

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000573

Date Listed: 05/30/96

Bradford Village Historic District  
Property Name

Washington  
County

RI  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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.

  
Signature of the Keeper

5/30/96  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance

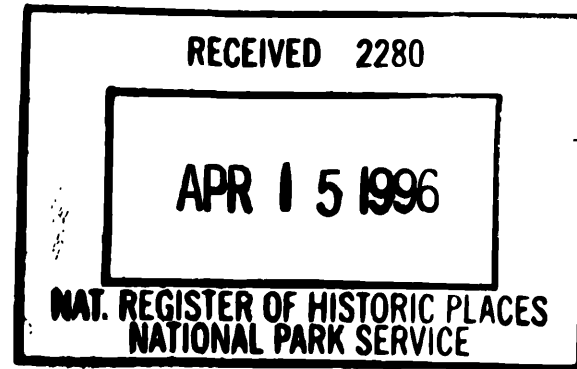
The documented period of significance for the district is 1864-1946, which reflects the district's architectural and historical significance as it relates to the dates of its extant resources.

This information was confirmed with Ann Angelone, National Register program, RISHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Bradford Village Historic District

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number: Bowling Lane, Bradford Road, Church Street, Dorr Street,  
Douglas Park, Joseph Lane, Knowles Street, Niantic Avenue, North Main  
Street, Railroad Avenue, South Main Street, Vars Lane

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Westerly and Hopkinton vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Washington code: 009 zip code: 02808 and 02833

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>149</u>	<u>44</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>151</u>	<u>44</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Property name Bradford Village Historic District, Washington County, Westerly, RI

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Frederick Williamson  
Signature of certifying official

4/9/96  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this 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
- removed from the National Register

     other (explain):     

Betty J. Savage

5/30/96

for Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic: DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
INDUSTRY

Sub: single dwelling  
multiple dwelling  
manufacturing facility

Current: DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
INDUSTRY

Sub: single dwelling  
multiple dwelling  
manufacturing facility

Property name Bradford Village Historic District, Washington County, Westerly, RI

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

- Greek Revival
- Italianate
- Late Victorian
- Tudor Revival
- Craftsman

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation STONE, CONCRETE roof ASPHALT  
 walls Shingle, Weatherboard, other \_\_\_\_\_  
Aluminum

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
INDUSTRY  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: ~~1732~~ 1864 1946

Significant Dates: ~~1732~~ 1864 1911

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: B Sherman, R.A., Sons and Co. (1911-1925)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: approx. 224 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>269620</u>	<u>4587520</u>	B	<u>19</u>	<u>270040</u>
C	<u>19</u>	<u>270220</u>	<u>4587440</u>	D	<u>19</u>	<u>270410</u>
						<u>4586860</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Virginia H. Adams, Senior Architectural Historian; Nancy C. Tinker, Architectural Historian; Catherine deJ. Vieth, Asst. Architectural Historian; Mary Kate Harrington, Architectural Projects Assistant  
 Organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. Date: Nov. 1995

Street & Number: 210 Lonsdale Avenue Telephone: (401) 728-8780  
 City or Town: Pawtucket State: RI ZIP: 02860

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### Description

The Bradford Historic District, located in the northeast corner of the town of Westerly, developed along the southern bank of the Pawcatuck River, which forms the border with the town of Hopkinton. The village of Bradford presently contains a large mill complex, two churches, several businesses, and many residences, the majority of which are double houses constructed for mill housing.

Settled in 1732 with its first mill established in 1758, Bradford developed throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as a small mill hamlet in an outlying section of Westerly. The village's first business venture, a saw mill known as Gardner's Mills, was established on the north side of the Pawcatuck following the construction of a dam. The mill and its successors provided sporadic employment for local citizens and became, over time, a center on which village development depended. The village's second developmental node arrived in 1837 in the form of the Providence and Stonington Railroad (later New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad). Located to the south of the mill and intersecting South Main Street on a northeast-southwest course, the railroad provided contact with the outside world and transportation for products originating in Bradford.

The majority of village development occurred on Main Street between the mill and railroad, lending Bradford its linear form. Both residential and commercial development were modest. In 1870 Bradford included a cluster of housing, two stores, and a frame school building. By this date, a boarding house constructed for millworkers had been erected on the mill's grounds. By 1895 Bradford had grown to include three churches (two Baptist congregations and an Advent church), a wagon works, post office, and livery. The Niantic House, a boarding house, stood on South Main Street. Growth was slow to occur in Bradford, and longtime shopkeeper Alfred Vars explained in 1911 that [business] "has sort of stood still with the village." (FN)

The village's first streets were Main Street, which runs north-south, and Church Street (now part of Route 216), which runs east-west. Both streets feature a house dating from the 1780s. Other cross-streets in the area became established after the turn of the twentieth century, although Bowling and Vars Lanes, then unnamed, first appear on the 1895 Everts and Richards map. Bradford Road, constructed in the early twentieth century as a bypass of Main Street, carries both Route 91 and Route 216 through Bradford. The two routes diverge at the southern end of the village

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center; Route 216 follows Church Street and Route 91 continues along Bradford Road. After the construction of the bypass, Main Street became two separate roads, which are located on either side of the railroad line.

Bradford's earliest standing mill building is the 1864 stone mill, which has been incorporated into the Bradford Dyeing Association complex at the northern end of the district. A change in mill ownership in 1911 spurred residential development, resulting in the construction of two-family housing which occurred almost exclusively on Bowling Lane. Douglas Park, joining Bowling Lane on the south, contained housing for mill supervisors and the mill superintendent.

The boundaries of the Bradford Historic District encompass Bradford's historic residential, commercial, and industrial core. Lot size and architectural styles vary throughout the district, but uniformity is gained through modest, informally landscaped lots; common, shallow building setbacks; and the continued use of frame or brick in building fabric.

### INVENTORY

The following is a comprehensive inventory of buildings and structures within the Bradford Historic District. All buildings are contributing unless otherwise noted as (NC). Contributing structures include those constructed during Bradford's development as an industrial village, from 1864 to 1946. Some buildings have been covered with synthetic or replacement materials, but they have been defined as contributing because they are historically associated with the development of the area and because their shape, size, mass, and scale are preserved even where surfaces may have been covered. Properties are listed numerically for each street; streets are arranged in alphabetical order. Properties without street numbers have been assigned numbers, which are noted in parentheses.

### BOWLING LANE

Bowling Lane contains approximately 41 double houses associated with the development of the Bradford mill ca. 1850-1926. The houses are all rectangular, 4-by-2 bays, with flank-gable roofs and paired central entrances with simple surrounds. Most of the houses are 1 1/2 or 2 stories, clapboarded, with stuccoed rubblestone foundations. The 1 1/2-story version has two dormers on the front roof slope, usually with a shed roof.

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The 2-story version lacks the dormers. The original windows were double hung with 6/6 or 2/2 sash. Many of the houses have replacement sash. The houses originally had a hipped-roof front porch. One remains in original condition, at 13-15 Bowling Lane. Other porches have been partially or fully enclosed, or completely removed.

