

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 10 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common Hopkins Mills Historic District

2. Location

Along Old Danielson Pike, <sup>U.S. 6, Maple Rock and Ram Tail Rds.</sup> ~~between its intersection~~

with Danielson Pike (Route #6), and south along Ram Tail  
street & number Road from its intersection with Old Danielson — not for publication  
Pike

city, town Foster N.A. vicinity of Congressional District #2  
Hon. Claudine Schneider

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007 PCA  
003e 7-84

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple; see owner's list at Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

street & number

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Foster Town House

street & number Howard Hill Road

city, town Foster state Rhode Island 02825

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-F-1  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records R.I. Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 ? moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Davis house (#10) may have been moved  
c. 1870(?)

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

Hopkins Mills is a linear rural district in northeastern Foster; it stretches along Old Danielson Pike for a distance of about one mile between its east and west intersections with Danielson Pike (Rhode Island State Route #6), which bypasses Hopkins Mills to the south. Old Danielson Pike (1813) arcs north in a gentle curve through the district, whereas the newer Danielson Pike (1932) follows a straighter path. The district reaches south along Ram Tail Road for approximately a quarter mile.

The district includes a much-reworked site (Map #24), which was the location of eighteenth-century saw- and gristmills and iron works, and a small village of about thirty buildings which grew up in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries along the turnpike passing south of the site.

The eastern entrance of the district is marked by the "Dolly Cole" House (Map #1), a mid-nineteenth-century structure. The district stretches along the turnpike which is lined with buildings set fairly close together--several houses, a church, several barns, two stores--to the Ponagansett River as it leaves Hopkins Mills Pond and flows south through the district. At the mouth of the pond is the Hopkins Mills Pond Site (Map #24). The western section of the district is lined with several houses and an early nineteenth-century schoolhouse, but the structures are less closely spaced on this end of the pike. A fine Federal house (Map #29) marks the western end of the district near the intersection of Old Danielson Pike and its newer bypass. A short stretch of Ram Tail Road (south from its intersection with Old Danielson Pike) is also included; along this road are the Hopkins Mills Cemetery (Map #14) and the village's Grange Hall (Map #13).

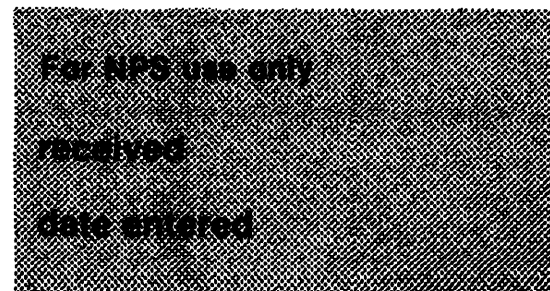
One of Foster's earliest houses is located in the district, the Hopkins-Potter House (Map #21, built c. 1720 et seq) and a few early twentieth-century buildings--several houses, a store, and the grange hall--are included; but the district's character is essentially nineteenth century. Its buildings are good examples of vernacular architecture--frame structures, gable-roofed, one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half-stories tall--built in very simplified country versions of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles. Notable among them are the Stone House (Map #29), an 1823 Federal house; the Hopkins Mills Schoolhouse (Map #27), a one-story school with belfry, built c. 1820; the Davis Store (Map #11), c. 1842, a small, clap-board building with simple Greek Revival trim; the Arnold House (Map #7), a late Greek Revival structure, c. 1845; the Davis House (Map #10) which appears to date from the mid-1850s and combines Greek Revival and Italianate elements; the Hopkins Mills Union Church (Map #6), a small, late Greek Revival building, constructed in 1869-1871; and the Curtis House (Map #19), a small Victorian house with a central bracketed entrance.

The village is clearly oriented toward the turnpike which encouraged its development, but is surrounded by farm fields and woods which preserve

(See Construction Sheet #1)

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Continuation sheet 1

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its agricultural setting. Few buildings have been constructed since the 1930s; Hopkins Mills is relatively unchanged and retains the sense of a bypassed hinterland hamlet.

**INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES**

Contributing structures are defined as those eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century buildings which retain sufficient integrity to document their historic identity; several twentieth-century houses (Map #9, 12 and 26) are defined as contributing since they are similar in size and form (all are plain, clapboarded, one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed buildings) to many of the earlier houses, and represent a continuation of nineteenth-century patterns of rural residential building; the Grange Hall (Map #13), despite its somewhat later date, c. 1928, is also similar in form and documents the continuing agricultural life of Hopkins Mills. Several early-twentieth century structures have been defined as non-contributing; Map #4 may be an early-twentieth-century barn, but in its conversion to residential use has been heavily altered; Map #16 and 22 (a store and fire station) date from the 1920s, but do not share the forms, size, or massing of their near neighbors.

**DANIELSON PIKE (State Route 6)**

- 1 "Dolly Cole" House (c. 1865): This somewhat altered, 1½-story asbestos-shingled, mid-19th-century house stands with its garage, shed, large trees, and small pond near the foot of Dolly Cole Hill. It is located near the site of a pre-Revolutionary gambrel-roofed tavern operated at the turn of the 19th century by Dolly Cole, from which it takes its name.
- 14 Hopkins Mills Cemetery/Rhode Island Historical Cemetery #45: This large cemetery, at the corner of Danielson Pike and Ram Tail Road, is bounded partly by a low stone wall and partly by a fence of iron rails and granite posts. The oldest burials, outside and north of the railing at the northeast corner of the cemetery, date from the 1760s; other burials date through the 19th century to the present.

**OLD DANIELSON PIKE**

- 6 South Foster Union Chapel/Hopkins Mills Union Church (1869-1871): This 1-story, late Greek Revival, clapboarded church, with its pedimented gable front and short enclosed tower, stands on a rise, gable end to the road, near the eastern end of Hopkins Mills. It was built as a place of non-denominational worship and public gathering by the South Foster Union Chapel Society which was formed by

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Old Danielson Pike (cont.)

local residents in 1868. A successful subscription campaign raised the necessary \$2,000 and local carpenters donated their labor. The cut-granite steps, quarried in Foster, were installed in 1910. The church remains non-denominational to this day.

- 3 7 Cyrus Arnold House (c. 1845): This typical center-chimney, 1½-story, late Greek Revival-style house with central front doorway with flat entablature and sidelights was probably built by Cyrus Arnold who kept the Hopkins Mills/South Foster post office here in 1870.
- 4 8 Barnet Hopkins House (c. 1810): This gable-roofed, 1½-story house has the end interior chimneys sometimes found in Foster's Federal houses. Built by Barnet Hopkins, it was purchased before 1870 by the Richard and Stone Stagecoach Company, whose coaches passed along Old Danielson Pike; the company used the basement as a tavern.
- 5 9 John Fenner Hopkins Farm (c. 1910): The farm complex, set on a rise about sixty feet back from the road, includes a simple 1½-story, center-chimney house with a high cornice line and an unusual arcaded porch which wraps around three sides, and a small shed with a cupola to the west. John Hopkins, who was a carpenter, built the house and shed himself. Hopkins also had a wagon rental business.
- 6 10 Henry Davis House (c. 1850?): The Henry Davis House, with a picket fence along the road, bracketed and lattice-enclosed Italianate well house, and sheds and outhouse at the rear, is one of Hopkins Mills' more picturesque houses. The house's 2½-story, 3-bay-facade main section sits gable end to the road; a westerly ell, originally 1½-stories tall and later raised to two stories, flanks the road, fronted by a 1-story open porch. This is a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate design, whose Greek Revival details include the pedimented gable, corner pilasters, and porch piers; Italianate details include the round-head double-hung window in the gable peak and the flat-roofed hood with dentil cornice and sawn brackets over the door. Both styles may have been used contemporaneously on this house or the Italianate detailing may be later; further research is needed to determine when the house was built. It does not appear on maps of Hopkins Mills until 1870, and may have been moved to this site. Henry Davis built and ran the store which still stands west of his house.
- 7 11 Henry Davis Store/Hopkins Store (c. 1842): This 1½-story, gable-roofed, clapboarded store with simple Greek Revival detailing

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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Old Danielson Pike (cont.)

