

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Clarke, Samuel, Farm

Other names/site number: Knowles Farm

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 106 Lewiston Avenue

City or town: Richmond State: RI County: Washington

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

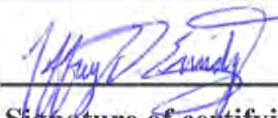
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

 DEPUTY SHPO	14 DECEMBER 2018
Signature of certifying official/Title: <span style="float: right;">Date</span>	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____ Title : <span style="float: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</span>	

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuildings

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

FUNERARY/cemetery

EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land

FUNERARY/cemetery

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

LATE VICTORIAN

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, stone, asphalt

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Samuel Clarke Farm occupies a 40-acre parcel of land at the southwest corner of Lewiston Avenue and Shannock Hill Road in southern Richmond. The farm contains a well-preserved wood-frame dwelling-house built ca. 1691 and enlarged/updated ca. 1700-1785, with some further alterations done ca. 1895-1937. Six outbuildings include a wagon shed with 18<sup>th</sup> century framing (altered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century stone blacksmith shop; a ca. 1812-1818 wood-frame schoolhouse that was moved onto the property ca. 1844; and a wood-frame barn, corn crib, and privy, all built before ca. 1870 (the barn has several late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century additions). Various historic landscape features include a stone-lined dug well and root cellar, dry-laid stone walls that crisscross the property, and a Clarke family burial ground with graves dating from 1792-1950. The remainder of the farm consists of woodlands, wetlands, and open fields. The Samuel Clarke Farm exhibits a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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### Narrative Description

Richmond occupies about 40 square miles in the middle of Washington County, the southernmost county in Rhode Island. Neighboring towns are Exeter to the north/northeast, South Kingstown to the east/southeast, Charlestown to the south and Hopkinton to the west. The Wood, Pawcatuck, and Usequepaugh Rivers run along Richmond's western, southern, and

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eastern boundaries, respectively. The town's topography is moderately hilly, with several additional interior rivers and brooks.

The Samuel Clarke Farm sits on the east side of Shannock Hill (elevation 287 feet<sup>1</sup>). The farm's northern boundary, Shannock Hill Road, runs between South County Trail (RI Route 2), which is about a quarter mile east of the farm, and the village of Carolina, about two miles to the west. These two roadways were illustrated on an 1831 map but probably laid out before then (*Figure 1*). Lewiston Avenue, the farm's eastern boundary, was laid out sometime between 1870 and 1895 (*Figures 2, 3*), running southerly from Shannock Hill Road about one mile to Kenyon Schoolhouse Road in the village of Kenyon, through which South County Trail also passes. The farm is bounded on the west by the Beaver River.

When the last Clarke descendant died in 1950, the farm held 500 acres. The following three decades saw the subdivision and sale of most of that land, leaving the 40 acres that comprise the farm today (*Figure 8*). Both sides of Lewiston Avenue east and south of the farm, as well as the north side of Shannock Hill Road, now feature single-family house lots ranging from 1 to 12 acres, but this low-density development is extensively screened by trees and has minimal visual impact on the Clarke Farm. Across the Beaver River, west and southwest of this farm, about 97 acres of mostly forested land further enhances this farm's rural character.

From Lewiston Avenue, the approach to the Samuel Clarke Farm is an asphalt driveway that runs along the east property line; from there, a dirt-and-gravel driveway heads west and north, through a pair of stone pillars, terminating in a circle between the barn, corn crib, wagon shed, and the east side of the house (*Photos 1, 2*). These buildings, along with the school and privy (sited just west of the house, *Photos 26, 27*), all sit within 75 feet of each other. The blacksmith shop (*Photo 29*) stands a bit further away, about 165 feet northwest of the house, as does the root cellar (*Photo 30*), about 180 feet southeast of the house. A former vegetable garden is located southwest of the intersection of the two driveways, its boundaries marked by stone walls; a portion of the garden was paved in the 1970s to serve as a tennis court. Stone walls also define several grass-covered areas around the house and its adjacent outbuildings, including a wide swath that leads west from the complex of buildings past the blacksmith shop about 400 feet down to the Beaver River. A grass footpath runs through the trees behind the complex of farm buildings to the Clarke family burial ground, about 450 feet northeast of the house (*Photo 31*). Two open fields lie between the complex of farm buildings and Shannock Hill Road (*Photo 28*). The rest of the farm's acreage is forested; aerial photos indicate that much of this tree growth has occurred since 1951.

The south-facing dwelling consists of a main block and a rear ell (*Photos 3 through 7*). The 1-1/2 story main block was initially built ca. 1691, at which point it probably consisted of just one room, the keeping room in what is now the northern part of the main block.<sup>2</sup> The house was enlarged/alterd ca. 1700-1750, with further alterations in 1785 and the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> RIHPC, *Preliminary Survey of Richmond*, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Downing, pp. 47 and 51, 136-137. See Section 8 for further discussion.

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centuries. It has an asphalt-shingle side-gambrel roof that descends to the first-floor level at front and rear; a stone central chimney; a five-bay façade with center entrance; wood clapboard siding (the north wall is sheathed in the wide weatherboard typical of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>3</sup>); simple wood trim including splayed window lintels on the side elevations; and a stone foundation. A stone slab functions as the step for the wood 6-panel front door (with vertical-board storm door), which has period hardware and is topped with a 5-light wood transom. All windows date from the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and are wood double-hung multi-light sash, in varying configurations including 8/12 on the façade and first floor of the east and west elevations; 6/9 on the north elevation and on the second floor of the east elevation; and 9/6 on the second floor of the west elevation. Two shed-roof dormers with paired wood 12-light casement windows (added ca. 1895-1937<sup>4</sup>) pierce the lower front roof slope; two similar dormers, one with paired 12-light casements and one with a 6/6 double hung sash, pierce the lower rear roof slope. Wood storm windows protect all the primary sashes.

Engraved on the south face of the stone chimney is "S.C. 1785" (*Photo 4*). These initials evidently refer to Samuel Clarke<sup>II</sup> (1737-1792), namesake grandson of the first Samuel Clarke (see Section 8); he owned the farm in 1785. The chimney appears to have been rebuilt about that time, and it is possible that other improvements were made to the house as well.

By ca. 1870, the house had gained a 1-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame rear ell (seen in a panoramic photo).<sup>5</sup> This early ell was enlarged in both height and footprint ca. 1895-1937 and re-designed to match the main block.<sup>6</sup> Now 1-1/2 stories tall, the ell has an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof extending down to the first-floor level on the east and west sides; an exterior stone chimney off-center on the north elevation; wood clapboard siding and trim, including splayed window lintels on the north elevation; and a granite block foundation. Entrances on the east and west elevations feature vertical board doors with period hardware, and each has a stone slab step. The east elevation features one wood 6/6 double hung window; the west elevation has three similar windows; and the north elevation has one wood 4/4 window at the first floor and a 12-light single hung sash at the second floor. A shed dormer with a 12-light single hung window sits on both the east and west roof slopes. Wood storm windows protect all primary sashes. A wood bulkhead on the east side of the ell covers a stone stairway down to a cellar with a concrete and dirt floor, and unfinished walls and ceiling.

The five-room, center-chimney plan of the main block survives largely intact; all interior materials are in very good condition. Historic finishes throughout the first floor include wide

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<sup>3</sup> Downing, p. 131.

<sup>4</sup> The 1937 HABS photos show the dormers, but construction techniques indicate that they may have been built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>5</sup> Photo in current owner John Peixinho's personal collection.

<sup>6</sup> The 1937 HABS photos show the current appearance of the rear ell, but construction techniques indicate that it may have been altered in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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wood-plank flooring, lath-and-plaster walls with wood plank wainscoting and wood chair rails, lath-and-plaster ceilings approximately 7 feet tall, simple wood trim around windows and doors, and vertical board or paneled wood interior doors with period hardware. Modern amenities (plumbing, electricity, heating system, and kitchen and bathroom fixtures) were installed with minor impact on historic features. Additional details or changes to the historic finishes in specific rooms are noted below.

The south main entrance opens into a small vestibule, with doors opening to the east and west, an encased post with beaded detailing in the southwest corner, and a narrow, steep stairway on the north side leading up to the second floor. The original wood wainscoting on the north wall was covered with fiberboard in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

The front southeast corner room (now a living room, *Photos 11, 12*) has exposed post-and-beam structural framing, including a summer beam (running from east to west), corner posts, and girts atop the walls on all four sides of the room; these framing members are all encased, with beaded detailing. This room has three doorways, each with vertical-panel doors: one on the west wall leading to the main entryway; and two on the north wall, leading to the keeping room and a small bedroom. A stone fireplace in the west wall has a reproduction mid-19th-century wood surround and mantelpiece, installed ca. 1957<sup>7</sup>; next to it is a small closet with a vertical board door (19 inches wide by 65 inches tall). An 18<sup>th</sup> century built-in cupboard with open shelves in its upper half occupies the southeast corner of this room. On the east and south (exterior) walls, some alterations were made in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to address some deterioration of materials and to improve insulation: fiberboard panels were installed over the historic wood wainscoting (topped by wood caps installed above the chair rails); wood posts with beaded casings (matching those on the structural corner posts) were added above the chair rails on both sides of the east window and between the two south windows; a cantilevered wood shelf was added under the east window; and some sections of wall and ceiling plaster were sensitively repaired.

The rear northeast corner room (now a bedroom) has exposed northeast corner post and girts atop the north and east walls, all with beaded casings. A simple, flat chair rail runs along three sides of the room, but not the north wall; there is no wainscoting. The vertical-board door is a modern replica matching the historic doors elsewhere on this level.

Centered on the north side of the main block is the former keeping room (now a sitting room, *Photos 8, 9*), which is the earliest part of the house. Exposed vertical posts are found in the northeast corner, on the north wall (aligning with both sides of the fireplace across the room), and on the south wall just west of the fireplace; there is also a chimney girt aligned with the east side of the fireplace, and another girt atop the north wall. This room has the largest fireplace in the house (with an opening nearly 7 feet wide by 4.5 feet tall) on its south wall, featuring a stone inscribed with the date "1691" (*Photo 10*), a beehive oven in its rear wall (covered with its original stone door), and a simple unpainted wood surround with shallow mantel shelf. An

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<sup>7</sup> A Late Victorian fireplace surround and a Franklin stove are seen in a 1957 *Providence Journal* photo; the surround was replaced and the stove removed shortly thereafter.

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unusual 18<sup>th</sup> century horizontal-wood-plank room divider suspended from the ceiling can be lowered to subdivide this large room into two smaller spaces. The east wall is clad entirely in vertical planks, with alternating beaded and beveled edges. The original north wall finishes, which were likely in deteriorated condition by the mid-20th century, were covered at that time with unpainted vertical boards, simple wood window trim and baseboards; a boxed vertical plumbing chase was also added. The west wall has fiberboard covering the original wood wainscoting (no chair rail); the historic plaster wall is topped with simple wood trim at ceiling height. The ceiling area west of the fireplace was removed by a previous owner; nail holes and lath marks on the exposed second floor joists confirm the previous existence of a plaster ceiling there. This room has four doorways: two on the south wall (leading to the front rooms, with replica period doors), one on the west (leading to what is now a coatroom and half-bath, with no door) and one on the north (leading to the rear ell, with a historic vertical board door).

What appears originally to have been a single room at the northwest corner of the house, approximately the same size as the northeast corner room, may have been subdivided into two spaces (date unknown, but possibly concurrent with the rear ell, which was added by ca. 1870). A narrow doorway (the door is absent) in the west wall near the northeast corner of the keeping room leads to a space that was renovated in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century into a “coatroom” and a half-bath. A bank of wood-frame closets occupies the north wall of the coatroom, while the other walls and ceiling are clad in sheetrock. The tiny half-bath has a vertical post on its west wall, encased with beaded detailing: this likely was the original northwest corner post for the main block, before the ell was built. Adjacent to the post is a small 6/6 wood window. Other finishes in this room mimic those of the coatroom. Flooring in both small rooms is the original wood plank.

The front southwest corner room (now a dining room, *Photos 13, 14*) has encased corner posts with beaded detailing. As in the living room, three doorways open into the main entryway, the keeping room, and what was originally the northwest corner room; the keeping room door has the same simple vertical-board character of other interior doors on this level, but the other two doors are more formal wood 4-panel doors. The most prominent feature in this room is the fireplace wall on the east side, with a stone firebox and hearth surrounded by wood paneling nearly 9 feet wide and stretching from floor to ceiling; a mantel shelf is situated about 5 feet above the floor. An 18<sup>th</sup> century, built-in cupboard with open shelves in its upper half (matching that in the living room) occupies the northwest corner of this room. On the west and south (exterior) walls, the historic wood wainscoting was covered with fiberboard, and wood posts with beaded casings (matching those on the structural corner posts) were added above the chair rails on both sides of the west window and the two south windows; these changes are consistent with similar alterations done in the living room, presumably for the same purpose.

A doorway on the north wall of the dining room opens into the larger of the two northwest corner rooms; approximately 9 feet wide by 7 feet deep, this room retains historic finishes including a simple flat wood chair rail and wood baseboards on all four sides.



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At the northwest corner of the keeping room is a doorway to the rear ell, which contains the present kitchen and two exterior doors in its east and west walls (*Photo 15*). The flooring is painted wood plank (with a decorative diamond pattern in front of the keeping room doorway); the walls and ceiling (approximately 6.5 feet tall) are tongue-and-groove board; and simple wood trim surrounds window and door openings. All three doors are the typical vertical board model seen elsewhere in the house.

A narrow (about 2.5 feet wide), steep stairway to the second floor runs up the south side of the chimney (*Photo 16*). The north and west walls have wallpaper over historic plaster, while the south wall is clad in vertical boards; the steps are wood. In the north wall at the top of the stairs are two small cupboards with solid wood doors. An additional step to the east leads to the southeast corner bedroom; another step to the south reaches a landing that then leads to the southwest corner bedroom. A horizontal-board “railing” runs along the edge of the landing to a small vertical-board door; this opens to a second short stairway up to the unfinished attic, where evidence of the original roof structure, with mortise-and-tenon joints fastened with wooden pegs, still survives.

The second floor of the main block originally had five chambers: two across the south front (*Photos 17, 18, 19, 20*) and three smaller rooms at the rear. The two rear corner rooms now function as dressing rooms, while the smallest room between them was converted to a bathroom in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The north and south exterior walls in each room slant downwards, following the profile of the gambrel roof. Many historic elements are still intact, including wood plank floors, interior doors, wood trim such as window/door surrounds and chair rails, and bead-board cladding on all the dormer recesses. The southeast bedroom has the only extant fireplace on the second floor, on the west wall of that room, made of stone with a simple wood surround and mantel shelf. The northwest dressing room has intact historic plaster walls and wood wainscoting (*Photo 21*). All four rooms have an exposed vertical post on an east or west wall, at the point where the gambrel roof starts to slant downward; similar posts are found on interior walls of the southeast bedroom, the northeast dressing room, and the bathroom, which also has exposed girts on its east and north sides. The two front bedroom ceilings, which are about 6.5 feet tall, were not finished originally: the exposed attic floor framing was simply whitewashed. However, fiberboard ceilings were installed in both bedrooms and added over the plaster in the dressing rooms in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The fiberboard ceiling was removed from the southeast bedroom in 2015.

Centered on the north wall of the northwest dressing room is a narrow alcove with beaded board cladding on its walls and ceiling (matching that on the dormer recesses) leading to a vertical board door and a step down into the second floor of the rear ell. This room, presently used for storage, has slanted east and west walls following the gambrel roofline (*Photo 22*). Wood boards cover the floors, walls, dormer recesses, and ceiling. Two built-in closets with doors designed in the manner of historic elements stand on the south and east sides of the room.

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### Outbuildings

The six outbuildings, all seen in historic photos (*Figures 5 and 6*) are described in order of their siting from east to west.

Barn (before ca. 1870; additions late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> c., *Photos 23, 24*): Wood frame; English barn style; south facing; 2 stories tall; side gable asphalt roof topped with a small square hip-roofed center cupola; wood shingle siding; simple wood trim around doors and windows; scalloped wood detailing at the cornice of the cupola; and a stone foundation. The south façade has a large center entryway, approx. 12 feet wide by 2 stories tall, with hinged double doors topped with a multi-light wood transom. At the front southeast and southwest corners of the barn are two vertical board pedestrian doors; a similar door is centered on the east elevation. A 6/6 double hung wood sash is set into the gables on both side elevations. Historic photos indicate that the north elevation originally matched the south elevation, and the west originally matched the east.<sup>8</sup> Inside, the original barn was divided into three bays, with walls clad in wood boards, haylofts above the two side bays, and a visible roof structure. On the west side of the barn is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century addition that was probably built to house cattle, given its regularly spaced square windows; this is an L-shaped structure with a gable-roofed section and a shed-roofed section, asphalt roof shingles, wood wall shingles, simple wood trim, and a concrete foundation. Its north-facing entrance is tucked under a recessed porch on the west side; its windows are wood 4-light hopper sash. This presently contains living space, including a sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, and home office. The barn was expanded twice in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. First, a one-story addition was built off the east end of the north side of the original barn; the historic exterior shingles, barn doors and pedestrian doors of the original barn are all preserved inside the addition. A second one-story addition was later built off the north side of the first addition; due to the site topography, it is downhill of the first. Both additions are used for storage, and have shed asphalt roofs, wood shingle siding, paired hinged doors on their east sides, and wood multi-light windows. (Contributing)

Corn Crib (before ca 1870, *Photos 24, 25*): Wood-frame, south facing, one story, front gable asphalt roof, slanted side walls of vertical board siding pierced with ventilation holes, minimal wood trim, vertical board door centered on the south elevation. The corn crib stands on top of several granite posts that are each about 3 feet tall. (Contributing)

Wagon Shed (18<sup>th</sup> century; alterations and additions early 20<sup>th</sup> century, *Photo 25*): Wood frame, south facing, one story with a side gable asphalt roof, a brick chimney near the west end of the building, vertical board siding, minimal wood trim. The entire structure has post and beam framing and a stone foundation. Historic photos show a large opening in the south elevation, which was later modified and covered with paired, hinged vertical board doors; other alterations include a slight rise in the front roof slope, a small addition at the rear northeast corner, and a wooden deck wrapping around the west and north sides of the building. The interior is now

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<sup>8</sup> John Peixinho personal collection.

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divided into three bays: the east bay has varnished wood tongue-and-groove boards on its east and west walls and ceiling, while the north wall is clad in sheetrock and has a large, single-light window; the center bay has sliding glass doors in its north and south walls, wooden wall paneling, and a brick fireplace on the west side; and the west bay is an unfinished storage space. (Contributing)

Privy (before ca. 1870, *Photo 27*): Wood frame, east-facing, one story, side gable asphalt roof, wood clapboards (the rear elevation is covered in plywood to protect the historic siding), minimal wood trim, four-paneled wood door in its east face, and a small 3-light wood hopper window in the north gable. Inside is a wood three-hole bench seat. This building is set into a break in the stone wall that runs along the west side yard of the house. (Contributing)

Blacksmith Shop (mid-18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>9</sup>, *Photo 29*): Stone and wood frame, south facing, 1-1/2 stories, three bays wide and 1 bay deep, with a side gable asphalt shingle roof topped by a wood cupola, stone walls and foundation, wood clapboards in the gable ends on the east and west sides, and simple wood trim. A pair of hinged vertical board doors centered on the south façade is flanked by wood 6/6 double hung sash windows; the west elevation has a Dutch door, and the east elevation a wood 6/6 window. The interior is a single unfinished space. A raised stone forge against the north wall has a brick chimney at its southwest corner, with a small stone firebox at its base; an aged leather and wood bellows sits in one corner of the room. (Contributing)

Schoolhouse (ca. 1812-1818, moved here ca. 1844<sup>10</sup>, *Photo 28*): Wood frame, south facing, 1-1/2 stories, 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep, with a side gable asphalt shingle roof, wood weatherboards, simple wood trim (including sill, corner boards, a flat lintel over the main entrance, and splayed lintels over the windows), and a stone foundation, which is partially exposed on the north and west sides due to the downward slope of the land. The south façade has an off-center vertical-board door flanked by two unevenly spaced window openings; there are two more window openings on the east elevation and one on the west. The original 6/9, double-hung, wood window sash survive in situ, though the window openings are currently covered with plywood, as is part of the north elevation. The building is sited a few yards west of the house and south of the privy. (Contributing)

### Other Structures and Objects

Dug Well (before 1851<sup>11</sup>, *Photo 7*): Sited just a few feet north of the rear ell of the main house, this stone-walled underground well is topped by an approx. 3 ft. tall by 4 ft. square wood-frame structure, clad in horizontal board siding and covered by an asphalt-shingled hip roof. (Contributing)

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<sup>9</sup> Joseph Clarke memorandum book: Joseph<sup>II</sup> Clarke (1705-1783) was a blacksmith as well as a farmer.

<sup>10</sup> Stockwell, p. 406; also Carroll, p. 68.

<sup>11</sup> The well is mentioned in Samuel<sup>III</sup> Clarke's 1851 will.

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Root Cellar (18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, *Photo 30*): Sited about 60 feet southeast of the former vegetable garden, and presently out of view from the house due to tree growth. Set into a small hillside, this mortared-stone-walled underground structure is approximately 10 feet square and 6 feet deep and accessed by a narrow opening situated on its west side at the northwest corner. A short pathway to the entrance is also lined with mortared stone. The roof and door are no longer extant. (Contributing)

Stone Walls (18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, *Photos 23, 27, 28, 31*): Numerous dry-laid stone walls crisscross the property, defining yards for the house and barn as well as the open fields, and snaking through presently wooded areas that may once also have been cleared fields. (Contributing)

Stone water trough (18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, *Photo 24*): Carved from a single stone block, it sits near the west wall of the barnyard. (Contributing)

Burial Grounds

Samuel Clarke Lot (R.I. Historical Cemetery RD 033<sup>12</sup>, *Photo 31*): sited about 160 feet west of Lewiston Road and 600 feet south of Shannock Hill Road. This burial ground measures about 40 feet by 40 feet, and is entirely enclosed by stone walls, with a stone stile on the south side and a small iron gate on the north side. The earliest grave is that of Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke (ca. 1738-1792), the namesake grandson of the Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke who built the house.<sup>13</sup> The most recent interment was that of Elizabeth Stanton Marvel (1874-1950), great-granddaughter of Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke,<sup>14</sup> and the last Clarke descendant to own this farm. Most of the 23 burials have simple stone slab headstones. Two large, box-shaped granite monuments, one for Joshua Clarke (1796-1840) and his wife Dorcas Clarke (1808-1895), and the other for their daughter Dorcas Clarke Knowles (1839-1917) and her husband Edwin Knowles (1837-1900), appear to indicate an elevated socio-economic status for these family members. (Contributing)

Moller-Link Lot (R.I. Historical Cemetery RD 082): adjoining the Samuel Clarke Lot on its north side, measuring 50 feet wide by 240 feet long, enclosed by stone walls. This cemetery, established in the grassy lane leading from Lewiston Avenue to the Samuel Clarke Lot,<sup>15</sup> contains eight graves dated from 1974 to 2017, including that of R.I. State Senator Charles J. Link (1896-1974), who owned the Clarke Farm in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and David Godden (1947-2017), Link's grandson and a subsequent owner. Stone pillars flanking paired iron gates mark the entrance to the Moller-Link Lot (and public access to the Clarke Lot) from Lewiston Road. (Non-Contributing)

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<sup>12</sup> R.I. Historical Cemetery Commission database.

<sup>13</sup> Brayton, p. 105: The burial site of the patriarch Samuel Clarke (died 1769) may be in the Joshua Clarke Lot (R.I. Historical Cemetery RD 012), on South County Trail near the village of Kenyon.

<sup>14</sup> Brayton, p. 105.

<sup>15</sup> The "grassy lane" is mentioned in both Dorcas Knowles' and Elizabeth Marvel's wills; see Section 8.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

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**Period of Significance**

ca. 1691-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1691  
ca. 1700-1785  
ca. 1816-1844  
ca. 1870  
ca. 1895-1937

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Samuel Clarke Farm, which contains the earliest known dwelling house still standing in Richmond, is a rare survivor of the type of family-operated subsistence farm that characterized southern Rhode Island from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century well into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Established ca. 1691 by a grandson of one of the early English settlers of the colony, the farm passed down through seven generations of Clarke descendants. As of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the farm had evolved from a year-round residence into a summer and weekend retreat for its owners who lived elsewhere, but agricultural production continued until, beginning in the 1960s, much of the acreage was gradually subdivided and sold for single-family residential development. All of these events reflected the broad historical patterns that characterized Richmond's development

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from initial settlement as agricultural community, through the economic and demographic changes wrought across Rhode Island by industrialization and suburbanization. The main house, begun in 1691 and expanded and updated by 1785, exhibits architectural innovations of that period and is a very well-preserved and well-maintained example of Colonial post-and-beam rural vernacular architecture, with later Colonial Revival style alterations ca. 1917-1937. The well-preserved farm outbuildings and other historic landscape structures were all constructed between the 18<sup>th</sup> and mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Samuel Clarke Lot, established in 1792, is a good example of the type of small family burial ground commonly found in Rhode Island; all of its gravesites are associated with the families who owned this property for more than 200 years. The Samuel Clarke Farm illustrates an agrarian way of life that persisted in Richmond for nearly three centuries, and meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level.

### ***Period of Significance Justification***

The period of significance covers the establishment of the farm by Samuel Clarke ca. 1691, to the death in 1950 of his descendant Elizabeth S. K. Marvel, who treasured this farm as the embodiment of her family's history, and ensured its continued preservation after her death by entrusting it to the caretakers who had been in her employ for several decades.

### ***Criteria Consideration D***

Criteria Consideration D applies to the Samuel Clarke Farm, since the property includes two burial grounds. The Moller-Link Lot, with burials dating from 1974 to 2017, is Non-Contributing. The Samuel Clarke Lot contains burials dating from 1792 to 1950, including numerous descendants of the original property owner. Set off some distance from the farm buildings and enclosed by stone walls, the Samuel Clarke Lot is a fine example of a family burial ground, a resource type found throughout Rhode Island. The Samuel Clarke Lot relates strongly to the property's historical significance and is therefore considered Contributing.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Clarke Family Genealogy**

First names in the Clarke family were often repeated through generations, so a simple summary is presented here to clarify the relationships between those family members specifically associated with the Samuel Clarke Farm.<sup>16</sup> The Roman numeral identifiers are a construct created specifically for this document.

*Joseph<sup>I</sup> Clarke* (1642-1726/27). Admitted as a freeman of the Town of Westerly in 1669.

*Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke* (1672-1769). Son of Joseph<sup>I</sup>. Built the main house. The farm is named for him.

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<sup>16</sup> Morrison, *Clarke Genealogies*, pp. 23-25, 30, 43, 62-63, and 95.

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*Joseph<sup>II</sup> Clarke* (1705-1783). Son of Samuel<sup>I</sup>.

*Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke* (1737-1792). Son of Joseph<sup>II</sup>. First to be interred in the Clarke family burial ground on this farm. Having no children, the farm passed to his namesake nephew.

*Samuel<sup>III</sup> "Squire" Clarke* (1771-1851). Nephew of Samuel<sup>II</sup>. Son of Joshua<sup>I</sup> (1733-1818) and Dorcas<sup>I</sup> Clarke (1742-1885). All three are interred in the Clarke family burial ground.

*Benjamin S. Clark* (1800-1873). Son of Samuel<sup>III</sup> and brother of Dorcas<sup>II</sup>. Interred in the Clarke family burial ground.

*Dorcas<sup>II</sup> Clarke* (1808-1895). Daughter of Samuel<sup>III</sup>. Married Joshua<sup>II</sup> Clarke (1796-1840; a distant cousin)<sup>17</sup>. Both are interred in the Clarke family burial ground.

*Dorcas<sup>III</sup> E. Clarke Knowles* (1839-1917). Daughter of Dorcas<sup>II</sup> and Joshua<sup>II</sup> Clarke. Married Edwin Knowles (1837-1900). Both are interred in the Clarke family burial ground.

*Elizabeth Stanton Knowles Marvel* (1874-1950). Daughter of Dorcas<sup>III</sup> and Edwin Knowles. Married Frederick W. Marvel (1871-1938). She is interred in the Clarke family burial ground.

### **The Colonial Era, 1691-1792**

What is now Richmond, Rhode Island was originally part of the Town of Westerly, incorporated in 1669 with a land area of over 150 square miles. From this large area, three additional municipalities eventually emerged: first, the eastern portion of Westerly was set off as the Town of Charlestown in 1738; then Charlestown was subdivided, with the area north of the Pawcatuck River becoming the Town of Richmond in 1747; and finally, the Town of Hopkinton was created from the northwest part of Westerly in 1757. Thus, the Samuel Clarke Farm was first established in Westerly, then briefly located in Charlestown before finding a permanent home in Richmond.

When Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke (1672-1769) was born in Westerly, his family had already been in the colony for two generations. His grandfather Joseph Clarke and his great-uncle Dr. John Clarke were among the original settlers of Newport, arriving from England in 1637/8.<sup>18</sup> Samuel's father, Joseph<sup>I</sup> Clarke (1642-1726/7), moved from Newport to Westerly the same year it was incorporated, and was promptly selected to be the first Town Clerk, an office he continuously

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<sup>17</sup> Morrison, *Clarke Genealogies*, pp. 23-27, 30-35, 42-43, 49-50, 62-63, 81, 94-95, 124, 142, and 182. Dorcas Clarke and Joshua Clarke were 5<sup>th</sup> cousins: she descended from Joseph<sup>I</sup> Clarke, and he from Joseph<sup>I</sup>'s brother William Clarke.

<sup>18</sup> Morrison, *Clarke Genealogies*, pp. 15-23; also Cole, p. 701. Dr. John Clarke went on to become the principal author of the "lively experiment" charter granting unprecedented civil and religious liberties to the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, which was signed by King Charles II of Great Britain in 1663.



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served until 1700.<sup>19</sup> Several other branches of the Clarke family tree also took root in southern Rhode Island; that surname (sometimes spelled “Clark”) appears frequently in early records.

In a 1935 Rhode Island Historical Society publication, a brief article on the history of the Stanton Purchase of 1662 described the origins of the Samuel Clarke Farm.<sup>20</sup> Robert Stanton and George Gardiner of Newport bought from the Narragansett Sachem Wannumachon a neck of land 1 mile wide by 5 miles long, bounded by the Beaver River on the west, the Pawcatuck River on the south, and the Usequepaugh River on the east. Thirty years later, the Town of Westerly granted to Joseph<sup>1</sup> Clarke 200 acres of land, bounded by the Beaver River on the west and the Pawcatuck River on the south. Since this grant overlapped with the southern end of the Stanton Purchase, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Clarke requested a formal land survey to confirm the boundaries of his land, and then in 1694 he purchased the 200 acres from Stanton’s and Gardiner’s heirs to secure his title.<sup>21</sup>

In 1717, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Clarke gave his son Samuel<sup>1</sup> Clarke 200 acres of land:

... bounded southerly on the Great River commonly called Pawcatuck River, westerly on the Beaver River, northerly and easterly on lands belonging formerly to John Stanton and Joseph Gardiner, which tract of land has been improved for 21 years and upwards by my said son Samuel Clarke, he being in the actual possession of same for term aforesaid. ... with all houses, fencing, orchards, and improvements thereto belonging.<sup>22</sup>

This deed has traditionally been understood to refer to the dwelling on the Samuel Clarke Farm. The area presently enclosed by the Pawcatuck River (south), Beaver River (west), Shannock Hill Road (north), and South County Trail (east), is approximately 322 acres, according to the Town Assessor’s maps, so Samuel<sup>1</sup> Clarke’s 200 acres would easily have fit within that area.

Although the HABS survey dated the wood-frame dwelling house on the Samuel Clarke Farm to ca. 1680,<sup>23</sup> a stone block in the back of the keeping room fireplace bears the date 1691 (*Photo 10*), which is more consistent with early deeds. In her book on early Rhode Island houses, Antoinette Downing identified both “the seventeenth-century room” and “the eighteenth-century part” of the Clarke House, indicating that (as was typical for the period), the house probably began as a small one-room-plan structure and expanded in stages over time to accommodate Clarke’s growing family.<sup>24</sup> Samuel<sup>1</sup> Clarke married Anne Champlin in 1698/9, and over the next two decades they had twelve children. In 1720, a year after Anne had died, Samuel remarried

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<sup>19</sup> Westerly Town Records & Land Evidence, Vol. 1, 1661-1707. The date 1661 references when Westerly was first settled, eight years before becoming incorporated.

<sup>20</sup> Brayton, pp. 101-109.

<sup>21</sup> Westerly Town Records & Land Evidence, Vol., 1, 1661-1707, p. 138. Also Brayton, pp. 102-104.

<sup>22</sup> Westerly Land Evidence Records, Vol. 2, p. 100 (right-hand folio); January 4, 1717.

<sup>23</sup> Historic American Building Survey, RI-296; Downing, p. 151; Nebiker & Wright, p. 23.

<sup>24</sup> Downing, pp. 47 and 51, 136-137.

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and had two more children.<sup>25</sup> Samuel<sup>I</sup> evidently lived in this house until ca. 1757, so he was probably responsible for enlarging the main block of the house to its present size and updating some of its architectural features.

The “seventeenth century room,” which cements this house’s status as one of the oldest, if not the oldest, surviving in Richmond,<sup>26</sup> is the keeping room. Its character-defining features include the large stone fireplace in its south wall (its splayed sides and the placement of its beehive oven in the back of the fireplace support its pre-1700 construction, as does the date “1691” carved in its rear wall); the vertical board sheathing on its east wall; and the nearly one-foot-wide weatherboarding on its north exterior wall.<sup>27</sup> The room divider suspended from the ceiling of the keeping room may have been installed to separate sleeping quarters from living space, before the house was enlarged.

The Clarke House reflects several innovations in design and construction that occurred in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Downing noted that gambrel roofs became broader and flatter after about ca. 1720 (citing the Clarke house as an example of that change), while the five-room floor plan with a center chimney and “a stairway butted against the chimney in a cramped front hall,” became prevalent in Rhode Island after 1725.<sup>28</sup> Double-hung sash windows began to replace earlier casement sash around 1720, so the 8/12 and 9/6 windows with splayed lintels in the Clarke house (illustrated in Downing’s book) also date to the second quarter of the eighteenth century, as does the main entrance on the south façade, featuring a six-panel door with a five-light transom, tucked under the roof eaves and surrounded with simple trim.<sup>29</sup> Interior modifications of this period included the fireplace surround with mantel shelf in the keeping room (very similar to the one in the keeping room of the ca. 1720 Israel Arnold House in Lincoln, Rhode Island<sup>30</sup>), and the paneled fireplace surround with mantel shelf in the dining room; also, the casing of exposed framing elements, the plasterwork on walls and ceilings, the wood wainscoting and chair rails, and the corner cupboards in parlor and dining room.

Clarke family records indicate that Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke acquired several oxen, cows, heifers and calves, a mare and a colt, as well as eleven barrels of “syder” from his father in the period 1713-1720.<sup>31</sup> This inventory reflects the type of farming conducted during the early colonial period:

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<sup>25</sup> Morrison, *Clarke Genealogies*, p. 31; Samuel<sup>I</sup>’s second wife, Susannah Champlin, was not related to his first wife.

<sup>26</sup> RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission website: the John Hoxsie House (Old Kenyon Farm) at 216B Richmond Townhouse Road, built in 1784, stood on 60 acres when NR listed in 1978; it has since had several additions constructed at the rear (<https://www.redfin.com/RI/Richmond/216B-Richmond-Townhouse-Rd-02812/home/52027309>), and some of its historic outbuildings do not survive. While several other 18<sup>th</sup> century houses were identified in a 1977 preliminary survey of historic architectural resources in Richmond, none have yet been NR listed.

<sup>27</sup> Downing, pp. 11, 14, 45, 51, 131.

<sup>28</sup> Downing, pp. 86, 125-127, 129, 131-132.

<sup>29</sup> Downing, pp. 136-139.

<sup>30</sup> Downing, p. 87: photo of keeping room in the Israel Arnold House.

<sup>31</sup> Joseph Clarke memorandum book, p. 9A.

