

# Historic and Architectural Resources of Glocester, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT

TOWN OF GLOCESTER

July, 1980

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1980.  
It has not been corrected or updated.

Since the original publication:

- >additional properties have been entered on the National Register;
- >some financial incentives referred to in these pages are no longer available;
- >some new financial incentives are available.

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The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is your state agency for historical preservation. The Commission identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, landscapes, structures, and archaeological sites throughout the State of Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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## PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, established by the General Assembly in 1968, is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding Rhode Island's cultural heritage. In order to provide an overview of the physical record of this heritage, the Commission is conducting a "broadbrush" or preliminary planning survey of the rural and suburban towns of the state. The purpose of this initial inventory is to identify and record properties of historic and architectural significance in each town. Presently, archeological resources are treated through a separate survey effort being conducted by the Commission. The preliminary surveys are designed to provide a catalogue of nonrenewable cultural resources. This information is needed for a variety of planning purposes at the local, state, and national levels. It identifies sites, districts, and structures eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and it becomes the basis for establishing preservation planning priorities based on problems and potentials discovered as part of the survey process.

The preliminary surveys are accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on appropriate maps each building or site of particular architectural, visual, cultural, or historic significance. Each property is photographed and recorded on a standard data sheet which includes a physical description and notations concerning history, use, condition, and architectural style or period. The significance of each property is evaluated in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: properties already on, or approved at the State Review Board level, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; properties recommended at the staff level for nomination to the Register; and other significant properties, some of which, with further study and review, may be determined to be eligible for the Register. Archeological sites are covered in separate preliminary surveys and are mentioned only incidentally in these studies in order to provide historical context. No documented Native American sites are known in Gloucester, and, as this survey did not include archeology, nothing was added to our knowledge of pre-colonial habitation here.

Previous studies are reviewed, and town histories, reports, and other readily available information are researched to ensure that all published historic sites and structures are included in the study. Local planners and historical societies are consulted wherever possible.

Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are developed and a brief report written. The result is a preliminary document--useful until a full-scale intensive cultural-resource survey of the community can be completed. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission intends to conduct such intensive surveys as soon as funds and staffing are available.

## INTRODUCTION

The following preliminary study covers the historical and architectural resources of Gloucester. It provides basic information needed so that cultural resources can begin to be properly considered in making future planning decisions at all levels.

The report includes an illustrated account of Gloucester's architectural and developmental history in Section 1. Section 11 is a comprehensive list of properties in the town already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, followed by those approved by the Rhode Island Review Board for the Register and those recommended for nomination to the National Register as a result of this preliminary survey. Section 111 is an annotated inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town. The inventory numbers are keyed to the small-scale locational map at the rear of this publication. For more precise information on the location of properties, reference should be made to the large-scale, preliminary, cultural-resource survey map prepared by the Historical Preservation Commission and drawn at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet. This large-scale map is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the Gloucester Town Hall; copies have also been deposited with the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs.

The Commission would like to thank the many officials, residents, and scholars who assisted in the conduct of the preliminary survey and in the publication of this report. In particular, the Commission would like to thank the Gloucester Heritage Society, and Edna and Richmond Kent, Helen Brown, Henry Hawkins, Gladys Hall, Wally Tower, and William Gerold and Joan Andrews who conducted the original survey of Gloucester.



Barns, Former William Steere Farm: Long Entry Road.  
(Map #53)



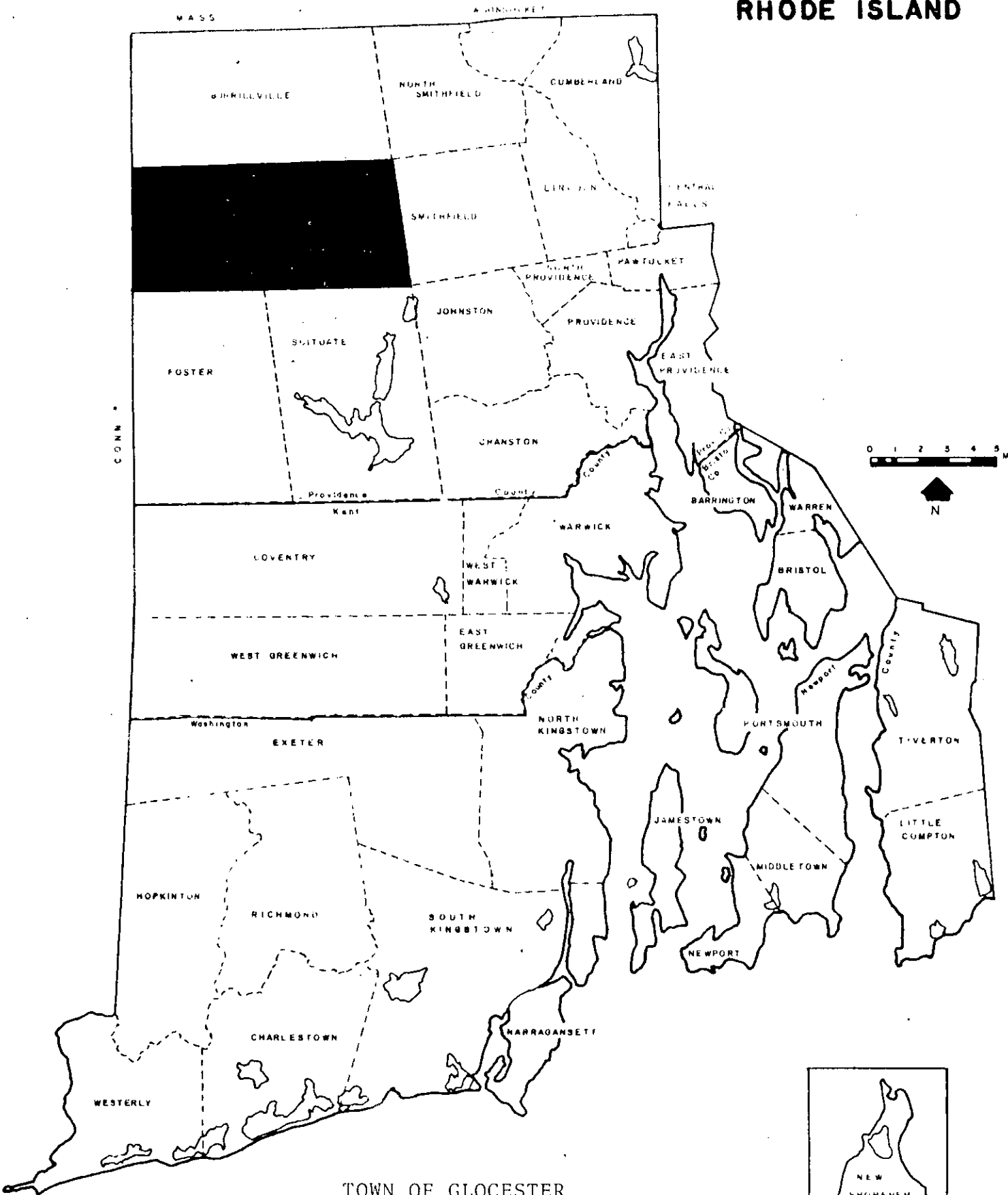
Barn, Former William Steere Farm: Long Entry Road. (Map #53)

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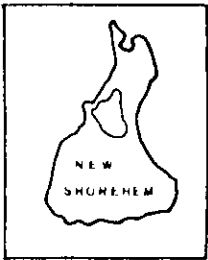
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# RHODE ISLAND



TOWN OF GLOCESTER





## I. ANALYSIS

### LOCATION AND AREA

The town of Glocester, Rhode Island, settled in the first decade of the eighteenth century, occupies an interior position in the northwestern part of the state.\* The town, with a rectangular shape, about ten and a half miles long (east-west) by about five-and-a-quarter miles wide (north-south), encompasses an area of 57.2 square miles with an estimated 1980 population of about 7,800 residents. Its population density, at 136.4 people per square mile, well below the average for Rhode Island, defines most of the town as rural. The unsettled areas are largely forested. Glocester is bounded on the north by Burrillville, on the east by Smithfield, on the south by Scituate and Foster, and on the west by Killingly and Putnam, Connecticut.

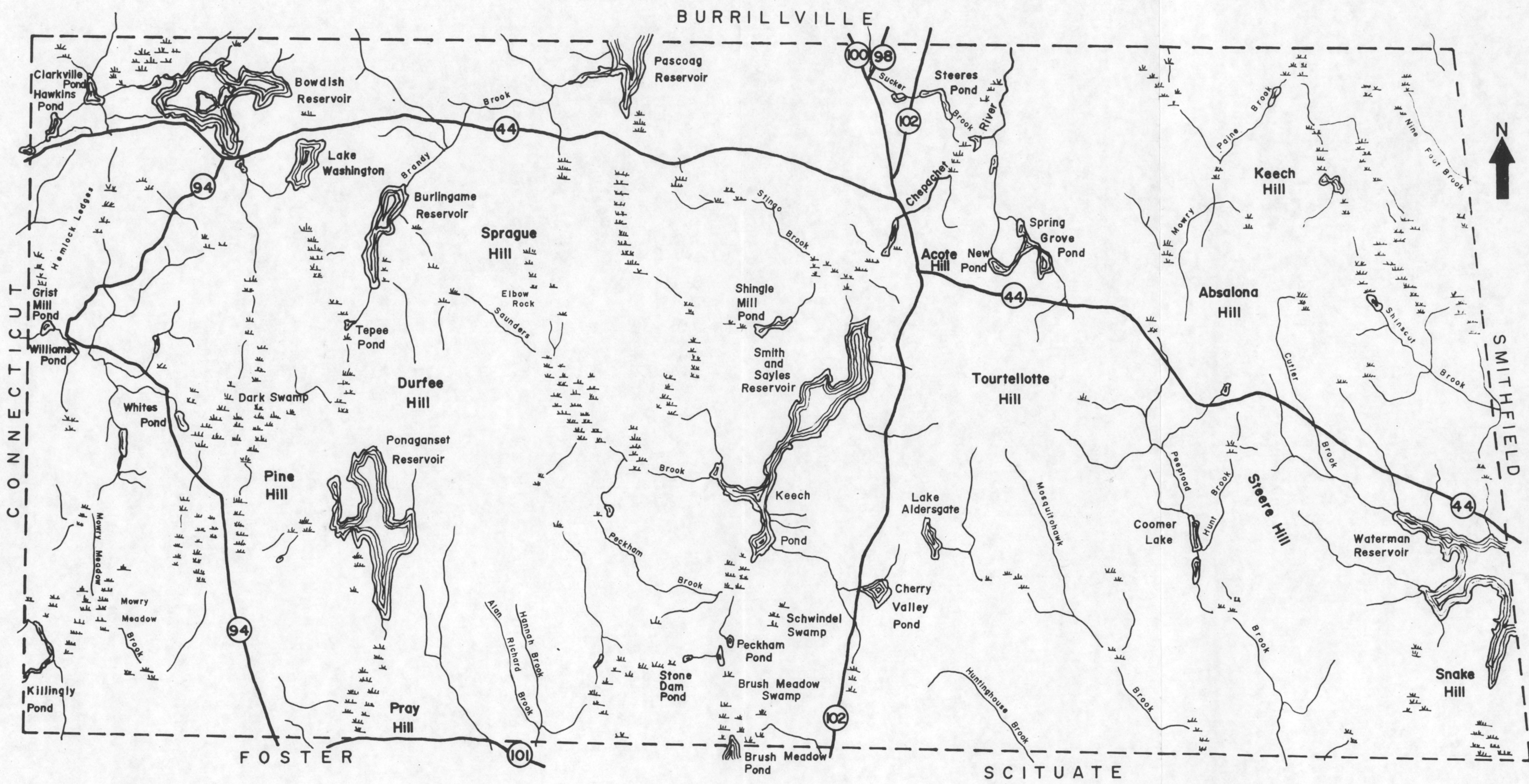
### HIGHWAYS

Several numbered highways crisscross the town. The most important, Route 44, the Putnam Pike, traverses the town in a generally east-west direction. It enters Glocester about ten miles west of Providence and runs to the Connecticut state line, passing through Harmony and Chepachet (the latter being Glocester's largest village). Route 101, the Hartford Pike, another east-west trending artery, just touches Glocester's southern border. Route 102, the Victory Highway, an important north-south link in western Rhode Island, extends from the Woonsocket area in the north to Wickford in the south; it runs through the east-central part of Glocester, passing through Chepachet. Route 94, a north-south trending road in the western part of town, is lightly traveled. Routes 98 and 100, with only short segments in Glocester, connect Chepachet with Harrisville and Pascoag, respectively, in neighboring Burrillville. There are no railroads or airfields in the town.

### GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS

Glocester, in the Upland section of southeastern New England, is underlain by old crystalline rocks, mostly granite. Formerly part of the more extensive Appalachian Mountain system, the land was worn down over millions of years of weathering and erosion. In the recent geologic past, continental glaciers--vast ice sheets overriding the land--covered Glocester. The southward-moving ice mass carried large quantities of soil and boulders, which were deposited indiscriminately over the land when the ice sheet melted about 11,000 years ago. The unsorted material that was deposited, a

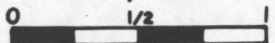
\*Refer to the map of Physical Features (following page 1) and to the map of Cultural Resources (following page 57) for locations.



**GLOCESTER, R. I.**

PHYSICAL FEATURES

JULY, 1980



Scale of Miles

mixture of soil and rock, is known to geologists as till. In places where large ice blocks were left standing on the land, then covered up with material deposited by glacial meltwaters, a knobby terrain known as kame-and-kettle topography, resulted. Rivers flowing under the ice sheet also deposited material in a linear pattern. These deposits now occur on the land as relatively sharp-topped ridges known as eskers. Other glacial deposits were sorted out by the action of running water, the material ranging from coarsely sorted pebble mixtures to fine sand and clay. Large sandy areas along glacial lakes are known as kame terraces. Boulders that were carried here from elsewhere and left perched on the land, resting on bedrock of another material, are known as glacial erratics. Glacial material also blocked pre-existing watercourses, resulting in many swampy areas. These legacies of the ice age are a common feature in Gloucester today, particularly west of Victory Highway. Extensive swampy areas, including much of Saunders Brook, Brush Meadow Swamp, Mowry Meadow, and Dark Swamp, have been, and still are, major deterrents to settlement.

The long period of erosion and the scouring effect of the glacier as it moved south, produced a very irregular topography with broad-topped summits. The many granite hills of today, although greatly reduced in size, comprise some of the highest elevations in the state. Generally, the highest areas are in the western part of town; Durfee Hill, at an elevation of 805 feet above sea level, is only seven feet lower than the state's highest hill. Three other hills--Pray, Sprague, and Pine--are more than 700 feet high. In the eastern part of town, Tourtellot, Absalona and Keech hills are over 600 feet in elevation. Smaller hills in the eastern part include Steere (557 feet), Snake (462 feet), and Acote (452 feet). Most of the slopes are gradual, but some south-facing slopes are steep and rugged, notably the Hemlock Ledges near the Connecticut border.

Gloucester waterways originate in the town and flow outward in all directions and, consequently, none are very large in size or volume. Brandy Book flows northward into the Pascoag Reservoir, then into the Clear River. The town's major stream, the Chepachet River, begins in the center of town and flows northward, where it joins the Clear River in Burrillville to form the Branch River, which eventually flows into the Blackstone River. Mowry Paine Brook, in the northeast, also flows south. The waters of Nine Foot Brook, Shingle Brook, and Cutler Brook reach Waterman Reservoir, part of the Stillwater-Woonasquatucket River system. Peeptoad, Mosquitohawk, and Huntinghouse brooks flow south into the Scituate Reservoir, part of the Pawtuxet River system. Ponaganset Reservoir and several small brooks in the southwest, the headwaters of the Ponaganset River, also flow into the Scituate Reservoir. Most of the waterways in the western part of town flow westward as tributaries of the Five Mile River, which joins the Quinnebaug River which eventually reaches Long Island Sound. Waterways were important in Gloucester's early history as sources of power for sawmills and gristmills, and, later, for textile mills. There are several large bodies of water, most of which--Keech and Spring Grove Ponds, and Waterman, Pascoag, Smith and Sayles, Burlingame, and Bowdish reservoirs--were originally formed to provide water power for mills in the nineteenth century. Some water bodies,

including Killingly Pond and Ponaganset Reservoir (originally Ponaganset Pond and enlarged in the mid-nineteenth century), are natural in origin. Today, some of these waterbodies and waterways are the source of drinking water for the Providence area, some are used for recreation--boating and bathing--and are lined with cottages and houses, and some are only wildlife habitats.

Originally forested, then largely cleared for farms, Gloucester today is largely wooded again, the result of the decline of agriculture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Much of the land, especially in the western part of the town, is still in a wild state, where the state owns a large acreage of land, partly a management area and partly for recreation.

A survey of "unique natural areas" conducted by the Rhode Island Audubon Society in the early 1970s recorded natural features, including unique and rare individual plants and communities, swamps, scenic woodlands, brooks and waterfalls, glacial features, and rock outcrops. A listing of important natural areas and features is included as Appendix A of this report.

#### NATIVE AMERICANS

Indians were present in the area now included in Gloucester for thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers. The Native Americans hunted, fished, gathered fruits and nuts and other forest products, and probably planted some crops in clearings in the woods. Settlements most likely were temporary, based on the seasonal pattern dictated by nature. In the pre-Columbian era, the area was the territory of the Nipmucs, who were subject to the Narragansetts whose center of activities was in southern Rhode Island, along Narragansett Bay. The territory of the Wampanoags, whose heartland was in southeastern Massachusetts, included the northeastern part of present Rhode Island. Accurate knowledge of the life of Gloucester's Native American inhabitants is sketchy, because little archeological work has been done in the town. Casual gathering of artifacts, however, offers some clues to their life and whereabouts. Many Indian artifacts found along present Snake Hill Road indicate that it was probably an early trade route; at Ponaganset Reservoir, along this route, the remains of a canoe, arrowheads, clam shells, and the remains of a camp were found. Artifacts have been found in other areas of Gloucester to confirm an early presence of Native Americans.

#### THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

##### Laying out the Land

The seventeenth-century history of Gloucester is concerned almost entirely with land ownership and other matters relating to land claims. In 1638, Roger Williams received from Canonicus and Miantonomi, sachems of

the Narragansetts, a deed to land reaching to the Pawtuxet River. Uncertainty about the headwaters of the river resulted in an indefinite western boundary and conflicting land claims. In 1660, after the task of laying out boundaries was completed, the Providence Plantations consisted of the combined areas of two purchases. Land lying within a north-south dividing line drawn seven miles west of Fox Point in Providence was known as the "inlands." The area from seven to twenty miles west of Fox Point--now comprising the towns of Burrillville, Foster, Glocester and Scituate--was referred to as the "outlands" or "the Providence Woods." The present eastern boundary of the town of Glocester lies along the Seven Mile Line. There is no record of settlement within the borders of the town in the seventeenth century

## THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

### Early Settlers

European settlement began in what is now Glocester in about 1706. Among the earliest inhabitants were Abraham Tourtellott, who located about one mile south of Acote's Hill, and John Smith, who came to the northern part of town. Other early settlers who established landed estates in present Glocester included the Winsor, Burlingame, Phetteplace, Owens, Irons, Eddy, Evans, Waterman and Steere families.

### Agriculture and the Town Pound

Before the land was cleared and permanent dwellings erected, several landowners spent their winters in Providence; others lived on their land most of the time, using hired help to clear and cultivate the land. During the eighteenth century, a period dominated by agriculture, most of the land was cleared for fields and pastures. Farms produced Indian corn, rye, barley, beans, potatoes, and other vegetables and fruits for consumption. Sheep were raised for food and fiber, and cattle and oxen served as work animals and provided food, hides, fat, and other useful by-products. Pounds were built to enclose stray livestock. The Glocester Town Pound (#17)\*, a fifty-foot square stone-wall enclosure with an iron gate, was built south of Chepachet village in 1749 to impound stray horses, cattle, and other animals until reclaimed by their owners for a slight fee. The pound, one of the oldest and best preserved in the country, is entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

\*Numbers in parentheses refer to the Inventory (Section III) and to the Map of Cultural Resources, following page 57.



Former Gloucester Town Pound (1749): Chopmist Hill Road. (Map #17)



House (Late 17th or Early 18th-century), on Former David Burlingame Farm, Phillips Lane. (Map #60A)



Former Elijah Armstrong Farmhouse (18th century): Pine Orchard Road. (Map #62)

## Early Homes

The first houses were simple, sturdy, and unpretentious dwellings, usually accompanied by a group of farm outbuildings. Perhaps the oldest extant house in Gloucester is a small, one-and-a-half-story structure on Phillips Lane (#60A). This building, with a large, stone, end chimney, is a rare example of a dwelling type which was typical of seventeenth-century Rhode Island. Representative examples of the two-and-a-half-story, large, center-chimney houses of the early eighteenth century include the Hunt Place (#56) on Mapleville Road and the Simon Smith House (#5) on Absalona Hill Road. The smaller houses, one-and-a-half-story structures with large center chimneys, were also common. Extant examples include the c. 1732 Othniel Saunders House (#28), off Durfee Hill Road; the Elijah Armstrong House (#62), on Pine Orchard Road; and the Esek Smith House (#123), on Snake Hill Road. A well preserved, one-and-a-half-story, gambrel-roofed house (#88), stands at the intersection of Reservoir Road and Putnam Pike. All these early farmhouses, heavily framed and pegged and having large fireplaces for heating and cooking, reflect the essentially utilitarian, no-frills character of early Gloucester farm life.

## Political Independence

Originally, most of today's Providence County was included in the Town of Providence, but increasing population and the relatively long distance from the rural areas to the seat of town government in Providence resulted in a division of the town in 1731. Gloucester was one of the new towns carved out of Providence. It originally included the present town of Burrillville which, in turn, was set off from Gloucester in 1806.

## Roads

Accompanying and accelerating the growth of population were improvements in transportation and the development of industry and institutions. One of the earliest roads through present Gloucester was the Putnam Pike, known in the eighteenth century as the "Great Country Road" and the Killingly Road. Reportedly, a wagon made the journey from Connecticut to Providence over this route in 1722. Snake Hill Road, another east-west road, was also laid out at an early date. These major east-west highways, linked with connecting roads running roughly north-south, permitted a lively exchange of agricultural products from the hinterland for manufactured and imported goods from the seaport of Providence. In 1794, "The Society for establishing and supporting a Turnpike Road from Cepatchit Bridge in Gloucester, to Connecticut Line" was created. More commonly known as the West Gloucester Turnpike, the seven-mile road was the first commercial turnpike in New England.

## Industry

Local industries evolved and grew during the eighteenth century. It was reported that John Waterman was manufacturing paper in town about 1750, and in 1767 Anson Winsor built a gristmill near Snake Hill Road. In the

late eighteenth century, Daniel Owens found iron ore on his farm along the Chepachet River and built a water-powered triphammer. The hammer was used to make iron into various useful implements, such as ploughs, harrows, rims for wheels, cranes, trammels, and horseshoes.

### Religion

Several Protestant sects organized congregations in Glocester in the eighteenth century. In 1714, a Baptist church was built at the intersection of Main Street and Douglas Hook Road in Chepachet. The building, also used for town meetings, deteriorated through neglect and was eventually torn down. Several other religious groups were formed, and meetinghouses were erected in what is now Burrillville.

### The Late Eighteenth Century

Population growth and agricultural prosperity continued through the century. In the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the hinterland of northwestern Rhode Island grew more rapidly than any other part of the colony. The first census, in 1748, recorded 1,202 people in Glocester (including Burrillville); by 1790, the population more than tripled, to a total of 4,025 inhabitants. Many of the original small farmhouses were enlarged, or became appendages of larger structures, as with the Burlingame Farm (#60B) on Phillips Lane. The late eighteenth-century farmhouses, like the c. 1789 Hunt (or Farnum) Farm (#80), on Putnam Pike, and a farmhouse (#38) on Howard's Lane, follow the established center-chimney, two-and-a-half-story or the one-and-a-half-story, five-bay front of the earlier houses in the area, but have rather different trim, much more delicate than that of mid-century houses. Externally, the only innovation which distinguishes such vernacular late eighteenth-century, center-chimney houses is the front doorway. Whereas the early doorways have simple surrounds and transom lights, the Federal-era structures, such as the Masonic Hall (#1-C) and the Hunt-Farnum House (#80), boast fine, pedimented entrances. The Federal era persisted architecturally well into the nineteenth century, continuing to about the 1820s or 1830s.

### THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The nineteenth century began on a prosperous and progressive note in Glocester. Chepachet, with a burgeoning commerce and industry, mushroomed into a sizable, bustling village. Harmony evolved along the Putnam Pike, and several other smaller communities began their existence during the century. Free education was established and several religious institutions were created. But the decline of farming, which began early in the century, particularly when railroads came into use, resulted in a century of mixed economic fortunes for the town as a whole. The villages grew and the farming areas declined.





Former Smith Farmhouse (18th-century): Putnam Pike.  
(Map #88)



Hawkins-Aldrich Farmhouse: Huntinghouse Road  
(Map #39)



Farnum Farmhouse: Farnum Road (Map #36)

## Manufacturing

Rhode Island's economy began its transformation from agriculture to manufacturing and its settlement pattern evolved from rural to urban in the early nineteenth century, largely the result of the successful operation of the first cotton mill, in Pawtucket in 1790, and improvements in transportation. Within a few short decades after Samuel Slater's mill began operating, the cotton-textile industry had spread throughout the state. Mills were established on the state's numerous waterways and small communities evolved. Turnpikes radiating from Providence to urban centers in nearby Connecticut and Massachusetts gave farmers in the hinterland a market for their products and enhanced the exchange of raw and manufactured goods in the mill villages. Like neighboring communities, Gloucester experienced the effects of rapid industrial development along its waterways.

## Chepachet

Chepachet capitalized on its location along the Great Country Road (Putnam Pike) and the Chepachet River, developing into a major commercial and industrial center in the first decades of the nineteenth century. By 1800, a hat factory and a tannery had been established here, and a post office was located there about that time. In 1802, a Masonic Hall (#1-0) was built; several years later a bank (which lasted only a few years) used some rooms in the building. The Franklin Bank was started in 1818. Several stores started business, including the well known Brown and Hopkins Store (#1-Q), which began in 1809 and has been doing business ever since, and the Job Armstrong Store (#1-R), which started about 1814 and now serves as the headquarters of the Gloucester Heritage Society. The first industries in Chepachet included a gristmill, a sawmill, an oil mill and a tannery. In 1808, cotton manufacturing was introduced to Chepachet when George Harris erected a carding mill near the bridge across the Chepachet River. This mill was followed by the Point Mill in 1810; the 1814 stone mill of Lawton Owen; a cotton factory built in 1820 by Elisha Dyer and Henry B. Lyman; and in 1840 by the first of several mills owned by the White family. Although the first mills were located near the highway, the later mills were built downstream, a short distance from the village center.

Other developments in the village included the establishment of taverns and churches. The Cyrus Cook Tavern (#1-N) began serving the public about 1821; the Chepachet Inn opened in 1814. In 1921, the Freewill Baptist Church (#1-U), a fine Federal structure, was built by Clark Sayles, a renowned local builder, and, in 1846, the Greek Revival-style Chepachet Union Church (#1-L) was constructed. Many houses were also built along Putnam Pike and several side streets. The many fine Greek Revival houses in the village include the Mattie Finch House (#1-A) on Dorr Drive and the larger Simeon Sweet House (#1-H) on Putnam Pike. Several handsome residences were built in mid-century, including the Ziba Slocum House (#1-B) on Dorr Drive, The Elms (#1-C) on Money Hill Road, the Fiske House (#1-D) on Oil Mill Lane, and the Warren Arnold House (#1-W) and the H. Taft House (#1-X) on Putnam Pike. There is a fine Bracketed-style former mill office (#1-Y) on Tanyard Lane and a rare Italianate dwelling, the Sayles House



William Luther House: Putnam Pike. (Map #83)



Entrance, Masonic Hall (c. 1800):  
Putnam Pike, Chepachet Village  
Historic District. (Map #1-0)

(#1-J), on Putnam Pike. Chepachet, with a rich diversity of architectural-ly and historically interesting and significant buildings, is entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Turnpikes and Taverns

While Chepachet was prospering, changes were taking place in other parts of town, largely the result of transportation improvements. The "Glocester Turnpike Company in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" was created in 1804. It extended from the village of Greenville, in Smithfield, northwesterly through Harmony to the eastern end of the West Glocester Turnpike at Chepachet Bridge, a distance of seven miles. Along the road, also known as the Chepachet Turnpike, today's Putnam Pike, several toll gates and hotels were established. A toll gate and Richard Aldrich's Tavern were located in Harmony; later, Cutler's Hotel was built a short distance west of Harmony. In the western part of town, at Cady's, was another toll gate and tavern. The Old Cady Stand, as it was known, was originally north of the road. In 1810, the present Cady Tavern (#93) was built across the road as a stagecoach station and tavern. The Old Cady Tavern is still standing, with some alterations and without its old out-buildings and still serves as a tavern, but Cutler's Hotel and the Aldrich Hotel are gone. The former Cornell's Hotel (#58), now a residence, still stands, along Old Hartford Pike, formerly the Rhode Island and Connecticut Turnpike. This highway ran westward into Connecticut from Manton, barely entering Glocester along its southern border with Foster. As mentioned earlier, two taverns were erected in Chepachet, and continued in use as taverns into the twentieth century; one, the Stagecoach Inn (#1-N), is still being used. In addition to serving travelers along the highways, these old taverns were important gathering places for the local population, used for political gatherings and meetings as well as for religious services before churches were established. The Hartford Pike became a free road in 1871; the Glocester and West Glocester turnpikes were made free public roads in 1888.

#### Clarkville, Spring Grove and Harmony

In the early nineteenth century, the effects of improved transportation and the growth of the textile industry resulted in the creation of several small communities in Glocester. In 1818, a building to manufacture cotton yarn was erected at what became Clarkville (#66). The hamlet, at its greatest extent, consisted of the mill (which burned and was rebuilt several times); an Advent church, built in 1848; and several mill houses. Today, only the mill (built in 1864 and now used as a furniture manufactory and storehouse) and several late nineteenth-century houses remain. Manufacturing was started at Spring Grove (#141) about 1836 by Scott Mowry, and a hamlet, consisting of the mill and several houses, was established. This mill stopped working, probably in the early twentieth century, but several former mill houses and a large building near a small brook survive, reminders of nineteenth-century Spring Grove. The mills at Clarkville and



Fiske House (c. 1850): Oil Mill Lane, Chepachet Village Historic District. (Map #1-D)



Sayles House: Putnam Pike, Chepachet Village Historic District. (Map #1-J)



H. Taft House: Putnam Pike, Chepachet Village Historic District. (Map #1-X)

Spring Grove, started by local entrepreneurs, were both later acquired by the White family, who owned most of the Chepachet mills. Along Putnam Pike in West Gloucester, near the Connecticut line, where a sawmill began operating in the eighteenth century, a three-story stone building (#96) was erected in 1873 to manufacture cotton yarn. Cotton manufacturing was carried on here for only about fifteen years, however, before the stone building was converted to be used for woodworking. Harmony (#2) evolved into a small village during the turnpike era. A hotel and toll gate were here in the early nineteenth century. In 1838, a post office (#2-C) was established, and later, a school, a chapel (#2-I), and several dozen houses were erected. Nearby was an acid factory (#69) which manufactured about 250 gallons of raw liquid a day.

### Farming

Farming continued to be the principal occupation for most of the town's residents during the nineteenth century, but job opportunities in textile mills and competition from Western farmers resulted in a declining agricultural economy. By mid-century, many farms were neglected as large numbers of persons deserted rural areas for villages and cities. But other activities, and Chepachet's commercial and industrial vitality, raised Gloucester's population to 2,872 people by mid-century, a level it would not attain for another hundred years.

### Gristmills and Sawmills

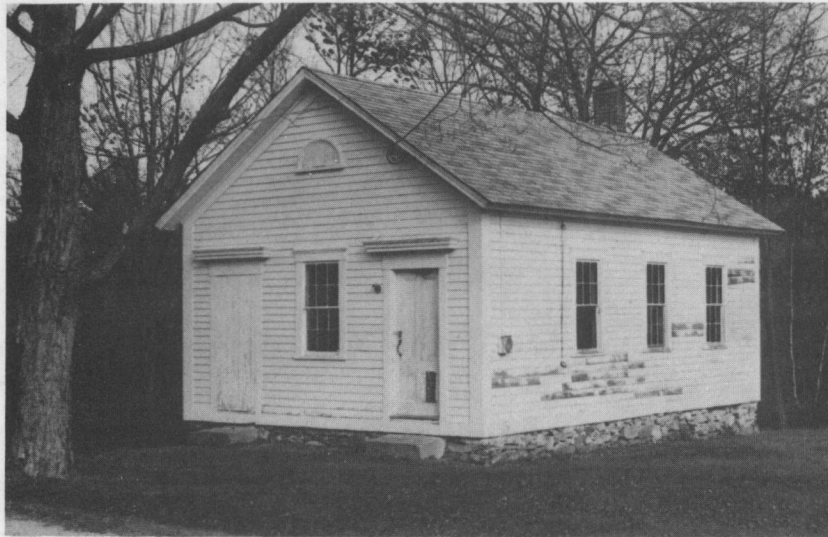
In the rural areas, farmers produced a variety of crops and animals which supported several gristmills which operated through the nineteenth century. The extensive forests produced large amounts of wood. In 1850, about twenty mills manufactured boards, shingles, and staves, all utilizing the power of local waterways. In the latter half of the century, technological advances resulted in changes to the old mills. At Peckham's Mill (#132) on Snake Hill Road, built in 1767, a large overshot water wheel was replaced by a rotary, metal turbine in 1870. A sawmill, built by George W. Steere in 1810 along Sucker Brook, was pulled down in 1863 and replaced by a new sawmill (#154). In place of the original up-and-down saw was a large, circular saw; planing machines, matchers, and joiners were also installed in the new mill, which employed about twelve-to-fifteen men.

### Charcoal Making and Woodcutting

In addition to cutting wood for boards, shingles and staves, a large quantity of charcoal was manufactured from the town's forests. Charcoal making was an active industry in Gloucester. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, teams of woodchoppers, including many French Canadians, set up camps in the woods and spent several weeks cutting wood in one area. The mobility of the woodcutters was made possible by yet another technological change--the portable sawmill. Engine operated and roofed over, with open sides, and easily transported to the source of wood it freed the woodcutting operation from dependence on a fixed site near a waterway. One camp



Former Clarkville School: Putnam Pike. (Map #94)



Former Evans Schoolhouse (c. 1855): Jim Evans Road. (Map #44)



Chepachet School (1936): Putnam Pike, Chepachet Village Historic District. (Map #1-M)

at Pine Orchard, called Locust Village, had cabins for fifty men (and some women, who did the cooking) and was said to be one of the largest camps in the state. In Gloucester, there are at least two places in the woods, one south of the Ponaganset Reservoir (#37A) and one south of Keech Pond (#132), which contain small mounds of earth with the remains of crude fireplaces, probably the site of woodchopper's cabins.

#### The Gold Mine

Beginning in the eighteenth century, and continuing through the nineteenth, attempts were made to mine gold at Durfee Hill, near Ponaganset Pond. According to legend, a man named Walton found and prospected for gold here in the early eighteenth century. Mining was carried on in the nineteenth century by two mining companies. The first failed in 1843. The second company, the Ponaganset Mining and Smelting Company, issued shares and employed several men. Some shafts were dug and some gold was recovered, but the operation ended about the turn-of-the-twentieth-century. The rapid and dramatic rise of gold prices in the late 1970s resulted in a renewed interest in mining, and geologists were called in to assess the orebeds. To date, mining has not been renewed at the site of the former Ponaganset gold mine (#29).

#### Education

While sawmills, gristmills, banks, stores, taverns, and mills provided essential goods and services, for a long time educational needs went largely unmet. The first schools were built by individuals or by groups of people, some of whom became incorporated and built schoolhouses. After the Revolutionary War, several schoolhouses were built in different parts of town. In 1828, it was reported that there were eleven schoolhouses, with about fifteen schools in winter. A major stimulus to new school construction was provided by passage of the State Free School Law of 1828. Among other things, the law provided for payments to towns and for the appointment of school committees. This act was the foundation of the present school system. Gloucester was initially divided into seventeen districts, with a schoolhouse erected in each district. Schools were kept in each district until the mid-1930s, when consolidated schools were opened in Chepachet and Harmony. Extant nineteenth-century schoolhouses include the 1822 former Brown Schoolhouse (#12) on Chestnut Hill Road, which was used as a private school until 1828, when it became free, the c. 1855 former Evans Schoolhouse (#44) on Jim Evans Road; and the former Clarkville School (#94) on Putnam Pike, one of the last of the one-room schools to close; it remained open during the World War II years due to a restriction on school buses and was closed in 1944.

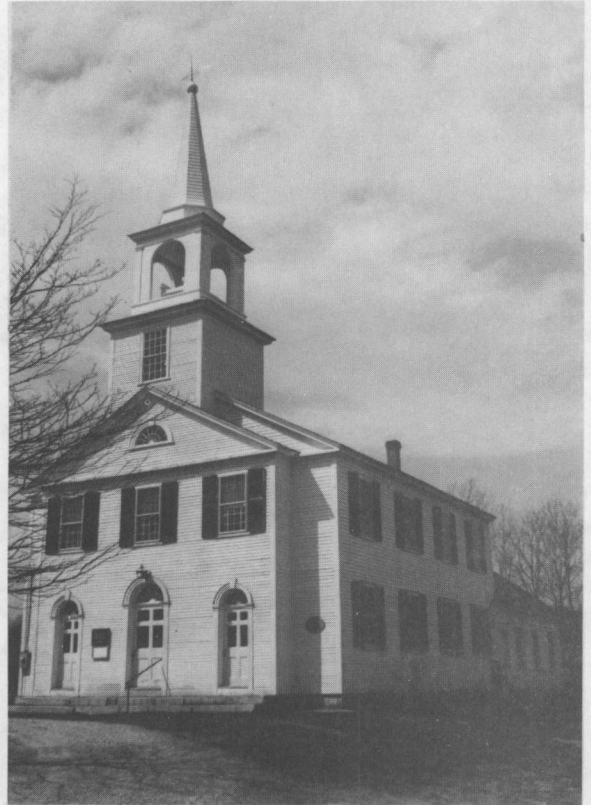
#### Religion

Most of Gloucester's churches were established in the nineteenth century. Two--the 1821 Freewill Baptist Church (#1-U) and the 1846 Congregational Church (#1-L)--were built in Chepachet in the first half of the century. An Advent church was built in Clarkville in 1848 and another Advent church (#54) was erected along Long Entry Road, in northeastern Gloucester, in 1862.





Chepachet Union Church (1846):  
Putnam Pike, Chepachet Village  
Historic District. (Map #1-L)



Chepachet Freewill Baptist Church  
(1821): Putnam Pike, Chepachet  
Village Historic District. (Map #1-U)



Former Harmony School; Harmony Chapel: Putnam Pike,  
Harmony Historic District. (Map #2-I)

The Harmony Chapel (First Grace Church of Harmony, #2-I), was established in Harmony before 1870. The Advent Church on Long Entry Road has been vacant for many years, and the Advent church in Clarkville is gone, but the nineteenth-century churches in Harmony and Chepachet still continue their religious function to this day.

#### The Dorr War

One of the most interesting events in the town's history, the "Battle of Acote's Hill," occurred in 1842. Thomas W. Dorr, the leader of a movement for more liberal suffrage in Rhode Island, decided, after failing by legitimate means, to oppose the legal government of the state militarily. In June, 1842, it was decided to convene a council of officers supporting Dorr in Chepachet. Before the council could meet, however, the "rank and file" took possession of the village. Cannon were brought here from Woonsocket Falls and other places, and up to 700 men assembled to do battle with the government forces. By the time Dorr arrived from his retreat in Connecticut, only a small number of men remained to defend the village. A half-hearted attempt was made to fortify Acote's Hill (#1-G), about 80 feet high, which commands the road leading into the village from the direction of Providence. In the meantime, Governor King began to assemble the state militia in Providence, after President Tyler refused to send Federal troops. The state militia marched to Glocester and when it arrived at Chepachet easily took the hill. Although much has been made of the "battle," the facts are that no fort was captured, for there were only crude fortifications; there was no fort stormed, as there were no defenders; and there was no fighting. Dorr had left and his troops disbanded twelve hours earlier; for Dorr felt that the people who voted for the new constitution were opposed to further support by military means. A short time after the Dorr fiasco, the hill became a burying ground and today is the town's principal cemetery. Acote's Hill, by this brief incident, has earned an enduring place in the state's history.

#### Late Nineteenth Century

By the mid-nineteenth century, Glocester's formative period was over. Farms had been established, transportation routes laid out, and Chepachet and the smaller communities had come into existence. The second half of the century was a time of gradual decline. Each decade saw a loss of population; it dropped from 2,872 in 1850 to 1,462 in 1900. The number of farms decreased from 378 in 1850 to 336 in 1895, and most of the farm acreage was classified as woodland at the end of the century. Dairy products were the most valuable agricultural commodity, but the value of wood was more important than vegetables, fruit, grain, or livestock. In contrast to the rural parts of town, Chepachet, with its commercial and manufacturing activity, was described as "a thriving little village." Chepachet was dealt a damaging blow in 1898, however, when some of the extensive mill holdings of Henry C. White & Son were destroyed by fire.



Barn, Former William Steere Farm: Long Entry Road.  
(Map #53)



Corn Crib, Thomas Cutler Farm: Putnam Pike  
(Map #76)



Barn, Thomas Cutler Farm: Putnam Pike  
(Map #76)

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

### Transportation

The general decline which began in Gloucester in the last half of the nineteenth century carried over into the twentieth. Town population continued to decline, reaching its lowest level, 1,389, in 1920. But, already by then, changes were underway which would promote a new surge of growth. Modern highway improvements for the automobile started in the first decade of the century. Old Putnam Pike was widened, straightened, and macadamized. By 1907, Chepachet was "being discovered by the automobilist," said a newspaper article, and was becoming one of the most popular runs out of Providence. In 1914, the first trolley arrived in Chepachet from Providence; it provided passenger service until 1924. A brick building (#74) along Putnam Pike west of Harmony was a sub station for the electric-powered trolley line. A reminder of the blossoming automobile ages is an early gasoline station and store (#85) along Putnam Pike and numerous commercial establishments along Putnam Pike, most of which were built after World War II.

### Electricity

The advent of electricity also resulted in the establishment of two, small, electric-power stations, both using existing water-power sites, in the first decades of the twentieth century. At Steere's Mill (#154) along Sucker Brook, John Steere installed a small generator in the top floor of his sawmill, connected it to the water wheel, and eventually provided electric power for an area including Chepachet and extending north as far as Mapleville and Oakland in Burrillville. Walter A. Hawkins, in West Gloucester, began generating power in 1912, at first lighting his house, then serving a small area which extended into nearby Connecticut. Both of these power enterprises were sold to Narragansett Electric in the 1930s.

### Population and Recreation

The post-World War I period, with its improved transportation facilities, electricity, and other changes, brought people to the countryside. Beginning in the decade of the 1920s, Gloucester's population has steadily increased, averaging a growth of more than 20 per cent for each decade. In the decades of the 1960s and 1970s, Gloucester's population increased by more than 50 per cent. Although Gloucester's land was no longer agriculturally productive, its wooded hills and especially its lakes, ponds, and reservoirs attracted seasonal residents. Lakeside communities sprang up along the shores of Waterman Reservoir, Keech Pond, Smith and Sayles Reservoir, Echo Lake (Pascoag Reservoir), and Bowdish Reservoir. The state acquired large tracts of land in western Gloucester--the George Washington Management Area, Casimir Pulaski Memorial Park, and the Durfee Hill Management Area. These places attracted day-trippers and campers. Besides the state-owned properties, there are numerous other places in a relatively wild natural state that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature study and appreciation. In addition, several church camps provide recreation and religious activities in a rural setting, and there are a few private golf courses and campgrounds.



Barn, Former Farnum Farm: Putnam Pike  
(Map #79)



Coomber-Steere Orchards: Douglas Hook Road.  
(Map #27)



Steere-Angell-Colwell Farm: Snake Hill Road.  
(Map #125)

## 20th-Century Land Use

The rural population has undergone a great change. The traditional farms of yore, producing staple food products, are essentially gone, although a few persist, such as the Mann Farm (#135) on Snake Hill Road, which because of its rarity is recommended for the National Register. There are some large apple orchards in eastern Gloucester, including the Knight Farm (#116) at the intersection of Snake Hill Road and West Greenville Road, one of the largest and best-known apple orchards in the state; the Coomber-Steere Orchards (#27) on Douglas Hook Road; and the Barden Orchards (#33) and White Oak Farm (#34) on Elmdale Road. Several farms are devoted entirely to raising, boarding, or renting horses, including Bonniendale Farm (#136) on Snake Hill Road and the Lapham-Ballou Farm (#35) on Farnum Road, while Seldom Seen Farm (#45) on Jim Evans Road, specializes in sheep. On other farmlands, the fields, still cut for hay, keep the land open.

During the last few decades, parts of Gloucester have become suburbanized. Housing developments and individual houses along roads are especially common in the eastern part of town, closest to Providence, but the tentacles of suburban growth have reached out to more remote areas, such as along Stone Dam Road. Most of the recent houses are typical of other houses in Rhode Island and the nation, but some are more unusual, designed in more individual styles, such as houses (#124, 24, 143, 102) on Snake Hill Road, Cooper Road, Stone Dam Road, and Sandy Brook Road.

## Gloucester Barns

"One of the most striking features to impress a stranger in driving through the archaic township is the large number of great barns standing close to the highway," read a Providence Journal account of Gloucester in September 16, 1906. The many barns which served farmers for centuries remain one of the town's greatest cultural resources. Gloucester has perhaps the finest collection of barns of any town in Rhode Island. Most of the barns no longer have any association with farming, although most still stand side-by-side with their farmhouse. There are a variety of these interesting structures. Some good examples of early barns--with unpainted, vertical-board sides--include two on the former William Steere Farm (53) on Long Entry Road, one on the Place Farm (136) off Snake Hill Road, one on the Colwell Farm (46) on Tarkiln Road, and a rare gambrel-roofed structure on the Thomas Cutler Farm (76) on Putnam Pike. There are a number of early, wood-shingled structures also, including barns on the Thomas Cutler Farm (76), on the Hunt-Farnum Farm (80) on Putnam Pike, on the Knight Farm (116), on the Reynolds Farm (127) on Snake Hill Road, and on the C. C. Mathewson Farm (153) on Tourtellot Hill Road. These barns are also characterized by a side entrance; most other barns have an entrance at the gable end. Good examples of wood-clapboard-sided barns are found at the Place Farm (43), the Jim Evans Place (47), and at Seldom Seen Farm (45) on Jim Evans Road; the latter is also a rare Rhode Island example of a connected barn--the barn attached to the house by means of several intervening structures. Late nineteenth-century barns are often characterized by a cupola and the use of clapboard siding.



House (Late 1970s): Snake Hill Road. Map #124)



House (Late 1970s): Stone Dam Road. (Map #143)

This type barn is well exemplified at the Simeon Sweet House (1-H) and the Ziba Slocum House (1-B) in Chepachet Village, and in a large barn (18) near the side of Victory Highway south of the village. Other interesting barns and outbuildings include a well preserved corn crib at the Thomas Cutler Farm (76), silos on the Owen Farm (1-Z) on Victory Highway, and gambrel-roofed, early twentieth-century barns on the Steere-Angell-Colwell Farm (125) and the Mann Farm (135) on Snake Hill Road--the latter with metal ventilators. The many old barns in Gloucester, as important to this formerly heavily-rural town as mills were to the state's many mill villages, are an irreplaceable reminder of our heritage. Built to fill a functional role, today they are venerated for their historical associations and for their quiet charm and dignity.

## SUMMARY

Gloucester today is essentially a suburban community in a rural setting. Chepachet, the hub of the town, has a small amount of industry and considerable commercial trade, but most town residents travel to work elsewhere and use Gloucester primarily as a place of residence. The town has changed considerably over the centuries. Agriculture, once the mainstay of the economy, is now a minor occupation, at best. The most important crop is apples. Numerous visitors come to Gloucester each fall during the annual apple harvest. The orchards and other farms comprise small enclaves of open land in a predominantly forested town. In some places, old farmhouses, outbuildings, and open land crisscrossed with stone walls still provide an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century rural flavor, particularly in the northeastern corner of Gloucester. In some remoter areas, such as the west central part of town, Durfee Hill Road and Elbow Rock Road--gravel-surfaced roads--pass through long stretches of uninhabited woodland, preserving some of the "wilder" flavor of Gloucester.

Although Chepachet has been somewhat compromised by twentieth-century highway reconstruction, electric lines, and commercial intrusion, it contains a large collection of outstanding, well preserved and maintained nineteenth-century buildings which reflect its earlier growth and prosperity. Chepachet Village Historic District is entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Harmony still retains many of its original nineteenth-century buildings, mostly houses. Harmony Chapel is entered in the National Register. Clarkville still has its former textile mill and a few mill houses as reminders of the past, and Spring Grove also has a few of its original mill houses as a link with the nineteenth century.

Overall, Gloucester's cultural resources--its early dwellings, farm complexes, mills, schools, churches, and villages--bespeak a modest lifestyle which is manifested by its simple, unadorned, and unpretentious buildings. This modest lifestyle has continued to the present; most new houses are being built for families of modest means. It is important to consider this character of Gloucester in planning for the town's future.





Farmscape, Lapham-Ballou Farm: Farnum Road. (Map #35)



Barn, Steere-Angell-Colwell Farm: Snake Hill Road. (Map #125)

## II. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service within the United States Department of the Interior. It includes structures, sites, areas, and objects significant in American History, architecture, archeology, and culture. It is the official inventory of the nation's cultural and historical 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 well as other properties of national, state, and local significance. Most properties entered are nominated for inclusion by state historical agencies like Rhode Island's Historical Preservation Commission. All properties must be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior prior to their entry on the Register.

Placement in the Register affords a limited form of protection from potentially damaging federal programs through a review process and establishes eligibility for certain tax benefits and for federally funded matching grants-in-aid for restoration. As a result of this survey, a number of structures, sites, and districts have been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Descriptions of these properties can be found in the Inventory.

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites entered in or approved for the National Register in Gloucester (a more complete description of each property appears in the Inventory which follows):

- . Chepachet Historic District (#1)
- . Harmony Chapel, Putnam Pike (#2-I)
- . Former Gloucester Town Pound, Chopmist Hill Road (#17)

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites in Gloucester which deserve consideration for entry in the National Register:

- . Lapham-Ballou Farm, Farnum Road (#35)
- . Farnum House, Farnum Road (#36)
- . Hawkins-Aldrich House, Huntinghouse Road (#39)
- . Former Evans Schoolhouse, Jim Evans Road (#44)
- . Former Burlingame Farm, Phillips Lane (#60)
- . Thomas Cutler Farm and Site of Cutler's Tavern, Putnam Pike (#76)
- . Hunt-Farnum Farm, Putnam Pike (#80)
- . House, Putnam Pike (#88)
- . Former Clarkville School, Putnam Pike (#94)
- . Peckham Farm, Snake Hill Road (#132)
- . The Mann Farm, Snake Hill Road (#135)
- . C. C. Mathewson House, Tourtellot Hill Road (#153)

This list of possible National Register properties in Gloucester should not be considered final and absolute. As new research is conducted, as the town changes physically, and as perceptions of the community's history and what cultural properties are worth saving evolve, other potential candidates for the Register may be identified.

### III. PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

This inventory is an annotated key to the preliminary survey map of Gloucester. The numbers refer to the map at the back of the report (for example: 1--Chepachet Village Historic District).

A more detailed map at a scale of one inch to 1000 feet, which locates properties more fully and precisely is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the Gloucester Town Hall; copies have also gone to the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs. The large-scale map uses the same property-identification numbering system which appears here.

Material in this inventory is presented alphabetically, first by districts and then by roads. Dates and names which appear in parenthesis at the end of notations refer to their identification on nineteenth-century maps. In each case, the earliest map on which the structure or site appears has been used. Dating of structures, or their historical-architectural period, is occasionally determined on the basis of plaques, written material, maps, and knowledgeable residents--but more often is based on style and construction. Unless otherwise noted, all structures are of wood-frame construction.

Following is a list of the architectural-period designations used in this report:

Colonial: From the time of settlement to 1775

Federal: 1775-1835

Greek Revival: 1825-1860

Early Victorian: 1840-1870

Late Victorian: 1870-1900

Early 20th century: 1900-1945

Mid-20th century: 1945-1975

Late 20th century: 1975 to the present.

Key: \*Recommended for the National Register of Historic Places.  
\*\*Approved for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## DISTRICTS

- \*\* 1. Chepachet Village Historic District: The village of Chepachet, Gloucester's largest village and the town's center in all respects, is a multi-functioned community, mostly strung out along Putnam Pike and Victory Highway. The village proper begins near the intersection of routes 100 and 102, and just beyond the Roman Catholic Church in the north, extends south to just beyond Chestnut Hill Road, and includes several side streets to the east of Putnam Pike. Almost all of Chepachet's non-residential buildings are located along Putnam Pike and Victory Highway, which has witnessed considerable change in land use, especially in the post-World War II era; the side streets are predominantly residential.

Chepachet's beginning is intimately related with the early history of transportation, commerce, and industrialization. The village was established along a road which was laid out from Providence to Connecticut in the late eighteenth century and which played an important role in the exchange of goods between the seaport of Providence and the interior towns. The Chepachet River, which provided power for several small mills, was also a major factor in Chepachet's development. By the turn-of-the-nineteenth-century, a store, and a stagecoach tavern were established near the bridge over the river. By 1813, there were a dozen stores doing a thriving business over a large area that extended into nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut. A cotton mill was built in 1814, the forerunner of several others that were built along the river in the village during the nineteenth century. By century's end, Chepachet was a thriving village. Its function as a local center and as a highway commercial area continued in the twentieth century, aided by the improvement of Putnam Pike, the creation of Victory Highway in the 1920s, and by the advent of the automobile age. Today, Chepachet continues its almost two-centuries tradition as a business center, although some parts of the village's former architectural integrity has been compromised by the construction of gasoline stations, shopping centers, and other new businesses. However, many of Chepachet's architecturally and historically important buildings have survived to this day.\*

### DORR DRIVE

- A. "Mattie" Finch House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with two, brick, interior chimneys and a central, portico entry in a 5-bay facade. The house is a good, representative, Greek Revival style building typical of rural Gloucester. (1870- A.E.)

