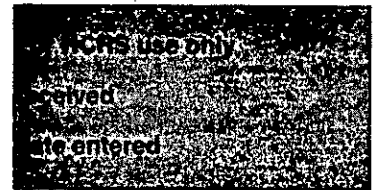


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Albion Historic District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Portions of School Street, Main Street, Berkshire Drive, Willow Lane, and Ledge Way. not for publication

city, town Lincoln (and Cumberland) N.A. vicinity of Cong. Dist. #1 Fernand J. St Germain  
congressional district

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N.A.</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple; see owners list on file at RIHPC

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tax Assessors Office, Lincoln Town Hall

street & number 100 Old River Road

city, town Lincoln state Rhode Island

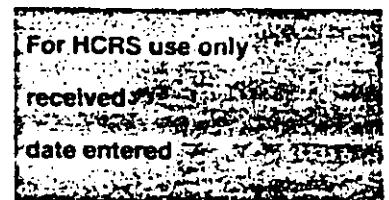
**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Lincoln, Rhode Island has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence state Rhode Island



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2

## INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

See Continuation Sheet #9 for definition of contributing structures.

### Berkshire Drive (#15-80)

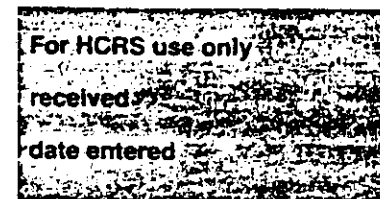
- #15 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 16 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 22 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 28 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 33 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 36 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 41 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 42 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 47 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 49 Albion Mill House (c. 1948): One-story ranch house with end cross-gable section added c. 1970s.
- 57 Albion Mill House (c. 1948): One-story ranch house.
- 58 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 64 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 72 Albion Mill House (1949): Two-story, two-family, gable-roofed ranch house with enclosed, gable-roofed entry at east end. Other half of house numbered 33 Ledge Way.
- 80 Albion Mill House (1948): One-story ranch house; re-sided.

### Ledge Way (#21 - 41-42)

- 21 Albion Mill House (1949): Small, one-story ranch house. With other houses on Ledge Way, Willow Lane, and Berkshire Drive (#15-80), this house was among the last mill housing built in Lincoln. Designed by Bernard Harrison of New York, these plain ranch houses are similar, though not identical.

(See Continuation Sheet #2).

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7

Page 3

Ledge Way (cont)

- #26 Albion Mill House (1949): Simple ranch house.
- 33 Albion Mill House (1949): 2-story, 2-family; also numbered 72 Berkshire Drive. Built by Berkshire Fine Spinning Association.
- 41-42 House (1949): 2-story, 2-family gable-roofed house. Probably built for Amy J. Tellier for residential rental to mill workers.

Main Street (#15-114)

- 15 Albion Mill House (1840s): A 2½-story, flank-gable, center-chimney workers' house; six bays wide, its doors with transom lights and molded caps are set in the second and fifth bays.
- 29 Albion Mill House (1840s): Identical to 15 Main Street, except first floor windows have been slightly enlarged.
- 36-38 Albion Mill House (between 1851 and 1870): A 2½-story, six-bay, flank-gable, center-chimney house with doors at each end of the facade.
- 37 Store (1840s): This is a long, flank-gable, 2½-story, six-bay commercial building with first floor storefronts. It may have originally been a workers' house similar to others on Main Street, now much modified.
- 41-45 The Long House (1840s): A fourteen-bay, 2½-story structure, the Long House served as the Albion Company's boardinghouse. The structure seems to have originally been similar in size to other 1840s houses in Albion, -- the northern six bays are a later addition. It is one of the few wood frame buildings in Albion which have not been re-sided.
- 42 House and Store (probably 1860s): A 2½-story, flank-gable structure with first floor storefront, second story porch, and exterior stair. There is a 1-story, flat-roofed, brick addition on the east side.
- 53 Albion Mill House (c. 1908): Identical to 98 School Street.
- 54-56 Albion Mill House (1840s): A 2½-story, flank-gable, center-chimney, workers' house, six-bays wide with a door at each end of the facade. First floor windows have been enlarged.

(See Continuation Sheet #3).

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet 3

Item number 7

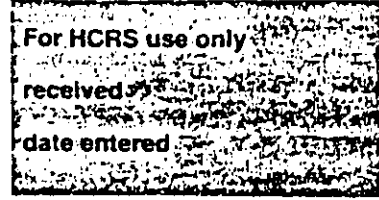
Page 4

## Main Street (cont)

- #59-61 Albion Mill House (1840s): Identical to 54-56 Main Street.
- 64-66 Albion Mill House (1840s): A 2½-story, flank-gable workers' house with doors at second and fourth bays and two interior chimneys. The first floor fenestration has been modified.
- .69-71 Albion Mill House (1870): Identical to 54-56 Main Street.
- 72-76 Albion Mill House (1840s): Identical to 54-56 Main Street, except that the original sash remains in place and small hoods have been added over the doors.
- 77-79 Albion Mill House (1840s): Identical to 64-66 Main Street except that a 2-story porch has been added in front of each door.
- 83 84 Albion Mill House (between 1851 and 1870): A 2½-story, flank-gable workers' house, five bays wide with two interior chimneys. A porch has been added over the center door.
- 87 Albion Mill House (between 1851 and 1870): Identical to 84 Main Street, except that two bay windows have been added to the south end.
- 90 Albion Mill House (between 1870 and 1895): A 2½-story, flank-gable workers' house, seven bays wide with a center door. The hood over the door is a later addition.
- 93 House (between 1851 and 1870): A 1½-story, flank-gable house; the porch is a later addition.
- 96-100 Albion Mill House (c. 1910): A 2½-story, flank-gable, red brick mill house. Unlike the other brick houses built in the early twentieth century, this has no porch and its doors are set at the gable ends rather than in the center of the facade.
- 103 Albion Mill House (c. 1910): Identical to 96-100 Main Street, except that it has a straight-sided mansard roof.
- 104 House (between 1870 and 1895): A 1½-story, flank-gable, shingled house with an added porch.
- 109 Albion Mill House (c. 1910): Identical to 103 School Street.
- 110 Albion Mill House (between 1870 and 1895): A 1½-story, flank-gable, shingled house, three bays wide with gabled porch over center door.
- 114 Albion Mill House (c. 1908): Identical to 98 School Street:

(See Continuation Sheet #4).

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 4

Item number 7

Page 5

## School Street (#15-221)

Albion Mill (c. 1850, 1874, 1909, 1921, et seq.): A long, red brick textile mill sited on the Blackstone Canal's tow path at Albion. Built over 70 years in four sections, the mill was a major operation of the Albion Company (later the Valley Falls Company). The first section of the mill, built c. 1850, is 120 feet long and has a heavily bracketed cornice and iron lintels and sills. The mill was originally 4 stories tall; in 1874 a fifth story was added and a 100-foot addition was built at the south. A five-story addition to the north, with a flat-roofed Italianate bell and stair tower projecting on the east side, was built in two sections in 1909 and 1921. Subsequent twentieth-century additions to the 1850 and 1874 sections are one-story warehouse and loading facilities. The first industrial building on the site was constructed in 1823 and operated until the 1870s.

Albion Mill Office (between 1854 and 1870): A 2-story, gable-roofed brick office building set adjacent to the mill. It housed not only the administrative center of the mill, but a cloth room as well.

Albion Dam (1916): Stone dam across Blackstone River.

Albion Mill Gatehouse (c. 1916): A gable-roofed wooden gatehouse set over the Blackstone Canal, which also served as the mill trench here at Albion. It shelters a well-preserved set of manually-operated rack and pinion hoists which raised the watergate.

Albion Bridges (1885, 1887): A pair of Pratt pony truss bridges carrying School Street across the Blackstone Canal and River. The canal bridge is a single span, 86 feet long; the river bridge has two 110-foot spans supported on a central granite pier. These are among the best preserved of Rhode Island's iron bridges.

Albion War Monument (1918): Raised by the Cercle Jacques Cartier to honor Albion's World War I veterans, the granite monument depicts a young soldier in Army uniform holding a rifle.

#15 House and Store (probably 1860's, with early 20th-century ell): See entry for 42 Main Street.

24 Albion Mill House (between 1870 and 1895): A 2½-story, flank-gable, shingled mill house, 3 bays wide with a center door sheltered by a small porch.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
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date entered

Continuation sheet 5

Item number 7

Page 6

- #27-33 Green Mill (1830): A 2½-story, frame textile mill with clerestory. Now converted to residential use and re-sided, it still has the regular fenestration of an industrial building. The Green Mill is the only survivor of the three original mills at Albion built on the Blackstone River; in 1885 it was reduced in size and moved to School Street.
- 28-32 Albion Mill House (between 1870 and 1895): A 1½-story, flank-gable mill house. The house is 8 bays long; its doors are set at the ends of the facade under small bracketed hoods.
- 34-36 Albion Mill House (between 1870 and 1895): Identical to 28-32 School Street.
- 35 (former) Albion Church (1890s): A small, 1-story, end-gable, former church building. The door is off-center and has probably been reworked. The church was built by the Albion Company and was used as a clubhouse and community meeting place; it now houses the Albion Youth Center.
- 41 Albion Mill House (c. 1908): Identical to 98 School Street.
- 49 Albion Mill House (c. 1910): A 2½-story, flank-gable, red brick mill house, with center doors and a 2-story porch. One of several such houses built soon after the first series of brick houses constructed in 1908 (see 98 School Street), this example is similar to the earlier set, except that two, small, gabled dormers have replaced the larger central one.
- 55 Albion Mill House (c. 1880): A mansard-roofed, 2½-story workers' house, 5 bays wide with a center door. The windows are paired in the 2nd and 4th bays. The bracketed door hood has been replaced with an aluminum hood.
- 61 Albion Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 61 School Street.
- 67 Albion Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 55 School Street, except that 67 retains the original door hood.
- 74 Grace House (1830s): One of Albion's earlier houses, this is a single, 1½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney house; its pilastered center door is set under a transom light. The house was the residence of Thomas Grace, proprietor of the Albion Saloon, in 1870.
- 75 Albion Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 55 School Street except that the door hood has been replaced by a small, gable-roofed porch.

(See Continuation Sheet #6).

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only
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date entered

Continuation sheet 6

Item number 7

Page 7

- #80 Fahey (or Fay) House (1840s): A 2½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney, clapboarded house; the door is slightly off-center and may have been re-worked--its sidelights have been covered. The house was the residence of the Fahey family who farmed the nearby acreage.
- 92 Albion Mill House (c. 1908): Identical to 98 School Street.
- 95 Albion Mill House (c. 1910): A wood frame version of the 2½-story mill house built in brick throughout Albion in 1908. The center doors are set under a large dormer.
- 98 Albion Mill House (c. 1908): A 2½-story, flank-gable, red brick mill house; the center doors are set under a large front dormer. The front porch -- now 2 stories -- was originally only on the first floor. Construction of this house (and 41, 92, and 104 School Street and 53 and 114 Main Street) was part of a general up-grading of the village of William Erskine, superintendent of the Albion Mill.
- 103 Albion Mill House (c. 1910): Identical to 98 School Street, except that two, small, gabled dormers are used rather than the single large one. The 2nd floor porch was never added to this house.
- 104 Albion Mill House (c. 1908): Identical to 98 School Street.
- 115 House (between 1870 and 1895): A plain 2½-story, end-gable house, with porch across first floor facade.
- 116 House: One-and-a-half-story, mid-19th-century house, sited gable end to the road, with entrance on the side.
- 122 House (c. 1900): One-and-a-half-story house, gable end to the street, on a cast concrete block foundation.
- 131 House (between 1870 and 1895): A 2½-story, flank-gable house.
- 140 House (c. 1880): One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney house, sited gable end to the street.
- 147 House (early 19th century): A 1½-story, flank-gable house, five bays wide, with center door and chimney.
- 157 House (1931): 2-story, hip-roofed house.
- 158 House: One-and-a-half-story, mid-19th-century, gable-roofed house built into the hillside on a full basement story; long shed dormer a later addition; gable end to the street.

(See Continuation Sheet #7).

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
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Continuation sheet 7

Item number 7

Page 8

## School Street (cont)

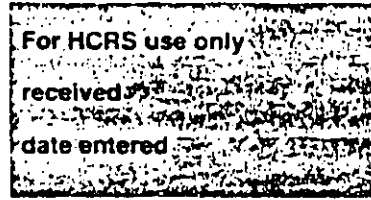
- #163-169 House (c. 1870): Simple 2-story, cross-gable house on a full-height basement storefront.
- (178) House (c. 1845): Two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed house sited flank to the road, built into the hillside; full basement story has former storefront. Now used as a two-family residence.
- 178 House (c. 1900): This classic triple decker has a hipped-roof, 3-story front porches with Queen Anne style sawn spandrels and turned balustrades, and numerous outbuildings at the side and rear. It is used as a five-family house.
- 191 Saint Ambrose Church Complex (1895 and later): Saint Ambrose is a simple shingled church with a tower at the southeast corner. Lancet windows line either side. Its closed entrance porch is a later addition. The parish cemetery is located just north of the church. East of the church is a long, gable-roofed, 1-story school built as a public school c. 1880 and acquired by Saint Ambrose Church for use as a parochial school in 1916; it is now closed. West of the church is the rectory, a modest, frame, 2-story building dating from the early 20th century. This complex was the religious center for the French-Canadian community at Albion.
- 194 House (c. 1890): A 1½-story gable-roofed house with wrap around porch and simple Queen Anne detailing.
- 198 House (c. 1880): A large, 2½-story house, sited gable end to the road, with a 2-story Queen Anne porch with turned balustrade on the gable front and a round-arched window in the gable peak. Probably built as a boarding house.
- 216 House (c. 1895): A small, 1½-story, T-shaped house, with Queen Anne style front porch and Queen Anne style patterned gable-peak ornamentation.
- 221 House (c. 1895): A small, 1½-story house with 1-story front porch with sawn spandrels and straight balusters and Queen Anne style patterned gable trim.

## Willow Lane

- 5 Albion Mill House (1949): One-story ranch house.
- 6-10 House (1947): Two-story, 2-family gable-roofed house. Probably built by Rober Ordair for rental to mill workers.



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 8

Item number 7

Page 9

Willow Lane (cont)

- #11 Albion Mill House ( 1949): One-story ranch house.
- 17-19 Albion Mill House (1948): Two-story, gable-roofed center-chimney, 2-family house with small enclosed gable entry porches at either end. Built by Berkshire-Hathaway, Inc.

## Definition of Contributing Structures

Contributing structures in the Albion Historic District are defined as those buildings and structures which have played a significant role in the historic development of this mill village, and which are compatible with and contribute to the physical fabric of the village. Contributing structures here include the mill buildings and the surviving structures of the mill's water power system, an adjacent pair of iron bridges, and housing of a variety of types both mill-sponsored and privately built. A group of houses built in the 1940s are considered significant for their historical importance as the last known company housing to be built in Rhode Island.

Defined as non-contributing are those recent structures which are not historically related to mill community during its period of primary significance, and which do not contribute positively to the architectural fabric of the village.

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

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Continuation sheet 9

Item number 7

Page 10

## INVENTORY OF NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES IN ALBION HISTORIC DISTRICT

### School Street

Albion Fire Station (c. 1960): Simple, concrete-block building, brick-faced on the facade.

#48 Golden Lounge (c. 1950): Simple, hip-roofed, 1-story structure, with brick-faced facade.

66 House (1950): Brick-faced ranch house.

68 House (1950): Simple wood-frame house.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
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Continuation sheet 13

Item number 10

Page 2

of plat 32, lot 48. It runs west on the south bound and north on the west bound of lot 48 to meet the southeast corner of plat 33, lot 28. It moves west along the south bound of lot 28 to Main Street and west across Main Street; thence north along the western edge of Main Street to the southeast corner of lot 26. It runs thence generally westerly along the southern lot lines of plat 33 lots 26 through 8. (Note that lots 12, 10, and 8 are irregularly shaped and significantly deeper than other lots on the south side of School Street; all of these lots are included within the district.) The boundary runs north on the west lot line of lot 8 to and across School Street, where it jogs, briefly, west to the southwest corner of plat 33, lot 2. The bound runs north and east on the west and north bounds of lot 2; then crosses Kennedy Boulevard to meet the west lot line of lot 3. The bound runs north, east and south around the irregular western, northern, and eastern bounds of lot 3 to meet the northwest corner of lot 4; thence generally east on the north bounds of lots 4, 5, and 6; south to the southeast corner of lot 6; east along the north edge of School Street to the southwest corner of lot 44; then north on the west line of lot 44; thence east along the north lot lines of lots 44 and 43. The bound then runs northeast along the lines of lots 42, 45, 46; in the same line across Berkshire Drive; and continues generally northeast on the northern bounds of lots 62, 63, 64, and 65. The boundary runs south from the northeast corner of lot 65 along the western edge of Berkshire Drive to a point opposite the northwest corner of lot 66; east across Berkshire Drive to that corner; then east and south on the north and east bounds of lot 66 to Ledge Way; south across Ledge Way to the northwest corner of plat 33, lot 70. Then east along the north lot line of lot 70 to Main Street; jogging south along Main Street and then east across it to the northwest corner of lot 77; then east along the north bound of lot 77 to its northeast corner and continuing in the same line to the southeast corner of plat 34, lot 192. Then north along the east bound of lot 192 to its northeast corner and east along the south bound of lot 206; then following that line across lot 27 (the railroad right-of-way) to the west bank of the Blackstone River. South along the west bank of the Blackstone River to a point just north of the dam; east across the River to the east bank (in the town of Cumberland); then southerly along the edge of the River to a point just south of the Albion Bridge over the River; from there west across the River to its western bank; south along the River's edge to the southeast corner of plat 32, lot 48, the point of beginning.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1830-c. 1950

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Albion is significant as a representative and well-preserved example of the northern Rhode Island mill village. The history of its development, management, and ownership embody patterns common to the Blackstone Valley's textile industry. The surviving elements of its water-power system and the two iron Pratt truss bridges across the power canal and the Blackstone River are important engineering structures. And Albion's mill and mill housing are of architectural importance both for their typicality and for the long period of development they represent. The single- and two-family ranch houses built in the late 1940s are of particular interest; although not of great individual aesthetic value, they are among the latest mill houses built by a manufacturing company anywhere in Rhode Island.

### History

The first mill built at Albion was constructed in 1823 on the land and water privilege which Samuel Hill sold to a group of mill proprietors. As with many of the region's early textile mills, this first Albion mill was operated by a partnership of locally prominent families, including Joseph, Daniel G., and William Harris, of the Lime Rock Harrises; Preserved Arnold, whose ancestors had been among the first settlers in Lincoln; and Abraham and Isaac Wilkinson whose family, though originally from Lincoln, had moved to Pawtucket and become important iron workers there.

Two more factories were added within a decade. Of the three mills, only one survives: a wood frame mill, known as the Green Mill, erected in 1830 by George Wilkinson. In the late nineteenth century, when it had outlasted its utility as an industrial building, the Green Mill was moved to School Street from the riverbank. It was substantially diminished in size for the move and was converted into living quarters for mill workers. This factory is still recognizable as an example of early mill construction--a long rectangular building of two and one half stories, with regularly spaced fenestration, its gable roof still retains the clerestory which lit its attic space.

The Albion mills changed hands several times before 1854, when they were purchased by Harvey and Samuel B. Chace. In 1856 the Chaces incorporated as the Valley Falls Company. The Chace brothers also purchased the Manville mills in the 1850s and they were, in fact, important figures in the development of several Blackstone Valley mill villages, since they owned mills not only in Manville and Albion, but also in Valley Falls, their principal seat.

(See Continuation Sheet #10).

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
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Continuation sheet 10

Item number 8

Page 2

The Chaces continued to own and operate the spinning and weaving functions at the Albion mills until the twentieth century. In the 1890s, the Valley Falls Company acquired the property of the Albion Company, but Chace family members were the principals of both corporations; the company operations at Albion finally shut down in 1962. Albion as it exists today is largely the product of the Chace family's tenure here.

The centerpiece of the Chaces' building activity in Albion was the new mill. Until 1850, manufacturing at Albion was carried on in buildings over twenty years old. As the scale of operations escalated, the older stone and wooden mills became inadequate, and in Albion, as in many other factory centers, these early nineteenth-century buildings were replaced in the second half of the century by longer, taller, wider mills built of brick. The present Albion mill is a long (almost 400 feet) rectangular building; constructed in four separate stages over the course of seventy years, it is a study in the successive alterations and additions which characterize nineteenth-century factories. The mill has its origins in the center section built c. 1850, originally four (now five) stories tall, with iron window lintels and sills, the cornice of its gable roof decorated with heavy brackets. In 1874, a four-story addition was built on its south end; in 1909, the 1823 stone mill was torn down and a five-story addition was constructed in its place, just north of the 1850 mill. In 1921, yet another addition was made on the north end of the building. Like the lightly 1909 sections, it has a bracketed cornice, though the brackets are more lightly scaled than on the early sections; its rectangular windows have granite sills and segmental heads. A handsome projecting tower on the east facade is ornamented with round-head windows and a corbeled cornice. This is an impressive building, compensating for its lack of coherent design with its interesting variety.

The mill is now occupied by American Tourister, a manufacturer of luggage, but in the nineteenth century it housed cotton looms on its lower floors and spinning frames on the upper floors. As with other major mill operators, the Chaces attempted to integrate many of the functions required in their mill. This integration was represented physically by the number of small subsidiary buildings clustered about the mill--in the 1880s, historian Thomas Steere counted among them a cloth room and office, the administrative center of the mill; a blacksmith and machine shop, for modification and repair of machinery; a storehouse; and a sawmill, which provided lumber. A small railroad station was located just north of the mill. Of these, only the mill office remains; on the east side of the mill, it is a simple two-story brick building. However, significant elements of the mill's water-power system survive: a stone dam (1916), a wooden gate house with rack-and-pinion hoists used to control the flow of water through the power trench, and six turbines which are installed in the mill basement.

The Albion Mill owners began to build workers' houses as early as 1832 and several early mill houses dating from the 1840s remain on Main Street. While their clapboards have been covered with modern

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only
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Continuation sheet 11

Item number 8

Page 3

siding, these houses are still recognizable as large, plain examples of company-built, multi-family housing. Probably built for four families each, they are two-and-a-half-stories tall and six bays long, with two simple doorways and flank gable roofs.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the Albion Company built sporadically, adding groups of three or four houses occasionally to their housing stock. In the early twentieth century, the Valley Falls Company undertook a major building and renovation campaign.

The scheme was the brain-child of William H. Erskine, who became superintendent and agent for the Valley Falls Company in 1903. Strongly committed to the village in which he was now the central and most important figure, Erskine was determined to remake Albion into a model of efficiency and attractiveness. Elected to the state Senate in 1907-1908, he was instrumental in acquiring a new school for the village; a substantial brick building located on School Street and built on land donated by the Valley Falls Company, it has since been demolished. Before Erskine's ambitious schemes began, the mill houses of Albion were not equipped with either running water or sewers; their yards were dotted with outdoor privies; and many yards were unplanted. The unpaved streets of the village were littered with trash. The banks near the mill had been used as rubbish dumps and were badly eroded while the fields surrounding the village gave evidence of their use as dumps as well as orchards and hay fields.

In 1908, Erskine and the company began their remaking of Albion, a project which was eventually to cost more than \$100,000. A natural spring near the mill was adapted for a new water system; a basin was dug and then covered; the mill's machinery pumped the water through the new mains laid throughout the village. A sewer system was installed. Remnants of the village's first electrical system are still to be seen in Albion--utility poles stand behind the houses on Main and School streets, where some of them now support clotheslines. Outbuildings were removed from yards and a general housecleaning of the village ensued--yards were graded and planted with grass. The company offered prizes for the best landscaped and maintained yards. The two streets of the village were macadamized, their sidewalks curbed, and elms and maples planted in front of each house. The piles of rubbish near the mill and in the rear yards of the houses were carted away and replaced with plantings of flowers and California privet. Several pine groves were set out under the direction of the State Forester Jesse Mowry. Erskine's undertaking, which left Albion with a far more pleasing aspect, was not limited to beautification of already constructed buildings: it included a major building campaign as well. Beginning with six brick mill houses, Erskine remade Albion from a village of wood to one of brick and wood. Large multi-family brick houses were constructed c. 1908 on School Street (41, 92, 98, 104) and Main Street (53 and 114), two-and-a-half-stories tall, with large central dormers and long porches across their facades.

(See Continuation Sheet #12).

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet 12

Item number 8

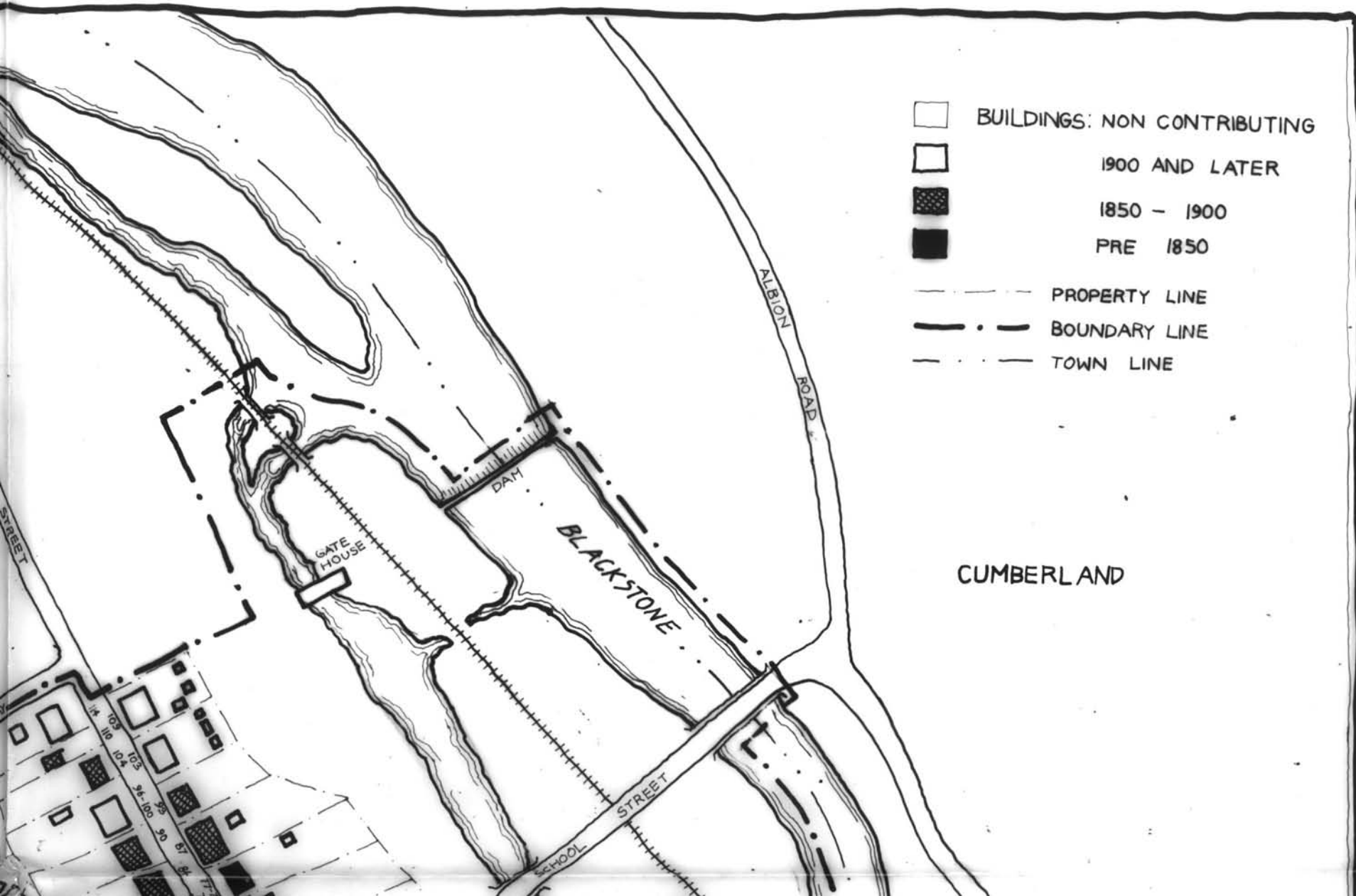
Page 3

The design was repeated (with minor changes) in several other houses built soon after.

Yet a further series of company-constructed houses was built in Albion in the 1940s, when the Berkshire Company, corporate successor of the Albion Company, built housing along Berkshire Drive and adjacent streets. These simple ranch houses were the last mill housing constructed in Lincoln and are an historical anomaly, built when most manufacturing concerns were selling off their housing. Some were sold to private owners as early as the 1950's; others, after the mill closed in 1962.

As in Lincoln's other factory villages, most of Albion workers were English immigrants in its first decades; the Albion Company built a small multi-denominational church for their workers on School Street. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, however, English families were outnumbered by French Canadian workers recruited by the company and even today, Albion has a distinctly French character. Like their counterparts in many other Blackstone Valley communities, these Canadian immigrants built a Catholic church. There had been a mission from Ashton in Albion since 1872, and in 1895 the Church of Saint Ambrose was completed. Located on School Street at the entrance to the village, Saint Ambrose is a simple, shingled building. A rectory and school were later added, and Saint Ambrose remains the religious center of the village.

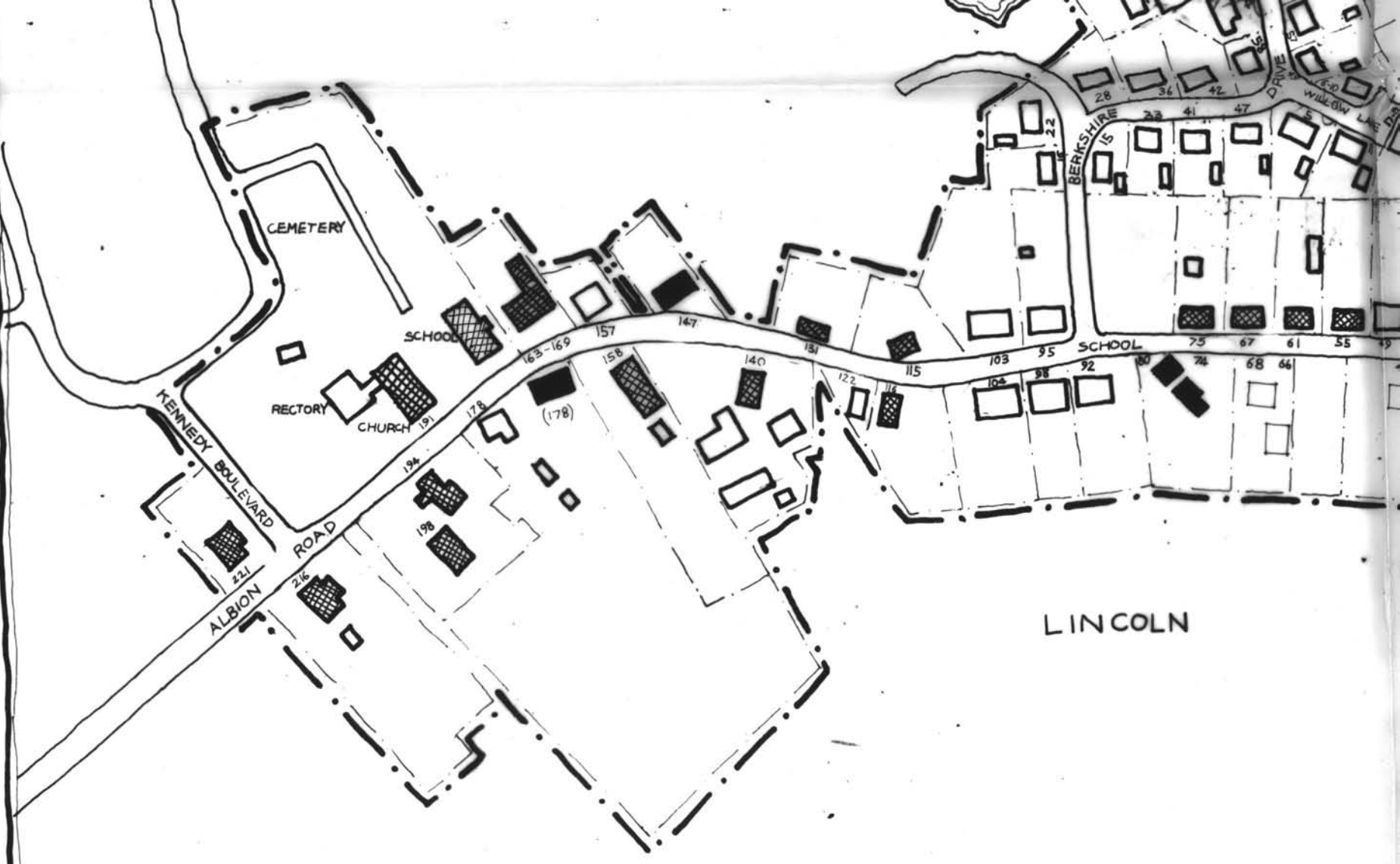
Today, Albion retains the ambience of a nineteenth century factory village. Its mill is still used for industrial purposes--though textiles are no longer produced here. And, despite the deprivations of modern siding, its modest houses retain the form and arrangement which identifies their origin. As a well-preserved mill village, typical of the many mid-sized industrial communities in the Blackstone Valley, the Albion Historic District merits entry on the National Register.



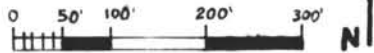
- BUILDINGS: NON CONTRIBUTING
- 1900 AND LATER
- ▨ 1850 - 1900
- PRE 1850
- - - PROPERTY LINE
- · - BOUNDARY LINE
- · - TOWN LINE

CUMBERLAND





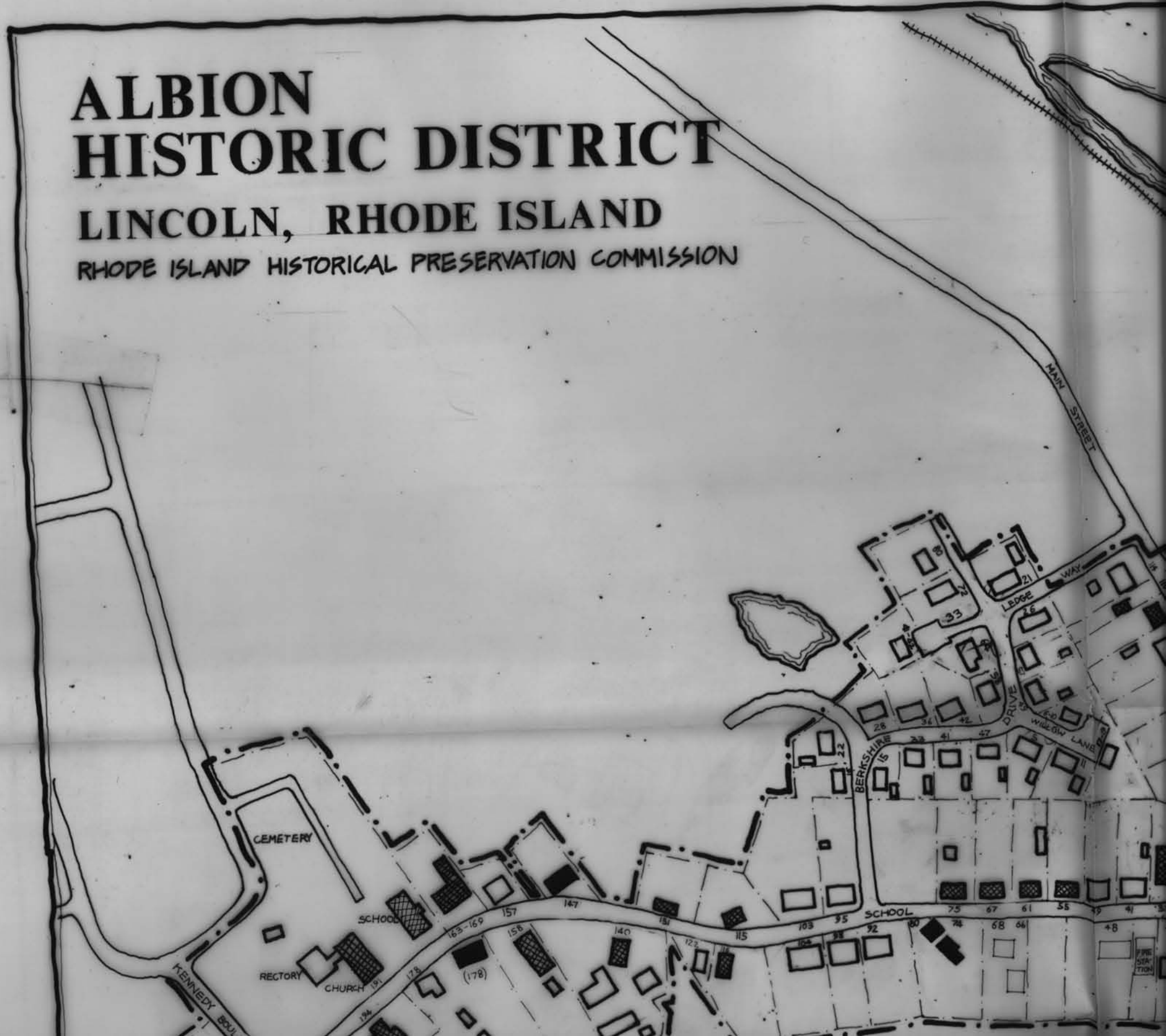
NOVEMBER 1981

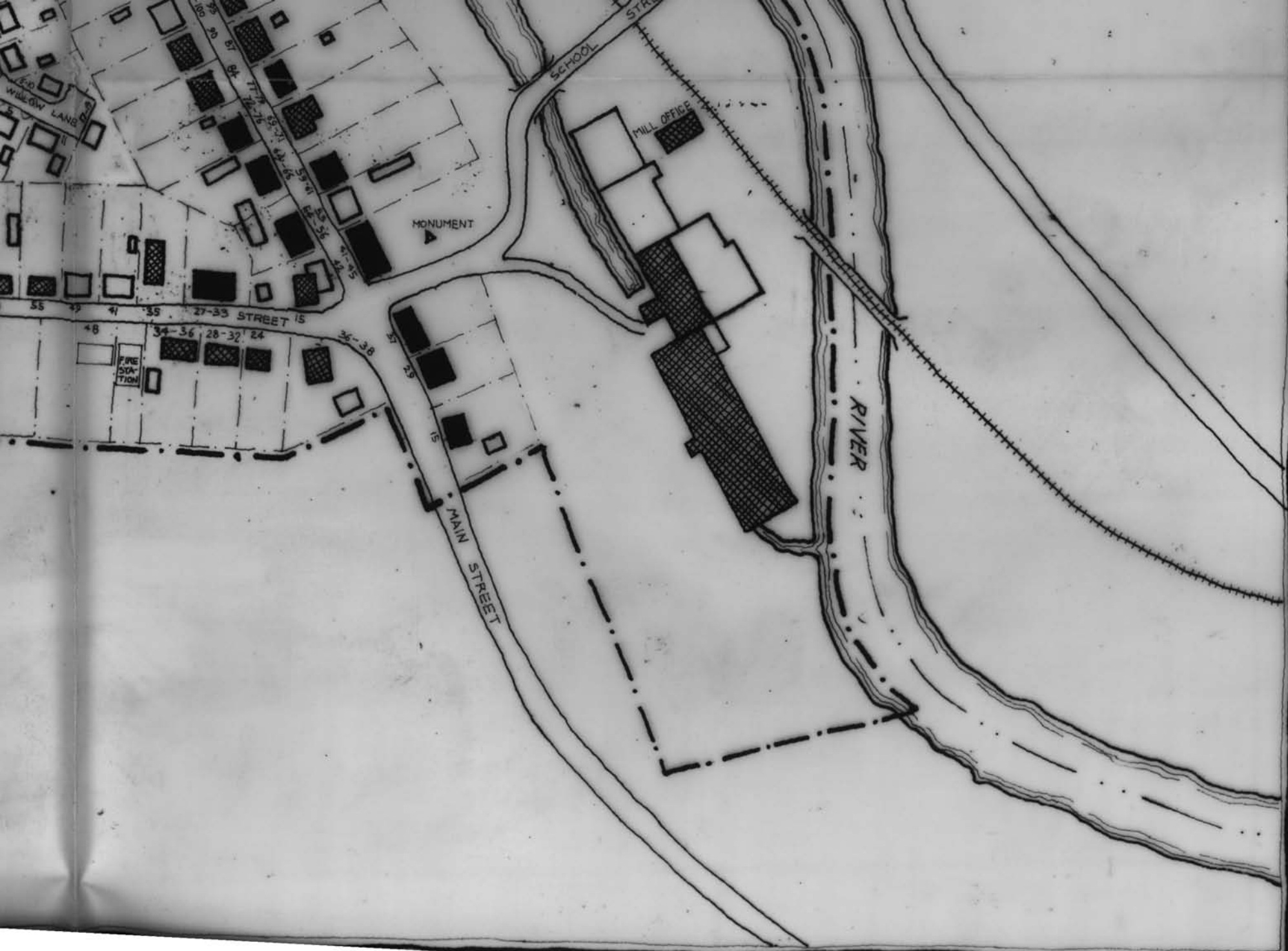


# ALBION HISTORIC DISTRICT

LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION







Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Pamela Kennedy  
Date: July, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Albion Mill, School Street from the east.

Photo #1

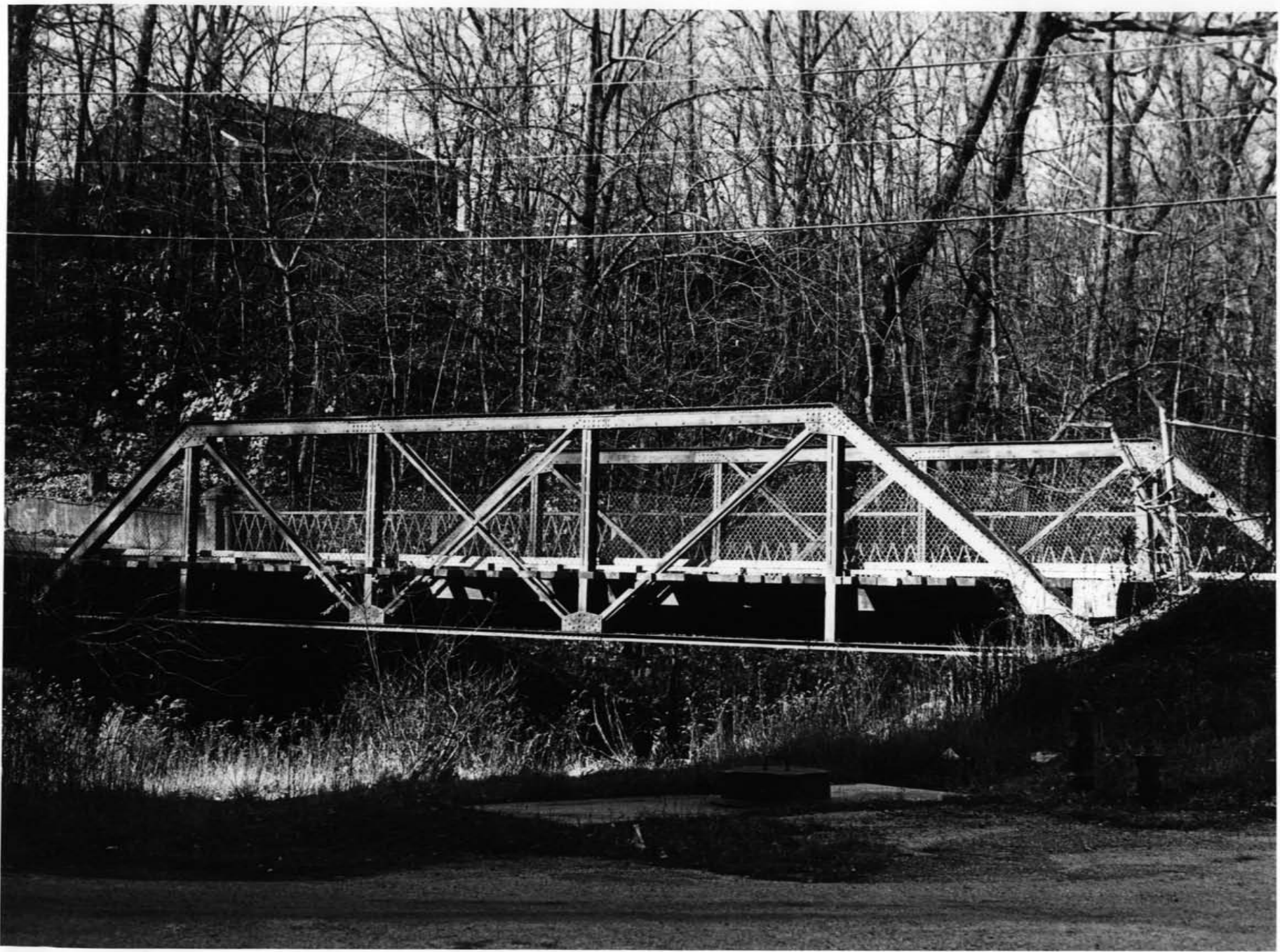


Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Kay Westhues  
Date: June, 1981

View: Albion Mill Gatehouse (c. 1916)  
from the south.

Photo #2





Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November 1981

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Albion Blackstone Canal Bridge  
from the south.

Photo #3.



Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

View: Albion Blackstone River Bridge  
from the southwest.

Photo #4



Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Saint Ambrose Church (1895 et seq.)  
191 School Street, from the south.

Photo #5



Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

View: The Long House (1840's), 41-45 Main Street,  
from the southwest

Photo #6





Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission

View: Albion Mill Houses, (c. 1880), 67, 61 and 55  
School Street, from the southwest.

Photo #7



Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

View: Albion Mill Houses, 49 School Street  
(c. 1910) 41 School Street (c. 1908),  
from the southwest

Photo #8



Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission

View: Albion Mill Houses (1949), 28, 36 and 42  
Berkshire Drive, from the east.

Photo #9

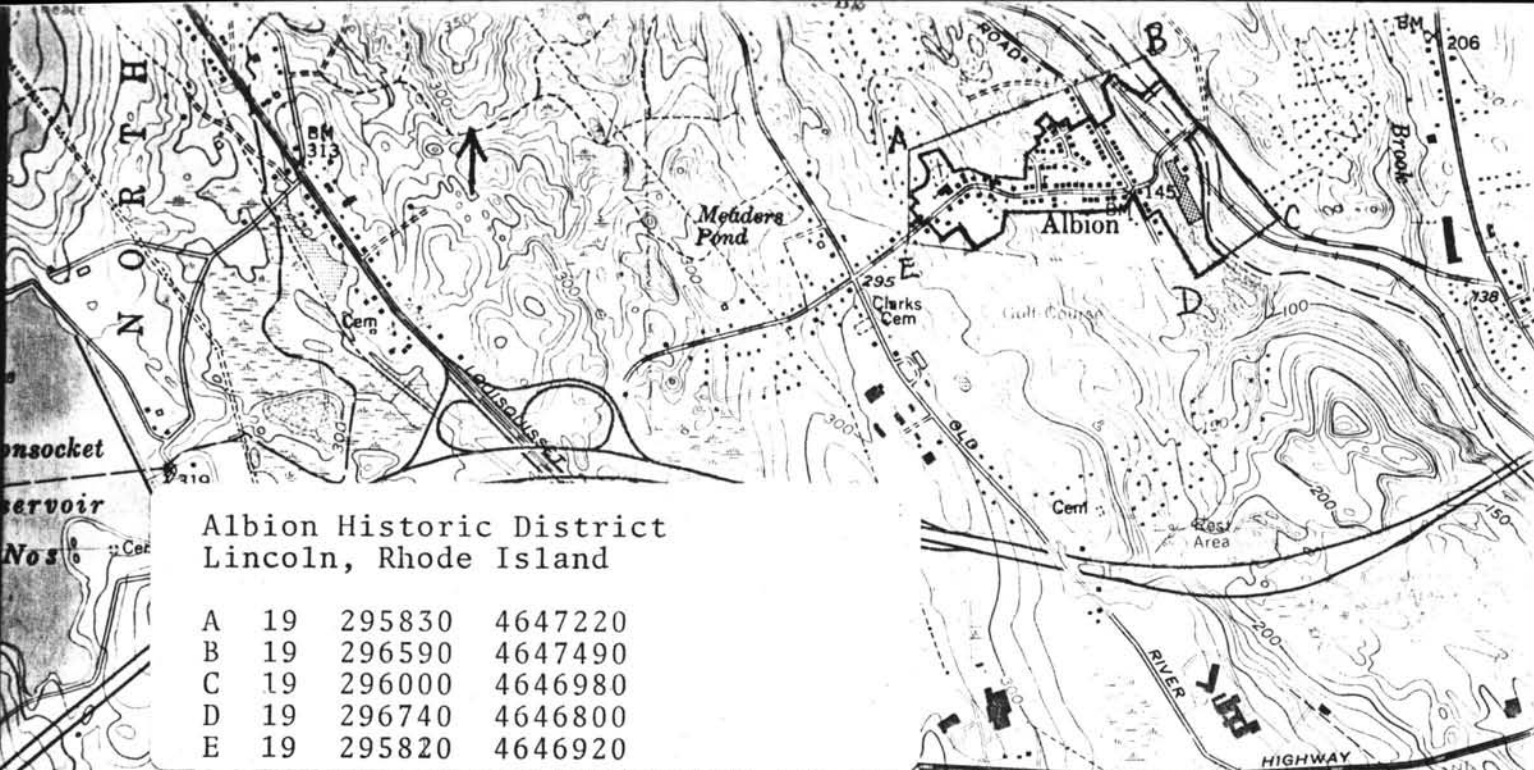


Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Photographer: Susan Dynes  
Date: November, 1981

View: General view up School Street from the  
east.

Photo #10



Albion Historic District  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

A	19	295830	4647220
B	19	296590	4647490
C	19	296000	4646980
D	19	296740	4646800
E	19	295820	4646920

