

THAMES STREET (continued)

In 1861 it was sold to the Reynolds Manufacturing Company; Reynolds, and later Cranston Worsted Mills, used it for workers' housing. It is one of the few early 19th-century houses on the waterfront.

- *189 **KING PHILIP FIRE STATION/EVER READY ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY NO. 2 STATION** (1881, 1974): The King Philip Engine Company No. 4 built this brick, 2-story, 3-bay, flat-roof, L-shaped fire station. Founded in 1846, the company was first located on Constitution Street, and later at the corner of Hope and State Street. After a dispute in 1923, the town evicted the company from the Thames Street location; some younger members of the company subsequently reorganized as the Ever Ready Engine and Hose Company No. 2 in 1924 and returned to this firehouse. Alterations in 1974 included removal of the life-size carving of King Philip from the facade, flattening of the arched doors, and addition of a 3-bay wing on the south.
- *205, 211 **JOHN GLADDING STORE AND HOUSE** (c. 1859, c. 1865): John Gladding, 3rd, a tin worker, purchased this lot on Potter's Wharf in 1859 and built number 205, a 2-1/2-story, 3-bay, end-gable-roof Greek Revival store to sell stoves and tinware. Number 211, a simple, 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, end-gable-roof house, was built when Gladding expanded his business and purchased additional land. In 1885 four structures crowded this site: a 1-1/2-story oyster house in the rear yard and another building to the north. These last two have been demolished.
- *227 **USHER'S WHARF/POTTER'S WHARF** (before 1794): John Usher sold this water lot to his two sons in 1794. Hezekiah and George Usher were both mariners and slavers. Hezekiah was master of the *Nancy*, and both owner and master of the *Eunice*. After he died off the coast of Africa, his widow sold the wharf to Benjamin Norris, a housewright, in 1809. When Norris mortgaged it to Jacob Babbitt, a merchant, the property included a "wharf, store, dwelling house and blacksmith shop." Number 227, a 2-1/2-story, end-gambrel-roofed store (with living space above) has housed a variety of commercial uses, including Wardwell's store, J.P. Pierce's dry goods and paper hangings, and the Benjamin Brothers' Grocery Store; today it is an antique shop.
- *235 **JOSEPH LINDSEY HOUSE/BENJAMIN HALL'S STORE** (before 1804): In 1772 Joseph Lindsey, a housewright, bought this lot. A dwelling house existed and was mentioned in the sale to Restcome Hart, a blacksmith, in 1804. Benjamin Hall, a farmer, purchased this 2-1/2-story, gambrel-roofed stone building (with living space above), occupying a key location just south of the town market house, in 1826. Hall operated a store here until 1873, when the property was acquired by Otis Munro. The building continued in various commercial uses, first as a grocery store and saloon, then as a general store. Changes from the original appearance included the addition of a false-brick facade with a parapet facing Thames Street in the 19th century and a 20th-century storefront. Recent remodeling for a studio-residence has included removal of the parapet, replacement of all sash, and modernization of the interior.
- *267 **DEWOLF'S WHARF AND ADDITIONS** (1797): In the late 18th century, the DeWolf brothers developed this wharf for their extensive maritime activities. By 1861 the wharf had become the property of Seth Paull who

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developed an extensive coal and lumber yard, later carried on by his son until its sale in 1952 to the J.T. O'Connell Company. DeWolf's Wharf remains a key historic node in the Thames Street area. Four historic structures standing today in this complex include:

- * OLD BANK OF BRISTOL (1797): Originally an elegant, 3-story, 5-bay, hip-roofed, Federal brick structure, built by James and William DeWolf as Bristol's first bank. After 1834, when the bank moved to the southwest corner of Hope and Bradford Streets, the building's upper floors housed the *Bristol Gazette and Companion* and its successor, the *Bristol Phoenix*, between 1835 and 1838. After the 1938 hurricane, this structure was reduced to its present, 1-story, flat-roofed form and exterior windows were filled with brick. Only a Greek frieze in brick on the south wall gives a clue to the structure's original detailing.
- * DEWOLF WAREHOUSE (1818): To the west of the center building is a long, massive, 2-story, gable-roofed structure of African stone, built by James DeWolf to store cargo. During Seth Paull's ownership, the first floor was used to saw and store lumber and the second floor for produce and hay storage.
- * BYRON DIMAN'S COUNTING HOUSE (c. 1835): Facing Thames Street, is a 2-1/2-story, end-gable-roofed Greek Revival structure, used as Diman's office in the 1850s. Diman, a DeWolf protege, became a leading trader and banker. After 1861 the building was used as the office for the Seth Paull Company and is today the hardware store and office of the J.T. O'Connell Company.
- * WILLIAM R. TAYLOR'S STORE (c. 1838): To the north of the center building is a 2-1/2-story, end-gable-roofed Greek Revival store, used originally as a ship chandlery with the upper floors used first for the *Bristol Phoenix* (1838-1843), then as a sail-loft; by the 1890s this space was used to store sash, blinds, and doors. Today, a complex of modern wood, cinder block, and metal sheds crowd the rear yard.
- *282 SAMUEL PITMAN-MARTIN BENNETT HOUSE (1801; c. 1870): This is a 2-1/2-story, 5-bay, center-chimney Federal house, built by Pitman, ship owner and master. It was sold to Martin Bennett, also a ship captain, in 1824, and was enlarged in the late 19th century. Once part of a row of waterfront houses, the house is isolated today. The house has been covered with aluminum siding but retains a fine pedimented entrance with engaged Ionic columns, similar to the Borden House at 736 Hope Street, and a fine modillion cornice.
- *345 BRISTOL STEAM MILL/WHITE MILL/NAMQUIT MILL (1843): In 1836 the Bristol Steam Mill Company erected Bristol's first cotton mill on this site. This mill burned in 1843 and was quickly rebuilt. Typical of Rhode Island's second generation of mills, the structure was originally a 5-story, 5- by 20-bay, end-gable-roof Greek Revival structure of rubblestone, with an offset square stair tower on the southeast corner. The tower has lost its original roof and belfry. A deeply recessed main entrance with a limestone surround, key block, pilasters, and leaded glass transom survives. In 1880, after several changes in ownership, the Namquit Mill (or White Mill) was owned by the Richmond Manufacturing Company, which