

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: The Rhode Island Red

other name/site number:

**2. Location**

street & number: Intersection of Adamsville Road, Westport Harbor Road (South Road), Main Road, and Stone Church Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Little Compton vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Newport code: 005 zip code: 02837

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

Name of related multiple property listing: Outdoor Sculpture of RI, 1851-present

Property name The Rhode Island Red, Newport County, Little Compton, RI

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

F. Deane C. Williamson

Signature of certifying official

Date 3/22/01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: work of art

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: work of art

Property name The Rhode Island Red, Newport County, Little Compton, RI

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NA

Other Description:

Materials: foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other METAL, bronze

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): F

Areas of Significance: Art

Period(s) of Significance: 1925

Significant Dates: 1925

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: Norton, Henry L. (sculptor)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name The Rhode Island Red, Newport County, Little Compton, RI

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>322460</u>	<u>4602200</u>	B	
C	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	D	

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

The boundary of the nominated property is the boulder to which the sculpture is affixed.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

The Rhode Island Red is set in its original location. While the location of the sculpture in the town of Little Compton is integral to its significance, the significance of the work is not dependent on its specific setting here in this particular stone wall.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Ronald J. Onorato

Organization: R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Comm. Date: August 2000

Street & Number: 150 Benefit Street Telephone: 401-222-2678

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02903

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Description

This is a bronze relief, depicting a life-size rooster, accompanied by text, and surrounded by a simple molding worked in the bronze. The relief is set into the rough but flattened face of a natural granite boulder and is built into a stone wall in the village of Adamsville.

The rooster is seen in profile and faces right. The beak and comb and the tail and throat feathers are shown in fine detail; the back and breast feathers and the legs are depicted more softly.

The sculpture is 53'' high, 31'' wide, and about 2'' deep. The rooster is titled under the breast: ``THE RHODE ISLAND RED.'' The lower third of the sculpture's face contains this text: ``To commemorate the birthplace of the/Rhode Island Red breed of fowl which/originated near this location/--red fowls bred extensively by/the farmers of this district and later/named ``Rhode Island Reds'' and brought into/national prominence by the poultry fanciers--this tablet placed by the/Rhode Island Red Club of America/with contributions of Rhode Island Red/breeders throughout the world/on land donated by/Deborah Manchester/1925.''

The sculpture is signed at the lower left edge ``Henry L. Norton/Northrop, Mass.'' The sculpture is in good condition; some surface blotches can be seen on the bronze, but no serious damage is visible.

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Significance

The Rhode Island Red (1925) is significant because it is the single best and best-known depiction of Rhode Island's state animal. More than many states' animals, the Rhode Island Red symbolizes the nation's smallest state--in its size and in its disposition. The monument also testifies to an aspect of the state's history, its late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century poultry industry.

The Rhode Island Red originated as a breed here in Little Compton, at William Tripp's farm on Long Highway, and became an economically important component of the local poultry industry's production, and of the national and international poultry market as well. The breed was raised both for meat and eggs. It is no longer as important commercially and has been replaced by more specialized breeds; the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy has included the Red on its "WATCH" list, as a breed which could be lost if not monitored and supported. Rhode Island's poultry industry is now only a minor component of the state's agriculture.

The sculpture has wide appeal and is one of the best known in the state, perhaps because its homespun subject is portrayed in a medium ordinarily reserved for more solemn subjects. In any case, this chicken has real dignity as well as charm.

The sculptor, Henry L. Norton, was from Winthrop, Massachusetts. The sculpture was commissioned by the Rhode Island Red Club, with contributions from Red breeders throughout the world.

While the Rhode Island Red is primarily commemorative in intent, its role as the principal historic portrayal of the state's mascot has invested it with its own historic significance.

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### Major Bibliographical References

"Outdoor Sculpture of Rhode Island," technical report, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, 1998.

Providence Journal 16 November 1924, p. 3; 20 August 1926, p. 1; and 29 August 1926, p. 1.



