

THAMES STREET (continued)

- *72 **WILLIAM M. BLY HOUSE (c. 1840):** In 1835 Bly bought this lot from Charles Henry DeWolf, a Bristol trader and Cuban planter. He built a fashionable 2-1/2-story, 3-bay, end-gable-roof Greek Revival house shortly before his marriage in 1842. A captain of ships owned by Jacob Babbitt and Mark Antony DeWolf, Bly became part owner of a schooner in 1818. In 1849 he died at San Francisco. His property, which included 72 and 82 Thames Street, was sold to manufacturer Albert Knight in 1865. the installation of aluminum siding has resulted in damage to lintels and sills.
- *82 **WIDOW PHILLIPS HOUSE (before 1790):** In 1826 Seth Lincoln, a mariner, sold this property to Mayberry Lincoln, captain of the brig *Governor Hopkins*. This 3-bay end-gambrel roof cottage is a Colonial type, probably moved to this lot and raised one story for commercial use below. Original details include pegged plank frames with splayed lintels and narrow wood clapboards. Known as the Widow Phillips House in deeds, it was sold in 1835 to William Bly with 72 Thames Street. Both houses were sold to Albert Knight in 1865.
- *125 **POKANOKET MILLS (1839 et seq.):** This is a large complex of six mill buildings. In 1839 the Pokanoket Steam Mill, a 4-story, 5-bay, end-gable-roof, brick cotton factory with freight doors at each level, was built here. Bristol's second cotton factory, it burned in 1856, was rebuilt and expanded by addition of a 4-story, 6-by-3-bay, flank-gable-roof wing on the north side. The Reynolds Manufacturing Company produced sheetings and yarn here in the late 19th century. In 1891 Charles B. Rockwell, founder of the Cranston Worsted Mills (established 1886), purchased the property, which had been idle for ten years. Rockwell closed his Cranston plant, moved his machinery to Bristol and began a period of major expansion. The Pokanoket Mill was used for drawing, spinning and twisting, with ancillary buildings for dyeing, drawing, spooling, washing, counting and shipping. By 1911 new units included a 4-story, 9-bay, brick addition with larger segmental-arch windows on the north and a 4-story, 11-bay addition on the south, built between 1911 and 1927. The near-flat roofs permitted more light on the top floors. In 1921 a large, 4-story, 6-bay by 12-bay mill was added on the corner of Thames and Church Streets. This new mill had large windows with handsome granite sills and a stringcourse at the cornice. In 1927 Cranston Mills merged with the Collins & Aikman Corporation, specialists in high-grade automobile upholstery. In 1940 a large, 4-story, flat-roof mill of brick pier-and-spandrel construction was added on the corner of Thames and Constitution Streets. This sequence of construction has created a solid wall of 4-story mills on the west side of Thames Street from Church to Constitution Streets, now in multiple ownership following their sale by Collins & Aikman Corporation in 1955.
- * **ROCKWELL PARK (c. 1920):** A small park and beach given to the Town of Bristol by Charles B. Rockwell. The park occupies the site of the 1895 DeWolf Inn, which had replaced five small colonial buildings, including a wagon shed, carriage house, blacksmith shop, and two houses.
- *126 **WILLIAM RICHMOND HOUSE (1807, c. 1900):** Richmond, a mariner, built this 2-story, 5-bay, hip-roof, brick Federal house, on the site of an earlier house belonging to Simeon Potter. The house has a Palladian window on the second story. Details include splayed lintels and a fine modillion cornice. The balustraded portico is a Colonial Revival addition.