

DOWNTOWN PAWTUCKET HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

1) Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, former Peerless Building (1973)

175 Main Street

On this location originally stood the home of Judge William Jenks (ca. 1675-1765), built late 17th century. It stood until being demolished around 1830, as Main Street Square began to change from a residential area to a commercial business district.

By the early 1970s this site was a vacant lot, until a Peerless department store was constructed here in 1973. The Peerless Company, which had been in operation on Main Street since 1937, erected a new "modern" two-story building at this location to relocate its Pawtucket department store. The Peerless Department store opened on April 29, 1973 and remained in operation until 1990. Following a couple years vacancy, this building was purchased by the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency, who, along with the City of Pawtucket agreed on a plan to renovate the obsolete department store into first-class office space and a new visitor center for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. A design competition for renovating the exterior was held and the architecture firm of Robinson Green Beretta was selected for their innovative plan. In 1995, the complete renovation of the building's interior and exterior was completed. It was renamed the "Benjamin C. Chester Building," in honor of the long-serving chairman of the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency, and in 1998, the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center officially opened on the first floor of this building, along with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and the Slater Mill gift shop. There is also an art gallery and theater on the first floor of this building, with office space on the second floor. For more information on the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, please visit:

<http://www.tourblackstone.com/visitorcenter.htm>

Note: Judge William Jenks was one of four sons of Pawtucket's founder, Joseph Jenks Jr. In addition to serving as the chief Justice of Providence County Court and Deputy to the Assembly at Newport 1727, William Jenks was also on the commission to

settle the boundary dispute with Massachusetts, and in 1734, he became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

Cross Main Street to East Avenue. Walk down East Avenue.

2) McHale Building (1947)

34 East Avenue

A 2-story, brick commercial building with a concrete cornice (ornamental molding along top) and the date "1947" centered over the facade that replaced two late 19th century industrial/commercial buildings, one called the Jenks Building. The first occupants of the McHale Building, constructed 1947, included Bob Gray's Tog Shop, Tapp Hamilton Company, the E.L. Freeman Company, and the Prudential Insurance Company of America on the ground floor, with real estate and law offices on the second floor. This property has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and currently remains in commercial use.

3) Former site of Joseph Jenks, Jr. House (1671)/Pawtucket Boys Club (1902)

53 East Avenue

A plaque was placed on the front of the Pawtucket Boys Club Building by "The Citizens of Pawtucket" that commemorates the approximate spot where Joseph Jenks Jr. (1632-1717) built the first house in what would become Pawtucket. It was near this building that Joseph Jenks Jr. constructed his home and started a settlement in 1671. Jenks, a skilled ironworker, came here with his wife and young family, drawn to Pawtucket from Warwick by the possibilities of harnessing the Pawtucket Falls on the Blackstone River to run a forge. During this time, this area was the northern boundary of Roger Williams' settlement of Providence and a quiet wilderness with fertile meadows. Prior to Jenks, some farmers from Providence cultivated the meadows on the western side, but never permanently settled. With a readily available supply of timber and nearby bog iron ore it was the ideal place for Jenks to build his settlement

and establish a forge along the river. On October 10, 1671 he purchased sixty acres of land on the west side of Pawtucket Falls, and Pawtucket's development as an industrial community began. This transaction marks the establishment of the first permanent settlement of Pawtucket. Jenks employed and trained blacksmiths and other iron workers, for the task of "building Pawtucket on a cornerstone of iron." The fields of Pawtucket were mowed by the new kind of scythe patented by his father and at his forge, hatchets and other domestic iron implements needed in the households of Providence Plantations were made. Later, Jenks built a sawmill, a carpenter shop, an iron furnace and foundry. Timber was cut from the forest and made into lumber at the mill to build homes for the new settlers. Joseph Jenks Jr. was a real pioneer with the courage and foresight to overcome the many hardships of those early years. However, soon after founding his little settlement, it was burned to the ground in 1675 during King Philip's War, which broke out as a result of hostilities between the Wampanoags and English colonists in the southeastern New England region. Fortunately the Jenks settlement had been warned that the Wampanoags were on the warpath seeking revenge for the white man's appropriation of their land, and most of the people had fled to the colony of Rhode Island (Aquidneck Island) for safety. Many colonial towns were either wholly or partly destroyed during this war, which ended in 1676. Jenks and the little band of settlers returned and rebuilt their settlement following the war, and soon there was a small village clustered near the Pawtucket Falls. Despite the small size of the village it became an important center for iron products such as farm tools and house wares that were vital to the survival of early settlers. When Joseph Jenks, Jr died in 1717, the nucleus of an industrial village had been permanently established on the western bank of the Blackstone River at Pawtucket Falls. Today, no trace of the Joseph Jenks, Jr. House survives.

The current building, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was completed in 1902 for the Pawtucket Boys Club, an organization founded in 1900 by local industrialist Col. Lyman

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Bullock Goff (1841-1927) in memory of his son Lyman T. Goff (who died that year at the age of 32) “for the purpose of promoting moral, social, physical, and intellectual improvement of the boys and youth of Pawtucket and vicinity.” This building originally contained a library, games room, three bowling alleys, a swimming pool, a large auditorium with seating for 800 and a motion picture projection room, as well as classrooms, exercise rooms, and music practice rooms. While membership was offered to all, the Pawtucket Boys Club was specifically established to benefit underprivileged boys, and was one of the first such recreation centers for urban boys in the country. Aside from standing on the former site of the Jenks House, this red brick, vaguely Georgian Revival clubhouse replaced a late 19th century commercial building, that had itself replaced an earlier dwelling. The facade of the Boys Club has a slightly projecting center pavilion with Doric columns surrounding the main entrance. Above the entryway a wrought iron balcony protrudes from the front of the building. The archway behind the balcony is flanked by pairs of Corinthian-capped brick pilasters supporting a brick and stone entablature above, with “Pawtucket Boys Club” in applied metal lettering. The Pawtucket Boys Club operated from this location for many years, but today this building stands vacant.

4) Costello Brothers Inc. later Adams Furniture (1921) **65 East Avenue**

Costello Brothers Incorporated, a wholesale tobacconist and confectionery previously located on North Main Street, constructed this two-story, red brick commercial building with a single Art-Deco style storefront in 1921. This building replaced a much smaller two-story commercial structure that was built around 1884. Costello Bros. remained in business here until 1937, with the Brunswick Bowling Alley also occupying space during the 1930s. Costello Bros.' successor in this building was the Smith-Harriet Furniture Company, one of several furniture stores on this end of East Avenue in the 1930s-1950s. Adams

Furniture Company, which had been established on Main Street in 1938, relocated to this building in 1967, and as part of mid-late 20th century alterations to the building, added the deep metal and plastic sign band above the storefront that says “Adams Furniture.” They were the sole surviving furniture store on East Avenue until closing in 2013. Property has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Across from Adams Furniture take stairs down to Roosevelt Avenue Extension. Cross street and go right to small park across from Jenks Way.

5) View of the Division Street Bridge (1875-1877) **Roosevelt Avenue Extension and Jenks Way**

Looking downriver (to the right) offers a view of the Division Street Bridge, visible just below the newly reconstructed I-95 Pawtucket River Bridge (officially completed and dedicated in 2013). The Division Street Bridge is a nine-arch, stone and brick highway bridge approximately 425 feet long between abutments, approximately 45 feet in height. It is the finest and longest stone-arch highway bridge in Rhode Island and was erected 1875-1877 to link the two rapidly growing neighborhoods then developing along the banks of the Pawtucket River which had belonged to separate towns, and even to separate states in earlier years. In 1874 the west village of Pawtucket, then still the easternmost section of North Providence, was merged with the Town of Pawtucket, creating a single municipality. Politically united, rapidly growing and enjoying a period of general prosperity, Pawtucket in the years after 1874 carried out an ambitious expansion of city services including the construction of a new highway bridge across the Pawtucket River at Division Street. This project was authorized by vote of the town meeting on March 1, 1875, and the Division Street Bridge was completed in 1877 at a cost of \$95,000.

The bridge's nine segmental arches have an approximate 50-foot span, and the six shore arches (4 on the western bank, 2 on the eastern) have

spans of approximately 40 feet. Railed walkways are projected on iron brackets from both sides of the bridge. Discernible alterations of the original structure are the present asphalt paving of the roadway, and the reinforced concrete sheathing over the footings of the river piers. In 1985, the bridge deck was widened by the Department of Transportation to accommodate a jersey barrier for protection of pedestrians, and the wooden walkways and cast railings were faithfully reproduced. The Division Street Bridge has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains the largest and most impressive 19th century highway bridge in Rhode Island.

Go left (facing river) on Roosevelt Avenue Extension to next site.

6) Bridge Mill Power Plant (1893-1894) **25 Roosevelt Avenue Extension**

The Bridge Mill Power Plant was built in 1893-1894 on the western bank of the Pawtucket River just below the falls, constructed over what was once known as “The Fishing Rock,” a popular spot for Native Americans and early settlers to fish. (A portion of this rock is still visible beneath the plant by the river's edge.)