(corner pilasters, wide flat frieze and semi-circular gable vent capped with a keystone) has multipane display windows flanking the central front door and is sited gable end to the road. It is a rare building--only a few 19th-century store buildings are extant in Foster today. Henry Davis built it and ran it as a temperance store for several years, then let it to store keepers Albert and Philip Curtis, and later sold it to J.F. Hopkins. The Hopkins Store was also the post office in 1895. In the early 20th century it was used as a meeting place for the Ponagansett Grange, before the grange constructed its own building.

- 12 Ralph Tucker House (c. 1910): This is a somewhat altered, 1½-story, shingled house, set gable end to the street, with an enclosed porch at the gable end.
- 15 Bennett Holden House/South Foster Post Office (c. 1770 and c. 1810): This 1½-story house, with asymmetrical 5-bay facade and two small off-center chimneys, appears to have been built in two stages. The house functioned as both a store and post office in the middle of the 19th century, and was kept first by Bennett Holden, then by Henry Davis. It is now a private residence.
- 17 Barn (c. 1870, c. 1920): This is a large, shingled, L-shaped barn with a handsome Italianate cupola set on the center section. The eastern ell, built on a rubble foundation, appears to pre-date the other sections.
- 18 Curtis Hall (c. 1830, c. 1850 et seq.): The first part of this much altered, essentially 1½-story frame structure, set into a hillside, was probably built about 1830; it is a narrow, 3-bay, frame section at the west end, set on a full cutstone basement with an end interior chimney. The eastern six bays were probably added about 1850 and the roofline raised thereafter. Lewis Curtis bought land here in 1830 and soon opened a turnpike toll station and tavern in the stone basement section. When tolls were discontinued, the stagecoach stopped here so that passengers could refresh themselves and horses could be changed. On the second floor of the eastern section was a large double parlor known as Curtis Hall, used for dances and other social gatherings. Lewis Curtis was a blacksmith as well as tavern keeper.
- 19 Curtis House (c. 1885): This is a simple, 1½-story, 5-bay, vernacular house, set with its gable roof flanking the street. It has a

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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Old Danielson Pike (cont.)

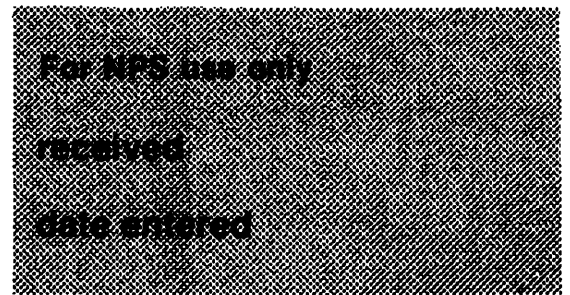
central bracketed entrance, two dormers and a one-story wing and enclosed porch on the east end.

- 13 20 Barn (c. 1890?): This is a wood-shingled, gable-roofed, 1½-story barn. Its handsome door is patterned with a chevron design.
- 14 21 Ezekial Hopkins-William Potter House (c. 1720 et seq): This 1½-story, lengthened, 6-bay house is said to have begun as a single room with a large chimney at one end. It may have been a typical Rhode Island "stone ender," with its chimney exposed as the end wall, or it may have been a half house with the chimney just inside the gable end. The house was built by Ezekiel Hopkins who inherited the land in 1723 from his father Thomas and who by that time had established a gristmill and sawmill at the south end of the present Hopkins Mills Pond. The house and mills remained in the Hopkins family until almost the end of the century, when they were purchased by William Potter of Warwick. Potter began a fulling mill, the first in Foster, before 1799 and was a partner in the Ram Tail Mill, south of Hopkins Mills. The house passed to William A. Potter after William, Sr.'s death in 1837. Herbert A. Potter owned the house after William, and ran a general store on the premises, until he sold house, barn, and store to Catharine Baxter in 1881. The house and adjacent mills were a center of community activity for almost two centuries.
- 24 Hopkins Mills Pond Site (c. 1723 through c. 1960): The large mill pond is contained by a stone dam with a stone sluiceway leading south. There are two small building foundations near the road; these are probably remnants of the store and basket shop which stood here in the late 19th century. The grist- and sawmill sites, begun here by Ezekiel Hopkins and his brother William before 1723, were continuously used and rebuilt through the 18th and 19th centuries into the early 20th century. The last use of the site was by Simmons Braid Mill built between 1910 and 1920 and operating here into the 1950s.
- 15 25 L. Rounds House (c. 1865): The Rounds House is a 1½-story, flank-gable house with large shed dormers and an enclosed entrance porch. A large barn with attached garage is set near the house. An 1888 structure (now demolished) housing the operations of the Ponagansett Valley Creamery stood southeast of the house near the river.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

