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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Old State House
150 Benefit Street
Providence, R. I. 02903
(401) 277-2678

IN CITY COUNCIL

READ: DEC 1 1977
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.
Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

November 18, 1977

Mr. Robert J. Haxton, President
Providence City Council
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Mr. Haxton:

Enclosed is a copy of the first draft of the report based on the Smith Hill neighborhood survey, conducted by the Preservation Commission during 1976 and 1977 and funded by the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island. This report attempts an historical analysis of the growth of Smith Hill and recommends preservation programs and procedures which can be incorporated into planning efforts.

I should very much appreciate any comments, corrections, additions, or deletions you might suggest. Receipt of your response by the fifteenth of December would greatly facilitate our review and - ultimately - the publication of the Smith Hill report.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Wm McKenzie Woodward

Wm. McKenzie Woodward
Survey Consultant

WMW/mm

Enclosure

SMITH HILL

I. PHYSICAL SETTING

C The Smith Hill Neighborhood is a small (.65 square mile), densely built area to the northwest of the Providence central business district. For the purposes of this survey, it is specifically defined as that area bounded on the east and southeast by the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad tracks; on the west by the Dean Street Connector, Pleasant Valley Parkway, Raymond Street, and Oakland Avenue; on the northwest by Douglas Avenue, the Chad Brown-Admiral Terrace Housing Project, and Admiral Street; and on the northeast by the railroad tracks, Branch Avenue, and North Main Street.

C Smith Hill is traversed by three roughly parallel major northwest-southeast thoroughfares--Smith Street, Douglas Avenue, and Admiral Street -- which intersect with two roughly parallel, major northeast-southwest axes -- Orms Street and Chalkstone Avenue. Interstate Highway 95 is a major -- and inaccessible -- axis which divides the eastern quarter of Smith Hill from the remainder of the neighborhood. The irregular triangular and trapezoidal areas between major traffic axes are divided by short cross streets, their ad hoc pattern the result of nineteenth-century plats laid out by numerous developers.

The area is predominantly residential, with concomitant neighborhood business located on the major thoroughfares and concentrated at the intersections of these thoroughfares. The area to the east of I-95 is dominated by state-owned office buildings. The southern and eastern borders of Smith Hill, the areas along the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers, are filled with industrial buildings, most now converted to other uses following the exodus of industry to suburban locations.

While the composition of the neighborhood has changed considerably over the past fifty years -- and continues to change -- Smith Hill retains to a large degree its sense of neighborhood. The traditional center of the oldest ethnic community in Providence, the Irish, Smith Hill has a long, active oral history, which is now somewhat diminished because of shifting demographics. This neighborhood tradition lends to Smith Hill a cohesiveness that helps further to define the area.

Physical definition of the neighborhood as it exists today is the result of an evolutionary development of boundaries. When Providence was first settled -- and until 1846 -- Smith Hill was separated from the East Side and downtown Providence by natural boundaries, the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers and the Great Salt Cove. The improvements to both rivers and the filling of the cove have virtually eliminated these bodies of water as physical boundaries. The political

changes in the area have also effected its growth: from 1765 to 1874, the area approximately northwest of I-95 was part of North Providence, a factor which served somewhat to limit the urbanization of the area. Finally, a number of large-scale building projects which surround Smith Hill serve as buffers, confining the Smith Hill neighborhood to its small area.

The railroad tracks along the south and east form the longest of these created buffers. The State House and its extensive grounds further separate Smith Hill from downtown Providence. The grounds of two later nineteenth-century estates -- the Davis estate, now the site of the Veterans' Hospital, and the Chase-Burke estate, now the site of the Nathaniel Greene Middle School -- provide large open spaces which have physically limited continuous western growth. Similarly, the Chad Brown-Admiral Terrace Housing Project marks a northern limit of Smith Hill, and, when it was built in the early 1940s, the land on which it stands was vacant, implying a non-planned limit to Smith Hill. Government projects begun in the 1950s have not only been responsible for the elimination of a transitional neighborhood on the northeast, but further created large buffer zones in the Route 146 right-of-way, the West River Redevelopment area and the Moshassuck Square-Randall Square Redevelopment area.

had erected a combination dwelling house and mill on the western side of the Moshassuck River, near present-day Mill Street. He located here probably with an eye toward improving his operations should the Town Council offer inducements to his doing so. In 1646, the Council granted Smith the land outright, and assured him a virtual monopoly by lending official status to his operation. This first mill structure, along with the rest of the buildings in Providence, was destroyed during King Philip's War of 1676 and subsequently replaced.

In 1705 the Town Council granted to John Miller II and Richard Arnold the next parcel south of the gristmill for the construction of a sawmill, which was completed by 1708. This early location of industry at first drew other residents to the area, and also assured the area's eventual industrial use.

Proximity to the gristmill proved an attraction to the area, and by the beginning of the eighteenth century this part of the settlement was the most densely populated part of Providence. As a population center, it was a convenient location for the first meetinghouse in Providence, completed in 1700. The construction of the Blackstone Canal in the early nineteenth century and the subsequent industrialization of the area was largely responsible for the demolition of these early dwellings. The last survivor was the Zachariah Jones House (1710, demolished 1897) on Mill Street, notable for its late use of exposed summer beams on both floors.

II. EARLY LAND USE, 1636-1830

Smith Hill is part of Roger Williams' Grand Purchase from the Sachems Canonicus and Miantinomi. Before the first settlers arrived, the area including Smith Hill lay between the lands of the Narragansett and Wampanoag tribes, both part of the larger Algonquin nation. The Indians left no traceable impact upon Smith Hill, neither roads nor settlements.

When Roger Williams brought his band of followers to Providence in 1636, the group settled on the eastern banks of the Providence and Moshassuck Rivers. The land on the Neck was soon divided into house lots, but the area west of the Providence and Moshassuck Rivers was needed as common land for farming and the raising of livestock. The Early Records of Providence chronicle the setting aside in 1658 of the land north of the Woonasquatucket River as the "stated common" for use by Providence residents.

While Smith Hill itself was set aside as common ground, the area along its eastern border -- around Charles, Mill, and North Main Streets -- was settled shortly after Providence was established, and was the site of the earliest industry in Providence.

John Smith, a miller from Dorchester who was banished along with Williams, came to Providence in 1636, and by 1638

While industrialization of the area became full-scale only in the mid-nineteenth century, mills were built in the area in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, such as a second ~~A~~ ^{sawmill} and gristmill built by Colonel William Brown and others on the Moshassuck in 1750, Samuel Thurber's paper mill on Bark Street in 1780, Seril Dodge's jewelry manufactory near the meetinghouse on North Main Street in 1788, and Ezekiel and William Burr's silversmith shop on North Main Street north of the meetinghouse in 1792. In 1812, Samuel Ogden took over the Thurber paper mill site for his machine shop.

By the late 1720s, the growth of small communities at Olneyville and Triptown (now Manton) created a need for highways connecting them with the compact part of town. Thus before 1729 a route to Olneyville was completed, following the route of Orms and Valley Streets. In 1729, the southern branch of the route through the stated common was constructed along present-day Douglas Avenue and thence westward along Chalkstone Avenue to Triptown. Four years later, the northern branch of the road through the common was completed along Douglas Avenue and Eaton Street. The construction of the first Mill Street Bridge in the same year further facilitated communication among the various settlements.

These early roads were augmented in the early nineteenth century by the construction of two turnpikes through Smith Hill. The Douglas Turnpike, chartered in 1805 and opened in 1807, followed the course of the North Branch Road as far as Eaton Street, and thence continued to Douglas, Massachusetts. The Powder Mill Turnpike was chartered in 1810 and opened shortly thereafter: it ran from the North Providence line -- then just beyond Holden Street -- to Smithfield. The southern end of the Powder Mill Turnpike connected with Smith Street, which previously had ended at the North Providence line. Thus, by the early nineteenth century, the major traffic arteries through Smith Hill were established.

The earliest building on Smith Hill itself occurred only after the middle of the eighteenth century. In spite of the early decision to maintain the land north of the Woonasquatucket as common ground, in 1746 the Town Council granted to the heirs of John Smith I the land on Smith Hill lying between Orms and Smith streets. This land was platted into house lots for the Smith heirs by Stephen Jackson in 1754. Nothing remains of this first development to indicate the number and types of dwellings that were built by the Smith heirs during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The oldest extant structure on Smith Hill is the Esek Hopkins House at 97 Admiral Street. The semi-rural situation of this gambrel-roof dwelling retains some of the character

of Smith Hill in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, for much of the area was divided among a few families, each holding a large parcel of land with a dwelling house on it.

The grandest of these early houses was the Federal-style mansion built by Colonel Henry Smith in 1800 at the crest of the hill overlooking the sweep of land down to the Great Salt Cove. The house was a large, square, three-story frame structure with elaborate exterior articulation, including quoined corners, pedimented windows, and a ~~modillioned pediment~~ ^{pediment, decorated with modillions} and supported by consoles, over the center of the five-bay facade. The house was razed in 1926 for the construction of the State Office Building on its Smith Street site.

Other farms and contry retreats on Smith Hill have long-since disappeared, the houses demolished and the land platted into small city house lots during the nineteenth century. Thomas Randall Holden -- descendant of Randall Holden, one of the founders of Warwick -- built his house early in the nineteenth century at the northern end of a strip of land between Smith Street and the Woonasquatucket River. The Zachariah Allen family owned the tract of land bounded by Chalkstone, Douglas, Orms, and Smith streets as well as a large piece directly west of the Holden Estate; their house stood at the corner of Orms Street and Douglas Avenue. The Pinckney Farm encompassed most of the land on Smith Hill west of the Allen holdings south of Chalkstone Avenue.

While the area was scarcely populated, the area just north of the Cove was the site of some activity in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, perhaps because of its adjacency to the more compact part of town and the major roads west. The earliest known name for this piece of land was Camp Hill, probably because it was used as a place for military reviews. No doubt this use prompted Fenner Angell around the time of the Revolution to build his two-and-a-half-story, gambrel-roof tavern nearby at the corner of Orms and Davis Streets: the tavern, which survived well into the late nineteenth century, achieved notoriety for its rowdy patrons who participated in ~~cock-fights~~ ^{cockfights, dog fights} and prize fights; further, it was the headquarters in Providence for horse racing, a sport easily accommodated on nearby Camp Hill. The sporting atmosphere that originated at Fenner Angell's tavern continued to be an important part of life on Smith Hill into the twentieth century.

Camp Hill was re-named the Jefferson Plains by Colonel Henry Smith, an ardent Jeffersonian Republican. The Jefferson Plains remained undeveloped in the first half of the nineteenth century, and increased in importance as a site for picnics, outings, and political meetings. On 17th April 1841, for example, the Jefferson Plains was the site of a large picnic and rally held by the People's Party, a group which wished to abolish the property requirement for voting and extend suffrage to all males over twenty-one. People's Day, as the celebration

was called, was a significant display of the agitation over suffrage which led to the Dorr Rebellion and the framing of the present state constitution in 1842.

III. EARLY URBANIZATION, 1830-1860

The residential development of Smith Hill is primarily a history of the division of large tracts of land originally part of early farms and country retreats. While the building boom which transformed Smith Hill into the urban residential neighborhood it is today began only in the late 1870s, the first urban development commenced in the 1830s with settlement in the area by persons primarily of English ancestry.

The first major plat of house lots offered for sale was the Smith Hill Plat of 1830, which included the land north of Smith Street and west of Davis Street, including Jefferson Street and part of Holden Street. The popularity of this area is evinced by the number of dwellings erected by the 1850s -- its proximity both to the older residential neighborhood on the East Side and to the central business district, its relatively inexpensive land, and the growth of Irish immigrants in the 1840s account for its early success. The early residents of the Smith Hill Plat were generally emerging prosperous members of the middle class. Many were involved in mercantile pursuits or held minor managerial positions in the developing industrial economy.

A second, smaller plat of house lots on Smith Hill was offered for sale in 1843 along Holden Street between Smith and Orms streets. Few structures were built on this plat, and these have been almost entirely replaced by subsequent development.

In 1847 the Allen family first divided the large area bounded by Smith Street, Orms Street, Douglas Avenue and Chalkstone Avenue into house lots. Because of its isolation at the time, little building activity occurred in this area before the Civil War, although ^{near the corner of Chalkstone and} ~~a small cluster of houses~~ ^{Douglas Avenues stood a small cluster of pre-1860 houses,} ~~stood near the corner of Chalkstone and Douglas Avenues~~ ~~by 1860;~~ most of which have since been demolished.

Following the death of Thomas Randall Holden, the property he held on Smith Hill was divided among his heirs and platted into house lots in November of 1850. While at least two of his heirs built investment properties on their inherited land, most of the land sold was for house lots, and a number of high-style residences were constructed. When the Holden Estate was divided, the area to its west was largely undeveloped, and the Woonasquatucket River was free of industry. The area thus offered proximity to the growing central business district and a generally rural setting. This combination proved attractive to more prosperous members of the business community who wanted more spacious surroundings than those available close to downtown on the East Side. By the Civil War, a number

of substantial houses had been built on both sides of Park Street and on the cross streets between Park and Holden Streets.

The last -- and westernmost -- of these early divisions was the A. C. Hawes and Brother Plat of 1854, consisting of a small area between Orms, Smith and Duke Streets. A small settlement grew up in this area just before the Civil War, presaging the eventual westward expansion of Smith Hill.

While many of the early houses built on Smith Hill have now disappeared, those remaining include examples from the major architectural trends of the period and reflect the early growth of Smith Hill.

Probably the earliest extant house on Smith Hill -- and the only survivor from the pre-Revolutionary period besides the Ezek Hopkins House -- is the dwelling Patrick Denahy moved to the Hawes plat in 1854. ^{Originally} ~~No doubt~~ a three-bay-facade ^{dwelling,} ~~house,~~ ^{the house gained} the northern portion and the Federal doorway ~~were added~~ ^{probably} early in the nineteenth century, before the structure was moved. The overhang of the gable roof on the southern, original end points to a mid-eighteenth century origin for this house.

The small, three bay dwelling at 60 Davis Street was built in the early 1830s in a vernacular Federal style with a hip roof and monitor. Though later enlarged and altered, the house retains much of its character in the original portion, and

typifies the small city dwellings erected in Providence in the second and third decades of the nineteenth century.

By the 1840s the taste for the Greek Revival had superseded the Federal style. Based on the architecture of ancient Greece and inspired by archaeological projects in the late eighteenth century, Greek Revival architecture introduced proportions more massive than those generally used in earlier architecture. The most common characteristic of the style was the use of a portico temple front; the fully columned facade was rare, however, in Providence where most Greek Revival houses employed a columned entrance porch and wide pilasters which replaced cornerboards. Typical of Providence Greek Revival houses is the Jonathan Tucker House at 206 Smith Street, built ca. 1850. A smaller, vernacular version of Greek Revival domestic architecture is the Horace Crossman House at 162 Orms Street, ca. 1847; while its corner pilasters have been removed, the pilastered entrance is typical of modest Greek Revival houses. Similar in proportion is the small, five-bay Greek Revival cottage at 40 Common Street, built around 1850.

The most unusual of the Greek Revival structures on Smith Hill is the Greek Revival double house built around 1855 by Elizabeth T. Brownell, one of the heirs of T. R. Holden, as an investment property. Because of stylistic limitations of the Greek Revival, double houses were rare, especially in

Providence, where little change from the pilastered three-bay-facade adaptation of the temple-front motif was attempted.

After 1850, the Italianate style, based on the architecture of the Italian Renaissance, in turn replaced the Greek Revival. As this preference for the Italian Renaissance began to supplant the Greek Revival, more elaborate bold decorative forms at first supplemented and eventually replaced the taut linearity of the Greek Revival. The Nelson C. Northup House at 17 Jefferson Street is a fine, well-preserved example of this transition: the solid two-and-a-half story block set gable end to the street on a high granite basement retains the form of the Greek Revival, but the corner pilasters are replaced by bold quoining, massive modillions decorate the raking and eaves cornice, a monumental hood with pendentives crowns the doorway, and an octagonal cupola dominates the roof.

A different approach to the transition into the Italianate style is seen in the Sheffield Smith House at 334 Smith Street, built in 1856. The large two-and-a-half story dwelling is important for its unusual decorative treatment of a format standard in Providence domestic architecture. The five-bay facade is divided into three bays by colossal pilasters capped with clustered brackets serving as capitals. A large round-head window dominates the center of the second story above the hooded entrance. A large octagonal cupola originally stood at the center of the roof. The Smith House is also important

as one of the first houses built on the Hawes Plat of 1854, and it was around the Smith House that the first western settlement grew on Smith Hill.

Several fully realized examples of the Italianate style remain on Smith Hill. The forms of both the John B. Hennessey House at 19 Mulberry Street, 1855, and the Christopher G. Dodge House at 11 West Park Street, 1858, approximate that of the monumental Italian Renaissance palazzo, cubical in massing and crowned with a low hip roof with wide eaves. The Dodge House, the most impressive dwelling on Smith Hill, sits on a high granite basement, and its central entrance is reached by twin curving staircases.

The Mowry-Nicholson House at 57 Brownell Street was built in the Italianate villa style in 1856. The picturesque cruciform plan structure with its three story tower and broad porches was well suited to the semi-rural site -- this integration of design and location clearly followed the tenets of Andrew Jackson Downing as expressed in The Architecture of Country Houses (1850). As modified by William T. Nicholson in the 1860s and 1870s, the house reflects changing demands both of style and of function in an urban area.

The earliest structures on the Allen Plat of 1847 include three dwellings still standing on Bernon Street. The Charles G. Arnold House, built between 1849 and 1855 at 55 Bernon Street is a simple residence, built as an investment. This vernacular cottage, devoid of any architectural pretension, is typical

of speculatively built cottages erected solely as shelter. The Patrick Shanley House at 65 Bernon Street, built ca 1860, employs a format that remained standard in Providence for vernacular dwellings for much of the nineteenth century: two and a half stories, gable roof set end to the street, and a three-bay facade with side-hall plan. Shanley, a carpenter, was no doubt responsible for the construction of his house and used a flaring cornice on the roof to distinguish his handiwork on the house. Joseph Baker's house, ca. 1864, at 37 Bernon Street is close in type to the small cottage at 40 Common Street, but it is further embellished by roundhead recessed panels in the corner pilasters and fine bracketed detailing in the bay windows that flank the hooded center entrance. Early civic planning on Smith Hill introduced changes in the southeastern corner that would play important parts in determining the future of Smith Hill. The State Prison and the Cove Basin-railroad station complex established patterns of land use along the southeast border of Smith Hill.

The State erected its first prison in 1838 on Great Point, the west shore of the Cove. The granite, cruciform Greek Revival structure remained in use until the present Adult Correctional Institution opened in Cranston in 1878. The state retained ownership of the land at the corner of Gaspee and Promenade Streets, and the site was used for the Rhode Island Normal School complex following the demolition of the prison in the 1890s.

C The decision to fill in a portion of the Great Salt Cove for the creation of the Cove Basin was part of a larger plan to bring the railroad lines through the central business district, creating uninterrupted rail service through the state. The Cove Basin was completed in 1846, and the following year rail service was inaugurated along the Woonasquatucket River to Union Station on the south side of the Cove, and thence north along the Moshassuck River. The proximity of the railroad not only encouraged incipient industrialization along the rivers, but also spurred residential development on Smith Hill for the many workers associated with the railroads and industry.

C The coming of the railroads and the first wave of immigration in the 1840s together laid the foundation for the booming growth of Smith Hill during the rest of the nineteenth century.

IV. NINETEENTH CENTURY GROWTH, 1840-1890

The rapid growth of Smith Hill in the nineteenth century was greatly due to large numbers of immigrants from Ireland and, later, central Europe. The first wave of immigrants were driven from Ireland by the great potato famine, which killed a million people over a five-year period and drove a million and a half from the country. While some of the Irish immigrants continued west to less densely populated areas, many stayed in major port cities on the east coast, in New York, Boston, and Providence.

A sufficient number of Irish had immigrated in the early years of the nineteenth century to constitute the formation of a Roman Catholic parish. The meeting place of the parish moved several times before the parish church of SS Peter and Paul was completed in 1838.

By early 1841 a schism developed between the Reverend John Corry, rector of SS Peter and Paul, and a group within the parish, the "Friends of Ireland," led by Patrick O'Connell, Hugh Duff, and John McCarthy. On 24th February 1841 the Friends of Ireland wrote to Bishop Fenwick in Boston asking permission to form a second Roman Catholic parish in Providence. Bishop Fenwick agreed to the formation of a second parish in March of 1841.

The committee on buying land for the parish examined several alternatives. Possible sites in downtown Providence or on the East Side proved too expensive for the fledgling parish. The site chosen, on Smith Street at the crest of the hill overlooking the Jefferson Plains, was chosen because the committee "had seen no situation so desirable -- either as regards respectability or central location."

The cornerstone for the Gothic Revival structure, designed by Russell Warren, was laid on 13th July 1841, and the church, which seated 1250 persons, was dedicated on 3rd July 1842.

The size of the building is indicative of the potential size of the parish, and further activities by St. Patrick's parish indicate the impact that the Irish parish would have on the area. In 1843, the parish began construction on a school building for the education of the children of the parish. That same year, the Reverend William Wiley, first rector of the parish, bought eight acres of land at the corner of Douglas Avenue and Chad Brown streets for a parish cemetery. Thus, St. Patrick's was well established on Smith Hill by the time the Great Potato Famine in Ireland drove the hundreds of thousands of persons across the Atlantic in the 1840s, and parish records indicate the rapid growth of the congregation: baptisms increased from 69 in 1841 to 326 in 1850.

The majority of the early Irish immigrants on Smith Hill, many of them unskilled laborers, settled in small, crowded

dwellings. Many were located at the foot of the Jefferson Plains, just north of the Cove Basin, and around the Randall Square area. These immigrants generally either crowded into existing dwellings converted to multiple-family use or occupied hastily constructed shanties. As individuals acquired skills and greater economic success, they tended to move to more comfortable dwellings within Smith Hill.

Irish immigrants came to this country because of job opportunities, and industry likewise prospered because of the increased labor force. The Embargo of 1807 and the War of 1812 had severely injured Rhode Island's maritime economy, and during the early years of the nineteenth century the state turned to industry as a means of continuing a prosperous economy. In these early years of industrial growth, factories were located near the source of power afforded by the rivers. Thus the early industrial centers in Providence were located along the Moshassuck River near Randall Square and on the Woonasquatucket near Olneyville. Both locations had been used for mills in the eighteenth century, and nineteenth century industrialization spread from these points.

The earliest of the mid-nineteenth-century industrial developments on Smith Hill was the Franklin Furnace Company at the corner of Charles and Nichols streets on the Moshassuck River. The company was active before 1836, and possibly used the buildings originally constructed by Samuel Thurber for a

paper mill in 1780 and taken over by Samuel Ogden in 1812 when he opened his manufactory of cotton-processing machinery.

Franklin Furnace Company was incorporated in 1836 as the Franklin Machine Company, a manufacturer of cotton mill machinery, power transmission machinery, and special machinery.. The company re-incorporated in 1886, and continued in business into this century, first moving to facilities on the West Branch of the Moshassuck River, and subsequently to East Providence and Cranston. The original buildings have long since disappeared.

The buildings of the second mill complex in the Randall Square area survived until the early 1970s, but little now remains of the American Screw Company complex, which consisted of five buildings on both sides of Stevens Street just east of the Moshassuck River. Only the trapezoidal structure built in two stages -- the southern portion in 1882 and the northern part before 1918 -- and now known as the Moshassuck Arcade and a lone chimney to its southwest remain of this large complex. Providence Screw Company, the first in a series of entities that formed the American Screw Company, began operations on this site in 1838, and by 1870 the American Screw complex was one of the largest industries in the area, providing jobs for many Smith Hill residents.

The Fletcher Manufacturing Company was founded in 1793 for the manufacture of textiles. The company moved to the Randall Square area in the 1840s, and by 1869, when the only remaining structure at 43 Charles Street was built, had expanded

its operations to many buildings on the Moshassuck River west of Charles Street.

The earliest extant mill building in the Randall Square area is the Stillman White Brass Foundry, dating from 1856, at 1 Bark Street. This operation remained much smaller than other industries in the vicinity throughout its history -- the company remained in its original location until 1949 -- but its gradual expansion over nearly a hundred years has left an interesting record of smaller nineteenth century industrial architecture.

By the mid-1850s, steam engines had begun to rival water as the major industrial power source. While subsequent industrial development continued along the rivers, the location remained desirable because of ease of waste disposal and prevailing land use, not because of the power source.

The decade 1860-1870 was a period of tremendous industrial growth on Smith Hill, as remaining sites along the rivers filled with factories which thrived particularly as support for the Union effort in the Civil War.

The single landlocked example of nineteenth-century industry on Smith Hill is the Oriental Mill Complex, built ca 1860, at the corner of Admiral and Whipple streets. The Oriental Mill, a major producer of cotton goods, was an important part of Rhode Island's growing textile industry. The finely detailed

brick structure was erected in a sparsely populated area around the time of the Civil War, and its location was largely responsible for the construction of small cottages and tenements along Whipple and Fillmore streets in the 1860s and 1870s.

The eastern portion of the Woonasquatucket River was the site of the greatest industrial building in the decade 1860-1870. The site was particularly attractive because it offered undeveloped land adjacent to the river and to the central business district. The hills on either side of the river valley provided further virgin land easily developed as residential neighborhoods for mill workers.

The earliest industrial development in the eastern Woonasquatucket Valley to have a direct impact on Smith Hill was the Burnside Rifle Works, founded in 1862 as a Civil War munitions factory at the corner of Valley and Hemlock streets. The factory offered work to some residents of Smith Hill, but became a greater employer of area residents after the company was reorganized as Rhode Island Locomotive Company in 1865 and had built the Burnside Row of cottages on Zone Street later in the decade.

Two major Providence factories located on or near Smith Hill in 1864. The Nicholson File Company (established 1858) moved from quarters downtown to enlarged facilities at Kinsley and Acorn streets, where it remained until the mid-twentieth

century. William Harris, manufacturer of the Harris-Corliss steam engine, opened his machine shop at the corner of Promenade and Park streets.

In 1870, Brown and Sharpe moved into the first building of their complex at Promenade and Holden Streets, immediately adjacent to the Harris Machine Works. The company, founded in 1833, occupied quarters on South Main Street before moving to Smith Hill. Brown and Sharpe expanded rapidly in the nineteenth century, both in production and size, and by the beginning of this century it had become the largest single employer of Smith Hill residents. The removal of the company to North Kingston in the mid-1960s was as significant to the decline of Smith Hill as its arrival in 1870 had been to the growth of the area.

The industrialization of the 1860s gave great impetus to residential construction and the growth of civic and religious institutions during the rest of the nineteenth century.

Post-Civil War residential construction on Smith Hill was of two types. During the 1860s and 1870s, large, high-style structures continued to rise in older established areas, particularly in or near the Holden Estate Plat. The major growth on Smith Hill, however, was in construction of lower- and middle-class housing to accommodate the growing labor force for the mills and, as streetcar lines penetrated the area, for shopkeepers and clerical workers who commuted daily to the central business district.

The growth of Smith Hill also encouraged the re-annexation of the area approximately northwest of I-95 to Providence in 1844.

The rurally dominated General Assembly, assured of rural control **Rhode Island Constitution of 1842,** by the ~~Bourne amendment~~ which essentially weighted representation to rural towns, approved the wishes of North Providence -- largely rural at this time -- to divest itself of its urban centers, Smith Hill and Pawtucket.

Between 1860 and 1890, not only did building continue apace on the plats opened before the Civil War, but numerous other plats -- almost the rest of Smith Hill -- were opened for sale of house lots. The major plats opened include the Hardenburg Purchase Plat of 1856 along Camden, Danforth, and Clara Streets; further divisions of the Allen Estate of 1847 and division of Allen family land south of Smith Street along Calverly Street in 1861; the Thomas Davis and George L. Clarke Plat bounded by Candace Street and Douglas and Chalkstone Avenues in 1861; the Oaklands Estate Plat of Sarah B. Eaton west of the Hardenburg Plat and east of Oakland Avenue in 1871 and 1874; the Douglas and Hardenburg Plat, bounded by these two thoroughfares and Vale Street, in 1871; the Second Davis and Clarke Plat, bounded by Alma, Pekin, and Candace streets and Douglas Avenue, in 1872; the Thomas Davis Plat, west of Holden Street south of Jewett Street, in 1879; and the Pheobe Young Heirs Plat, bounded by Smith and Young streets and Chalkstone Avenue, in 1885. Most of these areas filled

with small cottages or multiple-family dwellings during the later part of the nineteenth century, save for part of the Oaklands Estate Plat, which was sufficiently far removed from densely populated areas when first platted that it became the site of ~~densely populated areas when first platted that it became the site of~~ several comfortable single-family houses.

C During the 1860s, the Italian Renaissance Revival Style gave way to a vogue for architecture imitating that of contemporary France during the reign of Emperor Napoleon III. The Second Empire Style, like the preceding Italianate phase, made use of a monumental building block articulated with boldly designed, classically derived decorative elements, but it is primarily characterized by the use of a mansard roof. The Second Empire Style survived into the late 1870s on Smith Hill as a high-style form, and lingered into the 1880s in vernacular two-family dwellings.

C The earliest of the Second Empire houses on Smith Hill, the David A. Cleveland house of 1869 at 111 Park Street, is a simple structure with a bold modillion cornice and a low, raking, mansard roof which demonstrates the transition from the hip roof of the Italianate style to the more steeply-pitched mansard.

Perhaps the most splendid of the Second Empire houses on Smith Hill is that built by Niles Bierragaard Schubarth, the prominent Providence landscape architect, at 47 Common Street

in 1874. The central entrance is emphasized by the sunbonnet gable in the mansard and flanked by two-story bay windows. The original granite steps and wrought-iron fence remain.

The Second Empire House that Stillman White built in 1876 at 107 Park Street is typical of many in Providence. The rectangular, side-hall-plan building shows the lingering of a format popular in Providence since the early nineteenth century, but with a more modish decorative overlay. White, whose foundry was nearby on Bark Street, moved to this area to be near his place of work, as did others such as William T. Nicholson, who moved to 57 Brownell Street the same year that the Nicholson File Company opened their facilities on Acorn Street.

Two major country houses were constructed along the western edge of Smith Hill around 1870. In 1869 Thomas Davis, who had lived since the early 1850s in a small cottage -- now divided into two parts and still standing at 503½ and 507½ Chalkstone Avenue -- on Smith Hill, built a large Gothic mansion, designed by James Bucklin, on a large piece of land at the corner of Pleasant Valley Parkway and Chalkstone Avenue; the house, a gift to the City in 1891, remained until its demolition for the construction of the Veterans' Hospital in the 1940s. Charles Dowler, an English immigrant and arms-maker turned sculptor, built his second house on Smith Hill -- the first, built in 1868, still stands at 83 Camden Avenue --

at 581 Smith Street in 1872. The well-preserved one-and-a-half-story house carries a massive hip-on-mansard roof with fish-scale slates above a broad, simple cornice. The fine detailing on this house includes several bay windows, pedimented dormer windows in the roof, and an entrance with Romanesque-cum-Corinthian columns.

C The Second Empire is the last high style fully represented on Smith Hill in domestic architecture. After the 1870s, Smith Hill became increasingly a working-and middle-class neighborhood and more prosperous citizens chose to build in more fashionable areas, such as the East Side, Elmwood, and the Broadway area. While later styles do appear on Smith Hill, their representation generally is limited to vernacular interpretations of architectural trends in small cottages and, increasingly, in two- and three-family dwellings.

C The character of Smith Hill as a working-class neighborhood became firmly established by the 1870s. Several factors contributed to its genesis: the predominance of unskilled Irish immigrants, attracted to the area by St. Patrick's parish; the availability of nearby work, both on the railroads and in industry; and the advent of public transportation along major thoroughfares, such as Smith Street and Chalkstone Avenue, by the late 1870s. To accommodate the rapidly growing population on Smith Hill,^a large number of dwellings were constructed in the neighborhood. The amount of building on

Smith Hill was emphasized in Providence Journal articles of the mid-1880s, when more houses were constructed on Smith Hill -- both numerically and percentally -- than in in other area of Providence. Many of these were constructed by real estate developers, but owner-occupied houses were also constructed as residents of the area achieved some financial prosperity.

Two basic types of dwellings were erected on Smith Hill: the small vernacular cottage, similar in many respects to the early houses built on the Allen family plat, and the multiple-family house, at first for two families, followed by the three-decker as the century drew to a close.

A number of small, single-family cottages were erected on Smith Hill beginning in the 1870s, and most were built in groups by individual developers. These clustered cottages show little variety, either among themselves or from group to group, but the few owner-occupied dwellings evince an individuality seldom found during the late nineteenth-century building boom on Smith Hill.

The Robert Arnett House of 1871 at 37 Violet is distinguished from the more rudimentary cottage by its well-integrated detailing, which includes a handsome hood with pendants over the entrance, a large bay window on the facade, pronounced lintels over the windows, and paired round-head windows in the end of

the cross-gable roof. Similar to it is the Charles Kelley House, ca 1875, at 51 Camden Avenue, with a handsome diamond-pattern jigsaw cornice, hood moulds over the side and attic windows, and round-head windows in the facade bay window.

The J. A. Sheldon House of 1871 at 161 Orms Street is larger than the Arnett and Kelley houses. Its steep cross-gable roof is carried by a bracketed cornice, and the windows are capped by lintels similar to those on the Arnett house.

Four major clusters of small, one-and-a-half-story cottages set gable end to the street were constructed on Smith Hill in the last two decades of the nineteenth century by perhaps the heaviest investor in the area, Andrew Dickhaut. Dickhaut was a private investor, with no apparent connection to any of the large industrial concerns that employed most of the residents of these cottages. Unlike many areas abounding in mills and factories, Smith Hill was primarily developed by private, not corporate, investors.

The earliest of the Dickhaut groups were the eight cottages built on Fillmore Street in 1881; five of these remain at 39, 47, 55, 57, and 59 Fillmore Street. The best preserved of these. 39 Fillmore Street, retains the low picket fence typical of the period of construction. In 1883, Dickhaut completed a group of eleven cottages, identical to those on Fillmore Street, on Bath Street, just north of Orms Street. All of these remain,

from 115 to 141 Bath Street. A group of seven cottages, mirror images of those on Bath and Fillmore streets, was constructed by Dickhaut in 1891 at numbers 55 through 73 Lydia Street. The last group of cottages, built by Dickhaut's heirs, rose on Duke Street in 1897. These seven cottages (6-18 Duke Street) are similar in form to the earlier structures, but differ by the addition of a porch and bay window across the front of the building in place of the simple three-bay facade.

The frame, two-and-a-half-story, two-family house with gable roof set end to the street was the standard dwelling built on Smith Hill until the advent of the three-decker toward the end of the nineteenth century. The earliest of these were simple boxes, with a three-bay facade and minimal decorative trim beyond a hood ^{over the} entrance. Late nineteenth-century architectural trends toward varied massing and picturesque effects are reflected in larger, later versions of two-family houses: bay windows, larger porches, cross-gable roofs, and -- occasionally -- turrets were added with increasing frequency in the last two decades of the nineteenth century.

The earliest group of these workers' houses on Smith Hill is the Burnside Row on Zone Street, built by Levi D. Bates for E. P. Mason, G. M. Richmond, and Dr. A. H. Okie, the owners of the Rhode Island Locomotive Works. Erected in 1868, these sixteen identical houses were used by workers at the newly-

reorganized plant nearby. Not only was the corporate involvement in their construction unusual, but also the grouping of *a large number of* identical units of multi-family housing built by a single developer was exceptional on Smith Hill until the rapid proliferation of three-deckers around the turn of the century.

Two houses on Candace Street typify the two-family form built on Smith Hill in the 1870s and early 1880s: the three-bay facade is replaced by a two-bay format consisting of a hooded entrance and a two-story bay window. The John T. Reilly house of 1874 at 32 Candace, typical of owner-occupied dwellings, is embellished beyond the basic format, in this instance by a diamond-pattern cornice similar to that at 51 Camden Avenue. John T. Rafferty's house at 55 Candace, built in 1877, is distinguished by the round-head windows in the attic, somewhat retarditaire by 1877, and the modillion cornice; Rafferty, a carpenter, occupied the house he built, and his occupation suggests that he quite likely was closely involved in its construction.

By the early 1880s the pace of Smith Hill development quickened noticeably. Providence's industrial economy prospered, and demand for housing to accommodate increasing numbers of workers was a major factor in the building boom on Smith Hill. Whole blocks of houses rose rapidly along streets on Smith Hill as speculative builders began to take advantage of the need for housing in the area.

Typical of these rapidly built areas is the northern side of Alma Street, where five identical two-family houses were built in 1883; a sixth, identical to the first five, was added in 1887. These modest dwellings, with four or five small rooms to a floor, are similar to those erected in the 1870s on nearby Candace Street.

C Toward the end of the 1880s, a larger version of the multi-family house came into fashion on Smith Hill. Usually with more and larger rooms, more bay windows, and greater space in the attic story, these houses filled lots on streets opened earlier in the century and lined previously undeveloped streets, such as Chalkstone Avenue west of Smith Street. The Elisé J. Bourneuf House at 660-662 Chalkstone, completed in 1892, is typical of these later multi-family houses; a front porch replaces the small stoop, bay windows sprout on the sides of the structure, and the high cross-gable roof provides additional living space.

C

Late nineteenth-century growth on Smith Hill, climaxed by the spectacular rise in population during the 1880s, necessitated increased educational, religious, and civic services in the neighborhood. While St. Patrick's school and parish continued to play an active and important role on Smith Hill, neither could it provide educational facilities for all children in the area nor did it attract every family

on Smith Hill. Smith Hill had become well established as an Irish Roman Catholic bastion, but sufficient ethnic diversification remained to create a need for public schools and numerous Protestant neighborhood parishes.

The small, wood-frame schoolhouse, ^{erected when the area was part of North Providence,} on the south side of Chalkstone Avenue just west of Douglas Avenue had become inadequate by the mid-1870s. In 1877, the City erected a grammar school, razed in the 1960s, at the northeast corner of Candace and Smith streets. The large brick structure, designed in a High Victorian Gothic style by E. L. Angell, provided the first modern public school for the area. The grammar school was soon augmented with a neighborhood primary school at 396 Smith Street. The Smith Street Primary School, which opened in September of 1885, is a large brick structure which reflects the Queen Anne style, based on early eighteenth-century English architecture, then in vogue for major architectural monuments. As the population continued to expand and residential neighborhoods extended farther west, the Ruggles Street Primary School, completed in 1896, was opened to relieve pressure on the Smith Street facility.

During the later part of the nineteenth century, St. Patrick's Church continued to expand, both in parishoners and in physical plant. The rectory on State Street, built in 1860, was followed by the school on Davis Street in 1871 and the convent for the Sisters of Mercy, completed in 1872 on Davis Street and moved to its present site ca. 1902.

Several Portestant parishes were founded on Smith Hill after mid-century. The Eighth Baptist Society built a small meeting house on Smith Hill in 1847 at the corner of Davis and Common Streets. As the only Protestant church on Smith Hill, it grew with the neighborhood: it moved to larger quarters on Jefferson Street in 1857, and the parish erected the simple Romanesque brick structure at the corner of Jefferson and Common Streets in 1868. That same year the Park Street Free Baptist Church, organized as the Third Free-Will Baptist Church in 1851, built its house of worship at the corner of Park and Jewett Streets. In 1871, St. Gabriel's Episcopal mission was organized in quarters on Holden Street, just north of Smith Street; the parish became St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the late 1870s, and moved to a new building on the west side of Holden Street south of Orms Street. Both St. Paul's and Park Street Baptist Church have been demolished for later construction.

Police and fire service were improved on Smith Hill in the 1870s, with the construction of the Chalkstone Avenue Police Station in 1874 and the Smith Street Fire Station in 1875. Both facilities were later superceded and eventually razed.

V. ETHNIC TRANSITION: TOWARD A MULTI-ETHNIC NEIGHBORHOOD, 1890-1920

By 1890, Smith Hill was well established as an Irish neighborhood. Not only were a large number of the residents Irish immigrants or descended from recent Irish immigrants, but also were important neighborhood institutions -- schools, police and fire stations, political associations -- dominated by Irish-Americans. Over the following thirty years, however, either ethnic groups settled in Smith Hill, and by 1920 Smith Hill, though it still had a definitely Irish-American majority, also contained a number of smaller ethnic groups.

The continuing strength of the Irish population on Smith hill is reflected in the growth of St. Patrick's Church during this period. By 1900 the first church structure had become too limited in size for the parish's needs, and a campaign to raise money for a new building on the same site was begun. Designed by Murphy and Hindle in a Gothicizing style, the present building was completed in 1915.

The first group in this second wave of immigrants on Smith Hill was the Jews. The first Jewish immigrants came to Providence from Germany beginning in the 1840s. This group was relatively small and concentrated along the eastern border of Smith Hill, near Constitution Hill: in 1877 there were 150 Jewish families in Providence, and only three on Smith Hill. By the mid-1880s, there were over twenty Jewish families on Smith Hill, most of them residing around the eastern end of Chalkstone Avenue.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, immigrants from Russia and eastern Europe swelled the Jewish population on Smith Hill from sixty-eight families in 1890 to two hundred-eight families in 1910. Where the Irish immigration was largely due to the famine in Ireland, the Jewish immigration in the 1890s and 1900s was caused by increased persecution of Jews by the Russian government.

The advent of the Jews to Smith Hill was perhaps the major exterior factor in the shifting demographics of Smith Hill in the early part of the twentieth century. The first Jewish ghetto, at the eastern end of Chalkstone Avenue around Lopez, Kane, and Rebecca streets, was formed in an older, poorer section of Smith Hill near the railroad tracks and Moshassuck River industry. The Irish who had settled in this area beginning in the 1840s were already moving to more comfortable dwellings farther west on Smith Hill as they achieved some prosperity and new neighborhoods developed.

The Jewish presence in the eastern part of Smith Hill was almost immediately reinforced by the creation of several synagogues. The earliest synagogue in the area, an orthodox Russian congregation which first met in 1875 on Charles Street and later moved to Canal Street, was followed in 1892 by a synagogue for the Congregation of the Sons of Zion on Orms Street and a synagogue for the Society of Russian Jews on Chalkstone Avenue in 1896. None of these early houses of worship remain.

In 1906, the Congregation of the Sons of David, a largely Russian congregation, occupied the first story of their new house of worship at 24 Douglas Avenue. The building was enlarged in 1912, and the superstructure was finally completed in 1920. This building is the only remaining testimony of the once large Jewish community in the eastern part of Smith Hill.

The Armenians, like the Jews, emigrated because of changing political situations. After 1890 Armenia experienced oppression at the hands of the Turks, and the Turkish domination of the country forced many Armenians to flee their homeland.

By the late nineteenth century a small Armenian community existed in Providence which attracted these refugees. Many Armenians settled in the eastern part of Smith Hill in the many small dwellings available for low rent along Orms Street and Douglas Avenue. The clustering of Armenians in this area created the nucleus of the Armenian community that remains today on Smith Hill.

The rapid growth and consolidation of the Armenian community is exemplified by the growth of the Armenian church on Smith Hill. For the Armenian immigrants, the church was the only institution that remained to perpetuate the Armenian culture after the Turkish invasion and the subsequent evacuation of the country. Thus, as the numbers of Armenians grew, the need

for a place to worship and a community center became acute. In 1912, the Armenian congregation was able to purchase the facilities of the Jefferson Street Baptist Church, which was consecrated as SS Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church the following year. The Armenians thus gained a permanent foothold on Smith Hill.

The expanding Irish population combined with the large numbers of Jewish and Armenian immigrants to create a large demand for additional housing on Smith Hill. While the second wave of immigrants generally settled in the eastern portion of Smith Hill in older, cramped dwellings, this housing stock was not sufficient to accommodate the large numbers which came to Smith Hill. Further, the expanding indigenous population created a demand for more comfortable housing away from the less congested eastern end of Smith Hill. The housing shortage was met by the opening of two large plats of land for housing development and the construction of a new type of dwelling, the three decker.

The two plats of land are the last and westernmost areas opened for development on Smith Hill. The Mason and Okie plat was divided into house lots which were first offered for sale in 1887. Bounded by Chalkstone Avenue, Pleasant Valley Parkway, Valley Street, and Zone Street, the area was divided by two parallel north-south axes, Ayrault and Felix streets.

Frank Waterman surveyed and platted the last remaining portion of the Pinckney Farm into house lots in 1905. This tract comprised the land south of Orms Street, west of the intersection of Orms and Smith streets, and north of Okie Street. Both of these areas soon filled with multiple-family dwellings.

The three-decker dwelling, a three-story building with one apartment to each floor, proliferated on Smith Hill as well as other lower- and middle-class sections of Providence beginning in the 1890s. While the detailing of the three-decker followed somewhat the stylistic vagaries of local architectural trends over the course of its popularity -- which lasted into the 1930s -- the basic form of the three decker underwent little change, for the three-decker is a building type rather than a particular style of residential architecture. In plan, the building follows the format established by the earliest multiple-family dwelling, the two-and-a-half-story dwelling with side-hall plan and two parallel rows of rooms along the length of the building. Within this basic format, the greatest amount of variety was achieved in size, ranging from two- to four-bedroom apartments.

While the three decker was almost the only type of dwelling built on the newly opened plats of land -- the Mason and Okie plat, the Pinckney Farm plat -- it was by no means limited to these areas. Formerly undeveloped lots in more established neighborhoods were filled with three-deckers --

sometimes two to a lot -- during this period. Thus, were numerous three-deckers built on remaining lots on Goddard and Bernon streets -- part of the Allen Estate first opened in 1847 -- and, in the 1920s, on the lots lining both sides of Oakland Avenue part of the Oaklands estate plat of 1871.

C The construction of three deckers was almost entirely limited to speculative builders who erected large numbers of them in concentrated areas. This particular approach to real estate development produced rows of identical three-deckers throughout Smith Hill.

VI. STATE GOVERNMENT CENTER 1890 -

The physical complexion of the southeast corner of Smith Hill changed drastically in the 1890s. While close to the central business district, Smith Hill had always been separated from downtown, first by the Great Salt Cover and later by the Cove Basin and Union Station complex. The decision by the City of Providence in the 1880s to fill the Cove Basin, to create retaining walls for the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers, and to construct a new Union Station on an artificial knoll on the site of the Cove Basin not only improved the downtown, but also provided improved access from downtown to Smith Hill through the Francis and Gaspee Street underpasses. While this change could have resulted in the northern expansion of the central business district, plans by the State of Rhode Island pre-empted future land use.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the Old State House at 150 Benefit Street had become too small to accommodate the state government. In 1891, the General Assembly appointed a commission to choose a site and provide plans for a new State House. Following the recommendation of the Public Park Association, the committee selected a sixteen-acre site at the crest of Smith Hill opposite St. Patrick's Church, overlooking downtown Providence. The following year the State House Commission held a competition among prominent local and

and nationally known architects for the design of the new capitol and selected the plans submitted by McKim, Mead and White of New York. Construction on the white marble, Beaux-Arts edifice was begun in 1896 and completed in 1901.

Soon after construction had begun on the State House, the state demolished the old prison, which served intermittently as a boarding house since facilities ^{had been} moved to Cranston in 1878, to provide enlarged quarters for the Rhode Island Normal School at the corner of Francis and Gaspee streets. The large terra-cotta-and-brick structure, designed by the Providence architectural firm of Martin and Hall, was completed in 1898. The Rhode Island Normal School facilities were enlarged in 1928 by the construction of a second building, at right angle to the first, which still houses education facilities for the state. Rhode Island Normal School, now Rhode Island College, moved to new facilities off Mount Pleasant Avenue in the 1960s, vacating this complex. The original structure now houses the Family Court.

The continuing growth of state government bureaucracy in the twentieth century produced further changes in this eastern portion of Smith Hill. The State House had become cramped by the early 1920s, and the General Assembly voted in 1924 to purchase the Smith Estate in order to build an adjunct office for the State House. Completed in 1928, the brick Georgian Revival State Office Building was designed by the Providence

architectural firm of Jackson, Robertson and Adams. A western wing was added in 1935 to provide additional space.

By the 1960s, the state again found itself short of sufficient office space, and a master plan for the future development of Smith Hill as a government center proposed the demolition of the State Office Building and the construction of a complex of five identical buildings, constructed on an axis north of the State House. This consolidation of state agencies was inaugurated by the construction of the health building in the early 1970s. Expansion of the complex is scheduled to occur as land becomes available and resources allow.

VII. URBAN DECAY, 1930-1970

By 1920 Smith Hill reached its peak. Most of the land in the area was occupied, though building continued through the decade, filling remaining undeveloped areas, especially along the western edge of Smith Hill. The population was dense, and most of the buildings were occupied by thriving, if not wealthy, citizens. A dynamic neighborhood equilibrium was well established, and, as a result, Smith Hill was an active, attractive residential neighborhood. The second wave of immigration, begun in the 1890s, changed somewhat the ethnic composition of Smith Hill, but the area still remained heavily Irish, with several pockets of other ethnic groups, notably the Jews and Armenians, in the eastern half of the area.

Industry was firmly established along the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers. Older companies continued to expand both production and physical plants, employing large numbers of residents on Smith Hill. Remaining vacant land in these industrial corridors attracted other industries to Smith Hill. The Merchants Freezing and Cold Storage Warehouse Company, which moved into facilities on Harris Avenue in 1894, had expanded by 1920 to over three million square feet of storage space. In 1928, the large produce market was constructed on Harris Avenue, consolidating for the first time in one building a central marketplace for wholesale of produce to local distributors. Congdon and Carpenter, the oldest metal working

firm in Providence (established in 1792) moved into new facilities on Promenade Street in 1930. The last major plant in the area, the Coca Cola Bottling Plant, was constructed at the corner of Valley Street and Pleasant Valley Parkway in 1939; this complex allowed a greatly expanded operation from the earlier bottling plant at 477 Smith Street, built in 1920.

Domestic construction on Smith Hill after 1920 was limited almost exclusively to three-deckers. Vacant lots on otherwise densely built streets were the recipients of some three-deckers, but several streets along the western part of Smith Hill filled with three-deckers built in the 1920s, such as Richter Street, developed by Max J. Richter in 1925; Sparrow Street, developed by Richter and Annie and Louis M. Volpe in 1925; and Oakland Avenue.

Several major institutional building projects were begun in the late 1920s. The Masons began construction of a new temple on Park Street in 1928. The large Beaux-Arts structure, designed by Osgood and Osgood, was barely begun when the project became financially unfeasible, and construction ceased in 1929. The structure was acquired by the State in the 1940s and converted to use as Veterans' Memorial Auditorium by Oresto Di Saia. St. Patrick's School had outgrown its facilities constructed in the 1870s by the mid-1920s; the church purchased the Jones lot, at the corner of Smith and Calverly Streets, and opened the present school building in 1927.

The most architecturally impressive structure erected on Smith Hill in the 1920s -- and perhaps the finest example of twentieth-century ecclesiastical architecture in Providence -- is the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The plan of the church was prepared by the Providence architectural firm of Jackson, Robertson and Adams, and the scheme for the superstructure, designed in a Scandinavian Art Deco style, was provided by Martin Hedwig.

The first signs of decline on Smith Hill were brought on by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Because of the large number of factory workers living in the area, Smith Hill was one of the neighborhoods most heavily effected by layoffs: a 1939 study showed that Smith Hill had the second highest rate of families per thousand on relief during the depression. By 1940, seventeen percent of the dwellings on Smith Hill were vacant.

In spite of the booming wartime economy in the early 1940s, Smith Hill continued its decline in the post-war years. The prosperity of the 1940s provided the means for many families to move to more comfortable, newer dwellings in less congested parts of Providence or in suburban areas such as Cranston, Johnston, Warwick, or North Providence. This flight to the suburbs was abetted by the prevalence of automobile ownership among most of the population and the increasing availability of employment as companies moved to more modern facilities away from the center of Providence.

Urban renewal efforts, begun on Smith Hill in the 1940s, changed the character of the Smith Hill neighborhood, but failed to reverse the general decline of the area. The Chad Brown Housing Project, begun in 1942 and augmented by the Admiral Terrace Project in 1951, rapidly succumbed to the problems of most housing projects, and by the late 1960s represented a more decayed environment than the surrounding neighborhoods. The West River Redevelopment Project of the late 1950s cleared sixty acres of land of five hundred ten buildings and displaced almost three hundred fifty families to housing elsewhere -- generally not to housing on Smith Hill. The industrial park created on the site, while bordering on the Smith Hill neighborhood, is isolated in space and character from the residential Smith Hill neighborhood; though some Smith Hill residents work in these facilities, employees come from all parts of Providence and surrounding towns.

The industrial move to the suburbs most significantly affected Smith Hill in the 1960s when Brown and Sharpe, Nicholson File, and American Screw abandoned their large plants in the area. Many of their employees who had lived on Smith Hill also moved to the suburbs, thus furthering the decline of Smith Hill.

The construction of Interstate Highway 95 through the heart of Smith Hill not only necessitated the demolition of some of the finest remaining examples of nineteenth-century

architecture on Smith Hill, but also separated St. Patrick's Church from much of its parish. The isolation of the Smith Hill Plat of 1830, the area of earliest settlement, from the rest of the neighborhood similarly contributed to its abandonment and eventual decline as a residential area.

Stripped of major sources of employment, divided by an interstate highway, and eroded¹ by urban renewal, Smith Hill had little positive prognosis in 1970.

VII. RETURN TO THE INNER CITY, 1970-

In spite of the adverse conditions the neighborhood faced in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Smith Hill has begun to recover from its long decline. Several factors have aided the renaissance of Smith Hill in recent years.

In 1970 a group of Smith Hill residents and businessmen who had been meeting informally to discuss the future of Smith Hill formed the Capitol Hill Interaction Council (CHIC), a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of the Smith Hill neighborhood. In the seven years since the establishment of CHIC, the organization has grown from a few members to many residents of Smith Hill. CHIC's activities have increased to include weekly neighborhood luncheons, a food cooperative, a craft shop, neighborhood festivals, and -- most recently -- a neighborhood improvement program, Project SHURE (Smith Hill Urban Revitalization Effort), designed to help neighborhood residents to restore or rehabilitate the existing building stock and to improve the visual quality of the neighborhood.

This key "grass-roots" effort has gone hand-in-hand with the return of residents to Smith Hill. Perhaps the prime attraction of Smith Hill today is the reorganized St. Patrick's parish. In 1971 Bishop McVinney had agreed to the creation of a Pentecostal parish -- this spiritual movement began at

Duquesne University in 1967 and has since spread rapidly -- in Providence. St. Patrick's Church was selected and placed in the hands of the present clergy. The thriving Word of God Community at St. Patrick's has attracted residents of Smith Hill and, more significantly, has brought new families into the area to become a part of the growing religious community.

Opportunities for nearby work have increased with the recycling of the Brown and Sharpe complex as the Capitol Industrial Center, a complex of several state agencies and private businesses.

The complexion of Smith Hill has changed considerably with the recent resurgence of the neighborhood. The various activities in the area attract a broad spectrum of the population, giving Smith Hill a more multifarious nature than before, but retaining a concern for the neighborhood that originally made Smith Hill a thriving residential center.

VIII. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Smith Hill today is a largely cohesive neighborhood that reflects its rapid growth as a working class neighborhood between 1860 and 1920. While the decline of the area between 1920 and 1970 resulted in the decay, abandonment, and eventual demolition of a number of buildings in the area, most of the neighborhood remains intact, with many surviving structures little altered.

The eastern portion of Smith Hill, dominated by the state government buildings and separated from the rest of the area by I-95, has become almost a separate entity from the rest of Smith Hill residential neighborhood. Its course of development will continue to diverge from that of the remaining part of Smith Hill.

The core of Smith Hill is rapidly approaching an equilibrium as a residential neighborhood. While both social and visual problems still exist, the renewed influx of residents and the efforts of CHIC portend a brightened future for Smith Hill.

The industrial corridors along the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers continue to thrive, partially in rehabilitated uses. The redevelopment of the West River area and the Moshassuck Square section has brought new activity into these once decayed areas. Business and industrial activity

along the Woonasquatucket River now mitigates the effects of departure of large industrial concerns from the area.

A preservation plan for Smith Hill should account for these sections of the neighborhood as distinct entities, and any goals for Smith Hill should be set with long-term land-use potentials of each area in mind.

The following recommendations are presented, based on the premise that broad-based community participation along with energetic municipal coordination and direction are necessary to implement an effective neighborhood conservation program. The current renewal of Smith Hill as a viable residential neighborhood has begun through the involvement of area residents. Agencies exist at the local, state, and federal levels which can assist in various capacities, but continuing success in the revitalization of Smith Hill can only be accomplished through continued initiative and determination.

1. Education. The successful implementation of any neighborhood preservation program depends upon the residents' awareness of their cultural and architectural heritage. Several types of educational methods are readily available to Smith Hill.

- A. An exhibition of Smith Hill historical documents, artifacts, and old photographs could be mounted in one of the neighborhood centers.
- B. An area with as many life-long residents as Smith Hill offers many fertile sources of oral history. Older members of the community could be called upon to relate stories of Smith Hill. A compilation of these reminiscences would provide a wealth of material useful for students of Smith Hill history.
- C. Walking tours through Smith Hill, sponsored by local organizations, could emphasize local history and development.
- D. The marker program of the Providence Preservation Society, funded by a grant from the Community Development Act, has recently expanded to include Smith Hill. Increased publicity of this program could raise the awareness of residents with regard to building types in the area and their proper restoration and maintenance.
- E. Articles on the history of Smith Hill, culled from area residents and histories of this area could be published in Smith Hill newspapers, such as the Capitol Letter.
- F. Neighborhood festivals, already a part of Smith Hill life, could be organized around historical themes.

2. Protection. Structures with important historical or architectural associations should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (See Appendix A). Entry on the National Register affords limited protection to historic properties from potentially damaging or disruptive federally funded projects. Further, properties on the National Register -- individually, as part of a district, as part of a thematic or multiple resource nomination -- are eligible for 50-50 matching restoration grants (See Appendix B).

3. Preservation. Re-use, restoration, and rehabilitation efforts on Smith Hill should be encouraged. Care should be taken to maintain the existing context of the historical fabric of the several distinct area on Smith Hill.

A. The state government center east of I-95 should be maintained and further developed. Expansion of government agencies and state properties in this area is inevitable, and thoughtful planning could increase the visual appeal of this area.

1. State-owned buildings within the government-center area and outside of the master-plan area should be studied thoroughly to determine the feasibility of their rehabilitation for new use. Many of these buildings merit appropriate re-use and could provide additional space at a fraction of the cost of new

construction.

2. The redevelopment of the area north of Smith Street, as proposed in the Smith Hill Government Center master plan, could greatly improve the visual quality of the area and noticeably facilitate traffic flow and government efficiency. The master plan, as proposed, provides a scheme suitable to the topography and sympathetic to the major monument, the State House, in the area. The first new building in this complex, the Health Services Building, is compatible in scale and sheathing, but its visual quality falls far short of that of the State House. Future development should occur only after more stringent design review, and new buildings should be better related to the State House.

The acquisition of property on Smith Hill will include several handsome mid-nineteenth century dwellings. As the state acquires this property, however, careful planning should make use of these fine remaining examples of nineteenth-century architecture. While the master plan precludes their use in situ, these buildings should be sympathetically

recycled until future state building necessitates their removal. At that time, suitable sites, preferably on Smith Hill, should be found for their relocation.

3. The area south of the State House lawn -- now used for long-term parking -- should be visually improved as a more suitable area for the government center. Landscaping of this area, for example, could significantly improve its visual impact at little expense.
4. Improved landscaping would also improve the visual quality of the former Rhode Island College site, now used by the Family Court and the University of Rhode Island Extension Division.

- B. The industrial corridor along the Woonasquatucket River deserves further planning study. As a major traffic corridor from downtown Providence to the west, the area could be more effectively used, especially after the opening of the Dean Street Connector to Pleasant Valley Parkway. Improved traffic flow and landscaping of the Woonasquatucket River bed would greatly benefit this area.

- C. Continuing rehabilitation of the Moshassuck Square Historic district should emphasize the particular role of this area in Providence's history. The creation of the Roger Williams Homestead Park and recycling of the extant mill buildings will not only visually improve this area, but also create an effective link between Smith Hill and the East Side.
- D. The residential neighborhood with its major commercial-zone axes is the largest part of Smith Hill and most strongly links the neighborhood with its past. Private restoration and rehabilitation efforts should be encouraged to preserve the best aspects of the neighborhood and to improve the built environment.
1. Workshops for neighborhood property owners should be sponsored by community agencies and preservation organizations -- such as the Smith Hill Urban Revitalization Effort (SHURE) to stimulate rehabilitation and restoration projects and to coordinate efforts within the neighborhood. These workshops could be extremely effective if participants included representatives of the many such organizations that exist throughout Providence, such as the Providence Preservation Society, the Elmwood Foundation, People Acting through Community Effort (PACE), Stop Wasting Abandoned Property (SWAP),

the North Benefit Street Association, the Fox Point Association, and other groups which have had similar rehabilitation and restoration experience.

2. Area residents and businessmen should take advantage of low-cost rehabilitation loans and grants for residential property and storefronts available through provisions of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
3. Basic Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Historic Property, an outline of basic concepts for the preservation of historic property through rehabilitation prepared by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, should be used in rehabilitation projects, and a rehabilitation and restoration reference library readily available within the neighborhood should be assembled.
4. Residents of Smith Hill should be encouraged, whenever possible, to use the Tax Reform Act of 1976, which contains important new tax incentives for preserving commercial properties -- i.e., rent-producing properties -- that qualify as certified historic structures, which are defined as depreciable structures (1) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, (2) located in a National Register District and certified by the Secretary of the

Interior as being of historical significance to the district, or (3) located in a local historically zoned district certified by the Secretary of the Interior to be controlled by design review procedures which will substantially achieve the purpose of preserving and rehabilitating buildings of historical significance. Specific details of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 can be obtained from a tax analyst or the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.

5. Smith Hill residents should initiate a street improvement-and-beautification program consisting of appropriate and attractive signs, lighting, planting and paving materials, and street furniture as a means of enhancing neighborhood rehabilitation efforts.

APPENDIX A: THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, of structures, sites, areas, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. It is the official inventory of the nation's cultural and historic resources which are worthy of preservation. National Historic Landmarks, the nation's most historically important buildings and sites, are included in the National Register of Historic Places, as are other properties of national, state, and local significance nominated by the states and approved by the National Park Service. The National Register is also the legal instrument by which registered properties threatened by federally assisted undertakings are ensured review. Listing in the National Register is, in addition, a primary prerequisite for grants-in-aid administered by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission (Appendix B).

Two individual buildings and one district on Smith Hill are already entered on the National Register: The Esek Hopkins House at 97 Admiral Street, the Rhode Island State House at 130 Smith Street, and the Moshassuck Square Historic District.

To facilitate inclusion of other historic properties on Smith Hill on the National Register, a Multiple Resource

nomination should be prepared for Smith Hill. A Multiple Resource nomination is one which includes all or a defined portion of the historic resources identified in a specific geographical area, such as Smith Hill. For the purposes of the Tax Reform Act (See Recommendation) and with the exception of properties within historic districts located in a Multiple Resource Area, properties listed in a Multiple Resource Area will be considered to be individually listed in the National Register.

The following properties on Smith Hill should be considered for nomination:

1. The Chalkstone, Pekin, Douglas, and Candace Street Historic District, 1872 et seq. including the houses bounded by the streets.
2. Andrew Dickhaut Cottages District, 1883, 115-141 Bath Street.
3. Mowry-Nicholson House, 1856 et seq., 57 Brownell Street.
4. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1928, 15 Hayes Street.
5. Nelson C. Northrup House, 1853, 17 Jefferson Street.
6. Jefferson Street Baptist Church (SS. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church) 1868, 1912, 68 Jefferson Street.
7. Elizabeth T. Brownell House, 1855, 44 Jewett Street.
8. Brown and Sharpe Complex, 1870 et seq., Promenade Street.
9. Charles Dowler House, 1872, 581 Smith Street.
10. Smith Street Primary School, 1885, 396 Smith Street.
11. Oakland Avenue Historic District, including Oakland Avenue, Pembroke Street, and the connecting block at Easton Street.

12. Christopher Dodge House, 1858, 11 West Park Street.
13. Merchants Cold Storage Building, 1894, et seq.,
65 Harris Avenue.

APPENDIX B: GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

Since 1971 the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission has been able to award fifty percent matching grants for the restoration or acquisition of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Federal legislation is now pending to establish a \$150 million National Historic Preservation Fund and this could make the 1977 Grant Program significantly larger than in previous years. To date almost 100 grants have been awarded to municipal governments, local historical societies, community organizations, the State of Rhode Island, and private individuals for projects throughout the state. These grants have generally ranged in size from \$1,000 to \$50,000 with the grantee providing an equal amount. Grantees also benefit from the expertise of restoration professionals working on the staff of the Preservation Commission.

Allowable work under this program includes exterior and interior restoration, structural repairs, installation or updating of utility systems, architectural fees, archaeology, historical research, and the installation of protective systems. New construction, furnishings, and modern landscaping are not allowable costs. To ensure an accurate restoration and work of high quality, an architect must be engaged to prepare plans and specifications and to supervise project work. The selection of paint and mortar colors must be based on historical analysis and approved by the Preservation Commission. Due to the high standards of the National Park Service and the added cost of older building materials and methods, this program sometimes increases the total cost of the project. Applicants should therefore be interested in obtaining professional guidance from the Preservation Commission for their project as well as financial assistance.

An easement designed to protect the property after project completion and ensure its continuing public benefit must be signed by the owner. This agreement is for a minimum of twenty years and requires the owner to maintain the building and grounds, make no alterations without the prior approval of the Preservation Commission, and allow the public to view the property at least twelve days a year. When the grant does not involve interior restoration, these restrictions apply only to the exterior of the building.

Matching funds can come from any non-federal source, from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and in the form of donated services, real property, or equipment. Grant applicants are urged to submit requests for the maximum amount for

which they have matching capability. This will enable Rhode Island to secure a large apportionment of grant funds from the federal government, and, as the amount of the grant award is frequently a percentage of the applicant's request, will help the applicant obtain a larger grant.

The deadline for the submission of applications to the Preservation Commission is May 1st. All of the proposed projects will be carefully reviewed, and when the National Park Service informs Rhode Island of its fiscal appropriation, the annual grant awards will be announced by the Commission. This usually occurs in December. Grant recipients will then have four months to prepare plans and specifications for review by the National Park Service. When the Park Service has approved this material, grantees will have one year to complete the project work.

For further information about the Grant-in-Aid Program, applicants should call (277-2678) or write the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903.

APPENDIX C: METHODOLOGY

A standard survey form, the "Historic Building Data Sheet," has been prepared by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission for use throughout the state. This survey sheet allocates sections to architectural and historical data. Architectural aspects covered include style, condition and remodeling, specific details, and environmental considerations. The historical categories include relevant dates, identification on historic maps, sources of early photographs, bibliographical references, and specific events or individuals with which the property is associated. The property itself is identified by map or street number, plat and lot numbers, and ownership. In most cases, a photograph is attached to each survey sheet.

Architectural ratings have been assigned on a 0-4 continuum. The highest rating, 4, has been reserved for those structures deemed to be of outstanding importance; these buildings are the most significant architectural monuments of Woonsocket and are, in most instances, key visual landmarks — focal points defining the character of a specific area. The intermediate ratings 2 and 3 constitute the bulk of the historic fabric of the city. They form an indispensable setting, an overall visual context, essential to the outstanding structures and sites. The rating 1 designates buildings of little intrinsic architectural value. In many cases, however, they were deemed good "background buildings" filling in among the more important properties. The rating 0 has been assigned to buildings which contribute in no positive manner to this historic fabric. An "A" has been added to the numerical value of properties deemed important to the fabric of a neighborhood; loss of such a building would result in damage to the environment.

Similarly, historical values have been assigned as follows: 0 — no known value, 1 — local value, 2 — state value, 3 — national value. The "A" designation has also been used here, to denote a structure which has particular local significance.

Buildings that have been significantly altered in appearance on the exterior were assigned lower ratings than were better preserved structures of the same period; an interior examination might prove that many of these structures are worthy of a higher architectural value. Likewise, a later discovery of an important historical fact might raise the historical rating of properties about which little is presently known.

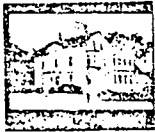
HISTORIC BUILDING DATA SHEET RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE SURVEY PAGE 1				COUNTY
PLAT	15-M	1		Providence
WILLAGE	---			1177/777 Woonsocket
OWNER	Margaret F. Powers	OWNER AS	John Ellis house	RIND Prospect Street
PRESENT USE	Residential	OWNER NO.	PA-34-1	MAP NO. 121
LAND USE	Residential	ORIGINAL USE	Dwelling	PROSPECT
STYLE	Late Victorian 1870 bracketed	CONSTRUCTION DATE	c. 1875	PHOTO
CONDITION	Excellent	SOURCE OF DATE	Directories	
REMODELING	Minor	1851, 62, 70 -- not in		
DESCRIPTION	2 1/2 story, 21'	1885 -- house is shown		
DOOR	Double, flange to street, small	1911 -- 0; 1955 -- 0		
ROOF	cross-gable	NO PHOTOS	---	
FOUNDATION	Stucco, 2'	WILLAGE	---	
WALL COVER	Wood cladding			
ENTRANCE	Central in 3-bay facade			
WINDOWS	2 1/2 story bracketed lintels on 1st floor windows, 2nd floor windows			
	are horizontal headed, round in cross-pole.			
	House has a good bracketed portico.			
	This is one of a group of similar houses			
	dating from c. 1850-1885.			
	See 37 Park Street			
OUTBUILDINGS	Garage, 21' x 24'			
SITE/CANVAS	Set back 20'			
	Appropriately landscaped			
ARCHITECTURAL VALUE	3A	HISTORIC VALUE	1	
SURVEYOR	DC	DATE OF INSPECTION	8-73	

Fig. 1: Sample survey sheet.

Data from the survey sheets has been transferred to a series of four maps. One map presents the entire city at a 1" = 1200' scale; all historic properties not located in major clusters or districts are indicated on it, and the center of the city and several other areas are shown as districts which are presented on the three other maps, each at a 1" = 100' scale. Every structure within each district is shown on these detailed maps, along with the address, a code for period or style, and the architectural and historic ratings. See sample section of district map PW-3. These maps make information pertaining to Woonsocket's cultural resources readily available for all planning purposes.

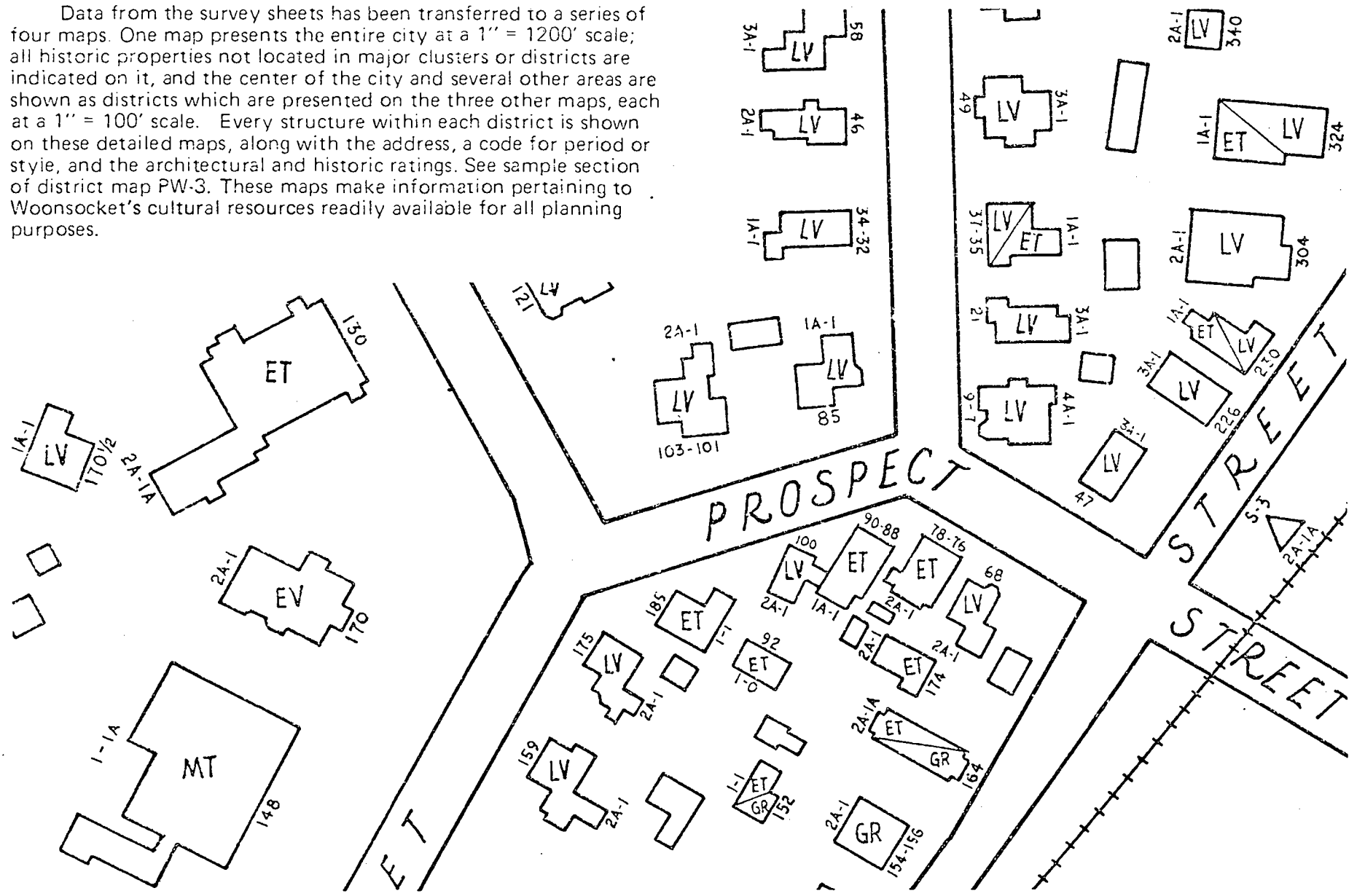


Fig. : Sample section of a survey map.

APPENDIX D: INVENTORY

The following structures and sites on Smith Hill are of architectural, environmental, or historic importance. Each entry has significance either in itself, by association, or, in the case of some buildings, as representative examples of a common architectural type.

The names associated with many buildings are generally the names of the earliest known owner or the builder taken, for the most part, from deed research.

Entries are listed alphabetically by street and then in numerical order by number. Unless otherwise noted, all buildings are of wood-frame construction.

* Listed in the National Register

** Proposed for nomination to the National Register

****ADMIRAL STREET**

Oriental Mill Complex. ca. 1865. 3 storeys, flank-gable roof, horizontal block massing with 4½-storey helm-roof tower on western elevation, brick sheathing, evenly spaced double-hung sash windows on each storey, oculus windows in gable end, modillion raking & eaves cornice. The Oriental Mill, one of the oldest manufactories of cotton cloth in Providence, was established by the Reed family & later operated by the J. P. Campbell Co. Its location away from the rivers reflects the growing use of steam power after mid-century.

*97 ADMIRAL STREET

Esek Hopkins House. 1756 et seq. Built by the first Commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy as a 1½-storey gambrel-roof dwelling. The house grew to its present size in the early years of the nineteenth century with the addition of the 2-storey gable-roof section and the 1-storey ell to the southwest of the original structure. Its present state reflects both the alterations made by Hopkins' descendants in the 19th century and the 1908 restoration carried out before the property was deeded over to the City as a memorial to Hopkins:

****ALMA STREET**

Filled with 2½-storey, gable-end-to-the-street, frame houses, this short street was almost completely developed for investment properties during the mid-1800s. The houses on Alma Street are nearly identical, and in their generally unaltered state evince the standard 2-family dwelling type constructed when Smith Hill was the most rapidly growing part of Providence.

30 ARLINE

Department of Transportation Maintenance Headquarters. 1927. 2 storeys, flat roof, reinforced brick pier-and-spandrel wall system with large metal louvred windows. Built by the State of Rhode Island for the Department of Transportation, this structure's design represents the waxing influence of the machine aesthetic on Art Deco, a combination that proved quite appropriate to industrial buildings.

*1 BARK STREET

Stillman White Foundry. 1856 et seq. Built in three phases, this long, narrow brick building consists of a central, 2-storey, gable-roof section flanked on the north by a 1-storey flat-roof section and on the south by a 2-storey flat roof section; the three sections are unified by similar brickwork, fenestration, and corbelled cornices.

Established in 1856 by Stillman White, the foundry remained active until 1949 producing as its specialty the "S. White Lining Metal." The building was rehabilitated in the early 1970s.

**115, 117, 119, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133,
137, 141 BATH STREET

Workers' Cottages. 1883. Built by Andrew Dickhaut, these modest 1½-storey, 3-bay, side-hall-plan cottages provided adjacency to the numerous industries growing up along the Woonasquatucket river to the south and removal from the more cramped neighborhoods of tenements farther east on Smith Hill. The Dickhaut Cottages represent the largest intact group of small, workers' dwellings extant in Providence.

28-30 BERNON STREET

Chatherina Lynn House. 1896. 2½-storeys, cross-gable roof with octagonal corner turret, 2-storey bay window on eastern side, 1-storey entrance porch, tripartite round-head windows on 2nd and 3rd storeys of facade. More elaborate than most multiple-family dwellings, the Lynn House was built for occupation by the owner.

37 BERNON STREET

Joseph Baker House. ca 1864. 1½-storeys, flank-gable roof, clapboard sheathing, hooded center entrance flanked by bracketed bay windows, round-head recessed panels in corner pilasters. The Baker House is typical of the modest structures built around mid-century when the area beyond Smith and Orms streets was first divided into house lots.

42-60 BERNON STREET

The Andrew Dickhaut Heirs Row. 1891.

2 storeys, flat roof, clapboard-sheathed frame structure, 9 attached 4-bay units. The Dickhaut Heirs Row is unique in Providence multiple-family housing.

55 BERNON STREET

Charles G. Arnold House. 1849-1855.

1½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street,
irregular fenestration. This house, built
as an investment property by Arnold, is the
oldest extant house on the Lydia Allen Dorr
Plat of 1847.

65 BERNON STREET

Patrick Shanley House. ca. 1860. 2½ storeys, flaring gable roof end to the street, frame structure, 3-bay facade, side-hall plan. Built following the most typical 19th-century plan, the house is distinguished by its flared roofline, a treatment relatively scarce in Providence, but one calculated to demonstrate Shanley's virtuosity as a carpenter.

19 BROWNELL STREET

Capitol Chambers. ca. 1915. 3½-storeys,
hip roof, stucco sheathing, 4-bay facade with
round-head fenestration on 1st storey, 1-storey
porches on both side elevations, bracketed
cornice. Capitol Chambers was built to satisfy
the increasing demand for office space near
the State House.

52-54 BROWNELL

Frederic S. Gardiner House. ca. 1893. 2½
storeys, cross-gable roof with recessed arch
in gable end, 2-storey bay window and 2-storey
entrance porch on facade below bracketed
gable overhang.

56-58 BROWNELL

Albert A. Boutelle House. 1892. 2½
storeys, cross-gable roof with second smaller
projecting gable on facade, spindle-detailed
entrance porch, diaper-work trim in gable ends.
The Boutelle House is a typical example of
Queen-Anne influenced two-family houses on
Smith Hill.

****57 BROWNELL**

Mowry-Nicholson House. 1856, 1864, 1877. 2½ storeys, cross-gable roof with shed dormers and 3½-storey tower with oculus windows, clapboard sheathing, large porch on west side of first storey, regularly spaced fenestration includes tripartite and Palladian windows on facade. Built by the firm of Mowry and Steere as William G. R. Mowry's residence, the house was originally a cruciform-plan Italianate villa. William T. Nicholson, owner of Nicholson File Company, bought the house in 1865 to be closer to his mills on the Woonasquatucket River at Acorn Street. He remodeled the house in 1867 and completed the northwest addition in 1877.

43-45 CALAIS

Patrick Conway house. 1873. 2½ storeys,
flank-gable roof, double house with 6-bay
(A-B-B-B-B-A) facade and side hall plans.
Built by Conway a teamster, this house, because
of its proximity to Brown and Sharpe, was used
by workers at that mill in the late nineteenth
and early twentieth centuries.

51 CAMDEN AVENUE

Charles Kelley House. ca. 1875. 1½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street, 2-bay facade with large bay window, hooded entrance, diamond-pattern jigsaw cornice, hood moulds over side and attic windows. Built by Kelley, who is listed as a sexton in Providence directories, this handsomely detailed cottage is typical of the small single-family houses built on Smith Hill in the 1870s.

83 CAMDEN

Charles Dowler house. 1867. 2½-storeys, flank-gable roof, 3-bay facade, hooded center entrance, round-head windows on second storey, dentil cornice. This is the first of two houses built on Smith Hill by Charles Dowler, a native of Birmingham, England who came to Providence in 1863 to make arms for the Civil War. More modest than Dowler's second house, at 581 Smith Street, the Camden Street house is distinguished by its unusual second-storey fenestration.

31 CANDACE

Providence Public Library, Smith Hill Branch. 1932. Albert Harkness, architect. 1½-storeys, hip roof, brick sheathing, central entrance pavilion flanked by large bow windows on facade. This building superseded the North End Branch of the Public Library (established in 1910), begun under the auspices of the North End Working Girls Club & located in rented quarters at 49 Orms Street.

32 CANDACE

John T. Reilly House. 1844. 2½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street, 2-bay facade, hooded entrance, 2-storey bay window, diamond-pattern jigsaw cornice. Reilly was a cigar-box maker who rented accommodations for his family on nearby Bernon Street until he moved here.

55 CANDACE

John T. Rafferty House. 1877. 2½ storeys,
gable roof set end to the street, 2-bay
facade, bracketed hood over entrance, bracketed
2-storey bay window, round-head windows in
gable end, bracketed raking cornice. Probably
built by Rafferty himself — he was a carpenter —
the house is typical of two-family dwellings
erected between 1874 and 1895.

CHAD BROWN STREET

Chad Brown-Admiral Terrace Housing Project. 1941-1942, 1950. Built by the Housing Authority of the City of Providence, Maximilian Untexasz, Supervising Architect. 590 units in 2-storey brick buildings arranged in wide rows around a common. Built with federal funds to provide temporary low-income housing for the poor, the Chad Brown Project —one of several in Providence— became a place of last resort for individuals on fixed income by the late 1950s. The deterioration of the project in the 1960s and 1970s has led to recent efforts to refurbish Providence housing projects: beginning in the spring of 1977, a plan to improve conditions in the Chad Brown housing project was implemented, including improvements to existing units and demolition of many neglected, vandalized units.

491-493 CHALKSTONE

Double House built by Prescott O. Clarke.
1891. 2½ storeys, cross-gable roof, symmetrical
arrangement of side porches & fenestration,
angled corner windows on first storey. Clarke
invested heavily in Smith Hill real estate
toward the end of the nineteenth century. This
house is unique in Smith Hill, which was filling
rapidly with tenements and 3-deckers by the
1890s.

503½-507½ CHALKSTONE

Thomas Davis house. ca. 1850. Divided into the rectangular structure at 507½ and the T-shape dwelling at 503½ Chalkstone when the area was platted and filled with tenements in the 1890s, the original Davis House was a cruciform plan, 1½-storey Greek Revival house with a 3-bay facade, which is still intact on 503½ Chalkstone. Davis, born in Kilkenny, Ireland in 1806, emigrated to Providence as a child and was active in state intellectual and political life until his death in 1895: he was elected as an abolitionist to the United States House of Representatives in 1852 & supported charitable and intellectual activities throughout his life. His wife, Paulina Wright Davis, was an ardent proponent of women's suffrage, and her salons, at both this house and the stately gothic mansion the Davises built in 1869 on the site of the Veterans' Hospital, were filled with intellectual luminaries, such as Sarah Helen Whitman, who discussed the vital issues of the day.

532 CHALKSTONE

Daniel McDuff House, ca. 1867. 2½ storeys, flank gable roof, clapboard sheathing, 5-bay facade with trabeated central entrance with side lights. McDuff, listed as a laborer in Providence directories, bought two lots of the A. C. Smith Plat in 1858, but did not complete his house until 1867.

543 CHALKSTONE

Smith Hill Market. 1922. 1 storey, flat roof, original storefronts, modillion cornice. This building is typical of the once many structures that housed small neighborhood businesses.

551-553 CHALKSTONE

Erastus N. Steere House. 1856. 2½ storeys, cross-gable roof, stucco sheathing, twentieth-century storefront on first storey, regularly spaced trabeated windows on second and attic storeys, modillion raking and eaves cornice. Built by one of the most important mid-nineteenth century speculative developers on Smith Hill, the Steere House was the first dwelling erected on the 1856 Hardenburg Purchase Plat, which included Camden Avenue, Danforth Street, and Charlotte Street (now closed.)

619 CHALKSTONE

United Presbryterian Church. 1895. Late Victorian Romanesque structure of brick and stone with slate trim, steep gable roof set end to the street, round head windows, corner tower with arcaded belfry. Located here to serve the rapidly increasing population at the western edge of Smith Hill and beyond, the United Presbryterian Church continues to play an active role in Smith Hill community affairs, through such agencies as its senior citizens programs.

660-662 CHALKSTONE

Elisée J. Bourneuf House. 1891. 2½
storeys, cross-gable roof, 2-bay facade with
2-storey bay "coffin" window and double entrance
under 1-storey porch, modillion cornice. Bourneuf
built this 2-family house, typical of those on
this part of Chalkstone Avenue, soon after house
lots were first offered for sale in the 1887
Mason and Okie Plat, which included the land
west of Zone Street bounded by Valley and Raymond
streets and Chalkstone Avenue.

*43 CHARLES

Fletcher Manufacturing Co. 1869. 3½ storeys, mansard roof, vertical block massing, brick sheathing, evenly spaced segmental arch sash windows with radiating voussors. Founded in 1793, the company moved to this area in the 1840s and erected this office and warehouse in 1869. Once surrounded by simple mill buildings, this finely detailed structure is the only remaining part of the large complex.

CHARLES STREET

Moshassuck Square Apartments. 1974.

William Warner, Architect. An attached row of 2½- to 3½-storey brick units with varying massing and rooflines, the Moshassuck Square Apartments represent the first phase of Providence's Moshassuck Square Redevelopment Project. Built of red brick similar to that used in the adjacent industrial buildings, the complex was designed to complement existing structures through the use of similar detailing, such as the stone-lintel windows and the use of arches.

*125 CHARLES

Commercial Building (Girl Scouts of Rhode Island Building). ca. 1900. 3 storeys, shed roof, brick sheathing, plate glass windows set into stone flanking center entrance on first storey, regularly spaced segmental-arch windows on upper storeys, 2-storey wooden porch on rear of building overlooking the Moshassuck River, simple banded brick cornice. This structure was erected to provide retail space on the first story and small dwelling units above.

CHARLES AT ORMS STREET

Marriott Hotel. 1975. Py-Vavra (Milwaukee), architects. 7 storeys; flat roof; irregular block massing; brick sheathing; regular fenestration pattern within each of the irregularly massed "bays." This pseudo-brutalist structure is the most interesting & most visible of the new buildings erected in the Moshassuck Square redevelopment area. Its adjacency to Interstate Highway 95 is felicitous, for its scale is more appropriate to that part of its environs than to the older buildings closer to the Moshassuck River.

37 CHERRY

Welcome Angell House. ca 1837. 3

storeys, hip roof, 5-bay facade with center entrance. This house was probably built by Angell himself: he was a carpenter, and worked, like many of his trade, out of a shop at the rear of his property. The house has been enlarged & altered since its construction.

40 COMMON

Dwelling. ca. 1850. 1½ storeys, flank gable roof, 5-bay facade with center entrance. This modest vernacular Greek Revival house is typical of the smaller dwellings erected in the area at the middle of the nineteenth-century.

47 COMMON

Niles B. Schubarth house. 1874. 2½ storeys, mansard roof with central "sunbonnet gable" on the facade, 3-bay facade with center portico entrance flanked by 2-storey bay windows, hooded doorway over entrance portico, handsome wrought-iron fence. No sooner had Schubarth finished his house adjacent at 49 Common Street than he began construction on this more elaborate dwelling, probably designed by Schubarth himself.

49 COMMON STREET

Niles B. Schubarth House. 1872. 2½ storeys, mansard roof, 3-bay facade with hooded side entrance. Schubarth, a civil engineer and landscaper — he laid out the original portion of Swan Point Cemetery and the central portion of the North Burial Ground — also listed himself as an architect: he was probably responsible for the design of this house.

50 COMMON

Erastus N. Steere House. 1875. 2½
stories, mansard roof with pedimented dormers,
2-bay facade with portico entrance and
2-storey "coffin" bay window. Steere moved
from the Italianate villa at Chalkstone and
Camden avenues to this more fashionable
dwelling in 1875.

59 COMMON

Dwelling. Built by Thomas H. Angell.
ca. 1855. 2½ storeys, flank gable roof,
original 5-bay facade altered on first storey
by addition of 2 bay windows flanking transom-
light center entrance, whose hood is contemporary
with the bay windows, broad entablature.
Originally Greek Revival in style, the house
was never occupied by Angell, who seems to
have built it as an investment.

19 DAVIS

St. Patrick's School. 1871. 3 storeys,
hip roof with cross gable, brick sheathing,
cruciform plan, regularly spaced segmental
arch sash windows. This structure housed
St. Patrick's Grammar School from 1871 to
1923, and it served as a high school from
1933 to 1969.

60 DAVIS STREET

Dwelling. ca. 1832. 2 storeys, hip roof with monitor, original 3-bay facade with side entrance modified in the late nineteenth century by the addition of the bay window on the southeast corner. This is the oldest extant building on the Smith Hill Plat of 1830.

90 DAVIS STREET

George M. Grant House. 1868. 2 storeys,
high hip roof with gable end centered of
facade, 3-bay facade with hooded center
entrance, round-head window centered in gable
end, modillion cornice. Grant, a blacksmith
with a shop at 6 North Main Street, lived in
this house for many years; in 1882 he added
the 2-storey ell at the rear of the house.

24, 30, 34, 41, 49, 53 DOME

A group of 1- and 1½-storey single-family dwellings, these houses, along with a couple of isolated examples, represent the extent of post-World War II domestic construction on Smith Hill. Much more common in outlying suburban areas, the ranch-style house is rare on Smith Hill.

133-137 DOUGLAS AVENUE

Douglas Avenue Fire Station. 1902. Sanders and Thornton, architect. 2½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street, brick sheathing with stone trim, cylindrical projection on west corner, mid-twentieth century storefront on first storey of facade, regularly spaced round-head and rectangular sash windows on second storey, broad entablature.

24 DOUGLAS AVENUE

Congregation of the Sons of Jacob
Synagogue. 1905-1920. Harry Marshak,
architect for superstructure. 2 storeys
above 1-storey basement, low gable roof behind
parapet at entrance end, gable porch supported
by brackets over front entrance, regularly
spaced sash windows. Built to serve the
large Jewish population centered around the
eastern end of Orms Street & Chalkstone Avenue
and on Lippit Hill, this synagogue was dedicated
in 1905, and the congregation used the lower
portion of the building; the superstructure was
completed in 1920. The cornices and roof have
been heavily altered in this century.

DOUGLAS AVENUE

St. Patrick's Cemetery. 1843. The oldest Roman Catholic cemetery in Rhode Island, St. Patrick's Cemetery was established by the parish's first rector, the Reverend William Wiley. The earliest burials were those of the Sisters of Mercy, and the section of the cemetery in which they lie has been set aside as a Rhode Island Historic Cemetery. At the center of the grounds is the tomb of the Reverend Patrick Lambe, the second rector of St. Patrick's (1854-1867). Today the small (approximately 8 acres) cemetery is filled.

209 DOUGLAS

Hennessey-McHale Block (Armenian American Civic Club.) ca. 1873. 3½ storeys, hip roof, brick sheathing, 2 doors and 2 display windows on 1st storey, 3 evenly spaced windows on upper storeys, all openings on facade crowned with keystone hood moulds. Hennessey, a grocer who lived at 19 Mulberry, rented this building to the McHale family, who operated a grocery store on the first floor and lived upstairs between 1874 & 1926; the McHales bought the building in 1892. It has been the home of the Armenian American Civic Club since 1940, thus continuing as an important part of the neighborhood.

451 DOUGLAS AVENUE

Mary Clifford House. 1904. Queen Anne style, 2½ storeys, cross gable roof with 3½-storey octagonal turret at southwest corner, highly irregular massing & fenestration, wide verandah surrounding much of the first storey. Mary Clifford, a teacher, and her husband, Patrick, an operative, moved to this house from smaller quarters on Grape Street.

7 DUKE STREET

Patrick Donnelly house. ca. 1865. 1½
storeys; flank-gable roof; 3-bay, center-
entrance facade with bay windows; round-head
windows in gable ends.

**6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 DUKE STREET

Andrew Dickhaut Heirs Cottages. ca. 1897.

Seven identical workers' cottages: 1½ storeys;
gable roofs set end to the street, bay window
& front porch on first storey of each. Like
other workers' dwellings on Smith Hill, these
cottages were built by a private investor,
not as company-owned dwellings.

10 ESTEN

Patrick Denahy house. Eighteenth century (perhaps before 1750), moved to side ca. 1857. 2½ stories, flank-gable roof with gable overhang on southern end, irregularly spaced 5-bay first floor treatment with center entrance with Federal doorway treatment including engaged colonettes and side and transom lights, 4 irregularly spaced windows on second floor. This house was originally a 3-bay, flank-gable roof house with a massive chimney directly behind the entrance hall. The Federal doorway detailing was added early in the nineteenth century, probably after the house was expanded on its present northern side. The massive chimney was no doubt removed when it was moved to this site by Patrick Denahy, a tailor who had previously lived on State Street; there is no evidence that he moved the house from that location.

FELIX STREET

First opened in 1884 as part of the Mason and Okie plat, Felix Street documents the rapid change in form of multiple-family dwellings that occurred in the late nineteenth & early twentieth centuries: the 2½-storey, 3-bay box with gable roof set end to the street, the 2½-storey, cross-gable roof dwelling with projecting bay windows and porches, & the variety of forms used for the 3-decker.

11, 19, 21, 24, 33, 39, 47, 51, 55, 57,
59, 75, 79, 83 FILLMORE

Workers' Cottages. 1877 et seq. These 1½-
story cottages set gable end to the street are
typical of those built in the late nineteenth-
century Smith Hill. Many are identical to
those built on Bath and Lydia Streets (q.v.) by
Andrew Dickhaut, who built at least five of
these.

106 FRANCIS STREET

Rhode Island Medical Society Building.
1911-1912. Clark, Howe & Homer, architects.
Georgian Revival. 2 storeys; flat roof with
surrounding parapet; horizontal block massing
with bowed southern end; 5-bay facade with
center entrance, wide modillion cornice. The
format of this building is derived from eighteenth-
century prototypes (e.g. the Market House) which
placed the main floor above a raised basement;
on this building, however, the second storey—
not the first—is arcaded, with wrought-iron
balconies below the tall windows for added
emphasis. This building is the 1st permanent
home of the R.I.M.S., founded in 1812.

144 FRANCIS

Apartment Building, built by Ann Francis Brown. ca. 1894. 3 storeys, hip roof, brick first storey with wood shingles on upper storeys. Similar in style to many contemporary 3-deckers, this apartment building is twice as wide as most 3-deckers, thereby allowing at least 6 dwelling units.

****65 HARRIS AVENUE**

Merchants Cold Storage & Warehouse Co.

Building. 1894, 1896, 1899. 6 storeys, flat roof, brick sheathing, regular fenestration contained by ogival arcading, heavy stringcourses above 2nd & 3rd storeys, corbelled cornice.

The first Cold Storage Warehouse in Providence, located at 173 Canal Street & operated by Israel B. Mason & Sons, was superseded by this company, founded by Mason in 1893.

2-96 HARRIS

Wholesale Meat & Produce Market. 1929.

3 storeys, flat roof, reinforced concrete pier-&-
spandrel structure with brick and casement-
window infill, loading dock with canopy on
first storey. The Wholesale Meat & Produce
Market consolidated the efforts of merchants
who formerly gathered on Canal Street near
Market Square.

****15 HAYES STREET**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. 1928. Martin Hedwig, Jackson, Robertson & Adams, architects. While the plan of this church follows well-established prototypes, Gloria Dei's superstructure design amalgamates the sinuous curves and strong juxtapositions of geometric volumes of Art Deco — as interpreted by Hedwig — with traditional ecclesiastical forms. This church is the most noteworthy addition to twentieth-century ecclesiastical architecture in Providence.

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 95

1962 et seq. The construction of this highway was a major force in the post-war deterioration & disintegration of the Smith Hill neighborhood. Cutting a wide path through the oldest portion of Smith Hill, the highway not only replaced nearly 100 dwellings and 600 residents, but also separated St. Patrick's Church from many of its parishoners.

****17 JEFFERSON STREET**

Nelson C. Northup House. 1853. 2½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street surmounted by octagonal cupola, 3-bay facade with hooded side entrance, quoined corners, bracketed raking and eaves cornice. Built by Northup, a merchant who speculated heavily in real estate on Smith Hill, the house is one of the finest examples in Providence of the transition from the Greek Revival to the Italianate style.

****60 JEFFERSON STREET**

Jefferson Street Baptist Church (SS
Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church).
1868. Built in the Gothic Revival style, this
simple structure has polychrome voussoirs
over its arched doors & windows and a well-
proportioned polygonal tower centered in the
facade. The steeple has been removed. The
change in denomination of this church in 1912
reflects the growth of the Armenian population
on Smith Hill in the early twentieth century.

27-29 JEWETT

Dwelling. Built by Ann Holden. ca. 1855.
2½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street,
3-bay facade, bracketed hood over side entrance,
bracketed cornice. This house was built,
probably as an investment, by one of the Holden
family soon after the Holden Estate, which
occupied land bounded by Smith, Promenade, and
Holden streets and 1-95, was divided and sold
for house lots in 1850.

207, 209, 211-213, 215-217, 219-221 JEWETT

Two-family dwellings. Built by Harry Malinowitz and Max Charren, ca. 1927. A group of four identical 2-storey, hip-roof structures with full-width 2-storey front porches, these buildings are typical mid-1920s 2- and 3-family dwellings.

****44 JEWETT STREET**

Double House. Built by Elizabeth T. Brownell. ca. 1855. 2½ storeys, flank-gable roof, hooded double center entrance, regular fenestration, corner pilasters, broad entablature. Double Greek Revival houses are rare in Providence, although a number of Federal and Italianate examples are known. Like other heirs of the Holden Estate, Mrs. Brownell chose to build an income-producing structure on her property.

50, 54 JEWETT

Multiple-family Housing, built by the Blanchard family. ca. 1873. 2 buildings, both 2½ storeys, flank-gable roofs, center entrances, regularly spaced bay and sash windows. These privately owned tenements were often used by workers at the adjacent Brown and Sharpe plants.

55, 59, 61, 65, 67, 69, 73 LYDIA

Andrew Dickhaut Cottages. 1891. Seven identical workers' cottages; 1½ storeys, gable roofs set end to the street, 3-bay facades. These cottages are almost identical to those Dickhaut erected on Bath Street in 1883; only the mirror reversal of plan distinguishes one group from the other.

99 LYDIA

Multiple-family Dwelling. Built by Robert Pettis. 1893. 2½ storeys; gable roof end to the street; clapboard sheathing; 2-bay facade of 2-storey projecting bay "coffin" window and front door with heavy hood with pendentives. Built as a multiple-family dwelling, this house is typical of the many erected by Pettis and other developers in the Smith Hill area.

19 MULBERRY

John B. Hennessey House. ca. 1855. 2½
storeys, hip roof with central square cupola,
3-bay facade with hooded center entrance flanked
by paired round-head windows, broad entablature,
bracketed cornice, wide eaves. This Italianate
palazzo-type dwelling was built by Hennessey,
a grocer.

83 OAKLAND AVENUE

Henry Boyce House. ca. 1873. 2½ storeys,
high hip roof with cross gables, 3 bay facade
with central entrance flanked by 2-storey
bay windows. Boyce, a machinist, moved his
family to the open spaces of the Oaklands Plat
soon after it was first opened for development
in 1871.

145 OAKLAND AVENUE

Congregation Beth David Synagogue. 1954.
Tom Russillo, architect. 1 story, flat roof
with cross gable, brick sheathing, tetrastyle
pedimented entrance portico flanked by sash
windows on facade. This temple is the home of
two congregations which merged in 1970.

**** OAKLAND AVENUE**

The northern portion of Oakland Avenue contains one of the finest concentrations of 3-deckers in Providence, most of them built following the First World War.

50 OAKLAND AVENUE

Thomas J. Fahey - Mary Regan House. 1927-1930. 2½ storeys, cross-gable roof, wide front porch, upstairs porch under front cross gable, regular fenestration. Begun by Fahey, this commodious house remained vacant until occupied by Mary Regan in 1931.

161 ORMS STREET

J. A. Sheldon House. 1871. 1½ storeys,
cross-gable roof, centered bay window on
facade below paired trabeated windows, irregular
fenestration on sides, bracketed cornice.

Sheldon, a foreman at the nearby American Screw
Company plant, moved from nearby on Smith
Hill to this house upon its completion.

216 ORMS

Dwelling, built by Amos Yeomans. 1845.
2 storeys, low hip roof, 5-bay facade, side-light center entrance under broad entablature, trabeated windows, wide eaves. Yeomans, a baker, built this house on speculation between March and September of 1845, when he sold it to John Oldfield. The 5-bay-facade format, popular in Providence from the mid-eighteenth through mid-nineteenth centuries, is here wedded to the bold plasticity of the emerging aesthetic of Romantic Classicism, exemplified by the heavy lintels and wide eaves.

225 ORMS STREET

C Margaret McIvor House. ca. 1873. 2½ storeys, mansard roof, 3-bay facade, bracketed center-entrance portico, bracketed cornice, carriage house in rear. John McIvor, a carpenter, and his family were first listed in directories at this address in 1874. His profession suggests that he probably built the house himself. In scale and style it is more pretentious than other contemporary dwellings in the neighborhood.

C

344 ORMS STREET

William F. Goff House. ca. 1883. 2½ storeys, mansard roof, 2-bay facade with bracketed entrance porch and bracketed 2-storey bay window, bracketed cornice. Goff was a machinist, and, like many other residents of Smith Hill, probably located here because of the area's proximity to nearby industry.

57 PARK STREET

Veterans Memorial Auditorium. 1924; 1951.
Osgood and Osgood; Oresto DiSaia, architects.
6 storeys, flat roof with penthouses, 2 massive
blocks at acute angle connected by smaller
trapezoidal block, 2½ storey coursed stone
basement below Ionic colonnades in antis on
major elevations, broad entablature. Designed
in the Beaux-Arts style and begun in 1927 as
the new Masonic Temple, the building was
abandoned in 1928 after only the walls and roof
were completed. The state purchased the property
in 1945 with the intention of creating office
space; while this intention was not fulfilled,
the auditorium wing was completed and opened
in 1951.

107 PARK STREET

Stillman White House. 1876. 2½ storeys, mansard roof, 2-bay facade with small entrance pavilion and 1-storey bay window, full-length porch on south side. Stillman White, in addition to running his foundry at 1 Bark Street, was quite active in local politics, serving in the General Assembly, House of Representatives between 1848 and 1882, on the Common Council of city government, and as a member of the Board of Aldermen. White built this house in 1846, and remained here until his death in 1903.

111 PARK STREET

David A. Cleveland House. 1869. 2½
storeys, mansard roof, L-shape plan with bal-
ustrade entrance porch filling the nook of the
L, 2-storey bay window on facade, modillion
cornice. This Second Empire-style house was
constructed by one of the partners in Cleveland
Brothers, a furniture manufactory located at
110 North Main Street.

****377 ORMS**

Dwelling built by Nathan Baxter. ca. 1844.
1½ storeys, cross-gable roof with hexagonal
cupola at gable intersection, T-shape plan
with later porches and additions filling sides
of T, 5-bay facade. Between 1881 and 1895,
this handsome Greek Revival house was the
residence of Andrew Dickhaut, the Smith Hill
developer responsible for the nearby cottages
on Bath Street and the row house on Bernon
Street.

PEKIN STREET

Filled with 2½-storey, multiple-family dwellings, Pekin Street is architecturally cohesive and bears witness to the general lack of variety employed by builders and developers of late nineteenth-and early twentieth-century tenements. The rapid population growth in Providence and the concomitant building boom on Smith Hill in the 1880s militated against the stylistic variety found in the high-style architecture of the period.

97 PLEASANT VALLEY PARKWAY

Coca Cola Bottling Company Plant. 1939.
2 storeys, flat roof, brick sheathing, 3-bay
facade with center entrance, fenestration
connected vertically by concrete spandrels,
horizontal bands of casement windows in
bottling factory at south and east of building.
This building, a standard Coca-Cola Bottling
Plant of the 1930s, is a pleasant piece of
Art Deco, employing a stylized version of the
company's product as a decorative motif. The
complex also includes a handsome pier-and-spandrel
reinforced-concrete garage on Valley Street and
a horizontally banded structure on West Park
Street.

PROMENADE

Fire Alarm Station. 1919. Plans drawn by Office of Commissioner of Public Buildings. 2 storeys; flat roof with balustrade; brick-sheated fireproof structure; 5-bay facade with central pedimented doorway, quoined corners, stringcourse between storeys, broad entablature, modillion cornice. This Colonial Revival building was built to provide fireproof space for the city's fire alarm system.

PROMENADE

Rhode Island Normal School. (Family Court Building). 1898. Martin & Hall, architects. 4 storeys; flat roof; brick sheathing with terra cotta trim; central projecting pavilion flanked by smaller end pavilions, regular fenestration. Built to house the predecessor of Rhode Island College the Normal School Building is now used by the state for Family Court.

PROMENADE

Henry Barnard School, Rhode Island College of Education, (University of Rhode Island Extension Division). 1926. 3 storeys; flat roof; brick sheathing; central projecting pavilion flanked by end pavilions. regular fenestration with blind walls on end pavilions. stringcourses between storeys. Now remodelled to continue its use as an educational center, the Barnard School building was erected to provide additional space for the rapidly growing R.I.C.E.

****PROMENADE STREET AT HOLDEN STREET**

Brown and Sharpe Complex. 1870 et seq.
1-5 storey, flat roofs, pier-and-spandrel
brick structures. Founded in 1833 as David
Brown and Son, the company became J. R. Brown
& Sharpe in 1853. Brown & Sharpe moved to
this site in 1870, and its rapid expansion in
the nearby residential neighborhoods on Smith
Hill. The departure of the company for more
modern suburban facilities in the mid-1960s
abetted the decline of Smith Hill. The complex
is now used by several state agencies and
private businesses.

405 PROMENADE STREET

Congdon & Carpenter Complex. 1930. Charles B. Maguire Co., builders; Jenks & Ballou, consulting engineers. 1 storey, flat roofs, reinforced concrete structure, regular fenestration of sash windows in office and casement windows in warehouse. Founded in 1792, Congdon & Carpenter operated its metalworks in two locations on Canal Street before moving to this location. The Congdon family retained control of the firm until 1977.

RICHTER STREET

All of the sixteen 3-decker houses on this street were built ca. 1925, and the buildings are virtually identical, with minor porch variations.. Except for numbers 39-41 (ca. 1927) and 41-43, the buildings on Richter Street were constructed by Max J. Richter.

110 RUGGLES STREET

Ruggles Street Primary School (Smith Hill Center). 1896. 2½ stories, cross-gable roof, brick sheathing with stone trim. Typical of Providence public schools of the 1890s, the Ruggles Street School was constructed to relieve pressure on the Smith Street Primary School. Its present recycled use makes it of continuing importance to the neighborhood.

71 SMITH

St. Patrick's Convent (House of Faith). 1872,
moved to this site from Davis Street ca. 1902.

2½ storeys, mansard roof with pedimented
dormers, 3-bay facade with projecting center
entrance pavilion. Built for the Sisters of
Mercy by Father Christopher Hughes, the fifth
rector of St. Patrick's, the house was originally
much less boxy than it now is, with projecting
bays and elaborate wood sheathing which signalled
the emerging irregular massing of late Victorian
architecture. The construction of the present
St. Patrick's Church necessitated moving the
structure.

83 SMITH

St. Patrick's Church. 1902-1916. Murphy and Hindle, architects. This cruciform-plan Neo-Gothic church with side tower was begun by Father William Pyne to replace the original church structure, completed in July 1842. A schism in the congregation of SS Peter and Paul (1838), the first Roman Catholic Church in Providence, and the rapidly growing Irish population in Providence led Bishop Fenwick of Boston to approve the creation of a second parish in Providence. The location of the church on Smith Hill - the east side was considered too expensive - was of great importance for the development of the area. Largely unpopulated and yet adjacent to the east side, downtown, and the site of the railroad tracks (1848), Smith Hill provided ample space for the many Irish immigrants who came beginning in the 1840s, and St. Patrick's Parish formed a nucleus for the neighborhood from its beginning. By 1900, the Gothic Revival structure seating 1200, was felt to be too small, and the parish began construction of the present imposing edifice. The parish continues to play an important role in the Smith Hill community, in spite of the

83 SMITH (cont)

displacement of much of the congregation by construction of I-95, the expansion of state office facilities, and the closing of the church building because of serious structural decay. The congregation now meets in St. Patrick's school on Smith Street.

*130 SMITH

Rhode Island State House. 1896-1901.

McKim, Mead & White, architects. 3 storeys above full 1-storey basement, flat roof with tall central dome surrounded by four small domed pavilions, marble sheathing, symmetrical massing and fenestration. Built to provide a permanent home for the previously parapetetic state government, the State House is the most fully realized monument in the Beaux-Arts style in Providence.

133 SMITH

State Office Building. 1928; 1935. Jackson, Robertson & Adams, architects. 3 stories, hip-roof central block flanked by 2-storey flat-roof pavilions, brick sheathing with stone trim, Georgian Revival detailing emphasized by regular fenestration and symmetrical composition. Built to relieve the pressure of an expanding bureaucracy on the state house, the State Office Building replaced the finest Federal mansion on Smith Hill, the Col. Henry Smith House of 1800. An addition was built on the western side in 1935. The State Office Building is one of the finest large-scale Georgian Revival structures in Providence and relates well to the Beaux-Arts State House directly across Smith Street.

147 SMITH STREET

Commercial/Residential Building. ca. 1873.

2½ storeys, mansard roof, slightly altered original storefronts on first storey, evenly spaced trabeated windows on second storey, modillion cornice, regularly spaced dormer windows in the mansard. This type of structure, with stores on the first storey and apartments above, is now relatively rare on Smith Hill, though it was once quite common on major thoroughfares through the neighborhood. For many years the first floor housed J. M. & S. K. Goff, grocers.

194 SMITH

Charles S. Cleveland House. 1871. 2½ storeys, high hip roof, 2-bay facade with hooded entrance and 2-storey bay window, broad entablature and modillion cornice. Following the division of the Holden Estate, Cleveland built this substantial dwelling just west of the Holden Homestead. Cleveland, with his brother David, who lived nearby on Park Street, was a partner in the Cleveland Brothers Furniture Company on North Main Street.

200 SMITH

Jonathan Tucker House. ca. 1850. 2½ storeys,
gable roof set end to the street, 3-bay facade
with hooded side entrance, round-head windows
in attic storey, modillion raking and eaves
cornice.

206 SMITH

Jonathan Tucker House. ca. 1850. 2½ storeys, gable roof set end to the street, 3-bay facade with Ionic porch side entrance. Tucker, a Deputy Sheriff, built both this Greek Revival house and the house next door, which shows the emergence of the Italianate mode in its hooded doorway and round-head windows, on land acquired from the Holden Estate.

221 SMITH

Gas Station. ca. 1927. 1 story, tiled hip roof, stuccoed walls punctuated by large multi-paned windows. This small structure is typical of the earliest gas stations built to service the rapidly proliferating automobiles in the 1920s. Few of these structures--and only this one on Smith Hill--remain today.

244 SMITH

St. Patrick's School. 1927. John F. Hogan, architect. 2 storeys, flat roof, brick sheathing, center entrance with broken scroll pediment flanked by regularly spaced sash windows and unarticulated projecting pavilions at both ends of the facade. Built on the Jones Lot, the site of many circuses in the late 19th century, St. Patrick's School provided expanded educational facilities for parish children. Because of the disintegration of the neighborhood and parish by the construction of I-95 in the 1960s, St. Patrick's was forced to close the school in 1970. It reopened in 1972 as St. Patrick's Word of God School, and continues to educate the children of Smith Hill.

326 SMITH

Allen B. Smith House. 1864. 2 storeys, flank-gable roof, 5-bay facade, center entrance with side and transom lights. This house is part of the original settlement in the area on Smith Street between Orms Street and Chalkstone Avenue. Smith was listed as a pattern maker in the 1860s, but by 1875 he was running a saloon at the back of his property, on Orms Street.

534 SMITH

Sheffield Smith House. 1855. 2½ storeys, flank-gable roof with later shed dormer, 3-bay facade defined by colossal pilasters with clustered brackets serving as capitals, hooded center entrance adapted from the Serlian motif is below tall, narrow round-head window, bays flanking central entrance contain 2 trabeated windows to a storey. Smith, a quarryman, built the first house in this area on the 1854 Hawes Plat. While the central round-head window--once part of a Serlian motif--has been altered, and the octagonal cupola removed, the house retains much of its original detailing.

370 SMITH STREET

Martin Miles house. ca. 1860. 2½ storeys,
gable roof set end to the street, 3-bay
facade with hooded side entrance and corner
pilasters.

386 SMITH STREET

George Wood house. 1855. 2½ storeys,
gable roof set end to the street, 3-bay facade
with hooded side entrance and corner pilasters.
Though originally similar to the Martin Miles
house, the slightly earlier Woods House is one
of the first dwellings erected in this vicinity.

****396 SMITH**

Smith Street Primary School. 1885.

2½ stories, high hip roof with cross gables, irregular massing with tower (steeple now removed), brick sheathing, regular fenestration within each section of massing. The Smith Street Primary School was the first large primary school erected on Smith Hill.

409 SMITH

John Healy House, ca. 1900. 2½ storeys,
cross-gable roof, semi-octagonal corner
turret, irregular massing and fenestration.
The Healy House is a more elaborate example
of turn-of-the-century multiple-family
dwellings on Smith Hill.

477 SMITH

Coca Cola Bottling Plant. ca. 1920.

1½ storeys, hip roof with monitor, brick, wood,
and aluminum siding. Coca Cola used this
facility between 1920 and the completion of
their present plant on Pleasant Valley Parkway
in 1939.

488 SMITH STREET

Joy Village Restaurant. ca. 1949.

1 storey, flat roof, "log cabin" sheathing below tack-on hip-roof hood, center entrance flanked by tripartite plate glass windows. First used by Olivo's Diner in 1949, the building has housed Chinese restaurants since 1953. The Joy Village Restaurant occupies the best example of "decorated shed" architecture on Smith Hill. This particular type of architecture, now quite common throughout the United States and epitomized in Las Vegas, relies on the application of ornamentation to the facade of an otherwise anonymous structure to connote the use of the building. Changing use of the building can produce a contradictory complexity which further enlivens this amusing approach to architecture.

506 SMITH STREET

Alfred J. Richardson House. 1888.

2½ storeys, cross-jerkinhead-gable roof,
octagonal corner turret, irregular fenestra-
tion. This Queen Anne-style two-family house
is one of the more elaborate examples on Smith
Hill.

530 SMITH STREET

United Baptist Church. 1894. This modest structure with its simple gable roof, low hip-roof corner tower ogival arch windows, and vestigial buttressing, is a typical vernacular Gothic Revival church.

558 SMITH STREET

Garage. ca. 1924. 1 story, flat roof with parapet at front, brick pier-and-spandrel wall articulation with center entrance of the three-bay facade flanked by plate glass windows, casement windows on side elevations. This structure is typical of garages built between 1925 and 1945.

****581 SMITH STREET**

Charles Dowler House. 1872. 1½ storeys, mansard roof, with fish-scale slate shingles, irregular massing and fenestration, fine detailing includes Corinthianesque columns on front porch and several bay and oculus windows. Dowler built this more elaborate house only a few years after completing his residence on Camden Street. After the Civil War, Dowler turned to sculpture and designed the Collyer Monument in Pawtucket and the John Sparks Monument in Bristol. After his retirement in 1919--at 78-- he took up painting. Dowler died in 1931.

****11-13, 15-17, 16-18, 19-21, 20-22 SPARROW STREET**

These five nearly identical 3-deckers
were constructed in 1925: the three on the
north side of the street by Max J. Richter,
developer of Richter Street, and the two on
the south side by the Volpe family.

38 STATE STREET

St. Patrick's Rectory. 1860. 2½ storeys, mansard roof, brick sheathing, center entrance flanked by paired sash windows, segmental arch windows on second floor, 2-storey-ell at rear, wooden side porch, bracketed cornice.

St. Patrick's Rectory is the only reminder of the many comfortable, elegant dwellings that lined State Street in the middle of the nineteenth century.

37 VIOLET STREET

Dwelling, built by Robert Arnett. 1871.

1½ storeys, cross-gable roof, 2-bay facade with hooded entrance and bay window. This cottage is typical of small one-family dwellings erected in the years following the Civil War.

WEST RIVER REDEVELOPMENT AREA

In the late 1950s the Providence Redevelopment Agency began a slum-clearance program in the area north of Charles Street which removed the greatest part of the early twentieth-century Jewish settlement and nineteenth century industrial structures. The area subsequently has been developed as an industrial park.

****11 WESTPARK**

Christopher G. Dodge House. 1858. 3 storeys, hip roof, 3 bay facade with center entrance flanked by bay windows, paired sash windows on upper storeys of facade, bracketed cornice, wide eaves. Built on a knoll 1 storey above street level, this imposing Italianate house is approached by twin stone staircases with wrought-iron balustrades. Dodge, the owner of a dyeworks, bought the land in 1853 from the Holden Estate and moved his family into their new home upon its completion five years later.

10 WESTPARK

Charles F. Hull House. 1873. 2½ storeys, mansard roof, 2-bay facade with entrance and 2-storey bay window, modillion cornice. The first-storey porch is a later addition. Hull was a partner in the Charles F. & John M. Hull Building Company.

12, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46, 47, 51,
52, 55, 59, 61 ZONE STREET

The Burnside Row. 1866-1867. Built by
Levi D. Bates for E. P. Mason, G. M. Richmond,
& Dr. A. H. Okie. Sixteen identical houses:
2½ storeys, gable roof end to the street, 3-bay
facade with hooded side entrance. These houses
were built for three partners in the Burnside
Rifle Works--which was reorganized as R.I.
Locomotive Works in 1865--and housed workers
for that company.