- 5-7 Double Mill House (ca. 1850): A typical, 1 1/2-story, 4-by-2-bay, flank-gable double mill house clad in asbestos shingles. There are two shed dormer windows on the front roof slope. The hipped porch on the facade has been enclosed with 1/1 windows, although the original chamfered posts are still visible.
- 9-11 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house; alterations include a shed-roof entrance porch.
- 10-12 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed dormers and shingle wall cover.
- 13-15 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shingle cladding. Its hip-roof porch has been screened.
- 14-16 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed dormers.
- 17 Niantic Baptist Church (ca. 1895): A simple 1 1/2-story, gable-roof, Greek Revival structure with a high foundation. a square, hipped-roof tower with louvered openings is set at the gable end. The walls are clad in clapboard and trimmed with corner pilasters and a double frieze. The windows are 9/9 double-hung sash with simple surrounds.
- 21-23 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house; it lacks the usual dormers; alterations include a shed roof entrance porch. There are two modern (1960-1970s) wood sheds also located on the property.
- 28 Mill House (ca. 1856): A 1 1/2-story, single-family mill house with a concrete foundation and aluminum siding. The building is currently vacant.



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- 30 Mill House (ca. 1856): A 1 1/2-story, single-family mill house with a concrete-over-rubblestone foundation, asbestos shingles, and an enclosed, wood entrance porch.
- 32 Mill House (ca. 1856): A 1 1/2-story, single-family mill house with a concrete-over-rubblestone foundation and new clapboard.
- 34 Mill House (ca. 1856): A 1 1/2-story, single-family mill house with a concrete-over-rubblestone foundation and two octagonal, single-pane windows on the second floor of the facade.
- 41-43 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house.
- 42-44 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house that, with asbestos shingles. It lacks the usual dormers.
- 45-47 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story double mill house, with shingle siding. It lacks the usual entrance porch.
- 46-48 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story, double mill house, with shingled walls and an enclosed shed-roof porch.
- 49-51 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story double mill house, with aluminum siding. Alterations include replaced posts on the entrance porch and an iron balustrade. A gambrel-roof metal shed is also located on the property.
- 50-52 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with gable dormers, shingle siding, and two windows.
- 53-55 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house; its porch is a replacement.
- 54-56 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with aluminum siding.
- 57-59 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house. The porch has been removed.
- 58-60 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with a concrete-over-rubblestone foundation, shed roof dormers, and alterations that include new clapboard siding.

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- 61-63 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with hip-roof dormers. The shed-roof porch is a replacement.
- 62-64 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story double mill house.
- 65-67 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story double mill house. The building's porch has been removed.
- 66-68 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house with gable dormers.
- 69-71 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house; the porch is a replacement.
- 73-75 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with gabled dormers and a new porch.
- 74-76 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers.
- 81-83 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house. Two wood sheds are also located on this property.
- 82-84 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers.
- 85-87 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story double mill house, with aluminum siding. It lacks the front entrance porch.
- 86-88 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with gabled dormers.
- 89-91 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with hipped dormers. It lacks the usual entrance porch.
- 90-92 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers.
- 93-95 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with a shed-roof porch.

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- 94-96 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers.
- 97-99 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with gabled dormers.
- 98-100 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers.
- 101-103 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house; its shed-roof porch is a replacement.
- 102-104 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with gabled dormers. There is a small wood end-gable shed located on the property.
- 105-107 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with aluminum siding and a replacement hipped-roof porch. Also located on the property are an aluminum-sided, gambrel-roof garage and a modern shed.
- 106-108 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A 2-story double mill house.
- 110-112 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers and aluminum siding.
- 113-115 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with a replacement shed-roof porch.
- 114-116 Double Mill House (ca. 1911): A typical Bowling Lane double mill house, with shed-roof dormers and shingle cladding.
- 121-123 Double Mill House (ca. 1926): A 2-story, hipped roof double mill house, with asbestos siding. There is a front entrance porch with a low hipped roof and paired brackets.

BRADFORD ROAD

- 344 House (ca. 1890): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-4-bay, rectangular, end-gable, asbestos-clad building with full basement and stone foundation. The original shed-roof porch has been enclosed on the east facade. A multi-level deck has been constructed on the

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south facade.

- 350 House (ca. 1900): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-4-bay, rectangular, end-gable, asbestos-clad building with a stone foundation. The original porch on the east elevation is now enclosed.
- 359 House (ca. 1940): A 1 1/2-story, 5-by-3-bay, rectangular, flank-gable, Colonial Revival building covered in aluminum siding. There is a flank-gable addition on the southeast corner. A 2-bay, flank-gable garage is located southeast of the house.
- 360 NC Bradford Motors (ca. 1940, ca. 1960): A 1-story, 4-by-2-bay, rectangular concrete block building with a flank-gable roof and a large flat-roof addition.
- Bradford Bridge (RIDOT #365, 1936): This single-span concrete highway bridge crosses the railroad on a northwest-southeast course. The bridge is simply detailed and has concrete spandrels on the span's exterior walls. Stepped concrete parapet walls lead from the bridge span to the railroad bed. The parapet walls along both sides of the roadway are concrete with recessed concrete panels.
- 392 House (ca. 1930): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable building, with a stone foundation and aluminum siding.
- 394 House (ca. 1910): A 1 1/2-story, 5-by-3-bay, cross-gable, asbestos-covered, Late Victorian house with a cobblestone foundation. A square, pyramidal shed and a rectangular, gabled shed are also located on the property.
- 395 House (ca. 1920): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, rectangular, flank gambrel, Dutch Colonial Revival house with a concrete foundation and clapboard (1st floor) and aluminum siding (gambrel ends). It is situated at the northeast corner of Bradford Road and River Avenue. A 1-story, end-gable garage is located in the northeast corner of the property.
- 399 House (ca. 1919): A 2 1/2-story, 5-by-3-bay, rectangular, flank-gable, Late Victorian house. The house is covered with aluminum siding and has one central interior brick chimney. A shed-roof porch spans the facade.

