Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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