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Animal husbandry was an important part of the agricultural economic life of Rhode Island in the seventeenth century, yielding, besides beef, pork, mutton, poultry, [also] eggs, milk, butter and cheese, hides, wool, and leather. ... Besides raising European vegetables from seeds, sets, and cuttings brought from England, the colonists learned Indian methods of cultivating the indigenous potato, corn, beans, and tobacco. They imported scions for orchards and began to improve the wild berries of America by cultivation.<sup>32</sup>

One or more outbuildings would have been built on the Clarke Farm to shelter livestock, to store their feed as well as harvested crops, and to make and repair farming tools and equipment and other household goods. (The wagon shed has 18<sup>th</sup> century framing.) Horses provided transportation, while oxen supplied the heavy labor for clearing fields and pastures, and for plowing. The tasks of clearing, plowing, seeding, and harvesting even a small area of land would have been time-consuming and labor-intensive, so it may have taken years to put several hundred acres into active agricultural use. These clearance efforts presumably generated the stone for the foundation and chimney in the main house, the walls of the blacksmith shop, the root cellar, the well, and the numerous stone walls that crisscross the farm today, as well as the timber used to build the main house and secondary structures.

The farm primarily fed, clothed, and sustained the Clarke family, but it seems to have generated some surplus that could be traded or sold locally to boost the family's income, because Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke acquired substantial additional land, conveying at least 825 acres to his adult sons in his later life.<sup>33</sup> He also (like his father before him) found time for community service, holding several local offices in Westerly, including Councilman and Justice of the Peace. By 1757, Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke had relocated to Stonington, Conn., where he reportedly died in 1769 at age 97.<sup>34</sup>

Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke's eldest surviving son, Joseph<sup>II</sup> Clarke (1705-1783), either acquired his father's farm at some point before Samuel<sup>I</sup> died, or he inherited it. A search of town records did not yield a definitive answer to this question: if Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke had a will, it was not recorded in Richmond or Stonington; and while both Samuel<sup>I</sup> and Joseph<sup>II</sup> bought, sold, mortgaged, and otherwise conveyed hundreds of acres of land in multiple transactions during the period when the farm's location changed from Westerly to Charlestown to Richmond, the specific transfer of Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke's homestead farm to Joseph<sup>II</sup> Clarke could not be identified. However, in 1757

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<sup>32</sup> Carroll, *Three Centuries of Democracy*, p. 884.

<sup>33</sup> Morrison, *Clarke Genealogies*, pp. 30-31: between 1737 and 1744, Samuel<sup>I</sup> deeded various tracts of land to sons Joseph<sup>II</sup>, Amos, William, and Benjamin, totaling over 825 acres. It is difficult to ascertain the current location of this additional acreage: early deeds typically described property boundaries using surveyor's measurements that are now antiquated (links, chains, rods) and ephemeral landmarks that no longer exist (trees, stakes, piles of stones).

<sup>34</sup> Brayton, pp. 104-106, speculates that Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke was buried in what the R.I. Historical Cemetery database later identified as the Joshua Clarke Lot (RD 12), located just west of South County Trail directly opposite Biscuit City Road, about 0.75 miles southeast of the present farmhouse (not on the nominated property). This burial ground contains a stone simply inscribed "S.C.," which Brayton says may refer to Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke. Morrison, pp. 43-45, states that the Joshua Clarke buried there (died 1818) was Samuel<sup>I</sup>'s grandson and Joseph<sup>II</sup>'s brother.

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Samuel<sup>I</sup> Clarke (then living in Stonington) conveyed 150 acres of land to his son Joseph, which was bounded by the Beaver River on the west, the Pawcatuck River on the south, and “by other land of said Joseph Clarke on the north,” indicating that Joseph<sup>II</sup> already owned his father’s farmstead by then.<sup>35</sup>

Joseph<sup>II</sup> Clarke was a farmer like his father, but he was also a blacksmith, and thus may have built the stone blacksmith shop on the farm to make his own tools and equipment. In 1768 he began operating an iron works in Richmond, located on “the forge lot” next to the Pawcatuck River.<sup>36</sup> He appears to have been quite successful financially: his 1783 will mentions not only the iron works but a saw mill and several houses on different pieces of real estate in Richmond and Charlestown, as well as marsh land and beach in Charlestown. This will left Joseph<sup>II</sup>’s own dwelling house to his son Christopher (the other houses likely belonged to some other of his ten children), and noted that several of his children, including son Samuel<sup>II</sup>, had already received their portions of his estate.<sup>37</sup> Again, exactly when this occurred could not be determined through deed research, but Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke (1737-1792) clearly ended up with his grandfather Samuel<sup>I</sup>’s farm: his initials “S.C.” and the date “1785” are carved into the south face of the farmhouse chimney (*Photo 4*).

There is evidence that members of the Clarke family owned slaves, though information about them is scarce. The 1774 state census (the first to enumerate people of color) shows Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke and his wife Susannah Stanton, who had no children, with four other people in their household: two males under age 16, likely farmhands, and two black people whose gender and age were not recorded. In his 1792 will, Samuel<sup>II</sup> bequeathed “ten silver dollars, or a cow or heifer of equal value” to “Abraham, a black boy son of the Negro Woman that formerly belonged to me.”<sup>38</sup> Abraham’s mother’s name is not known, nor is it clear whether it was she and her son, or other enslaved individuals, who lived in Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke’s household in 1774.

Upon his death in 1792, Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke left “to my loving wife Susannah Clarke all my homestead farm bounded westerly on Beaver River, northerly and easterly on a highway [Shannock Hill Rd. and South County Trail, respectively], southerly on land I bought of my brother John Clarke, and also the lot of land east of the highway that I bought of Robert Stanton.” Susannah also received one third of all crops, all the livestock and farming equipment,

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<sup>35</sup> Richmond DB 2/99. Note that in DB 2/428 (1766), Joseph Clarke mortgaged to Stephen Ayrault 50 acres with a dwelling house and other buildings, but this land was partly bounded on the south by the Pawcatuck River, so the house was Joseph’s own dwelling, not his father’s. In DB 2/397 (1767), Joseph Clarke mortgaged to Samuel Cross 150 acres, partly bounded on the west by the Beaver River and on the south by the Pawcatuck. In DB 2/428 (1770), Ayrault sold the same 50 acres he had obtained from Clarke to Cross, on condition that if the mortgage was paid off the property would revert to Clarke; and in DB 1/97 (1773), Cross sold the 150 acres back to Clarke (mortgage paid off). Brayton, p. 106, says that Joseph Clarke sold 150 acres “of said Clarke’s homestead farm” to Christopher Champlin in 1773, and that part of that land became the 19<sup>th</sup> century mill village of Kenyon.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph Clarke memorandum book, pp. 6A, 7A, 8A; also Richmond DB 2/397.

<sup>37</sup> Richmond Council & Probate Records, Vol. 2, pp. 351-353.

<sup>38</sup> It is not known whether Abraham’s mother, described as having “formerly” belonged to Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke, had been freed, had been sold, or was deceased by the time Clarke wrote his will in 1792.

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all of the household furnishings, and various other possessions; upon her remarriage or death, her portion was to be equally divided between two of Samuel's nephews (sons of his brother Joshua): Samuel<sup>III</sup> Clarke and Reynolds Clarke.<sup>39</sup> Samuel<sup>II</sup> Clarke was the first member of the family to be interred in the burial plot on this farm; Susannah (died 1833) is also there, as are 21 of their descendants (*Photo 31*).<sup>40</sup>

### **The Industrial Era: Transformation from Working Farm to Country Retreat, 1800-1950**

Over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Industrial Revolution rapidly transformed Rhode Island's economy from an agricultural base to manufacturing. Many of the state's rivers became important sources of hydropower for cotton and woolen mills; in Richmond, about a dozen small mill villages evolved along the town's three border rivers. Rhode Island's population increased exponentially during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially in industrialized urban centers like Providence, but some rural areas also experienced steady growth thanks to their textile mills and other manufacturing concerns.

Richmond, however, did not experience such rapid growth: in 1790, when mechanized manufacturing first came to Rhode Island, Richmond had 1,760 inhabitants; in 1850, the population was 1,784, having swung between about 1,330 and 1,861 in the meantime. Some Richmond residents undoubtedly left for job opportunities in Rhode Island and elsewhere, while others arrived to work in local mills and businesses. The mill villages of Kenyon and Shannock were less than a mile distant (as the crow flies) from the Clarke Farm, and their workers may have provided a larger market for the farm's surplus produce.

Samuel<sup>III</sup> "Squire" Clarke (1771-1851), who evidently inherited this farm from his widowed aunt, married Renewed Stanton in 1796, and over the next fourteen years they had seven children. He too was a farmer involved in local civic affairs: the nickname "Squire" came from his long service as a Justice of the Peace. He also contributed to the development of public education in Richmond.

Prior to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, very few public schools existed in Rhode Island outside of Providence and Newport; if Richmond's children received any education at all, it was typically from their parents at home. But as evidenced by early town records, where deeds and wills were often signed or witnessed with an individual's mark ("X") rather than an actual signature, many adult Rhode Islanders were barely literate themselves.<sup>41</sup> Over time, the need for a more formal educational system became evident, and local families banded together to build the first generation of schoolhouses in Richmond. Sometime between 1812 and 1818, with five of his seven children still under the age of 18, Squire Clarke built (or, at least, paid for the construction

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<sup>39</sup> Richmond Probate Records, Book 3, pp. 141-143.

<sup>40</sup> R.I. Historical Cemetery Commission database.

<sup>41</sup> Irish, pp. 20-23.

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of) a school “near Stanton’s Corners.”<sup>42</sup> While that exact location is not known, it presumably was close enough to the Clarke Farm that his own children could walk there. In the 1830s, the Town of Richmond began to set up a system of school districts, and in 1844 a new school was built to serve “District 3,” which included the southeastern part of town on both sides of the Beaver River. At that point, Squire Clarke moved the schoolhouse from Stanton’s Corners onto his own farm, where it remains standing today. A 1957 newspaper article mentioned that the schoolhouse, then being used for storage, was still furnished with some children’s desks as well as the schoolmaster’s desk, while a tiny corner room held a four-poster bed where the teacher had slept.<sup>43</sup>

By the middle decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Rhode Island’s booming industrial economy had generated a significant shift in where people lived and worked. Population growth exploded in cities and villages with manufacturing concerns, while rural areas remained stagnant or started to lose population. By 1865, Rhode Island had the highest population density in the nation, 80% of whom lived in cities or villages.<sup>44</sup> Nonetheless, farming still made important contributions to the state’s economy:

The results of the growth of manufactures have been that the cities have been increased, numerous villages have been built up, home markets for every variety of agricultural products have been multiplied, and though the character of the crops, and the modes of farming operations have been somewhat changed, it is probable that never before were agricultural pursuits so well remunerated, and of so much importance in Rhode Island, as at the present time.”<sup>45</sup>

Between 1850 and 1865, the total number of farms in Richmond increased from 138 to 168, while its population grew by only about 200 people. Nearly 22,000 acres of land were devoted to agriculture, mostly in small, family-run farms of 300 acres or less. Their products included hay, clover seed, hay seed, wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, barley, buckwheat, wool, butter, cheese, milk, tobacco, wine, orchard products, onions, beets, turnips, garden seeds, strawberries, eggs, poultry, honey, dry beans, wood, cranberries, other berries, straw, fertilizers, and manures.<sup>46</sup>

According to the 1850 U.S. census, Samuel<sup>III</sup> Clarke owned 600 acres of land, constituting the second largest farm in town. His livestock included one horse, seven milch cows, four working oxen, twelve other cattle, twenty sheep, and seven swine. The farm produced 200 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushels of oats, 130 lbs. of wool, 4 bushels of peas and beans, 200 bushels of Irish potatoes, 250 lbs. of butter; 400 lbs. of cheese, and 30 tons of hay, as well as some orchard

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<sup>42</sup> Carroll, *Public Education in Rhode Island*, p. 68, claims that Clarke’s school was built in 1812; Cole, pp. 713-715, gives the date as 1818. Morrison, p. 95, noted the birth dates of Samuel<sup>III</sup>’s children.

<sup>43</sup> *Providence Journal*, “A Rural Legacy from the Past,” April 28, 1957, Section V, p. 1.

<sup>44</sup> Snow, pp. xv-xxiv.

<sup>45</sup> Snow, pp. lxxxv-lxxxvii.

<sup>46</sup> Snow, pp. 54-64.