THE  
RHODE  
ISLAND  
RED

TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND RED BREED OF FOWLS WHICH  
ORIGINATED NEAR THIS LOCATION

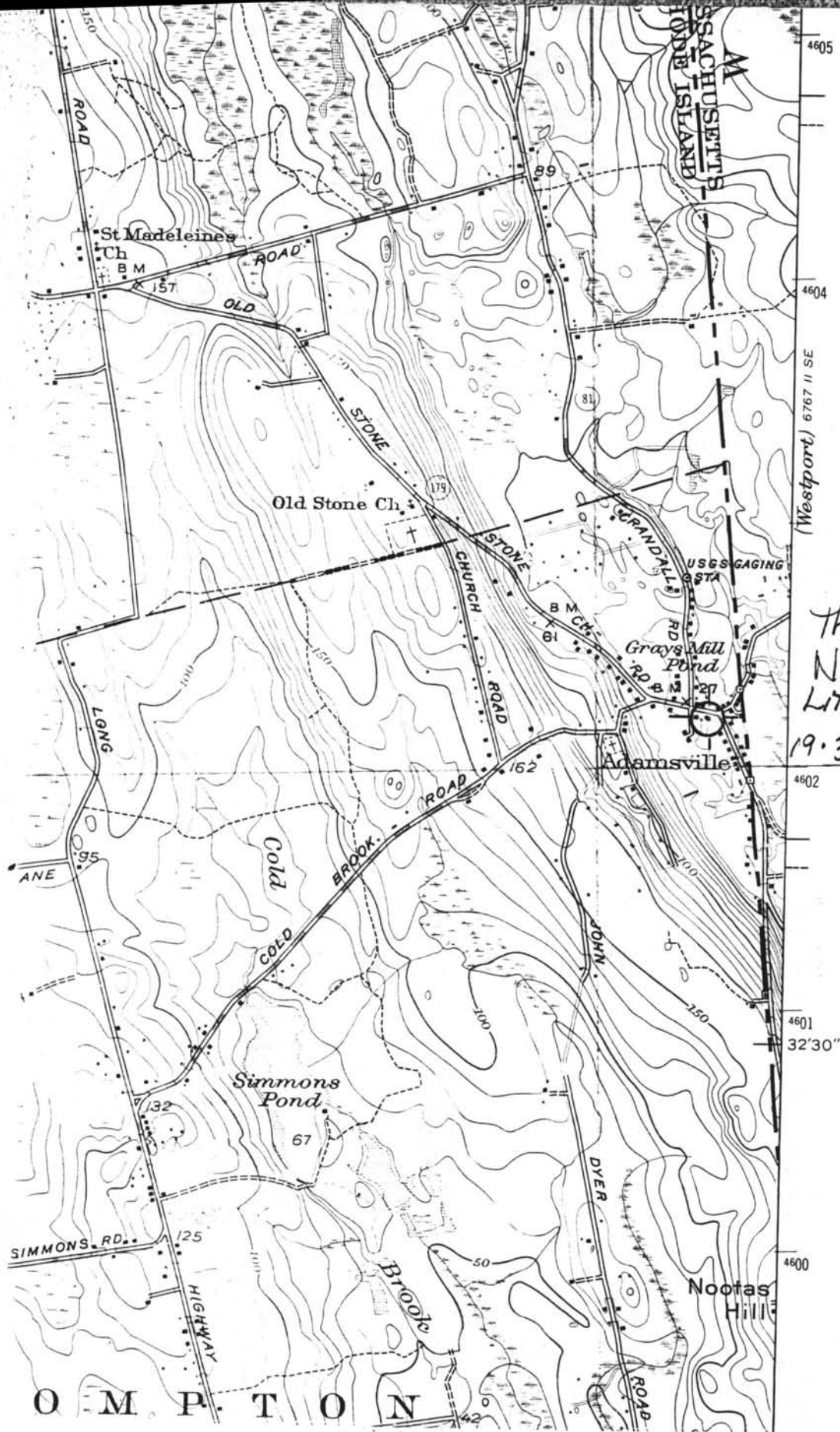
RED FOWLS WERE BRED EXTENSIVELY BY  
THE FARMERS OF THIS DISTRICT AND LATER  
NAMED "RHODE-ISLAND-REDS" AND BROUGHT INTO  
NATIONAL PROMINENCE BY THE POULTRY FANCIERS

THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY THE  
RHODE ISLAND RED CLUB OF AMERICA  
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF RHODE ISLAND AND  
SHEPHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
ONLY AND DONATED BY  
DEBORAH T. MANCHESTER

1925



The Rhode Island Red  
Adamsville Road  
Little Compton, RI  
Photographer: Ronald J. Onorato  
date: 3/2000  
Negative: RITH/HC  
150 Benefit St.  
Providence, RI  
View: Looking south  
Photo# 1 of 1



The Rhode Island Red  
 Newport County  
 Little Compton, RI  
 19.322460.4602200

(Westport) 6767 11 SE

32'30"

O M P T O N