Shortly after its completion, the Bridge Mill Power Company which had built the plant, was merged into the Pawtucket Electric Lighting Company (owned by the Pawtucket Gas Company) to form the new Pawtucket Electric Company. The electricity generated by this new water-powered station was then used to augment the production of the Electric Lighting Company's older, steam-fired plant located a half-mile further south. An electric generating plant which could be powered by either steam or water, the plant was considered a civic improvement for the City of Pawtucket. Electricity was generated at the Bridge Mill Power Plant until a period of inactivity in the 1960s, when the station remained unused. During the 1970s, new equipment was installed by the Blackstone Valley Electric Company and the plant reactivated. Architecturally, the

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Bridge Mill Power Plant is perhaps the finest 19th century example of this building type remaining in Rhode Island and is one of the earliest surviving electric-power plants in the state. Today, National Grid operates one of their substations from this building, which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In parking lot adjacent to left side of Bridge Mill Power Plant, look left over wall for a view of Pawtucket Falls cascading under the Main Street Bridge.

7) Site of the Jenks Forge (Pawtucket Falls)

Looking to the left, as the Blackstone River flows over Pawtucket Falls, the river changes names to the Pawtucket River becoming tidal as it continues toward Narragansett Bay. This was once a focal point of Native American activity, who called this place "pawtucket," the Algonquin word for "place of rushing waters" or "river fall." It was here that major overland trails converged and the river could be crossed in the shallows both above and below the falls. This was also an ideal spot to catch salmon, shad and alewives which seasonally ran up the river.

From early times Pawtucket Falls was a strategic place—as the water level drops 25 feet the falling water creates a natural source of power. When Joseph Jenks, Jr. (1632-1717), a skilled ironworker, arrived here in 1671, he expressly intended to use the water power of Pawtucket Falls for manufacturing, and it was at this location below the falls that Jenks built his forge and Pawtucket's development as an industrial community began. On October 10, 1671, Joseph Jenks, Jr. purchased sixty acres of land on the west side of the Blackstone, marking the establishment of the first permanent settlement of Pawtucket. The iron ore for his forge was dug from bogs near Mineral Springs and cast into the necessary tools. The original Jenks forge was burned by the Wampanoags in 1676 during King Philip's War, but was immediately rebuilt following the war. This ironworks became a successful, multi-generational family business,

specializing in ships' anchors, firearms, and assorted tools, and household implements, in addition to, equipment for hunters, fishermen, farmers, and other local residents. The Jenks' success attracted more settlement to Pawtucket, as well as industrial development on both sides of the river that included saw mills, grist mills, oil mills, potash manufacture, and shipyards.

Note: A dam was built by the Jenks' in the 1670s on the top edge of Pawtucket Falls, now known as the lower dam, to funnel water toward their forge on the west side of the river below the falls. The lower dam, in a "U" shape, has been rebuilt several times according to the needs of nearby mills. It was revamped in the late 20th century by Blackstone Electric Company to reactivate the Bridge Mill Power Plant.

Walk back to Roosevelt Ave. Extension and turn right toward Main Street. Once at intersection of Main and Roosevelt, take right over Main Street Bridge, turn left and enter park along the river.

8) View of Blackstone River

This location offers an iconic view of the Blackstone River as it flows through Historic Pawtucket. The Blackstone River is formed at the confluence of the Middle River and Mill Brook in Worcester, MA and flows southeast for 46 miles to Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Looking to the left, the Blackstone comes to an end as it passes under the Main Street Bridge and flows over Pawtucket Falls, where it becomes known as the Pawtucket River. The original Native American name for the Blackstone was the "Kittacuck", meaning "the great tidal river," a plentiful spot to catch salmon and lamprey in pre-colonial and colonial times. The river got its current name from the first colonial settler in the valley, Reverend William Blackstone (1595-1675), who in 1635 rode down from Massachusetts to Rhode Island on a bridled bull. Blackstone was the first European to settle in what is today Rhode Island, a year prior to Roger Williams' arrival and establishment of a colony in Providence. Blackstone's home, which he called "Study Hill," and his farm were located at

the current site of the Ann & Hope Mill in the Lonsdale area of Cumberland. The Providence town records of 1671 have a reference concerning "Mr. Blackstone's river;" the first time the name of the river as such was recorded. (Blackstone was also the first European to settle in Boston, where he arrived in 1625, living alone on what would become Boston Common and Beacon Hill.)

The Blackstone River has been a factor of tremendous importance in the development of Pawtucket. Since long before the arrival of European settlers, the Blackstone was an obstacle to overland travel and thus funneled traffic over the fords, and later bridges, at Pawtucket Falls. This resulted in Pawtucket being a node of major transportation network for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. In addition, the Blackstone's 50 foot drop in its last two miles takes place in Pawtucket, representing a considerable amount of potentially usable power, first harnessed during the 1670s by Joseph Jenks, Jr., a pioneer ironworker and Pawtucket's founder. In 1790 this water power drove Almy, Brown and Slater's completed Arkwright cotton spinning machinery, an event which marked the opening of America's Industrial Revolution. Looking upriver to the right offers a view of the river as it flows over the upper dam built for Samuel Slater to power his spinning mill. Oziel Wilkinson oversaw construction of Slater's dam, which was completed in November 1792 spanning the entire 185-foot width of the Blackstone River. The dam ensured a large, consistent seven foot fall of water to turn the mill's water wheel.

The water power of the Blackstone made Pawtucket an early industrial community, and was the reason for this area becoming one of the most compact industrial corridors in the Northeast. The success of the Slater Mill began the transformation of America from farm to factory, inspiring other entrepreneurs to build their own mills throughout the Blackstone Valley and eventually throughout New England and the rest of the country, making this location on the Blackstone River the "Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution." By 1880 the Blackstone was considered "the hardest working river," as well as the most thoroughly exploited and polluted rivers in America. Cleanup efforts since

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the 1970s have improved the health of the Blackstone River, although it is still threatened by industrial and increasingly residential pollution sources.

Exit park, take right on Main Street to corner of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue.

9) Cogswell Fountain (1880) **Corner of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue**

The Cogswell Fountain is a 20-foot granite monument with a heron set on top that was donated to the City of Pawtucket in 1880 by Dr. Henry Cogswell (1820-1900), a prominent philanthropist from Connecticut who made a fortune during the California Gold Rush. Cogswell was also an advocate for the temperance movement, a campaign for total abstinence from alcohol in this country led by crusaders who blamed drunkenness for poverty, crime, wife-beating and other social ills. The temperance movement began in the U.S. in 1826 when the American Temperance Society was founded, followed by many other organizations, with the goal of making alcohol illegal. Dr. Cogswell planned to erect 50 temperance fountains in various parts of the country, and he dreamed of building one for every 100 taverns. A directory of this period listed 140 saloons in Pawtucket. Starting this project in 1878, he managed to put up fountains in Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Rockville, Connecticut, and the one here in Pawtucket, among other locations. The premise behind the fountains was that the availability of cool drinking water would make alcohol less tempting. Some of Cogswell's fountains were capped with statues of himself holding a cup in one hand and a temperance leaflet in the other, while others were crowned with mythological maidens dispensing water from a jug. A heron statue stands atop the fountain in Pawtucket, as well as the one in Washington, D.C. Each side of this monument has inscriptions and carvings of animals, as well as water basins for the original fountain.

Cogswell's temperance fountains were not well received in the

communities where they were placed. They were ridiculed, reviled and in some cases, demolished by angry crowds. The Pawtucket fountain was originally erected at its current location in the heart of downtown, but due to its unpopularity, Pawtucket's City Council banished it to Oak Grove Cemetery shortly after being built. Then in 1904, the Cogswell Fountain was moved to the entrance of Slater Park on Newport Avenue, where it stood until 1990. Finally in 1991, as part of a facelift to the Blackstone River waterfront carried out by the City, it was restored and returned to its original site at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Main Street. A new heron statue had to be purchased and fortified to the top of the fountain because the original one had been lost during the hurricane of 1938, which blew through Rhode Island with devastating force. This fountain, as well as other temperance monuments remaining around the country are relics of a movement that swept the nation beginning in the early 1800s that ultimately resulted in passage of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution establishing Prohibition in the U.S., which became effective on January 17, 1920.

Walk into park - go to wall and look right for next site.

10) The Main Street Bridge (1858) **Corner of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue**

The Main Street Bridge, called "The New Stone Bridge," was built in 1858 as the last in a series of five bridges constructed to span the Blackstone River at this point, with the first being erected in 1713. This double-arched granite structure was the first masonry bridge built at this location following a long succession of wooden bridges. The Main Street Bridge was erected by Luther Kingsley, a Fall River mason, from the designs of Samuel B. Cushing, a Providence engineer, and is believed to be the earliest highway bridge surviving in Rhode Island. Widened twice in the 20th century, the bridge now carries a modern deck and road bed, hiding the original stone

structure beneath. The footings used for the arches of the Main Street Bridge are the outcropping of rocks that form the natural waterfall known as Pawtucket Falls, which flows under the bridge.