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- 414 House (ca. 1870, altered ca. 1930): A 1-story, 3-by-2-bay, rectangular, hipped-roof house covered in aluminum siding. The foundation is fieldstone and the hipped roof has flared eaves.
- 446 T. Burdick House (ca. 1850): A 1 1/2-story, 2-by-3-bay, end-gable, clapboarded house with a 2-by-1-bay, flank-gable ell attached to the north elevation. The house appears to have been constructed in the Greek Revival style with cornice returns, channeled corner pilasters, and a Greek Revival-style entranceway. It also features Italianate and Victorian alterations, including brackets under the eaves and a decorative wrap-around porch. A small, flank-gable, vertical-sided shed is located to the southwest.
- 448 A. G. Crumb House (ca. 1850): A 1-story, 3-by-2-bay, almost square, hipped-roof, clapboarded house with a granite foundation. It has a small brick chimney in the main block of the house and a decorative vergeboard along the eaves. A screenhouse with a flat roof and a large gambrel-roof shed are also located on the property.
- 450 NC Riverside Bait & Tackle (ca. 1980): A modern, 1 1/2-story, 2-by-2-bays, gambrel-roof log cabin set on concrete piers.
- Bradford Bridge (RIDOT #194, 1930): A 3-span, concrete slab bridge with simple steel pipe railing that spans the Pawcatuck River on a north-south direction. The bridge has ceramic tiles identifying the bridge number and construction date on low, plain concrete parapets.
- 460 Bradford Mill Complex (1864, 1912-1925): The Bradford Mill, sited along the south bank of the Pawcatuck River, is a large complex of nine freestanding factory buildings, incorporating many years of additions, and an entrance gate structure. A small pump house built for the mill's use in 1911 is located on the north shore of the river, in the neighboring town of Hopkinton. The oldest building, a stone mill, was constructed in 1864 by Dr. John E. Weeden for use as a woolen mill. Other buildings were added after the Bradford Dyeing Association purchased the mill in 1911.

The site has a large, circular brick smokestack and grouped stacks of vertically and horizontally installed steel storage

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tanks. Piping and mechanical systems, found throughout the mill site, are attached directly to building faces. Piping systems are often elevated, spanning paved areas to join adjacent facilities on the second level.

The mill's raceway parallels the river on an east-west course and remains intact, although the system has been partially covered over with paved surfaces and mechanical equipment. Until 1924, the mill contained a second cluster of buildings, the 1846 wood and frame mill, used as a bleachery, a kier house (caustic plant), and a singe house. This cluster was located northwest of the stone mill and was demolished in 1924.

Archaeological resources from the early industrial period are also present. In 1978 the State of Rhode Island constructed a fishladder on the site of the Bradford Dam and removed some stonework from the Hopkinton side of the river. One section was inscribed "1778." Workers also discovered oak timbers used in construction of the 1758 dam.

The individual components of the mill complex are as follows. The letters are keyed to the district map.

A) Stone Mill (1864): A 2-story, 13-by-4 bay, rectangular-plan low-pitch gable-roof building constructed of quarry-face stone. Windows on the building's south and north elevations have 9/9 original double-hung sash. The majority of windows located on the east side have been replaced with steel windows. Rectangular gable-roof frame additions have been constructed on the mill's western wall parallel to the river. Original paired, panelled, sliding track doors are located in the center of the building's south facade. According to the present owner, the building's original clerestory roof was destroyed by fire and replaced with the present gabled configuration in ca. 1912.

The mill was originally powered by a waterwheel in the center of the basement. It produced woolen goods. Two major additions were made to the stone mill ca. 1902. The Tentering House is a frame gabled-roof addition to the west end of the stone mill. The Boiler House, a 2-story frame gabled building, joined to the west end of the Tentering House, provided the mill's first steam power.

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As technology changed in the early 20th century, requiring larger manufacturing facilities and electricity rather than water-generated power, the stone mill came to play a supporting role in mill activity. Eventually, the mill and additions were used for storage.

B) Dyeing Facilities (1912-1925): This large irregular-plan complex is composed of 1- and 2-story brick and frame interconnected industrial buildings. Roofing profiles vary and include sawtooth monitor roofs, low-pitched gables, and flat roofing surfaces. These buildings house the plant's singeing, bleaching, mercerizing, and finishing departments as well as the main boiler room. Windows vary throughout these facilities and are comprised of multi-pane steel, awning-style sash, 2/1 double-hung wood sash, and former window spaces infilled with metal or plywood sheets. Construction of this complex began in 1912 and continued until 1925. Sporadic construction has occurred elsewhere on the site since that time, but the majority of building has focused on routine maintenance and the upgrading of plant equipment. Robert A. Sherman Sons and Company were hired in 1912 to begin the work.

C) Caustic Plant (1912): A 3-story, rectangular plan, frame and brick industrial building on a brick foundation. The building's barrel vault roof, a relatively unusual form, features roof monitors. There are single and paired multi-pane windows; some have been infilled with metal sheets. This building was constructed by Robert A. Sherman Sons and Company.

D) Gas House (ca. 1930): A 1-story, square-plan, hipped-roof building with shiplap siding resting on a concrete foundation. Constructed by a mill-employed contractor, the building houses the plant's gas supply apparatus.

NC

E) Fire Pumping Station (ca. 1960): A 1-story, rectangular-plan, concrete block building with flat roof. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. Constructed by Samuel Nardone and Sons of Westerly, the building houses the plant's fire protection system.

F) Gatehouse (ca. 1930, moved ca. 1935): A 1-story, square-plan, hipped-roof building with shiplap siding resting on a

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concrete foundation. Constructed by a mill-employed contractor, the building houses the plant's gas supply apparatus.

G) Entrance Gate (ca. 1930): A pair of oversized, square-plan brick columns frame the mill's entrance. Resting on concrete bases and supporting concrete caps with decorative lights, these brick columns support hinged, steel gates.

H) Garage (ca. 1940): A large, 1-story, flank-gable, multi-bay garage building.

I) Potable Water Pumping Building (1912): A 1-story, square-plan, frame building sheathed in shiplap siding with low hip roof and hipped-roof monitor vent. The building rests on a brick foundation.

J) Building #16 (1919 - 1947): A 1-story, rectangular-plan, frame building with flat roof and shiplap siding. The building is used for shipping and storage and has a flat roof loading dock along the north elevation.

### CHURCH STREET

- 1 Thomas Johnston House (ca. 1895): A 1 1/2-story, T-plan, 3-by-3-bay, end-gable house with a hipped-roof porch with Victorian brackets and turned posts on the facade. The house is clad in asbestos siding and has a granite foundation. There is a 3-by-2-bay gable addition to the right of the main block of the house with a 1-bay, hipped-roof addition to the right of this. Brick chimneys are located at both the center of the main block and the addition. A 2-bay, clapboard, hipped-roof, novelty-sided garage is also located on the property.
- 5 NC Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church (ca. 1963): A 1-story, 1-by-5-bay, front gable, brick building with a brick foundation. Its central entrance has double, solid wood doors set below a stained glass window. A cobblestone wall fronts the street.
- 6 A.G. Vars House (ca. 1885): A 1 1/2-story, 2-by-2-bay, center chimney, end-gable house with shingle siding and a stone



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foundation. There is a 1-story, 2-bay gable addition on the west elevation, and a bay window located on the east side of the facade at the first floor level. A 2 1/2-story, frame, flank-gable stable is also located on the property.

- (7) House (ca. 1940): A 2-story, 3-by-2-bay, flank-gable, aluminum-sided building with brick chimney at the end gable. The house is associated with the Saint Vincent de Paul Church. A 1-story, front gable, 2-car garage is also located on the property.
- 10 NC A.G. Vars Double House (ca. 1885, altered 1995): This recently extensively altered building is a 2 1/2-story, cross-gable, double house with 6-bay facade. Two entrances are located under the porch at the center bays, and two chimneys are located on the interior. This building has been so extensively altered that it retains only its original roof configuration and building shape.
- 14 House (ca. 1914): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, flank-gable, Craftsman bungalow with shingle cladding on the sides and vertical siding on the facade. Massive stone pillars support the roof over the integral, full-facade veranda. A shed dormer is centered on the front roof slope and an interior brick chimney is located at the center of the upper slope at the rear.
- 15 Bradford Elementary School (ca. 1927): A 1-story, 7-by-6-bay, end-gable, brick Colonial Revival building with paired masonry pilasters located on the facade. The entrances are located in recessed openings set in pedimented, arched, masonry pavilions. A dressed granite wall with the inscription "1932" fronts the street. The site was previously occupied by the George Spencer Wagon Works (1895 Everts and Richards map).
- 18 House (ca. 1910): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, flank-gambrel, Dutch Colonial Revival building sheathed in aluminum siding with a 1-story addition located along the rear (north). An exterior brick chimney is located on the west elevation, with an interior brick chimney at the east. An enclosed, 1-story porch with balustrade is located on the west side, and shed dormers are found on the rear and facade. Three outbuildings are also located on the property. They are in a row, south to north a double, side-gable garage with cupola and same trim as the house; a rectangular, flank-gable structure with shingle siding and a stone foundation; and a rectangular, flank-gable structure, with

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wide clapboards, built on stone piers.

24 Solomon P. Wells House (ca. 1789): A 2 1/2-story, clapboarded 3-by-3-bay, flank-gable, Colonial building with Greek Revival trim. A 1-story, 1-by-4-bay, hipped-roof addition is located on the west elevation, with a 2-story, 1-by-3-bay addition on the east. A large stone chimney is located on the west end of the ridgeline, and pilasters are positioned on each end of the facade. A drylaid, rubble-stone wall appears to the west of the house, and a 19th century, 1-story, 2-bay, flank-gable shed with vertical siding is located northeast of the house. The property also contains Wells Archaeological Site (RI-1852).

24 Wells Archaeological Site (RI-1852, late 18th century): This site represents the archaeological component of the Solomon P. Wells House (24 Church Street). Cultural material collected in a 1990 archaeological survey included domestic (curved glass, ceramics, pipe stem, coal, quahog shell) and building (nails, brick, window glass, tar paper) items, dating from the late 18th through 20th centuries.

## DORR STREET

9 House (ca. 1920): A 1 1/2-story, 4-by-2-bay, rectangular, end-gable, Colonial Revival house that is covered in shingles. A 1-story, 2-bay, end-gable garage and a large, end-gable shed are also located on the property.

## DOUGLAS PARK

1-3 Mill Supervisor's House (ca. 1926): A 2-story, hipped-roof, double house with a stone foundation, clapboards, exposed rafter ends, and three shed-roof dormers one each on the east, west, and south elevations. A small entrance porch with paired brackets is centrally located on the facade (south). One-story, hipped-roof extensions are located on both the east and west elevations, and a chimney is set at the interior roof slope on both of these elevations. A wood, gable-roof shed and a wood, gambrel-roof shed are also located on the property.

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- 2 Mill Superintendent's House (ca. 1928): A 2 1/2-story, end-gable, Tudor Revival house with half-timbering in the gable ends. A 2-story, flank-gable wing connects to a 2 1/2-story, end-gable ell on the northeast elevation. The house is situated on a large landscaped lot.
- 5-7 Mill Supervisor's House (ca. 1926): Similar to 1-3 Douglas Park, but with a replacement front porch, without brackets, and other alterations that include aluminum siding and an enclosed cornice. There are three outbuildings associated with this property a metal shed and two wood sheds one is shingled with a hipped roof, and the other has a gable roof.
- 9-11 Mill Supervisor's House (ca. 1926): Similar to 1-3 Douglas Park, but with shingle siding, without exposed rafters, and with the extension on the east elevation being shingled. A hipped-roof shed is also located on the property.

JOSEPH LANE

- 1 NC House (ca. 1940): A 1-story, 3-by-3-bay, ranch house.

KNOWLES STREET

- 2 Gilbert Park House (ca. 1890): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, cross-gable, clapboarded, Late Victorian house with a later ell attached to the south elevation. A 1-story, 2-bay, hipped-roof garage and a 1-story, shed-roof playhouse are also located on the property.
- 7 House (ca. 1900): A 1 1/2-story, 4-by-3-bay with a side (east) ell, rectangular, end-gable, Late Victorian house clad in clapboard. The side-hall entrance is sheltered by a flat roof hood supported by decorative brackets. A 1-story, rectangular, end-gable, wood-frame shed is also located on the property.
- 12 House (ca. 1940): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, flank gable, shingled house with an enclosed entrance bay. A rectangular metal structure/shed is located to the rear of the house.

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**NIANTIC AVENUE**

- (1) NC Niantic Pizza and Deli (ca. 1980): A 1-story, 3-by-5-bay, end-gable, asbestos-clad commercial building, part of which may have been originally the garage to 34 North Main Street, behind which this building is located.
- 8 House (ca. 1900, altered): A 1 1/2-story, 4-by-1-bay, flank-gable, shingled, Craftsman house. There is one interior brick chimney in the main block of the house and a 1 1/2-story, flat-roof ell on the east elevation.

**NORTH MAIN STREET**

- 1 NC Euro-Car Service (ca. 1970): A modern, 1-story, concrete and masonry commercial garage.
- 2 A. H. --dney (unreadable on map) House (ca. 1870) A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, irregularly shaped, end-gable, Late Victorian building covered in asbestos shingles. Although numbered on North Main Street, the house is oriented toward Bradford Road.
- 3 T. Batford House (ca. 1850) A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable building, originally constructed in the Greek Revival style. Many of the details of this house, such as cornice returns, have been covered by aluminum siding. The first floor facade has also been altered by conversion to commercial use.
- 5 NC Bradford Fire Station (ca. 1960): A modern, 1-story, 2-bay fire engine garage built of concrete block.
- 6 W. Corey House (ca. 1850): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable, Greek Revival building. The house has been clad in asbestos shingles, but details such as cornice returns and the original entranceway remain. A gabled shed with attached shed-roof garage is located to the rear of the house.
- 7 NC Bess Eaton Donuts (ca. 1980): A 1-story, modern, commercial building.

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- 8 NC House (ca. 1892, rebuilt 1989): A 1-story, 4-by-3-bay, rectangular, flank-gable building that has been extensively altered. A 2-story, flank-gable barn with a 2-bay, end-gable garage attached to the rear is located north of the house.
- 9A-9B Double House (ca. 1920): A 2-story, 4-by-2-bay, rectangular, aluminum-covered building with a hipped roof and exposed rafter ends that suggest a Craftsman influence.
- 10 House (ca. 1900): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable, Late Victorian building covered in aluminum siding.
- 11 Double House (ca. 1920): A 2-story, 4-by-2-bay, rectangular, aluminum-covered building that is similar to 9A-9B North Main Street, but lacks the Craftsman details.
- 13 NC Bradford Social Club (after 1978): A 1-story, modern, brick building located at the corner of North Main Street and Bowling Lane. This building replaced the one that originally housed the Bradford Social Club, established for mill workers ca. 1915.
- 14 House (ca. 1850): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, end-gable, Greek Revival house that has been covered in aluminum siding. An end-gable, 1-bay garage is located to the rear of the house.
- 37 near #14 House (ca. 1910): A 2-story, 3-by-1-bay, rectangular, end-gable building that has a stone foundation and aluminum siding.
- 15 NC Wm. Clarke House (ca. 1895, altered 1990): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, rectangular, end-gable, Late Victorian building with a stone foundation. The house is clad in clapboard with fish-scale shingles in the gable end.
- 16 Bradford Post Office (ca. 1895): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-6-bay, rectangular, end-gambrel building that has a granite foundation and is covered in aluminum siding. The building is oriented toward Bradford Road, although it is set back along North Main Street. It has formerly housed, at different times, a grocery store, the Burdick Social Hall, and a movie theater. The Bradford Post Office was moved to the building in the 1950s. It also currently shelters the Bradford Jonnycake Center.

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- 19 NC House (ca. 1950): A 1-story modern ranch house and a 1-story shed.
- 20 E. Palmer Double House (ca. 1870, altered ca. 1900): A 2-1/2-story, 6-by-2-bay, rectangular, side-gable, double house that has been covered in asbestos shingles. The house appears to have been originally constructed in the Greek Revival style, with Late Victorian alterations. Cornice returns are visible and corner pilasters are present but covered with shingles. A small, 1-story, shed-roof shed is located to the rear of the house.
- 26 House (ca. 1780): A 1-story, 2-by-2-bay, end-gable with returns, shingled house with a 2-by-1-bay, flank-gable addition that forms an overall L-shape plan.
- 28 Barber House (ca. 1840): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, Greek Revival house. The building retains original clapboard and wood wall trim, including corner pilasters and a wide frieze. The entrance also appears to be original, with four-pane sidelights and pilasters flanking the door.
- 29 House (ca. 1900): A 2 1/2-story, 8-by-3-bay, end-gable, Late Victorian-style house with a rough-face stone foundation.
- 31 House (ca. 1940): A 1 1/2-story, 2-by-2-bay, flank-gable, shingled house with a Tudor Revival influence.
- 33 House (ca. 1940): A 1-story, 2-by-2-bay, flank-gable house that has been covered in aluminum siding.
- 34 M. Knowles House/Niantic House (ca. 1870): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-4-bay, rectangular, Late Victorian house that is clad in asbestos shingles. It has a full, exposed basement and a 1-bay wide, set-back addition on both sides. A full-width porch features Stick Style details. Originally the home of M. Knowles, by 1895 this property functioned as a boarding house.
- 37 W. D. Vars House (ca. 1900): A 2 1/2-story, 4-by-3-bay, end-gable, Italianate house that retains its original clapboard. The house is also set back on a large corner lot. A gabled modern frame shed is located to the rear of the building.

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- 38 House (ca. 1938): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, rectangular, flank-gable, aluminum-clad house with an end-gable addition to the right rear corner, which features an Italianate bracketed entrance hood. A gabled modern shed is located to the rear of the building.
- 42 Peter S. Parks House (ca. 1895): A 2-story, 3-by-3-bay, square, hipped-roof, shingled house.
- (46) John L. Barker House (ca. 1895): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, asbestos-covered, end-gable, Late Victorian house. The building is connected to the former bank building to the south by a fully enclosed bay clad in clapboard.
- (48) Bank (ca. 1855): A 1-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable, Greek Revival building built of rough-face granite blocks. The end-gable is pedimented. The building was intended as a bank (Hopkinton Bank) but was never used in that capacity. It is connected to the house to the north and recently housed a gallery.
- 49 Enoch G. Vars House (ca. 1890): A 1 1/2-story, 2-by-2-bay, cross-gable, Late Victorian house with a rear addition. It has Stick Style ornamentation in the gable ends. A second house is located to the west. This building is a 1 1/2-story, rectangular, end-gable house clad in shingles with a rear, shed-roof addition. A 2-story, 2-by-2 bay, cross-gable, Late Victorian barn with chevron-pattern paired doors on the west (primary) facade stands to the southwest of the main house.
- 50 J. Hiscox House (ca. 1870): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay building, with a rear addition. It is end-gable and shingled. A small, vertical-sided wood shed is located to the south of the house.

RAILROAD AVENUE

- 380 NC House (ca. 1970): A 1-story, 5-by-2-bay, rectangular, flank-gable, concrete block house with an integral, 2-bay garage at the west end.

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**SOUTH MAIN STREET**

- 2 Humphrey Eldredge House (ca. 1870): A 2-story, 2-by-2-bay rectangular, end-gable, Late Victorian building, with a rear ell. There is a 1-story, end-gable house located to the rear. This secondary house has an enclosed porch on the facade and a shed-roof wing to the north.
- 5 House/Schoolhouse No. 7 (ca. 1855): A 1 1/2-story, 6-by-2-bay, cross-plan, cross-gable, clapboard-clad, Classical Revival building. It has a fieldstone foundation and one central interior brick chimney. The building is identified as a school on the 1855 and 1870 maps, and as "Schoolhouse No. 7" on the 1895 Everts and Richards map. The building has been converted into a residence.
- 6 House (ca. 1930): A 1-story, end-gable, square, clapboarded dwelling with a Craftsman influence.
- 9 NC House (ca. 1950): A 1 1/2-story, 4-by-2-bay, square, end-gable, mid-20th-century house that is covered in aluminum siding.
- 10 Chas. Vars House (ca. 1870): An aluminum-sided 2 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable, Italianate house with a rear ell. Stylistic features include a bracketed entrance hood, brackets under the eaves, and an arched window in the gable end. A square, hipped-roof, screen house is located south of the house.

**VARS LANE**

- 2 House (ca. 1895): A 2 1/2-story, 5-by-2-bay, rectangular, cross-gable, Late Victorian double house. The house has a granite foundation and clapboard wall cover, and a 2-story porch on the west elevation, along North Main Street. It housed the post office and a store in 1895. A 1-story, end-gable garage is located to the rear.
- 4 House (ca. 1900): A 2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable house with a 1-story, 1-bay deep, full-width rear ell. The house has a granite foundation and one interior brick chimney. Details have been obscured by the application of aluminum siding, but the



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entrance door is Italianate-inspired with narrow, curved arch windows. A 1-by-2-bay, 1-car garage with vertical wood siding in poor condition is also located on the property.

- 4 1/2 NC House (ca. 1940, altered): A 1 1/2-story, 4-by-1-bay, flank-gable house with a 6-by-2-bay, end-gable ell to the east with two garage bays in the exposed, concrete block basement. A flat-roof shed with paired windows is located to the west of the building.
- 5 House (ca. 1920): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable, shingle-clad, Craftsman house with a 1-story, shallow gable, rear ell. The roof features shed-roof dormer windows. There are two interior brick chimneys and the foundation is concrete block. A 1-story, end-gable, wood frame, shingled shed is also located on the property.
- (6) NC House (ca. 1960): A 1-story modern ranch house.
- 9 NC House (ca. 1958): A 1-story, 4-by-1-bay, cross-gable, shingled ranch house with an attached garage.
- 13 NC House (ca. 1970): A modern, 4-by-2-bay, flank-gable, split-level house.
- 17 House (ca. 1930): A 1 1/2-story, 5-by-3-bay, flank-gable, shingle-clad, Craftsman house. It has a concrete foundation and one interior brick chimney. A 1-story, end-gable, wood-frame shed with a shed-roof addition is also located on the property.
- 16 NC House (ca. 1950): A 1 1/2-story, 2-by-2-bay, end-gable, aluminum-sided house.
- 28 NC House (ca. 1960): A modern, 1-story, hipped-roof, brick house with an older granite wall along the road.
- 29 Andrew M. Lehnbery House (ca. 1870): A 2 1/2-story, 3-by-3-bay, rectangular, end-gable, brick, Italianate house with an exposed basement. A 1-story, gabled, wood frame shed is located to the rear of the house.
- 30 House (ca. 1940): A 1 1/2-story, 3-by-2-bay, rectangular, flank-gable, shingled house with a 1-by-1-bay ell attached to the

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southwest corner. A shingled, 1-bay garage and vertical sided shed are also located on the property.

36 NC House (ca. 1960): A 1-story modern ranch house, between #13 and #17.

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### Photographs

All photographs were taken by Nancy Tinker or Catherine Vieth (November 1995)

Original Negatives at: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.  
210 Lonsdale Avenue  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

### **8" x 10" Photographs**

Photo 1: Stone Mill, Bradford Dyeing Association Complex  
460 Bradford Road  
View Southwest from RIDOT Bridge #194

Photo 2: Stone Mill, Bradford Dyeing Association Complex  
460 Bradford Road  
View Northwest

Photo 3: 10-12 Bowling Lane  
View Southeast

Photo 4: Bowling Lane Streetscape  
(1 to r) 86-88, 90-92, 94-96, 98-100, 102-104 Bowling Lane  
View East

Photo 5: Mill Superintendent's House  
2 Douglas Park  
View Southeast

Photo 6: Mill Supervisor's Double House  
1-3 Douglas Park  
View North

Photo 7: Niantic Baptist Church  
17 Bowling Lane  
View Northwest

Photo 8: Former Bank  
(46-48) North Main Street  
View Northeast

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Photo 9: Former Schoolhouse No. 7  
5 South Main Street  
View Northeast

Photo 10: Solomon P. Wells House  
24 Church Street  
View Northeast

Photo 11: Dyeing Facilities, Bradford Dyeing Association Complex  
460 Bradford Road  
View Northwest

Photo 12: Entrance Gates, Bradford Dyeing Association Complex  
460 Bradford Road  
View North

Photo 13: Caustic Plant and Dyeing Facilities,  
Bradford Dyeing Association Complex  
460 Bradford Road  
View West

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### Significance

The Bradford Village Historic District is significant as a small, relatively well-preserved, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mill village which retains most of the structures built during the period of its development as a textile processing center. Bradford's history before, during, and following its development as a factory village exemplifies in several aspects the broader history of many villages in southern Rhode Island. Further, some of Bradford's buildings are useful examples of architectural types which have importance in the history of this region.

Bradford is located in the northeast corner of the town of Westerly at a ford on the Pawcatuck River (which separates the towns of Westerly and Hopkinton). The area was only sparsely settled in the mid-eighteenth century, as the most substantial development in Westerly took place elsewhere at more favorable locations on Long Island Sound and along the major roads. The Bradford area, a backwater in the eighteenth century, was originally known as Shattuck's Weir, named for a Native American who trapped shad and alewives here. In its first stage of development the village was no more than a small fishing settlement, surrounded by small farms, its industry limited to a grist mill which processed local crops.

Bradford's first dam was constructed across the Pawcatuck in 1758 by Stephen Saunders and Deacon Gardner. A sawmill known as Gardner's Mill was built on the Hopkinton side of the river; it was later destroyed by flood. A grist mill was constructed on the site in 1778.

The mill privilege which would be so important in Bradford's later development was first established in the 1790s; the first mill was constructed in 1819. Like others of its era, this was a wood frame building, described as a "custom carding and cloth dressing mill." As with most mills of this age and region, it processed wool, the great cotton centers of Rhode Island being located elsewhere. The mill was constructed by Joseph Knowles whose son John later added wool looms to the operation. Never consistently successful, the mill changed hands a number of times in the 1830s and 40s, and burned down in 1846.

The mill site was leased to John Weeden in 1846; he later purchased the property. Weeden built a new wood frame mill in the late 1840s. The new mill seems to have included carding, spinning, and weaving operations, producing satinets, tweeds, and linseys. In 1856 Weeden purchased the nearby Burdickville Mill and achieved a measure of integration by using it

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as a shoddy mill (which processed the leftovers of his mill at Bradford). In the early 1860s, with demand for wool products at a high point, a number of additions were made by Weeden to the Bradford mill. In 1863-64 a new mill was built, a quarry stone building which is now the oldest section of the present-day mills--a long narrow building, it is supported by interior cast iron columns and has large double-hung windows. Its original clerestory has been altered, but the old mill remains a useful example of a late use of stone for factory construction. A drying room was constructed in 1865; a boiler room was added c.1870; a singe house was built c.1872. In addition, Weeden constructed several workers' houses near the mill (later moved to Bowling Lane).

Under the Weeden ownership of the mills, the area at Bradford experienced its first period of substantial, sustained economic growth, from the late 1840s through the 1870s. Apart from construction of the mill and the company-owned houses, a number of other buildings were raised in the village. A church, several stores, a post office, a boardinghouse, a blacksmith shop, and a small group of houses were built. The architectural legacy of this period is represented by the handsome stone mill, the austere plain mill houses, and a handful of houses built for merchants and others, documenting the attenuated influence of Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne ideas in the Rhode Island countryside at mid-century.

With the failure of John Weeden's operations in the early 1880s, the village entered an economically troubled period. The mill property was sold at auction in 1885 and went through a quick succession of owners until 1902. As the nineteenth century neared its end, the mill stood idle more often than not. Alfred Vars, Bradford's longtime shopkeeper, noted that "the village's only factory has changed hands so rapidly during the past two generations that no one even pretends to remember the names of all the firms." (FN)

In 1902 the Bradford mill was acquired by James Pike of Sterling, Connecticut. Pike was the inventor of a superior black dyeing process that required large amounts of water with a low calcium content. He had discovered that the soft water of the Pawcatuck River displayed the same low calcium levels as the river adjoining a dye plant in Sterling. Pike built a frame addition to the old stone mill (probably the west extension) and began dyeing cotton with his "fast black" process.

Pike died in 1910, and the mill was inherited by his son William. In December of that year the property was sold to English investors, the

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Bradford Dyers Association, Yorkshire, England. The investor's purpose in establishing the American-based plant was "to enable English dyers, whose market in finished goods has been seriously affected by the higher rates imposed under the Payne-Aldrich tariff, to meet American competitors on their own ground." The following article appeared in the Friday, February 24, 1911 issue of the Providence Journal:

Through the purchase of the William Pike Company's bleachery . . . large farms along the Pawcatuck River, and negotiations for other large tracts, the Bradford Dyers Association, Ltd., . . . is making plans for the establishment near Westerly of one of the most extensive bleaching and dyeing plants in the country.

When the transfer of all the properties involved has been concluded, a Westerly representative of the association states immediate steps will be taken for the erection of a large plant and of a new village . . . which will accommodate what will probably be the largest industry in Washington county. The estates purchased already or being negotiated for lie about a mile and a half along the Pawcatuck River . . . an area aggregating 800 acres or more, something like one-and-a quarter square miles of land.

On February 23, 1911 the New York Times reported

[the] Association's plans include provision for water power, dyeing houses established at a cost exceeding \$1,000,000, and a model village for employees. The Pawcatuck River, a tidal stream flowing into Long Island Sound, will probably be deepened to provide dockage for deep sea vessels, and the character of a large section of Washington County hitherto a scantily settled farming and fishing community will be entirely changed.

The article continued by stating that the Association had obtained water frontage on both sides of the Pawcatuck River and flowage rights and that surveys had been made in anticipation of dam construction. One of the investors was quoted as saying,

You won't know this place in five years. All the little villages in the towns of Hopkinton, Charlestown, Niantic and Westerly will be swallowed up in a commercial city. The river will be different. There will be a large freight yard on Deacon Barber's farm. Up shore the bridge there'll be a lake of fresh water behind the great dam,

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covering up the farms and all the houses and buildings on them. And it'll be the tariff that did it.

English investors immediately began a construction program and hired the firm of Robert A. Sherman Sons and Company to undertake the expansion. Between the years 1911 and 1925 the mill's owners expended \$1,082,246 at the mill site alone. The mill's modest Bleachery, Singe House and Kier House cluster had become obsolete, and by 1924 it had given way to a rambling, interconnected, manufacturing complex built south of the older buildings. A Power Plant (Unit I), Bleach House, and Finishing Room (Unit II) were completed early in the building program. The construction of a Caustic Recovery Plant (1912-1913), Rope Race, and Machine Shop (1923-1924) were followed quickly by building additions, maintenance programs, and the constant updating of buildings with the newest technology (e.g. a Refrigerator Room and Cold Air Intake equipment were installed in 1925 at a cost of \$31,250). Today, this complex is referred to as the Dyeing Facilities.

Mill expansion began in April 1911 and continued until about 1925. The buildings constructed during this period incorporated industrial forms typical of the early twentieth century. An integral building element included sawtooth monitor roofs, a design scheme that allowed a maximum amount of natural light for calibrating dyeing colors. The barrel vaulted roofing form of the Caustic Plant, which was fairly unusual, was occasionally used for industrial applications in the early years of the twentieth century.

This expansion program required the removal of the boarding house, tenant housing, and the general store constructed on the mill's grounds during the Weeden period of ownership. The boardinghouse and general store were demolished, but several of the single-family dwellings located behind the mill were moved to Bowling Lane, the new residential village being established by the mill's British landlord.

By 1920, the mill had become a complex of interrelated buildings centered around a large 1-story, brick mill. The 1864 stone mill building and its additions were used for storage. The stone mill housed a kitchen, lunchroom, and storage space on the first floor. Finishing equipment occupied basement space, and the building was vacant in the two upper floors. The ca. 1902 woodframe addition, formerly the stone mill's Tenting Room, still housed equipment, and the boiler house was used for storage. The 1846 mill, later used as a Bleachery, Kier House (Caustic Plant), and Singe House, formed a separate cluster and stood to the



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northeast of the stone mill's rectangular plan in 1920, but was demolished in 1924.

Over time Bowling Lane came to hold approximately 47 mill-owned residential properties. The majority of houses were constructed of frame and designed as duplexes, although a handful of single family buildings dotted the northeastern portion of the street. Douglas Park, a dead-end street located at the southern end of Bowling Lane, was set aside by mill operators as the residential section for the mill's supervisory staff. Douglas Park came to feature four properties, the largest of which was 2 Douglas Park, an irregularly planned Tudor Revival dwelling intended for the mill's superintendent. All of these residential properties were maintained by the mill. Mill management also employed two gardeners who worked year-round caring for the area's lawns and gardens.

Within a year of beginning the expansion program, employment had grown to 150. In August, 1912, the mill's first woolen and worsted goods were processed. At almost the same time the Payne-Aldrich Tariff was repealed, effectively eliminating the Bradford Mill's reason for being. British management responded quickly and converted the property from wool to cotton processing and dyeing. As fashion dictated a move from cotton to rayon, acetate, nylon, and polyester, the mill followed suit. In a letter dated March 21, 1973, company treasurer H.G.D. Neill wrote that "over the years (we) have been the leader in . . . processing . . . many of these new fibers."

In 1924 and 1925, mill owners attempted to venture into silk production and pursued this attempt over the objections of several mill supervisors. Building additions were completed and equipment installed. Caught within the financial crisis occurring throughout the nation, silk production at the Bradford mill failed. The mill then experienced a period of reorganization. Employment during this period reached 250.

During World War II many of the mill's employees entered the military. As a result, women were hired to fill these vacancies. During these years the mill primarily met military needs by filling orders for parachute cloth, nylons, and khaki. The company was unionized in 1944 and witnessed the cyclic rise and fall of the textile trade. Employment grew to 1,000 persons, with numbers swelling to 1,200 during peak times.

During the 1960s wash-and-wear finishes became popular, and the Bradford mill processed cotton and blended fabrics. As the 1960s came to a close, knitted goods, especially double-knit polyesters, became the fabric of

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choice. Bradford processed this cloth as well. In 1970 the Bradford mill began printing cotton fabric. British ownership continued until December 1963, when the mill was sold to the E. J. C. Corporation of Rhode Island. Mill ownership of the Bowling Lane properties continued until ca. 1968, when these properties were sold to the public.

A period of prosperity followed though it was interrupted by the nation's depressed economy, the 1970s oil crisis, and the railroad's threat to end the mill's rail service. One issue compounded another, and the plant was closed on June 25, 1974 with a loss of 460 jobs. Through the cooperation of the Town of Westerly, union representatives, and new ownership, the Bradford mill was reopened in January 1975. The mill resumed meeting military needs but continued to experience a variety of labor and financial crises. On March 3, 1987, the mill laid off 111 employees, blaming the Defense Department for the loss of contract. The matter was resolved and plant production resumed. Employment today stands at approximately 500 personnel. The mill has become known as "commission finishers," a company which receives "cloth in the gray," dyes the fabric, and prepares material for cutting.

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## Geographical Data

UTM References: (cont.)							
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
E	19	270290	4586800	F	19	270300	4586560
G	19	270430	4586520	H	19	270360	4586330
I	19	270160	4586470	J	19	270100	4586720
K	19	269920	4586680	L	19	269810	4586730
M	19	269840	4586940	N	19	269460	4586570
O	19	269300	4586590	P	19	269140	4586950

## Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northwest corner of Niantic Avenue and the town line established along the center of the Pawcatuck River, the boundary follows the course of the river, bounding the district on the northeast, north, and northwest. An exception to this rule occurs to the north of the mill, as the boundary runs briefly north of the Pawcatuck to include a small mill property that is located in the town of Hopkinton. The boundary then resumes, following the river in a southwesterly direction.

At a point in the river approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the northwest corner of Map 22, Lot 1, the boundary leaves the river and follows a line of convenience southeast to reach the western lot line of property 22/1. The boundary crosses Douglas Park and follows the south side of Douglas Park and includes the property located at 22/32. From here the boundary runs northeast along the rear lot lines of properties fronting on the southeast side of Bowling Lane.

At the southwest corner of 22/23A, the boundary turns south, running along the west lot lines of properties bounded on the north by Knowles Street and on the south by properties 22/11, 10, and 9. At the southernmost corner of 22/9, the boundary turns north and runs along this lot line until reaching 22/8, where the boundary moves east behind properties facing Vars Lane. The boundary runs southeast upon reaching 23/9 and crosses the railroad.

Upon reaching 23/5, the boundary follows rear property lines of those buildings fronting on the west side of South Main/Bradford Road. When reaching 23/1, the boundary wraps the west and south lot lines and runs east, crossing Bradford Road and meeting the south lot line of 33/12. The boundary follows the west, south, and east lot lines of 33/102 and 105,

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runs north across Church Street and then wraps 23/71 on the south, west, and north. From here the boundary moves west along rear lot lines of those properties fronting the north side of Church Street and 23/66, which fronts Bradford Road.

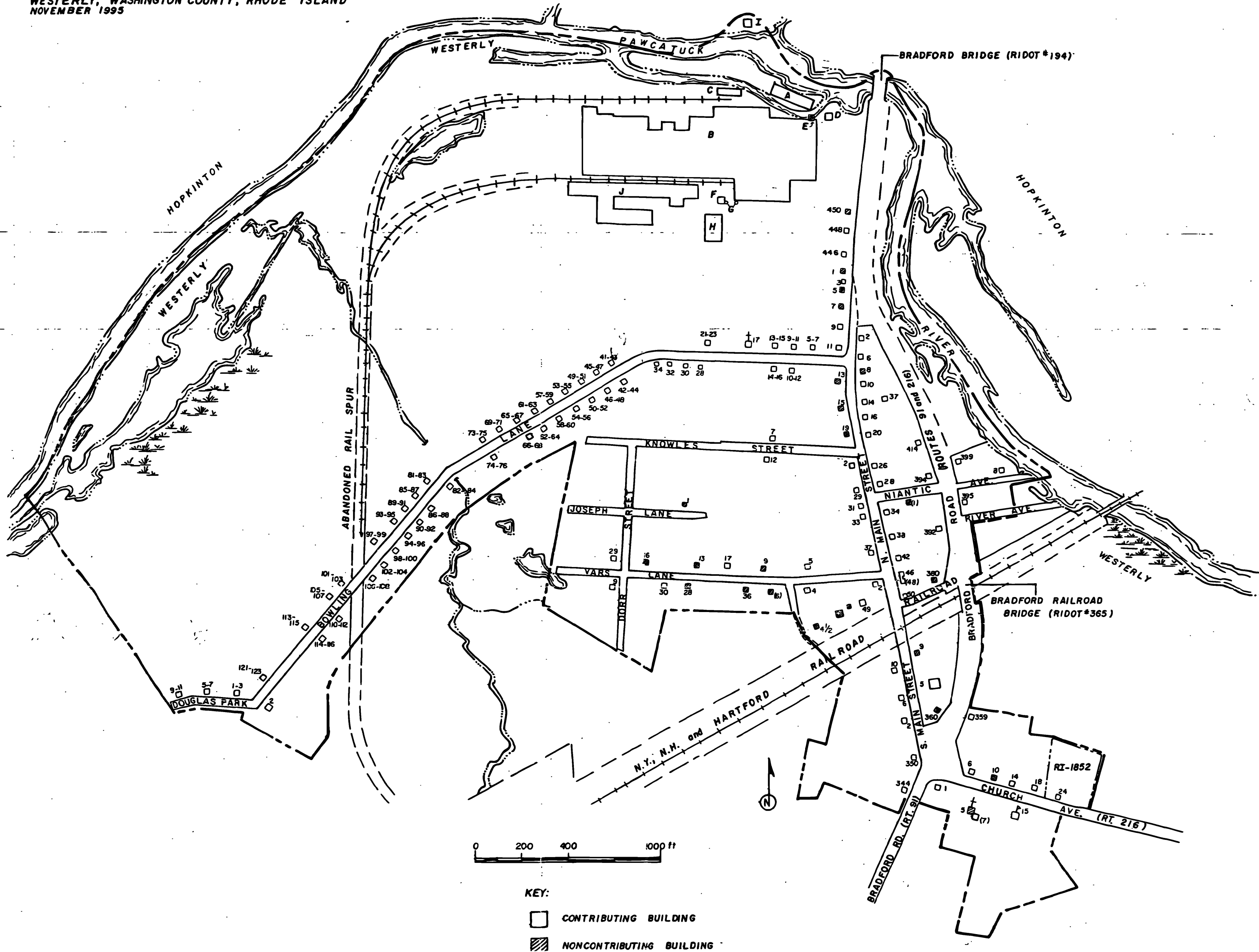
Upon reaching the northeast corner of 23/66, the boundary runs west along the north lot line and, upon reaching Bradford Road, turns to the north following the eastern edge of the roadbed. Continuing north, the boundary crosses the railroad bridge, Railroad Avenue, follows the west line of 23/62, and crosses River Avenue. It then jogs and follows the west line of 23/57, then turns east along the southern edge of Niantic Avenue until meeting the Pawcatuck River.

### Boundary Justification

The Bradford Historic District boundaries encompass the historic residential, commercial, and industrial core of the Village of Bradford. The boundaries generally follow the town line along the center of the Pawcatuck River and property lot lines as shown on the attached set of Westerly Assessor's maps (14, 15, 22, 23, and 33). The boundary also jogs north across the river into the town of Hopkinton to encompass a small pump house that is a contributing element in the Bradford mill complex.

**BRADFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**WESTERLY, WASHINGTON COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND**  
**NOVEMBER 1995**

HOPKINTON



KEY:

- CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
- ▨ NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING