

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



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

JUNE, 1979

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1979.  
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 has initiated 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 non-renewable 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 United States Geological Survey maps enlarged to twice normal scale (or other maps that may be more appropriate) 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.

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.



Windmill (c. 1812); West Main Road; Prescott Farm Historic District.  
(Map #5).

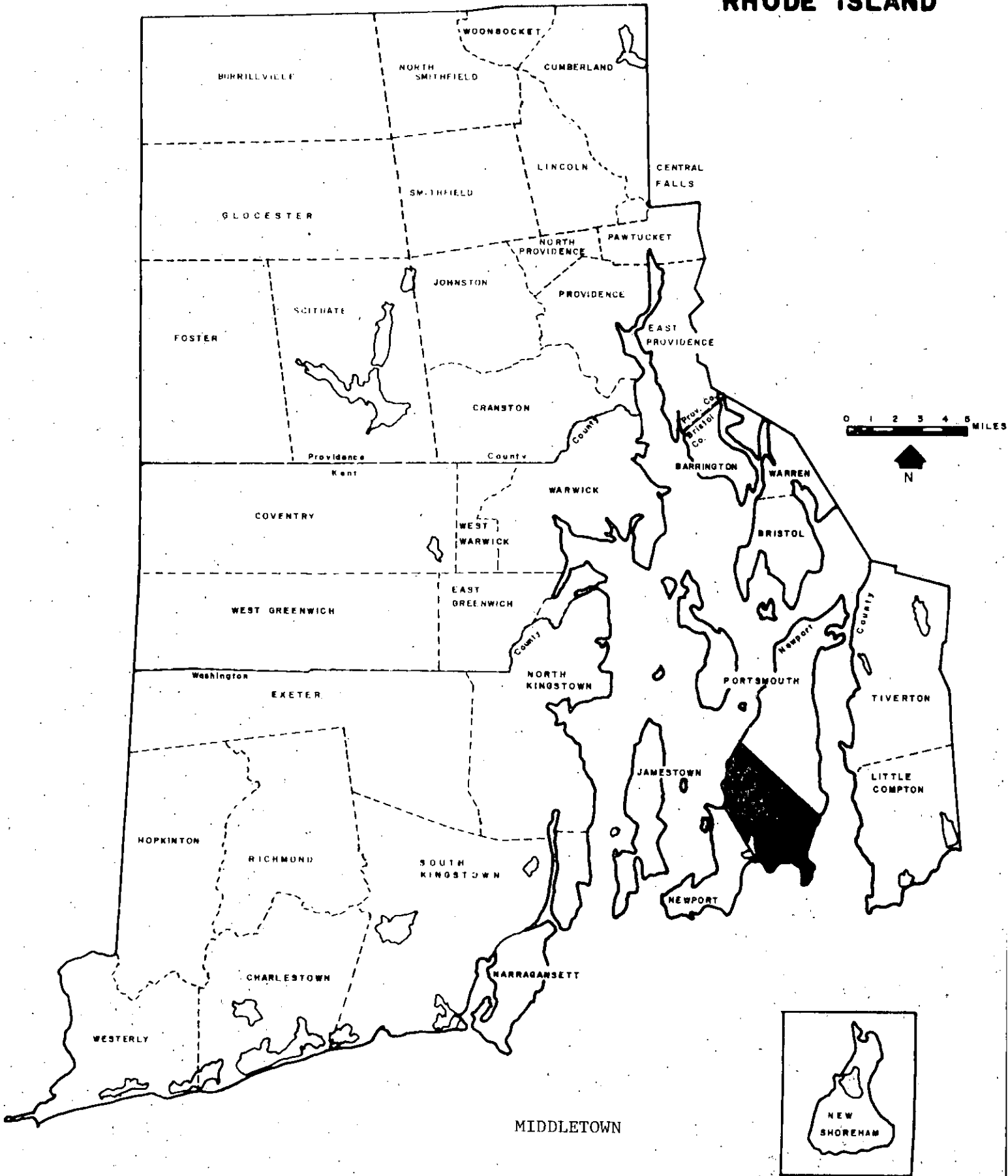
## INTRODUCTION

The following preliminary study covers the historical and architectural resources of Middletown. 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 Middletown's architectural and developmental history in Section I. Section II 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 III 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 Middletown 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 Middletown 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 Middletown Historical Society.

# RHODE ISLAND



## I. ANALYSIS

### PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

#### Location and Area

Middletown, in Newport County, is located in lower Narragansett Bay<sup>1</sup> about twenty-five miles southeast of Providence and about one mile from downtown Newport. Its name derives from its location; Middletown occupies the middle section of Aquidneck Island. The town's 14.7 square-mile area lies between Portsmouth to the north and Newport to the southwest. Rhode Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, and the Sakonnet River bound the community on the south, west, and east, respectively.

Middletown's major transportation arteries--West Main Road (Route 114) and East Main Road (Route 138)--which meet at Two Mile Corner, make connections with bridges to the south and north. Bus service is available, and the Newport State Airport, which accommodates private aircraft, provides charter flights and feeder service to other airfields. A rail line runs along the shore of Narragansett Bay, but carries only freight.

Aquidneck Island is one of the earliest colonial settlement sites in Rhode Island. Portsmouth was founded in 1638 and Newport in 1639. Middletown was part of Newport until it was set off in 1731.<sup>2</sup>

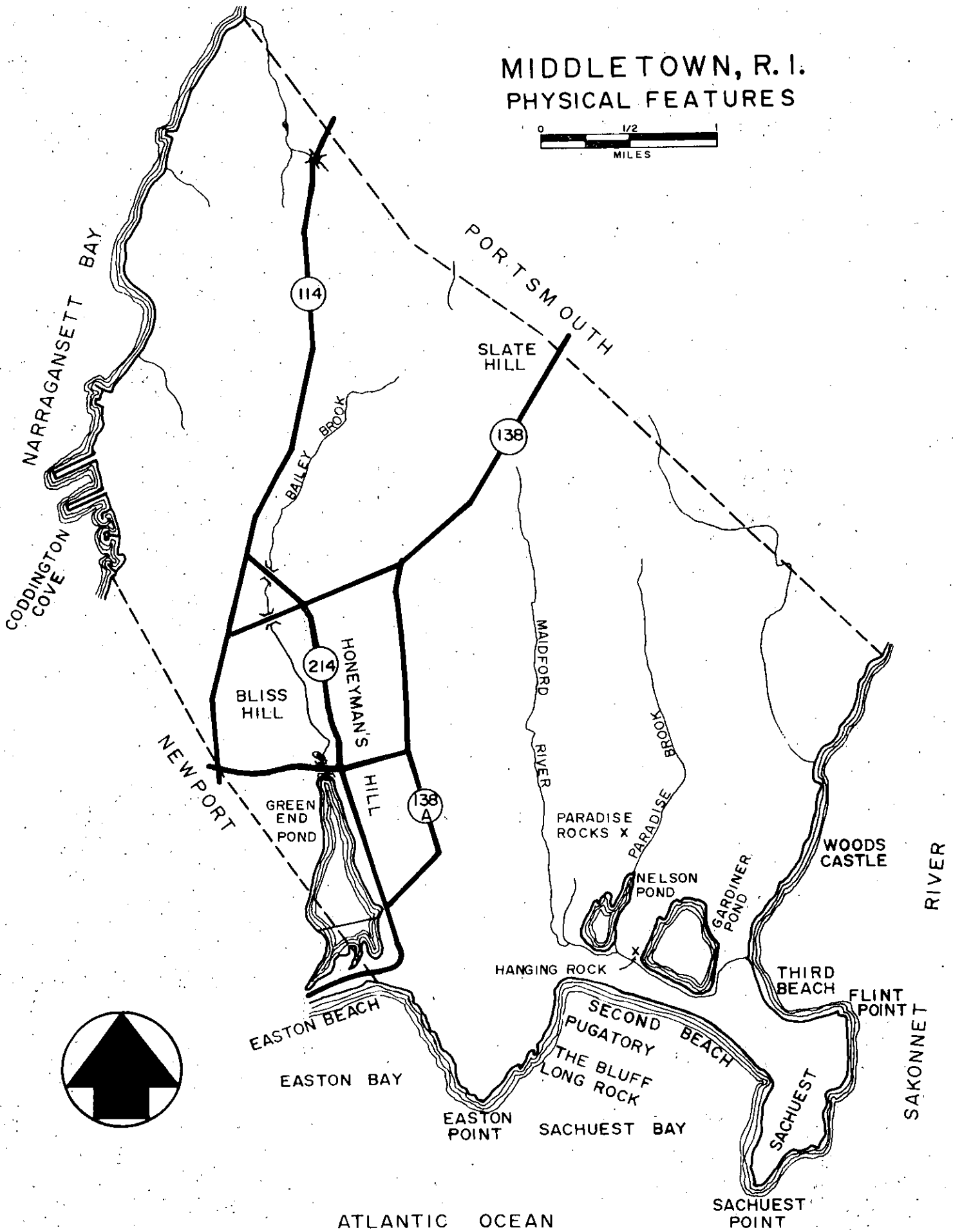
#### Geology and Landforms

The Narragansett Basin, covering most of eastern Rhode Island and composed of sedimentary rocks (conglomerate, shale, and some coal), was formed some 300 million years ago, and since then weathering and erosion, including the leveling effect of continental glaciation, have resulted in a gently rolling surface with a rich loam soil higher in natural fertility than any other soils in the state. Because most of Middletown was farmed from the late seventeenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, there are few wooded areas today. Several small hills, with summit elevations ranging from about 100 feet to about 250 feet above sea level, punctuate Middletown's landscape; the highest elevation, slightly over 250 feet, is at Slate Hill, along East Main Road at the Portsmouth line. The undulating topography and water frontage provide a diversified and beautiful natural landscape which has always been one of Middletown's attractions.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the map of Physical Features (following p. 1) and the map of Cultural Resources (following p. 40) for locations.

<sup>2</sup> Since the earliest days, the name Newport has been carelessly used to include most of Aquidneck Island. Many accounts of life in Portsmouth and Middletown are included in Newport histories.

# MIDDLETOWN, R. I. PHYSICAL FEATURES





At the south end of Middletown a more rugged and dramatic landscape is presented by an area of outcropping conglomerate rocks with bold rock faces and a series of parallel ridges, including Paradise Rocks (#4B)<sup>3</sup>, Hanging Rock (#4A), and Purgatory (#80). Hanging Rock, a vast conglomerate ledge frequented by Bishop Berkeley (the noted eighteenth-century divine), and nearby Purgatory, with its deep, wave-worn chasm and bedrock of "stretched pebbles," are among the most interesting and important geological features of Rhode Island. Along the south coast, the Atlantic shoreline offers dramatic contrasts ranging from a rugged and rocky coast culminating at Easton Point and Sachuest Point to flat expanses of sandy beach at Easton's Beach, Second (Sachuest) Beach, and Third Beach. Part of Sachuest and the nearby Paradise Hills are still in a natural state and are set aside as wildlife sanctuaries. Middletown's waterways are small, little more than seasonal brooks, but there are three large ponds at the south end of town--Nelson Pond and Gardiner Pond at the south end of the Paradise Hills and Green End Pond along the Newport line.

## THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES

### European Settlement

Indians inhabited the Narragansett Bay region for thousands of years before its discovery by European settlers, and the native American way of life, as determined from some archeological research and casual gathering of artifacts, is traditionally assumed to have been an exploitative economy based on the resources of the land and sea.

Before the coming of Europeans, there was a lengthy war between the Narragansetts and the Wampanoags. Emerging victorious and eventually subduing several other tribes were the Narragansetts, the largest of the Algonquin family which inhabited New England and who had dominion over the islands of Narragansett Bay when the first white men arrived.

The first European to make contact with Indians in the Narragansett Bay region was Giovanni da Verrazano, in 1524. He remained for only a few days, but by 1614 Dutch traders were conducting an active business with the Indians in the Bay. When Roger Williams arrived in 1636, Canonicus and Miantonomi were the sachems of the Narragansetts.

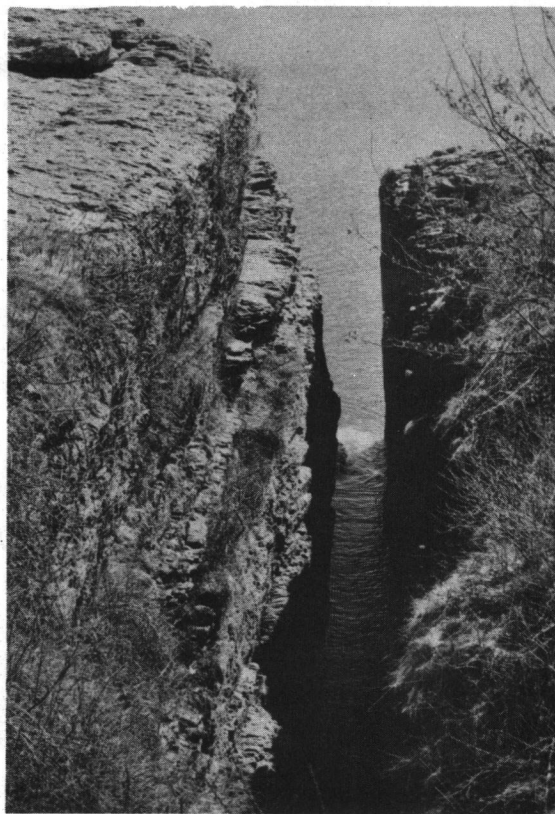
In 1638, through the intercession of Roger Williams, Aquidneck Island was deeded by Canonicus and Miantonomi to John Clarke, William Coddington, Nicholas Easton, and several other exiles from the Massachusetts colony who established a settlement called Pocasset (later

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<sup>3</sup> The numbers in parentheses refer to the map and the list of cultural resources at the end of this report.



Hanging Rock (Berkeley's Seat); near Second Beach;  
Paradise Rocks Historic District. (Map #4A)



Purgatory Chasm; Tuckerman Avenue.  
(Map #80)

Portsmouth) at the northern end of the island. In 1639 a group led by Coddington, Clarke, and Easton left Portsmouth and started a new settlement at the southern end of Aquidneck, and the island was divided in half along the present boundary between Middletown and Portsmouth. What later became Middletown was included within the jurisdiction of Newport and since that time the history of Middletown has been closely associated with that of Newport.

Before the American Revolution, Newport developed into one of America's major urban centers and seaports. The outlying areas benefited by Newport's mercantile growth, and farmers found a ready market for their agricultural products there. That area, now Middletown, underwent a rural transformation in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, starting as early as 1640 when Nicholas Easton began farming near Sachuest Beach. Although little remains of the Easton Farm (#31), other early farmhouses have survived. There are several good examples of the two-and-a-half-story, large, center-chimney dwellings--the Chase House (#53), 88 Oliphant Lane; the Allen-King-Norman House (#4E), on Third Beach Road; the Peckham House (#10), on 6 Baldwin Road; and the Coggeshall House (#6A), at 121 Greene Lane. The latter still retains its original agricultural environment and is part of a broader historical district which includes several other farmhouses which have been in the Coggeshall family for many decades.

The rural character of what is now Middletown appealed to Bishop George Berkeley, the Anglo-Irish philosopher. While awaiting promised funding for a college he hoped to found in Bermuda, Berkeley bought a ninety-six-acre tract "out in the woods." He built a farmhouse and lived there from 1729 to 1731, devoting his days to agriculture and writing. Whitehall (#7A), his residence, named in memory of the old palace of the English kings, is entered in the National Register. The surrounding area, still in fields and retaining much of its rural flavor, is one of Middletown's potential National Register historic districts.

The rural Middletown countryside also appealed to merchants and other prominent Newport residents, who set up summer estates here, complete with fine gardens and landscaped grounds. The most pretentious extant eighteenth-century dwelling in Middletown is William Redwood's Country House (c. 1745; #93), an estate which provides ample proof of the high-style country living enjoyed by Newport's early wealthy merchants. Later, Quaker preacher David Buffum lived in the house.

By mid-century, a combination of circumstances--including the development of the land, a growing population, and resentment over unjust taxation--led to a petition to the General Assembly for political independence by Newport freeholders living in "the woods." As a result, Middletown was set off as a separate town in 1743.



Peckham House; 6 Baldwin Road. (Map #10)



Whitehall (c. 1729); Berkeley Avenue; Whitehall Historic District. (Map #7A)



Rural landscape; Whitehall Historic District. (Map #7)

A number of supporting institutions and services were also created during the eighteenth century. A school was built as early as 1701 or 1702 and, gradually, others were added throughout the town. The oldest extant schoolhouse in Middletown is the 1794 Peabody School (#74) on Third Beach Road, now used as a private residence.

A ferry service was started, probably in the eighteenth century, at a landing at what is now the east end of Green Avenue. Known as Taggart's Ferry, it carried produce from Little Compton destined for Newport and ran until about 1870. A windmill was located along Wyatt Road sometime before the Revolutionary War and later a small water-powered gristmill was put into operation along Bailey's Brook near Two Mile Corner, but there is no trace of either structure today.

#### The Revolutionary War

In December, 1776, British troops, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton, landed on Aquidneck Island. Some came ashore at Long Wharf in Newport, but the main body, about 9000 British and Hessian soldiers, landed on the shores of the Sakonnet River in Middletown and the next day marched to Newport. Aquidneck Island, held until October, 1779, was much affected by the British occupation. Trees were cut down, many residences and other property destroyed, and life in general was disrupted. About one quarter of Middletown's residents were driven away from their homes. Soon after landing, the British established a strong, continuous line of defense around the perimeter of Newport. The eastern terminus was at Bliss Hill, above Easton's Pond; from there a series of redoubts, batteries, counter batteries, and forts was established, extending northwest to Narragansett Bay, most of them in Middletown. According to contemporary maps, Fort Fanning, a relatively large fortification, was established near the West Main Road at Two Mile Corner. But, of more than a dozen British fortifications in Middletown, only one survives today, the remains of the Green End, or Card's, Redoubt (#12). Traces of this former defense work can be seen in a stand of trees just off Boulevard.

The British occupation of Newport was followed by the more pleasant occupation by the French, who remodeled and restored some local fortifications. Redoubt St. Onge (#84), on Vernon Avenue, was constructed by Colonial and French troops in 1780; its earthworks are now preserved in a small parklike setting maintained by the Sons of the Revolution. Although identified as Green End Fort, recent research shows that the Green End Fort, or more correctly, the Green End, or Card's Redoubt, is north of this site (see #12).

#### THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

In the early nineteenth century, most of Rhode Island was undergoing industrialization, with numerous textile mills springing up



Entrance to William Redwoods  
Country House (c. 1745); 317 West  
Main Road. (Map #93)



Peabody School (1794); 294 Third  
Beach Road. (Map #74)



Paradise School (1876); Paradise Avenue; Paradise  
Avenue Historic District. (#3B)  
Photograph by Jim Gibbs.



Redoubt St. Onge (1780); Vernon Lane. (Map #84)



Two Mile Corner Milestone (1825);  
Junction of East and West Main Roads.  
Map #94)

on the state's many waterways. But, Middletown had no stream large enough to power a textile mill; with its gently rolling terrain and rich soil, Middletown's land was advanced to a high state of cultivation, and most farmers found a good market for their products in Newport. Farms continued to develop throughout the nineteenth century, as exemplified in the Ogden Farm on Mitchell Lane, comprising most of the Mitchell Lane Rural Historic District (#2) and the David Albro Farm (#24) at 1219 East Main Road. The Albro Farm is an extraordinarily complete and handsome complex which includes numerous shingle-clad outbuildings and a pristine and well preserved white-painted farmhouse; it is recommended for the National Register.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the Aquidneck Agricultural Society had a fairgrounds on West Main Road (now the housing development known as Birchwood Manor); later in the century the Society established a fairgrounds on Wyatt Road. There are no longer any agricultural fairs in Middletown, but the Aquidneck Grange (#18) on East Main Road is a reminder of a formerly more active agricultural period and society.

New houses were built, keeping pace with a slowly increasing population. Examples dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century include the Jethro Peckham House (#29) at 167 Green End Avenue and the James Smith House (#85) at 708 Mitchell Lane--typically one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival dwellings. Newport lawyer William Vernon's house (1833; #45) on Miantonomi Avenue at One Mile Corner, was designed by architect Russell Warren. Recommended for the National Register, it is a very elaborate Greek Revival building. Beside it, on a side street, stands Vernon's office, built in the form of a miniature classical temple.

By mid-century, the Italianate style was manifested in Middletown by several dwellings along Paradise Avenue and by the Isaac Sherman House (#25) at 1228 East Main Road and the Gould House (#98) at 1199 West Main Road. A pair of summer estates, Richard Upjohn's Hamilton Hoppin House (1856-1857; #46) and the Van Rensselaer House (c. 1860; #47), both on Miantonomi Avenue, and recommended for the Register, are very early examples of the newly popular Stick Style detailing. Upjohn also designed the Gothic style Church of the Holy Cross (#101), built in 1845 at the corner of West Main Road and Oliphant Lane; it also is recommended for the Register.

Middletown's rural simplicity--particularly the beauty of the southern part of the town, where avenues along the beaches led past "rugged and overhanging cliffs"--was recognized for its "delightful calm." Bailey's Farm, near Third Beach, became the residence of a "Southern gentlewoman" in the 1830s; other families took up residence or began boarding here, and by mid-century Paradise Avenue was already graced by a number of fine summer houses.





David Albro Farm; 1219 East Main Road. (Map #24)



Outbuildings at A. Anthony House (Rhode Island Nurseries); 644 East Main Road. (Map #19A)



Gould House; 1199 West Main Road. (Map #98)



Hamilton Hoppin House (1856-1857); 120 Miantonomi Avenue. (Map #46)



Boothden (1883); 357 Indian Avenue; Indian Avenue Historic District. (Map #1H)

The growth of Newport's summer colony after the Civil War resulted in an effort, spearheaded by Eugene Sturtevant, to make Middletown the "court end of the island." A large amount of money was sunk into road building and lots were laid out on a large tract of land along the Sakonnet River. Although Newport's Ocean Drive was opened about this time and the tide of fashion swept westward, the Indian Avenue area developed on a small scale, with the first purchases being made by Philadelphia and Hartford families. Edwin Booth, the noted actor, built a house, Boothden (#1H), here. A fine fieldstone English Gothic chapel, the Berkeley Memorial Chapel (later, St. Columba) (#1I), was built in this area in 1884. Several other large summer estates were located along the Sakonnet River.

A syndicate of Boston investors laid out a compound of six Shingle Style houses, known as the Land Trust Cottages (#64), at the eastern end of Easton's Beach in 1886-1887 under the guidance of Frederick Law Olmstead, one of America's outstanding landscape architects.

Other outstanding late nineteenth-century houses along and near the ocean in the vicinity of Easton's Point, also purchased and laid out by a syndicate of Boston businessmen, include the Shingle Style Lyman C. Josephs House (1882-1883; #110) at 436 Wolcott Avenue, entered in the National Register; Judge Bookstaver's Shingle Style house (1885; #42), at the corner of Kane Avenue and Second Beach Road; and Stick Style Jacob Cram House (1871-1872; #68), on Second Beach Road; Sea View (1881; #75), on Tuckerman Road; and the Shingle Style John Bancroft House (The Bluff) (#78), at 675 Tuckerman Road. Mariemont (#30) is a large Colonial Revival structure along Green End Avenue at Honeyman Hill. Other examples of Late Victorian summer cottages, some of them on a less pretentious scale, are found throughout town, including a representative Second Empire house (#55) at 201 Oliphant Lane and the E. M. Peckham House (#60) at 145 Prospect Avenue.

The town was growing steadily in the late nineteenth century; a number of extant public buildings reflect that growth. In 1885 a new Middletown Town Hall (#17) was built in a Colonial Revival style. It replaced the original town hall which had been built on the site on East Main Road in 1813-1814. Several noteworthy surviving schoolhouses of the late nineteenth century include the Paradise School (1876; #3B), on Paradise Avenue, entered in the National Register; the Oliphant School (1882; #102), on West Main Road; and the Late Victorian Wetherbee School (#28), at the corner of Valley Road and Green End Avenue.

#### THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In the early years of the twentieth century, the advantages of Middletown as a summer retreat continued to be recognized. Shingle



Lyman C. Josephs House (1882-1883); 438 Wolcott Avenue. (Map #110)



Jacob Bookstover House (1885); Kane Avenue. (Map #42)



Jacob Cram House, formerly the Mary Sturtevant House (1871-1872); Second Beach Road. (Map #68)



Middletown Town Hall (1885, 1940);  
East Main Road. (Map #17)



Mariemont; 386 Green End Avenue. (Map #30)

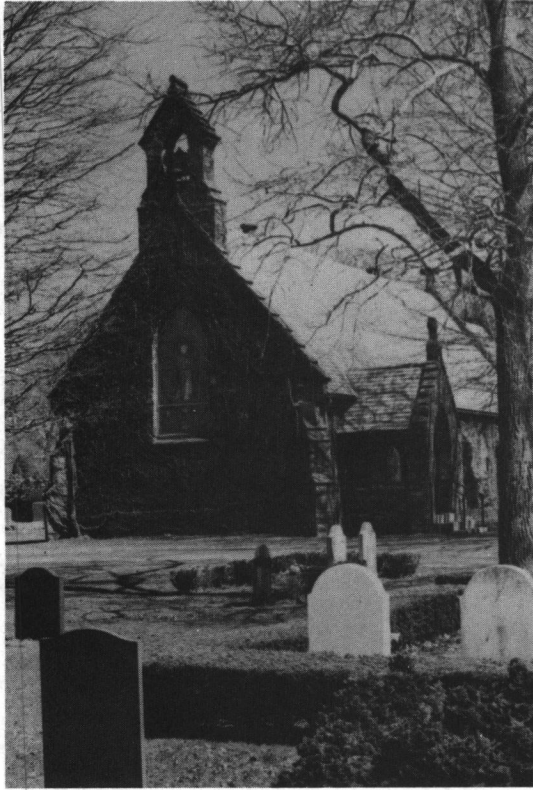
Style houses remained popular; good examples are the A. R. White House (#65) at the corner of Second Beach Road and Kane Avenue and a gambrel-roof structure (#111) on Wolcott Avenue which is a simpler version of the nearby Josephs House. Tudor Revival houses are well exemplified by the Russell Nevins, Jr. House (#43) on Kane and a house (#67) at the corner of Second Beach Road and Ashurst Lane. In the Paradise Hills, a chateau-style manor house was built to blend with its well landscaped setting.

St. George's School (#66), founded in 1896, grew considerably in the early twentieth century; its Gothic chapel (1926) is a prominent landmark and one of the finest efforts by Ralph Cram Adams, the noted American architect who specialized in Gothic ecclesiastical designs. The interior of the chapel is a superb and uplifting space--one of the handsomest church interiors in Rhode Island.

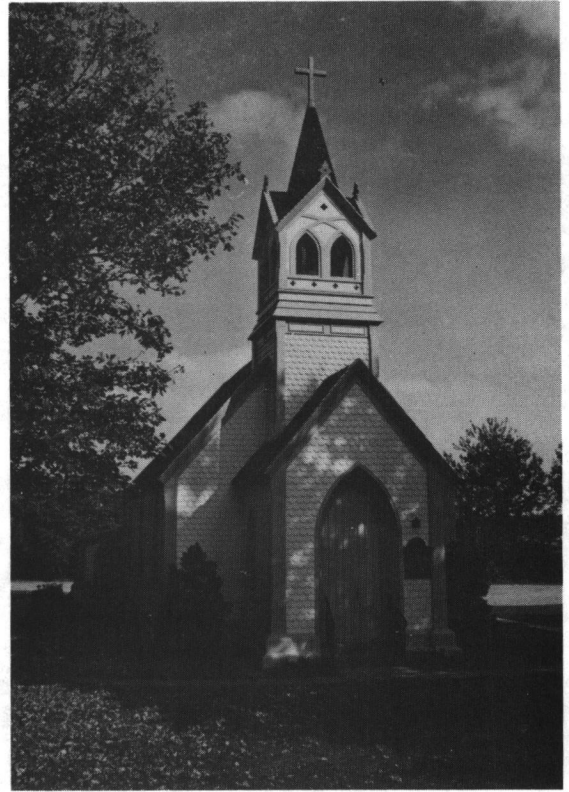
The twentieth century ushered in the age of the automobile, but Middletown maintained a relatively slow and steady growth rate, despite improvements to the main roads and the completion of the Mount Hope Bridge in 1929. The Floradale Motor Court (1929; #21) on East Main Road is a good example of an early automobile-age motel; its small, separate cabins are arranged around a landscaped lawn. Well maintained and still in use, this is one of the last "motor courts" in Rhode Island.

World War II and the post-war years had a tremendous impact on Aquidneck Island. Much of Middletown's Narragansett Bay shoreline came under Navy control. The Newport Naval Base was extended up the west side of Aquidneck Island and Coddington Cove became a port for a large fleet of destroyers. The hills above the cove were transformed, after centuries of use as farmland, into the Naval Underwater Systems Center (#15), a military research facility of reinforced-concrete, "bomb-proof" structures. At Sachuest (#63), also former farmland, the navy built observation and fire-control towers after acquiring the peninsula in 1943.

The phenomenal war-time development included a great growth of military housing, including the Anchorage and Naval Gardens (#95) and private housing developments in the western part of Middletown. Between 1940 and 1950, Middletown's population increased by 4000, a 119 per cent increase, to a total of 7382 residents. Accompanying residential development was a great increase in commercial establishments, mostly strip development along the lower East and West Main Roads, where shopping centers, restaurants, fast-food shops, supermarkets, motels, car lots, gasoline stations, and so on sprung up to serve the large military population and their dependents. Between 1950 and 1960, the town's population grew by 72 per cent, to a total of 12,675; in the 1940s and 1950s, Middletown was the fastest growing town in Rhode Island. However, after the pull out of most Navy personnel from Rhode Island in 1974, the town's growth pace was slowed abruptly.



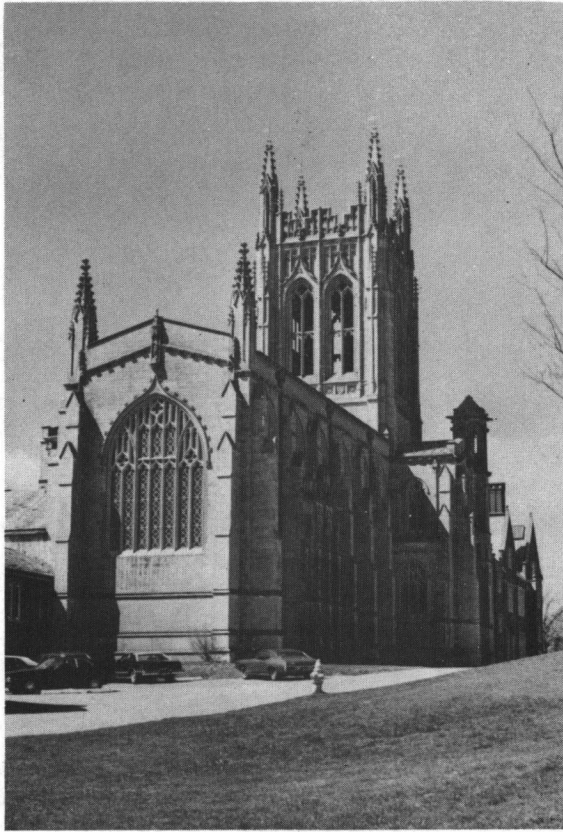
St. Columba's Chapel, formerly Berkeley Memorial Chapel (1884); Indian Avenue; Indian Avenue Historic District. (Map #11)



Church of the Holy Cross (1845); West Main Road. (Map #101)



Land Trust Cottages (1887-1888); Second Beach Road at Easton's Beach. (Map #64)



Chapel, St. Georges School (1928);  
Second Beach Road. (Map #66)



Floradale Motor Court (1929); East Main Road.  
(Map #21)



Post-War residential development has consisted mostly of split-level and ranch style houses. But some areas, including part of Slate Hill Farm (#23) off East Main Road, have been done with more attention to architectural quality and landscaping. Individual examples of better-than-average post-war architectural styles are exhibited in a number of structures, like a board-and-batten residence (#69) along Second Beach Road, near Purgatory; the Beach House (#70), along Second Beach; an A-frame, formerly a real-estate office (#104) for Birchwood Homes off West Main Road; an A-frame used as a memorial building (#62) in the Newport Memorial Park; and a 1960s, concrete, center-island structure for a gasoline station (#96) along West Main Road.

Middletown's agriculture has changed radically since the war. Whereas earlier in the century the town's landscape was still rural, with most farms producing foodstuffs, today less than a half dozen places can be classified as farms. Most of the former farmland--that not converted to military, commercial, residential, or other uses--is now planted to nursery stock, and nurseries have become an important industry on Aquidneck Island.

Overall, the impact of twentieth-century growth and development has impressed profound changes on Middletown's land and life, particularly since the end of the Second World War, resulting from the large increase in population and accompanying pressures on the land. In order to safeguard the town's rich cultural heritage, land-use management measures encompassing sound conservation and historic preservation principles will need to be initiated locally.

#### SUMMARY

The preliminary survey of Middletown conducted by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission identified seven districts and one hundred and five individual structures and sites of historic interest. These cultural resources reflect a broad spectrum of time, architectural trends, and events. Included are vernacular farmhouses and farm landscapes, some good examples of which are seen along West Main Road and Mitchell Lane; luxurious mansions, notably the William Vernon House, the Hamilton Hoppin House, the Jacob Cram House, and William Redwood's Country House; one-room schoolhouses--Paradise School and the Peabody School; the extensive St. George's School, with its outstanding chapel; Whitehall, Bishop Berkeley's country place; the Berkeley Memorial Chapel and the Church of the Holy Cross; the Middletown Town Hall; a grange hall; an early motor court; an airport; a milestone; a library; two Revolutionary War fortifications; World War II structures, including observation towers and military housing; and several natural features known and appreciated for centuries--Purgatory Chasm, Hanging Rock, and the beaches.



House; 120 West Main Road. (Map #90)



Navy Housing, The Anchorage; off West Main Road.  
(Map #95)

The following inventory and accompanying map present these buildings, structures, sites, and districts which are considered to be of cultural significance to the town and, in some instances, to the state or nation; they are all worthy of preservation. Future planning decisions affecting these properties should take their cultural importance into consideration.



World War II Towers; Sachuest. (Map #63)

## 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 (a more complete description of each property appears in the Inventory which follows):

- . Paradise School, Paradise Avenue (#3B)<sup>4</sup>
- . Whitehall, Berkeley Avenue (#74)
- . Lyman C. Josephs' House, 438 Wolcott Avenue (#110)

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

- . Indian Avenue Historic District (#1)
- . Paradise Avenue Historic District (#3)
- . Paradise Rocks Historic District (#4)
- . Prescott Farm Historic District (#5)
- . West Main Road Historic District (#6)
- . Peckham House, 6 Baldwin Road (#10)
- . Naval Underwater Systems Center, Coddington Cove (#15)
- . David Albro House and Farm Complex, 1219 East Main Road (#24)
- . William Vernon House of Elmhyrst, Miantonomi Avenue (#45)
- . Hamilton Hoppin House, 120 Miantonomi Avenue (#46)
- . Van Rensselaer House, Miantonomi Avenue (#47)

<sup>4</sup> The numbers in parentheses refer to the Inventory (Section III) and to the location map at the end of this report.

- . William Taggart Cottage, Howland Avenue (#36A)
- . Chase House, 88 Oliphant Lane (#53)
- . Land Trust Cottages, Second Beach Road (#64)
- . St. George's School, Second Beach Road (#66)
- . Jacob Cram-Mary Sturdevant House, Second Beach Road (#68)
- . Peabody School, 294 Third Beach Road (#74)
- . John Bancroft Estate, The Bluff, 675 Tuckerman Avenue (#78)
- . Purgatory, Tuckerman Avenue (#80)
- . Redoubt St. Onge,<sup>5</sup> Vernon Lane (#84)
- . William Redwoods Country House or David Buffum House,  
317 West Main Road (#93)
- . Church of the Holy Cross, West Main Road (#101)

This list of possible National Register properties 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Formerly known, and incorrectly identified in the past, as Green End Fort.

### III. PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

A more detailed map at a scale of 1":1000' which locates properties more fully and precisely is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the Middletown 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 maps use 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.

- \* 1. Indian Avenue Historic District: The Indian Avenue Historic District, in the eastern part of Middletown along the Sakonnet River, encompasses a one-quarter-mile section of winding, tree-lined, and relatively quiet road between Green End Avenue on the north and Third Beach Road on the south; here are located about a dozen noteworthy Late Victorian and early 20th-century summer houses and a picturesque stone chapel erected in 1884. Most of the houses are east of the road; their well sited lots affording good views of the river and ocean.

From the time this area was first settled (probably in the early 18th century) until the mid-19th century, the land was farmed, and a farmhouse stood at each end of the present district. A ferry landing at the north, near the end of present Green End Avenue, originally known as Taggart's Ferry, carried farm produce between Little Compton and Newport until about 1870. In 1872 Eugene Sturtevant rented a summer cottage in the area; shortly after, he and a partner purchased farm land for two-and-a-half miles along the Sakonnet shore and a 5-mile road was built and fenced. It was named for the abundance of Indian artifacts found in the area. Lots were sold, the first going to Hartford and Philadelphia families. A chapel was built in 1884, and several houses erected about the same time, including one by Edwin Booth, the noted actor. Other houses were gradually added, many on well landscaped grounds, mostly east of the road, with a view of the river and ocean. Today the area, with its fine houses on large lots, presents an atmosphere of comfortable living; it exemplifies a style of life common to other sections of Middletown that developed into suburbs of Newport.

- A. Mary B. Behrend Estate (15 Indian Avenue): An early 20th-century summer estate with well landscaped grounds; located along the shore, it centers on a large, rambling, 1½-story structure with a complex plan; varied roof lines; a large, stone chimney; and split-log, brick-and-stone-and-stucco walls. There is a garage near the road. (1921-Mary B. Behrend)
- B. The Old Chase House, or Sachusett Lodge (49 Indian Avenue): A 2½-story, cross-gable, altered Early Victorian structure with two, interior, brick chimneys; an enclosed porch across the front; and a view of the river and ocean. A wood-shingle carriage barn is near the road on the well maintained grounds. Eugene Sturtevant, who lived here for sixteen years, was largely responsible for the development of Indian Avenue from farmland to summer colony. The house is on, or near, the site of a pre-Revolutionary house (Peckham's). (1870-J. Chase and Mrs. Jeffrey)



- C. Hopelands (165 Indian Avenue): A low, 1½-story, brick, early 20th-century summer estate with a courtyard entrance; it is set in well landscaped grounds.
- D. House (195 Indian Avenue): A 1½-story, cross-gable, early 20th-century structure--with two, brick, exterior chimneys and an enclosed entry--set far back from the road on well kept and extensive grounds. (1921-Howard L. Clark?)
- E. Coit-Conover House (1888; 208 Indian Avenue): A 2½-story, Late Victorian, Shingle Style structure, designed by Clarence S. Luce of Boston, on a neat lot on a slight hill west of the road. The house, built by the Reverend Henry A. Coit, was one of the first of the summer estates on Indian Avenue. (1895-E. Coit)
- F. House (255 Indian Avenue): A 2-story, Late Victorian, Shingle Style structure with a wood-shingle garage; it is set back from the road on a large lot. (1921-M.A.R. Brownell)
- G. House (267 Indian Avenue): A 2½-story, early 20th-century structure set back from the road on a well landscaped lot.
- H. Boothden (1883; 357 Indian Avenue): A large, rambling, 2½-story, multi-gabled, shingled structure set back from the road on a large lot. The house, one of the first on Indian Avenue, was built by Edwin Booth, considered the first great American actor. His brother was John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. (1895-Edwin Booth Est.)
- I. St. Columba's Chapel, formerly Berkeley Memorial Chapel (1884): A 1-story, English Gothic style, fieldstone structure with a belfry at the gable end; it is surrounded by a well landscaped cemetery. The chapel, designed by Wilson Eyre, Jr. of Philadelphia and constructed by William Gosling, was started in 1882; the cornerstone was laid in 1884. It was originally named the Berkeley Memorial Chapel (in honor of the noted 18th-century theologian who resided at nearby Whitehall) but soon after was renamed St. Columba's. Near the chapel is the Parish Hall (1959), a 1-story structure with horizontal and vertical wood walls and many large windows, designed by Albert Harkness. It replaces the original parish hall which stood on Green End Avenue. (1885-Chapel)
- J. Summer Estate (500 Indian Avenue): A large, 1½-story, fieldstone structure along the shore; it is set back from the road on a large lot. The largest of the summer houses along Indian Avenue, it was built about 1930 and replaced an earlier (early 20th-century) house which stood on the site. Near the road is

a 1½-story, cross-gable, fieldstone structure. Across the road are two more supporting buildings: a 1½-story fieldstone structure, formerly a carriage house; and a 1½-story building (possibly a former gatehouse).

- K. J. T. Huntington House (561 Indian Avenue): A 1½-story, Late Victorian, Stick Style structure, end-to-road, with vertical board-and-batten walls, gabled dormers, and a veranda across the front and sides. (1895-J. T. Huntington)

2. Mitchell Lane Rural Historic District: At the northwest corner of Wyatt Road and Mitchell Lane is the Mitchell Lane Historic District, about 125 acres of farmland centered on a 2½-story, Late Victorian, cross-gable farmhouse and several large, wood-shingle outbuildings. This area, like most of Middletown, was farmed in the 18th century and a farmhouse originally stood on the site of the present house. In 1885 the Ogden Farm is shown on maps, and it is likely that about that time the present farm complex developed. North of the Ogden Farm, in the district, was another excellent farm complex, but most of those buildings were destroyed in the last few years. The district, which includes the former Ogden Farm and small portions of adjacent farmland, is an important surviving link to Middletown's agricultural heritage. (1850-John Croucher)

- \* 3. Paradise Avenue Historic District: Along the southern part of Paradise Avenue, for a distance of about one mile, are several dozen residences including some noteworthy structures, most dating from the mid-19th century. Like the rest of Middletown, the Paradise Avenue area was first developed as farmland. Near the ocean was the farm of Nicholas Easton, one of the founders of Newport. The Eastons owned much of the southern part of Middletown, and their name is memorialized by Easton Bay, Easton Beach, Easton Point, and Easton Pond. During the Revolution three Easton houses in the area were destroyed by the British. By the mid-19th century, with the development of Newport as a summer resort, the Middletown shore, with direct and easy access to Newport, and with the attraction of Purgatory Chasm and the beaches, developed into a residential area. Its population was served by a one-room school at the corner of Prospect Avenue. To the present day, Paradise Avenue has maintained its quiet, residential character, unaffected by modern intrusions; and its many, fine, early homes are an important part of Middletown's history.

- A. John Barker House (246 Paradise Avenue): A 2½-story, Early Victorian structure with two interior brick chimneys; a central entry with sidelights; a 3-bay facade; a veranda across the front; a shed dormer in front; and an addition at the rear.

There is a fine wood-shingle barn behind the house, all part of a well maintained lot. (1850--John Barker)

- \*\* B. Paradise School (1876): A 1-story, bracketed style schoolhouse with two separate entries with bracketed hoods in the gable end flanking a joined pair of windows. A small brick chimney is near the rear. There are bracketed hoods over the windows and concrete steps and an entrance platform across the front of the structure. The intact, well maintained building at the corner of Prospect Street, leased by the Middletown Historical Society, is of a simple design and, when built, was an early example of the balloon-frame, wood-building technique. Paradise School is a good example of the 19th-century one-room schoolhouse with a modest, quaint dignity and true visual interest. The structure occupies a small landscaped lot, with large, old trees and low stone walls, which enhance its charm. (1895--School)
- C. House (347 Paradise Avenue): A 1½-story, end-gable, Early Victorian structure with two small, brick, interior chimneys and entry at the right-side-front in an open porch which continues across the right side of the house. There is a wood-shingle garage on the well maintained lot.
- D. William Smith House (380 Paradise Avenue): A 2½-story, cross-gable, Early Victorian, bracketed structure with two small, interior, brick chimneys, entry at the right side in an enclosed porch, and a 1-story wing at the rear. There is a fine wood-shingle barn at the rear. (1870--W. Smith)
- E. Stephen Barker House (432 Paradise Avenue): A 2½-story, mansard-roof structure with two interior brick chimneys, entry in an asymmetrical facade in an open porch across the front, and a 2-story bay at the rear. (1870--S. R. Barker)
- F. Isaac Barker House (478 Paradise Avenue): A 2-story, Early Victorian, bracketed structure with two interior brick chimneys; central entry with sidelights in a 3-bay facade in an open porch across the front; and a 2-story addition at the rear. There are several outbuildings on a well landscaped lot with good stone walls. (1850--Mrs. Barker?; 1870--I. Barker)
- G. Bridge House (1930; Paradise Avenue): A large, 2½-story, rural manor house--with complex plan, several stone chimneys, gabled dormers, and bay windows--set on a slight rise above the Maidford River, a small waterway. The structure is on a private drive back from the road.
- H. E. T. Peckham House (532 Paradise Avenue): A 2-story, Early Victorian Italianate structure with two interior brick

chimneys; a central entry, with round-head door, in a 3-bay facade in a veranda across the front; a 1-story bay at the right side; and an addition at the left-side-rear. There are several outbuildings on a well landscaped lot. (1870-E. T. Peckham)

- I. Site of Easton Farm: At the south end of Paradise Avenue, west of the road, is the site of the estate of Nicholas Easton, one of the founders of Newport. The original structures are gone, but an Easton family burying ground (Historical Cemetery #14), with exceptionally fine dry-laid stone walls, contains several early gravestones including one dated 1671. (1860-Est. of N. Easton and Heirs of N. Easton)

- \* 4. Paradise Rocks Historic District: In the south-central part of Middletown, north of Second Beach, the Paradise Rocks Historic District is a largely undeveloped area of generally north-south trending rock ridges, including Paradise Rocks and Hanging Rocks. They are bisected by Paradise Brook, which empties into Nelson Pond. There are several residences; much of the land, part of which is the Norman Bird Sanctuary maintained by the Rhode Island Audobon Society, was the estate of Dr. David King and includes King's former estate. Paradise Farm lies in the northwest part of the district, near Paradise Rocks, and in the center is Gray Craig, a c. 1900 summer estate.

On an island devoted largely to agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial uses, the Paradise Rocks area is a superb and unique natural enclave. In the 18th century Dean George Berkeley, whose residence was at nearby Whitehall (#6A), made frequent visits to Paradise Rocks and Hanging Rocks during his short stay in America and was said to have written Alciphron, one of his best known works, here. In the 19th century the area was popular with hunters; today more passive recreation is enjoyed in the bird sanctuary. Paradise Rocks--a fine, blue-hued, conglomerate-rock formation near Paradise Farm--is being slowly destroyed by quarrying. Paradise Farm, the former King estate, and Gray Craig are interesting historical-architectural components of the otherwise natural district.

- A. Hanging Rock: A conglomerate-rock mass near Second Beach, the southern outlier of the Paradise Hills, Hanging Rock juts out into a marsh, with an abrupt cliff-like break at its south end. The rock mass, a conspicuous and interesting natural formation, resembles a giant alligator or lizard whose destination is nearby Sachuest Bay. The rock, in addition to being geologically important, was a favorite haunt of Bishop Berkeley during his residence in Middletown in the eighteenth

century, and for that reason it has also been called Berkeley's Seat. It is a popular attraction for visitors in the area. (1850-Hanging Rock)

- B. Paradise Rocks: A large rock outcrop at the northwest corner of the district, one of a series of parallel ridges in the area. The rock, of conglomerate, is more erosion resistant than the surrounding sedimentary rocks, and Paradise Rocks and the adjacent conglomerate ridges were left standing as elevated ridges during the course of time. The rock mass is presently being quarried. (1895-Paradise Rocks)
- C. Paradise Farm (346 Paradise Avenue): A 2½-story, 18th-century farmhouse, rebuilt in the late 19th century in the Colonial Revival style, with a gambrel roof; two interior brick chimneys; a central entry with sidelights in a veranda; gable dormers in front; and a flat-roof addition at the left side. There is a hip-roof outbuilding with a cupola. The house is set back from the road on a large lot, near Paradise Rocks (1850-Joseph Barker?)
- D. Gray Craig (off Paradise Avenue): Formerly the home of Mitchell Clark, the site of Gray Craig is one of the finest on Aquidneck, with a superb view south to Sachuest Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Built of native stone, the buildings blended well with the surrounding crags. Jordon Mott purchased the property after Mitchell Clark's death and spent a year and a half making alterations; but the place completely burned a day before the Motts were to move in. Mary and Michael Van Beuren then purchased the property and converted it into a modern estate, centered on a chateau-like house and including kennels, greenhouses, a walled and secret garden, a tea house, a gatehouse, a stable, and a barn.
- E. Allen-King-Norman Farm (Third Beach Road): A 2½-story Federal-era structure with a large, brick, center chimney; central portico entry in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; and a large wing at a right angle at the rear. There is a complex of wood-shingle and stone outbuildings at the rear, and the grounds, with stone walls, are well landscaped. The farm, formerly owned by the Allens, Kings, and Normans in succession, was opened to the public as a bird sanctuary in 1950 and named for George H. Norman and George H. Norman, Jr. (1777-1779 - House shown; 1850 - Saml. Allen)
- F. Norman Bird Sanctuary and Museum (Third Beach Road): A converted barn and several small outbuildings serve as the headquarters for a 450-acre tract of woodland, fields, marshes, and rocky hills which comprise the bird sanctuary maintained by the Rhode Island Audobon Society and which opened to the public in 1950.

- \* 5. Prescott Farm Historic District: Along West Main Road, at the town line, partly in Middletown and partly in Portsmouth, is the Prescott Farm. The property, as extensively developed over the past decade by the Newport Restoration Foundation, comprises a group of restored buildings, including a house, a small building once used as a guardhouse, a country store, a windmill in Middletown, and the Overing House in Portsmouth. During the British occupation of Aquidneck Island in the Revolutionary War, General Richard Prescott made his headquarters in the house, where he was captured by an American force led by Colonel William Barton on July 9, 1777. The Windmill, originally built in Warren in 1812, was subsequently moved to Quaker Hill in Portsmouth. In 1922 it was moved to Portsmouth's Lehigh Hill, where it operated until 1941. In 1972 it was moved to the present location. The windmill still grinds cornmeal that is sold at the nearby Country Store (Earle-Hicks House, c. 1715), which once served as a ferry-master's house in Portsmouth. General Prescott's Guardhouse (c. 1730), so-called, now a museum, was originally an ell of the now much-altered Prescott (Nichols-Overing) House (c. 1730), which is just across the town line in Portsmouth. (1777-Mr. Overing)
- \* 6. West Main Road Historic District: In the northwest part of Middletown, along both sides of West Main Road and part of Greene Lane, is a rural tract centered on several old farms. This area, with its farm complexes and undulating fields bounded by stone walls, is one of the few surviving agricultural areas on the island. The Coggeshall family settled here before 1700 and owned much of the land, including all of the present district and the three noteworthy farmhouses. The present owners are Coggeshall descendants, who are continuing a generations-old farming tradition.
- A. Coggeshall Farm (1725; 121 Greene Lane): A 2½-story structure with a large, brick, center chimney; central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story wing at the rear. There are stone walls near the house and several wood-shingle outbuildings behind. (1850-Jos. Coggeshall)
- B. Paramount Farm (1903 West Main Road): A 1½-story Early Victorian structure with a large, brick, center chimney; entry at the south side (gable end); and a 1-story wing at the left side. There are stone walls around the house and several wood-shingle outbuildings, including silos, behind. It is a working farm. (1850-Isaac Coggeshall)
- C. Coggeshall-Simmons House and Farm (c. 1816; 1942 West Main Road): A 2½-story structure with two large, brick, interior chimneys; central entry in a 5-bay facade; a 2-story bay at

the left side; and a 2-story wing at the rear. There are stone and wood outbuildings and several silos on this working dairy farm. (1850-J. Coggeshall)

7. Whitehall Historic District: This district is a tract of open land north of Green End Avenue and along both sides of Berkeley Avenue, centered on Berkeley and including a Late Victorian house near Whitehall and several vernacular 19th-century farmhouses. Whitehall, built about 1729, was the residence of Bishop George Berkeley, who spent his stay in America here. The area, like most of Middletown, was farmed from the 18th century; the farmscape survives to the present, along with its several farms.

- \*\* A. Whitehall (c. 1729; Berkeley Avenue): A 2-story, hip-roof structure with a large, off-center, brick chimney; a wide pedimented entrance in a 5-bay facade; and a saltbox addition at the rear. It is set on a small landscaped lot, with stone walls, in the midst of a farm district and is presently maintained as a museum by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Rhode Island. George Berkeley, Dean of Derry in Ireland, philanthropist, poet, and philosopher, landed at Newport in 1729 and remained in Rhode Island until 1731. Seeking to establish a farm to grow crops for a proposed college in Bermuda, he settled in what is today Middletown and built his house. George Berkeley is undoubtedly Middletown's most famous resident. While here he wrote Alciphron, or, the Minute Philosopher, a refutation of Deism, and helped found a philosophical society which became the basis for the Redwood Library. His house was built expressly as a country retreat on ninety-six pastoral acres (today only a little more than half an acre of the original tract of land has been preserved along with the house). When he discovered that aid for his proposed American college was not forthcoming, Berkeley gave his house and library to Yale University and returned to England. In 1769, renamed Vaux Hall, the house was used as a tea house and offered lodging to summer visitors from the Carolinas and West Indies, but later was vacated; by the end of the 19th century, after years of neglect, it had fallen into ruin. Whitehall was restored in 1899 by the Society of Colonial Dames, who secured a 999-year lease from Yale. It was restored again in 1936, under the guidance of Norman Isham, and also in 1966-1968. Today the house, set back of its stone wall with plantings near the doorway, is a reminder of Berkeley's residence in America. (1777- White Hall)
- B. A. A. Brown House (Berkeley Avenue): A 2½-story, Late Victorian structure with corner tower; two, interior, brick chimneys; and entry in a veranda at the southeast corner. There are several outbuildings behind the house, which is on a private lane just beyond Whitehall. (1895-A. A. Brown)

## STRUCTURES AND SITES

### AQUIDNECK AVENUE

8. Hannah A. Morris House (65 Aquidneck Avenue): A 2-story, early 20th-century structure--with a small, brick, exterior chimney and open porch at the front and left side--set on a slight rise. (1921-Hannah A. Morris)

### BAILEY AVENUE

9. Peckham House (89 Bailey Avenue): A 2½-story, early 19th-century structure, with Late Victorian alterations, including a corner tower. The house is set back from the road, on a large open lot. (1855-Shown on map; 1870-E. A. Peckham)

### BALDWIN ROAD

- \* 10. Peckham House (6 Baldwin Road): A 2½-story, 18th-century structure with a large, stuccoed, brick, center chimney; central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; and a 2-story wing at the left rear. The house, set on a neat lot, with dry stone walls, is in the midst of a mid-20th-century house development. (1850-Peckham)

### BLISS MINE ROAD

11. Francis Talbot House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian, bracketed, cross-gable structure with two, interior, brick chimneys and a 1-story, flat-roof addition at the left front. There are two large beech trees near the road. In the mid-19th century Francis Talbot and A. Smith began a nursery business here. (1855-Frank Talbot)

### BOULEVARD

12. Green End, now known as Card's Redoubt (1778): The remains of an earthwork in a pine grove at the rear of 218 Boulevard marks the site of MacKenzie's Green End or Card's Redoubt, once part of a line of defenses built by the British in 1778 around Newport. The line of fortifications, consisting of trenches, gun batteries, redoubts, and forts, extended from near Easton's Pond in the south to Tonomy Hill and Narragansett Bay to the northwest. Card's Redoubt, which was fired upon from Honeyman's Hill by General Sullivan's forces during the siege of Newport, was a short distance east of the main line of British fortifications. In September, 1778, Card's Redoubt and the other redoubts and batteries were dismantled by the British.



Originally, it was believed that Green End Fort, so-called, was located off Vernon Avenue (see #84), but recent research by Kenneth and David Walsh place the Green End Fort at this site near the Boulevard and Green End Avenue. (1777-1779 - Cards Redoubt)

#### BROWNS LANE

13. Brown House: A 2½-story Early Victorian structure with two, interior, brick chimneys; central entry with sidelights in a 3-bay facade; and a 2-story wing at the left side. There are stone walls in front; and the house, on a relatively small lot, is surrounded on three sides by a mid-20th-century housing development. (1850-P. Brown)

#### CHASE LANE

14. Taylor-Chase-Smythe House: A 2½-story, early 18th-century structure with numerous additions including a gable wing and a flat-roof addition at the rear and an enclosed porch around the south and west sides. The house is on a neat lot, with flat-topped stone walls and large trees, on the U. S. Naval Reservation. John Taylor, the original owner, was a founder of Middletown. (1777-79 - Chase House; 1831-Rob't. S. Chace)

#### CODDINGTON COVE

- \* 15. Naval Underwater Systems Center (Buildings # 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, and 131): At Coddington Cove, the Naval Underwater Systems Center includes several structures built during and after World War II, including the former Newport Airport Hanger; research, development, testing and evaluation buildings; and support buildings. Many of these are bomb-proof structures of massive reinforced-concrete construction with heavy overhanging roof projections.

#### CONTINENTAL DRIVE

16. House (37 Continental Drive): A 1½-story, Colonial Revival, cross-gambrel-roofed structure, with a small brick chimney near the center and several unfortunate additions. It was originally a guest house for Mariemont (#30) at 286 Green End Avenue. (1895-Outbuilding? to Bradley and Currier)

#### EAST MAIN ROAD

17. Middletown Town Hall (1885, 1940): The first town hall on this site was built in 1813-1814, but the existing 2½-story, cross-gable, Georgian Revival structure--with a central, recessed, pedimented entry; a palladian window in the gable

end; a square clock tower on the ridge in front; 1-story, flat-roof wings at both sides of the front; and a 1-story wing at the rear--dates from 1885, with extensive alterations made in 1940. (1885-Town House)

18. Aquidneck Grange Number Thirty, P. of H. (1935): A simple, 1½-story structure with a portico entry in the gable end and three brick chimneys. The building, set at an angle to the road, is also used by the Newport Baptist Temple Church. The grange in Middletown was founded in 1894. In 1930 a grange building was dedicated on this site. It burned and was replaced by the present structure.
19. Rhode Island Nurseries: A relatively large tract of flat land, mostly along the north and west sides of East Main Road, is owned by Rhode Island Nurseries and is used to grow horticultural plants. This nursery, once one of the "big four" on Aquidneck Island, was started by the Vanicek family. Included are two house-outbuilding complexes:
  - A. A. Anthony House (644 East Main Road): A 2½-story, early 20th-century, cross-gable structure with a small brick chimney; hip-roof porch at the right corner; and a fine complex of wood-shingle buildings at the rear. (1907-A. A. Anthony)
  - B. Joshua Anthony House: A 2½-story, Early Victorian structure with two interior brick chimneys; an enclosed hip-roof porch across the front; and an addition at the rear. There is a wood-shingle outbuilding and a flat-roof stuccoed building used by the nursery. The structures are set back from the road, surrounded by the nursery. (1860-Anthony)
20. (There is no property for this number)
21. Floradale Motor Court (1929): A motor court with an office by the road in front and a dozen small frame units set back from the road in a carefully tended setting of lawn and evergreen trees. The motor court is typical of those that flourished during the pre-World War II highway era, and it is one of the last of the type surviving in the state.
22. Manchester-Albro House (1105 East Main Road): A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure with a small brick chimney; central entry in a 3-bay facade in an open porch; and a wing at the rear. There are several wood-shingle outbuildings. The house is set back from the road, surrounded by open land. (1850-Mrs. Manchester)
23. Slate Hill Farm: A 1½-story, center-chimney, 18th-century structure, with extensive Late Victorian alterations, is at

the entrance to Slate Hill Farm, a mid-20th-century housing development. The houses, built in Colonialesque styles and set on landscaped lots, comprise an attractive housing tract--much better than most post-World War II housing developments on Aquidneck Island which were similarly created from carved-up farms and which still include the original farmhouse. (1777-1779 - Giles Slocum)

- \* 24. David Albro Farm (1219 East Main Road): A 2½-story, end-gable, Late Victorian structure with two small interior brick chimneys; entry at the left side, front, in an open porch; a 2-story bay window at the right side; and a 2-story wing at the rear. There is an outstanding wood-shingle outbuilding complex at the rear. The house and buildings are surrounded by fields. (1895-David Albro)
- 25. Isaac Sherman House (1228 East Main Road): A 1½-story, cross-gable, Early Victorian Gothic structure with two interior brick chimneys; central entry in an open porch across the front; and a 1-story bay window at the left side. The grounds are well landscaped. (1850-John Mitchell?)

#### FOREST AVENUE

- 26. Newport State Airport: The principal airport on Aquidneck Island is centered on a 1-story frame structure with stuccoed walls and a corrugated-metal, silo-like tower. Once known as Southwick's Grove, more than 100 acres were converted to the Newport Air Park after World War II by ex-Air Force Major Bob Wood. In 1960 it was purchased by the state. (1870-Farm of C. Southwick)

#### GREEN END AVENUE

Green End Fort: See Boulevard (#12)

- 27. Hillside Farm (178 Green End Avenue): A 2½-story, cross-gable, Federal structure with Victorian additions; two small interior brick chimneys; and entry in a porch at the right front. There is a garage and a wood-shingle barn and outbuilding, set next to a landscaped waterway--Bailey Brook. The house is set back from the road on a large lot. (1850-Shown on map; 1860-S. Paddleford)
- 28. Witherbee School (c. 1888): A 1-story, end-gable, frame structure with a patterned- and plain-shingled exterior; a square corner tower; a small brick chimney at the right side; and an arched, recessed, central entry. The former school-house occupies a simply landscaped lot at the corner of Valley Road. (1860-School on site)

29. Jethro Peckham House (167 Green End Avenue): A 1½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival structure, with a small, brick, off-center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the south end. The well landscaped lot includes an outbuilding. (1850-J. J. Peckham)
30. Mariemont (386 Green End Avenue): A large, 2½-story, cross-gambrel, wood-shingle, Late Victorian-Colonial Revival structure (with several, brick, interior chimneys) set behind a spacious lawn. There is a small wood-shingle cottage on the lot. A residence at 37 Continental Drive (#16) was formerly a guest house for Mariemont. Mrs. Thomas (Mary) Emery, who lived here, and whose garden was considered one of the show places of Aquidneck Island with sunken flower beds, lilac hedges, and close-trimmed alleys, donated funds to build the Newport Army and Navy Y.M.C.A. (1885-S.C. Witherbee?; 1895-Bradley & Currier)
31. House (488 Green End Avenue): A 2½-story, 18th-century structure with a large, stuccoed, brick, center chimney and central entry in a 5-bay facade in a hip-roof porch across the front. The house is set back from the road. (1885-Dr. C. E. Heywood)
32. Berkeley School: A 1-story, frame, shingled, hip-roof; early 20th-century schoolhouse with a large, brick, center chimney. The mid-20th-century Joel Peckham School is attached to the Berkeley School at the right side. (1921-School)
33. Robinson-Barker House (1206 Green End Avenue): A 2½-story, Federal structure with two, interior, brick chimneys; a central entry with sidelights in a 5-bay facade in a hip roof veranda across the front; and a "telescope" wing at the rear. There are a wood-shingle outbuilding, stone walls, and trees on the neat lot. (1850-Mrs. Lewis)
34. Barker-Congdon House: A 2½-story, Early Victorian structure with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; central entry in a 3-bay facade in a hip-roof veranda across the front; and an addition at the rear. There is a wood-shingle outbuilding. The house is on a slight rise at the intersection of Third Beach Road. (1850-E. Barker)
35. Boy's Club, formerly St. Columba's Parish House (1908): A 1½-story, cross-gable, shingled structure with a small belfry and a large multi-paned, round-head window in front. Designed by Clark and Howe, it was dedicated in 1908 and served as the parish house for St. Columba's Chapel (on Indian Avenue) until a new parish house was built near the chapel about 1959 and this structure sold to the boy's club, the present owners. (1907-Guild So.)

#### GREENE LANE

36. George Coggeshall House (140 Greene Lane): A 2½-story, Early Victorian structure with two small, stuccoed, brick interior chimneys; simple portico entry in a 3-bay facade; and a wing at the left side. There are stone walls around and outbuildings of a working farm behind. (1885-George Coggeshall)

121 Greene Lane: See West Main Road Historic District, #6A

#### HOWLAND AVENUE

- \* 36A. William Taggart, Jr., Cottage, see addenda

#### INDIAN AVENUE

37. R. W. Peckham House (1786 Indian Avenue): A 2½-story, early 20th century, Neoclassical, cross-gable structure with a temple facade with fluted Ionic columns and a palladian window in the pediment; entry, with transom lights, at the right side; two small, brick, interior chimneys; and an addition at the rear (west end). There is a neat hedge and wooden, fluted, entry posts with elaborate caps on Indian Avenue. (1907-R. W. Peckham)

15-561 Indian Avenue: See Indian Avenue Historic District, #1.

#### JEPSON LANE

38. "Mini Green Animals" (504 Jepson Lane): A 1½-story, early 20th-century cottage with a small brick-end chimney and truncated gable roof, the house is the residence of Frank Mendonca, who was a gardner at the Brayton Estate in Portsmouth. The grounds here are landscaped with hedges and shrubs trimmed in the forms of animals and geometric shapes, just as Mendonca trimmed the famous topiary gardens at Brayton's Green Animals. (1921-F. L. Mendonca)
39. John Spooner Farm (704 Jepson Lane): A 1½-story, Early Victorian-Gothic structure with two small, stuccoed, interior chimneys; central Greek Revival doorway in a projecting pedimented pavilion; and a 1-story wing at the right rear. There are several outbuildings. (1850-J. H. Spooner)
40. P. Anthony Farm: A 1½-story, Early Victorian, end-gable, shingled structure with a small, brick, center chimney; entry at the left side of the gable end; and a wing at the rear. There are a small house in the rear, a good wood-shingle barn complex, and surrounding fields. (1850-P. Anthony)

#### JUDITH COURT

41. Pardon Brown House (2 Judith Court): A 1½-story, Early Victorian, bracketed structure, with a small brick chimney;

central entry with sidelights, in a 3-bay facade; and a wing at the rear. It is at the edge of a mid-20th-century development. (1850-P. Brown)

#### KANE AVENUE

42. Judge Bookstaver House (1885): A large, complex-plan cross-gable, 2½-story, shingle structure with an extensive piazza around three sides. It is at the corner of Second Beach Road on a landscaped lot. It was built and probably designed by J. D. Johnston, a Newport builder-architect. (1885-H. W. Bookstaver)
43. Russell Nevins, Jr. House: A 2½-story, early 20th-century, Tudor Revival house with two brick chimneys; entry at the left side in an open porch; two gable sections at the left-side-front, one projecting and half-timbered; and a shed dormer at the right side. It is set on a neat lot. (1921-Russell N. Nevins, Jr.)
44. James Knowles House: A 1½-story, mansard-roof, bracketed, early 20th-century structure with a small, brick chimney; entry at the left-side-front, in a veranda; gabled dormers; and a wing at the rear. It occupies a landscaped lot across from St. George's School. (1921-James T. Knowles)

#### MIANTONOMI AVENUE

- \* 45. William Vernon House, or Elmhyrst (1833): A 2-story, Greek Revival, hip-roof structure with two interior brick chimneys; an Ionic, tetrastyle portico in antis (recessed porch); and, in the rear, a pair of 1-story guest houses built in the form of Greek temples and formerly used as an office and as a porter's lodge. The house, which was altered by the removal of the attic and balustrade, was designed by Russell Warren for William Vernon, a wealthy Newport merchant. Its former orientation to West Main Road at Mile Corner is now obscured by a gasoline station. (1850-Wm. Vernon)
- \* 46. Hamilton Hoppin House (1856-1857; 120 Miantonomi Avenue): A 2½-story transitional Italianate-Stick Style, hip-roofed structure with three, interior, brick chimneys and a central entry in a 3-bay facade in an open arcaded porch with a balustrade across the front. The horizontal and vertical members of the exterior wall surface suggest the horizontal and vertical members of the frame. The structure, designed by architect Richard Upjohn, follows a symmetrical and academic plan. His skeletonization of the exterior surface is an early example of this kind of treatment. The house is set back from

the road behind a broad lawn with large trees. Hoppin was a summer resident. (1860-H. Hoppin)

- \* 47. Alexander Van Rensselaer House, now Villalou (c. 1860): This 2½-story structure, once the summer residence of Alexander Van Rensselaer of New York, was built soon after the Hoppin House (see #46) and imitated it in the treatment of exterior surfaces and details, particularly in copying the details of the piazza porch. It occupies a smaller lot than the Hoppin House. Both are in an area of dense mid-20th-century residential development. (1860-A. Van Rensselaer)
48. Parish House, now the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: A 2½-story, Stick Style structure with a mid-20th-century, 1-story, brick chapel attached by means of a breezeway at the right side. The structure, originally part of a nearby estate and probably an outbuilding, occupies a neat grassy lot at the corner of Boulevard. (1907-W. C. Simmons)

#### MITCHELL LANE

49. James Smith Farm (708 Mitchell Lane): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house with a small, brick chimney and central entry in a 5-bay facade. There are several outbuildings (including a wood-shingle barn and a stone silo), and fields surround the buildings. (1850-Jas. Smith)
50. House: A 1½-story, Early Victorian structure with a medium-size brick chimney; central pedimented entry in a 3-bay facade; and a long, 1½-story wing at a right angle at the north side. The house is set back from the road on a private drive and was once part of Sunny Fields Farm. (1860-Z. Palmer?)
51. House: A 1½-story, early-20th-century bungalow with two exterior fieldstone chimneys, a half-enclosed porch across the front and a shed-roof dormer in front. The house is either an altered Federal house or it occupies the site of an earlier dwelling. (1831-R. Caswell)

#### MORRISON AVENUE

52. House (81 Morrison Avenue): A recently renovated, 2-story, 18th-century structure with a medium-size, brick chimney; asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a saltbox addition at the rear. (1777-79 - Barker)

OLIPHANT LANE

- \* 53. Chase House (1742, 1786; 88 Oliphant Lane): A 2½-story structure with two, interior, brick chimneys and a central entry in a 5-bay facade in an open porch across the front. Set at a right angle at the rear is the older section, a 2-story gambrel-roof structure. There are several outbuildings and stone walls on a neat lot. (1850-Chace)
54. Daniel Chase House (146 Oliphant Lane): A 1½-story, Late Victorian structure with a small, brick, center chimney; central entry in a 3-bay facade in an open porch across the front; a 1-story bay window at the right side; and a 2-story, hip-roof addition at the rear. There are a garage, stone walls, and large trees on the neat lot. (1885-Daniel Chase)
55. House (201 Oliphant Lane): A 1½-story, Second Empire house with two, interior, brick chimneys; gabled dormers; entry at the right side in a 3-bay facade in an open porch across the front; a 1-story bay window at the left side; and a 2-story wing at the rear. There is a mansard-roof garage at the rear which matches the house. The house was moved one quarter mile east from the north end of the state airport property.
56. House (484 Oliphant Lane): A 1½-story, Early Victorian structure with two small, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 3-bay facade in an open porch across the front; a 1-story bay at the right side; and a 2-story flat-roof addition at the left side. There are several wood-shingle barns and stone walls on a neat lot. (1850-J. Mitchell)

PARADISE AVENUE

57. Ward's Farm, now the Ward-Barker House (89 Paradise Avenue): A 1½-story, Greek Revival structure with a small, brick chimney and an enclosed porch across the front. There is a fine, long, early 20th-century barn near the house. (1860-A. Ward)

246-532 Paradise Avenue: See Paradise Avenue Historic District, #3.

PROSPECT AVENUE

Paradise School: See Paradise Avenue Historic District, #3.

58. William Peckham House (41 Prospect Avenue): A 2½-story, 18th-century structure with a large, brick, center chimney; Federal entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story wing at the right side. There is a wood-shingle barn nearby. (1777-79 - Shown on map; 1850-Wm. Peckham)



59. House (98 Prospect Avenue): A 1½-story, Late Victorian-Queen Anne structure with a small brick chimney; a simple belfry in the center; a central enclosed entry in a 3-bay facade; and bay windows at the north and east sides. (1895-J. E. Whitman et al?)
60. E. M. Peckham House (145 Prospect Avenue): A 1½-story, Late Victorian-Second Empire structure with a small brick center chimney; gabled dormers; entry in an open porch; and several additions. There is a wood-shingled outbuilding (1885-A. M. Peckham)

#### RENFREW PARK

61. Renfrew Park: A compound of twelve, 2½-story, Late Victorian, Shingle Style and Queen Anne houses set around a relatively large grassy central green or common. There is a large, wooden, shingle carriage on nearby Allston Avenue. (1895-P. J. Murphy--ten houses are shown)

#### ROWLAND AVENUE

62. Newport Memorial Park: A landscaped memorial park (sited on a slight hill) dominated by an A-frame structure with cut-stone walls and a frame of large timbers.

#### SACHUEST

63. Sachuest: In the southeast corner of Middletown, jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean, is a slightly elevated, rocky peninsula, known as Sachuest. It was an island at the end of the last ice age, but currents deposited sand and gravel which created Second Beach and Third Beach and connected the island to the mainland. The land was farmed from at least the 18th century. During World War II, it became U. S. Navy property, and in 1943 several reinforced-concrete fire-control and observation towers were constructed. In 1974 the Navy property at Sachuest was exsessed and the land became a town recreation area and a U. S. wildlife preserve. The three surviving concrete towers, two square and one cylindrical, are in poor condition. (1777-Mr. Robert Lawton)

#### SECOND BEACH ROAD

- \* 64. Land Trust Cottages (1887-1888): A compound of five shingle houses at the east end of Easton Beach, mostly 2½-story, gambrel-roof structures. In 1885-1887, the area was laid out for development under the guidance of Frederick Law Olmstead, and in 1887-1888 E. B. Hall, a Boston builder, erected a compound of houses--arranged freely to best utilize the sun, air,

and open space--on a relatively restricted lot. The area east of here, in a large peninsula terminating at Easton's Point, was also purchased by a group of Boston businessmen, and a number of fine summer houses were erected in the late 19th century. (1895-Newport Land Trust)

65. A. R. Wheeler House: A 2½-story, early 20th-century, Shingle Style, gambrel-roof structure--with a projecting, gabled, front section--on a landscaped lot at the corner of Kane Avenue. (1907-A. R. Wheeler)
- \* 66. St. George's School (1901 and after): A group of school buildings on a relatively large tract of land (11½ acres) overlooking Sachuest Bay. In 1896 the Reverend George Diman (who earlier was the pastor at St. Columba's Chapel, the Berkeley Memorial Chapel, and later, as a Roman Catholic priest, founded the Portsmouth Priory School) founded an Episcopal school in a small house near the beginning of the Cliff Walk in Newport. He moved to the Middletown site several years later. In 1901, The Old School, which is still the central unit of the campus, was built, and later other buildings were added, including a dining hall, gymnasium, and classrooms. The most significant structure, The Chapel, a Late Gothic Revival building with a crenelated tower, was the gift of John Nicholas Brown (class of 1918) and was consecrated in 1928. The architect for the Chapel, which is recommended for the National Register, was Dr. Ralph Adams Cram, who used a style of architecture and arrangement typical of school and college chapels in England. Diman Hall, designed by Howe and Church, is a typical Collegiate (Georgian) Colonial style structure, but the most recent additions to the campus follow contemporary styles, such as the International. (1907-St. Georges School)
67. House: A 2½-story, early 20th-century, cross-gable, stuccoed, Tudor-style structure with two, interior, brick chimneys and different roof angles; it is at the corner of Ashurst Lane. (1907-Otto Ehrhardt)
- \* 68. Jacob Cram House-Mary Sturtevant House (1871-1872): A large, 2½-story, Stick Style structure with several brick chimneys, an extensive porch around most of the first floor and a complex plan and irregular silhouette. The Jacob Cram House, now the Mary Sturtevant House, is considered a major architectural work by Antoinette Downing and Vincent Scully; the following quote from their The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, pages 148-149, provides a full description of this important structure:

Apparently built by Dudley Newton in 1871-1872 (although it exhibits many of the characteristics of the work of Peabody and Stearns), it represents a climactic moment in the first phase of that organic and basically nonstylistic development whose roots in America went back to Downing's time. This development had three basic principles which we have seen in operation to a greater or less degree since the forties. These were: 1) utility; 2) structural expression; 3) the picturesque. These three principles had consistently interacted and tended to reinforce each other, and can all be seen at work in the Sturtevant house. Utility had called for a certain number of rooms, different in function and thereby varied in shape, as can be observed in its plan. Since the halls are to pass through, they contain no fireplace and are not unduly developed, and the rooms themselves, although opening widely, are clearly separate volumes. This will contrast with later developments. Since the rooms are varied, the enclosing wall shapes are also varied, thus increasing the picturesque variety of the exterior. Moreover, high rooms are cooler than low rooms and, to the mid-century eye, more spacious. Consequently, the mass of the house will be vertical, expressive of its most important structural member, the vertical stud.

For this variety and verticality a flexible wooden frame system is perfectly adapted, and will naturally be expressed upon the exterior, as in the articulated wall stripping and gable trusses of the Sturtevant house. The stick expression, conversely, breaks up the wall and, as in the gables, casts a variety of shadows, all of which enhance the pictorial quality of the whole. This visual effect must further be developed by color which will not clash but will blend with the landscape and receive natural light with tonal richness, in this case a deep warm red. Similarly, high, light wooden truss roofs express the various changes in room shape and massing below, extend outward to protect the walls, and become an additional picturesque feature.

Yet in the picturesqueness of this stick style vernacular there is nothing quaint or cottagey, but rather a kind of harsh, jagged masculinity, which contrasts more than favorably with the tasty

quaintness of some aspects of later development. It is only utilitarian and sensible to be able to move easily out of doors and also to be protected from the rain and the sun. This combines at the same time with a love of nature founded upon a sense of the picturesque. Consequently, as in the Sturtevant house, ample porches extend the interior volumes of the house and are reached through high doors set between structural studs. These porches become not only deep voids in the architectural composition, but are also natural expressions of wooden skeleton construction, with posts, horizontal plates and ties, and diagonal braces to extend the span and take the lateral thrust. In the stick work may be felt the influence of Japanese framing techniques which, like the Swiss chalets in the fifties, were becoming organic enrichments of the indigenous sensitivity toward frame construction. (1185-Mrs. Cram)

69. House: A 2-story, mid-20th-century structure with several shed roof angles and vertical board siding, on a well landscaped lot.
70. Beach House: A 1-story, mid-20th-century, brick, shed-roof structure along Sachuest Beach at Second Beach.

#### SHORE DRIVE

71. House (63 Shore Drive): A 2½-story, early-20th-century, shingled structure with a large, stone, exterior chimney; it is located near the shore at Easton Bay.

#### THIRD BEACH ROAD

72. Samuel G. Arnold House-Lazy Lawn (528 Third Beach Road): A 1½-story Federal structure with Greek Revival alterations, notably a temple-form facade (an unknown feature in Rhode Island Greek Revival houses, even the most elaborate). The house, on a large lot, is set back from the road on a semi-circular drive. It was once the residence of noted Rhode Island historian Samuel Greene Arnold who purchased the property in 1843 from the Angell family of Providence. Arnold enlarged the house (including the front porch with pillars) and moved a building behind the main house for use as a kitchen and servants' quarters (it is now used as a guest house); the two buildings are connected by a passageway, originally open but now covered. In 1911 the gardener's cottage near the north gate was moved to its present location from a site several hundred feet behind the main house. The name

Lazy Lawn was coined (or carved) by a visiting Frenchman, a guest at the house one summer, who inscribed the name into an old swing. (1850-Saml Arnold)

73. Peckham-Brown House: A 1½-story, 18th-century structure with a large, brick chimney; simple off-center entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; and a wing at the left side. It is on a well landscaped lot which includes a wood-shingle barn-carriage house. (1831-G. W. Peckham)
- \* 74. Peabody School (1794; 294 Third Beach Road): A 1½-story, end-gable structure with separate front entrances; a square belfry in front; and an exterior, brick chimney at the east side. The former schoolhouse, now a residence, is on a small, neat lot, with stone walls around and a wood-shingle outbuilding nearby. (1850-School)

#### TUCKERMAN AVENUE

75. Sea View Villa (1881): A 2½-story, multi-gabled chateau with a complex plan, several porches, and wood-carved details on the exterior. (1885-Gen. Dias)
76. The Clambake Club: A 1-story, L-plan, wood-shingle structure with four fieldstone chimneys; it is sited on the bluff at Easton Point. The exclusive Clambake Club was started on this site in 1897. The original building, added to by donations from several members, was extensively damaged in the 1938 hurricane and rebuilt soon after. (1907-The Clambake Club)
77. Whetstone (455 Tuckerman Avenue): A 2-story- Early Victorian structure with two brick, interior chimneys; round-head dormers; a porch across the front; and several additions. It is sited on the bluff overlooking Whetstone Point and Long Rock and Sachuest Bay. (1860-Dr. Balch)
- \* 78. The Bluff, formerly the John Bancroft House (675 Tuckerman Avenue): A large, 3½-story, Late Victorian, Shingle Style, L-plan, summer house with an off-center, portico entry and several, brick, interior chimneys; it is set back from the road on a large, well landscaped lot at the Bluff overlooking Sachuest Bay. The house at 593 Tuckerman Road was formerly a carriage house for the Bancroft estate. (1895-J. C. Bancroft)
79. House (593 Tuckerman Avenue): A 2½-story, Late Victorian, Shingle Style structure with a medium-size, brick chimney; it is next to a large Late Victorian barn that was formerly a carriage house for The Bluff. (1895-J. C. Bancroft)

- \* 80. Purgatory Chasm: A natural chasm, or cleft, in the cliffs along Sachuest Bay. The opening in the conglomerate rock ledge is about 10 feet wide, 50 feet deep, and 120 feet long. It was created by the effect of decomposition and wave action on a dike of trap rock in the conglomerate, which wore away faster than the conglomerate. Purgatory is of geological importance because the chasm is a good example of erosion due to wave action and because of the conglomerate beds, of "stretched pebbles and boulders," which were flattened and elongated by compression millions of years ago. In addition to being an outstanding geological attraction, the local scenery is lovely and picturesque and the area has been known to inhabitants and visitors from prehistoric times. According to legend, the Indian satan, Hobokomo, accosted an Indian squaw who had murdered a white man and dragged her here. A fight ensued and she was thrown into the chasm. Bowl-like depressions in the rock show where she bumped her head, ax-marks indicate where the tomahawk struck, and the foot-prints in the veins of stone reveal where Hobokomo ran with the squaw's body to the edge of the chasm. Initials and dates inscribed in a layer of sandstone, dating from the 18th century, indicate that Purgatory was known from an early time; travel and guide books reveal that the chasm and surrounding area was a popular place to visit in the 19th century. Today Purgatory Chasm is a state park maintained by the Department of Environmental Management. (1777-Purgatory)

#### TURNER ROAD

81. Calvary Methodist Church (1963): A 1½-story, brick, end-gable structure with a steep-pitched, wood-shingle roof; it is set back from the road on a grassy lot, with stone walls around and a cemetery at the rear. This contemporary structure replaced an earlier Methodist Church which stood across Wyatt Road since the 19th century and is now a Masonic Hall.

#### VALLEY ROAD

82. Smith-Hazard House (124 Valley Road): A 2½-story, Early Victorian structure with two interior brick chimneys; a central entry in a 3-bay facade in an open porch across the front; and a 2-story wing at the rear. There are several fine, wood-shingle outbuildings and a stone wall and wood-rail fence around the lot. (1850-Isaac Smith)
83. Clark Farm Complex (306 Valley Road): A group of mid-19th-century wood-shingle outbuildings, including a silo. (1850-Edward Clark (farm).)

#### VERNON LANE

- \* 84. Redoubt St. Onge (1780): A sinuous mound of earth and a grassy open area, with a steep slope to the east, mark the site of Redoubt St. Onge, a Revolutionary War defense work. The redoubt was constructed by Colonial and French troops in 1780 to protect the French, under Rochambeau, from an attack by English forces out of New York. A monument at the site incorrectly identifies this redoubt as Green End Fort, but Green End (Card's) Redoubt, which was built by the English and used by them in the defense of Newport, is located farther north along the hillside.<sup>6</sup> During the 19th century the area was farmed. An 1894 Deed of Trust was created to preserve the breastworks, and later the title was turned over to the Newport Historical Society. Redoubt St. Onge, now maintained by the Sons of the Revolution, is the best preserved fortification of the Revolutionary War era in Middletown. (1780-Redoubt St. Orige)

#### WAPPING ROAD

85. Farm (1078 Wapping Road): A 1½-story, 18th-century structure with a small, brick chimney; simple central entry in a 5-bay facade in an open porch across the front; and a small wing at the rear. There are several outbuildings, stone walls around the house, and fields around the farmyard. (1850-Mrs. Chase)
86. Peckham House (1416 Wapping Road): A 2-story, Early Victorian, hip-roof, L-plan structure with a small, brick chimney; entry at the right side of the front in a veranda; and several additions at the rear. The well landscaped lot includes a wood-shingle barn. (1860-Mrs. Peckham?)
87. House: A 2½-story, Early Victorian, bracketed, Shingle Style structure with two, interior, brick chimneys and several flat-roof additions. Nearby, on the same lot, is a shingle building used as a veterinarian's office. (1870-L. Peckham)

#### WEST MAIN ROAD

88. House (28 West Main Road): A 2-story, brick, hip-roof, early-20th-century, Georgian Revival structure with two, interior, brick chimneys; a central, pedimented, portico entry in a 5-bay facade; a 2-story wing at the rear; and a small enclosed porch at the right-side-front. The grounds are well landscaped.

<sup>6</sup> The accurate location of the two redoubts was established by research undertaken by Kenneth and David Walsh (see Newport History, Winter, 1976).

89. Faria Funeral Home: A 2½-story, cross-gable, Late Victorian, Queen Anne style structure with entry in an open porch at the front and right sides. (1895-Mrs. L. Peckham)
90. House (120 West Main Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingle, cross-gambrel, Late Victorian, Shingle Style-Colonial Revival structure with two brick chimneys at the ends; a central, portico entry; a porch at the left side; and 2-story, flat-roof addition at the rear.
91. Rosedale (136 West Main Road): A 2½-story, Late Victorian eclectic house with complex plan. (1895-W. Thurston?)
92. Crancroft, or Kimber House: A 2½-story, Late Victorian-Colonial Revival, gambrel-roof structure with two interior, brick chimneys; entry in a central projecting pavilion in a 3-bay facade; and a wing at the left side rear. (1885-A. M. Kimber)
- \* 93. William Redwood's Country House, or David Buffum House (c. 1745; 317 West Main Road): A 2½-story, gable-on-hip-roof, early Georgian structure with two medium, brick, interior chimneys; pedimented central entry with fanlight; a 5-bay facade; and small dormers. The house, probably built by Deputy Governor Joseph Whipple in 1745, became the property of William Redwood in 1755. Redwood was one of Newport's wealthy merchants and his Middletown house is evidence of the lavish style of country living enjoyed by the Newport merchants in the period before the Revolutionary War. It was later owned by David Buffum, a well-known Quaker preacher. (1777-Will<sup>m</sup> Redwood)
94. Two Mile Corner Milestone (1825): At Two Mile Corner--the intersection of East Main Road and West Main Road--is a stone marker, about five feet high, in a small landscaped area, inscribed "9 Miles to Bristol Ferry, 2 Miles to Newport."
95. Navy Housing (The Anchorage and Naval Gardens): Set back from West Main Road along several side streets--including Coddington Highway, Lake Erie Street, Constellation Avenue and Louisiana Street--is a multi-family, mid-20th-century housing project for Navy families. Most of the structures are neo-Colonial in style, some with full 2-story porticos suggesting Mount Vernon. All the houses have been damaged and vandalized since the housing area was closed by the Navy in 1974.
96. Gibb's Service Station: A prefabricated, reinforced-concrete structure comprising the center isle of a 1960s gasoline station.



97. Weaver-Peckham Farm (1004 West Main Road): A 2½-story, Federal farmhouse with two, interior, brick chimneys; an enclosed porch in front; a wing at the rear; a wood-shingle barn with a cement silo; and surrounding fields. (1831-Benj. Weaver)
98. Gould House (1199 West Main Road): A 2-story, Early Victorian, bracketed, hip-roof structure with two, interior, brick chimneys; central entry, with sidelights, in a 3-bay facade in a veranda across the front; and an addition at the rear. (1850-John Gould)
99. House (1219 West Main Road): A 2-story, end-gable, Early Victorian structure with two, interior, brick chimneys and decorated gable end; a 1-story bay at the right side; and an addition at the left-side-rear.
100. Guild House: A 1-story, hip-roof, Late Victorian-early-20th-century structure with a small, brick, chimney and an enclosed, gabled, central entry. It is next to the Church of the Holy Cross. (1907-Guild House)
- \* 101. Church of the Holy Cross (1845): A 1-story, end-gable, Gothic Revival structure with patterned-shingle sides, a projecting pedimented entry, square belfry in front and stained-glass Gothic windows. The church was designed by the noted architect Richard Upjohn, who also designed St. Mary's Church in nearby Portsmouth and the Hamilton Hoppin House at 120 Miantonimi Avenue (#46); his best known work is New York's Trinity Church. (1850-Church)
102. Oliphant School (1882): A 1½-story, end-gable structure with a belfry near the gable end, an enclosed hip-roof entry, patterned and plain-wood shingle sides, a brick chimney and a long wing at a right angle at the rear. It occupies the site of an earlier schoolhouse. (1885-School)
103. Middletown Free Library (c. 1901 and later; 1521 West Main Road): A 1½-story, cross-gable, Colonial Revival structure with a central entry in a Greek tetrastyle portico in a 5-bay facade; two 1-story, flat-roofed flanking wings; and a large, stone chimney at the left side. Both wings are post-World War II additions. The library is adjacent and close to the Oliphant School and stands on land under the control of the Northwest School District. (1907-Library)
104. Birchwood Manor Real Estate Office: A small, 1-story, A-frame structure with a wood-shingle roof, storefront entry in the gable end, and shed-roof dormers at each side. Set at the entry to Birchwood Manor, a mid-20th-century housing.

development, it was once used as the developer's real-estate office but is now vacant.

105. House (1634 West Main Road): A 1½-story, 18th-century structure with a medium-size, brick, center chimney; central entry with transom lights in a 5-bay facade; and a small wing at the left side. There is one outbuilding and several large trees on a simply landscaped lot. (1850-Mrs. Chase)
106. Taggart House (1748 West Main Road): A 1½-story, gambrel-roof, 18th-century structure with a large brick, end chimney; weather entry at the right side, in a 3-bay facade; and a small wing at the rear. This structure was said to have been part of another house and moved to this site from Taggart's Ferry in the southeast part of town. (1850-Mrs. Taggart)
107. Former Town Clerk's Office: A 1-story, end-gable, Late Victorian, shingled structure with a small, tall, brick chimney at the left side. It occupies a small grassy lot next to the house at 1777 West Main Road, which was the residence of the town clerk; he used it as an office for many years. (1895-Town Clerk's Office)
108. Joshua Coggeshall House and Farm (1777 West Main Road): A 2½-story, Greek Revival structure with two, interior, brick chimneys; a slightly recessed central entry with sidelights in a 3-bay facade; a 2-story bay window at the right side; and an addition at the rear. The neat lot, with stone walls and a row of trees in front, includes a wood-shingle barn. Joshua Coggeshall, original owner of the house, was town clerk from 1839 to 1873. Albert L. Chase, Joshua's grandson, who took office in 1873 and kept the post of town clerk for more than sixty years, purchased the farm with his father in 1879. (1850-J. Coggeshall)

#### WOLCOTT AVENUE

109. Barkwood Apartments (398 Wolcott Avenue): A large, 2½-story, hip-roof, early-20th-century, Colonial Revival structure with several brick chimneys, a central entry with flat-roof portico, a deck across the front, 2-story pedimented bays flanking the entry, and a small wing at the right side.
- \*\* 110. Lyman C. Josephs House, or Louisiana (1882-1883; 438 Wolcott Avenue): A 2½-story, end-gambrel and gable-roofed, shingle house with two, tall, interior chimneys of articulated brickwork; numerous dormers of various shapes and groupings; and a recessed porch. The gabled section (attached by an arched carriageway) was formerly a stable but was converted to domestic use. Foundations, porch-surrounds, and most of the

first-floor wall covers are of slate fieldstone chosen in long, narrow pieces giving the coursing a horizontal emphasis. The house, designed by Clarence S. Luce, was built for Lyman C. Josephs, member of an affluent Baltimore family which maintained the house until the 1940s. It is an early and important example of the free plan, the practical comfort and simple but picturesque exterior design which are the best characteristics of the American Shingle Style architecture. (1885-L. C. Josephs)

111. Carlotte Miller House: A 1½-story, gambrel-roof, early-20th-century, shingle structure with a medium-size brick chimney and hip-roof dormers; it is set on a neat lot surrounded by mid-20th-century houses. It is a simpler version of the nearby Josephs House. (1921-Charlotte Miller)

#### WYATT ROAD

112. Chapman House and Farm (373 Wyatt Road): A 1½-story, 18th-century structure with Greek Revival details; a large, brick, center chimney; and a central Greek Revival entryway, in a 3-bay facade. The farmhouse is set back from the road on a private, stone-lined drive. The immediate farm lot, surrounded by fields, includes wood-shingle barns, stone walls, and a small brook in a very fine rural atmosphere. (1777-79 - Chapman)

ADDENDA

- \* 36A. William Taggart, Jr., Cottage: A 1½-story, 18th-century, gambrel-roofed house, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; off-center entry, with transome lights, in a four-bay facade; two gable dormers at the east side; and an addition at the northwest side. There are two wood shingled outbuildings--a barn and a shed--stone walls and a small family burying ground on the relatively large, secluded and attractive lot.

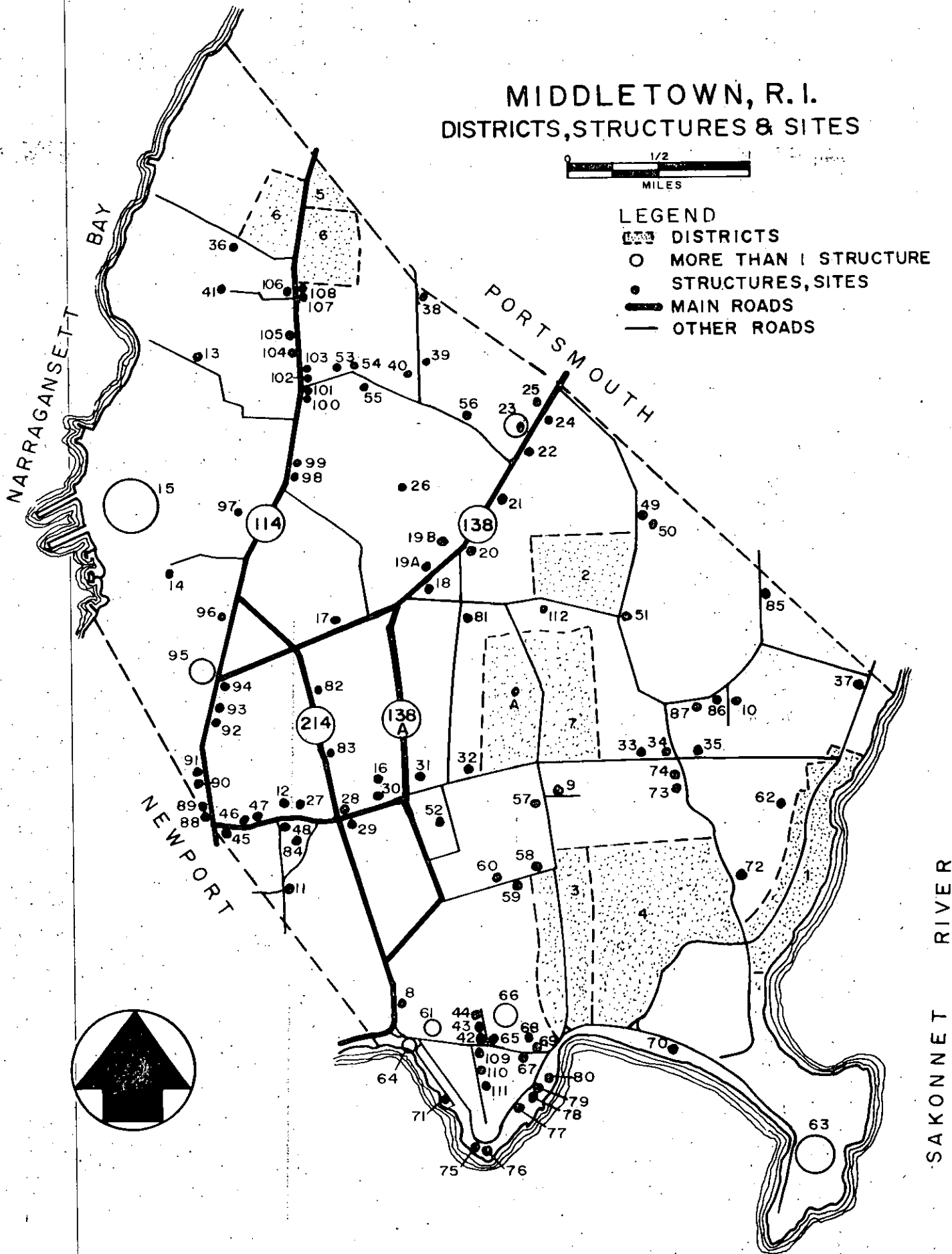
The house was built by the Taggarts, an early and important family in this part of Middletown. They ran nearby Taggart's Ferry. The first Taggart house was built on a site several hundred feet away, in what is now Newport Memorial Cemetery. The original Taggart house was occupied and badly damaged by British soldiers during the Revolutionary War and never rebuilt. It is said the present house was built for one of the Taggart sons. Another gambrel-roofed Taggart house was moved to West Main Road (#106), probably in the early nineteenth century. In 1944, this house was left to St. Colomba's Church; the Berkeley Memorial Chapel; it was leased in 1946 by the present occupant, who made extensive renovations.

# MIDDLETOWN, R. I. DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES & SITES



## LEGEND

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



ATLANTIC OCEAN

SAKONNET RIVER

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Cover Illustration: A. Anthony Farm Complex (early twentieth century); 644 East Main Road. (Map #19A)