Note: The Main Street Bridge has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was dedicated the Sri Chinmoy Peace Bridge in 1989 by Pawtucket Mayor Brian Sarault as the 3rd dedication of over 1000 Sri Chinmoy Peace Blossoms around the world. Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007) was an Indian spiritual teacher and philosopher who emigrated to the U.S. in 1964, and dedicated his life in the service of humanity, perhaps best known for holding public events on the theme of inner peace and world harmony. Since 1986, many significant landmarks around the globe, from natural wonders to entire nations, have been dedicated to peace as part of the Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms program. The Main Street Bridge is joined by Niagara Falls, the Taj Mahal, 13 nations, the state of RI, and 34 Rhode Island towns & cities including Pawtucket, which was dedicated a Sri Chinmoy Peace City in 1993 by Mayor Robert Metivier. The bridge was rededicated in 2001 by Mayor James E. Doyle.

Pawtucket Falls flowing under Main Street Bridge (1910)

Walk into park along river.

11) Hodgson Park (1969) **(Sargent's Trench)** **Roosevelt Avenue**

Located next to the Slater Mill Historic Site along the Blackstone River, Hodgson Rotary Park was donated to the Old Slater Mill Association in 1969 as a gift from the Rotary Club of Pawtucket in celebration of the Rotary Club's 50th anniversary in this city and in honor of Dr. Percy Hodgson (1901-1986), a distinguished citizen and Rotarian. This city park was refurbished and redesigned to provide a better view of the river as part of the City of Pawtucket's efforts to revamp the waterfront along Roosevelt Avenue in the early 1990s. This also included landscaping the front of the city hall

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property and the addition of an amphitheater and memorial at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Hodgson Rotary Park offers an urban perspective from a different century, affording a view of the Old Slater Mill, Wilkinson Mill, and the Sylvanus Brown House, as well as Pawtucket City Hall and the Blackstone River as it flows over Slater Dam (Upper Dam) before coursing to Pawtucket Falls under the Main Street Bridge.

Note: In honor of the Rotary International's Centennial Celebration of 2004-2005, the Rotary Club of Pawtucket funded the illumination of Slater Dam, which can still be witnessed after sundown.

Hodgson Rotary Park was once the location of a waterway known as Sargent's Trench, which was cut in 1714 as a fishway around Pawtucket Falls to facilitate salmon and shad migration up the river to spawn. Farmers and fishermen fought development of the waterway but eventually lost out to the industrial interests. The trench began a short distance above the falls on land, now part of Hodgson Rotary Park, then curved westward to approximately the entrance to the Visitor Center at the corner of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue, crossed Main Street and continued 100 feet or so in a southerly direction before arching its way around to a point below the falls, returning to the river at a spot early settlers called "Fishing Rock," a portion of which is still visible beneath the Bridge Mill Power Plant. Sargent's Trench proved to be a dismal failure as the anadromous fish of the Blackstone never used the trench. By the mid-1700s, forges and mills had been built along and over the trench, each using flowage from the stream as a power source until at times there was not enough water power remaining for the shops below. This caused serious conflicts among the villagers, further complicated by construction of Samuel Slater's Dam (the upper dam) further up the river and the Great Flume, the power canal for Slater Mill. To ease protests from lower mill owners, the Swift Flume was built in 1796 to connect the Great Flume and Sargent's Trench. However, the outcome was a great deal of water power being siphoned off the Blackstone and into Sargent's Trench, resulting in a long controversy over water rights and

privileges between mill owners at Pawtucket Falls and those on the trench. Court cases concerning water rights ensued, many of which were never resolved. On a positive note, the Sargent's Trench cases produced a great deal of testimony of many older citizens, which was recorded and provides us today with an excellent resource for understanding Pawtucket's past. Currently, Sargent's Trench still exists but runs underground through pipes beneath the streets and Hodgson Rotary Park.

At the end of Hodgson Park behind Wilkinson Mill stands a steel sculpture 22 feet tall and weighing approximately 2,000 pounds, known as "The Bobbin," which was installed on December 16, 2011. This colorful sculpture, painted turquoise with a red ball on top, was created by Pawtucket-based artist Donald Gerola as an integral part of his "Weaving the Blackstone" exhibit that featured fibers stretched across the river to the opposite bank in a geometric celebration of the city's historic role in fibers manufacturing, while also symbolically linking past and present. This exhibit was believed to be the first time a river in the United States had been "woven" by an artist. The Bobbin still stands, as well as another massive steel sculpture on the opposite bank of the Blackstone, titled the "Wind Rotor," which Gerola loaned to the city in 2007. "Weaving the Blackstone"

Continue to Slater Mill Historic Site.

12) Old Slater Mill (1793)

69 Roosevelt Ave

The original Slater Mill, built in 1793 for the firm of Almy, Brown and Slater, is the center section of the current structure. Three years prior (1790), Samuel Slater (1768-1835) arrived in Pawtucket where Providence industrialist Moses Brown (1738-1836) had been funding unsuccessful efforts to set up cotton spinning machinery and establish a cotton mill here. During this time, the manufacture of textiles was completely dominated by the British due to the development of the Arkwright system, a series of water-powered machines for spinning cotton. However,

when the British lost control of the American colonies in the Revolutionary War, they tried to prevent the export of their latest technology and skilled technicians to the new nation, both of which had made England the world's first industrial power. In this climate, Samuel Slater, an ambitious textile worker from Belper, Derbyshire, England, who had risen to the position of overseer of machinery and mill construction, decided to secretly leave for America in November 1789. After disappointment in New York City, Slater came to Pawtucket in January 1790 with the designs of the Arkwright system etched into his memory and instantly began work on Moses Brown's machinery. In the rented space of Ezekiel Carpenter's fulling mill, Slater worked alongside Pawtucket artisans and mechanics, such as Sylvanus Brown and David and Oziel Wilkinson, as well as ten children. Over the next eleven months they transformed Moses Brown's machinery into a workable Arkwright system. On December 20, 1790, Slater commenced spinning cotton yarn full time and the industrial age was underway. Providence investors and merchants Moses Brown, Smith Brown, and William Almy financially supported Slater, and in 1793, they built the first water-powered, cotton spinning factory in North America at this location.

The achievement of Samuel Slater, his investors, and the Pawtucket mechanics and artisans who assisted him, was of major importance to the newly independent nation, inspiring other entrepreneurs to build their own mills, first throughout the Blackstone Valley and then eventually all over New England. Because of Slater Mill's success, numerous other mills copied the architectural style, management procedures, and use of women and children as workers known as the Rhode Island system of manufacture, created by Slater to manage his operations.

Now much altered, the Old Slater Mill as originally built was a 43' x 29' two-and-a-half-story structure of timber post-beam construction, representative of the first period of factory building. When its demolition was threatened early in the 20th century, a private group was formed to fight for its preservation, known as the Old Slater Mill Association, who succeeded in their efforts to buy the

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Old Slater Mill. Organized in 1921 this association is one of the oldest preservation groups in America, and the very first to be concerned with industrial history. Under their direction the mill was restored to its conjectured appearance of about 1835. In 1955, the Old Slater Mill Association set up within it one of the finest museums of technology in America. Designated a National Historic Landmark and nationally recognized as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, the Old Slater Mill is of great importance to the history of this country and was the first property to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places when it was created in 1966. Renamed the Slater Mill Historic Site, this location was given status as a National Historic Landmark District consisting of Old Slater Mill, Wilkinson Mill, and the Sylvanus Brown House. For information on visiting and touring the Slater Mill Historic Site: <http://www.slatermill.org/>

13) Wilkinson Mill (1810) **67 Roosevelt Ave**

The 3 ½-story rubble-stone Wilkinson Mill, topped by a gable roof with a trapdoor monitor, is characteristic of the second generation of Rhode Island textile mills and demonstrates the changes in mill design after twenty years of industrial experience. Because of the highly combustible nature of cotton fiber, the exterior and bearing walls were built of granite rubble rather than the timber-frame construction of earlier mills to lessen the fire hazard. This building is also larger than the earliest mills, considerably taller and longer than the 1793 Slater Mill that stands to the rear. The Wilkinson Mill was built next to Slater Mill in 1810 for machinist Oziel Wilkinson (1744-1815) and his five sons as a combination spinning mill and machine shop. The upper floors housed the spinning frames, and on the first floor was the machine shop for Oziel's most gifted son, David Wilkinson (1771-1852), where mechanics built or repaired whatever machinery the mill required. David and Oziel Wilkinson were instrumental to the success of Samuel Slater in transforming Moses Brown's machinery into the first successful water-powered textile machinery in 1790. In

addition, David cast the first carding and spinning machines used by Slater, and Oziel oversaw construction of the dam for Slater's new mill. When Samuel Slater arrived in Pawtucket in 1790, he boarded in Oziel's house, and became close to his daughter, Hannah, who ended up marrying Slater.

Considered to be the "Father of the American Machine Tool Industry," David Wilkinson trained in his Pawtucket shop most of the nation's first generation of machine builders and laid the foundations for America's modern machine-building industry in the 1790s by designing a screw-cutting lathe with a slide rest that allowed the tool to work at a constant speed and guided the cutting tool properly so that it produced an accurate thread. He also built the steam engine which supplemented the Wilkinson Mill's water power system, making it one of the first steam powered textile mills in the country and the first in Rhode Island. In 1817, Wilkinson assembled the first successful power loom in Rhode Island, the "Scotch loom," from patterns supplied by its inventor, David Gilmour. In combination with the mechanized cotton picker, the power loom made it possible for all the processes of cotton cloth production to be brought together in factories whose size was no longer limited by the number of cotton pickers and weavers on neighboring farms. The rise of great mill cities such as Lowell, Lawrence and Manchester were the direct result. In addition, working with Elijah Ormsbee, David Wilkinson built the first steamboat to come up the Pawtucket River, probably the first steamship in America.

During a depression in the textile industry in 1829, David Wilkinson was forced to sell the mill and moved West. In subsequent years, the Wilkinson Mill was used by various industries and much altered during its active life, with the brick exterior stair tower being added at the western end around 1840. As part of the Slater Urban Renewal Project of the 1960s the building was acquired by the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency, and thereafter turned over to the Old Slater Mill Association, who oversaw restorations to the mill. The Wilkinson Mill has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the most important landmarks in the history of American mechanical

engineering - it was designated a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 1977. Today the Wilkinson Mill is part of the Slater Mill Historic Site, with the first floor containing an operating machine shop, a tribute to the inventive genius of the Wilkinson family located in the same space used by David Wilkinson. For information on visiting and touring the Slater Mill Historic Site: <http://www.slatermill.org/>

14) Sylvanus Brown House **(1758)** **71 Roosevelt Ave**

Originally located on East Avenue (previously Quaker Lane), this one and half story gambrel-roofed cottage with a summer kitchen below was built for blacksmith Nathan Jenks, Sr. in 1758. Sylvanus Brown (1749-1824), a woodworker, pattern maker (of wood patterns from which machinery were cast), millwright, and dam builder later became part owner and occupied the house between 1784 and 1824. It is recorded that when Samuel Slater arrived in Pawtucket in 1790, he spent his first night in this house as a guest of Sylvanus Brown. Along with David Wilkinson and several other local skilled mechanics, Brown worked closely with Samuel Slater to transform Moses Brown's collection of spinning frames into a workable Arkwright system. He made patterns for Samuel Slater's early textile machines and was instrumental in the production of the first successful spinning factory in America under the direction of Slater. Sylvanus Brown was also a veteran of the American Revolution serving as master-at-arms on Commodore Esek Hopkins' ship during the war.

This house was moved to its present location in the 1960s and thereafter restored and furnished as an early 19th century artisan's home. The house is used to draw contrasts and parallels between the life of a middle class artisan family in the pre-industrial age with life and work after the Industrial Revolution. With the demonstration of hand spinning and weaving with flax and wool, the Brown House demonstrates

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the shift from pre-industrial production of textiles to industrial manufacturing. Now part of the Slater Mill Historic Site, the Sylvanus Brown House is one of only three dwellings remaining in Pawtucket built before the American Revolution. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. For information on visiting and touring the Slater Mill Historic Site:

<http://www.slatermill.org/>

The Sylvanus Brown House being driven down Main Street, Pawtucket on way to its new home at the Slater Mill Historic Site.

Walk out to Roosevelt Avenue and go right to next site.

15) Pawtucket City Hall (1933-1935)

137 Roosevelt Avenue

Pawtucket City Hall was constructed in the years 1933-1935 on the western bank of the Blackstone River and is architecturally noteworthy as an outstanding Rhode Island example of the Art Deco style of the 1930s. This prominent Pawtucket landmark is also significant as an early example of the consolidated city hall, housing all city department headquarters within a single building. Replacing a much smaller City Hall on High Street, it was designed to bring the city hall offices, the courthouse, and the police and fire headquarters under one roof. This consolidation was a novel idea at the time and is perhaps symbolic of Mayor Thomas P. McCoy's (served 1937-1945) iron grip on virtually all aspects of Pawtucket's city government in the 1930s. Under McCoy's leadership, Pawtucket was one of the first American cities to benefit from the federal recovery programs initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression.

This building is composed of three different segments: a four and half story main block that rises into a 209 foot high central tower and two shorter sections on each side. The landmark central tower is stepped back at the top and adorned with eagles stretched across its face on each side, and is capped with a tomahawk weathervane. The eagles wings on City Hall inspired the design of

the new I-95 Pawtucket River Bridge, completed in 2013.

The tower originally bore an elaborate cast-stone ornamentation of eagles leaned out from each corner, but these were allowed to deteriorate and one corner eagle actually fell from the tower in 1974. In 2005, City Hall Tower was restored to its original design, leaving out the corner eagles.

The facade of Pawtucket City Hall's main block is organized in a basically classical manner and includes a dozen cast-stone bas-relief panels located just below the first-floor windows, which illustrate some of the people, buildings, scenes, and events important to the city's history. Going from left to right (starting to the right of the Fire Station) the panels depict: St. Mary's Church, the First Forge, Pawtucket Falls in 1812, Old Slater Mill, Joseph Jenks House, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Pawtucket's First Mayor (Frederic Sayles), Old Pidge House, Town Hall, Main Street, First Railroad Station, First Baptist Church. On each side of the stairs leading up to the main doorway, there are eagles sculpted in a manner to make them appear as if they are landing on the doorstep to city hall. The segments on each end of the main block of City Hall house the Fire Department headquarters on the northern wing and the Police Department Headquarters on the southern wing. Memorials dedicated to the fallen Pawtucket Policemen and Firemen stand near the front of each respective department. Pawtucket City Hall has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pawtucket City Hall website:

<http://www.pawtucketri.com/>

Note: In front of City Hall is a time capsule, placed here in 1986 during Pawtucket's Centennial Celebration. It is planned to be opened in 2036, then resealed and rededicated for Pawtucket's Bicentennial in 2086.

Continue down Roosevelt Avenue to corner of Roosevelt and Exchange Street.

16) Veteran's Memorial Park/River and Fields at Pawtucket Marker

Corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Exchange Street

Veteran's Memorial Park is located adjacent to Pawtucket City Hall at the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Exchange Streets. As part of the City of Pawtucket's efforts to revamp the waterfront along Roosevelt Avenue in the early 1990s, a Veterans Memorial monument dedicated to all Pawtucket Veterans was constructed at the front corner of the park, and a 225 seat amphitheater-bandstand was added in the rear. Today Veteran's Memorial Park is home to concerts, celebrations and other special events, and is also a place for visitors and residents to relax along the river.

At the corner of Veteran's Memorial Park along Exchange Street just before the bridge, the River and Fields at Pawtucket historic marker was placed at this location on the western bank of the Blackstone by the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island. The sign marks one of the bounds of Providence mentioned in the deed granted to Roger Williams by Narragansett Chieftain Miantonomi, shortly after Williams arrived in 1636 and founded his new colony of Providence as a place unique in its commitment to full liberty in religious beliefs. This deed granted Williams the use of certain "meadows" up the stream of Pawtucket for cow pasture, and established the northeastern boundary of his new territory at "the river and fields of Pawtucket," probably referring to the land bordering the western bank of the river, now known as the Blackstone. This is the first mention of Pawtucket in recorded history, however, there is no indication that Williams ever visited the lands deeded to him in this area.

Walk back down Roosevelt Avenue to parking lot adjacent to Blackstone Valley Visitor Center. Take stairway up to High Street and go right on High Street for next location.

17) New England Telephone & Telegraph Building (1948;1972) **85 High Street**

Founded in 1879, the Providence Telephone Company opened a branch office on Pawtucket's Main Street the

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following year, before moving to 100 High Street in 1897 (now site of the Salvation Army). By the late 1940s the Providence Telephone Company had grown into a regional entity, constructing this new branch office at 85 High Street in 1947, in conjunction with changing its name to New England Telephone & Telegraph Company. This structure, which replaced three earlier wood-frame dwellings, is a 3-story Colonial Revival style commercial building with a 3-story addition built in 1972 at the rear northeast corner. The first floor is finished in sandstone, with the upper floors of brick trimmed in sandstone, and a facade that is divided vertically (by brick quoins). The main entrance to the building is signified by a projecting middle bay that is capped by a pediment rising above the roofline. Above the detailed sandstone surround of the main entryway, a sandstone bell sits as a relic of the former Bell System. This was the system of companies led by the Bell Telephone Company, and subsequently AT&T, that provided telephone services to much of the United States from 1877 to 1984, operating at various times as a monopoly. New England Telephone & Telegraph Company, more commonly known as New England Telephone, served most of the New England area as part of the original AT&T for seven decades. Following the breakup of the Bell System into independent companies by a 1984 United States Justice Department mandate, New England Telephone merged with New York Telephone to form NYNEX. Bell Atlantic later acquired NYNEX in 1997, however, New England Telephone retained its original corporate name. In 2000, Bell Atlantic bought GTE (General Telephone & Electronics Corporation) and changed its own name to Verizon. New England Telephone was then renamed Verizon New England, Inc., which still uses this building as one of its branch offices. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

18) Providence Telephone Company Building, now Salvation Army Building (1914)
102 High Street

This 2 ½-story red brick, Colonial Revival style commercial building with a large addition at the northwest corner was constructed in 1914 on the location of an earlier wood-frame dwelling. It was built as the fourth Pawtucket location for the Providence Telephone Company (founded 1879). Fireproof construction was utilized, including brick and terra cotta walls, as well as concrete floors and roof. The main entrance, on the east facade (fronting High Street), has a heavy terra cotta surround with a pediment and curved brackets. The cornice (decorative molding) is heavily ornamented with classical detailing, and the first floor windows have splayed terra cotta lintels and keystones, while the second floor windows have terra cotta keystones. The Providence Telephone Company remained at this location until 1948, by which time its new office building had been constructed across the street at 85 High Street. After being vacant for most of the 1950s, the Salvation Army moved here in 1960, adding the lettering "Salvation Army" and the organization's crest to the facade. Today, the Salvation Army chapel and office, as well as youth center occupy this building. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

19) Monast Apartments (1927)
110 High Street (corner of High & North Union Streets)

The Monast Apartments is a large, 3-story Colonial Revival style multi-family residential building, with a roughly H-shaped footprint constructed in 1927 using red brick. An elegant cornice wraps around the top of the building, with the name "Monast Apartments" in applied copper lettering above the deeply recessed entrances of both street facades. The Monast Apartments first appeared in the 1927 directory with four tenants listed. The following year, there were 12 residents, and soon all 24 apartments were fully occupied. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Take left on North Union, then take first right onto Montgomery Street.

20) Pawtucket Progressive Spiritualist Lyceum (1921)
9 Montgomery Street

Currently in use as studio and living space. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Continue to corner of Montgomery and Exchange Streets. Next two sites are located across Exchange Street to the right.

21) Graham Building (ca.1926-1929)
58-64 Exchange Street

The Graham Building is located to the right of the attached Veloria Apartments across Exchange Street. This is a two-story red brick, commercial building constructed with 3 storefronts, all of which were altered in the late 20th century. "Graham Building" appears above the central main entrance, which features a decorative cast stone surround. The upper floors feature decorative tapestry brick and cast stone detailing, including belt courses with square and diamond ornamentation. A one-story addition built in the late 20th century is visible from Montgomery Street. Prior to the Graham Building, 3 or 4 wood frame structures stood from 1880-1923 on this site. While some were originally residences, all were in commercial use by 1923 with H.L. Graham & Sons operating a plumbing business at one of these buildings beginning in 1915. Construction on the current edifice began around 1926, when all of the previous businesses except for H.L. Graham & Sons had vacated the premises, and was completed about 1929, when six other new businesses were listed at this location. The Graham Building remains in commercial use with retail space on the first floor, and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

22) Veloria Apartments (1928)
50-54 Exchange Street (corner of Exchange and Montgomery Streets)

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At left is the 3-story, red brick Veloria Apartments building, originally designed for mixed use with 5 storefronts on the ground floor and multiple dwelling units above. The upper floors are designed with tapestry brick, and trimmed with brick and cast stone or concrete elements. A belt course with diamond decorations is visible between each floor, with similar diamonds in the parapet (low wall along the edge of a roof) at top of the Exchange Street facade. During the late 20th century, the entire ground floor level was remodeled using different red brick on its walls. The rear of the building now has an overlay of aluminum siding, seen from the Montgomery Street elevation above a slightly set-back 1-story red brick addition. A wood-frame dwelling with several additions originally stood at this location, which was occupied by Xaviere Bachand starting around 1915. Bachand then moved his barber shop here from the Beswick Building during the 1920s. There were four commercial businesses operating from Bachand's house by 1924, including his own shop. In 1928, Bachand tore down his home and in its place built a lodging house called the Veloria Apartments, changing the name in 1931 to the Veloria Hotel. Xaviere Bachand continued to live and maintain his barber shop here until his death, after which his widow Claudia Bachand ran the hotel business until 1956. The Veloria Hotel remained open for nearly another decade, finally closing in 1965. This building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains in residential and commercial use today, with the All Nations Revival Center occupying the first floor as of 2013.

Take left to opposite corner of Exchange and Montgomery Streets.

23) United States Post Office (1933)

40-42 Montgomery Street (corner of Exchange & Montgomery Streets)

This monumental, red brick and sandstone Colonial Revival style civic building with two wings is substantially larger than Downtown Pawtucket's previous post office at 1 Summer Street,

now the Gerald S. Burns Library Annex. Adorned with sandstone trim elements including ornamentally detailed panels, this building is slightly V-shaped to accommodate the curve of the corner and well set back from the street. A broad flight of eight stone steps leads up to the pedimented front pavilion where "United States Post Office" in applied gold lettering is situated above two freestanding Corinthian columns. Set back behind the columns is the main entrance, which has a surround of classically detailed sandstone along with the original molded wood paneling and fanlight above the replacement metal-framed doors. The secondary entrances in each wing of the building also feature replacement metal-framed glass doors and retain their original woodwork and classically detailed sandstone surrounds. Like its predecessor, this post office is a notable architectural landmark on the Downtown Pawtucket landscape. As the first post-1930 building to appear in the downtown area, the circumstances of its construction during the Great Depression were due to Pawtucket's mayor, Thomas P. McCoy, taking advantage early of the federal government's economic recovery programs in an effort to stave off the city's financial collapse. The result was Pawtucket receiving not only a new post office, but also a new City Hall, high school (Pawtucket West High School—now known as Shea), municipal stadium (now McCoy Stadium), as well as a filtration and water plant. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cross Montgomery to traffic island, then cross Exchange Street to opposite side.

24) Pawtucket Elks Lodge Building (1926)

27-37 Exchange Street

The Pawtucket Elks Lodge Building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a three-story structure of irregular form remarkably detailed in the Spanish Renaissance Revival Style of the early 20th century. The building's distinctive wrap-around facade is finished with buff tapestry brick laid in Flemish bond, accented by

extensive cast-stone detail of a slightly paler hue. The first floor level is treated as an open, glazed storefront within a rusticated, cast-stone enframing. The second floor level consists of floor length windows in a rusticated cast-stone enframing, each capped by a projecting pediment (triangular architectural element). Balconies along the second floor level are each designed with wrought iron railings and supported by a single, massive console. All the balconies are linked by a moulded string course to form a continuous, undulating line along the building's facade. A broad belt course with a running foliate design marks the level of the third floor, which is developed as a glazed loggia under broad, bracketed overhangs.

At the western end of the Exchange Street facade, there is a slightly projecting hip-roofed tower that stands taller than the rest of the building, because the added height softens the otherwise abrupt transition to the Times Building next door. This tower contains the entrance to the upper floors and in addition to the second floor balcony, there is a small, semi circular balcony at the third floor level with the primary ideals of the Elks scrolled on each side: Charity and Justice to the left, Brotherly Love and Fidelity to the right. Below the roofline of the entry tower is the figure of an elk's head.

The parent body of America's local Elks lodges, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was founded 1868 in New York City by members of the acting profession, and was initially only open to those in that field. By the 1880s, the order was opened up to members of other professions, and thus began a period of steady growth. Locally, the Pawtucket Lodge of Elks #920 was founded on June 10, 1904 and was one of perhaps a dozen or more fraternal organizations then active in the city. The Elks held their meetings in rented halls until purchasing their first permanent quarters on School Street in 1914. Membership increased over the next decade, moving the Elks to construct a new Lodge building in 1926 on the corner of Exchange and Montgomery Streets, site of the former Briggs Block (razed in 1924). This new structure was unique among Rhode Island Elks' Lodges in that its first floor was designed to be rented out as

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commercial space. The rental income produced by this space turned out to be a boon during the lean years of the Great Depression, a time of serious financial trouble for fraternal organizations when the Pawtucket Elks membership dropped significantly. This group eventually recovered, and by the early 1950s the local lodge was reported to be the largest fraternal body in the Blackstone Valley area. The Elks Lodge Building is significant as one of three important buildings in Pawtucket designed by famed Providence architect John F. O'Malley. (The other two are Pawtucket City Hall and Pawtucket West High School-now Shea). It has the most distinguished facade of any downtown building of this period, and along with the attached Pawtucket Times Building, the Elks Building forms one of the most distinctive urban streetscapes in Downtown Pawtucket. During the late 20th century, a landscaped planting bed was adopted in front of the Elks Building memorializing deceased Elks members. While the neon sign for Pawtucket's Elks Lodge 920 is still attached above the entryway, the Elks no longer occupy this building. However, the first floor remains in use by several retail establishments.

[25\) Pawtucket Times Building \(1895\)](#)

[23 Exchange Street](#)

Designed in the Colonial-Romanesque Revival style, the 1895 Pawtucket Times Building is a 5-story office building with an imposing facade that originally faced a bustling urban square, and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. All the exterior walls except the Exchange Street facade are of red brick laid in red mortar. The ground story of the Exchange Street facade includes granite piers surrounding the windows and entrance, while the four floors above are faced with yellow brick laid in yellow mortar. A pale buff limestone was used for trim on the middle three floors and a darker, orange-brown terra-cotta used for the columns and arches on the crowning fifth story. Some changes have been made over the years to the building's facade, most notably the present arrangement of three large

aluminum-framed windows to the left of the single entrance dating from a 1960s modernization.

The Pawtucket Times is the longest running and most successful newspaper in Pawtucket's history, founded by George O. Willard as an afternoon daily, known as *The Evening Times*, with the first edition hitting the streets on the afternoon of April 30, 1885. Five years later, David O. Black, manager of the *Providence Telegram*, bought *the Times*, and quickly improved the paper and built up its circulation. Originally located at 170 Main Street, Black commissioned this building in 1895 as the newspaper's new and permanent home. On March 1, 1896, the first issue of *the Times* was published at this location. Following four generations in the Black family, the newspaper was sold in 1957 to New England Newspapers Inc., a forerunner of Ingersoll Publications. This company was then purchased in 1989 by the Journal Register Company. In 2007, a new company, RISN (Rhode Island Suburban Newspapers), formed to purchase the Journal Register's Rhode Island properties, including *The Times*. This building is still used by *the Times*, which maintains office space here, although the newspaper is published elsewhere. The Times Building and the adjoining Pawtucket Elks Lodge Building together constitute one of the most impressive urban streetscapes remaining in Pawtucket.

Note: A Print Annex was added to the Times Building around 1922 for the newspaper's Print Department. It extends from the rear of the Times Building back to North Union and Montgomery Streets. The Times Print Annex also houses a garage and a loading dock.

Continue along Exchange Street and cross Summer Street to corner of Exchange, Summer and Broad Streets.

[26\) Beswick Building \(1891\)](#) [1-3 Exchange Street \(corner of Exchange, Summer, Broad Streets\)](#)

This 3-story brick and granite Late Victorian commercial building on a five-sided lot was constructed 1891 in the Queen Anne style in 1891 for Frances

Beswick, widow of a saloon keeper and brewer who lived on the opposite corner of Exchange and Summer Streets in the early 1890s. The original tenants are not known, but in 1915 a liquor store, pharmacy, and barber were on the ground floor, with offices for a dentist, a painter, a confectioner, and a real estate agent on the upper floors. The first floor storefronts of the Beswick Building, or "Beswick Block," have been altered over the years, with remodelings ca. 1920-1930 and again mid-late 20th century. The main entryway on the Exchange Street facade has a concrete surround with a large, semicircular wood-framed projecting bay window (oriel window) above, where "Beswick Building" appears in applied lettering. On the Broad Street elevation, there is a large rectangular oriel window with the date "1891" in applied lettering. The upper stories of this building are faced in brick with granite trim and a heavy bracketed metal cornice (decorative molding). The Beswick Building still commands the intersection of Broad and Summer Streets, but nowadays the urban square which it originally fronted has disintegrated with the removal of the buildings that once defined its edges. Seen today out of context, the Beswick Block stands alone on its corner as one of the few late 19th century business blocks surviving in downtown Pawtucket. This building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains in commercial use with the News Cafe and Riverside Diner occupying space on the first floor as of 2013.

The Riverside Diner is notable for appearing in the 1996 movie *American Buffalo*, filmed in several locations around Pawtucket. Formerly called the Times Square Restaurant, the Riverside Diner was renamed to fit the script of *American Buffalo*, and has retained that name since. Metal framing with an elaborate neon marquee were applied to the facade of the diner for the movie, giving it a mid 20th century look. This remained on the building several years after filming, but has since been removed and the marquee replaced by a simpler sign and wood paneling.

Another point of interest related to the filming of *American Buffalo* is the so-called Hollywood Walk of Fame - located on the sidewalk in front of the Beswick

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Building. In July 1995, on the eve of the end of filming, the movie's stars, Dustin Hoffman, Dennis Franz, and Sean Nelson, along with director Michael Corrente (born and raised in Pawtucket) immortalized their handprints and signatures in wet cement at this location. (Hoffman allegedly refused to put his hand and footprints in cement outside Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood, so Pawtucket is the only place where you'll find his prints.) Stars were carved around the handprints and signatures, with smaller bronze star plaques placed next to each, all surrounding a bronze buffalo in the center. The date 7-10-95 was also carved in cement here, but is barely decipherable.

The optimistically named Hollywood Walk of Fame is a memorial to the making of this single movie. Apparently, it was thought at the time that these would be the first in a long line of celebrity visitors eager to put their hands in cement here. Unfortunately, over the years all of the bronze plaques have been pried up except for the star plaque for Dennis Franz and the buffalo at center.

Walk down Broad Street to next location at corner of Broad and North Union Streets.

27) Kinyon's Block, now McDevitt Building (1888)

9-27 Broad Street (Corner of Broad and North Union Streets)

This corner of Trinity Square was originally occupied by the Adams House (ca. 1830), which was moved to Summer Street around 1872 when a three-story wooden building called the Adams Block took its place. The Adams Block was replaced when Myron T. Kinyon, an insurance agent, had this building constructed as an investment property. It first appears in the 1888 directory as "Kinyon's Block," and Kinyon himself had an office in this building, along with other tenants, including the YMCA on the second floor. In 1914 the Kinyon's Commercial School, founded by Myron's son, W. Hervey Kinyon, opened here. By 1915 the W.H. McDevitt clothing store had moved into one of the storefronts on

Broad Street, and in 1921 the building was renamed "McDevitt's Block." This three story, red brick, triangular-shaped building was originally constructed in the Queen Anne style and included a 4-story corner tower at the intersection of Broad, Main, and North Union Streets in Trinity Square. Built as a commercial block with 7 storefronts (all altered), a 1923 Art Deco-style alteration removed the top floor of the tower while the upper floors were refinished in concrete.

This remodeling also introduced a concrete door surround at the Broad Street entrance to the upper floors and added the name "McDevitt Building" to the top of the tower as well as over the Broad Street main entry. The lettering for "McDevitt's" can still be seen on the tile flooring outside two of the Broad Street entryways, marking the location of the former W.H. McDevitt clothing store. Additional modifications in the late 20th century further altered the Broad and North Union sides, and all that remains of the Queen Anne-styled Kinyon Building is the detailed brickwork above the 3rd floor windows and the copper cornice along the top of these two elevations. This building remains in commercial use, with a hair salon and a yoga studio occupying space on the first floor as of 2013. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Walk up North Union Street to intersection with Summer Street. Look toward left for next two sites.

28) Edle Cohen Furniture Building (1910)

41-45 Summer Street

The two-story, red brick commercial building on left was built in 1910, originally constructed with 3 storefronts; altered into 2 storefronts mid-late 20th century. A rear ell was added to the structure at an unknown date. A sign band and a wood cornice (molding) are situated above the storefronts, and the roof of the building features a large wood cornice. At the western end of the facade is an entrance to the upper floor, with a modern metal-framed glass door recessed into a metal-paneled opening. Edle Cohen's furniture

store was first listed at this address in 1910, and by 1916, there was also a barber shop here, which persisted under various Italian operators through at least 1949. In 1921, the Edle Cohen Furniture store changed its name to the Slater Furniture Company. Later businesses here (through the 1980s) included a stationery store, a candy store, a photo supply shop, and a tailor. This building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and as of 2013, the first floor is occupied by a hair salon and vacant retail space, and the second floor used for commercial retail space.

29) Morris Plan Company Building, later Chamber of Commerce Building (1924)

29-33 Summer Street (corner of Summer and North Union Streets)

At right is the two-story yellow brick, V-shaped, Morris Plan Company Building, erected in 1924 on the site of a former 2 story wood frame dwelling. It is trimmed in concrete or cast stone as well as copper. A green marbled stone is featured in the diamond details on the parapet (low protective wall along the edge of roof). The Pawtucket branch of the Morris Plan Company of R.I., a financial services company involved with loans and investments, was originally located here, along with a dressmaker and a trucking business office. In 1925, there were six other tenants on both floors, in addition to the Morris Plan Company. From 1949-1970 the Pawtucket Business Chamber (later known as the Pawtucket-Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce) was located in this building. Somewhat altered in the mid-late 20th century, "Tom's Restaurant" is now lettered on two of the wooden sign bands above the storefronts, and "Tom's" on the sign band above the corner entryway. The Morris Plan Company Building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is currently occupied by a hair salon and restaurant on the first floor (as of 2013), with commercial retail space on the second floor.

Cross Summer Street to opposite corner of Summer and North Union Streets.

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30) Henry F. Arnold Livery Stable, later Feldman Furniture Building (1892)

21-23 Summer Street (corner of Summer and North Union Streets)

The Henry F. Arnold Livery Stable is a three story red brick, very large and irregularly massed Late Victorian style commercial building with one storefront, built in 1892 for Henry F. Arnold. Also known as the Summer Street Stables, this was the Arnold family's second stable and the largest of its kind in the city. It housed 176 horse stalls on the first floor, in addition to carriage and feed storage on the upper floors. The stable was converted into a vehicular garage in 1921 by H.M. Arnold & Son Co., who maintained a business here until 1940. After a few years standing vacant, Feldman Furniture Co. moved to this location in 1945, with retail space on Summer Street and storage along the North Union side. At the corner of Summer and North Union, a white-painted modern storefront was added on the first floor level that wraps around both street facades, featuring a two story neon "Feldman Furniture" sign above the old entryway for their retail store.

The "bare bones" design of this building is distinguished by an idiosyncratic terra-cotta, inscribed panel located between the second and third story windows on the North Union Street facade, which reads: "*How Do The Beasts Groan!*"—a Biblical verse (Joel 1:18) particularly appropriate for a stable. Also on this elevation, ghosts of painted signs for "Arnold Garage" and "Feldman Furniture" as well as two brick chimneys above the roofline are still visible. Additional painted advertisements for the furniture store are affixed to the opposite side of the building, which can be viewed from the Pawtucket Library parking lot on Summer Street. Another notable feature of this building is the cast-iron cornice (decorative molding) that runs around the top of the structure. Feldman Furniture is no longer in operation; this building is currently used by Major Electric for office space and storage. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

31) Young Men's Christian Association Building (1905-1907, additions 1966 and 1974)

20 Summer Street

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded 1844 in London with a mission to provide both evangelical and educational services to young men employed in various industries. The YMCA's first American branch was established 1851 in Boston, and by 1856 the national YMCA had grown significantly. This organization promoted the spiritual, mental, and physical health of young men, particularly those newly arrived in industrialized urban areas by providing temporary room and board, help with finding a job and a place to live, spiritual sustenance, moral guidance and opportunities for physical exercise and social interaction. Pawtucket's YMCA was founded in 1889 and originally located on the 2nd floor of Kinyon's Block (9-27 Broad St). This building was constructed 1905-1907 as the Pawtucket YMCA's new facility, with dormitories, a reading room, parlor, game room, swimming pool, gymnasium, and bowling alley for members' use.

The Pawtucket YMCA Building is a massive four-story Georgian Revival institutional building that has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is composed of red brick on a granite foundation, with cream terra-cotta trim and ornamentation. The Summer Street (east) facade contains a centered main entrance that is framed within pairs of cast stone columns and an entablature with carved lettering reading "Young Men's Christian Association." A concrete wheelchair ramp with decorative wrought iron railing leads up to the entryway. On this elevation, the window openings on the first three floors have beveled cast stone lintels (a horizontal architectural member supporting the weight above an opening, as a window or a door) with keystones, while the fourth floor openings have flat cast stone lintels with keystones. The Maple Street (south) facade repeats this treatment, and also has a center entrance of cast stone surround with entablature. A large and unsympathetic three-story brick and concrete addition to the west elevation built in 1966 houses a

swimming pool. At the southwest corner of the building is a large, modern concrete enclosed loading dock that was added in 1974. Extensive renovations in the early 21st century were carried out on the interior of this building, which is still home to the Pawtucket YMCA.

32) Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library (1899-1902)

13 Summer Street

In 1898, Pawtucket's first Mayor Frederic Clark Sayles (served 1886-1888) gave this plot of land for the construction of a free public library. Prior to construction, Sayles, who was also a leading industrialist and philanthropist, traveled to Europe seeking architectural inspiration from Europe's most majestic buildings. The library was dedicated on October 15, 1902 in memory of his late wife, Deborah Cook Sayles, who had died in 1895. Shortly after the dedication, Frederic Clark Sayles passed away.

This facility was one of the first in the nation to provide open access to the stacks, and to open on Sundays, affording mill workers the opportunity to use the library on their one day off. Minerva Sanders, the first librarian, is credited with making the library one of the first in the United States to serve children under the age of fourteen.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library is an impressive example of Classical Revival architecture. Built of the finest white granite, it is indicative of the wealth and civic-minded pride that prevailed at the turn of the 20th century in Pawtucket. The library was built to give the appearance of a Greek temple, featuring an extremely wide fleet of steps leading from the street to the colonnaded entrance pavilion with four fluted Ionic columns fronting the former grand entryway. At the roofline stone lion-head water spouts alternate with a banding of copper palmette ornamentation, and the tops and corners of the pediment are distinguished by large carved acroteria (shell-like or petal shaped architectural ornaments). Along the front wings of the building above the windows there are six white panels in high relief, which were

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executed by sculptor Lee Lawrie. These panels represent the first commission of the German-born Lawrie who would go on to fame as the sculptor of hundreds of works around the world, most notably as chief sculptor at Rockefeller Center, with his work including the giant "Atlas" and the god-like "Wisdom" over the main entrance of that building. The panels on the Sayles library are divided into triads depicting scenes from the great ancient and modern civilizations of the western world.

To the right of the entryway, from right to left they are: (1) Egyptian; (2) Greek, with three figures representing architecture, war and epic poetry; and (3) a combination of Roman and Hebraic civilizations centering on the theme of law.

To the left of the entryway, from right to left, they are: (1) Italian, where Dante is leading a typical Medieval figure through the Inferno; (2) Anglo-Saxon, showing King Arthur and Shakespeare as symbols of British power; and (3) Teutonic, represented by a scene from the epic poem the Nibelungenlied, in which Wotan (the supreme god in Germanic mythology) binds Brünnhilde in a magic sleep. (Translated as *The Song of the Nibelungs*, the Nibelungenlied is an epic poem in Middle High German based on pre-Christian Germanic heroic motifs.) All of these phases are preambles to modern democratic civilization which the Sayles Library as a whole was meant to symbolize and foster.

In 1981, a one story beige brick and concrete addition was constructed between the library and the adjacent Old Pawtucket Post Office (rededicated the Gerald S. Burns Annex) combining the two buildings into a single, enlarged library facility now known as the Pawtucket Public Library. In May 2013, the Elizabeth J. Johnson Pawtucket History Research Center was opened at the library, which consists of an extraordinary and unique collection of materials vital to Pawtucket's history gathered by Elizabeth (Betty) Johnson during her lifetime. For more information about the library:

<http://www.pawtucketlibrary.org>

Note: This site was where Lewis Fairbrother's house stood until 1898, when it was moved to Philipsdale in East Providence to make way for construction

of the library. The Fairbrother family owned and operated a leather tanning business which once stood at the end of Leather Lane (just south of City Hall).

33) Old Pawtucket Post Office (1896-1897)

1 Summer Street (Corner of Summer and High Streets)

Completed on November 1, 1897, the Pawtucket Post Office was erected by the federal government following plans of William K. Aiken and James Knox Taylor, consecutive Supervising Architects of the U.S. Treasury. At the time of its construction, this new post office was seen as an affirmation of prosperity and progress, and looked upon as a symbol of the community's growing size and importance at the close of the 1800s. A century after the industrial revolution in the United States began at Slater Mill, the city saw rapid economic expansion in the textile industry, and by the end of the 19th century, Pawtucket residents were proud of their position as an industrial center of national importance and eager to erect structures physically expressive of their prosperity. The post office was national recognition by the federal government for a community that had grown quickly and was gradually evolving a self image.

Built of red brick on a granite pedestal, this tall, wedge-shaped building with central domed tower and copper-trimmed slate mansard roof (a roof having two slopes on all sides with the lower slope steeper than the upper one) stands as an excellent example of the architectural environment of the 1890s, and the early 20th century, that reflected the enthusiasm for Renaissance classicism and monumental urban planning popularized by the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Emphasizing the principles of design learned by American architects at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, the buildings of the Columbian Exposition introduced Americans to the world of symmetry, axial planning and the classical forms of the Beaux Arts style. In subsequent years, these styles would have a pervasive influence upon architecture in this country, as exhibited in the Old Pawtucket Post Office. In

typically Beaux Arts fashion, this building was sited to command the view up High Street from the commercial district. On axis with this vista is the tower at the corner of High and Summer Streets which signals the original entrance to the building and provides a central focus for the structure. Granite Doric columns supporting an entablature and two stone American Eagles frame the former doorway of the tower. The ribbed copper dome atop the structure is supported on a copper-covered drum articulated with piers separated by Roman thermal windows, and capped by a small lantern-shaped cupola topped by a ball finial. As originally constructed, the facade along Summer Street consisted of four window bays, while that on High Street was composed of three arched units. In the early 20th century, the building was extended 30 feet to the northwest along Summer Street and 25 feet to the northeast along High Street, equalizing the two main facades in five arched bays each, with the ends of each side emphasized by slightly projecting pavilions containing a window with an elaborate surround.

This building served as Pawtucket's downtown post office until a new U.S. Post Office was constructed at 40-42 Montgomery Street in 1933. It was later acquired by the City of Pawtucket and served as the Municipal Welfare Building until 1967. In 1981, the Old Post Office building was renovated and connected with the Deborah Cook Sayles Memorial Library next door and newly dedicated as the Gerald S. Burns Annex to the Pawtucket Public Library. The original corner entrance has since been infilled with a concrete panel and metal-framed, single-light window, matching other replacement windows and doors throughout the building. The words "Public Library" are now affixed on the entablature above the former entryway. Despite these alterations, the exterior of the Old Pawtucket Post Office retains its original character and remains a key visual landmark, prominently sited in the center of the city. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and stands as the only example of Beaux Arts architecture remaining in Pawtucket.

Cross to other side of Summer Street

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where plaque marks former site of the First Baptist Church.

34) Site of First Baptist Church **Corner of Summer and High Streets**

Go to corner of Summer and Maple Streets and turn left down Maple to next site.

35) Pawtucket Mutual Insurance Building (1906; 1936) **25 Maple Street**

Founded 1873 on Mill Street (now Roosevelt Avenue), the Pawtucket Mutual Fire Insurance Company, later known as the Pawtucket Mutual Insurance Company, had this building erected in 1906 as its new headquarters. Constructed on the site of two 19th century wood-frame dwellings, this Georgian Revival style building with pressed brick and limestone trim was built in two phases: the right half in 1906 and the left addition in 1936. The Maple Street facade is articulated by brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals. Trim elements include a belt course between the 1st and 2nd floors, a heavy, decorative cornice, and urn finials (a finial is a sculptured ornament) on top of the rooftop parapet. Applied metal lettering at the top reads "1936," "Pawtucket Mutual Insurance Company," "1906," with the dates corresponding to the construction of each respective section. The 1936 north side addition was designed to integrate seamlessly with the facade of the original building, however, this elevation as viewed from the parking lot on side of building features very large, horizontally proportioned window openings with continuous cast stone sills at both 1st and 2nd floor levels. Pawtucket Mutual Insurance operated from this location until moving to the adjacent building (built 1979) at 237-241 Main Street. This property has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently occupied by Narragansett Bay Insurance.

Walk to corner of Maple and Main Streets for next location.

36) Pacific National Bank (1890) **255-261 Main Street**

The Pacific National Bank, previously located at 201 Main Street, constructed this building as its new headquarters in 1890. Also known as the "Safe Deposit Building," this red brick structure with one storefront was originally four stories with a conical tower, and designed in a blend of the Queen Anne Revival and Gothic styles. Once considered a fashionable Victorian building, the Safe Deposit Building has been modified over the years including the removal of the conical tower and addition of a fifth floor in 1937. The deeply recessed main entrance situated at the east end of the Main Street facade has a polished granite surround with terrazzo walls and floor. The corner storefront, with its own centered entrance, wraps around the Maple Street side of the building. The upper floors are highly decorated with a copper cornice (decorative molding) above the 4th floor level, a cast stone and brick trim, pairs of windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors grouped vertically and recessed into tall pointed arches, and multi-story turrets at the southwest and southeast corners of the building both with pointed arched window openings at the 4th floor level.

In 1900 the Pacific National Bank merged with the Pawtucket Institution for Savings, the city's oldest bank, which subsequently moved into this building from its previous location at the corner of Main and High Streets. The proposed widening of High Street in 1899 had forced the Pawtucket Institution for Savings to find a new home, and its merger with Pacific National Bank provided the perfect location. The Pawtucket Institution for Savings and the associated Pawtucket Safe Deposit & Trust Company remained in business here until 1971, after which a succession of jewelry stores occupied the corner storefront. The upper floors have consistently housed a variety of professional offices and service businesses.

Today, this structure is known as the H&G Professional Building, with the corner storefront occupied by a pawn shop as of 2013 and office space on the upper levels. This property has been

listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Next site is across Main street.

37) W.T. Grant Building, now The Grant (1934) **250-254 Main Street**

In 1934 this two story building was constructed as a department store for the W.T. Grant Company, a large retail chain. The W.T. Grant store was one of several major department stores on Main Street in the early-mid 1900s, but stands today as the only surviving purpose-built early 20th century department store on Main Street. Its yellow brick terra cotta-ornamented facade is testament to at least one retailer's optimism that Pawtucket would come out of the Great Depression and survive the decline of the cotton textile industry. W.T. Grant was this building's sole occupant until 1975, after which it was converted into a multi-tenant shopping mall. In 1984, the Mill River Arcade shopping center opened here with 22 tenants. The building was then occupied by a Christian urban/hip-hop themed group of retail businesses known as the Poam Lands Mall. Poam Lands (Prospectors and then Preachers on a Mission) occupied this space from 2001-2006. Now known as simply the Grant, the layout of this building's interior still resembles a small shopping center and is utilized as mixed-use retail and office space. This property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

<http://www.thegrantat250.com/home.php>

Go left to next location.

38) Wheaton-Toole Building (1892; 1922) **228-230 Main Street**

This red brick, Late Victorian style commercial building with copper, cast iron, and red sandstone trim was constructed in 1892 as an investment property for Dr. James K. Wheaton on the former site of his home known as "Walker House," where he had lived since 1864. This structure was originally

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built with three stories and slightly angled to conform to the curve in Main Street. Dr. Wheaton sold the building in 1922 to one his tenants, William K. Toole, whose hardware store had moved into the ground floor storefront the previous year. Toole had the building enlarged with a two story addition carefully designed to blend in with the earlier facade. On the 2nd floor over the doorway for the upper floors, the window has a decorative wrought iron French balcony and is sheltered by a copper roof that mimics Spanish clay tiles. The bracketed ornamental metal cornice (decorative molding) and sign band at the top of the building includes the applied lettering reading "1892-Toole Building-1922."

The upper floors of this building have held dozens of different tenants over the years and with the exception of the modern storefront, new windows and the removal of a bay window on the right front, the current structure looks very much as it did in 1922. The Wheaton-Toole Building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is still in commercial use with the Artee' Fabrics & Home store on the ground floor.

Note: During the 1940s this space was home to the S.S. Kresge Co. "5-and-10- Cent Store," one of several discount department stores on Main Street in that era. Sebastian Spering (SS) Kresge (1867-1966) opened his first discount stores in Detroit and Memphis, and these two 5 and-10-Cent stores turned into a highly successful chain, which still exist today as "K-Mart." (The S.S. Kresge Company was renamed the Kmart Corporation in 1977.) K-Mart made Kresge rich, but he was a philanthropist and used his money to start the Kresge Foundation in 1924, with an initial gift of \$1.6 million "Creating opportunity for low-income people."

39) Providence County Savings Bank, now the Albert J. Vitale Building (1901; 1948) **216 Main Street**

Known as the Albert J. Vitale Building, named in honor of longtime previous owner, this white marble and

brick structure was originally built for the Providence County Savings Bank in 1901, who were previously located next door at 210 Main Street. The Providence County Savings Bank was eventually absorbed by the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., one of the state's major financial institutions. Hospital Trust remained at this location until its new branch office was erected in 1977 across the street at 215 Main Street. Constructed in the Neoclassical style featuring pediment, Ionic columns and ornate facade in white marble, with the sides and rear of brick. The original 1901 building has a rusticated 1st floor containing storefront display windows. On the west side, a few inches forward of the original bank, stands a 1948 addition with a white marble facade that complements the detailing on the original building. Both storefront and main cornice (decorative molding) treatments carry across, while the upper floors have much simpler marble window trim.

This building's architecture was influenced by the "White City" of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) held in Chicago to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492. Most of the buildings of the fair were designed in the classical style of architecture, with the area in the Court of Honor, known as the White City, containing buildings clad in white stucco, which seemed illuminated in comparison to the tenements of Chicago. The White City is largely credited with ushering in the City Beautiful movement and planting the seeds of modern city planning, inspiring cities around the country to focus on beautification efforts. The designs of the City Beautiful Movement are identifiable by their classical architecture principles, such as symmetry, balance, splendor, and magnificent scale, as exhibited in this building which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The sign bank over the storefront now reads in painted lettering "Albert J. Vitale Building" (a previous owner), however this building is currently vacant.

Walk to corner of Main and High Streets, go left up High Street to rear corner of Blackstone Valley Visitor Center for next site.

40) Site of the Red School House (1793)

High Street (rear corner of Visitor Center)

Prior to 1828, education in the western half of Pawtucket was provided by a variety of private schools, the most notable being the one held in "the Old Red Schoolhouse" on High Street from 1793. This school was built and run by a joint-stock company which included most of the local manufacturers and businessmen at the time. Although the building was intended primarily to house the school, every kind of public meeting was held here, making it the first real public building in the village. East-side residents were allowed to attend the Old Red School for a fee if they preferred it to the public schools maintained on their own side of the river.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DOWNTOWN PAWTUCKET HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR:

Contact the Preservation Society of Pawtucket:

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Or Contact the Pawtucket Foundation

Call: (401) 725-4400

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For more information on Pawtucket, visit:

www.ExperiencePawtucket.org or

www.Pawtucketri.com