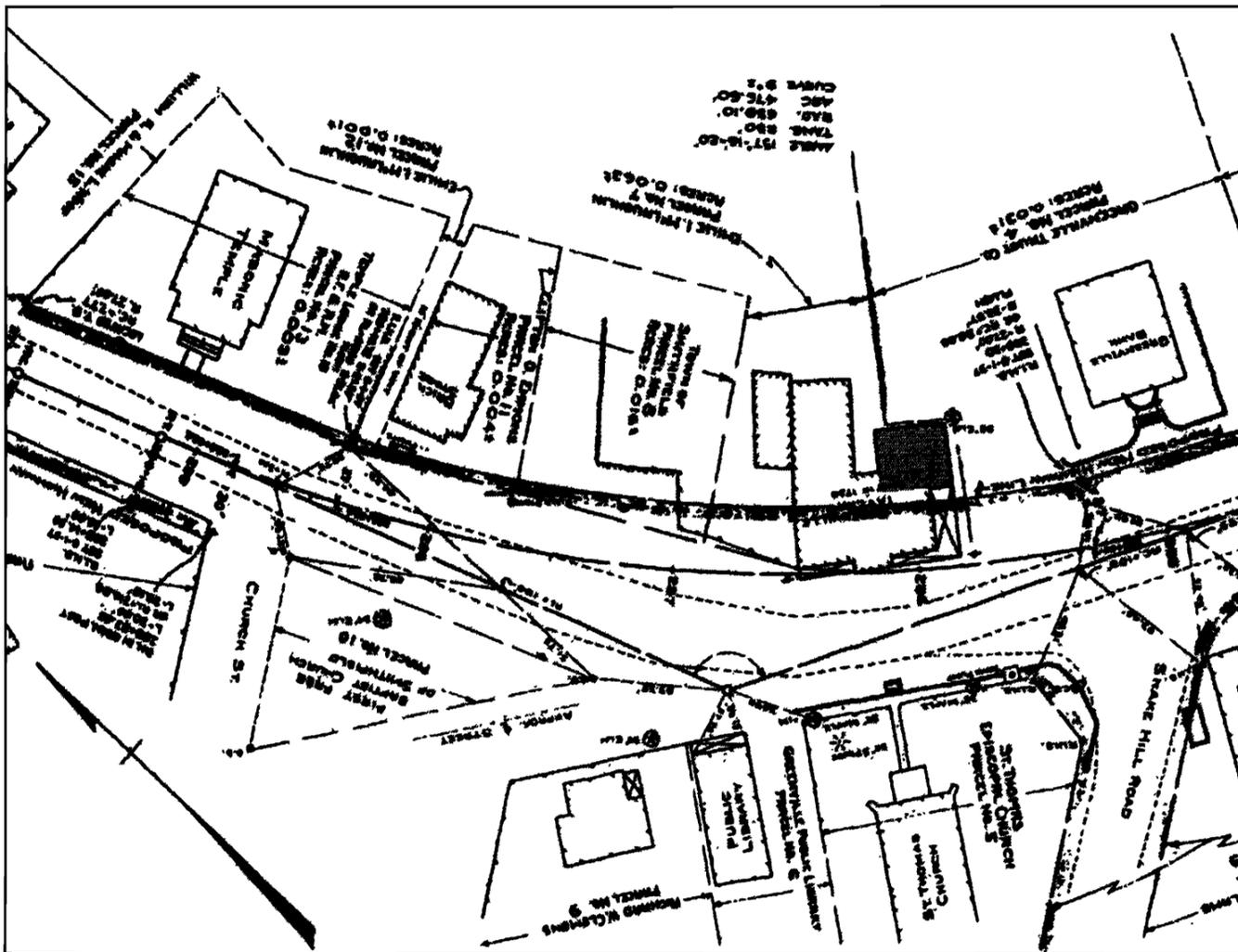


Figure 5

Detail from R.I. Department of Public Works Plat 486 (1936) showing new Putnam Pike highway line passing through the Resolved Waterman Tavern. The shaded rear ell housed the Smithfield Exchange Bank.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Smithfield Exchange Bank		Smithfield	Providence County, RI
Name of Property		City/Town	County and State
Section Number	Notes	Page	1

Notes

ⁱ This fluted molding appears to have been salvaged from the tavern.

ⁱⁱ Naomi Lamoreaux, *Insider Lending*, p. 1.

ⁱⁱⁱ Naomi Lamoreaux, "The Structure of Early Banks in Southeastern New England: Some Social and Economic Implications." *Business and Economic History, Second Series* 13 (1984), p. 171. Daniel Jones in his study, *The Economic and Social Transformation of Rural Rhode Island*, notes that these banks could be compared more accurately to investment clubs as practiced in our era.

^{iv} See obituary of Daniel Winsor, *Manufacturer's and Farmer's Journal* (19 June 1823): 3. Winsor also served as a Justice of the Peace and as a Representative to the General Assembly. Winsor was succeeded by Nathan B. Sprague.

^v The *Providence Journal* article cited in footnote 5 lists the same individuals as the bank's directors. Not listed in the original charter as incorporators, but listed as directors in this article are Charles Mowry, Thomas Mowry, Nathan Mowry, and Elisha Smith. Dexter Irons and John S. Appleby are listed as incorporators in the original charter, but not listed in the article as directors.

^{vi} See Edward Field, *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century*, Vol. III. Boston: Mason Publishing Co., 1902. pp. 260-1.

^{vii} Naomi Lamoreaux, "Banks, Kinship, and Economic Development: The New England Case," p.2 of typescript, on file, R.I. Historical Society Library.

^{viii} Winsor's annual salary was \$250, later raised to \$250. Source: Robert Wheeler, "Greenville Bank Vault," *Providence Sunday Journal* (9 February 1947): M14.

^{ix} As quoted in "Greenville Bank Vault."

^x An industrial impoundment of this stream is still found at this location.

^{xi} "Greenville Bank Vault." *Providence Sunday Journal* (9 February 1947): M14

^{xii} An original 1857 proposal for this rail route, then named the Woonasquatucket Railroad, would have served Greenville and Chepachet on a direct route from Providence. By the time the line was built in 1874, this route had been abandoned in favor of a route northward from Providence to Stillwater and then westerly to Pascoag.

^{xiii} In 1908, six years after the conversion, the building was occupied as a residence by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whipple. Source: clipping in Scrapbook Collection Vol. XVI, p. 37, R.I. Historical Society.

^{xiv} The traffic conditions associated with this jog in Route 116 are still under consideration today by the R.I. Department of Transportation.