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and meat products.<sup>47</sup> Samuel<sup>III</sup> and his wife Renewed Clarke, both then age 79, lived with three of their unmarried adult children: Benjamin S. Clarke, age 49, a farmer; Renewed Clarke, age 47; and Dorcas<sup>II</sup> Clarke, age 42, a widow (her deceased husband was Joshua Clarke, a distant cousin), along with her children Albert P. Clarke, age 24, machinist; Samuel R. Clarke, age 18, spinner; Phebe T. Clarke, age 20; Charles Clarke, age 14, and Dorcas<sup>III</sup> E. Clarke, age 11. The occupations of Dorcas<sup>II</sup>'s older sons reflect a growing trend among farming families in Richmond, as young adults sought work in local mills instead of on farms.

Samuel<sup>III</sup> Clarke's will, probated in 1851, bequeathed to his wife Renewed Clarke, "the east half of my dwelling house where I now live during her life," and granted her privileges to the garden, the orchard, the well, and the wood house. To his second eldest son Benjamin S. Clark (1800-1873), he left "my homestead farm where I now live, the east half of the dwelling house to come into his possession upon the decease of my wife, together with all the buildings, privileges, and appurtenances to the same;" plus another 50-acre lot on the east side of the highway.<sup>48</sup> The homestead farm apparently contained 100 acres, for another 445-plus acres went to Benjamin's siblings, including his sisters Renewed and Dorcas<sup>II</sup>, although they continued to live with Benjamin at the Samuel Clarke Farm for about another quarter century.<sup>49</sup>

The 1855 and 1870 maps of Richmond both identified Benjamin (or "B.S.") Clarke as the owner of the Samuel Clarke farm (*Figure 2*). The 1860 Rhode Island state census indicates that he possessed 100 acres of land, along with 1 horse, 4 milch cows, 2 working oxen, 8 other cattle, 4 sheep, and 3 swine. His farm produced 20 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushels of oats, 78 lbs. of wool, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 200 lbs. of butter, 100 lbs. of cheese, and 20 tons of hay. By the 1870 census, the farm had grown to 200 acres and Benjamin owned a similar amount of livestock while producing identical amounts of Indian corn, Irish potatoes, butter, and cheese, as well as 15 tons of hay.

The 1865 Rhode Island State Census lists Benjamin S. Clarke, age 64, living with his unmarried sister, Renewed Clarke, age 60; his widowed sister Dorcas Clarke, age 58; Dorcas's daughter Phebe T. Clarke, age 25; and a Charles Boyed, age 15, probably a farm hand. A historic photo of the farmhouse that was taken around this time<sup>50</sup> shows what appears to be each of these individuals plus one other older woman, who perhaps was another Clarke family member visiting at the time the picture was taken. (*Figure 4*)

Several ca. 1870 historic photos depict the main house, barn, wagon shed, corn crib, schoolhouse, and privy. (*Figures 5, 6*) In one of these photos, a small gable-roofed rear ell can be seen on the main house; this was later replaced by the present gambrel-roofed ell, while dormers

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<sup>47</sup> 1850 U.S. Census of RI, Agricultural Productions, Richmond, pp. 5-6.

<sup>48</sup> Richmond Probate Records, Book 8/Pages 112-115.

<sup>49</sup> 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census.

<sup>50</sup> *Providence Journal*, "A Rural Legacy from the Past," April 28, 1957, Section V, p. 1. This article reprinted the photo referenced here; the caption states that it was probably taken "by an itinerant photographer around the time of the Civil War."

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were later added to the main roof. The modest-sized 2-story “English-style” barn with a side gable roof, full-height center entryways with paired hinged doors on both north and south eaves-side walls, and a three-bay interior with haylofts above the side bays, is a good example of the standard design commonly found in New England well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While the ventilator and gable end windows are present in the c. 1870 photograph, the south door’s transom is a later alteration. Several additions were later constructed on the north and west sides of the barn. The distinctively-shaped corn crib, with its slanted, ventilated side walls, is probably of the same period, when growing “Indian” corn (which, as noted above, was produced on this farm by 1850) became more common.<sup>51</sup> Photographic evidence indicates that the wagon shed had a large center opening on its south side in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, later modified.

Benjamin Clarke died in 1873. His will left 80 acres of land to his niece Phebe T. [Clarke] Rathbun (daughter of Dorcas<sup>II</sup>) and her husband George C. Rathbun, “being my homestead farm ... bounded north and east by a highway, south by land of James S. Greene, west by the Beaver River, with all privileges and appurtenances. Reserving the burying ground with right of way to and from same for the family and friends to go at all times.”<sup>52</sup> The Rathbuns were directed to support Benjamin’s sister Renewed Clarke for the rest of her life and to provide her with “a good and comfortable living at my mansion house I herein give them;” Renewed Clarke also received all the household furnishings. In addition, Benjamin gave to his siblings Joshua R. Clarke, Renewed Clarke, Dorcas Clarke, and Mary Laurence about 130 acres of land including a 40-acre parcel “bounded west by the Beaver River, north by land of the heirs of Peter Clark, deceased, east and south by a highway [South County Trail and Shannock Hill Road, respectively] with all privileges & appurtenances.”

Between 1874 and 1875, Dorcas<sup>II</sup> Clarke became the sole owner of the Samuel Clarke Farm, buying from her widowed son-in-law George C. Rathbun “the homestead farm of the late Benjamin S. Clarke” for \$1,000, “excepting and reserving from this conveyance the Grave Yard where the said Benjamin S. Clarke and family were buried,” with a right of way to and from the graveyard “at all times for all the family and friends to enjoy unmolested.” She also bought out her siblings’ 5/6 share in other lands that Benjamin had left them in his will, adding that acreage to the land she had previously inherited from her father.<sup>53</sup> The 1880 U.S. Census lists Dorcas Clarke, age 72, widow, living alone in Richmond. She died there in 1895; her will is not on file in town probate records, so she may have died intestate.

Lewiston Avenue, running from Shannock Hill Road south to Kenyon School Road in Kenyon village, first appeared on the 1895 atlas of Richmond (*Figure 3*; town directories identified it as a public road as of 1917<sup>54</sup>). This map also depicted the footprints of the house, barn, wagon shed, and burial ground on the Samuel Clarke Farm. Dorcas<sup>III</sup> Clarke Knowles (1839-1917), who

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<sup>51</sup> Visser, p. 128.

<sup>52</sup> Richmond Probate Records, Vol. 12 (1872-1877), pp. 55-60.

<sup>53</sup> Richmond DB 12/116-118 (1874) and DB 11/168 (1875).

<sup>54</sup> Only three early 20<sup>th</sup> century town directories for Richmond were found at the R.I. Historical Society Library and the State Archives.



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had inherited the farm from her mother, Dorcas<sup>II</sup> Clarke, was the owner at the time the map was drawn and published. Dorcas<sup>III</sup> Clarke Knowles' husband, Edwin Knowles (1837-1900), was the son of John T. Knowles,<sup>55</sup> who in 1834 had founded the first cotton and woolen mill in Shannock village in Richmond. Edwin and Dorcas moved to Providence shortly after their marriage in 1865, and lived there for the rest of their lives, raising two children: Edwin Knowles, Jr., and Elizabeth Stanton Knowles Marvel (1874-1950). The 1895 Providence city directory lists Edwin Knowles as a clerk and Edwin Jr. as an employee of the Corliss Steam Engine Company. Dorcas<sup>III</sup> E. Knowles first appears in Providence directories as a widow in 1901, the year after her husband died.

In 1902, Elizabeth S. Knowles married Frederick W. Marvel (1871-1938), the Director of Physical Culture at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. A graduate of Brown University in Providence, he returned to Brown in 1903 as Director of Athletics (a position he held for the rest of his life) and Professor of Physical Culture.<sup>56</sup> The following year "Doc" and Elizabeth Marvel moved into a brand new, imposing residence at 281 Olney Street in Providence, designed for them by the antiquarian scholar and architect Norman Isham.<sup>57</sup> The Colonial Revival style of that house, which has a gambrel roof, may have been a nod to Elizabeth Marvel's family home in Richmond.

Both the Knowles and Marvel families used the Clarke farm in Richmond as a weekend and vacation retreat, following a trend of many well-to-do urban dwellers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, who purchased second homes to escape the congestion and noise of the city, especially during the summer. (By 1870, Richmond had a railroad line with a depot at Shannock Mills, making travel between Providence and the Clarke Farm relatively quick and convenient.) While neither family lived on the farm year-round, it remained under active cultivation in this period. When Dorcas<sup>III</sup> Knowles died in 1917, her will left to her daughter Elizabeth Stanton Marvel:

"... all that land with all buildings and improvements now commonly known as the Clarke Farm, including all the real estate that I now own in that locality or may purchase in future. Also all cattle, livestock, farming tools and appliances, furniture and furnishings, and crops whether harvested or growing, and all such supplies such as hay, grains, and roots on said premises at the time of my decease."<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> US Census, 1850. The Shannock Village Historic District National Register nomination notes that the 1834 Knowles Mill, later known as Shannock Mills or Carmichael Mills, burned down in 1884, but was rebuilt by the Carmichael Company and remained one of Shannock's major employers, later as part of the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Co., well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of the mill complex can still be seen in Shannock.

<sup>56</sup> Brown Alumni Monthly, July 1903, p. 44.

<sup>57</sup> Providence city directories, 1901-1906; also Ancestry.com: Rhode Island marriage index 1851-1920. The Marvel House at 281 Olney Street (1904) is NR listed as part of the Olney St.-Alumni Avenue Historic District in Providence.

<sup>58</sup> Richmond DB 17/571: Last Will and Testament of Dorcas E. Knowles, written 1908, probated 1917.

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Dorcas<sup>III</sup> also bequeathed \$500 to the Town of Richmond to create a trust fund for the perpetual care and maintenance of the family burial ground and the lane leading to it on the farm.

Either the Knowleses or the Marvels made several alterations to the farmhouse, ca. 1895-1937: they redesigned and enlarged the rear ell, introduced heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, installed a bathroom on the second floor, and added the dormers on the main roof. The ell and dormers are visible in two 1937 historic photos of the house taken for the Historic American Building Survey (*Figure 7*). These alterations and additions were made in a manner that was sensitive to the Colonial-period architecture and do not detract from the property's integrity. Frederick Marvel died in 1938 "at his summer home, the Clark [*sic*] homestead, in Richmond"<sup>59</sup>. He was such a revered figure at Brown University that the Trustees promptly renamed "Marvel Gymnasium" (a state-of-the-art facility which Marvel had helped build a decade earlier) in his honor.<sup>60</sup> After her husband's death, Elizabeth Marvel (then age 64) moved to Richmond permanently, living at the farm until she died in 1950. She bequeathed to Charles J. Link (1896-1974) "the farm where I now live, near the village of Kenyon, together with all improvements thereon and all personal property, furnishings, contents of the house and farm implements on the place." Link was a local building contractor who reputedly had handled all the maintenance, repair, and construction needs at the Clarke Farm for thirty years prior to Mrs. Marvel's death. After certain other bequests, Charles Link and his wife Dorothy inherited "all residue and remainder of property, real and personal ... as an appreciation of their many acts of kindness to me particularly at those times when I was especially in need of assistance and help." The farm contained 500 acres at that time.<sup>61</sup>

Elizabeth Marvel also left \$500 to the Richmond Town Council, to be added to the trust fund given them in 1917 under the will of her mother Dorcas<sup>III</sup> Knowles, "for the perpetual care of the Samuel Clark [*sic*] burial ground which is located on my farm, formerly known as the Dorcas Knowles Farm, located about 1 mile north of the village of Kenyon; and the care of the lane leading from said burial ground to the public highway." Elizabeth Marvel is buried there.

Charles and Dorothy Link, living only a few miles away in Charlestown, continued to steward the Clarke (Knowles) Farm as Elizabeth Marvel had entrusted them to do. They kept a small herd of cows, grew apples and potatoes (stored in the old root cellar), and spent many summers and weekends there. They also rehabbed the old wagon shed, turning it into a garage and a "dining room for warm-weather meals."<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Frederick Marvel obituary, *Providence Journal*, August 22, 1928, pp. 1 and 8.

<sup>60</sup> *Brown Alumni Monthly*, October and November 1938, published an extensive obituary for Dr. Marvel and a similarly lengthy article about renaming the gym. Marvel Gymnasium at 492 Elmgrove Avenue in Providence, designed by architects Clark & Howe and built 1927-28, was later NR listed; it was demolished in 2002.

<sup>61</sup> Richmond Probate Records, Book 21/Pages 410-415: Elizabeth S. Marvel Last Will & Testament.

<sup>62</sup> *Providence Journal*, "A Rural Legacy from the Past," April 28, 1957, Section V, p. 1.

