

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                        |
|------------------------|
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island |
| COUNTY:<br>Washington  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY       |
| ENTRY DATE             |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Kingston Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
See continuation sheet 1 for district boundaries.

CITY OR TOWN:  
South Kingston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
#2 -- Tiernan

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
44

COUNTY:  
Washington

CODE:  
009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |  |   |  |                                   |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural          | <input type="checkbox"/> Government        | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> Military          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                    |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   |  |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
South Kingston Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
66 High Street, Wakefield

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
44

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (See continuation sheet 1)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1956, 1957  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Independence Ave. & 1st St., S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                 |  |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered       | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Though Kingston Village did not develop extensively until the mid-eighteenth century, its earliest settlement dates from the so-called Pettaquanscutt Purchase -- a major part of that tract of land known by its aboriginal name as the Narragansett Country, and an extremely fertile and productive area which included within its boundaries the present towns of North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Narragansett -- from the Narragansett Indians in 1658. The original purchasers, a Boston Company of seven men whose intent was to found a settlement rivaling the Providence Plantations, settled on the east slope of what became known as Tower Hill, overlooking Narragansett Bay in the eastern part of the present South Kingston. On a ridge and its adjacent slopes, about four miles west of Tower Hill, these purchasers laid out a 1,000-acre tract of land for farms, and soon a small settlement was established here, apart from the village at Tower Hill. This was the beginning of Kingston Village, known then as Little Rest, a name derived from the supposed sojourn of soldiers just prior to the Great Swamp Fight of ~~1755~~ 1675 during the King Philip's War.

The basis of this new village was formed by the crossroads of the old Pequot Indian Trail, now North and South Roads, and a right-of-way through the farms to Tower Hill, later to become the main street of Kingston -- Kingston Road -- and its extension as Mooresfield Road. (The Post Road, which elsewhere in western and southern Rhode Island had generally followed the Pequot Trail, had bypassed this portion to pass instead to the east through Tower Hill.) The first house lots were established soon after 1700 when Robert Potter, who maintained a farm to the north of the main street, deeded a number of small-lots along that side of the street, mostly to his children. The first house known to have been built in Kingston was erected in 1710 by John Moore at the crossroads, on a two-acre lot on the southeast corner. A substantial two-and-a-half-story, three-bay wide, gambrel-roofed house, it remains today with a later two-bay extension on its west side (see map code f). Opposite, facing South Road, is the Elisha Reynolds House built in 1738; the second oldest extant structure in the village, it too is a two-and-a-half-story, gambrel-roofed structure (see map code jj).

South Kingston was incorporated as a town in 1732 and a decade later a court house and jail had been raised at Tower Hill, an outgrowth of the earliest settlement in the town. The growth of the community at Little Rest had been rapid however and was soon large enough to challenge Tower Hill, and when in 1752 the original court house and jail had fallen into disrepair, the county seat was transferred to Little Rest, the beginning of a gradual shift of county activities which would culminate a century later. It was in this period that Kingston Village (its name after 1825) developed. The center for the system of large plantations in the fertile South County region of the pre-Revolutionary and Early Republican era, the village was service oriented, the cultural, professional, and legal center of the county.

In 1775 the old County Court House was constructed at 1329 Kingston

(see continuation sheet 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) 1

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Rhode Island     |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Washington       |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

(Number all entries)

2. Location.

For the purposes of this National Register nomination, the bounds of the Kingston Village Historic District are as follows: the district includes all properties on both sides of North Road between its intersections with Kingston Road and Briar Lane, to a distance of 200 feet back from the center line of North Road; all properties on both sides of Mooresfield Road between its intersection with Kingston Road and a point 600 feet easterly on Mooresfield Road, to a distance of 200 feet back from the center line of Mooresfield Road; all properties on both sides of South Road between its intersection with Kingston Road and a point 1,000 feet southerly on South Road so as to bound on but not include the Potter Cemetery, to a distance of 200 feet back from the center line of South Road on its east side and to a distance of 600 feet back from the center line of South Road on its west side; all properties on the south side of and including Kingston Road between its intersections with Mooresfield Road and Little Rest Road, to a distance of 200 feet back from the center line of Kingston Road; and all properties on the north side of Kingston Road between its intersections with Mooresfield Road and Upper Campus Road, to a distance of 400 feet back from the center line of Kingston Road.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys.

Rhode Island Statewide Survey: Report Number 13  
1970 -- State  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
John Brown House, 52 Power Street  
Providence, Rhode Island Code 44

7. Description.

Road (see map code u). One of the five original state houses where the rotating Rhode Island General Assembly met from 1776 to 1791, it served as the county court house for 115 years. A typical two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed late Colonial structure when built, it was altered to its present appearance in 1876 by the addition of a mansard roof and a central pavillion and tower to which the original belfry was moved. Since the removal of the county court to West Kingston at the end of the nineteenth century, the building has been the home of the Kingston Free Library. Immediately to the left of the Court House, at 1331 Kingston Road (see map code v), is the old County Records Office, now the Little Rest Museum, a granite Greek Revival structure which when built was said to be the first fully fireproof building in the state. In 1792 the old County Jail was erected at 1348 Kingston Road (see map code x); it is now the headquarters of the Petaquamscutt Historical Society. The Kingston Inn, a large gambrel-roofed structure constructed in 1757, stands at 1320 Kingston Road (see map code r), nearly opposite the Caleb Westcott Tavern of 1774 at 1309-1311 Kingston Road (see map code m), and the Timothy Peckham Tavern of before 1800 at 1323 Kingston Road (see map code s), both somewhat smaller scaled gable-roofed buildings. Opposite the Court House

(see continuation sheet 2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

is the Kingston Congregational Church at 1334 Kingston Road (see map code w) built in 1820 on the typical meeting house plan; the peculiar Parish House, with its Federal elliptical doorway and factory-type monitor roof, was built adjacent to the church at 1328 Kingston Road (see map code t) in 1832. A private school was started as early as 1759; later used as a store and more recently as a post office, the original one-room school house remains today at 1313 Kingston Road (see map code n).

The only farmhouse from this period within the confines of the village was located at the end of a narrow lane (see map code ii), now known by the name of the original owner, the Hon. Elisha Reynolds Potter, a Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice, who built his house in 1809 in the traditional New England two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, central chimney form. In town the prevalent doorway type dates from the Federal period and has side pilasters with elongated capitals so as to accommodate a transom light under the entablature; good examples are those of the Thomas R. Wells House of 1820 at 25 North Road (see map code cc) and the Luke Aldrich House of 1829 opposite at 36 North Road (see map code ff). Most houses here have incorporated splayed lintel window caps but only the Wilkins Updike House of 1819 at 1276 Kingston Road (see map code d) has quoining at the house's corners as well. The Tomas S. Taylor House of 1827 at 1305 Kingston Road (see map code k), the Asa Potter House of 1829 at 1291 Kingston Road (see map code h), and the Luke Aldrich House are all built on the central-hall, four room, two chimney plan and have hip roofs with monitors and balustrades, an important Federal type. The first two have elaborate entrance porticos as well, with side and transom lights. The Sarah Fellows House of c.1820 at 7 South Road (see map code kk) has a gable-on-hip roof. During the eighteenth century the surrounding plantations had kept a number of slaves, but by the beginning of the nineteenth century this had all but ceased and many of the freed slaves found their way to Kingston. One, a blacksmith named George Fayerweather, built the one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed house on Mooresfield Road (see map code z) in 1820, which has been restored as a museum in recent years.

With the exception of the old County Records Office of 1857, the Henry Eldred, Jr., House of c.1840 at 26 North Road (see map code dd) is the only good example of the Greek Revival period in Kingston; originally a one-story Doric temple with a portico of six free-standing columns, it was raised earlier this century by inserting a shingled second story above the entablature. But when the railroad was built through South Kingstown in 1837 Kingston Village was bypassed, and with no water power of its own, Kingston was not industrialized as were so many Colonial towns of Rhode Island. Sustained only by its status as the county seat -- the heyday of the large plantations was now over -- and the establishment of the Kingston Seminary in 1853 -- the bracketed Victorian school building is located at 33 North Road (see map code ee) -- the town slowly deteriorated during the second half of the nineteenth century. A mansard cottage on the outskirts of the village at 1262 Kingston Road (see map code c), a one-and-a-half-story

(see continuation sheet 3)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

"Lazy-T" plan farmhouse with carpenter detail, and the alterations made to the Court House in the then current Second Empire style, are almost the only representations of the Victorian period in Kingston Village.

The founding of the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in 1892 on the outskirts of Kingston has been the single most important development of the village since its inception. Now the University of Rhode Island, the school has grown to a considerable size in recent years. But except for the new faculty houses along Kingston Road, which necessitated the demolition of the 1740 Cyrus French Estate, the university has been expanding back away from the village itself on old farmlands. Today Kingston Village has buildings dating from the early eighteenth century to the twentieth century, but the vast majority are from the Colonial and Early Republican eras including a central cluster of twenty-nine adjacent structures from this early period.

Selective Inventory of Structures of Special Historic and Architectural Value

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Street, Name, Date</u>                                      | <u>Map Code</u> |
|------------|--|-----------------|
|            | <u>Kingston Road</u>   |                 |
| 1243       | Sherwell, 1893   | a               |
| 1259       | William H. Chace House, c.1750                                 | b               |
| 1262       | Mansard House, c.1875  | c               |
| 1276       | Wilkins Updike House, 1819                                     | d               |
| 1282       | Kingston Hill Store, c. 1850                                   | e               |
| 1286       | John Moore House, 1710   | f               |
| 1286R      | Updike Law Office  | g               |
| 1291       | Asa Potter House, 1829   | h               |
| 1299       | Asa Potter Law Office, 1831                                    | i               |
| 1301       | Abel Cottrell House, 1818                                      | j               |
| 1305       | Thomas S. Taylor House, 1827 (ell, Joseph Perkins House, 1775) | k               |
| 1308       | John Douglas House, 1753                                       | l               |
| 1309       | Caleb Westcott Tavern, 1774                                    | m               |
| 1313       | Private School, 1759   | n               |
| 1314       | Matthew Waite House, 1819                                      | o               |
| 1315       | Nichols Stage Coach Barn, 1825                                 | p               |
| 1319       | John T. Nichols House/Landholders Bank, 1802                   | q               |
| 1320       | Kingston Inn, 1757   | r               |
| 1323       | Timothy Peckham Tavern, pre-1800                               | s               |
| 1328       | Parish House/Thomas P. Wells House, 1832                       | t               |
| 1329       | Old County Court House, 1775                                   | u               |
| 1331       | Old County Records Office, 1857                                | v               |
| 1334       | Kingston Congregational Church, 1820                           | w               |

(see continuation sheet 4)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #4

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Kingston Road (continued)

- 1348 Old County Jail, 1792 x
- John Potter House, 1775 y

Mooresfield Road

- George Fayerweather House, 1820 z
- Solomon Fayerweather House, c.1845 aa

North Road

- 12 Timothy Peckham House, c.1796 bb
- 25 Thomas R. Wells House, 1820 cc
- 26 Henry Eldred, Jr., House, c.1840 dd
- 33 Kingston Seminary, 1853 ee
- 36 Luke Aldrich House, 1829 ff
- 39 G.N. Champlin House, c.1850 gg

Potter Lane

- Old Manor House hh
- Elisha Reynolds Potter House, 1809 ii

South Road

- 1 Elisha Reynolds House, 1738 jj
- 7 Sarah Fellows House, c.1820 kk
- 8 Elisha Gardner House, c.1803 ll
- 31 Herbert Helme House, c.1788 mm

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally the site of the hunting and agricultural grounds of the Narragansett Indians, the South County region in the eighteenth century developed a society which was an anomaly in New England, indeed which was more akin to the plantations of the South. With a cultural affinity to Newport, an economy based on slaves, and a freedom from the religious restrictions of the other New England colonies, a wealthy, even flamboyant, life of leisure flourished. While the other Rhode Island towns had been built around ports, basing their economies on the commerce of trade, Kingston in a way unique to Rhode Island was the cultural and professional center of a great agricultural district.

The village was for nearly a century and a half the county seat, and the Court House itself was for fifteen years, through the Revolutionary War and after, one of the five state houses of Rhode Island. Besides the Court House, Records Office, and Jail, there were taverns and inns, stores, a bank, lawyers' offices, two schools, a church, doctor's offices, blacksmith shops, and even a stage coach barn. Unchanged by the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century, this heritage comes down to us today nearly intact. For of the forty-four structures within the historic district, fully three quarters predate 1840, within a village environment essentially unchanged for over a century.

Today the Town of South Kingstown has still no real town center, but rather retains its agrarian character, interspersed with local communities of various sorts. Most recent growth has been centered to the south of Kingston about the nineteenth century industrial villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale, and today nothing remains of the original settlement at Tower Hill. With the development of the University of Rhode Island at Kingston, there has been pressure for further suburbanization and resort facilities. The value of Kingston Village's historic and architectural fabric, almost unchanged since its greatest period of growth, has long been recognized and protected by its residents, and since 1959 has been under the control of a locally initiated historic zoning ordinance and its preservation seems thus assured.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Miller, William Davis, Early Houses of the King's Province in the Narragansett Country, Wakefield (R.I.), 1941  
 Miller, William Davis, The Removal of the County Seat from Tower Hill to Little Rest, R.I. Hist. Soc., 1926  
 National Society of Colonial Dames, Old Houses in the South County of Rhode Island, Providence, 1932  
 Taylor, Philip Kittredge, "Little Rest", New England Magazine, April 1903  
 Woodward, Carl R., Plantation in Yankeeland, Chester (Conn.), 1971

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | 41° 29' 01"             | 71° 31' 45"             |        |   |                         |  |
| NE   | 41° 28' 56"             | 71° 31' 07"             |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | 41° 28' 35"             | 71° 31' 11"             |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | 41° 28' 40"             | 71° 31' 49"             |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **47 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
James Gibbs

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: March 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 44

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date APR 12 1974

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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



- 2-F. Shingle House (Mid 20th Century; Green Hill Beach Road): An unusual summer house with wood shingle and board sides; a long-sloping gable at the south side that overhangs a porch; an enclosed, semi-elliptical-framed porch facing the road; and a large, pedimented, colonial type window at the left side. The building is set on a 1-story fieldstone foundation.
- \*\*3. Kingston Village Historic District: Kingston Village, entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, consists of some 39 individually significant buildings. Most are located along Route 138, Kingstown and Mooresfield roads; the rest are along North Road and South Road and Potter Lane. The 39 buildings inventoried in this report cover a time span of 183 years; 32 are in residential use today; three buildings once served as taverns or inns, one was a private school, two served as law offices, and one was built as a stagecoach barn. The former county court house is now a library, and a former jail building is now a historical society museum and archives. A church and a store continue their original functions.

South Kingston's first settlement was at Tower Hill (#125). From there, roads were laid out inland in the 17th century, and other connecting roads were constructed, including North and South Road, laid out in 1670. About 1700, in the then agricultural hinterland, small house lots and holdings were created along what became main road (Kingstown Road).

In the first half of the 18th century, several houses were built, and a blacksmith and a hatter were established here. In 1752, after a petition by residents of Little Rest (the original name of Kingston), which said that they would build several taverns for the entertainment of those attending court, the court house and jail were moved here from Tower Hill. In addition to the tavern, other 18th-century additions to the village included a saddler's shop (about 1754), a school (about 1759), and a tanner, a currier, a silversmith, and a merchant (all about 1775). Eight extant houses in the village also date from the latter half of the 18th century.

Little Rest, landlocked and non-industrial was from its beginnings an intellectual center similar to a handful of other communities in Rhode Island including Union Village in North Smithfield and Hopkinton City in Hopkinton. In 1818, a bank was established in Little Rest; soon after, the Congregational church and a school, which incorporated in the village as the Pettaquamscutt Academy, moved here from Tower Hill. Pease and Niles' 1819 gazetteer account described "Little rest hill" as a small, but pleasant village, on "a prospective and interesting site", and containing 25 dwelling houses, a court house, and a bank. Both the village and the academy took the name, Kingston, in 1826.

Artisans and professionals found Kingston a pleasant place to live. Luke Aldrich carried on cabinetmaking, the Fayerweather family operated a blacksmith shop for 87-years, and in the 1830s, a newspaper, the Rhode Island Advocate--the first produced in Washington County--was published in the village. Several generations of the Potter family, beginning with Elisha Reynolds Potter (1764-1835) were important, their influence spreading beyond the local community as Rhode Island and United States Representatives, in education, medicine, manufacturing, and the military and legal professions.

The New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad, completed in 1837, passed a few miles west of Kingston, creating West Kingston; in 1839, a stagecoach linked West Kingston with Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier, stopping in Kingston at the J. N. Taylor Tavern enroute. The prosperous residents of Kingston built several fine homes befitting their status in life. Noteworthy late Federal era dwellings are the 1827 Thomas S. Taylor House at 1305 Kingstown Road, and the 1829 Asa Potter House at 1291 Kingstown Road and the 1829 Luke Aldrich House at 36 North Road. The c. 1840 Henry Eldred, Jr., House at 26 North Road is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture.

The first half of the 19th century was probably the "golden age" of Kingston. However, during the second half of the century, industry, government functions, and major commercial establishments were located elsewhere. In the 1850s, the Kingston Saving Bank and the Kingston Seminary were established, but the latter was short-lived, closing down as a school in 1863. The Kingston Academy burned in 1882. The Narragansett Pier Railroad, completed in 1876, bypassed Kingston, and in 1877, the last stage stopped at the Taylor Tavern; the following year, a new town hall was built in Wakefield. A new court house was built in West Kingston in 1895; the old court house, remodeled in 1876, became a library. Through all these changes, Kingston retained its quiet charm and grace, attracting, among others, Madam Lucca, a Viennese opera star, who spent several summers here.

The creation of the state's land grant college at Kingston in 1889 was significant in maintaining the vitality of the village. The Rhode Island College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, as it became known in 1892, grew considerably in the 20th century, particularly after World War II, when it became the University of Rhode Island (in 1951) and spread beyond its original site around the quadrangle. Today, several university-associated buildings are within or near the Kingston Historic District, including a fraternity house on North Road and faculty apartments west of Upper College Road along Kingstown Road. Despite a large amount of vehicular traffic generated by the university, and through traffic along Main Street (Route 138), the major east-west highway

in southern Rhode Island, the village retains a quiet ambiance and remains essentially a residential community, with an art association, museums, a library, and a craft guild.

Laid out in the early 18th century and the county seat for nearly 150 years, Kingston Village includes a wide variety of buildings: a court house, a records office, a jail, taverns and inns, stores, banks, a post office, a church, doctor's and lawyer's offices, blacksmith shops, tanners, silversmiths, cabinetmakers, stage coach barns, hatters, libraries, museums, and an art association. Those that remain comprise, both architecturally and historically, one of Rhode Island's finest and best preserved 18th and 19th-century villages. Its significant structures are included in the following inventory.

- 3-A. Sherwell/The Crossways (1893; 1243 Kingstown Road): Sherwell, a late addition to Kingston Village, is a large, 2½-story, Queen Anne style residence, with a fine, wood-shingled carriage house. It was built at the east end of the village by Herbert J. Wells; its name incorporates the Sherman and Wells families names. (1895- H. J. Wells.)
- 3-B. William H. Case House (c. 1750 et seq.; 1259 Kingstown Road): A small cottage, with a central entry in a 3-bay facade, and a brick center chimney. Most sources date the house around 1750; it was altered in the mid 19th century to its present appearance. (1862- J. Babcock & G. Fairweather.)
- 3-C. C. F. Brown House (1889; 1258 (?) Kingstown Road): A 2-story, wood-shingled, L-plan house with a pair of brick interior chimneys and a wrap-around porch at the east end. A blacksmith shop occupied part of this corner lot in the 19th century (1895- C. F. Brown.)
- 3-D. B. F. Brown House (c. 1875; 1262 Kingstown Road): A 1½-story Second Empire dwelling, with a "lazy T" plan and carpenterwork detail. (1895- B. F. Brown.)
- 3-E. Wilkins Updike House (1819; 1276 Kingstown Road): A large, 2½-story, Federal residence, with a large, brick, center chimney, corner quoins; a tall, narrow doorway with transom lights and a bracketed cornice, centered in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the rear. The house was built by Wilkins Updike, who inherited Cocumscussoc (Smith's Castle) near Wickford, but had to sell it. He moved to Little Rest before 1819, and later built this house and a law office nearby. Wilkins Updike, who also represented the town in the General Assembly, is the author of the "History of the Narragansett Church." (1862- W. Updike.)
- 3-F. John Moore House (1710; 1286 Kingstown Road): A large, colonial era, gambrel-roofed structure, with a stone center chimney;—a later entry, centered in a 5-bay facade; and a gambrel-roofed

dormer. Originally a half house (the east, or left side, is older) built by John Moore, and now the oldest house in Kingston, it was later owned by Abraham Perkins, a blacksmith, and Luke Aldrich, who had a cabinet and undertaker's shop on the corner. (1862- L. Aldrich.)

- 3-G. Asa Potter House (1829; 1291 Kingstown Road): A large, handsome, hip-roofed, late Federal era, "block-like" residence, with 2, tall, brick, end interior chimneys (and central hallway plan); a simple, portico entry, with side and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; a veranda at the northeast corner; and a 1½-story gable-roofed ell at the rear. The roof parapet, in an alternating block panel and baluster design, appears on two other village houses. This house occupies a large lot at the corner of North Road. Built by Asa Potter, in the late 19th century it was the residence of William H. Potter, a Harvard law school graduate and son of Elisha R. Potter. (1870- W. H. Potter.)
- 3-H. Elisha Reynolds House/The Lucca House/The Tavern Hall Club (1738; 1296 Kingstown Road): A very large, L-plan, gambrel-roofed structure sited close to Kingstown and South roads. The second oldest extant structure in Kingston, it was built about 1738 by Elisha Reynolds, then went to Elisha's grandson, Elisha R. Potter, and remained in the Potter family for more than a century and a half. It was used for a variety of purposes: a tavern, a store, a boot and shoe factory, a free library, a boys' school and boarding house, a house of worship and a lecture hall for several summers during the 1870s, it was the home of Madam Lucca, a Vienna-born opera singer. In 1832, the Rhode Island Advocate, the first newspaper in South County, was here. In 1919, the Tavern Hall Club purchased the building and converted it to clubhouse use. There are apartments above the club rooms, which are still used today. (1862- Dr. T. M. Potter.)
- 3-I. Abel Cottrell House (1818; 1301 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a small shed roof veranda across the left side; and an ell at the rear. Abel Cottrell was a tailor, the town sergeant, and an officer of the court; his house occupies the site of a house built about 1775. Mary and Marie Rose had a hat shop in the front for many years. (1870- Misses Rose.)
- 3-J. Joseph Perkins House/Hagadorn House/Hawthorne House & Thomas S. Taylor House (c. 1775, 1827; 1305 Kingstown Road): About 1775, Joseph Perkins, a silversmith and merchant, built the original house here, near the road. A traditional, gable-roofed structure, with a large, center chimney and a central pedimented entry in a 5-bay facade, it was sold in 1812 to John Hagadorn and was known briefly as Hawthorne House after the English translation of the German work hagadorn. Hagadorn's niece, Elisa, inherited the house in 1817. She married Thomas Stoddard Taylor a postmaster and merchant. In 1827, he moved the old house and

placed it at a right angle behind the new house, a block-like structure very similar to Asa Potter's House at 1291 Kingston Road, with paired, end interior chimneys; a central entry with a semi-elliptical fan and transom lights in a 5-bay facade; and an alternating parapet of block-panel-and-baluster design. After Taylor died in 1844, the house had several owners. In 1861, it went to Francis Hagadorn, who added the porticoed entry, and remained in Hagadorn ownership into the 20th century. (1870- J. G. Perry.)

- 3-K. John Douglas House (1753; 1308 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story, end-chimney house with a tall, narrow entry with a 5-light transom at the right side of a 3-bay facade, and a 1½-story wing at the left rear with a "salt box" roof and a transom-lighted entry. The placement of the front entry opposite the chimney is unusual for this type house. It was built by John Douglas, a blacksmith, who had his shop on the property. Blacksmithing continued here for some time after Douglas sold the house in 1772. The lower floor was used as a museum of the Narragansett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from 1912 to 1938. (1862- L. Champlin.)
- 3-L. Caleb Westcott Tavern/Joe Reynolds Tavern/Taylor Tavern (c. 1774; 1309-1311 Kingstown Road): A long, wood-shingled house, sited close to the road. The original section has a stone center chimney and a central, porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade. The right side was added later. Built by Caleb Westcott, a house carpenter, the place became a tavern in the 18th century, when it was the headquarters of the Little Rest Club of Good Fellows. It was owned and run by Joseph Reynolds ("Jo Runnals") from 1809 to 1823, and then by his son, John. In 1836 it was acquired by Philip Taylor, and in 1851 by Philip's son, John N. It served as a stage coach stop on the run between West Kingston and Peacedale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier until the stage stopped running on February 28, 1877. It was used as a tavern until 1890, then became an apartment house. In 1911, five college teachers rented part of the building and formed the Tavern Hall Club, which was incorporated in 1914. In 1919 they moved to 1296 Kingstown Road (#3-H). (1870- J.N. Taylor.)
- 3-M. Private School/Store (1817; 1313 Kingstown Road): A 1½-story structure with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, a small, shed dormer, and several alterations, including an Early Victorian bracketed hood and paired windows in the front. There is a 2-story, flat-roofed addition at the rear. The building, sited close to the road on a small lot, was reportedly built as a 1-room private schoolhouse, but may have been built as a store. It was later used as a store, a post office, and quarters for the South County Art Museum. (1870- Store & P.O.; Mrs. Kenyon.)

- 3-N. Matthew Waite House (1819; 1314 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story structure with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, and a large, simple portico, in a 5-bay facade; and a rear ell. This house occupies the site of William Caswell's 1755 house, once the residence of Matthew Waite's father, John, one of several silversmiths in the village. In 1910, the Eddy family came here from Providence and fitted out a "Lincoln Room" with old furniture and the bed in which Lincoln slept in their city house. (1862- M. Waite Heirs.)
- 3-O. Reynolds Stagecoach Barn (1825; 1315 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled structure, located about 300 feet back from the road, with a small, brick chimney and a small ell at the rear. Originally built as a stagecoach barn, and located close to the road, it had a high, wide opening with sliding doors in its gable end, and seven small, square, horse stall windows along its sides. In 1947, it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Cain, both art teachers, who transformed it into a 6-room dwelling, with a studio in the loft.
- 3-P. John T. Nichols House/Landholder's Bank/South County Art Association (1802; 1317-19 Kingstown Road): The first building here was a saddler's shop erected by John Weeden in 1754. In 1792, the property was sold to John T. Nichols, who built a house (the present east end) in 1802 to provide lodgings and hospitality for travelers, members of the court, and boys attending the academy. A road ran between the two buildings until they were joined to make room for the Landholder's Bank in 1818. The bank was active into the 20th century. In the late 19th century, the building was acquired by Bernon and Nathaniel Helme, who left a legacy to the South County Art Association, the proceeds of which were used to purchase the property in 1945. The part built by John Weeden is no longer standing. (1857- J. T. Nichols.)
- 3-Q. Kingston Inn (1757-1911; 1320 Kingstown Road): a large 2½-story, gambrel-roofed house with a large, brick, center chimney; a hip-roofed piazza across the front; and a large addition at the rear. A tract of land, with buildings, was sold in 1755 to John Potter, who kept tavern. Later tavern keepers include Charles Barker, and, from 1819 to 1838, Elisha R. Potter. It is described in Shepherd Tom's Jonny Cake Papers. By 1875, when J. S. Brown & Son ran the tavern, it was known as the Kingston Inn. A corporation purchased, restored, and enlarged the building in 1911. It continued in use, off and on, until the 1940s. Most recently, it was used for housing for university students. (1862- Hotel.)
- 3-R. Timothy Peckham Tavern/George Robinson House (c. 1820; 1323 Kingstown Road): A traditional, large, 2½-story Rhode Island house, with a large, brick, center chimney, and central, portico entry (a later addition) in a 5-bay facade. The house was erected about 1820 by Timothy Peckham for use as a tavern. It was used as a residence, and, for a time, during the last half of the 19th century, as a store, by the Robinson family. (1857- Geo. Robinson.)

- 3-S. Thomas P. Wells House/Kingston Congregational Church Parish House (1832; 1328 Kingstown Road): A large, 2½-story house, with a hip-on-hip roof, set end to the road, and a Federal entry, with a blind semi-elliptical fan, and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade. The original building on this site was the first Kingston court house, built in 1752. It was torn down in 1832 by Deacon Thomas P. Wells, who built this house. An addition was made to the rear in 1857 to accommodate a family boarding school, or Latin school (this part was taken down in 1924). It was conducted for five years by Thomas Wells' son, John H., who was pastor of the adjacent Congregational church from 1862 to 1877. In 1933, this house became a parish house and church school building. In 1962, it was joined to the church by a large auditorium. (1857- J. H. Wells.)
- 3-T. Kings County Court House/Kingston Free Library (1775, 1876; 1329 Kingstown Road): A large, 2½-story structure, with a projecting central tower with a polygonal belfry and roof and a large, pedimented entry. The Kings County Court House, originally at Tower Hill, was moved here in 1752; it stood directly across the road. In 1775, a new court house was erected here; it was one of the five original state houses where the rotating General Assembly met from 1776-1791. The state assembly met here biennially from 1842 to 1854. The building was radically altered in 1876 by the addition of a mansard roof and the central pavilion and tower, to which the belfry from the earlier court house was moved. In 1895, when a new Washington County House was built in West Kingston, the first floor was remodeled for library purposes and the court room on the second floor converted to an auditorium. Part of the second floor was further restored in 1951 by John H. Cady. This fine building, the Kingston Free Library, and the adjacent, former records office occupy a small lot behind an 1855 iron fence set on granite blocks at the corner of Upper College Road. (1857- Court House.)
- 3-U. Old County Records Office/Little Rest Museum/Little Rest Archives (1857/58; 1331 Kingstown Road): A small, 1-story, granite block building with a central entry flanked by 2 windows in the gable end which faces the road. Built next to the court house to store court records, it was reportedly the first totally fireproof building in the United States. After the court moved to West Kingston, this building served a variety of uses, including a carpenter shop for local youngsters. In 1954, it was converted into a museum by the Kingston Free Library Association, and, in 1971, as the Little Rest Archives, it was used primarily for archives of land evidences and geneology. (1862- Records Office.)
- 3-V. Kingston Congregation Church (1820; 1334 Kingstown Road): A typical New England meeting house of the early 19th century, this well-preserved building, with a 2-story central section, has a slightly projecting front clock tower, with a narrow, tall,



bracketed transom-light entry, a 1-stage polygonal steeple, and a tall spire. The steeple was blown down in 1857, and immediately replaced; the clock was donated in 1877. The Congregational society was formed about 1701, and the first meeting house erected at Tower Hill. Its first minister was Samuel Niles; later, Joseph Torrey served as minister. In 1820, the church moved to Little Rest, where the meeting house was erected, and has served the community since. In 1962, a church hall connecting the church building with the parish house was constructed. (1857- Cong. Church.)

- 3-W. Old County Jail (1792, 1858; 1348 Kingstown Road): A 2-story, granite-block building, with 3, brick, interior chimneys; a central, enclosed portico entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story, cell block at the rear. The first Washington County jail was at Tower Hill. In 1752, a jail was built in Little Rest, on the north side of the road. In 1792-83, this sturdy stone building was erected; the sheriff's quarters were on the first floor and prisoners were kept above. A wooden addition for prisoners was built on the south side of 1803, and in 1858 the present stone cell was finished. After 1895, when the court moved to West Kingston, the jail was used to hold prisoners only during court sessions. In 1956, the jail was closed and the building rented to the university. In 1960, the building became the headquarters of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, which now uses it as a museum of 18th and 19th century Rhode Island life and as the society archives. (1857- Jail.)
- 3-X. Site of Cyrus French House (Kingstown Road at Upper College Road): At the northwest corner of the intersection of Kingstown Road with Upper College Road is a grassy lot with a large, polished granite block, marked with U.R.I. This lot, at the main road leading to the college campus and across from the jail, is the site of a house erected about 1740. It was the home of Nathaniel Helme, one of five well known silversmiths of Little Rest, and, beginning in 1792, was owned by the French family, noted beaver hat makers. This lot is also the site of the first Little Rest Gaol, erected in 1752. The house was torn down about 1930. (1857- W. French.)
- 3-Y. John Potter House (1775; 1382 Kingstown Road): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house, with a brick center chimney and a central entry in a 3-bay facade. This house may have been built by John Potter for his son, John. In about 1807, it was purchased by Joseph Stanton, a tanner and currier. (1870- E. R. Potter.)
- 3-Z. George Fayerweather House (1820; 8 Mooresfield Road): A 1½-story structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. George Fayerweather, II, a freed slave, who took his name from the minister of St. Paul's Church, ran a blacksmith shop here, just east of the house. In 1965, the

house was restored as a museum by the Kingston Improvement Association and occupied by the Fayerweather Craft Guild. The blacksmith shop no longer exists. (1862- T. W. Fairweather "South Shop" is east of house .)

- 3-AA. Solomon Fayerweather House (1852; 18 Mooresfield Road): A 1½-story, wood-shingled house, set gable end to the road on a nicely landscaped lot. The house was built by Solomon Fayerweather, son of George, II. Both father and son ran a blacksmith shop here for more than 80 years. (1857- S. Fairweather.)
- 3-BB. Timothy Peckham House (c. 1796; 12 North Road): A 1½-story house with a central entry in a 5-bay facade and a large shed dormer across the front. (1862- H. Barber.)
- 3-CC. Thomas R. Wells House/Comstock House (1750, 1820; 25 North Road): A handsome and well preserved 2½-story residence, with paired, brick, interior chimneys (and a central hallway plan); a tall, narrow, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a large ell at the rear. The house, sited behind a wood picket fence on a large lot, was originally built in 1750. In 1820, it was remodeled by Thomas R. Wells. Christopher Comstock lived here while the adjacent Kingston Academy was active. He was an instructor there and used his residence as a faculty study, a dormitory, a dining hall, a laundry, and as a book store. (1870- W. Hazard.)
- 3-DD. Henry Eldred House (c. 1833; Early 20th Century; 26 North Road): A 2½-story Greek Revival residence set gable end to, and near, the road, with a 1-story Doric porch with 6 columns; a Palladian window; and 2, brick, exterior chimneys at the right side. The house is sited on a large lot behind a stone wall (running south of the house). In 1847, it was purchased by Dr. Thomas A. Hazard, who became town physician in 1838, and held various town offices. It was in the Wells family from about 1854 until 1919, when purchased by Dr. Howard Edwards, president of the college, who added the second story. (1862- Dr. T. A. Hazard.)
- 3-EE. Kingston Seminary (1853; 33 North Road): A 2½-story, bracketed building set gable end to, and back from the road. Built in 1853 as an outgrowth of the Kingston Academy, which stood nearby, the seminary was at first coeducational, but after two years became the Kingston Female Seminary. The school closed and the building was sold in 1863. It has been used as a residence since. (1862- Female Seminary.)
- 3-FF. Luke Aldrich House/Job Watson House (1829; 36 North Road): One of three "block-like" houses in Kingston (see also 1291 and 1305 Kingstown Road), this, like the others, features end interior chimneys and a parapet with alternating panels and balusters. The tall, narrow entry with transom lights is different from the other houses, but is a type that appears on several other 1820s vintage

buildings, including the Congregational church. This house was built by a cabinetmaker, and later occupied by John G. Clarke, while his children attended the Kingston Academy across the road; by Reverend Thomas Vernon, who boarded pupils; by Stephen A. Wright; and by Job W. Watson, who ran the store on Kingstown Road. (1862- J. W. Watson.)

- 3-GG. S. Perry House (Mid 19th century; 39 North Road): An Early Victorian Bracketed house, with a porch with carpenterwork brackets across the front, and an ell at the left rear. (1862. S. Perry.)

(See North Road for properties outside the historic district)

- 3-HH. Old Manor House/Jeffrey Davis House (Early 20th Century; Potter Lane): A large, cross-gambrel roof, neo-colonial residence, with 2 stone chimneys, designed by J. Howard Adams. The section facing the road includes a semi-circular portico, with a baluster, below a palladian window.

- 3-II. Elisha Reynolds Potter House/The Homestead (1809; Potter Lane): A 2½-story Federal residence with a brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and an addition at the left rear (south side). The house is set back from the road at the end of a private drive. Built in 1809 by Elisha R. Potter, Sr., and known as the Homestead, it was home for three generations of the family, perhaps the most prominent in Kingston. Elisha R. Sr., (1764-1835) was a representative in the state legislature and a member of Congress, off and on, between 1796 and 1815. His son, Elisha R. Potter, Jr., a Harvard University graduate, was a teacher, Commissioner of Education in Rhode Island, a Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice, historian, and author of Early History of Narragansett. Elisha's other sons had successful careers in medicine, manufacturing, the military, and law. (1862- Res. of E. R. Potter.)

(For 1 South Road see 1291 Kingstown Road)

- 3-JJ. Christopher Gardner House (7 South Road): A 2-story, gable-on-hip-roofed house, with paired, brick, end interior chimneys; a tall, narrow, central entry, with a 4-light transom, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story, hip-roofed wing at the left side. The first house at this site, a gambrel-roofed structure, was built by Sarah Fellows about 1820. It was replaced by the present structure, built by Christopher Gardner, her son-in-law. (1862- Mrs. Gardner.)

- 3-KK. Elisha Gardner-Israel Washburn House (c. 1803; 8 South Road): A wood-shingled, 1½-story house, with a pedimented central entry leading to a closed-in porch across the front; a large shed dormer across the front, and an ell at the rear. Other occupants included the Reverend Oliver Brown, Sr., pastor of the village church, and Dr. John Barlow, a vice president of the college at Kingston. (1862- L. Aldrich?)

3-LL. Robert Helme House (c. 1788; 31 South Road): A 1½-story house with a large, stone chimney and an off-center entry with side lights, in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade. It was the residence of the Potter family in the latter part of the 19th century. (1862- E. Potter.)

4. Matunuck Beach: Although "Matunuck" is a loosely-defined, large area in the southeast corner of South Kingstown, the Matunuck Beach area, as defined here, includes only the densely-built up summer community between the south end of Matunuck Beach Road and East Matunuck State Beach. The Beach district includes an old farmhouse and a few late 19th-century buildings, but most structures, including a Roman Catholic church, and a boarding house, date from the 20th century.

Located south of the rough topography of the terminal moraine, whose southern end approximately parallels Route 1 (the Post Road), the flat, relatively rock free glacial outwash plain was settled and farmed for centuries, with the seashore providing seaweed and marsh grass and debris from wrecks. Nineteenth century maps show only a handful of farmhouses scattered about, most set back from the road, near Segar Cove, probably because the ponds were an important part of local life; the pond resources, particularly fish and shellfish, contributed to the livelihood of farm families.

The name "Beach House Cove" on an 1857 map suggests an early perception and use of the shore area for recreation. Improvements in transportation made the seashore increasingly more accessible to city dwellers, at first by train and carriage, later by auto. Mariana Tallman, writing about Matunuck Beach in 1893, describes it as a popular spot with Providence people, more so perhaps than any other surf beach along the coast. Then, it had only one hotel, the Cashman House, and a half dozen bathing houses. The Everts and Richards map of 1895 shows a row of five fish houses along the water; these little huts were occupied by fishermen who supplied peddlers and hotels, and the Matunuck Beach House. A Providence Journal reporter considered "this quiet sort of place, prettily located", easy of access when he visited it in 1895, taking the carriage from Wakefield. The original hotel was kept by Wanton Carpenter of Perryville. Built about 1880 and enlarged in 1884 and in 1895, it could accommodate 125 guests. Local attractions included wreckage along the shore, and nearby Narragansett Pier. The reporter said the life of Matunuck Beach's visitors was "a dull and stupid life when you compare it with the Pier folks', but it suits them and gives them rest and health."

During the early years of the 20th century, the increasing use of the auto, and improved highways, brought more visitors to Matunuck Beach, some staying at one of the large boarding houses, many others building small summer cottages. Following World War II, many more cottages and houses were built at



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| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
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## 1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN:

South Kingston

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

## 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

## 4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View along south side of Kingston Road.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

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View southwest toward the Thomas P. Wells House (1832)  
at ~~1328~~ Kingston Road.

2610





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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| COMMON:  |      | Kingston Village Historic District   |      |
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| 2. LOCATION  |      |  |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |      |  |      |
| see continuation Sheet #1  |      |  |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |      |  |      |
| South Kingstown  |      |  |      |
| STATE:   | CODE | COUNTY:  | CODE |
| Rhode Island   | 44   | Washington   | 009  |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE   |      |  |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT:  |      | James Gibbs  |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO:   |      | March 1974   |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:   |      | Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission<br>52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906 |      |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION  |      |  |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.   |      |  |      |
| View northeast toward the George Fayerweather House<br>(1820) on Mooresfield Road. |      |  |      |



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

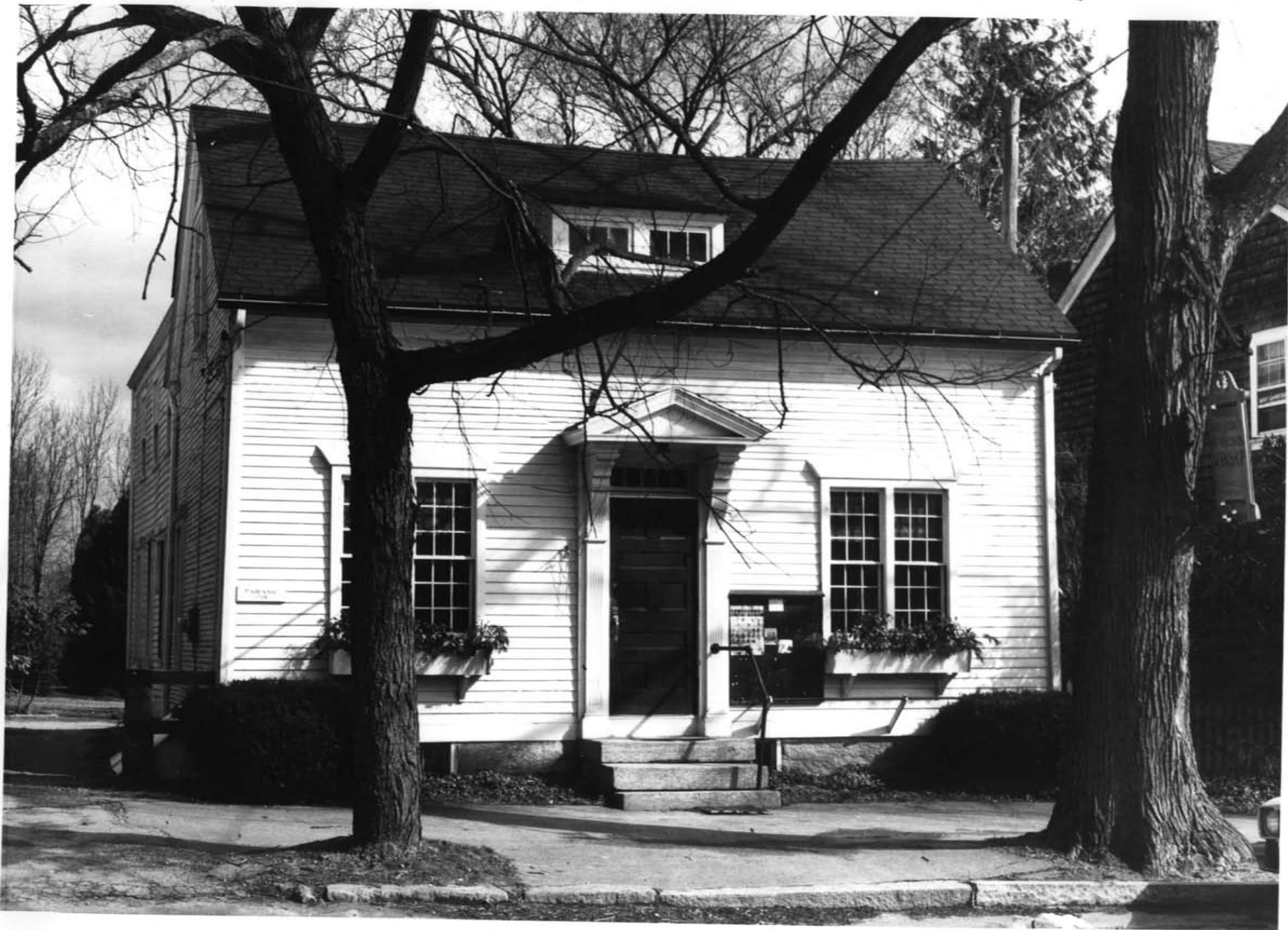
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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| 4. IDENTIFICATION  |      |  |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.   |      |  |      |
| View northwest from South Road toward Kingston Road, showing on the left the Elisha Reynolds House (1738) at 1 South Road, and on the right beyond the Village Well the Asa Potter House (1829) at 1291 Kingston Road. |      |  |      |



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN:

South Kingstown

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View north toward the old Private School (1759) at 1313  
Kingston Road.

2579



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                  |              |      |
|------------------|--------------|------|
| STATE            | Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY           | Washington   |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |              |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |              | DATE |
|                  |              |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN: South Kingstown

|                     |          |                    |           |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| STATE: Rhode Island | CODE: 44 | COUNTY: Washington | CODE: 009 |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
  
View west toward the Luke Aldrich House (1829) at 36 North Road. 80





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District  
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN:  
South Kingstown

|                        |            |                       |             |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island | CODE<br>44 | COUNTY:<br>Washington | CODE<br>009 |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View southeast toward the "Mansard House" (c.1875) at  
1262 Kingston Road.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District

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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN:

South Kingstown

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View northeast toward the Thomas R. Wells House (1820)  
at 25 North Road.

59



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN: South Kingstown

|              |      |            |      |
|--------------|------|------------|------|
| STATE:       | CODE | COUNTY:    | CODE |
| Rhode Island | 44   | Washington | 009  |

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View south toward Kingston Inn (1757) at ~~1220~~ Kingston  
Road.

2590



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                  |              |      |
|------------------|--------------|------|
| STATE            | Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY           | Washington   |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |              |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |              | DATE |
|                  |              |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District  
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN: South Kingstown

|                     |          |                    |           |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| STATE: Rhode Island | CODE: 44 | COUNTY: Washington | CODE: 009 |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs  
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
View southwest toward the Old Cunty Jail (1792) at  
~~1348~~ Kingston Road.  
2636





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District  
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: see continuation sheet #1

CITY OR TOWN: South Kingstown

|                        |            |                       |             |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island | CODE<br>44 | COUNTY:<br>Washington | CODE<br>009 |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs  
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
52 Power Street, Providence, R.I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

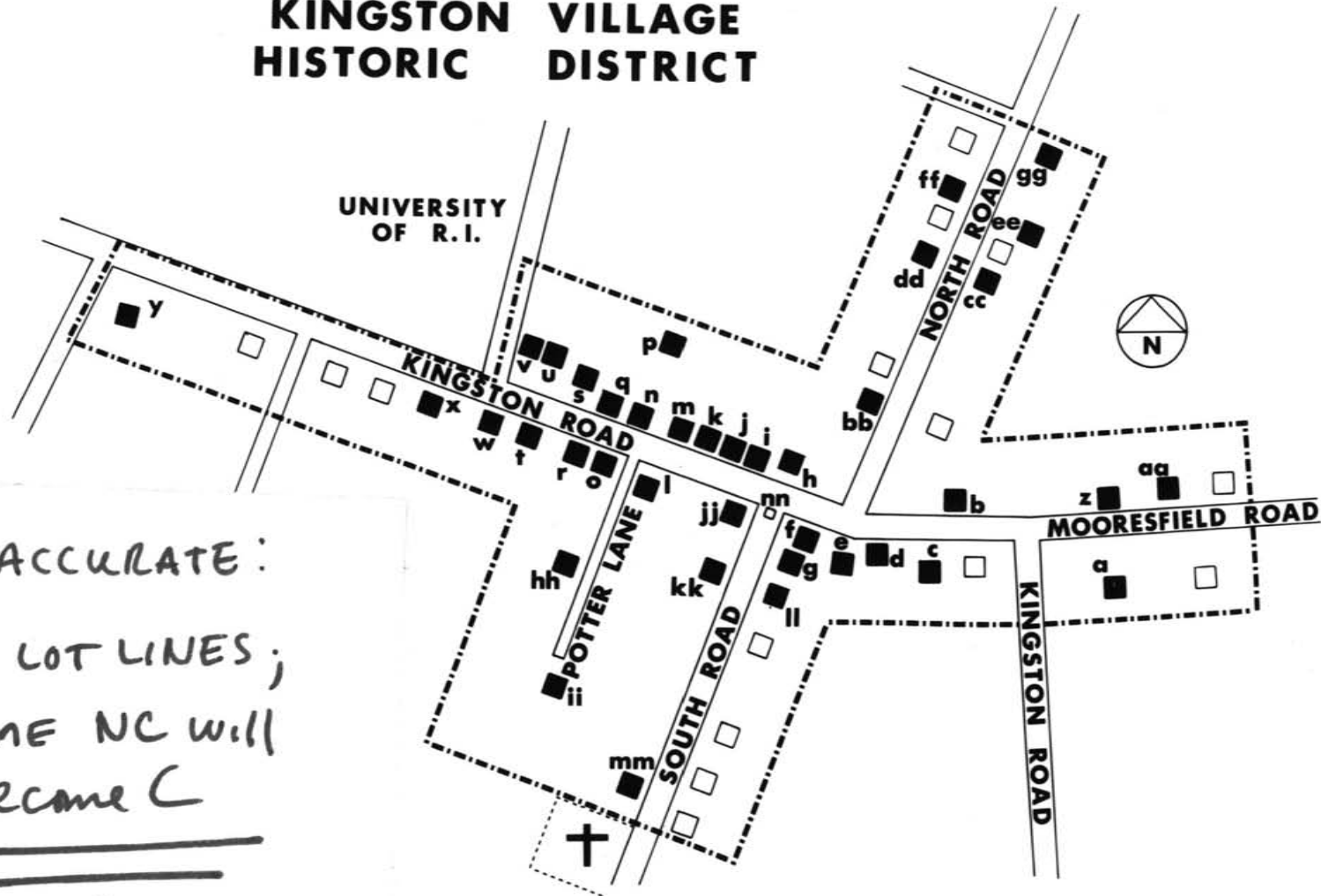
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View north toward the Old County Court House (1775) at 1329  
Kingston Road, and on left the Old County Records Office  
(1857) at ~~1321~~ Kingston Road.

2605



# KINGSTON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



INACCURATE:  
NO LOT LINES;  
SOME NC will  
become C

8/11/95 See New  
map.

d Updike House  
e Kingston Store  
f Moore House  
g Updike Law Office  
h Potter House  
i Potter Law Office  
j Cottrell House

klor House  
l Douglas House  
m Scott Tavern  
n Private School  
o Waite House  
p Stage Coach Barn  
q Landholders Bank  
r Kingston Inn  
s Peckham Tavern  
t Parish House

u Court House  
v Records Office  
w Congregational Church  
x Jail  
y J. Potter House  
z G. Fayerweather House  
aa S. Fayerweather House  
bb Peckham House  
cc Wells House  
dd Eldred House

ee Kingston Seminary  
ff Aldrich House  
gg Champlin House  
hh Old Manor House  
ii E.R. Potter Homstead  
jj Reynolds House  
kk Fellows House  
ll Gardner House  
mm Helme House  
nn Village Well

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kingston Village Historic District  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
See continuation sheet 1.

CITY OR TOWN:  
South Kingston

|                        |            |                       |             |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island | CODE<br>44 | COUNTY:<br>Washington | CODE<br>009 |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
James Gibbs, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

SCALE:  
Not given.

DATE:  
March 1974

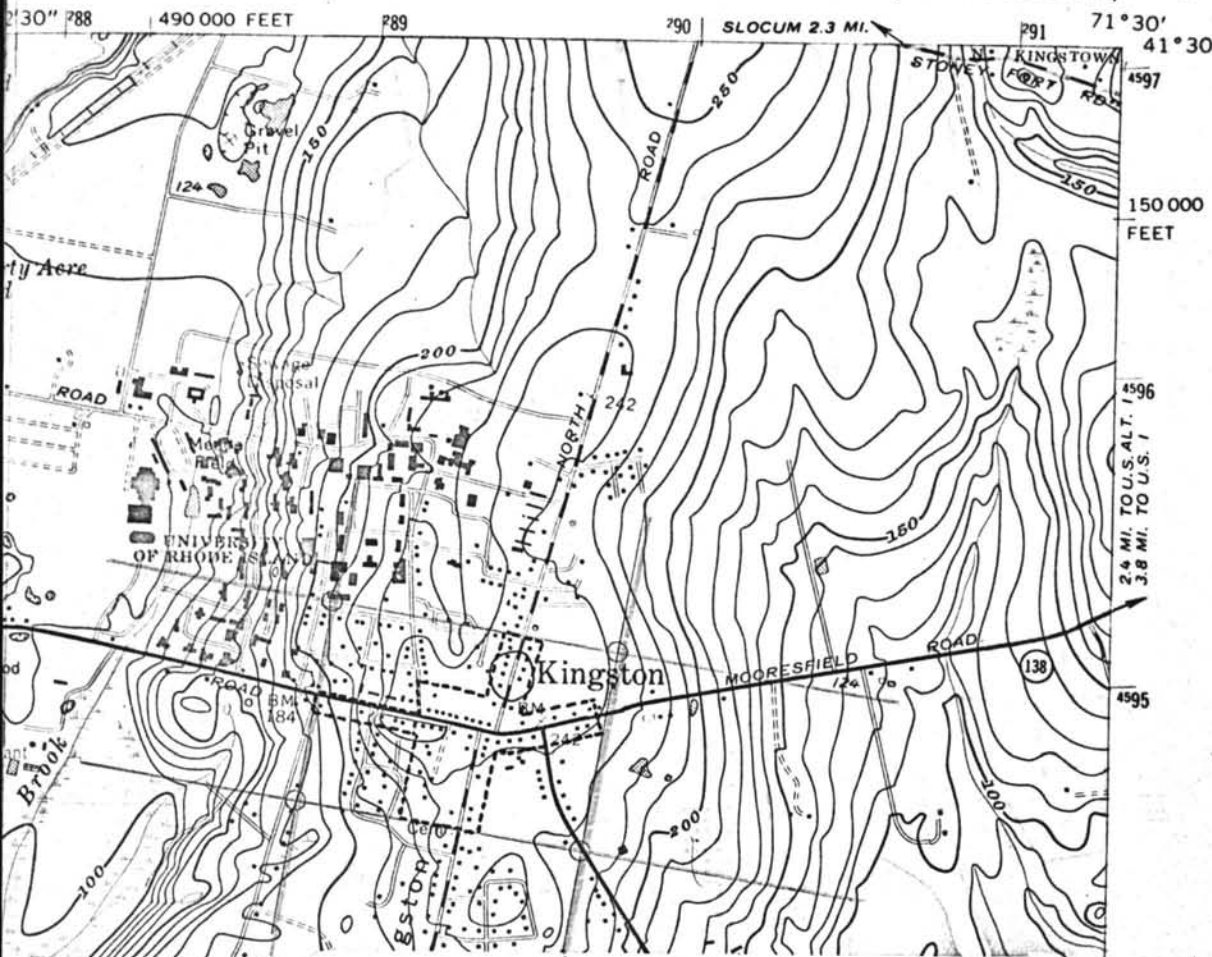
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

KINGSTON QUADRANGLE  
 RHODE ISLAND—WASHINGTON CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

8767 III SW  
 (WICKFORD)

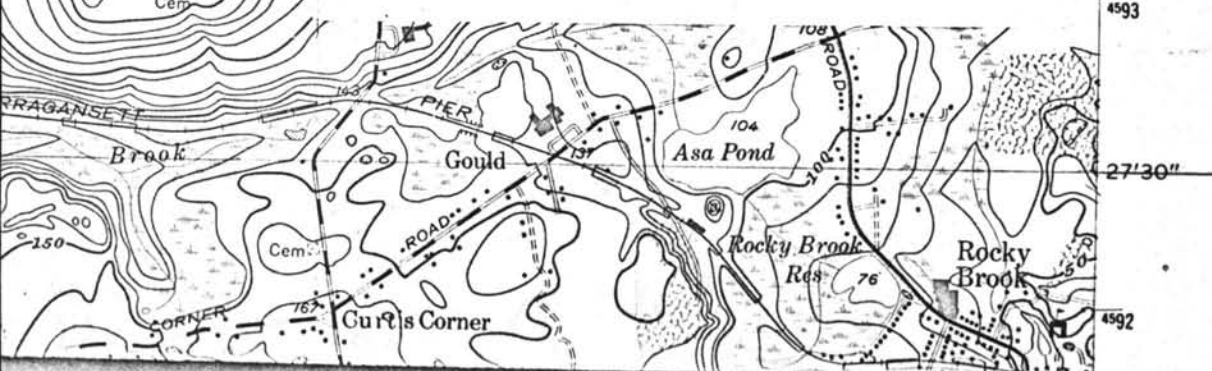


Kingston Village Historic District

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

|     | <u>Latitude</u> | <u>Longitude</u> |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|
| NW: | 41° 29' 01" N   | 71° 31' 45" W    |
| NE: | 41° 28' 56" N   | 71° 31' 07" W    |
| SE: | 41° 28' 35" N   | 71° 31' 11" W    |
| SW: | 41° 28' 40" N   | 71° 31' 49" W    |

Boundary of district: -----



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Washington  |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

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see Continuation Sheet #1

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009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S. Geological Survey

SCALE:

1:24,000

DATE:

1957; photorevised 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS