

VETERANS MEMORIAL

**THE WALKING TOUR OF
HISTORIC
APPONAUG VILLAGE**



CITY OF WARWICK

MUSIC LN.

PO

COI

ARNOLDS NECK

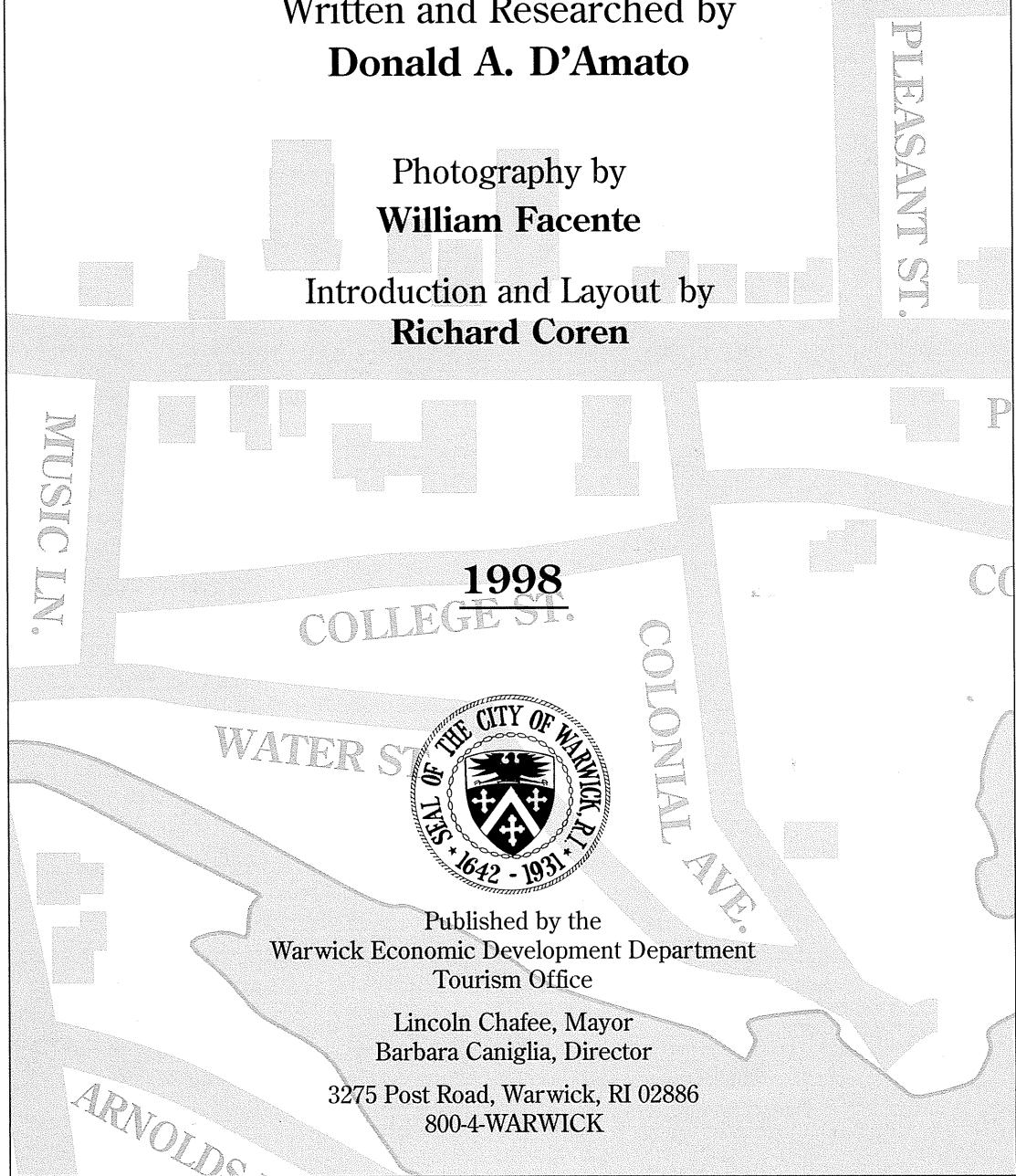
VETERANS MEMORIAL

THE WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC APPONAUG VILLAGE

Written and Researched by
Donald A. D'Amato

Photography by
William Facente

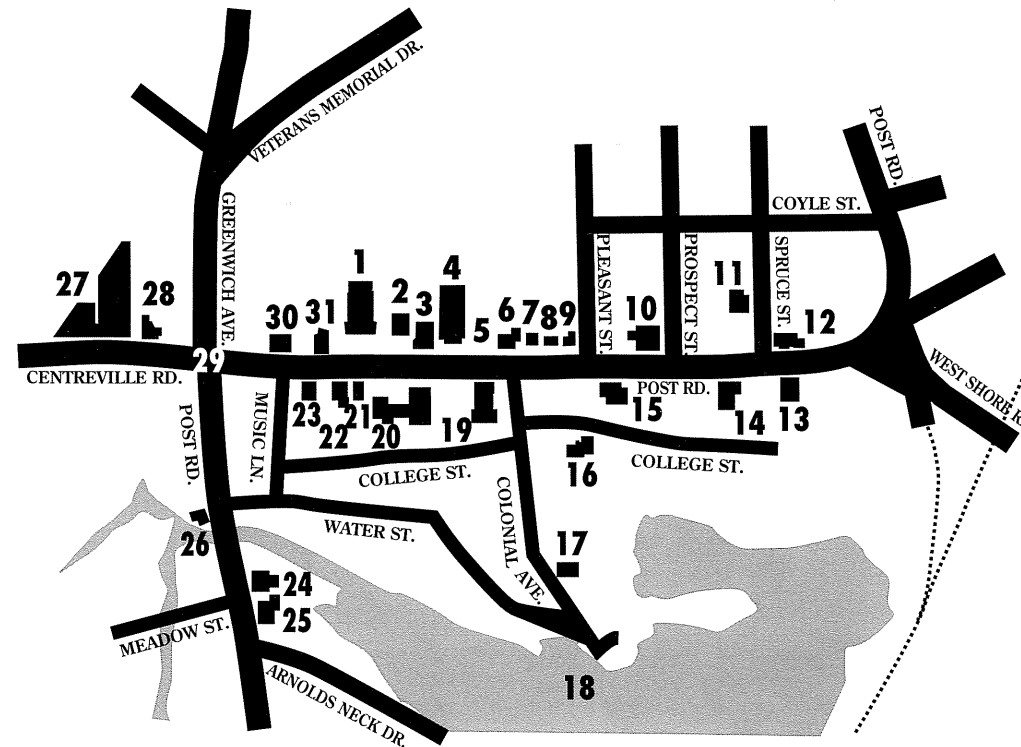
Introduction and Layout by
Richard Coren



Published by the
Warwick Economic Development Department
Tourism Office

Lincoln Chafee, Mayor
Barbara Caniglia, Director

3275 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886
800-4-WARWICK



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warwick City Hall (1893-1894), 3275 Post Rd. 2. Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library (1925), 3267 Post Rd. 3. Kentish Artillery Armory, now Warwick Museum (1912), 3259 Post Rd. 4. St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church (1921-26, with later alterations), 3257 Post Rd. 5. Apponaug Community Park 6. Jaheel Westcott House (ca. 1810 and 1865-70), 3239 Post Rd. 7. George Hardman House (ca. 1790-1810, with later alterations), 3235 Post Rd. 8. George W. Wilcox House (ca. 1872), 3227 Post Rd. 9. Henry Nicols House (ca. 1870), 3225 Post Rd. 10. United States Post Office, Warwick (1940), 3205 Post Rd. 11. Caleb R. Hill House (ca. 1850), 101 Spruce St. 12. Oscar Aylsworth House (ca. 1886), 108 Spruce St. 13. Odd Fellows Hall (ca. 1886), 3166 Post Rd. 14. Thomas Wilbur House (ca. 1820), 3188 Post Rd. 15. Stephen Browning House (ca. 1868), 3214 Post Rd. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Samuel Gorton House (ca. 1778), 92 College St. 17. Old Town Work House (ca. 1765), 58 Colonial Ave. 18. Apponaug Cove 19. St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church (ca. 1916), 3248 Post Rd. 20. Warwick Central Baptist Church (1834 and 1905), 3270 Post Rd. 21. William Millerd's Blacksmith Shop (ca. 1836), 3280 Post Rd. 22. Warwick Commerce Center (ca. 1870), 3288 Post Rd. 23. Old Town House (ca. 1835), 3292 Post Rd. 24. Henry Remington House (ca. 1800, with later alterations), 3376 Post Rd. 25. Harrison House (ca. 1800), 3384 Post Rd. 26. Tide Mill (ca. 1710, with later alterations), 3351 Post Rd. 27. The Apponaug Company (ca. 1920-28), 63 Centerville Rd. 28. Caleb Greene House, now Greene Memorial House (ca. 1796), 15 Centerville Rd. 29. Apponaug Four Corners 30. Josiah Westcott House and Store (ca. 1832 and 1914), 3301 Post Rd. 31. Caleb Westcott Store (ca. 1871), 3287 Post Rd. |
|--|--|

Introduction

Located in the heart of Warwick, Rhode Island, Apponaug serves as home to Warwick's City Hall and is the spiritual "downtown" to the city's 85,000 residents. Settled in 1696, Apponaug became renowned as a mill village, and after being platted in 1735, the village experienced hasty growth. Apponaug Cove, sheltered within Greenwich Bay, provided the means for Apponaug to also become an important seaport.

Today, Apponaug is quite different from the way it appeared even fifty years ago. Natural disasters, like fire and hurricanes, as well as urban expansion, have changed the face of the village forever. However, if you know what to look for and you look very carefully, you can still catch glimpses of Apponaug as it was two hundred years ago. *The Walking Tour of Historic Apponaug Village* is meant to guide you in your search for Apponaug's past. If you follow our suggested route, plan on needing about one hour to one and a half hours to complete the 1.5 mile loop.

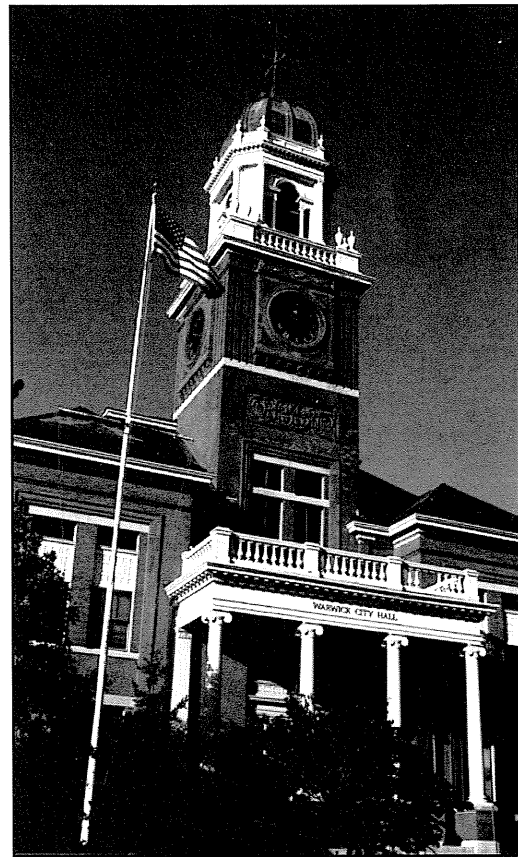
Start at City Hall, at 3275 Post Road (there's a parking lot located conveniently behind the building), and head east past the Library and Museum. As you continue east, you'll pass St. Barnabas Church, beautiful Apponaug Community Park, and several historic houses of note. Take a quick left down Spruce Street to see two houses there, and then return to Post Road, where you'll cross the street to the other side.

Continue back on Post Road, noting historic homes as you go. Turn left onto Colonial Avenue, and take a quick left on College Street to see the famous Samuel Gorton House. Return to Colonial Avenue, turning left towards the water. As you walk down Colonial Avenue, you'll notice the many historic houses that line the street – many of which could not be included in this book. While every attempt was made to include the most notable or important of Apponaug's historic buildings, there are many other "hidden" treasures for you to discover.

At the end of Colonial Avenue is Apponaug Cove. Take a minute to gaze out at the water and imagine this area as a bustling eighteenth century shipping port. Follow Colonial Avenue back to Post Road and take a left, passing shops and churches of historic note. Take a left on Music Lane and a right on Water Street and continue until you reach Post Road, where you'll go left, heading south.

After passing the Henry Remington House and the Harrison House, cross Post Road and head back towards Apponaug Four Corners. At the light, go left and cross Centerville Road to see The Apponaug Company and the Caleb Greene House. Head back towards Apponaug Four Corners, where Routes 1, 5 and 117 converge. This was once the Pequot Trail, and is the geographic and historic center of Warwick. Cross Post Road and head back to City Hall, passing several shops of importance.

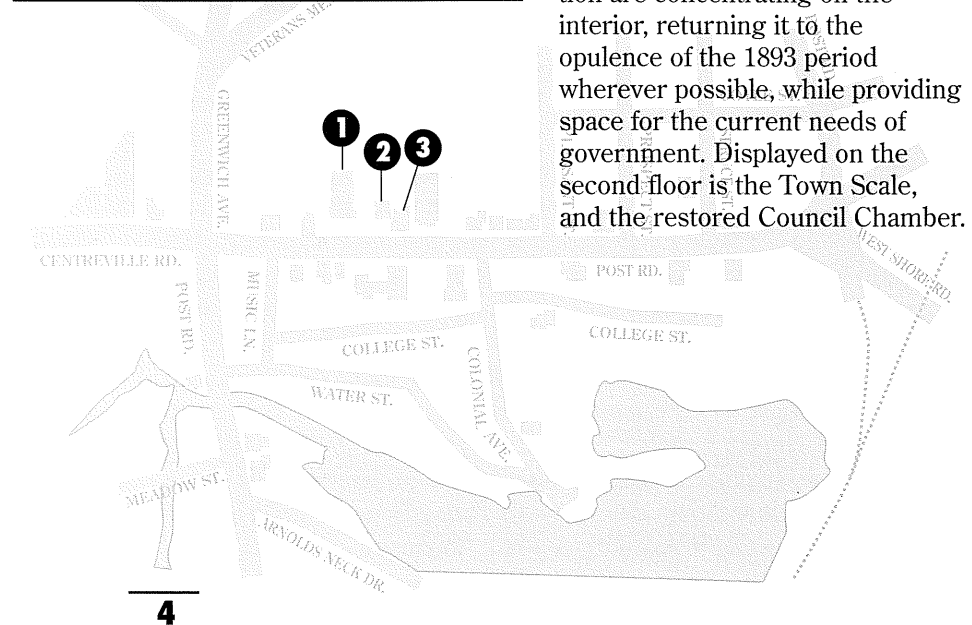
Now that you're familiar with the lay of the land, you're ready to go. Put on some comfortable walking shoes, use this book as your guide, let your imagination loose and prepare to step into Apponaug's colorful past.



1

Warwick City Hall
(1893-1894), 3275 Post Road

This mansard-roofed building, made of brick and granite, is a noteworthy example of Colonial Revival style. Projecting hip-roofed bays on the facade flank colossal entrance portico supported by Ionic columns. A six-story, square clock tower with a domed, wood framed belfry is also a distinctive feature. It is probably the finest extant municipal building by the Providence architectural firm William R. Walker & Son, which designed a number of city and town halls in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. Built to replace the 1834-1835 Town House, clerk's office and stables on the site, this grand symbol of Warwick cost \$75,000 to erect. After a 1980s exterior renovation, two additional phases of restoration are concentrating on the interior, returning it to the opulence of the 1893 period wherever possible, while providing space for the current needs of government. Displayed on the second floor is the Town Scale, and the restored Council Chamber.



4

2

Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library
(1925), 3267 Post Road.

At one time the Apponaug Free Library, established by local citizens in 1885, had quarters inside Warwick City Hall. As the town grew and space was at a premium, Henry W. Budlong gave \$25,000 in 1925 for construction of the simple Beaux-Arts-styled flat roofed, yellow-brick structure. It originally had a portico of Tuscan columns *in antis* but these were removed in the early 1970s.

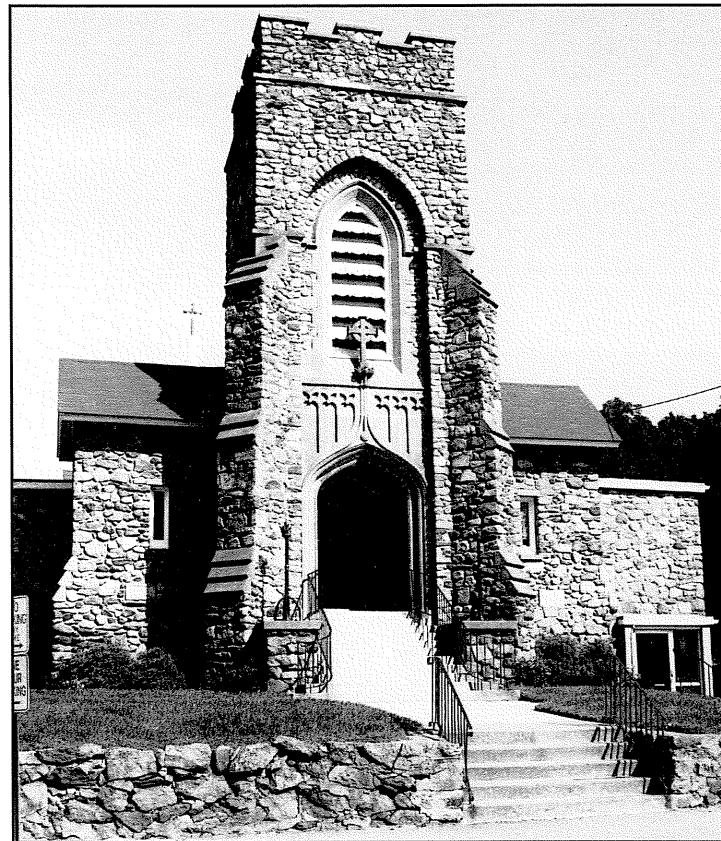


3

Kentish Artillery Armory, now the Warwick Museum
(1912), 3259 Post Road.

This brick structure replaced the 1854 wooden armory and drill hall of the Kentish Artillery destroyed by fire in 1911. William R. Walker & Son, architects of Warwick City Hall, designed the two-story structure with a gable-roofed rear wing fronted by a block with projecting, square corner towers and battlement parapet. The Kentish Artillery was organized in 1804, when the Kentish Light Infantry, a Warwick company organized upon the recommendation of George Washington in 1797, was given permission to become an artillery company. This unit was given, along with other armaments, two Revolutionary War Cannons. Indeed, for the 1912 armory, two niches were built on either side of the doorway to house them. The Walker firm added a charge of \$2.50 for "carting the cannon" to the new building, indicating that the guns were valuable and made of metal. You will notice now that these cannons are wooden replicas; the originals disappeared in 1972, and the case of the missing cannons has never been solved. The interior of the armory has been adapted to its present use as the Warwick Museum, a community visual art center which offers changing exhibitions and classes in the studio arts and crafts.

5



4 **St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church**
(1921-1926, with later alterations), 3257 Post Road.

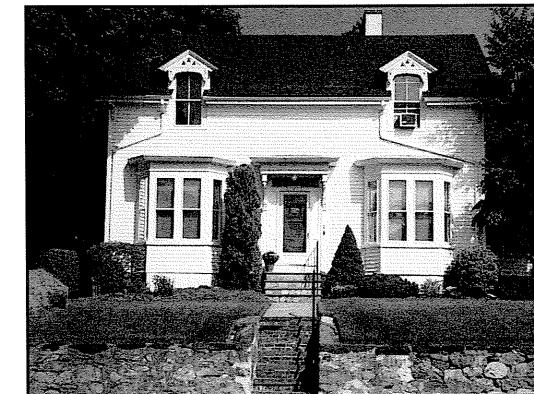
The front portion of this building is a handsome fieldstone structure in the Gothic Revival style with a two-story central tower with corner buttresses, a belfry, and a battlemented parapet. The sanctuary was remodeled in the 1960s.

The congregation was gathered in August 1880 by the Reverend Thomas Cocroft, an Episcopal clergyman who founded churches in many Rhode Island mill villages. The first church, a wood-frame Colonial revival-Queen Anne Structure designed by Howard Hoppin of Providence, was built in 1882. In 1899, the congregation was given the Greene Memorial House at 15 Centerville Road for use as a Guild Hall. The church burned in 1911, and services were held in the Guild Hall. A new church was started in February, 1921. The basement was completed in 1923, but work on the upper church was not begun until May, 1926. It was consecrated in May, 1942.

5

Apponaug Community Park

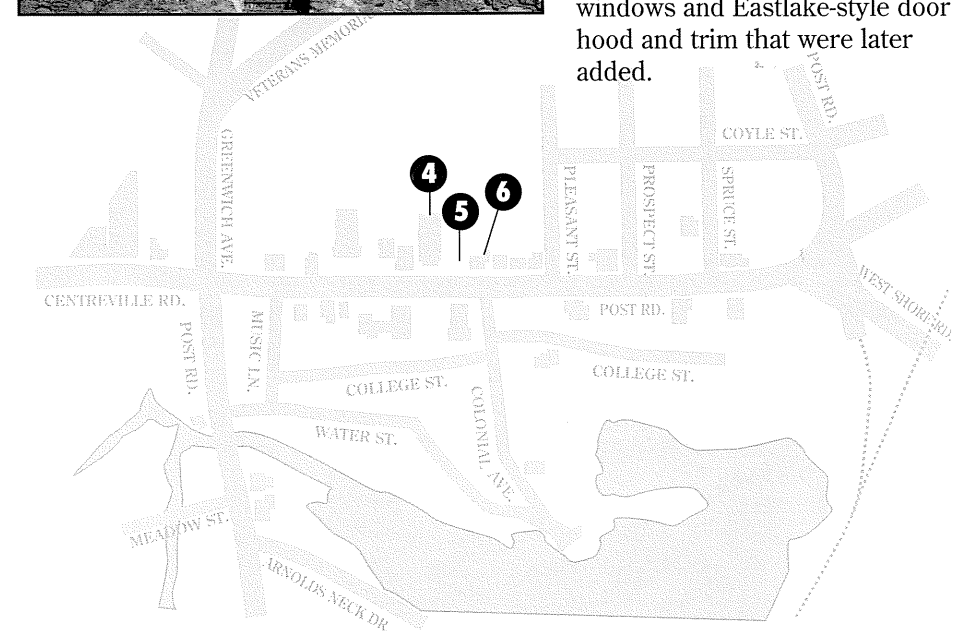
The horse watering trough which originally stood on Apponaug Four Corners is its central feature. This was an abandoned gas station, until community support under the leadership of Dorothy Mayor, turned a liability into an asset. The gardens of the park are now dedicated to Mrs. Mayor.



6

Jaheel Westcott House
(ca. 1810 and 1865-1870), 3239 Post Road.

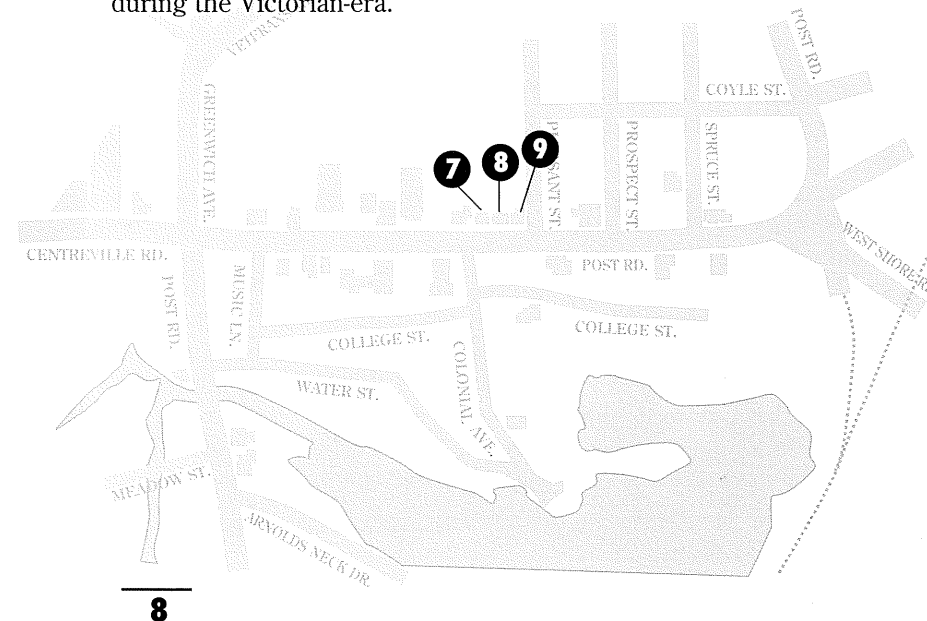
This house was probably built in 1810 by Jaheel Westcott, who had a shoemaker's shop on the premises. Note its double bay windows and Eastlake-style door hood and trim that were later added.





7 **George Hardman House**
(ca. 1790, 1810, with later alterations), 3235 Post Road.

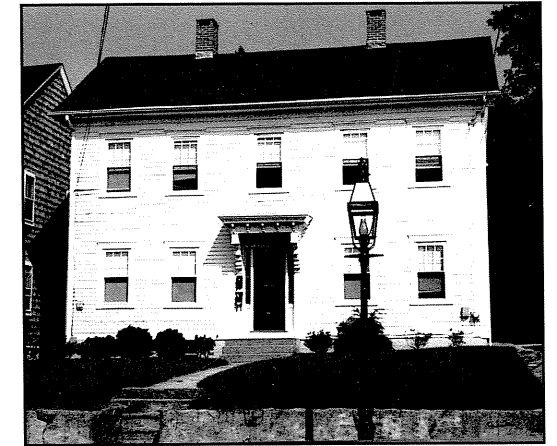
A gable-roofed, four bay dwelling constructed during the Federal period, with a small center chimney. A bracketed door hood was added during the Victorian-era.



8

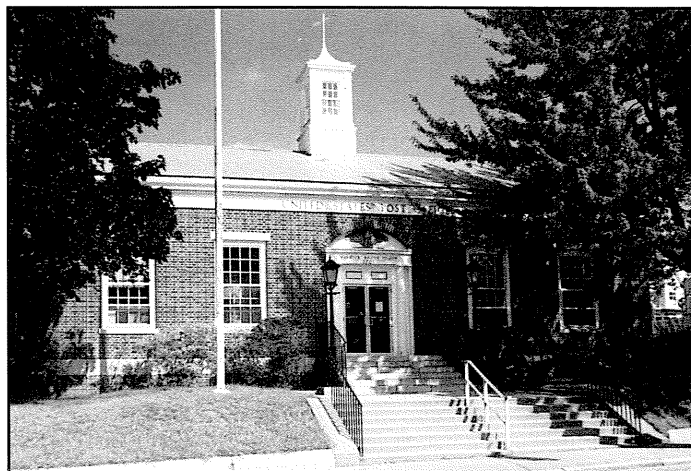
George W. Wilcox House
(ca. 1872), 3227 Post Road.

This is a five bay, twin-chimney house with a Victorian-era ornamental door hood.



9 **Henry Nicols House**
(ca. 1870), 3225 Post Road.

This is a five bay, twin-chimney house with a long front porch added in 1910 when it was owned by the Warwick Central Baptist Church.



10 **United States Post Office, Warwick**
(ca. 1940), 3205 Post Road.

A brick faced building with white Neo-Colonial trim and cupola, designed by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury. This post office, like many other public buildings in the U. S., was built as part of the Works Progress Administration during the Depression. Inside, the mural depicting shellfishing on Apponaug Cove, painted by Paul Sample, is an artistically important and rare example of WPA public art.



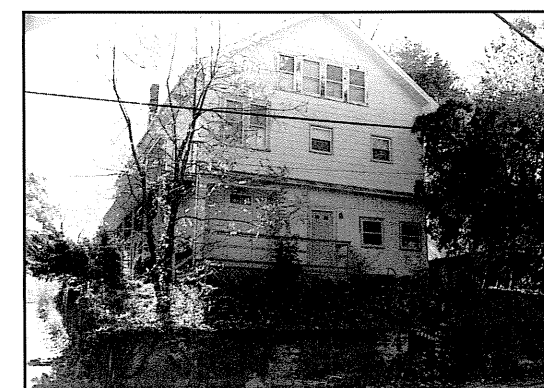
11 **Caleb R. Hill House**
(ca. 1850), 101 Spruce Street.

This gable-roofed dwelling was built during the transition from the Greek Revival to the Italianate style. Indicative of this are its arched-panel corner pilasters, deep entablature, paneled door pilasters, wide veranda, and arched windows in the gable ends. Originally located on Post Road, it was moved to its present location by then owner John H. O'Brien, second mayor of Warwick, in the 1930s after a fire destroyed some of the interior.

12

Oscar Aylsworth House
(ca. 1886), 108 Spruce Street.

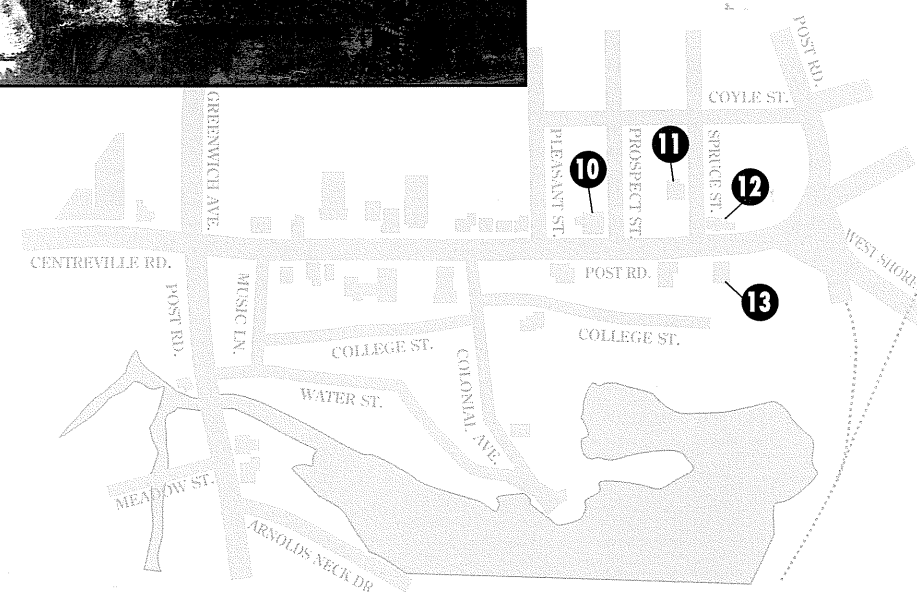
This cross-gabled dwelling has a bracketed cornice and very handsome bargeboards (attached to the projecting edges of the gable roof), the edges of which were cut to form a series of small trefoil (a design of three lobes) pendants. Aylsworth was a successful "drummer," or hardware salesman, and the trim indicates his affluence. It has served as a boardinghouse, family dwelling, beauty parlor, and dress shop.



13

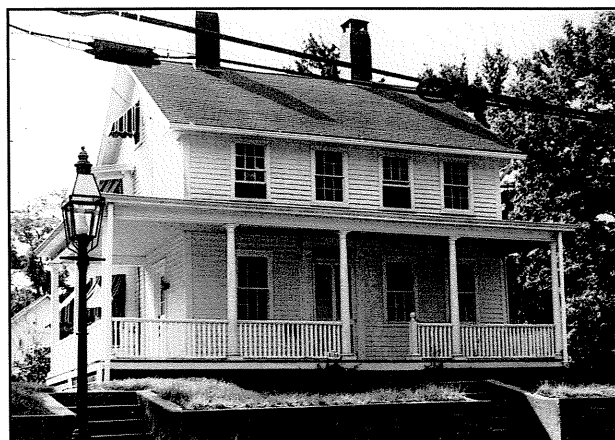
Odd Fellows Hall
(ca. 1886), 3166 Post Road.

Built by the Odd Fellows Preservance Lodge #29, IOOF, it is now converted into apartments.



14**Thomas Wilbur House**
(ca. 1820), 3188 Post Road.

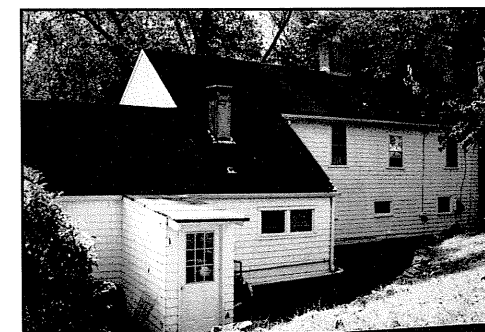
A veranda (a later addition) obscures a fine Federal doorway with a transom, fluted pilasters, and consoles with the Masonic rule-and-compass device carved on them. Thomas Wilbur, a housewright, constructed this residence for himself and probably carved the original doorway. This house stands near the site of Apponaug's original Baptist meeting house (built in 1744) and contains some of the material from the meeting house, which was dismantled about the time this dwelling was constructed. (See entry for the Warwick Central Baptist Church on page 16.)

**15****Stephen Browning House**
(ca. 1868), 3214 Post Road.

This is a fine example of a typical gable-roofed, side-hall plan, Victorian-era dwelling with bracket-trimmed cornice and door hood, set end to the street. This building is currently used for professional offices.

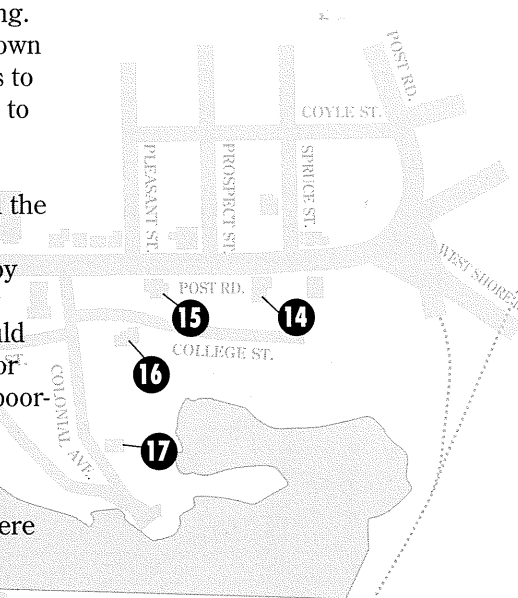
16**Samuel Gorton House**
(ca. 1778), 92 College Street.

This gable-front, center-chimney house was built by Samuel Gorton, a 5th generation descendant of Samuel Gorton, founder of Warwick. Gorton purchased the land from William Webb for 3 pounds, 12 shillings, and built his house and shop. The house, originally a small or "half-house," has been altered and expanded over the centuries, but the original section is a good reminder of the type of dwelling found in Apponaug during the Revolutionary War period.

**17****Old Town Work House**
(ca. 1765), 58 Colonial Avenue.

Built by the town of Warwick in 1765, this building has been greatly altered over the centuries and moved in 1875 to its present location from across the street.

This gabled-roofed structure, set end to the street, was Warwick's answer for its growing number of indigent citizens. The hapless inhabitants of the poorhouse were made to work at whatever tasks they were capable of performing. During the Revolutionary War, the town appropriated money to buy materials to enable the tenants of the workhouse to make bandages and blankets for the Continental Army. Difficult times following the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 filled the poorhouse to capacity and conditions were, even by standards of the time deplorable. By 1814, this small house no longer could handle the increasing number of poor and unfortunates and a new, larger poorhouse and farm were established in Buttonwoods. The house became a private dwelling and after 1875 was divided into two tenements which were rented out to millworkers.

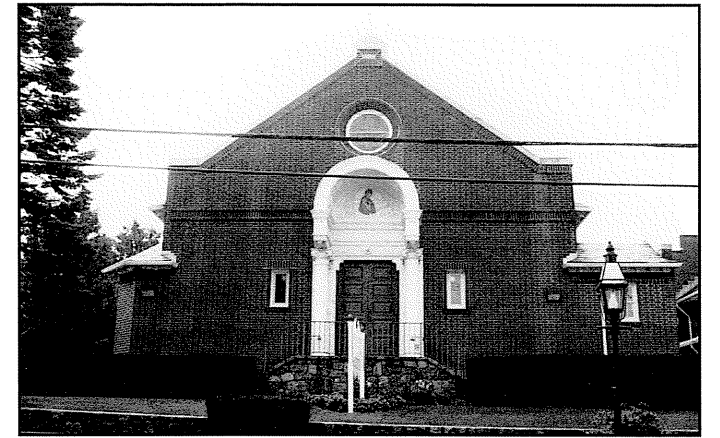
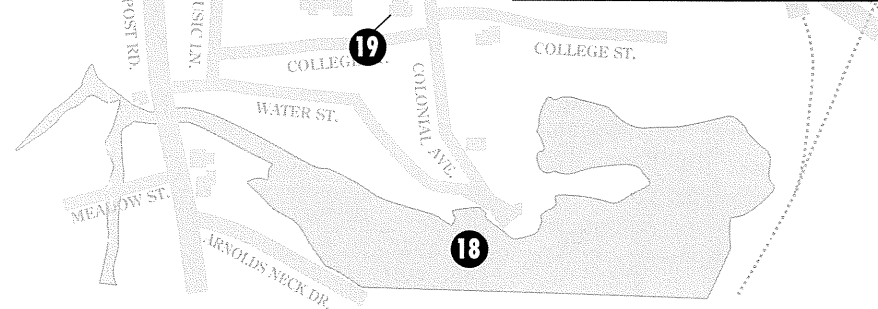
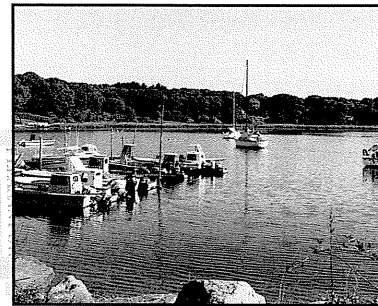




18 Apponaug Cove

This area once made Apponaug a thriving seaport and shipbuilding center in the 18th century. Most of the property along the cove was owned by Jacob Greene & Co. Jacob was the older brother of General Nathaniel Greene, Rhode Island's illustrious Revolutionary War hero. The five Greene brothers conducted business under various firm names from the 1770s until the early 1800s. The Greene's had a forge in Coventry, famous for its anchors, and they engaged in the highly lucrative triangular and coastal trades. Their products went from Apponaug to the West Indies and Europe; goods from there, such as black sand for the forge, then came into this seaport. The War of 1812 disrupted commerce to a large extent and by 1850 trade had fallen off significantly.

At the end of Colonial Avenue and all along Water Street is an area that flourished in the late 18th century. There was once a sawmill here, and at the junction of Water Street and Colonial Avenue was a shipyard and a wharf owned by the DeWolf family of Bristol, infamous for their involvement in the African slave trade.



19

St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church
(ca. 1916), 3248 Post Road.

Designed by Providence architect William McLaughlin and modeled after Italian churches of the Early Christian era, this gable-roofed brick church was built on an elevation that affords a commanding view of the village. Note the arched entrance hood supported by four columns with ornate capitals, and circular stained glass window above it. Dedicated to St. Catherine Benincasa of Sienna, Italy, the history of the church parallels the changes taking place in the village in the 1800s.

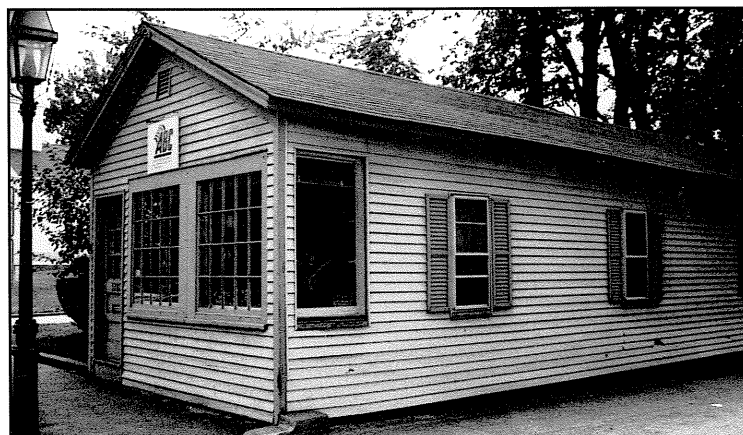
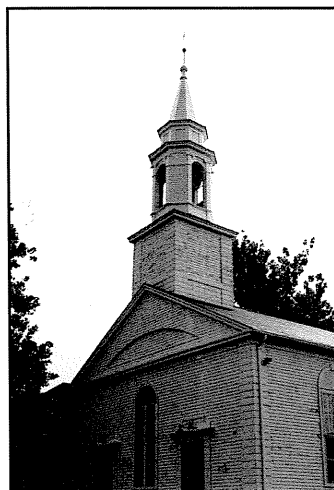
When the Stonington Railroad was built in 1832, a number of Irish Catholic laborers were encamped at Sweet's Meadow, near the present-day railroad bridge. Upon completion of the project, many elected to remain in Warwick to work at the mills that were beginning to flourish here. By mid-century there were enough Catholics in Apponaug, most of them working at the Oriental Print Works, that an East Greenwich priest came twice a month to offer Mass at the old Town House. By 1873, Catholics were numerous enough to call for the construction of a small 24' x 60' gable-roofed building on Greenwich Ave. It served as a "church and mission parish," ministered to by priests from East Greenwich.

Unstable working conditions during the reorganization of the Oriental Print Works forced many mill workers out of Apponaug. Population in the village declined, as did interest in building a larger church structure. Prosperity returned to the area by 1913 with the establishment of the Apponaug Print Works, and construction began on the present building in 1916.

20

Warwick Central Baptist Church
(1834 and 1905), 3270 Post Road.

A belfry and spire rise with New England simplicity from the front part of the roof and simple fan like blind arches add restrained ornamentation above the windows on the sides of the church. A Baptist church had been founded in Apponaug in 1744 and a meetinghouse had been constructed near the site of the Thomas Wilbur House (see entry on page 12). The congregation dissolved before the Revolution, but was reorganized between 1785 and 1792. The old meetinghouse was repaired and services held there until 1805, when the congregation dissolved and the church was sold. Some years later the Warwick Central Freewill Baptist Church was organized; it built a new meetinghouse on this site and dedicated it in 1834. This burned in 1905, but was rebuilt and rededicated that same year. The present edifice is the 1905 reconstruction of the 1834 meetinghouse.



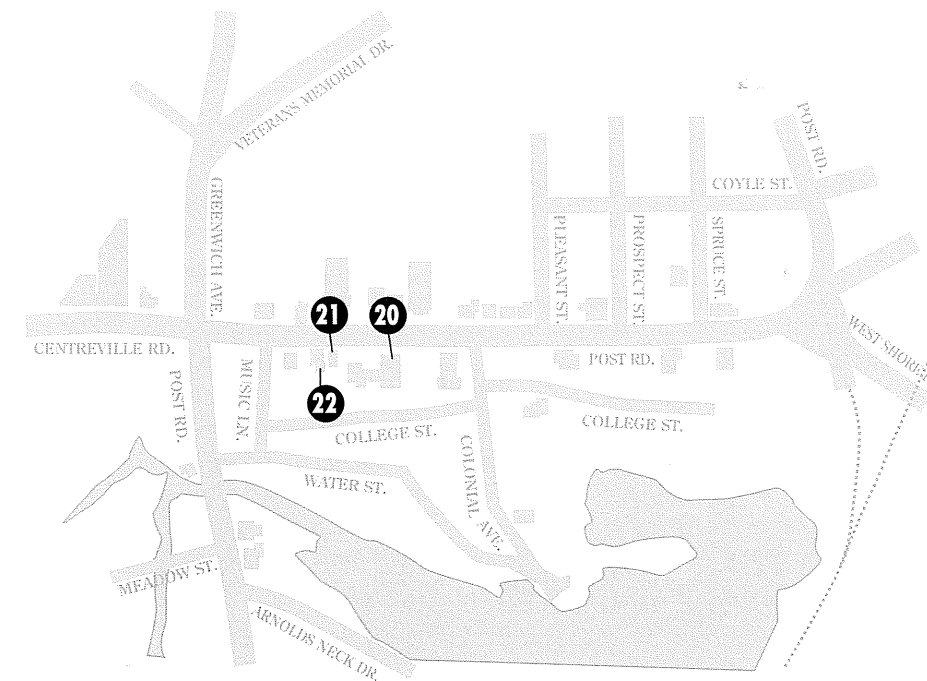
21 William Millerd's Blacksmith Shop
(ca. 1836), 3280 Post Road.

Across from City Hall is a small gable-roofed structure used as a blacksmith's shop from 1836-1892. It became a post Office during 1893-1897, from 1923 until 1932, and again from 1936-1941. After that it was a jewelry shop and has since been in commercial use.

22

Warwick Commerce Center
(ca. 1870), 3288 Post Road.

A recently renovated and altered mansard-roofed structure, this building type, known as Second Empire, was popular during the Victorian era and offered a full upper story of usable space with dormer windows admitting light. Note use of molded cornices and decorative brackets.

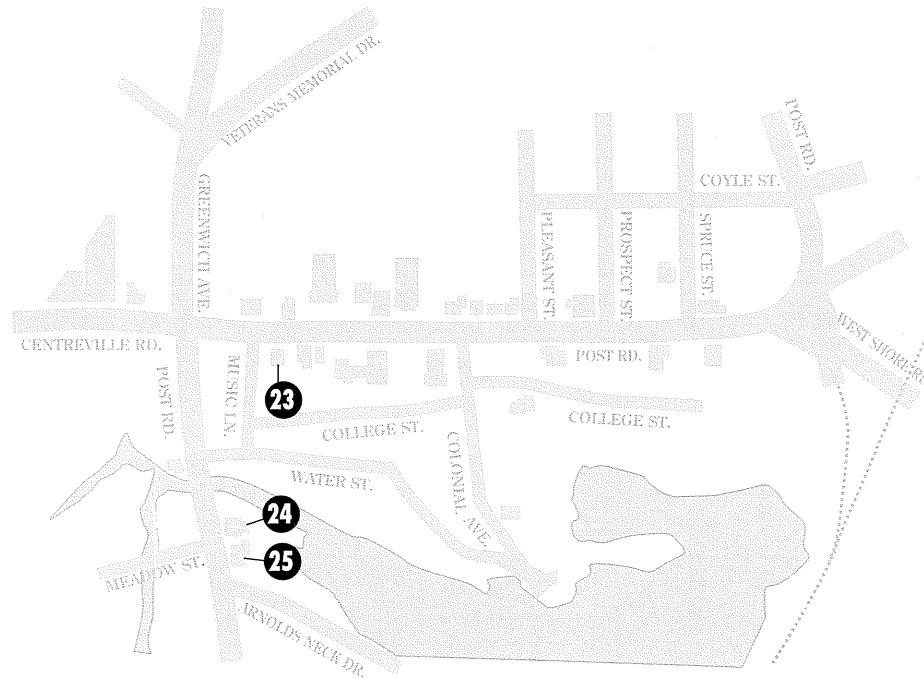




23

Old Town House
(ca. 1835), 3292 Post Road.

Now used as a book and coffee shop, this front-gabled structure next to the Commerce Center was once part of the old Town House. It was moved to its present location by David Curtis when Warwick City Hall was built in 1893.



24

Henry Remington House
(ca. 1800, with later alterations), 3376 Post Road.

This gable-roofed, center chimney Federal dwelling with pedimented fanlight doorway was remodeled during the Victorian era when the sash was replaced and a bay window added on the south side. It is used as a storehouse for the building at the rear, which was once a favorite haunt of quahoggers and rough & tumble seamen, but is now a family restaurant. The house was built by Henry Remington, a Revolutionary War soldier and judge of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. This area became known as "Judge's Row", and was once the most significant part of the village.

25

Harrison House
(ca. 1800), 3384 Post Road.

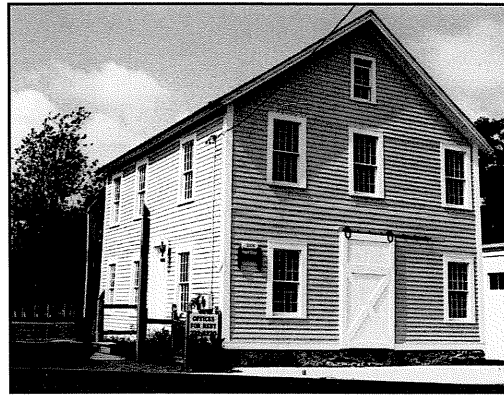


This gable-roofed, center chimney dwelling has an irregular nine-window facade with one of the most unique pedimented-fanlight Federal doorways in Rhode Island. Recently restored, the house once belonged to Thomas Warner, a descendant of John Warner, Warwick's first town clerk and first Warwick resident to be bared from public office and disenfranchised. In 1652 John Warner threatened a town officer, as well as the mares in town, with death and asked Massachusetts to assume control of the area. His descendant Thomas Warner was also town clerk, 150 years and five generations later. The house was probably built during the Colonial period and once used as a funeral parlor. When Thomas Warner acquired it, he added the Federal doorway. He left the house ca. 1816 to his daughter Catherine, wife of sea captain William Harrison. When Harrison retired from the sea, he became a partner and agent of the Roger Williams Manufacturing Co. Their son, William Henry Harrison, a Justice of the Peace, retained the house until his death in 1920.

26

**Tide Mill
(Spencer's Snuff Mill)**
*(ca. 1710, with later alterations),
3351 Post Road.*

This gable-roofed structure was probably a tidal mill, perhaps for snuff manufacturing, before it became a residence. The rear of the building was made into two stories ca. 1800, and alterations were made to allow for staircases and two chimneys. It was owned by E.L. Budlong in 1870 and used as a restaurant from 1940-1986. Recent restoration has uncovered chestnut beams and posts, mortise and tenon construction, and an unbroken foundation under the entire building indicating the structure may well be over 250 years old, making it one of the oldest in Apponaug.



27 The Apponaug Company
(ca. 1920-1928), 63 Centerville Road.

On this site were some of the most important mills in Apponaug. The Mircarter Fulling Mill of 1696, the Manchester Mill of 1809, and an 1815 mill owned by the Greens, were replaced by the Oriental Print Works in 1859. Reorganized in 1913 as the Apponaug Print works, it later became the Apponaug Company. It became one of the foremost textile-finishing concerns in the country, being one of the first to produce wash & wear fabrics. It continued operations until 1958. Two devastating fires in 1961 and 1969 destroyed most of the buildings except those you see today.

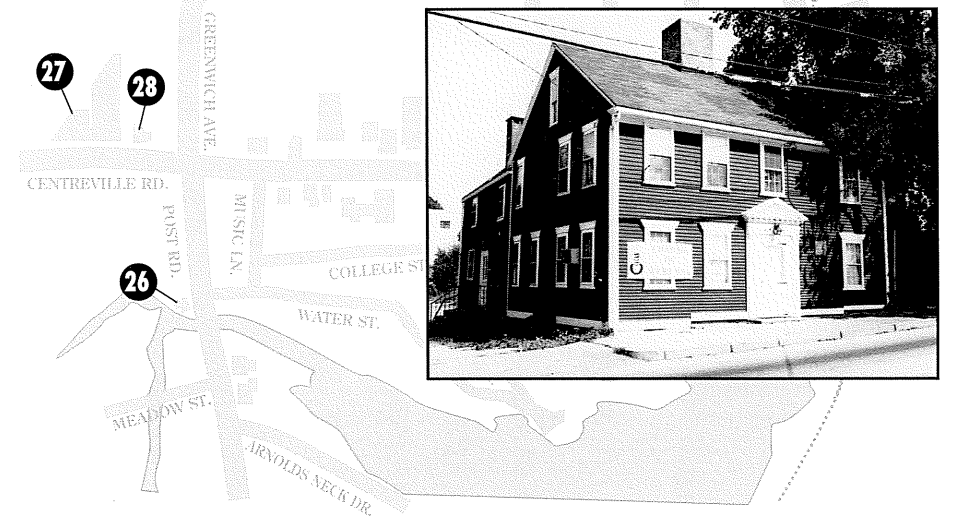
28

Caleb Greene House, now the Greene Memorial House
(ca. 1796), 15 Centerville Road.

This nine window, center chimney, Federal style house was built by Caleb Greene in 1796. It is a significant visual reminder of Apponaug during its prosperous period as a seaport. The gable-roofed building, with an ell built shortly after the original construction, has a doorway incorporating fluted pilasters, an entablature with cushion friezes, and a pediment with modillions. In the interior, the stairway and an upstairs room once a nursery have the original floor boards. There are two attic rooms that housed servants, indicating the affluence of the Greene's.

The house has six fireplaces including a second story fireplace with a bee-hive oven. This plus the elaborate woodworking on the second floor indicates that the house may have been shared by two families or two branches of the same family. One curious aspect is a hidden trap door and passageway from the reception room to the dining room on the first floor. It is big enough for a person to crawl through and leads to a larger area behind the fireplace. As Caleb Greene was a sea captain and very involved in the trade of the times, speculation is that the captain used the space to eavesdrop on guests discussing business matters.

The most famous Greene to have lived in the house was Caleb's son, Civil War General George Sears Greene who defended Culp's Hill during the battle of Gettysburg (in the Greene Cemetery on Tanner Avenue, a bronze plaque placed on a large rock taken from Culp's Hill commemorates General Greene). In 1900, General Francis Vinton Greene, son of George Sears Greene, had the house completely repaired and restored. He furnished it in the period of 1800 and gave the building to the Rhode Island Episcopal Convention to be maintained as a memorial to his illustrious father. It served as a rectory for Saint Barnabas Church and as a church school for a brief time. When St. Barnabas Church burned in 1911, the house was used as a place of worship. When the new church was built, the house was no longer needed and stood empty until it was leased to the Red Cross in 1933, and then purchased by them in 1958.

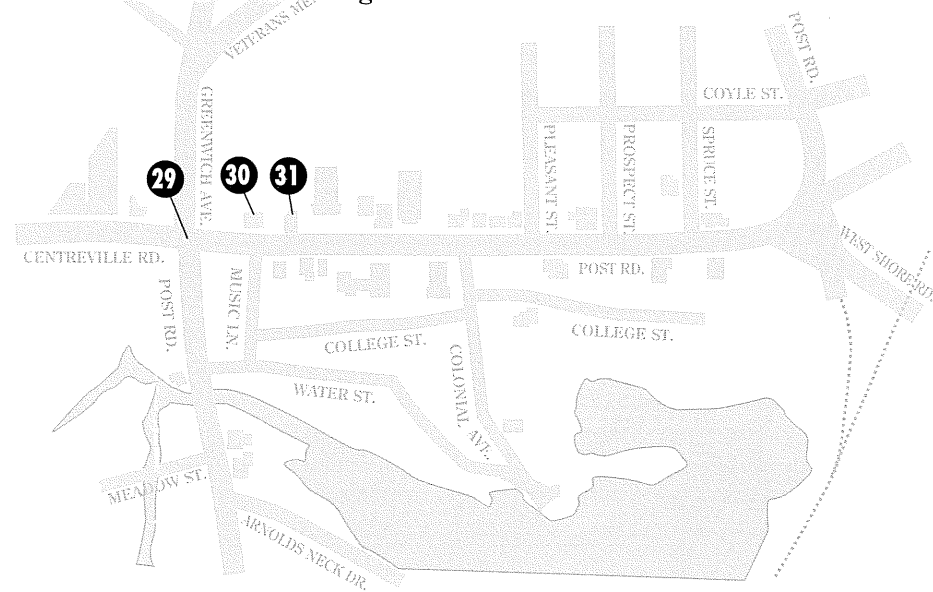


29

Apponaug Four Corners

Standing near Apponaug Four Corners, now a heavily traveled area with the gas station and convenience stores that indicate the late 20th century, it seems impossible that Post Road was once a Native American path called the Pequot Trail. While this area is no longer the geographical center of Warwick, it remains the historical heart of the City.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, there were two taverns at the Four Corners, the most famous being the Arnold Tavern, a stagecoach stop in the 1700s and a town meeting place before the 1835 Town House was built. Located on the northeast corner, the Arnold Tavern was enlarged and mansard-roofed in the mid-19th century, becoming the Apponaug Hotel (demolished in the 1960s). Looking up Greenwich Avenue, notice an existing mansard-roofed building, the Harrop-Moore House, recently renovated. The northwest corner was the Gideon Congdon's blacksmith shop, and on the southwest corner was the Samuel Greene House. The Greene family is one of the most important in the history and development of Apponaug. Samuel Greene, the great-grandson of John Greene, Sr., one of Warwick's founders, had inherited the land and lumber to build his house in 1772. His father, Captain Samuel Greene, the 11th son of Deputy Governor John Greene, operated a gristmill and large farm in Apponaug. The Samuel Greene house was moved to face Post Road before being demolished to make room for a gas station.



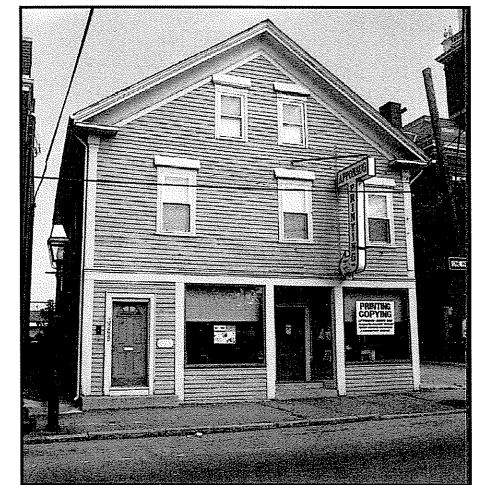
30

Josiah Westcott House and Store

(ca. 1832 and 1914),
3301 Post Road.



One of the older Apponaug buildings, the Westcott House is today a restaurant. It was probably moved to this site from the south side of the street. In 1880, the building became Blackmar's store and a handsome porch was added. Albertine Coutu purchased the building in 1914 and it became the Father and Sons Restaurant for the next 60 years. Felix Coutu, Sr. drastically changed the appearance of the building by bringing the front out to the width of the porch. He built a second story above this, removed the pitched roof, and added a pent roof below the second story windows, and gave the building the appearance it has today.



31

Caleb Westcott Store

(ca. 1871), 3287 Post Road.

Originally built in the Greek Revival style and set close to the street, its facade was altered in 1919 when it became the store of Steven Gardiner, and again later in the 20th century when it was used as a bakery. Note deep gable eaves with returns. Next to it is the 1927 brick Pickles Building. The building is currently used by a commercial printing company.