\*The following list of the Chepachet Village Historic District includes only the most important structures and some representative buildings.

- B. Ziba Slocum House: A 1½-story, cross-gabled, Early Victorian structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a bracketed hood entry in the projecting central pavilion. There is a fine, large, Victorian barn, with a central, projecting pavilion and a central belvedere, on a well-landscaped lot. (1870- Ziba O. Slocum.)

#### MONEY HILL ROAD

- C. The Elms: A 2½-story, Federal structure, with two, brick, end, interior chimneys and a central, recessed entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade in a piazza across the front. There are two large barns at the rear of the property which is located at the triangle between routes 100 and 102. The Elms is used as a tourist home today. (1851- Duty Evans.)

#### OIL MILL LANE

- D. Fiske House (c. 1850): A 2-story, Early Victorian Bracketed structure, with a small, brick, interior chimney; entry at the right side, front, in a bracketed piazza which extends across the front and both sides; and a "telescope" addition at the right side. The ample lot, behind a row of granite posts, includes a large barn. (1870- A. Eddy.)

#### POINT LANE

- E. Site of the Point Mills: Along both sides of the Chepachet River below (east of) the bridge, a cluster of several mills was built in the early-to-middle nineteenth century. In 1838, a sawmill, a gristmill, and Hunt and Company's factory was located here. Later, the mills were acquired by the company of Smith and Sayles and by the H. C. White Company, which also owned mills in Clarkville and Spring Grove. Around the turn-of-the-century, the mills, which present archeological potential, are visible in their stone foundations near the river. (1838- A. Hawkins, Saw Mill; Old Grist Mill; Hunt & Co's. Factory.)

#### PUTNAM PIKE

- F. Reuben Mason House: A 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney and a portico entry in a 5-bay facade. The entry, an early 19th-century feature, is typical of the northwestern part of the state. The house is part of the Acote Cemetery property, whose grounds are behind and west of the house. (1851- W. Armstrong.)
- G. Acote Hill: The town's largest burying ground, located on a hill at the intersection of Putnam Pike and Victory Highway (routes 44 and 102) at the southern end of the village. During the Dorr War, in 1842, gun embankments and rifle pits were constructed on the

hill to defend the Dorr forces against the militia marching on Chepachet from Providence. The rebel forces fled before the arrival of the militia. In 1850, the Chepachet Cemetery Association was organized, and Acote's Hill became a cemetery. On the cemetery grounds is a boulder with a plaque set into it, a monument erected in honor and memory of Thomas W. Dorr, leader of the suffrage movement in Rhode Island. (1851- Acote's Hill.)

- H. Simeon Sweet House: A 2½-story, Federal structure with Greek Revival alterations, with two, large, brick, end chimneys and central, enclosed, pedimented-portico entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a fine, Late Victorian barn with a cupola, on a well maintained lot. The house was used to quarter Stedman's troops during the Dorr War incident. (1851- J. Potter.)
- I. Chepachet State Police Barracks (1956): A 2-story, brick building with a hip roof; a large, brick chimney; and two, flanking, 1-story, flat-roofed wings. It is set behind an asphalt parking lot and small lawn. When the building was dedicated in 1956, the Chepachet Barracks marked the completion of a plan, developed twenty-five years earlier, to have permanent, appropriately designed police installations throughout the state. From here, the entire northwestern corner of the state could be covered by police. The barracks could also serve as a communications and operational center in times of emergency.
- J. Sayles House: A 2-story, flat-roofed, Early Victorian Bracketed house, with a central entry in a 3-bay facade in a flat-roof piazza across the front. It is set on a well-landscaped lot. (1870- L. Sayles.)
- K. Library and Town Clerk's Office (1930): A 1-story, hip-roofed, neo-Colonial, brick building, with a central, semi-circular portico, in a 7-bay facade. In front, on a well kept lawn, is a World War I memorial--a boulder with a bronze plaque.
- L. Chepachet Union Church (1846): A Greek Revival structure, end-to-road, with a tetrastyle portico capped by a square belfry; a double door, central in the gable end; and a 1962-1963 classroom addition at the right, rear. The steeple was originally larger, but the top part was removed after being damaged in the 1938 hurricane. The church is set back from the road on a grassy lot. (1851- Church.)
- M. Chepachet School (1936): A large, 1-story, multiple-gable-roof building of modernized neo-Georgian design. It has a semicircular entry in a projecting pavilion; a belfry in the center; two, large, brick, exterior chimneys; and flanking wings at each side,

at right angles to the main building. It is set on a small, neat, grassy lot. The Chepachet School, and the contemporary Harmony School, with indoor plumbing, adequate closet space, and other accommodations, replaced the former one-room schools that had served the town for more than a century, and started the modern school era.

- N. Cyrus Cook's Tavern, or The Stagecoach Inn (c. 1800): A 2-story structure, with two, brick, interior chimneys and several doors in a hip-roofed piazza across the front. It is set close to the road. Built about 1800, soon after the road between Providence and Connecticut was improved, the inn served stagecoach travelers and, later, automobile passengers; was the locale of many meetings; and provided food and drink for local residents. Originally Cyrus Cook's Tavern, it is known today as the Stagecoach Inn. Although compromised by a large section of asphalt-surfaced highway in front and a modern gasoline station at the left, it still serves a tavern and restaurant function and is still used for local meetings and gatherings. (1870- A. A. Steere.)
- O. Masonic Hall (c. 1800): A fine 2½-story Federal building, end-to-road, close to the road, with a small, brick, exterior chimney at the rear; a central, pedimented entry at the center of an asymmetrical facade; and an entry, with molded entablature, at the left side of the front (gable end). It is set on a small lot between an old factory and a recent gasoline station. The first meeting of Friendship Lodge Number Seven, F. & A.M., was held in 1800. The upstairs lodge room is one of the oldest lodge rooms in continuous use in the state. The Farmer's Exchange Bank, chartered in 1804, was housed on the first floor; it was closed because of mismanagement in 1809 and was never reopened. (1870- A. Eddy Sr.; Store & P.O.)
- P. Lawton Owen's Mill (1814 or 1820): A 2-story, stucco-stone structure, end to road, near the road, along the Chepachet River at the bridge, with a low-pitched, gable roof and a simple entry near the center of the broad facade along Point Lane. A large wooden section was added at the rear in the 20th century. (1838- Stone House.)
- Q. Brown and Hopkins Store (c. 1809): A 2½-story Federal structure, end-to-road, close to the road, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central, double-door entry in a 3-bay facade; and large display windows flanking the entryway. The building, set on a very small lot, contains a store which has been operating since 1809. It is said to be the longest continuously run of any in the country. Recently, it has been renovated but still carries on a commercial function as an antique store. (1870- H. Kimball.)

- R. Former Job Armstrong Store (c. 1814): A 2½-story, Federal structure, end-to-road and close to the road, with a small, brick chimney and a small, central entry in the front. It is set on a small lot next to the Brown and Hopkins Store. Job Armstrong, who established the business as early as 1814, was an active supporter of Thomas W. Dorr. His zealous partison-ship ruined his business and the store failed in 1850. Re-stored by the Gloucester Heritage Society in 1974, it now serves as their headquarters. (1895- Lockwood.)
- S. Former Central Hotel and Amos Eddy Store: A 2½-story Federal structure, close to the road, with a large, brick chimney near the left end; a brick exterior chimney at the right end; and a central, double-door entry in a 5-bay facade in a piazza across the front. In 1814, Amasa Eddy had a store and a saddle and harness shop here. In the late 19th century, the place was run by the Eddy family as the Central Hotel. Today, the building is used as a residence. (1870- A. Eddy.)
- T. Former Franklin Bank Building (c. 1818): A large, 2½-story, Federal structure, close to the road, with one, small, brick, interior chimney; two separate entries, with sidelights, in a 7-bay, asymmetrical facade in a hip-roofed open porch across the front; and a saltbox addition at the rear. The building is set on a small lot at the corner of Oil Mill Lane. The Franklin Bank, which was located in this building, was chartered in 1818 and conducted a successful business until 1865, when the national bank system was started and the bank directors voted to dis-continue business. (1870- Franklin Bank Co.)
- U. Chepachet Freewill Baptist Church (1821): A Federal structure set end-to-and back from the road, it has a projecting pedimented entry with three separate, roundhead doors with fan lights, in the front; above is a 3-stage belfry, with spire. A vestry was added at the rear in 1892. It is one of the handsomest early country churches in Rhode Island. The plain lot includes a carriage shed at the rear. The church was originally chartered in 1814 as the Christian Benevolent Society and was rechartered in 1822 as the Chepachet Meeting House. The church was built in 1822 by Clark Sayles, who also built the Greenville Baptist Church. (1851- Church.)
- V. Kimball House (c. 1750): A very plain 1½-story structure with a full basement at the rear; a large, brick, center chimney and central entry in a 5-bay facade. It is set back from the road on a large, grassy lot. The Kimball House is perhaps the oldest extant building in the Chepachet Historic District. (1851- R. Kimball.)



- W. Warren Arnold House: A large, Early Victorian, house of complex form, with a cross-gable roof, bay windows, and bracketed trim. It stands on a large lot well back from the road. Originally a private residence, it served as a home for the elderly in the mid 20th century and is now the rectory for the adjacent St. Eugene's Roman Catholic Church. (1851- W. O. Arnold.)
- X. H. Taft House: A 1½-story, cross-gabled, Late Victorian structure with a central entry (with a bracketed hood) flanked by rectangular bay windows. (1895- H. Taft.)

#### TANYARD LANE

- Y. Former Mill Office (c. 1860): A 1½-story, hip-roofed, Victorian, Bracketed structure with two, small, brick chimneys; entry at the left side of the west side of the building; a projecting pedimented section at the street side; and gabled dormers. It is set on a small lot. The building was used as a mill office for the nearby textile mills in the late 19th century. (1895- H. C. White Est.)

#### VICTORY HIGHWAY

- Z. Owen Farm, or Valley View Farm: A 1½-story, early-to-middle 19th-century house, end-to-road, with a small, brick chimney; a central entry (with bracketed hood) in a 5-bay facade; and flanking 1-story wings. There are several outbuildings, including a large barn, silos, and a garage. There are fields around. This property is the last one in the Chepachet Historic District at the north end of the village. (1851- S. Owen.)
- AA. House: A 1½-story, early 20th century, wood-shingled bungalow with a small, brick, exterior chimney at the right side; a shed-roof dormer in front; and a porch across the front formed by the overhanging roof. The house is typical of a style popular in America in the first decades of the 20th century.
- BB. Doctor Albert Potter House (c. 1845): A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure with a small, brick, exterior chimney at the right side; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a flat-roofed porch, with entry, across the right side. The house was moved a short distance to its present site in 1970 to make room for the Old Stone Bank building. (1870- Mrs. Hunt.)
- 2. Harmony Historic District: A small village along Putnam Pike and Saw Mill Road, in the eastern part of Glocester, with about two dozen buildings, including a school, postoffice, library, church, and residences; the structures range from the 18th century to the present. The Aldrich Hotel was established here in the early 18th century; one of about a half dozen hotels which

served travelers in the town in the early turnpike era, it helped precipitate the evolution of a small community. In 1838, a post office was established, probably in a store in the same building which it occupies today, and a school was built by mid-century. In the second half of the century, the school was moved to the intersection of Cooper Road and Putnam Pike, near a tollgate, and Harmony Chapel and a cemetery were established. The population of Harmony was about 200 for much of the 19th century. In the 20th century, the village has remained essentially unchanged. A new school was built about 1938, the former hotel, which was used into the 20th century, was torn down and a fire station built on the site. A gasoline station was built on the corner of Saw Mill Road. The post office continues its service, as does the church; and many of the early homes are extant. Harmony today still retains the flavor and quiet charm of an earlier era. All the inventoried buildings, listed below, are on Putnam Pike.

- A. G. P. Millard House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival house with Late Victorian alterations, set close to the road, with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry, with bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side, rear. (1870- G. P. Millard.)
- B. Former Adah Hawkins School, or Northwest Community Nursing and Health Center, or Roger Williams General Hospital Medical Office (1938): A 1-story, brick, neo-Georgian structure with two large, exterior chimneys; a central belfry; a projecting pedimented entry, with double doors; two flanking wings at right angles at the ends; and a flat-roofed addition at the right side, set on a triangular lot at the intersection with Cooper Road. This school, and the contemporary Chepachet School--both consolidated schools with indoor plumbing, ample closet space, and other conveniences--marked the end of the one-room school era in Glocester. The Adah Hawkins School was discontinued in the 1970s (when a new elementary school was built on Snake Hill Road). In mid-1978, the building became the home of the Northwest Community Nursing and Health Center, and in 1980 it was purchased from the town and converted to use as the Roger Williams General Hospital Medical Offices as well. A primary care medical facility, it provides service to people of northwestern Rhode Island.
- C. Former Harmony Store, Harmony Post Office (1838): A 1½-story, Greek Revival building, set close to the road, with a central entry in the front flanked by display windows. In 1838 the Harmony Post Office was established here and has been serving the public since. It is probably the oldest continuously operating post office in the state. The store, probably established at the same time as the post office, is no longer operating. (1851- Store; E. M. Aldrich.)

- D. House: A 1½-story, late 18th-century structure, close to the road, with a medium-sized, brick chimney and a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade. The house is set slightly below road level. (1870- C. Barnes.)
- E. House: A 1½-story, Federal structure with a small, brick, center chimney and a simple entry at the left side of a 3-bay facade. The house is set slightly below road level, with a full basement at the rear, at the corner of Saw Mill Road. (1870- A. Hubbard.)
- F. Steere House (c. 1790): A 1½-story Federal house, end-to-road, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the rear. The house, set back from the road on a large lot, was in the Steere family for many years until its recent sale. (1870- Mrs. C. Steere.)
- G. House: A 1½-story, Federal structure, end-to-road, with a small, off-center, brick chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the south side. The house occupies a well maintained, spacious lot. (1870- Mrs. C. Steere.)
- H. House: A 1½-story, 18th-century "half house" with a small, brick chimney, left of center; an entry at the left side of an original 3-bay facade; and an unsympathetic, 1-story, flat-roof addition at the left side, flush with the front. (1870- N. Place.)
- \*\* I. Former Harmony School; Harmony Chapel and Cemetery: A 1-story mid-19th-century structure, end to road, with a small, brick, exterior rear chimney and entry in an enclosed portico at the flank end. The relatively large Harmony Cemetery, at the rear and west side, was used as a private cemetery until given for public use in 1878. Built as a schoolhouse in the early 19th century, possibly in response to state legislation encouraging each town to establish school districts, it was converted sometime before 1870 to a free chapel when a new school was built at the other end of Harmony. (1851- School.)

#### STRUCTURES AND SITES

##### ABSALONA HILL ROAD

3. Former E. Winsor Farm: A 1½-story, wood-shingled, Greek Revival structure with a small, brick, center chimney and a central entry with sidelights in a piazza across the front. It is set on a relatively large lot, with stone walls in front, and a barn at the rear, and apple orchards around. Known as Top Hill Orchards, it is one of several active apple farms in eastern Gloucester. (1851- E. Winsor.)

4. House: A large, 2½-story, Federal structure, with two, large, interior chimneys near the ends, one brick and one stone; several entries; and a porch across the west end and part of the sides. There is a barn nearby and fine stone walls around. The house, which is at the end of a private drive, appears to have been used as a summer residence in the early 20th century. (1851 - E. Winsor.)
5. Simon Smith House: A 2½-story, 18th-century structure, now vacant, with a large, brick, center chimney; simple entries in the gable end; and a badly deteriorated wing at a right angle at the left side of the front. The section of Absalona Road just south of the house, bordered by large maples and stone walls, is an exceptionally fine roadscape. (1851- Simon Smith.)
6. Former Victoria Schoolhouse (c. 1855): A 1-story residence--with a small, brick chimney near the rear, and several additions--this building, the former Victoria Schoolhouse, at the intersection with Putnam Pike, was one of Gloucester's early one-room schoolhouses. Originally housing eight grades, later it was used for grades five-to-eight only. (1855- School.)

#### ANAN WADE ROAD

7. Ponaganset Junior-Senior High School (1966) and Ponaganset Middle School (1960): A complex of buildings, mostly built of brick, on a large, landscaped lot, comprise Ponaganset High School and Middle School. In 1960, the towns of Foster and Gloucester built a regional school here. In 1966, on the same site, the two towns constructed a high school which was then named Ponaganset Junior-Senior High School. The school built in 1960 then became a middle school housing grades five through eight.

#### BLACKINTON DRIVE

(See #84, Putnam Pike)

#### BOWDISH RESERVOIR

8. Bowdish Reservoir Lakeside Community: Along the shores of Bowdish Reservoir in northwestern Gloucester, bordering on the George Washington Memorial State Forest, are several dozen homes in a few groupings. Several clusters occur along Putnam Pike (Route 44), and a string of houses extends from Putnam Pike along the north and northwest shores of the reservoir. The Bowdish Reservoir lakeside community, typical of several other lakeside communities in Gloucester, was originally established before World War II as a summer residence. Later, additions were made to many of the summer houses, and larger houses were built, and today many people make their permanent residence here.

#### CHESTNUT HILL ROAD

9. D. Owen House (1812): A 2½-story structure with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a long, 1½-story wing at the rear. The spacious lot includes a shed. (1851- D. Owen.)
10. Sayles Brown House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a simple, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side. (1851- Brown.)
11. Former S. Brown Farm: The S. Brown farmhouse is a 1½-story, Early Victorian structure with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry, with a pedimented, bracketed hood; and a shed-roofed piazza across the south (gable) end. The house is set back from the road, surrounded by open fields bounded with stone walls. There is a barn and garage on the lot. (1851- Brown.)
12. Former Schoolhouse (District #11; 1822): A 1-story Greek Revival structure with a small, enclosed, porch addition at the left side and a 1-story addition at the left side set on a small lot, close to the road. Built in 1822 by several local residents, this structure served as a private school until 1828, when the present free school system came into existence. (1851- School.)
13. Former Robert Saunders Farm: A complex of attached buildings at the intersection of Elbow Rock Road comprises the former Robert Saunders Farm. The main structure is a 1½-story, Greek Revival building, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney and entry at the left side of the gable end. A 1½-story wing at the south (left side), with a large, brick, center chimney, is probably the original house, dating from the late 18th or early 19th century. There are several other additions. (1851- Rob't. Saunders.)
- 13A. Site of Forge and Sawmill: Along Saunders Brook are the remains of a mill. Although there is no written account of this site, a forge is shown here on an 1831 map; maps of 1851, 1855, and 1870 show a sawmill. (1831- Forge.)

#### CHESTNUT OAK ROAD

14. Former W. S. Potter Farm: The former W. S. Potter Farm is centered on a 1½-story Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade; an entry in the gable end (south side); a shed dormer at the west side which breaks the eaves; and a 1½-story wing at the rear (east end). There are several outbuildings, one of which was once used as a residence, on a spacious lot. (1851- W. S. Potter.)

15. Former Steere Farm: The former Steere farmhouse is comprised of three sections. The left side is a 2½-story structure with a small, brick chimney. The 1-story center section, which may be the oldest part of the house, has a simple entry in a small porch at the left side; a large and a medium-sized brick chimney; and a large and a small gabled dormer. The right end, the latest part, recently had half-timber siding applied on the exterior. There are several outbuildings. (1851- S. Steere.)

CHOPMIST HILL ROAD\*

16. Chepachet Grange, P. of H. Number 38: A 1½-story, early 20th-century structure with a small, interior, brick chimney; a central, portico entry, with double doors, in the gable end; and a full basement. The building is set back from the road on a neat lot, behind a semi-circular driveway. The Chepachet Grange is one of many grange halls in Rhode Island.

- \*\* 17. Former Gloucester Town Pound (1749): The former Gloucester town pound, roughly square-shaped, consists of a fieldstone wall, about six feet high, capped with flat stones, and an iron-gate entry. It occupies a small lot at the intersection of Pound Road. In June, 1746, Isaiah Inman conveyed to the town of Gloucester land for the erection, building and maintaining a "publick Town Pound" for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Gloucester. The June 1, 1748, town meeting voted that the town pound be built, and an August 1749 meeting authorized payment. In 1751, the town meeting enacted that "it shall and may be lawful for any person to impound any cattle." Cattle entering Gloucester from out of the colony or from another town within the colony were impounded and subject to a fine of twenty shillings a head. If not claimed after ten days they were to be sold at public auction. The pound ceased to function, probably sometime in the nineteenth century. One of the best preserved pounds in Rhode Island, the former Gloucester town pound is entered in the National Register. (1851- Pound.)

18. Former Farm: A former farm complex, along both sides of the road. The early 19th-century farmhouse, a 2½-story structure, set end-to-road, has been altered from its original form, particularly by the removal of its large chimney and by the addition of a new entry and modern composition siding. The barn, near the west side of the road, is a Late Victorian structure of impressive scale, with a large, double-door entry in the gable end, and a central, octagonal cupola. (1851- B. O. Man.)

\*See also Chepachet Village Historic District (#1)

19. Brown-Fenner House, or Burlingame Farm: The house consists of two parts. In front is a larger, 2½-story, Federal building with a large, brick, center chimney and a central entry, with 5-bay facade. Victorian alterations include a bracketed hood and window details. A 1½-story, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed wing at the rear is the original house, an 18th-century dwelling. There are several large barns on a large tract of land. John Brown, the first owner, gave the property to his two sons. In 1767, it was acquired by John Fenner, brother of former Governor Arthur Fenner of Rhode Island, and slaves were kept here. Reportedly there is a slave's cemetery on the grounds. The place was sold at auction in 1831. It was acquired by Richard Burlingame in 1836 and remained in the Burlingame family until 1964. (1851- Asa Burlingame.)
20. Peckham's Sawmill: A portable, early 20th-century sawmill, set up in a small clearing in the woods near the west side of Chopmist Hill Road. This sawmill, although portable, has been at this site since 1949; on-and-off. Typical of a dozen or more sawmills of this kind in rural Rhode Island, it is operated on a small scale by the owner, who lives across the road. Purchased in Vermont in 1923, it has cut wood in various places in Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts.

#### COOPER ROAD

21. Former C. A. Farnum Farm: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, the C. A. Farnum farmhouse has a small, brick, center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. The landscaped lot includes a stone wall (to the south) and a barn. Beyond the yard are open fields. (1870- C. A. Farnum.)
22. H. S. Taylor Farm: The H. S. Taylor farmhouse is a 1½-story, Federal period dwelling, with a small, brick, center chimney; a simple entry in an asymmetrical 6-bay facade; and a 1-story wing at the east side. There are two barns on the lot. The house set back from the road on a private drive, is surrounded by fields. (1851- H. S. Taylor.)
23. H. T. Brown Farm: The H. T. Brown Farm is centered on a 1½-story, cross-gabled, mid-19th-century structure, with a small, brick, interior chimney; entry, with bracketed hood, at the right side of the front; and a 1-story wing at the rear. There are several outbuildings, including a large barn, and stone walls at the south side and along the road, and an orchard nearby. (1851- H. T. Brown.)
24. House (1970s): A 1-story, flat-roofed modern house, with brick and composition siding; two, large, exterior, fieldstone chimneys; large windows; and a "conventional" section, gable end to road, at the left side, connected to the main house with a flat

roof part. There is a board-and-batten shed, with a greenhouse attached, nearby. The house, set back from the road on a large, landscaped lot, is one of the more interesting and individualistic of the recent dwellings built in Gloucester.

#### DEXTER SAUNDERS ROAD

25. Wade-Saunders Farm: A 2½-story, Federal-style structure, the Wade-Saunders farmhouse has a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a small, screened porch at the right side. There is a barn nearby. Dexter Saunders, for whom the road is named, was born in Gloucester in 1845. He was a farmer and served on the town council. (1851- C. Wade.)

#### DORR DRIVE

(See Chepachet Village Historic District (#1))

#### DOUGLAS HOOK ROAD

26. Crossman House: An unusually long, 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, 18th-century structure, with two, large, brick, interior chimneys; two entries, with transom lights, in a symmetrical 8-bay facade; and a small wing at the right side. There are several outbuildings. (1851- B. I. Crossman.)
- 26A. Site of Z. Olney's Sawmill: Along Mowry Paine Brook are the remains of an early, water-powered sawmill. This former mill, run by the Olney family who were locally important, was one of several small mills which served a neighborhood population in the 18th through 20th centuries. (1851- Saw Mill.)
27. Coomber-Steere Orchards: A house, cluster of outbuildings, and a relatively large area of apple orchards comprise the Coomber-Steere Orchards. The Enoch Steere House is a 1½-story mid-19th century structure, with a large, central, cross-gable, two, small brick, interior chimneys; a double-door entry in the center of a 5-bay facade in a piazza across the front; a 1½-story wing at the right side; a 1-story, flat-roofed wing at the left side; and two gabled dormers in front which break the roof line. There is another residence on the property and several fine outbuildings, including an unusual, windmill-like water tower. There is a stone wall along the front and sides of the house lot. The house is well sited, atop a hill, with a view to the south and west. (1851- Anthony Steere.)

A large apple orchard, beginning east of the house, extends south of the road, covering a hilly terrain. The Coomber-Steere Orchards is one of the largest of several in the heart of "apple country" in Smithfield and the eastern parts of Gloucester and Scituate.



## DURFEE HILL ROAD

28. Saunders House, or the Gold Mine House (1732): A 1½-story structure, with a large, stone, center chimney; a plain, off-center entry in a 3-bay facade; and an entry in the center of the gable end. The house, sited on a hill, in an open grassy area, with a fine view of the Ponaganset Reservoir to the west, was reportedly used as sleeping quarters for miners at the nearby gold mine (see #29) in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the early 20th century, it was a small dairy farm owned by Al Saunders. (1855- N. Saunders.)
  
29. Site of Ponaganset Gold Mine: Near the southeast side of the Ponaganset Reservoir, in a wooded area of rough topography, are several well defined holes and other signs of excavation. They are the only physical evidence of former gold-mining activity here. According to popular accounts, an 18th-century visitor named Walton prospected for gold near a swamp and small pond south of Durfee Hill. Little is known of the success of Walton's venture, but mining was pursued more actively in the 19th century with the formation of two mining companies. The first failed in 1843; the second, the Ponaganset Mining and Smelting Company, issued shares totaling \$100,000 and employed six men, who may have been the same men who purchased the shares and paid for them by working on the mine property. In 1897, according to a visitor, the site contained a shanty next to an "ancient building," a rectangular hole in the ground, ten feet wide and a trifle less deep, with a 70-foot shaft, near the bottom of which was a vein of solid quartz, fourteen feet thick, containing gold, which was then assayed at from \$229 to \$690 a ton. The main shaft was eventually extended to 185 feet. The operation was a precarious one from the beginning, and was abandoned, probably in the early 20th century. The Ponaganset Gold Mine was one of several sites in Rhode Island mined in the 19th century, none of which ever proved economically viable.

During the recent past (1978) there was a revitalization of interest in the site, stimulated by the rapid and dramatic rise in the price of gold. The results of the latest inquiry and geological investigation are unknown, but the former shafts still remain water filled and the site is still overgrown (1895-Ponaganset Mining and Smelting Co.)

## ECHO LAKE (PASCOAG RESERVOIR)

30. Echo Lake Community: The southern part of Pascoag Reservoir in Gloucester, locally known as Echo Lake, is a large, lakeside community. The densest housing area is between the southern shores of the reservoir and Putnam Pike (Route 44). Typical of other lakeside communities in Gloucester, it includes a variety of

houses, ranging from small, 1-room cottages to large houses. Formerly almost entirely seasonal, most of the houses are now occupied year-round. In addition to the houses, there is a Roman Catholic day camp, Mater Spei, in the Echo Lake area.

#### ELBOW ROCK ROAD

- 30A. Elbow Rock Road: Elbow Rock Road, a dirt road and trail, extends for several miles between Chestnut Hill Road and Durfee Hill Road through a wooded landscape. The road makes a sharp turn to avoid Elbow Rock (see R 229, Appendix A), from which it derives its name. One of Gloucester's early roads, it was abandoned to travel many years ago. Northwest of the Phetteplace House (#31), it is a narrow, rough road, eventually narrowing to a trail. This relatively well preserved road, without modern intrusions and developments, is a good example of the winding, primitive character of Rhode Island's early rural roads.
31. Phetteplace House (c. 1780): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing, with a brick chimney, at the right rear. There is a shed nearby, and fields and woods to the rear, which contain the well known balancing rock, a geological "curiosity." (1851- S. Phetteplace.)

#### ELMDALE ROAD

32. Mitchell House, or Maple Brook: A 2½-story, Federal, end-gable structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a pedimented, enclosed portico in the center of a 5-bay, south-facing facade; an entry at the right side of the front (gable end); and a small wing at the left side. There is a large barn nearby. (1851- A. Mitchell.)
33. Barden Orchards: The 1½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival house built by David Coman, has a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing at the rear. The complex, surrounded by apple orchards, includes a garage and a barn. (1851- D. Coman.)
34. Colwell House--Newell Phillips Farm--White Oak Farm: A 2½-story, mid-19th century structure, with a small, off-center, brick chimney; two entries; a small piazza across the front; and a 1-story wing at the left side, front. The house at the end of a long dirt road is surrounded by acres of apple orchards. Near the house are several structures, including a cinder block storage shed and a water tank. This is one of several apple orchards in the area. (1851- U. Baker.)

#### FARNUM ROAD

- \* 35. Lapham-Ballou Farm: The complex includes a 1½-story, Greek Revival, end-gable house, with two small, brick, interior chimneys; a central, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing at the south side. It is the focus of a large, working horse farm at the corner of Mapleville Road. A large, gambrel-roofed wing was added to the rear of the house in the 1970s. There are several outbuildings, including a large barn, on a sizeable tract of land, with open fields bounded by many fine stone walls, on a gently rolling landscape. The farm complex, fields, and stone walls, comprise one of Gloucester's finest rural landscapes. (1851- E. Lapham.)
- \* 36. Farnum Farm: The center of the Farnum Farm complex is a 2½-story, Federal style structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade in a piazza across the front; a portico entry at the right side, rear; and a large, 2-story wing at the rear. There are two large, wood-clapboarded outbuildings connected by a smaller building, behind the house. The fine well preserved house, with a wood-picket fence and large maple trees in front, stone walls, and apple trees, is an exceptionally fine rural complex. (1851- C. Farnum.)

#### GAZZA ROAD

- 37. Calvery Mitchell Farm: The farm complex includes a modest, 1½-story, Greek Revival dwelling, a large barn and several other major outbuildings, several typical sheds, and a family cemetery. With its fields, woodland and buildings this is a well preserved and characteristic 19th-century Rhode Island farmstead. The house was in the Mitchell family for about 100 years. It was a working farm in the early 20th century, producing milk and potatoes. The present owner restored the house in 1976. (1870- C. Mitchell.)

#### GEORGE ALLEN ROAD

- 37A. Ponaganset Mounds: In the woods near the Ponaganset Reservoir are about one half dozen mounds and fireplaces. They may be the sites of huts used by woodcutters or charcoal burners in the late 19th century when the charcoal industry was active in Gloucester.

#### HOWARD'S LANE

- 38. Farm Complex: A 2½-story, Federal house, with a large, brick, center chimney, and a central, pedimented entry, with a fan-light, in a 5-bay facade dominates the complex. Across the lane

is a large, early 20th-century farm complex, including wooden silos and cow barns with metal ventilators. There are fields to the south. (1870- A. Lyons.)

#### HUNTINGHOUSE ROAD

- \* 39. Hawkins-Aldrich Farm: The Hawkins-Aldrich farm complex includes a 2½-story, 5-bay Federal residence with a large, brick, center chimney; central entry; and a 1½-story wing at the left end. The house, set back from the road on a large lot, includes a fine barn with a cupola. There is a wide expanse of stone-wall bounded fields to the south. (1851- W. M. Aldrich.)

#### JACKSON SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD

40. Cooke House: A 2½-story, late Greek Revival dwelling, with a small, brick, off-center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and flanking wings. There is one outbuilding on a spacious lot. The house may be associated with Cook's Sawmill, which was located on nearby Brandy Brook in the early-to-middle 19th century. (1870- E. S. Cooke and Edwin Smith.)

#### JIM EVANS ROAD

41. N. Keech House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the right side, rear. (1851- N. Keech.)
42. House: An altered 1½-story, late 19th- or early 20th-century, vernacular Queen Anne, end-gable structure with a small, brick, center chimney; a flat-roofed portico entry at the right side of the front (gable end); and a 1½-story wing at the left side, rear.
43. Place Farm: The 1½-story, mid 19th-century, end-gable farmhouse is set in a high bank at the side of the road and thus has a full basement story on this side. The house has a small, off-center, brick chimney; a simple, central entry in its 5-bay, south-facing, flank facade; and a large door at the basement level gable end. There are fields around the house and a barn across the road. (1851- Mrs. Place.)
- \* 44. Former Evans Schoolhouse (c. 1855): A 1-story, end-gable structure with a small, brick chimney near the rear and a door at each side of the gable end. The well preserved building, set close to the road on a grassy lot, served as the schoolhouse for District Number 2 in the northeast corner of Glocester. It is one of a small number of well preserved rural schoolhouses surviving in Rhode Island. (1855- School.)

45. D. Evans House--Seldom Seen Farm (c. 1780): The complex focuses on a 2½-story, end-gable farmhouse, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central Greek Revival entry in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; and several connected additions at the right side. There is a large shed behind the house. An active sheep farm, Seldom Seen Farm includes several acres of open fields and stone walls. There is a section of fine stone walls lining the road of the house. The outbuildings, fields, and stone walls constitute a fine rural landscape. (1855- D. Evans.)
46. W. Tunmore House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian structure, with two, interior, brick chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a shed-roof porch at the right side; and a 1-story, 1970s wing at the left side, rear. The house is set back from the road, on a large lot. (1870- W. Tunmore.)
47. Jim Evans Place, or Restful Ridge Farm: A complex of buildings on a wooded, rocky site on a hill above the road, centered on a 1½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival dwelling, with a small, brick, center chimney; a small, flat-roofed porch across the south side; and a wing (essentially another house), attached at the right side. There are several outbuildings, including an exceptionally fine Victorian bracketed barn. (1870- H. & J. S. Evans.)

#### JOE SARLE ROAD

48. A Wilder House, or Joe Sarle Farm: A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with two, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a large, 1½-story wing at the right side. The wing was formerly used as a milk room and pantry. Around the house is a large area of open land and an apple orchard. There are good barn foundations on the property. Stone walls line the road north of the house, presenting a fine rural landscape. (1851- A. Wilder.)

#### KEECH POND

49. Keech Pond Community: Along the shores of Keech Pond are several dozen, early-mid 20th-century houses, occupying small lots, in an essentially wooded environment. Some buildings are small, 1-room cabins and still serve in their original capacity as summer cottages; others are more substantial dwellings, most of which are year-round residences. The largest concentration of houses is along the southeast side of the pond in the vicinity of Cherry Valley Beach.

#### KILLINGLY ROAD

50. Williams Mills: A dam, mill pond, Grist Mill Pond, and two vernacular buildings, now residences, mark the site of Williams's Mills. Throughout the 19th century, at least, there were

several mills operating within a short distance of each other here along Cady Brook, sawing wood, grinding grain, and manufacturing shingles. By the end of the 19th century, there were about a half dozen buildings in the area; most are gone today. A building along the brook, below Grist Mill Pond, now used as a residence, may have been formerly used as a mill. (1806- S. M.)

#### LAKE WASHINGTON DRIVE

51. Lake Washington Community: About two dozen or more early-to-middle, 20th-century houses, both seasonal and year-round, are strung out along Lake Washington Drive. Most have waterfront sites. The seasonal houses are small cottages, while the year-round residences are typical of mid 20th-century suburban houses. This is a typical Gloucester lakeside community.

#### LONG ENTRY ROAD

52. Former R. P. Colwell Farm, or Country Corner: The R. P. Colwell farmhouse is a 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a brick, exterior chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and additions at the right side and at the rear. There is a large barn, built in 1941, on a spacious lot used as a farm. This house replaced an earlier and smaller house which stood on or near this house site. (1851- R. Colwell.)
53. Former William Steere Farm (c. 1780): This fine agricultural complex includes a former farmhouse, barns, orchard and fields. The house is a 2½-story, end-gable structure with a large, brick, center chimney; entry near the center of an asymmetrical 4-bay, south-facing facade; and a large recent wing at the right rear, connected to a garage. There are two fine, vertical, board-sided barns across the road. The house and barns constitute a fine complex of buildings, and there is a fine section of stone walls along the road south of the house. (1851- Wm. Steere.)
54. Former Advent Church (1862): This is a very simple, gable, clapboarded structure with a small, brick chimney near the rear and a central entry in the gable end. The former Advent Church, which was once attended by twenty-eight members, is now vacant, its windows boarded over, and its grounds overgrown. (1870- Advent Church.)
55. Site of Baker's Mills: Along Paine Brook, near the road, are stone foundations and a former road bed, now overgrown, which mark the site of Baker's Mills, which, as recorded on 19th-century maps, consisted of a sawmill and a gristmill during the early and middle years of the century. The mills were part of

Glocester's early industrial era. Today, relatively undisturbed, they provide a link with the past, constitute a picturesque scene along the wooded brook, and provide good archeological potential. (1831- Bakers; S. Mill.)

#### MAPLEVILLE ROAD

56. The Hunt Place: A typical 2½-story, 18th-century house, with a large, brick, center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade, set on a wooded lot. The house was reportedly built by Allen N. Place, a stonecutter who built many streets in Providence, and was lived in by Hunt. According to the present owner, the house once served as a tavern. (1851- D. Evans.)

#### MONEY HILL ROAD

57. Former A. Bellows Farm: The A. Bellows farmhouse is a 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade in a piazza across the front; a 1-story wing at the south side; and a 1-story addition at the rear. The house is set behind a wood picket fence with granite posts. There is a barn behind the house. (1851- A. Bellows.)

#### OIL MILL LANE

(See Chepachet Village Historic District, #1)

#### OLD HARTFORD PIKE

58. Former Cornell's Hotel: A 2½-story, Federal structure, with two brick, end-wall interior chimneys; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story ell at a right angle at the rear. The house, set on a small lot at the intersection of Joe Sarle Road, was originally on the Hartford Turnpike, but this section of highway became a quiet road when a new section of Hartford Pike was built in the early 20th century. The building, now a residence, was formerly Cornell's Hotel, one of six hotels in Glocester in the 19th century established along early turnpikes. (1831- Cornell's Hotel.)

#### PARIS IRONS ROAD

59. Former Paris Irons Farm, or Breezy Hill Farm: A farm complex, centered on a Federal, 2½-story, end-gable structure with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with a wooden fan, in a 5-bay facade; 1-story bay windows flanking the entrance; and several wings. There are several large barns, including an older one of vertical boards, north of the house, and a new building complex, with wood-rail fences, across the road. The house, set on a hilly lot, which contains large trees and stone walls, has a view to the south. (1851- P. Irons.)

PHILLIPS LANE

- \* 60. Burlingame Farm: Along Phillips Lane, a private drive in the eastern part of Gloucester, are two, old, former farmsteads which were established in at least the 18th century. The area, a 150-acre tract between Putnam Pike and Mapleville Road, was first settled by David Burlingame about 1709. He was reportedly one of the first three settlers in the Harmony area. The farm was later divided by Benedict and David Burlingame, brothers. David, who served as a Captain in the Revolutionary War, got about 100 acres in the southeast part. Benedict, who attained the rank of major, received the land to the northeast. David and Benedict Burlingame and their families are buried in a cemetery in the valley, near Shinscot Brook. Although the earliest stone markers are from the early 19th century, many crude and unmarked fieldstone markers suggest an early date for the burying ground.
- A. The Former David Burlingame Farm: This farm consists of two residences and two barns. The larger, occupied structure, is a 1½-story, Greek Revival house with a full basement in the left end; a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a small addition at the rear. Built about 1820, during the Federal era, it was later remodeled in the Greek Revival mode. Nearby is a smaller, vacant, 1½-story structure with a large, stone, end chimney and an entry at the left side of an asymmetrical facade. Its style of construction suggests an early 18th- or late 17th-century date, which is as yet unverified by written records. There are two barns, one a large, Late Victorian structure, with a cupola. The property remained in the Burlingame family until 1879, when it was purchased by Michael Phillips, and remained in the Phillips family until 1960. The site, atop a hill overlooking Shinscot Brook and Nine Foot Brook to the north and east, is outstanding. (1851- B. Burlingame.)
- B. The Former Benedict Burlingame Farm: This farm consists of a residence and several outbuildings. The larger, 2½-story, wood-shingled, former farmhouse--with a large, brick, center chimney and a central, pedimented entry, with transom lights in a 5-bay, south-facing facade--was built about 1820. At that time, an earlier house, a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed structure, was moved and now serves as the ell of the later house. Once the scene of considerable activity, with tan vats, a slaughterhouse, and a cider mill, the place is now a quiet, private residence in a secluded and tranquil setting. (1851- A. Burlingame.)

PINE ORCHARD ROAD

62. Former Elijah Armstrong Farm: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry,



with sidelights, in a 3-bay facade; and a 1-story wing at the left side, rear. The house and a barn are set on a large lot on a small terrace behind a stone wall along the road. (1851- E. Armstrong.)

63. Sprague Farm: A 1½-story, 18th-century dwelling, much reworked, with two small, interior, brick chimneys near the ends and two small, interior, brick chimneys near the ends and two entries in an asymmetrical 6-bay facade. The house occupies a fine site, atop a hill, surrounded by fields with stone walls. (1870- W. R. Sprague.)
64. Site of Shingle Mill: Near the intersection with Chestnut Hill Road are the remains of a former shingle mill. Along a small brook, in a wooded area, the ruins, in addition to being historically significant, are of scenic interest. The mill, probably owned and operated by Daniel Owen, who lived nearby, was typical of many small mills along small waterways in Gloucester. (1831- Mill.)

#### PRAY HILL ROAD

65. J. Pray House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian, end-gable, reworked residence, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; entry at the left side of the gable end; a porch at the rear; and a wing with a large barn-garage attached, at the right side. (1851- J. Pray.)

#### PULASKI ROAD

66. Clarkville: Along Pulaski Road a short distance north of Putnam Pike are a mill and several houses that are part of a hamlet once identified as Clarkville. A tannery and sawmill, and perhaps a gristmill, were here in the early 19th century. In 1818, Arnold Brothers constructed a building to manufacture cotton yarn. The mill was burned and rebuilt several times, and was owned by several parties, including Horatio Darling and F. R. White & Co., who had several mills in Chepachet also. A few houses were built for workers, and in 1848 an Advent church was added. Several houses were constructed here later in the century. The mill continued operating into the 20th century, and today is used for the manufacture, sales and storage of Scandinavian furniture. The church and the older mill houses are gone, but several late 19th-century structures remain.
- A. Clarkville Mill (1864): A 2½-story, wood, clapboard-sided, gable-roof structure, with a small clerestory-monitor window; a 2-story, flat-roofed wing at the right side; several other small additions; and a flat-roofed, cinder-block building at the left front. There is a dirt parking lot in front, a brook to the right, and a dam

and Clarkville Pond behind the mill. Cotton manufacturing started here in 1818, when the Arnold Brothers built a mill. The mill was burned and rebuilt several times. In 1835, it was leased to Horatio Darling. After the mill burned for the last time, in 1864, F. R. White & Company built the present mill opposite the site of the old mill. It was used as a woolen mill until 1956, when it became vacant. In 1968, the building was purchased by Hans Wolff, of Scancraft, Inc., and is now used for the sales, storage, and manufacture of Scandinavian furniture. (1851- Winsor and Brown's Mill.)

- B. Former Mill Houses: A pair of late 19th-century double houses, probably associated with the nearby mill, with two, interior, brick chimneys and a shed-roof piazza; there are two separate entries. (1895- on map.)

#### PUTNAM PIKE

67. J. Medbury House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival house with extensive additions and alterations. It has a central entry in a 5-bay facade and a 1½-story wing at the rear. There is a barn-garage attached to the rear of the house. (1851- J. C. Medbury.)
68. John Barnes House (c. 1843): A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a wing at the rear; and a flat-roofed wing at the left side. John Barnes, who lived here from 1843 to 1853, was the brother of Thomas Barnes, who owned the nearby acid works (see #69). (1851- J. Barnes.)
69. Site of Thomas Barnes Acid Works: Along Nine Foot Brook, which flows into the nearby Waterman Reservoir, is the site of an acid factory. Thomas Barnes built an acid works here between 1831 and 1843. He made acid from the inside of oak bark for printing and setting dyes and for tanning hides. Recorded as "Thomas Barnes Pyroligneous Acid Manufactory," at one time it was manufacturing 250 gallons of raw liquid a day. The acid works, part of whose remains are still visible today, ceased to operate about 1885. (1851- Acid Works.)
70. Lakeside Motel: A typical, mid-20th-century motel, with its office in a small house near the road, separate from the motel units which are contained in a long, 1-story, flat-roofed structure at the rear. Lakeside Motel is one of many commercial establishments that developed along Putnam Pike in the early and middle 20th century.
71. Veu Fair: A 1½-story dwelling of modest scale reworked with a great wealth of applied and possibly genuinely antique Federal detail.

72. Glocester Country Club (c. 1930): A golf course-country club located along both sides of Putnam Pike and extending to Waterman Reservoir to the south. Along the reservoir is the clubhouse, a 2-story, painted wood-shingle building, with white trim, a fieldstone foundation, and an irregular plan. Set into a small hill, with trees around, it has a rustic flavor and a fine site with a view of the reservoir to the south. Nearby are tennis courts and a small building where the golf course begins.
73. Valley View, or Harmony Heights: An early-and-middle 20th-century residential development off Putnam Pike just east of Harmony. Next to the Glocester Country Club golf course, the houses are well sited on a hilly wooded slope, linked with a winding, narrow road. The development, started in the 1920s or 1930s, is one of the finest in Glocester. Most of the houses are north of Putnam Pike and west of the golf course, behind stone-gate entry posts, but two houses, including a stuccoed "moderne" dwelling, and another house associated with the development, are south of the road.

(For houses in Harmony, along Putnam Pike, see Harmony Historic District, #2)

74. Former Trolley Substation (1917): A 1-story, brick, flat-roofed, square structure, with a large, double-door entry and large, round-head windows, set close to the road. This building was erected as an electric-power booster for the trolley line between Providence and Burrillville. On July 1, 1914, the first trolley arrived in Chepachet from Providence. The substation was built in 1917. Passenger service along the line ended in 1924, but freight and coal was carried along the line until 1926. The building is now used as an auto body shop.
75. The Former Inn-Yan-Yankee: A pair of early 19th-century houses, with a 1-story connecting link, were used as an inn for a period of eight to ten years in the early 20th century. A gambling establishment was located in a nearby building.
- \* 76. Thomas Cutler Farm and Site of Cutler's Tavern: This fine farm complex includes a residence, several outbuildings, and a large tract of open land along both sides of Putnam Pike. The c. 1860 farmhouse is a Greek Revival structure with two, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and two ells at the rear. There is a wood-shingled barn and a shed near the house. Across the road is a large, gambrel-roofed, vertical-boarded, early 19th-century barn and a corn crib. Most of the farm land, including an orchard, lies along the south side of the road.

The Cutler Farm and tavern property land transactions date from about 1760. There was a dwelling along "the country road," probably near the site of the tavern; the latter was built between

about 1827 and 1834, and attached to the house. The large barn along the south side of the road was used in connection with the nearby tavern and was probably built at the same time. Around 1832, the farm was sold to Caleb and Cyrus Farnum. Cyrus, who operated the tavern, and whose house was east of the tavern, was active in politics, serving both as a representative in the General Assembly and as a state senator. In 1845 or 1847, Farnum sold the place to Thomas Cutler, who came here from Killingly, Connecticut. Cutler lived in a building on the south side of the road and ran the tavern, or hotel, there. He was also a farmer. His farm, with forty-eight improved acres, included livestock, an orchard, and a variety of crops. Shortly before his death in 1860, Thomas Cutler built a new dwelling house, barn, and shed north of the road. He built his house away from the tavern to remove the family from the tavern environment, although about this time the tavern business stopped. In about 1860, the land and buildings on both sides of the road went to Thomas's son, James N. Cutler, who farmed the land until his death in 1903. Shortly afterward, the place was purchased at auction by John F. Phillips, who operated a dairy farm. The present owners, John Phillips's daughters Elizabeth and Avis, raise some beef cattle and have the fields cut for hay. Several outbuildings north of the road are still used, as is the former stagecoach barn south of the road, part of which was once used for ice storage; it now holds hay and farm equipment. The dwelling attached to the tavern was torn down sometime between 1895 and 1903, and in about 1970 the former Cutler Tavern was knocked down to prevent it from falling into the road. The Cutler Tavern site is very important archeologically because of its potential to yield information important to history and prehistory. The farm is one of Gloucester's oldest surviving farms. The outstanding farm complex, fields, stone walls, and historical associations with the early turnpike era, constitute one of Gloucester's most valuable cultural resources. (1831- Gate?; 1851- Cutler's Hotel.)

77. House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple entry in the center of an asymmetrical, 5-bay facade; and an entry in the right side. The house was restored in 1973. (1851- Clark Steere.)
78. Harmony Hill Manor: A large, 2½-story, mid 19th-century, bracketed, cross-gabled structure, with a central, portico entry flanked by 2-story bay windows; a 1-story bay window above the entry; and a flat-roofed, 2-story addition at the west end. There is a large barn near the road. The place was reportedly built as a summer hotel by Henry Brown. An earlier building, on or near the site, was a store run by the Brown family. Today, it is a rest home. (1851- Y. Brown (on site).)

79. Farnum House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and two shed dormers in front. There is a large, old, wood-shingled barn nearby, close to the road, and a recent barn-garage on the property. Extensive fields to the rear contain stone walls, and a burying ground atop a small hill to the west. (1855- C. Farnum.)
- \* 80. Hunt-Farnum Farm (c. 1789): The Hunt-Farnum Farm is centered on the late 18th-century farmhouse, a 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central, pedimented entry in a 5-bay facade; and a small ell at the rear which encloses a well. Behind the house are a corn crib and two, wood-shingled out-buildings which were once used as a butcher shop-slaughterhouse, and a blacksmith shop which started in the early 20th century and was used until recently. The buildings occupy a neat lot, which includes stone walls. There are fields north of (behind) the house. (1851- Cyrus Farnum.)
81. Arnold Steere House: A 2½-story, 18th-century dwelling with a large, brick, center chimney; entry, with sidelights and modern hood, central in a 5-bay facade; a small, brick exterior chimney at the south end; and a 2-part wing on the south end. (1851- Arnold Steere.)
82. White Rock Motel: A mid 20th-century motel, with a 1½-story house serving as an office in the front. At the rear of a neat lot is a long, gable-roofed, single building containing about eight units. White Rock Motel is typical of many other mid-20th-century motels and commercial establishments along Putnam Pike, but is distinguished by its fine, landscaped setting on a larger lot than most occupy.
83. William Luther House: A 2½-story, Federal structure, with two brick, interior chimneys; a central pedimented entry in a 7-bay facade; and flanking wings. (1851- Wm. Luther.)
84. Samuel Potter House: A 2½-story, 18th century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central, pedimented portico in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the west end. The house is at the end of Blackinton Drive. (1870- S. Potter.)
85. Former Gas Station: A 1-story, hip-roofed, early 20th-century structure, with a gabled entry, multiple-pane windows flanking a central entry, and a cinder block exterior chimney. In front is an old gasoline pump between two more recent pumps. The former service station is typical of many that lined Rhode Island highways in the early automobile era of the 1920s and 1930s. There is an early 20th-century house behind the station.

(For Putnam Pike entries in Chepachet, see Chepachet Village Historic District, #1)

86. Former Farm: A 1½-story, Greek Revival residence with a small, brick, center chimney; entry at the left side of the gable end; and a shed-roof wing at the rear, was the farmhouse for a former farm here. The large lot includes several outbuildings. (1870- C. O. Brine.)
87. House: A 1½-story, Late Victorian structure, with a small, brick, chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; gabled dormers in front; a wing at the rear; and a Late Victorian porch across the front and left side. (1895- Wm. Olney?)
- \* 88. Former Smith Farm: The complex includes a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, 5-bay, central-entry, 18th-century house, with a large, brick, center chimney and two wings at the right side. There are several outbuildings, including a horse barn-garage on a large lot at the corner of Reservoir Road. (1851- E. Smith.)
89. Former Joseph Eddy Farm (pre-1746, 1747, 1784): The former farmhouse is a 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and two wings at the right side. Originally built as a half house, an addition was made by John Sayles in 1747; the other part was added in 1784. The wing at the extreme right end was put on about 1960. The present owners recently renovated the interior. (1851- R. Paine.)
90. P. Cory House: A 1½-story, early 19th-century structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a simple entry in a 5-bay facade. The house is a good and relatively unaltered example of a dwelling common to western Rhode Island. East of the house, close to the road, is a small building used as a lunch stand in the 1930s. (1851- P. Cory Place.)
91. Barnes Farm: A large, 2½-story, cross-gabled, wood-shingled, late 19th- or early 20th-century house, set close to the road, at the intersection of Sprague Hill Road. On the property are a large barn and other outbuildings in poor condition. There are two early 20th-century buildings to the west, near the road, now unused. One was "Barnes Ice Cream," the westernmost one a gasoline station, in 1939. (1851- Widow Sprague.)
92. Site of Burlingame-Place-Plante Sawmill and Gristmill: Along Brandy Brook about one third of a mile south of Putnam Pike is the site of an old farm and several small mills. Formerly the Nelson Plante Farm, the property, which consisted on about 530 acres of farmland, woodland, ponds, brooks, a reservoir, an old gristmill, and a farmhouse, was acquired by the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources in 1975. Soon after, all the buildings were torn down or removed.

Glocester records and maps show that in 1790 the "Allen Mill" stood on the site of the gristmill. In 1842, ownership passed to Amasa Burlingame. Another Burlingame operated a shingle mill here in 1851. The reservoir was known as the Place Reservoir, and in 1855 the gristmill site was identified as Place Mills. By 1870, a sawmill, owned by A. Burlingame, was in operation; by 1895 the complex included the gristmill, two sawmills, and a shoddy mill. Mr. Burlingame, who died in 1970 at the age of 103, recorded that one of the mills was moved here from the Frank Sayles property in Pascoag, Burrillville. (1851- I. Burlingame, Shingle Mill.)

93. Cady's Tavern (1810) and Site of Cady's Stand: Cady's Stand, which stood along the north side of the road, was built about 1790 by Hezekiah Cady, a prominent local citizen. The building served as a tavern, hotel and tollgate house for traffic on Putnam Pike, particularly for the Springfield-Providence stage. When Cady's Tavern was built about 1810, it assumed the tavern, hotel and tollgate function of the Stand. The Cady family ran the tavern until 1921. In 1926, Cady's Stand was destroyed by fire, but a barn and the White Birch Diner, a small structure that sold food and cigarettes to passing travelers, survived. In 1938, a refreshment stand, serving clams and other dishes, stood in this place, until it was destroyed for highway widening in the late 1930s or early 1940s. Nearby was the short-lived "Trolley Car," an open-air seafood diner which was used for only one season, the summer of 1937. Three obsolete trolley cars, purchased from the city of Providence, were stripped and mounted on several mortar-laid stone and brick piers, and used for a kitchen, storage, and sleeping quarters, with the dining area set up beneath a large, open-air tent. Today, Cady's Tavern, a 2½-story structure--with two, stuccoed, interior chimneys; a porch across the front, and a large, 2½-story wing at the rear--still functions as a tavern, but it has lost some of its original character through interior and exterior alterations and by the destruction of its barn and other outbuildings. The Site of Cady's Stand is important archeologically, although part of the old buildings may have been buried under Route 44. (1851- Tollgate; H. Cady.)
- \* 94. Former Clarkville School (District Number 7): A 1-story, late 19th-century, end-gable structure, with a small, brick, exterior chimney at the rear; two, separate entries, with transom lights, at the end of the front; and a privy at the rear. This schoolhouse, set on a plain lot, replaced an earlier school which stood at the Bowdish Reservoir. It was one of the last of the 1-room schools to close after Glocester

consolidated its schools in 1936. Clarkville School remained open during the early years of World War II due to a restriction on school busses and was closed in 1944. Vacant since, yet well preserved, this is another example of a now rare but once common rural building type which played an important role in local history.

95. Neil D. Cady House: A 1½-story, Late Victorian, end-gable structure, with a small, brick, off-center chimney; entry, with bracketed hood, at the left side of the front; a 1-story bay window in front; and a wing at the right side. The terraced lot--behind an early 20th-century, large, cemented, stone wall--contains several outbuildings. The house was probably built by Neil D. Cady, who ran a mill across the road (at the Hawkins Mill site, #96). (1870- N. Cady.)
  
96. Site of Hawkins Mills: Near the western end of town, along Putnam Pike, are the ruins of several buildings that once comprised Hawkins Mills, the site of industrial activity for more than two centuries. A sawmill was established here about 1750 and operated until a 3-story fieldstone building was erected in 1873 for the manufacture of cotton. That mill made carpet warps and heavy woolen goods for about fifteen years, then was used for woodworking and as a sawmill until about 1955-1960. A 1946 fire destroyed part of the mill, later used for storage. An interesting and unusual development occurred about 1912 when Walter A. Hawkins began generating electricity from a water wheel. Hawkins, a natural mechanic, with only a grade-school education, made his own machinery and devised the electrical system, lights, lines, and so on. At first, electricity was used to light the house only, but after some changes and adaptations, power was produced to run the mill, and in 1921, several local residents were furnished with electricity from Hawkins Mill. From about 1924 to 1936, the small generating station functioned as a small, private, power station, serving an area which extended into nearby Connecticut. About 1934, a group of Providence men formed the West Gloucester Light and Power Company and installed new equipment at the site. In 1936, they sold out to Narragansett Electric Company. The local power was used until the mill stopped doing business about 1960. Although only the shell of the 1873 stone mill and the dam, pond and vestiges of other buildings remain today, the site is important for its association with the industrial development and growth of Gloucester and as a tribute to local ingenuity and enterprise. (1851- Saw Mill.)



#### RESERVOIR ROAD

97. Sayles House: A 2½-story, 18th century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; entry with transom lights in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; and several wings. The house, recently restored, is set back from the road behind a split-rail fence, with stone walls on the property. (1851- E. & R. Sayles.)
98. S. Daggett Farm: A 1½-story, Early Victorian structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and several wings, is the focus of the S. Daggett Farm. There are several outbuildings--barns, a shed and a garage--and a small orchard, on a neat lot. The house, outbuildings, and fine lot present a pleasant appearance. (1870- S. Daggett.)

#### REYNOLDS ROAD

99. Reynolds Homestead: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a wing flush with the front at the east; and a lean-to addition at the rear. This typical rural dwelling is important locally because it has always been in the Reynolds family. (1851- O. Reynolds.)
100. Former Farm: The complex includes a 1½-story, early 19th-century structure, with a full basement and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. Set into a bank, there is a full basement story at the gable end with a large double-door entryway. (1851- S. Young.)
101. Salisbury-Law Farm: This complex centers on a 1½-story, early 19th-century house, with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; an entry at each side of the front; a shed-roof porch at the left front; and an ell at the right side, rear. There are several outbuildings, including a large barn complex with silo. The house overlooks open fields. (1831- H. Salisbury.)

#### SANDY BROOK ROAD

102. House (c. 1979): An interesting new split-level house with brick, shingled and stuccoed exterior walls; a medium-sized brick chimney at the right side; and two projecting, gabled pavilions, with stuccoed tops, and square, brick posts, flanking a large, central window area. There is a 2-car garage in the right side of the house. This eclectic house is one of many which have been built in eastern Gloucester in the last few decades.

#### SAW MILL ROAD

103. Chase Estate (c. 1915): A 1½-story, wood-shingled gambrel-roofed residence, with a piazza with cemented fieldstone posts around the south and east sides; an exterior, stone chimney and an exterior,

brick chimney; an entry in a 3-bay facade; two small dormers in front; and a large, gambrel-roofed wing at the rear. The house, a gazebo, and two wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed outbuildings, occupy an ample, well landscaped lot on a slight hill behind a cemented stone wall along the road.

104. Former Enoch Steere House, or Melody Hill Country Club: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney and a simple, central entry, originally in a 5-bay facade. There is an extension of the house at the right (north) side, with a simple entry in the gable end and a small, brick chimney. Formerly a residence, the house is now part of the Melody Hill Country Club. A large barn, nearby, with a belcast gambrel roof, was converted into a clubhouse. The house occupies a site atop a hill with a view over the golf-course green. (1851- Enoch Steere.)
105. Joseph Cole House: A 1½-story, Late Victorian house, with a small, brick, center chimney; central entry, with bracketed hood, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the rear. The house is set on a slight terrace behind a stone wall. There is a row of mature trees in front of the house. (1895- Jos. Cole.)
106. Williams-Tourtellot House: A 2½-story, Federal structure, with a small, brick, off-center chimney; central entry in a 5-bay facade in a screened porch across the front; and a 1½-story wing at the right side. There is a garage-barn on a large lot, which includes large trees and a stone wall along Saw Mill Road and Howard's Lane (1851- Elder Williams.)
107. Sprague House: A 1½-story, Federal structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a simple entry in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; a 1-story wing at the right side, rear; and a small ell at the left side. (1851- H. Sprague.)

#### SHELDON ROAD

108. Williams Homestead: (c. 1790): A 1½-story house, with medium-sized, brick chimneys; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and an addition at the right side which ends in a shed. The house with connected outbuildings, common in northern New England, is a rare occurrence in Rhode Island. There are open fields in front and woods behind the house, which is set back from the road. (1851- W. Burlingame.)
109. Site of Sawmill: At the north end of Williams Pond is the site of an early sawmill. The site, one of several early mill sites in Gloucester, was once part of a small community known as Williams Mills in the 19th century and is probably associated with the nearby Williams Homestead (#108). (1851- Saw Mill.)

110. Jeremiah Smith Homestead (1793): An altered 1½-story house, with two, interior, brick chimneys; a hip-roofed portico entry, with sidelights, near the center of an 8-bay facade; and three gabled dormers in front. There are several fine outbuildings on a large lot which includes the site of a sawmill. (1851- J. Smith Place.)
111. Benjamin White Place: A 2½-story, end-gable, Federal structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights in a 5-bay facade in a piazza across the front; and a wing, flush with the front, at the left side. There is a full basement at the east end. The place, known as YMCA Camp Shephard in the mid-20th century, was purchased by Factory Mutual Engineering Corporation in the 1960s. The house was renovated, generally in keeping with its historical character, by architect William D. Warner. (1851- Benj. White Place.)
112. Kent Farms: A house, several barns, and other outbuildings plus a large expanse of open land on a private drive far back from Sheldon Road comprise Kent Farms. The house, a 1½-story, Federal structure, has a small, brick, center chimney and a simple entry with transom lights originally central in a 5-bay facade. A small addition was put on at the left side to enclose the well. The old farm had stone walls which divided the fields. In 1934, Alfred G. Kent purchased the place, and farmed the land. He cleared the land of stone walls in the 1940s and 1950s, and raised hay and vegetables. Alfred Kent used the house as a summer residence and sold his produce in East Providence, where he eventually moved. The farm is presently owned and operated by Seth A. Kent, Alfred's son. (1851- W. Cutler.)
113. J. Arnold Place: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; entry with a 4-light transom, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing, flush with the front, at the right (west) side. There is a shed on the property and open fields all around. It is owned by Seth Kent (see #112). (1851- J. Arnold.)
114. Elder Charles Wade House: A 1½-story, end-gable, 18th-century dwelling, with a large, brick, center chimney and a simple central entry in an asymmetrical, 4-bay, south-facing facade. The house is presently vacant. (1851- Rev. C. Wade.)

#### SMITH AND SAYLES RESERVOIR

115. Smith and Sayles Reservoir Summer Colony: Along the shores of Smith and Sayles Reservoir are several dozen houses, varying in size and style from 1-room seasonal cabins, or cottages, to larger, year-round homes. The houses are irregularly grouped around the reservoir. There is a group of houses off Chestnut

Hill Road, another along the northeast side of the reservoir, and a large community at Wescott Beach at the southeast part of the reservoir. The houses and way of life of the occupants is typical of other Gloucester lakeside communities.

#### SNAKE HILL ROAD

116. Knight Farm: Knight Farm, one of Rhode Island's largest and best-known apple farms, consists of a sales-storage building, several outbuildings, and acres of apple orchards at the intersection of Snake Hill Road and West Greenville Road. The sales room, located at the crossroads, is a large, 1-story, flat-roofed structure, with large windows and the salesroom in front, and a cold storage area at the rear occupying most of the building. A wood-shingled barn, along Snake Hill Road, is also used in the apple business. Nearby is an altered Greek Revival house, which was associated with the original 19th-century farm. (1851- Man estate.)
117. Waldron Corners: At the crossroads of Snake Hill Road and Saw Mill Road there was a small community established in the 19th century. Never large, it contained several residences, and, at various times, a school, a church, a store, and a grange hall. Noteworthy extant structures at Waldron Corners include:
  - A. Edwards House: A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central, recessed entry, in a 5-bay facade; a small porch across the left side; and an ell at the rear. (1851- Edwards.)
  - B. Former Union Chapel: A 1½-story, mid-19th-century, end-gable structure, with several additions, near the road. This building was originally a schoolhouse and was moved across the road. Purchased from the Jefferson Society, it was consecrated as the Union Chapel in 1860 and served as a church until 1907. It is now a private residence. (1870- Union Church.)
  - C. Waldron-Steere House (1796): A 1½-story, Federal structure, with a small, tall, brick center chimney; entry, with sidelights, in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; and a 1½-story wing, larger than the main house, at a right angle at the left side. The small house lot at the crossroads is bounded by a wood picket fence. (1851- A. Waldron.)
  - D. B. Smith House: A 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; an enclosed portico entry, central in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a 1-story, flat-roofed wing at the rear. There is a barn nearby. (1851- G. Smith.)

- E. Laurel Grange, P. of H. Number 40 (c. 1914): A large, 2-story structure, set at an angle at the crossroads, close to the road, with a porticoed central entry in the gable end and a small, brick chimney near the rear. The grange society was organized in 1907 and met in the nearby, former Union Chapel, until the hall was built in 1914.
118. Snake Hill Road Roadscape: The approximately 3-mile section of Snake Hill Road between Sandy Brook Road and Chopmist Hill Road (Victory Highway) is a meandering, undulating, relatively narrow road, bounded in many places by stone walls, and containing about a dozen noteworthy historic dwellings and farmsteads. Snake Hill Road may be the earliest road in today's Gloucester. Historical accounts cite it as a possible Indian trail and many Indian artifacts have been found along its route. In 1733, it is recorded, a road was laid out from the Seven Mile line to Ponaganset Pond. It was known as the South Killingly Road before acquiring its present name from Snake Hill in the southeastern part of town. (1831- Snake Hill Road.)
119. Coman House: A 1½-story, Federal house with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and an enclosed weather entry at the right side. There is a new barn behind the house and a fine section of stone walls along the road. (1851- W. Coman.)
120. Former Irons Homestead/United Church of Christ Conference Center: A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with a small, brick chimney at the left side; a central, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade; a 1-story wing at the left side, rear; and a shed dormer at the rear, is the old Irons Homestead. There are several outbuildings, stone walls, and trees on the property. The site, and cluster of buildings, comprise a fine, rural complex. Across the road is a barn foundation. The property, including 100 acres of land, with a pond and a beach, was in the Irons family for many years. It was given to the Congregational church in 1962 and is now used for conferences and weekend retreats and is open to all denominations. Several buildings behind the house are used for recreation and sleeping. (1851- C. Irons.)
121. E. Phillips Farm: A small complex centered on a 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; a 1½-story wing at the right side, rear; and a small weather entry at the right end. There are two barns, one an old, wood-shingled structure, and spacious fields around. (1851- E. Phillips.)
122. Fogarty School: (1970s) A large, sprawling, 1-story, modern, brick elementary school, set back from the road on a large, grassy lot. There are large classroom windows and separate doors leading from each classroom to the outside.

123. Former Esek Smith Farm: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney and a simple, central entry in an asymmetrical facade was the farmhouse for the former Esek Smith Farm. There is a fine barn nearby. (1851- S. Steere.)
124. House (late 1970s): A recent, 2-story, eclectic structure, with a variety of roof types and exterior walls, on a large lot, set back from the road on a circular driveway. This house, part of the latest wave of suburban houses, is larger than most and occupies a larger lot than the average suburban house. It differs also in its "individualistic" design which follows no prevailing pattern.
125. Steere-Angell-Colwell Farm: An old farm, whose original 18th-century farmhouse burned in 1938 and was reconstructed in 1939 on the original foundation as a copy of the original house. The farm, which lies along both sides of Snake Hill Road, constitutes a very fine rural landscape--a "picturesque" setting, with many stone walls, including a good section along both sides of the road and along the driveway leading to the house. In the early 20th century, Mrs. Elizabeth Colwell ran the farm. She erected the present gambrel-roof barn, which was designed by "expert architects and engineers," according to a contemporary newspaper account, in the 1930s. Today, the farm is owned by a father and son and their families, who raise some cattle and cut the hay in the fields. A new barn was built behind the house in 1979. (1851- R. Steere.)
126. Page Farm, or Bonniedale Farm: A 1½-story, early 19th-century house, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; two small, gable dormers in front which break the roof line; a bay window at the left side; and a 1-story addition at the left side, rear. The active horse farm contains two large barns, a large expanse of field across the road, wood rail fences, and fine stone walls along both sides of the road west of the house. (1851- N. Page.)
127. Reynolds Farm (1826): The farmhouse is a 1½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing with a brick chimney and entry at the right side, rear. There are several outbuildings in poor condition. The complex is on a large tract of open, rolling land, at the end of a long private drive. (1851- J. Reynolds.)
128. Camp Aldersgate: A summer camp north of Snake Hill Road, consisting of open fields, woods, and a lake. The major complex of buildings, about 700 feet from the road, includes a large, board-and-batten and fieldstone structure, with stone and brick chimneys, which is used for offices and as a retreat center. Beyond this, along Lake Aldersgate, are waterfront cabins, a

lodge, and staff cabins in the woods. Camp Aldersgate, owned by the Methodist church and open to all denominations, is one of several conference and retreat centers and recreation areas in Gloucester.

129. W. Hopkins House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a simple, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing at the left side. There is a barn on the property. The house, originally on a public road, is now on a private drive, the result of straightening Chopmist Hill Road (Victory Highway) in the 1920s. (1851- W. Hopkins.)
130. Former Cherry Valley School, District Number 10 (1895): A 1½-story, end-gable structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a simple entry at the left side of the gable end; and a small addition at the rear. According to one historical account, this building is the former Cherry Valley School (District Number 10), built in 1895, which replaced an earlier school which stood in the immediate area from the early or mid-19th century. (1895)- Sch. No. 10.)
131. Former S. Steere Farm: The S. Steere farmhouse is a 1½-story, Federal structure with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; a simple framed entry in an 8-bay facade; a small bay window at the right side of the front (which recently replaced a door); a small, shed dormer at the right front; and a 1-story wing at a right angle at the right side, front. There is a barn on a relatively large lot. (1851- S. Steere.)
- \* 132. Peckham Farm: A house, several outbuildings, a sawmill, a gristmill and a relatively large tract of open land constitute the Peckham Farm. The house is a 2½-story, Federal structure with later 19th-century alterations. It has a large, brick, center chimney; a central, porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the right side. Below (north of) the house are several outbuildings, including an old shed-machine shop, a barn, and an L-shaped, vertical-boarded structure containing an 18th-century gristmill and an early 20th century portable sawmill. The mills are along a small brook which flows north into the nearby Keech Pond after passing the site of a former sawmill and its associated dam. The gristmill, perhaps the last extant early gristmills in Gloucester, in well preserved and operating condition, still contains its water-powered turbine and machinery. The sawmill, powered by a gasoline engine, is also capable of water-powered operation. In the recent past it has been operated for short periods of time by water power. Near Keech Pond are the remains of an earth and stone fireplace, said to have been used by charcoal makers who lived in crude huts here in the late 19th century. The open fields include sections of stone wall; some walls are of the usual fieldstone type,

of large, rough, irregularly shaped stones. Elias Peckham, who, with his son, ran the sawmill and gristmill here in the late 19th century, also manufactured a large amount of charcoal and ran a coal and wood business in Providence. The Peckham Farm--with its old farmhouse, outbuildings, old gristmill, sawmill, early sawmill site, and fireplace remains--is rich in historical structures and sites, one of Gloucester's most important historical-architectural-archeological-engineering properties. It is recommended for the National Register. (1831- Mill near Keechs Pond ; 1851- J. Peckham house ; Saw Mill.)

133. A. Brown House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a small wing at the west side. The house is set back from the road on a private drive. (1855- A. Brown.)
134. The Sump Hole: A stone-lined water hole, near the road, probably built in the 19th century to provide water for animals traveling along the road.
- \* 135. The Mann Farm: A 1½-story, Early Victorian house, with two, brick, interior chimneys; entry, with bracketed hood, central in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the right side, rear. There are several farm outbuildings behind the house, including a large, gambrel-roofed barn with two metal ventilators and a silo. Around this farm complex nucleus are open fields, some bounded by stone walls. The farm was probably established by Manaria Killey in the 18th century. In the late 19th century, it was owned and operated by Harley Phillips, whose wife was the great-granddaughter of Manania Killey. The Mann Farm, perhaps the last operating dairy farm, is recommended for the National Register (1851- D. E. Sweet.)
136. Place Farm: Far back from the road, along a dirt, private driveway, are two houses, several outbuildings, and a relatively large tract of open land comprising the Place Farm. Both houses are 1½-story, early 19th-century structures, with small, brick chimneys and 5-bay facades. Both houses also have several outbuildings, including vertical-board-sided barns. Welcome F. Place purchased the property more than 100 years ago. Today, the buildings and a large tract of land south of Snake Hill Road are owned by his daughter, Mable Place. (1870- A. Bucklin.)
137. Former Anson Smith Farm: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure, with a recent, large, brick, off-center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and an entry at the left side. There is a barn across the road. (1851- Anson Smith.)
139. Water Hole: A rectangular, stone-lined, water hole near the road, probably constructed in the 19th century as a watering place for animals.



#### SPRAGUE HILL ROAD

140. Former J. Sweet Farm: The existing farmhouse, probably replacing an earlier dwelling, is much altered. It is a 1½-story structure, probably dating from about 1850. A 1-story wing is attached to the 5-bay main block, which has a central entrance. The property, at the end of a private drive, includes a large barn with cupola. (1851- J. Sweet.)

#### SPRING GROVE ROAD

141. Spring Grove: A group of four, 2½-story, mid-19th-century houses on a well landscaped lot, along a small private drive off Spring Grove Road. They were built to house workers in the mill here. In about 1836, Smith Mowry and his son purchased the site and began manufacturing cotton goods. By 1855, the houses were probably built and the small community was known as Spring Grove. In 1868, T. R. White & Co., who owned mills in Chepachet and Clarkville, purchased the property and commenced manufacturing shoddy goods. The textile mill, which worked until World War I, is now gone, but the houses remain as material reminders of one of Gloucester's smaller communities. (1851- Scott Mowry's Mill.)
142. Underground Residence: A flat-roofed, late 20th-century dwelling, built into the side of a small hill, with a large garage door and a small, simply framed entry, in front. The slopes of the hill and south side of the residence are lined with numerous railroad ties. This type of dwelling has achieved some measure of popularity throughout the country in the recent past, partly as a response to the rapidly rising cost of heating homes in northern climes.

#### STONE DAM ROAD

143. House (late 1970s): A contemporary, 2-story structure, with a full basement; vertical board-and-batten sides; a large, field-stone, exterior chimney; sliding glass doors; a porch across the front; and an open garage in a lean-to section at the right side. The house is well sited on a large lot on a small slope. It is one of several houses erected along Stone Dam Road during the 1970s which represent the suburban advance into central Gloucester.

#### TANYARD LANE

(See Chepachet Village Historic District, #1)

#### TARKILN ROAD

144. Tarkiln Road Roadscape: For a short distance east of Long Entry Road, Tarkiln Road is a narrow, essentially unimproved, winding road, lined in many places with stone walls and large trees. An old, well preserved route, essentially in its original state

with few modern intrusions or improvements, the road, with its meandering course, stone walls, trees and historic houses, provides a sense of an earlier era.

145. Former Matthewson Paine Farm: The farmhouse is a 1½-story, Greek Revival structure, set at an angle to the road, with a small, brick, off-center chimney and a stone chimney at the rear, and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. There are several small barns on the property. (1851- M. Paine.)
146. Colwell Farm: The complex is centered on a 2½-story, 18th-century farmhouse, with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple, off-center entry in a 5-bay facade; a small wing at the right side, rear; and an ell at the rear. There are several vertical-board-sided outbuildings. The house, set back from the road on a private drive, is in the center of a large, open area, with fields beyond. (1870- J. & R. Colwell.)
147. R. R. Clemence House (1790s; pre-1822): A 1½-story, L-shaped structure. The part at the rear is the original house, built in the 1790s. The front section, with a large, brick, center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade, was built before 1822. The house was recently restored. There are several small outbuildings on the property. (1851- R. R. Clemence.)
148. Former Reuben Clemence Farm: The focus of the former Reuben Clemence Farm is a 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; an enclosed porch addition at the left end; and a 1-story ell at the rear. There are several large, vertical-board-sided barns nearby, and stone walls and large trees lining the road near the house. The land around once comprised a lovely rural landscape, but creation of a landfill site here has destroyed the landscape west of the house; however, the fields north of the house remain intact. Reuben Clemence, who lived here in the late 19th century, was a member of the town council and served in the state assembly. (1870- R. A. Clemence.)

#### TOURTELLOT HILL ROAD

149. Former Bennett Steere Farm: The former farmhouse is a 1½-story, Federal structure, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; a wing at the right side; and a shed roof dormer at the rear. There is a large barn on the property. (1851- Bennett Steere.)
150. Former Tourtelot Farm: A 1½-story, Federal house, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; an off-center entry, with simple surround, in a 5-bay facade; a hip-roofed, 1-story wing at the left side, flush with the front; and an ell at the rear,

is the former farmhouse of the Tourtellot Farm. There is a shed nearby, and a barn across the road. (1851- A. Tourtellot.)

151. Former Town Farm: A long, 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, 18th-century structure, with a large, interior, stone and brick chimney and an exterior brick chimney; two, simply framed entries in an 8-bay facade; and three small shed dormers in front. The former Town Farm, also known as the Town Asylum and Poor Farm, has served the needs of Gloucester's poor since the late 19th century. Inmates at the farm raised their own food. In the early 20th-century, probably shortly before World War I, the place became a private residence. (1851- J. Matthewson.)
152. Former Smith-Coughlin Farm: The Smith-Coughlin farmhouse is a 1½-story, 18th-century, end-gable structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with simple surround, in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a wing at the west end. There is a barn on the property. (1851- Geo. Smith.)
- \* 153. C. C. Mathewson Farm: The C. C. Mathewson Farm includes a house, outbuildings, fields and an orchard. The farmhouse, a 2½-story, 18th-century structure, with Greek Revival alterations, has a large, brick, center chimney; a central, enclosed portico entry in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; a hip-roofed piazza across the east end, with an entry; and a 1-story, hip-roofed wing attached to the left rear corner. There are several outbuildings, on both sides of the road, including a large, wood-shingled barn south of the house. There is a fine rural landscape behind the house, with open fields, a small orchard, and stone walls. (1870- C. C. Mathewson.)

#### VICTORY HIGHWAY

154. Steere's Mill (1863): A 2-story structure, with vertical board sides, built into an embankment along Sucker Brook. A sawmill was built here about 1810 by Anthony Steere; later, it was given to his sons Henry and Smith A. Steere, who sawed large quantities of logs. In 1863, the sawmill and adjacent land became the property of George W. Steere, brother of Henry and Smith. George tore down the old mill and built a new one, 100 feet long, and installed a circular saw, planing machines, matchers and joiners. During the Civil War, George Steere installed cards and pickers in the mill and manufactured shoddy. In the early 20th century, John P. Steere installed a small-sized generator in the top floor of the mill and connected it to the water wheel. John Steere studied electricity, attended the University of Rhode Island, received a degree in engineering, and eventually installed an electric system. At first furnishing electricity for his home, electricity was brought to Chepachet in 1922, and served about 120 customers in a small

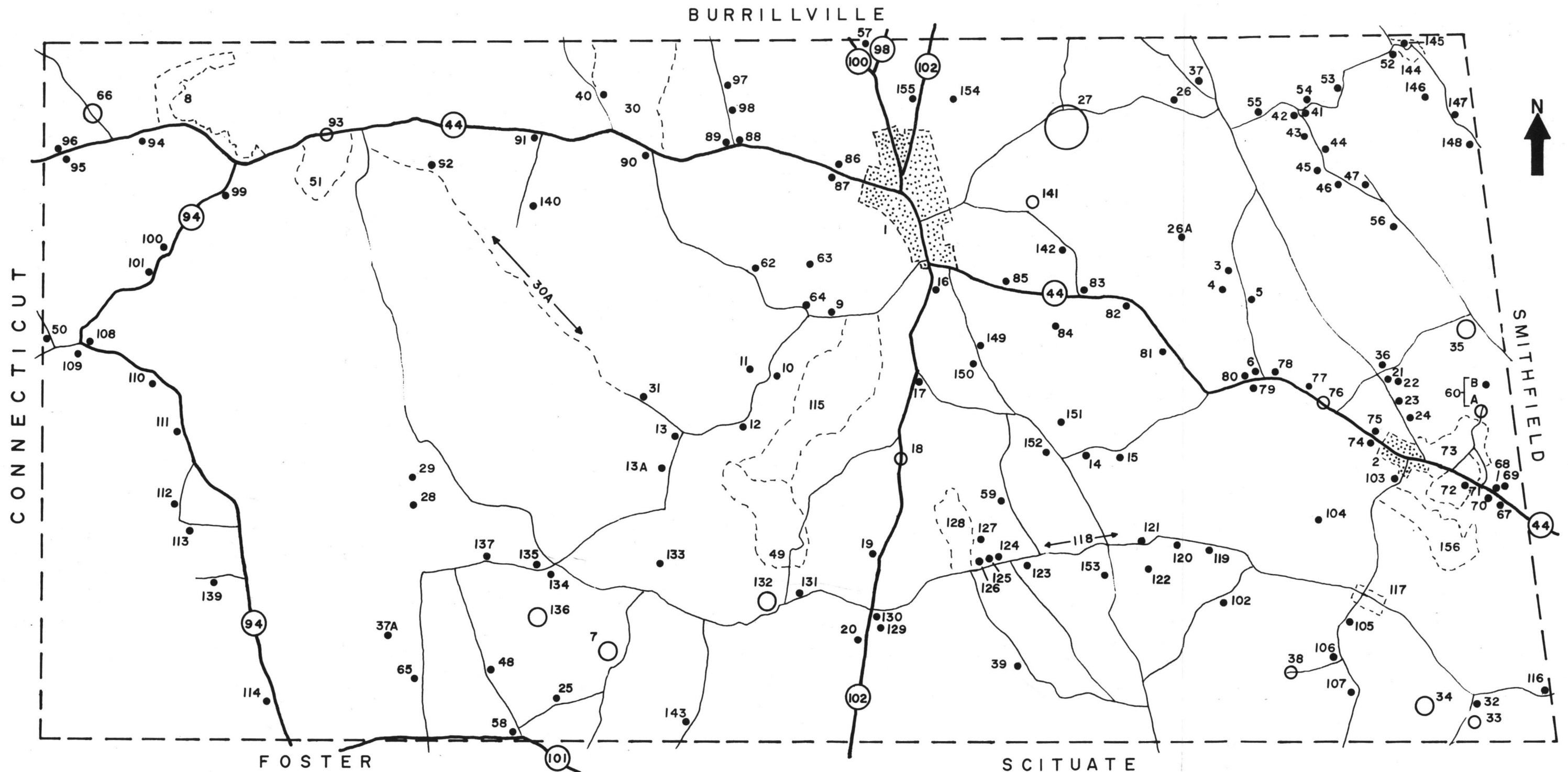
local area extending as far north as Mapleville and Oakland in Burrillville, the wires hung on six miles of poles. As business outgrew the water wheels, two diesel engines and a booster were built in Chepachet and were used during times of low water. In 1931, Steere's lighting plant was sold to Narragansett Electric Company. Soon after, the mill ceased to work; it has been idle for many years. (1855- Steere's Saw Mill.)

155. The Old Town Burying Ground (Historical Cemetery Number 25): A relatively large cemetery divided into two individual burying sections. The larger, and older one to the north, is further divided into two small, separately enclosed plots. Both areas are bounded by iron rails set into granite posts. Located near a working farm, the cemetery enjoys a pleasant rural setting despite being very close to the road. The cemetery, the old burying ground for the village, contains the graves of some old families, including Kimballs, Owens and Keeches, some with fine headstones. (1851- graveyard.)

(See also Chepachet Village Historic District, #1)

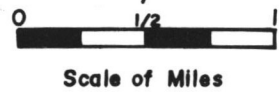
#### WATERMAN RESERVOIR

156. Waterman Reservoir Summer Community: Along and near the shores of Waterman Reservoir are several relatively large concentrations of summer houses. Perhaps the earliest is Camp Russell, off Putnam Pike. Appealing to people of average means, it contains several dozen small, 1-story, nondescript structures of various shapes, including trailers and quonset huts, with lean-to additions, set on small lots in a small area. There is a small beach nearby. Camp Russell is typical of many small summer colonies that were established along most of Rhode Island's ponds, lakes, and reservoirs in the between-world-wars era. Across the water from Camp Russell, along the south shore of the western arm of the reservoir, off Saw Mill Road, is another concentration of cottages and houses. This community consists of larger, better built houses, on more spacious lots, including some with private access to the water. Originally built as summer houses, many have been converted to year-round residence.



GLOCESTER, R. I.  
 HISTORIC DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES  
 & SITES

JULY, 1980



- LEGEND:
- DISTRICTS
  - AREAS
  - MORE THAN 1 STRUCTURE
  - STRUCTURES, SITES
  - MAIN ROADS
  - OTHER ROADS

APPENDIX A  
NATURAL FEATURES AND AREAS

The following list of natural features and areas is a summary of the Rhode Island Audubon Society's 1971 inventory of unique natural areas for Gloucester. Since some of these places include rare and possibly endangered plant species which require protection; they have not been located on the maps. Numbers correspond to the Audubon Society list.

- R 16: Dark Swamp: A very remote cedar swamp with rhododendron and a wildlife habitat. A totally unspoiled cedar swamp-forest combination with a true wilderness flavor. It was once visited by H. P. Lovecraft, noted Rhode Island author, and was part of an area known as the "shipyard" which provided wood for shipping needs.
- R 18: Bowdish Islands: Floating bog mats on Bowdish Reservoir with unusual wildlife and vegetation.
- R 22: Smith and Sayles Reservoir (East Side): A well developed mesic forest with a wide variety of species of exceptional stature and an unusual combination of northern and southern species together.
- R 36: Stingo Brook Area: A unique plant community said to include the best stand of hobblebush in Rhode Island.
- R 44: Hemlock Ledges: A large rock outcropping with unique plants and unique wildlife; it is part of the Dawley State Management Area.
- R 56: Maurie Meadow: A remote and wild area with a pure hemlock stand and a good wildlife bog. There is a bridge over the river about ten feet long made from a single piece of rock.
- R 57: Keech Pond Woodland: A very well developed mixed stand of hardwood and hemlock along the west shore of Keech Pond.
- R 81: Camp Mater Spei Area: A stand of unusually large hemlock trees.
- R 99: Striped Maple Stand: The best site in the state for striped maple.
- R 100: Cranberry Bog: Marshes, bogs and swamps including a natural cranberry bog.
- R 101: Orchid Area: A small area containing orchids, a rare plant.
- R 102: Tower Woodland: A plant community of unusual diversity and productivity containing a small stand of mature hemlock.
- R 128: Ponaganset Mounds: Unusual sod-hut remains, or mounds in the woods; possibly the site of wood chopper's huts (See RIHPC #37A).

- R 160: Widow Smith Road Bog: A scenic bog, with rhodora, swamp azelea, and bayberry, in a hilly area.
- R 162: Shingle Mill Pond Brook: A small but highly scenic brookside woodland, the brook flowing through a woodland of mixed hardwoods, hemlocks, and pine in a very pretty combination of natural features.
- R 163: Putnam Pike Ledge Area: An area of extensive and remote woods and ledges with unusual vegetation.
- R 215: Walkabout Trail: A trail system in the state forest laid out by Australian sailors during a visit to the United States.
- R 216: Durfee Hill Road: A scenic gravel, or unimproved road, passing over a high hill and through forest.
- R 225: Durfee Hill Boiling Spring: A very active spring, one of the best in the state, in a beautiful woodland setting.
- R 229: Elbow Rock Road Area: A massive rock formation which was scoured and smoothed by the last ice sheet and "plucked" on the south side--leaving a steep face and scattered boulders. The area is covered with forest, including a fine growth of mountain laurel. A picturesque setting.
- R 248: Durfee Hill Gold Mine (See RIHPC #29).

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