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Old Danielson Pike (cont.)

- 16 26 Cooke House (1905): The Cook House is a small, 5-bay, 1½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded house with a central entrance and a small ell with a porch on the south end.
- 17 27 Hopkins Mills Schoolhouse (c. 1820): This 1-story schoolhouse with an open belfry astride its gable roof has two widely separated entrances (one now a window) with a double-hung window between them on its north-facing gable front. A semi-circular fan-shaped window in the gable peak and a 1-story ell at right angle at the rear were added when the schoolhouse was closed (1952) and remodeled for use as a residence. The schoolhouse occupies a commanding hillside site above the road reached by a straight steep flight of stone steps. It was built on or near the site of an earlier c. 1797 school.
- 18 28 Potter House (c. 1845, c. 1920): The Potter House is a small, 1½-story, 5-bay flank-gable, clapboarded house with a central entrance, now sheltered by a pedimented Colonial Revival portico, and two dormers.
- 19 29 Nathaniel Stone House (1823): This generously proportioned Federal house faces north onto the Old Danielson Pike. Two-and-one-half stories tall, with a 1½-story rear ell, the house has a large, central, brick chimney laid up with cut granite quoins, and a symmetrical, 5-bay facade with paired windows and a central doorway with semi-circular blink fanlight capped by a keystone. The rear ell appears to predate the main section. Two barns remained on the property until the 1970s when they collapsed; a small shed and the barn foundations are still extant. One of Foster's most ambitious houses, it was built for Nathaniel Stone, Jr. (b. 1789), on land acquired by the Stones before 1823). A small 1-room building on the same lot is said to have been Foster's first public library.
- RAM TAIL ROAD
- 20 13 Ponagansett Grange, Number 54 (c. 1928): This long, low, 1-story building, sited gable end to the road, was built to house the Hopkins Mills branch of the Grange, an agricultural and social organization which functioned until the late 1970s.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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INVENTORY OF NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

OLD DANIELSON PIKE

- 3 House (c. 1955): This is a one-story, gable-roofed dwelling with an attached garage.
- 4 Former Outbuilding (c. 1900?): This is a two-and-a-half and one-and-a-half-story wood structure, nine bays long, with a flank gable roof, built into an embankment. It appears to have once been a barn that has since been converted to a residence.
- 5 House (c. 1955): This is a one-story, cross-gable dwelling, four bays wide with a large "picture" window.
- 16 South Foster Fire Company #1 Station (c. 1928): This is a low, hip-roofed, cinderblock structure; its walls are covered with wood shingles and asphalt siding, and are now being resheathed with vertical boards. Large garage doors fill its facade.
- 22 Store (c. 1920): This is a one-story, hip-roofed structure with shingle-covered walls; a porch (now closed in) runs across the facade and the west side.



# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1720 to 1932      **Builder/Architect** Various, unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Hopkins Mills Historic District is significant as a well-preserved, typical western Rhode Island rural settlement, sparsely settled in the eighteenth century, reaching a modicum of prosperity in the early nineteenth century, declining into the twentieth century; for its long history as a focus of development in northeastern Foster; and for its ability to provide information about rural architecture; transportation, agriculture, religion, and commerce, in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries.

Foster has always been a sparsely-settled town and is still largely rural in character; its hilly land is interlaced with small streams such as the Ponagansett River and Dolly Cole Brook which thread through Hopkins Mills. The town has never had a single center, but has always been a federation of small hamlets which grew up at important crossroads; Hopkins Mills was the first of these small villages. Though its streams supported some minor industries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Foster (and Hopkins Mills) has been largely agricultural throughout its history. The cluster of buildings at Hopkins Mills is still surrounded by fields, woods, and hills, and the village retains the ambience of a small hamlet, where much of Foster's eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century history is evident. The village's components--its houses, barns, sheds, church, school, and grange hall--are significant for their ability to document life in rural Rhode Island.

Settlement in northern Foster dates from the 1720s, when the Hopkins family purchased land on the Ponagansett River. Members of the Hopkins family operated small saw- and gristmills and a small iron works throughout the eighteenth century at the outlet of Hopkins Mills Pond (Map #24). This mill site was re-worked throughout the nineteenth century, and today the site yields evidence only of the later minor industrial activity at the mouth of the pond.

Eighteenth-century industrial activity was intermittent and, perhaps in the case of saw- and gristmills, only seasonal. For the most part, the first families in Hopkins Mills--the Hopkins, the Rounds and the Coles--relied upon the farms surrounding their isolated homesteads for their livings. Today a cemetery, whose earliest stones date to the 1760s, and two houses remain to document this first century of settlement at Hopkins Mills. The one-and-one-half-story Hopkins-Potter House (Map #21), built c. 1720 with later additions, may have originally been a single-room "stone ender," with its chimney filling its end wall, or it may have been a three-bay "half-house" with the chimney just inside the gable end.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-F-1, Foster, Rhode Island,"  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property c. 78 acres

Quadrangle name Clayville, R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| 119  | 275860  | 4633840  |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

B 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| 19   | 275940  | 4633360  |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

C 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| 119  | 274540  | 4633000  |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

D 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| 19   | 274400  | 4633460  |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

E 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
|      |         |          |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

F 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
|      |         |          |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

G 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
|      |         |          |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

H 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
|      |         |          |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Hopkins Mills Historic District are drawn to include the eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century hamlet  
(See Continuation Sheet #10)

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pamela Kennedy, Senior Preservation Planner and Ancelin V. Lynch, Principal Preservation Planner

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date 5 October 1983

street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frank C. Williamson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/23/84

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/10/84

for Alfred Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The Holden House (Map #15), built c. 1770 and altered c. 1810, is a small, one-and-a-half-story house with an asymmetrical five-bay facade.

The growth of the settlement at Hopkins Mills was predicated on its location along a road, providing access to and communication with the population center at Providence to the east and with the fertile areas of eastern Connecticut to the west. In 1691 a bridle path through the forest led from Providence over Chopmist Hill to Pomfret and Killingly, Connecticut. By 1721 it had been upgraded to a cart route in both Rhode Island and Connecticut. This road passed through Hopkins Mills, allowing for transport of goods and materials and encouraging increased settlement. The road was upgraded in 1799 as the North Road, but it was incorporation of the road into the Danielson Pike in 1813-14 which was the impetus for the continued growth of Hopkins Mills in the early nineteenth century.

Over this road, which connected Providence to Connecticut, Hopkins Mills farmers brought their surplus to market. A stagecoach line provided regular service; a regularized mail route developed; and, in the several decades following the construction of the turnpike, a small village grew up at Hopkins Mills. The hamlet served as a local center for commercial and institutional activity and became an increasingly identifiable place. Its economic base remained agricultural--farmers shipped both staples (pork, apples) and perishables (dairy products, vegetables) to the Providence markets--but sporadic manufacturing efforts continued at the Hopkins Mills Site, and a small textile mill was constructed on the Ponagansett in the early nineteenth century, half a mile south of the district boundary.

Several houses were built in the village in the first half of the nineteenth century; of these, four remain. The Hopkins House (Map #8), built c. 1810, is a small, one-and-a-half-story, simple Federal structure. The Stone House (Map #29), constructed in 1823, is one of Foster's more ambitious Federal houses: two-and-a-half stories high and five bays wide, it has a central doorway with semi-circular fanlight. Two houses date from c. 1845; both are simple, flanking gable, one-and-a-half-story, center chimney structures; the Potter House (Map #28) has been somewhat altered, but the Arnold House (Map #7) retains its handsome Greek Revival details.

In addition, some public and commercial buildings were constructed in the first decades of the nineteenth century to serve the needs of the small settlement on the turnpike. A small schoolhouse (Map #27) was built c. 1820 on the site of an earlier school. A c. 1830 structure (Map #18) served as a turnpike toll station, a tavern, and social center.

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

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The Davis Store (Map #11), c. 1842, a one-and-a-half-story structure with simple Greek Revival details, is a rare survivor of its type.

From the mid-nineteenth through the twentieth century, Foster's population and building activity declined. The 1865 census identified Hopkins Mills as one of only three villages in the town. Some farming activity continued, especially truck gardening and dairying, but many Hopkins Mills residents sought their fortunes elsewhere rather than farm the poor, depleted soil in the area. Four modest, vernacular houses remaining from the second half of the the 1800s document the dwindling fortunes of the village. The Davis House (Map #10), probably c. 1850, is a larger structure whose detail exhibits both Greek Revival and Italianate elements. The Rounds and Cole Houses (Map #1 and 25), both dating from the 1860s, are simple, one-and-a-half-story structures, now somewhat altered. The Curtis House (Map #19), c. 1885, is a plain, one-and-a-half-story house with a bracketed entry.

Equally important are the several farm buildings in Hopkins Mills which date from the second half of the nineteenth century: several barns, Map #17 and #20, a barn/garage set near the Rounds House and built near the site of the demolished 1888 Ponagansett Creamery, and the small sheds near the Stone House (Map #29) and the Davis House (Map #10). Such agricultural buildings are among the most fragile of a rural district's resources, and the presence here at Hopkins Mill of this unusually large number documents the farming life of the community and enhances the significance of the district.

Only a single institutional building was built in the later nineteenth century, the Hopkins Mills Union Church (Map #6), 1869-71; a small one-story, late Greek Revival structure, the church has always been used by several denominations, and reflects the declining population of Hopkins Mill in this era when no single congregation was large enough to muster the resources to build its own church.

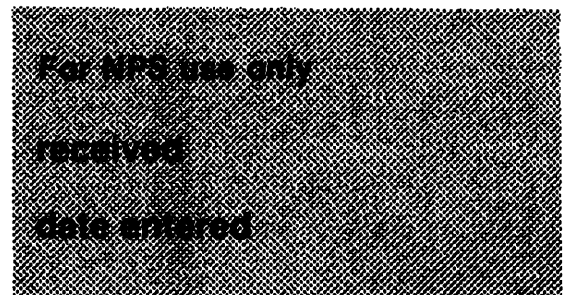
In the early twentieth century, residential building activity at Hopkins Mills was limited to three houses constructed between 1905 and 1910. Like many of their earlier neighbors, these (Map #9, 12, and 26) are simple, one-and-a-half-story houses; they seem to have been built for members of old Hopkins Mills families, not for new arrivals. The village's few active farmers joined together in a local branch of the Grange and, after holding their meetings in a variety of other buildings, constructed their own Grange Hall (Map #13) in 1928.

In 1932, the Danielson Pike was rebuilt as State Route 6 and a bypass was constructed around Hopkins Mills, isolating the village from the

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passage of heavy traffic, and breaking the 120-year-long historic relationship of Hopkins Mills with a major highway. Little new construction has taken place since, and Hopkins Mills remains a small linear settlement, its buildings ranged along a road which once connected it to larger centers of activity, but which now bypasses the village.

Hopkins Mills has local architectural significance in that its buildings typify housing found in rural Rhode Island. With few exceptions, the village houses are simple frame structures, plain in decoration, reflecting conservative country building patterns: elements of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century architectural styles are reduced here to a few basic references, and are applied to structures built long after a style had gone out of fashion in larger and more vital communities.

No sub-surface testing has taken place in Hopkins Mills; however, the district may possess archeological potential; of special interest is the Hopkins Mills Pond Site.

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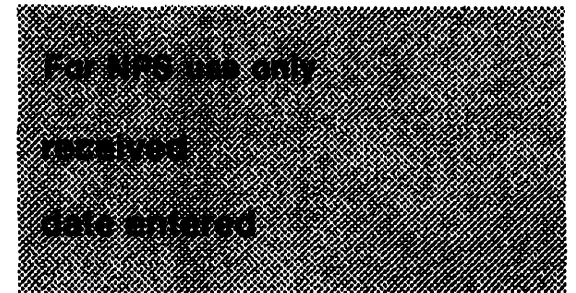
which grew up along Old Danielson Pike, and includes an early mill site, several eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century houses, and some commercial and institutional buildings all of which are related to each other by physical proximity and visual compatibility. The boundaries were drawn to exclude as much as possible development dating from the later twentieth century and undeveloped land which does not have a clearly documented relationship to the turnpike or the buildings which line both sides of the highway. For the most part, lot lines are followed for the boundary, except in those cases where the presence of large lots would include acreage which is not directly related to contributing structures. There is one non-contiguous element in the district, the Hopkins Mills cemetery, #14. The cemetery contains the graves of Hopkins Mills families from the 1760s to the present. Cut off from the linear village stretched along Old Danielson Pike by the construction of R.I. Route 6 in the 1930s, the cemetery is now located across this major highway from the district; it remains, however, an historically integral element of the village. The inclusion of the cemetery in the district in a contiguous manner would necessitate the inclusion of one or more additional non-contributing structures and/or a section of R.I. Route 6; hence, the cemetery is included in the district as a non-contiguous element.

The boundary of the district begins at the SW corner of lot 46, plat 22, extends east along the south line and continues along that same line past the SE corner of lot 46, plat 22, crossing lot 45, plat 22, to the east line of lot 45, plat 22, turning north along the east line of lot 45, plat 22, crossing Old Danielson Pike to the south line of lot 7, plat 22; from there, passing east along the south lines of lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11A, and 11, plat 22, to the SE corner of lot 11, plat 22; from there, passing north along the east line of lot 11, plat 22, to a point on a line drawn from the NW corner to the NE corner of lot 10, plat 22, passing east across lots 11A and 11, plat 22; following this line west to the NW corner of lot 10, plat 22, to the NE corner of lot 8, plat 22 (crossing lot 9, plat 22), passing west along the north line of lot 8, plat 22, to its NW corner; from here to the NE corner of lot 3, plat 22 (crossing lot 6, plat 22), then south along the east line of lot 3, plat 22, west along the south line of lot 3, plat 22, to the SW corner of lot 3, plat 22; north along the east line of lot 21, plat 15, to its NE corner, then west (115'), north (50'), and west (50'), following the line of lot 21, plat 15, continuing along that line to the north corner of lot 12, plat 21, south along the west line of that lot to a point opposite the NE corner of lot 11, plat 21, crossing Windsor Road and passing along the north line of lot 11, plat 21; from there along a line drawn from the NW corner of lot 11, plat 21, to the NW corner of lot 10, plat 21 (crossing lot 2, plat 15), west along the north line of lot 10, plat 21, south along its west line, crossing Old Danielson Pike, then west along the north line of lot 21,

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plat 21, south along its west line, and east along the south lines of lots 21 and 20, plat 21, north along the east line of lot 20, plat 21, east along the south line of lot 19, plat 21, south along the east line of lot 19A, plat 21, to the SW corner of lot 17, plat 21, east along the south line of that lot, and north along the east lines of lots 17 and 14, plat 21, to the NE corner of lot 14, plat 21, then across Ram Tail Road to the SW corner of lot 46, plat 22, the point of beginning.

The boundary of the second section of the district begins at the NW corner of the cemetery lot, plat 22, passes east along its north line, turning SE at its northernmost NE corner along a line drawn to its easternmost NE corner; then south, west, and north, along the east, south, and west lines of the cemetery lot to its NW corner, the point of beginning.