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Charles Link retired from his contracting business around the time of Mrs. Marvel's death; he had long been active in local politics, government, and civic affairs, and in 1952 he was elected to the Rhode Island Senate, where he served for a decade.<sup>63</sup>

### **The Modern Era: 1950-present**

While the Clarke Farm remained in active (if limited) agricultural production for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the farming industry in Rhode Island declined significantly. In 1880 there were just over 6,200 farms across the state; by 1900, that number had dropped to about 5,500, and by 1960, it had decreased to 1,400. Meanwhile, rural land values had increased by a remarkable 900% during that same period. As a 1965 survey published by the University of Rhode Island reported:

Values per acre for Rhode Island have been consistently higher than the average for the nation and reflect the demand for land by industry, urban developments, and housing near urban centers. ... There is every indication that this upward trend will continue as pressures for land become more pronounced. ... [Especially] in the rural-urban fringe areas, where the demand for land for industrial sites, housing subdivisions, roads, shopping centers and schools exerts upward pressure on farmland values. The value of farm real estate in such areas reflects value if sold rather than value if retained for farmland.<sup>64</sup>

The Samuel Clarke Farm was not immune to these pressures. In 1963, Charles and Dorothy Link conveyed 64.6 acres of land, "bounded on the east by South County Trail and an unnamed highway, on the south by Shannock Hill Road, and on the northwest by the Beaver River" to their daughter, Mildred L. Godden (1920-2001), who was a real estate developer in partnership with her husband Glenn Godden.<sup>65</sup> In 1964 Mildred Godden created a residential subdivision called "Colony 1691" north of Shannock Hill Road between South Country Trail and the Beaver River, with 42 house lots (plus one larger parcel bounded by the road and the river) arrayed along new streets called Knowles Lane, Clarke Trail, Link Lane, Marvel Trail and Godden Trail: all names historically associated with the Samuel Clarke Farm.<sup>66</sup> The Goddens built and furnished a model home on one of the lots – a "top-of-the-line single-story pre-engineered house with colonial features" – to entice buyers to the new subdivision, and they subsequently built nine additional houses there, all sold to other homeowners. Over the next three decades, all but three of the Colony 1691 lots were built out with single-family homes, all of them initially marketed by the Goddens' own real estate agency. (Their sons David and Marc entered the family business as adults.) Concurrent with the Colony 1691 development, the Goddens also

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<sup>63</sup> "Charles J. Link Dies at 77; Served in Rhode Island Senate," *Providence Journal*, February 27, 1974, p. B-2.

<sup>64</sup> Griffiths, pp. 19-23.

<sup>65</sup> Richmond DB 26/161.

<sup>66</sup> Richmond Plat Book 1/Page 64: The "Colony 1691 Plat."

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planted 4 acres near the Clarke farmhouse as a Christmas tree farm, which remained in business for about two decades.<sup>67</sup>

Between 1969 and 1975, Charles and Dorothy Link conveyed all their remaining interest in the Clarke Farm to their daughter Mildred Godden.<sup>68</sup> After their deaths, Charles and Dorothy Link were interred in a new cemetery that was created within the grassy lane that leads from Lewiston Avenue to the old Clarke burial ground; this recent cemetery is now called the Moller-Link Lot.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some additional acreage of the Clarke Farm was sold off for additional single-family residential development on both sides of Lewiston Avenue. In 1993, Mildred Godden placed the remaining acreage into a trust (save a small 3,090 sq.ft. parcel on the south side of Shannock Hill Road next to the Beaver River, which she sold to the R.I. Department of Environmental Management in 1995). After her death in 2001, her heirs conveyed to her son David G. Godden a 40-acre parcel containing all the farm buildings, “sometimes known as the Knowles Farm,” on the west side of Lewiston Ave.<sup>69</sup> Thus the Samuel Clarke Farm achieved its present size, which is also the area included in this nomination (*Figure 8*). Current owner John Peixinho purchased the farm in 2015.

The Samuel Clarke Farm clearly illustrates the pattern of agricultural land use and development in rural southern Rhode Island, from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The main house is a rare and remarkably well-preserved and well-maintained example of domestic Colonial-period architecture. With a 17<sup>th</sup> century core, and with most of the house largely unchanged since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the Samuel Clarke House preserves important design characteristics, architectural features and construction techniques that evolved during the colonial period. The various outbuildings, stone walls, dug well, root cellar, and the Samuel Clarke Lot are all characteristic auxiliary features of the type of small, family-operated subsistence farm prevalent in Rhode Island during the period of significance. These well-preserved historic architectural and landscape resources individually and collectively represent a once common way of life that no longer exists in many parts of Rhode Island; continuous ownership by multiple generations of the same family over a period of more than 250 years underscores the farm’s rarity and significance. That the Samuel Clarke Farm has survived with all its buildings and enough of its original land area to retain a rural agrarian character makes it even more notable. The property plainly merits listing on the National Register under Criteria A and C.

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<sup>67</sup> “Colony 1691 Is A Family Memorial: Richmond Subdivision Along the Beaver River Was Once a Huge Tract Granted by a King,” April 9, 1994, p. D-4. The article’s title and its early paragraphs are a bit misleading, as no evidence was found indicating that the King of England personally granted any land to Samuel<sup>1</sup> Clarke in 1691.

<sup>68</sup> Richmond DB 29/237 (1969); DB 32/569 (1973); DB 4/439 (1975).

<sup>69</sup> Richmond DB 87/710 (1993); DB 103/113 (1995, to D.E.M.); DB 190/982 (2003). Godden, who died in 2017, was buried in the Moller-Link Lot along with his parents, Mildred and Glenn Godden.

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**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 # RI-296
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 40 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41°27'50.56"N | Longitude: 71°37'41.08"W |
| 2. Latitude: 41°27'47.60"N | Longitude: 71°37'21.49"W |
| 3. Latitude: 41°27'32.03"N | Longitude: 71°37'27.58"W |
| 4. Latitude: 41°27'32.94"N | Longitude: 71°37'34.48"W |
| 5. Latitude: 41°27'42.62"N | Longitude: 71°37'41.32"W |

SAMUEL CLARKE FARM  
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**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property includes the entirety of Richmond Assessor's Plat 9E, Lot 24 (Figure 8).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the historic resources associated with the Samuel Clarke Farm, including the house, six outbuildings, burial grounds, root cellar, well, and stone walls, along with 40 acres of fields and woodlands.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh, Preservation Consultant  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 82 Larch Street  
city or town: Providence state: RI zip code: 02906  
e-mail: kathycavanaugh@cox.net  
telephone: (401) 273-4715  
date: December 2018

SAMUEL CLARKE FARM  
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WASHINGTON CO., R.I.  
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property:	Samuel Clarke Farm
City or Vicinity:	Richmond
County:	Washington
State:	Rhode Island
Name of Photographer:	John E. Corbett
Date of Photographs:	June 16 and August 11, 2018
Location of Original Digital Files:	Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
Number of Photographs:	31

#### Photo #1

View looking northwest from the entrance to the driveway off Lewiston Avenue. Left to right: dwelling house, wagon shed, barn.

#### Photo #2

View looking northwest over the looped end of the driveway. Left to right: schoolhouse, dwelling house, wagon shed, corn crib.

SAMUEL CLARKE FARM

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Photo #3

View looking northwest toward the dwelling house (south façade, east elevation); schoolhouse at left, wagon shed at right.

Photo #4

Closeup of the south face of the dwelling house chimney, featuring the carving "S.C. 1785."

Photo #5

View looking northeast toward the dwelling house (south façade, west elevation).

Photo #6

View looking southeast toward the dwelling house (north/rear and west elevations of rear ell, west elevation of main block).

Photo #7

View looking southwest toward the dwelling house (north elevation of main block, east elevation of rear ell), also showing the bulkhead covering the basement stairs, and the dug well.

Photo #8

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, keeping room, looking southeast.

Photo #9

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, keeping room, looking southwest.

Photo #10

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, keeping room, close-up of stone in rear wall of fireplace inscribed "1691."

Photo #11

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, front southeast corner room (living room), looking southeast.

Photo #12

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, front southeast corner room (living room), looking southwest.

Photo #13

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, front southwest corner room (dining room), looking northwest.

Photo #14

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, front southwest corner room (dining room), looking northeast.

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Photo #15

Dwelling house, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, rear ell (kitchen), looking southwest.

Photo #16

Dwelling house, interior, stairway from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor down to 1<sup>st</sup> floor, looking west.

Photo #17

Dwelling house, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, southeast corner bedroom, looking northeast.

Photo #18

Dwelling house, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, southeast corner bedroom, looking northwest.

Photo #19

Dwelling house, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, southwest corner bedroom, looking southeast.

Photo #20

Dwelling house, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, southwest corner bedroom, looking northwest.

Photo #21

Dwelling house, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, northwest corner (dressing) room, looking west.

Photo #22

Dwelling house, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of rear ell, looking northwest.

Photo #23

Barn (south façade and east elevation) looking northwest. Dwelling house and wagon shed in background.

Photo #24

Barn (south façade), with stone drinking trough in foreground and corn crib at left, looking northeast.

Photo #25

Wagon shed (south façade, east elevation) and corn crib (south façade), looking northwest.

Photo #26

Schoolhouse (south façade, east elevation), looking northwest.

Photo #27

Privy (east façade, south elevation), with blacksmith shop in background, looking northwest.

Photo #28

Field, sited north of blacksmith shop and northwest of dwelling house, looking northwest.

SAMUEL CLARKE FARM  
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Photo #29

Blacksmith shop (south façade, east elevation), looking northwest.

Photo #30

Root cellar, viewed from above, looking southwest.

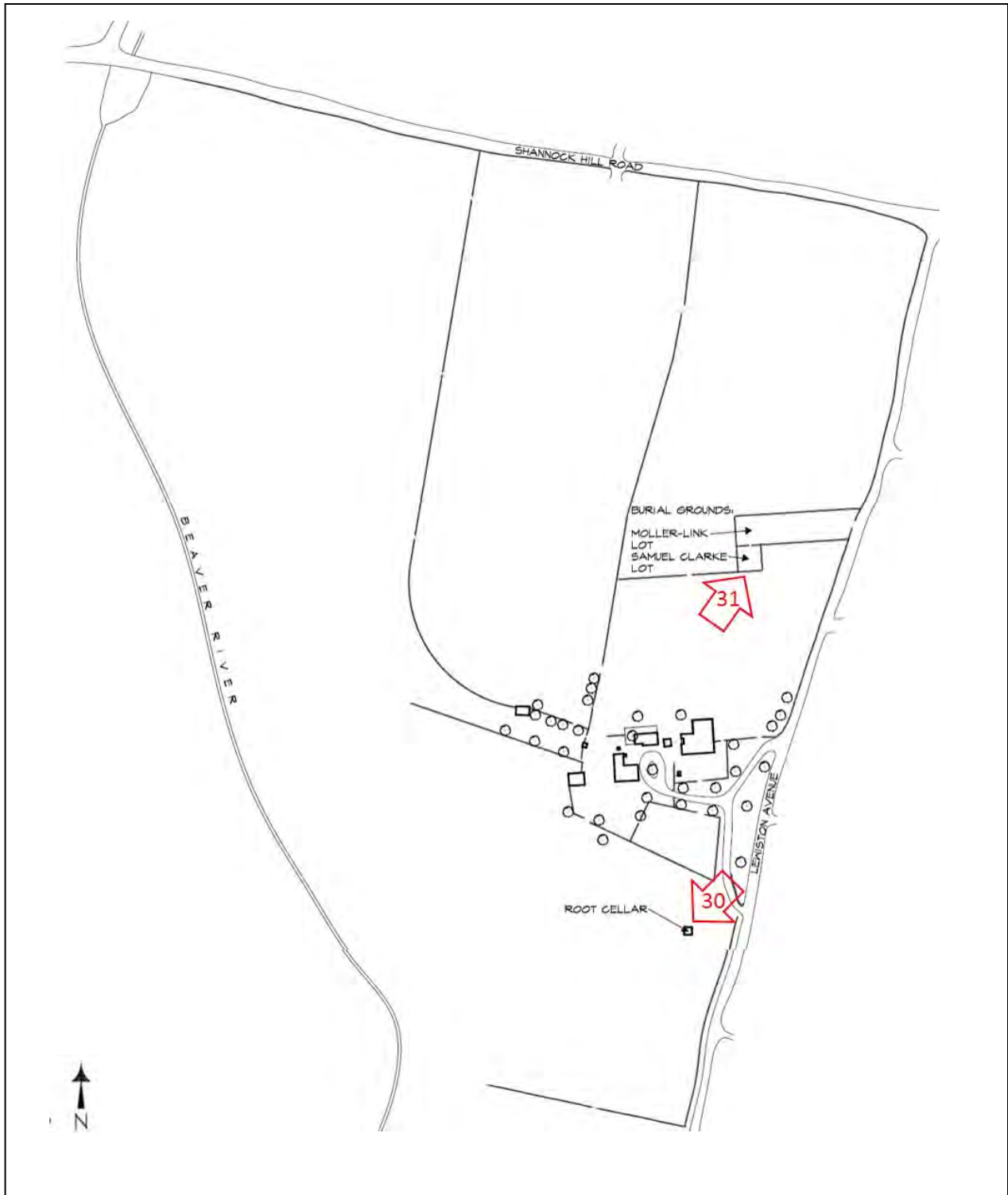
Photo #31

Clarke family burial ground, looking northeast.

SAMUEL CLARKE FARM  
Name of Property

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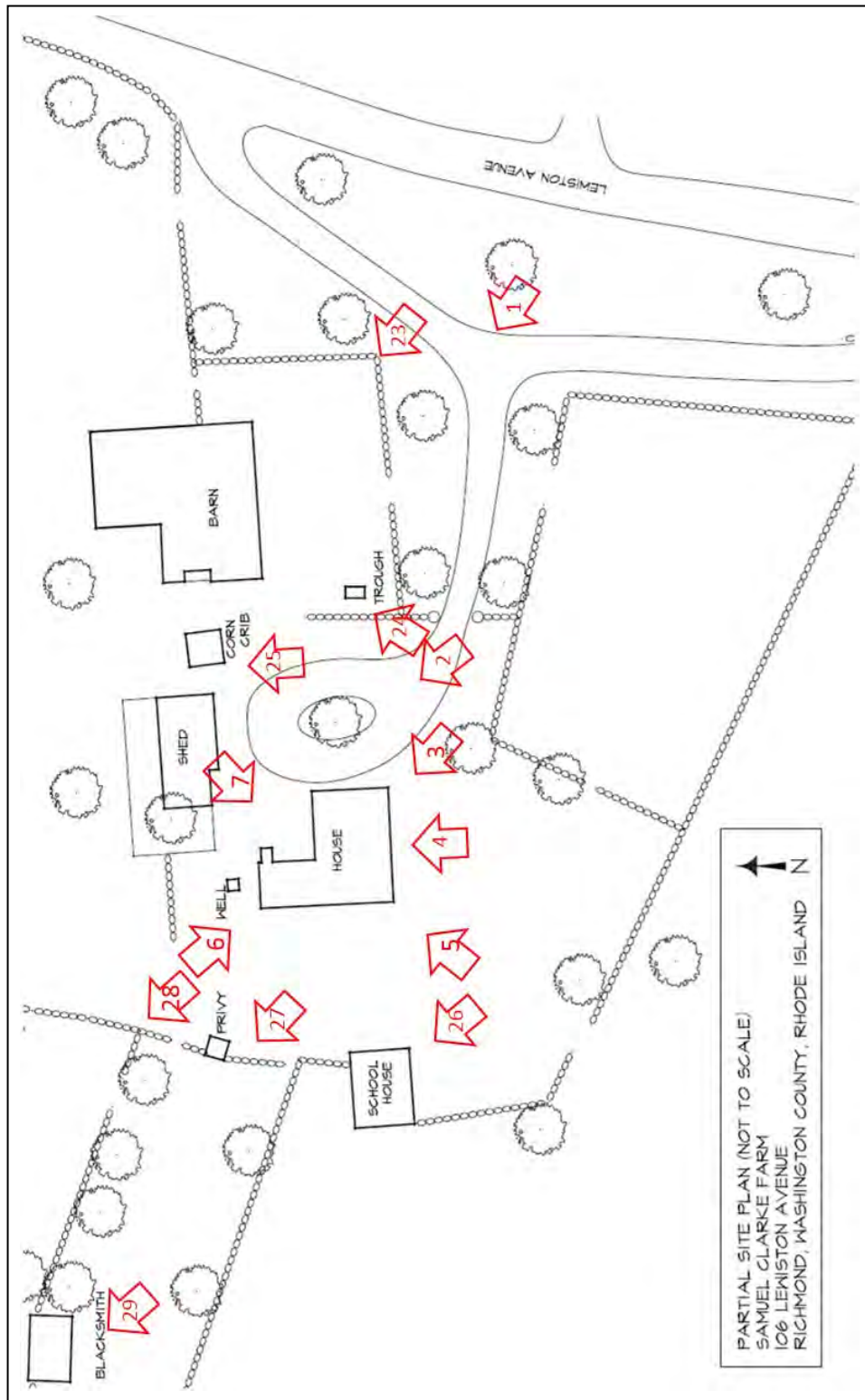
**Site Plan with Photo Key**



SAMUEL CLARKE FARM  
Name of Property

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**Site Plan (Detail) with Photo Key**

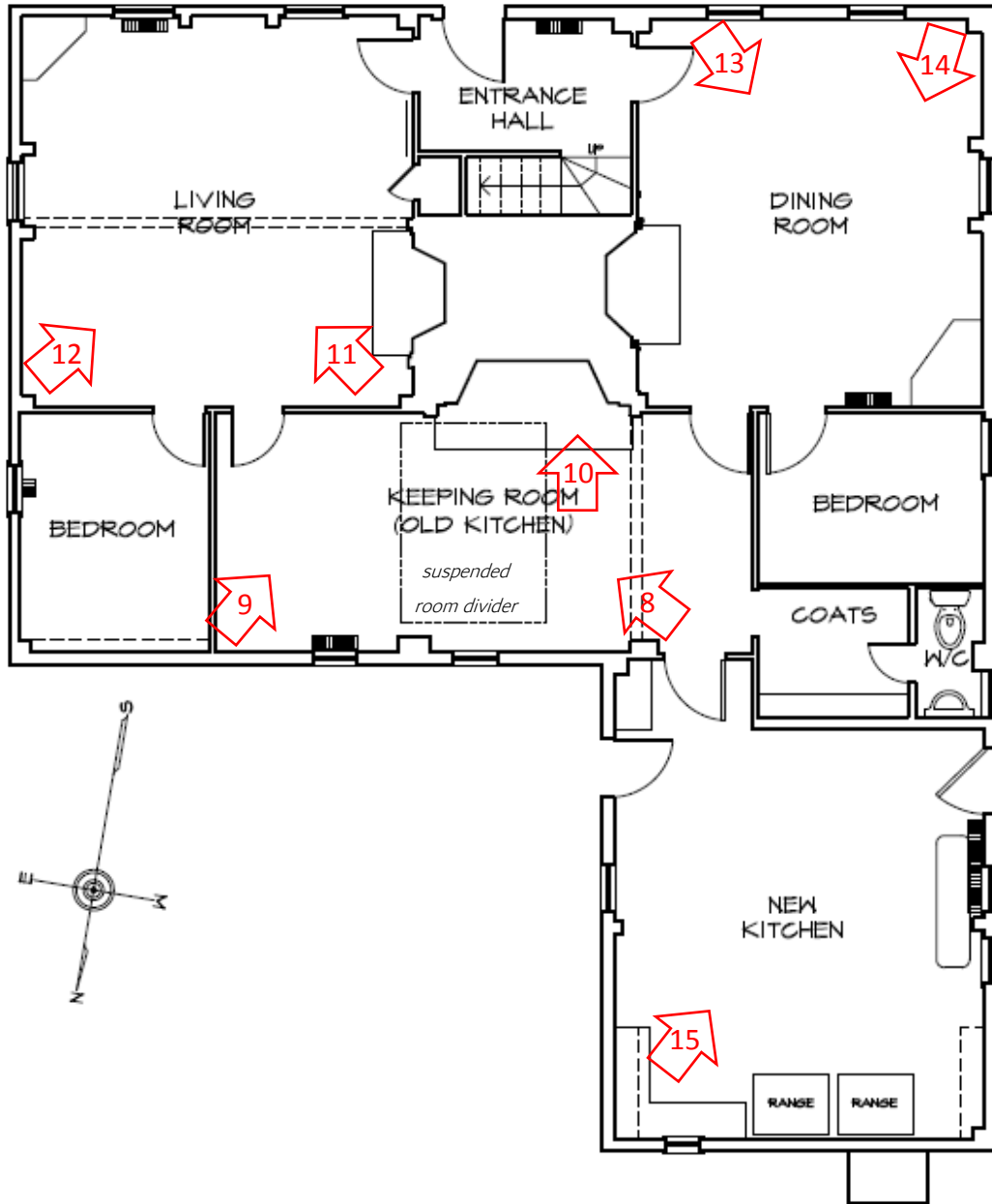




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Name of Property

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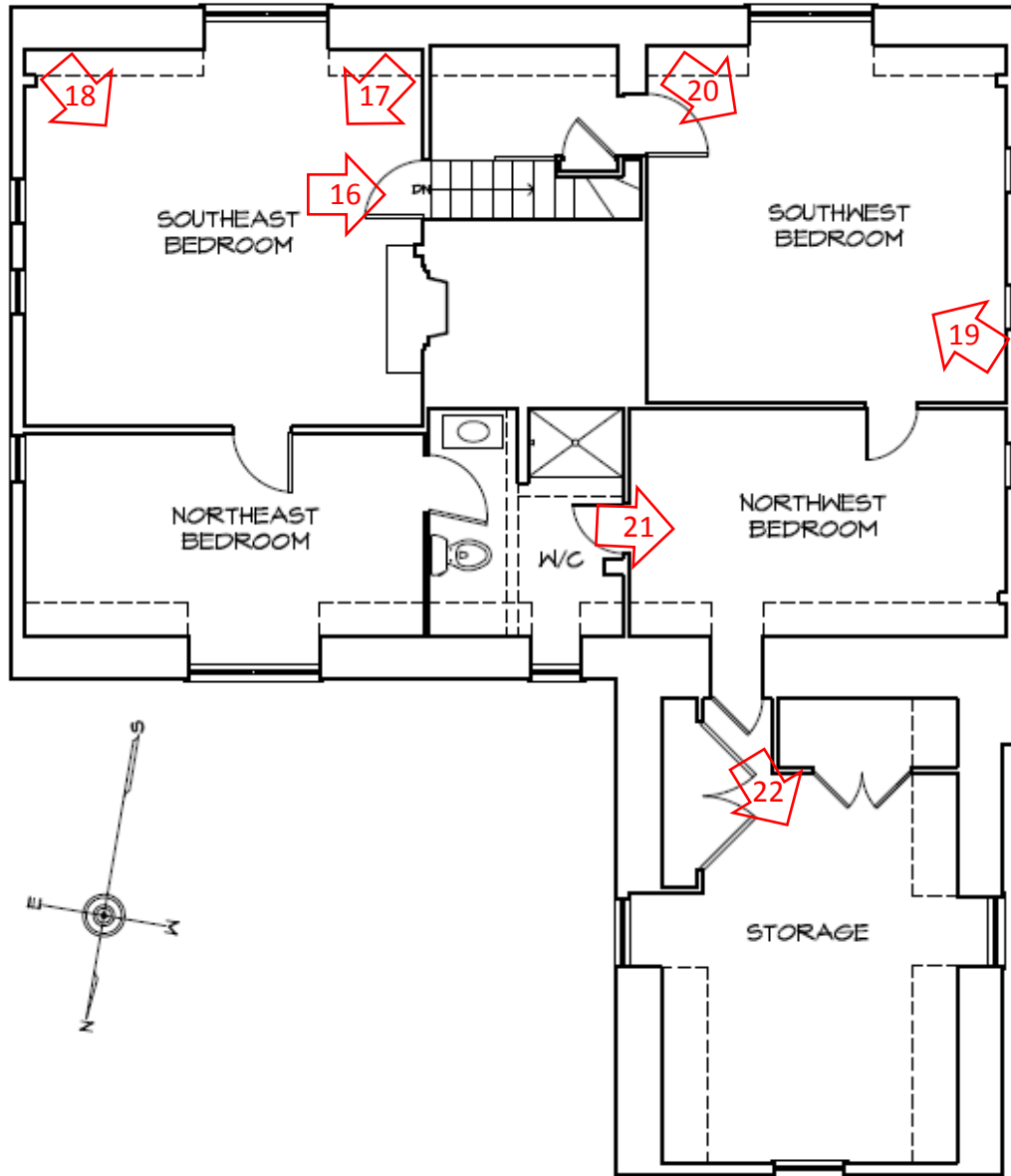
**First Floor of House with Photo Key**



SAMUEL CLARKE FARM  
Name of Property

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### Second Floor of House with Photo Key



**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Additional Information

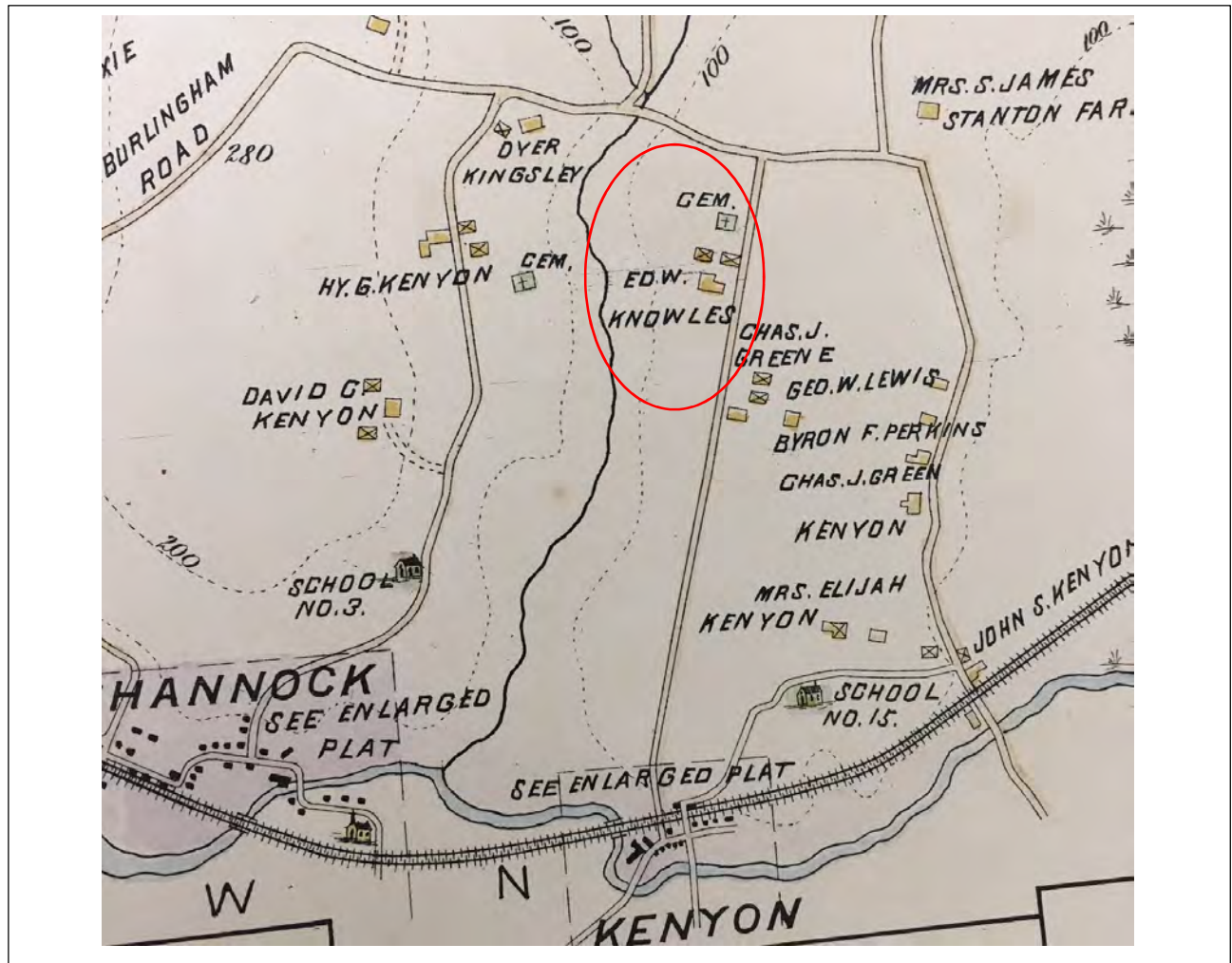


**FIGURE 1 – 1831 map of Richmond.** The Samuel Clarke Farm lies east of the Beaver River, south of Shannock Hill Road and west of South County Trail.





**FIGURE 2 – 1870 map of Richmond.** The Samuel Clarke Farm was owned by Benjamin S. Clarke at this time.



**FIGURE 3 – 1895 map of Richmond.** The Samuel Clarke Farm was owned by Dorcas Clarke Knowles, wife of Edwin Knowles, whose name appears here. The map depicts the approximate locations of the main house, barn, wagon shed, and family burial ground. Lewiston Avenue has been laid out, running southward from Shannock Hill Road to the village of Kenyon, between the Beaver River on the west and South County Trail on the east.



**FIGURE 4 – historic photo of the Samuel Clarke Farm house, ca. 1865, looking northeast.**

The man leaning on the fence is probably Benjamin S. Clarke, then aged 64. At right, two of the older women are likely his sisters Renewed Clarke, age 60 and Dorcas Clarke, age 58, who lived with him (the identity of the third older woman is unknown). The young woman framed by the doorway may be Dorcas Clarke's daughter, Phebe Clarke, age 25. The young man sitting on the fence is probably Charles Boyer, age 15, who lived with the Clarkes and may have been a farmhand.





**FIGURE 5 – historic photo of the Samuel Clarke Farm, ca. 1870, looking northwest.** From left to right: the schoolhouse, the dwelling house, the wagon shed, the corn crib, and the barn



**FIGURE 6 – historic photo of the Samuel Clarke Farm, ca. 1870, looking southeast** and showing the rear elevations of (from left to right): the barn, the corn crib, the wagon shed, the dwelling house, the privy, and the schoolhouse. Note the small, gable-roof ell at the rear of the dwelling house; this was later replaced by the present rear ell.

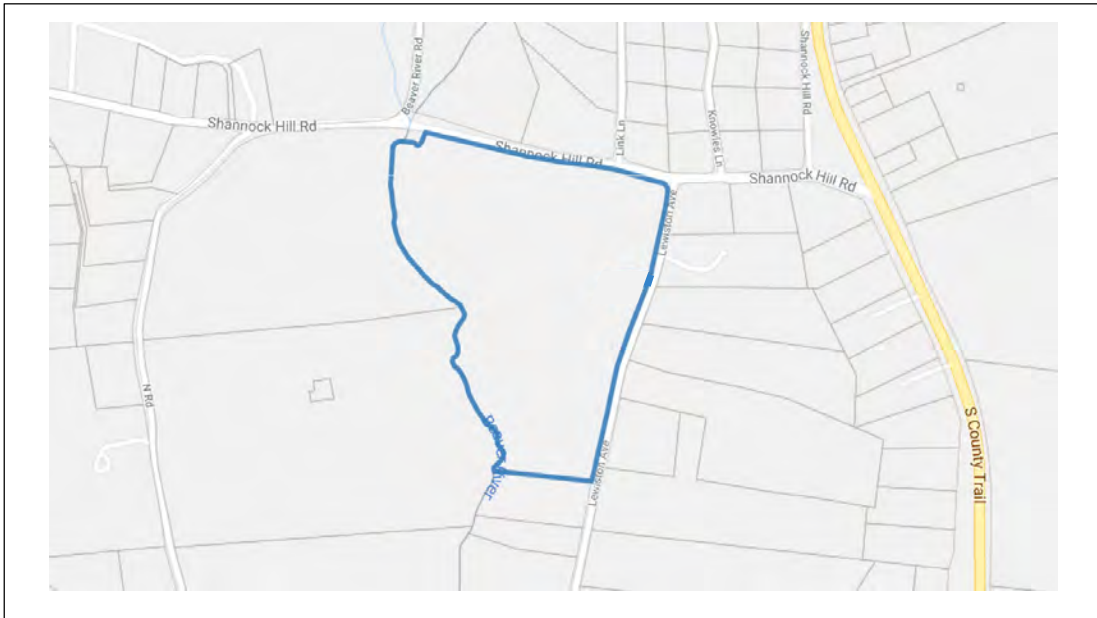
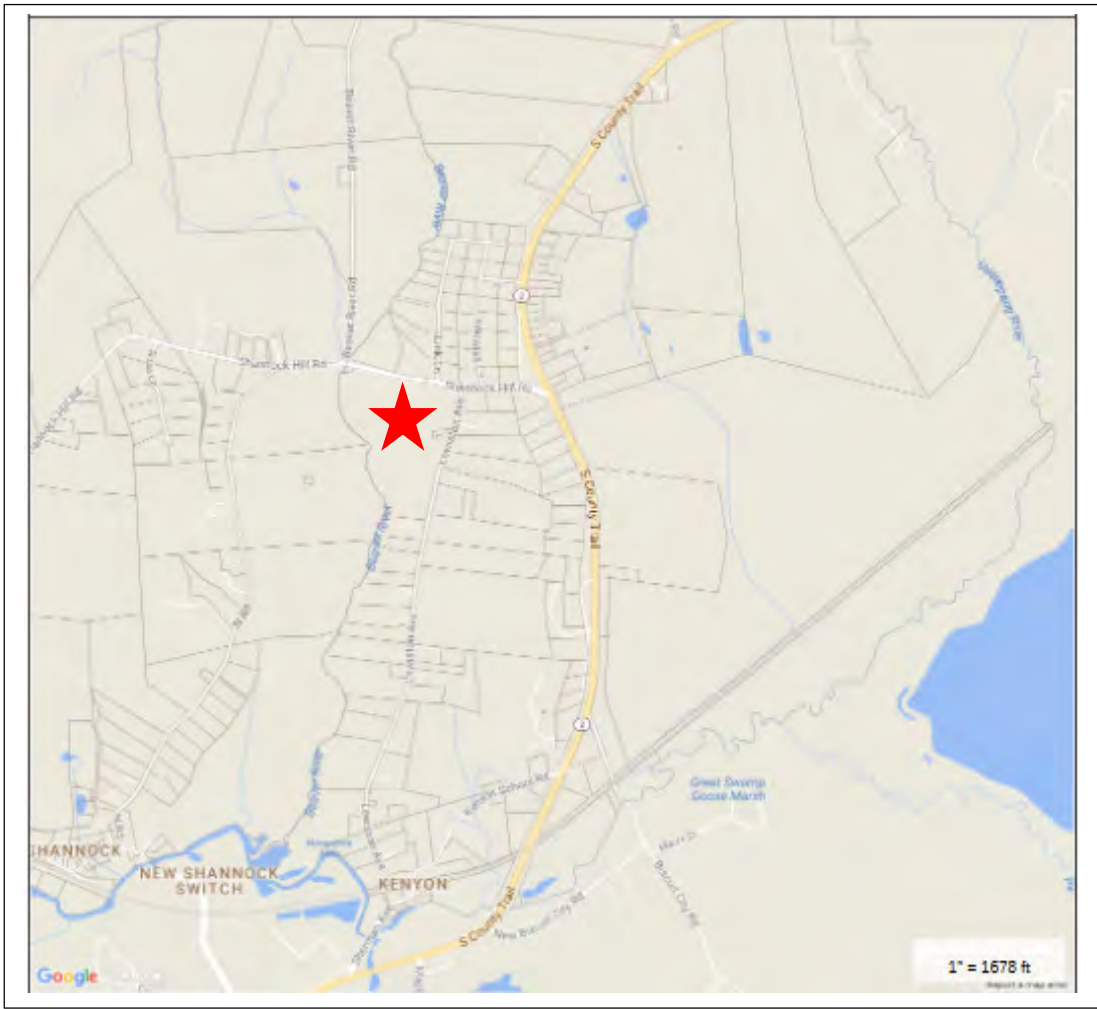


**FIGURE 7 – historic photos of the Samuel Clarke Farm house, taken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1937.**

Top: looking northwest, showing the east side elevation and part of the south façade. (The large trees in front of the house are no longer extant.)

Bottom: looking southwest, showing the east and north side elevations as well as the rear ell.





**FIGURE 8 – context maps** showing the Samuel Clarke Farm property (bottom map: Richmond Assessor’s Plat 9E, Lot 24).

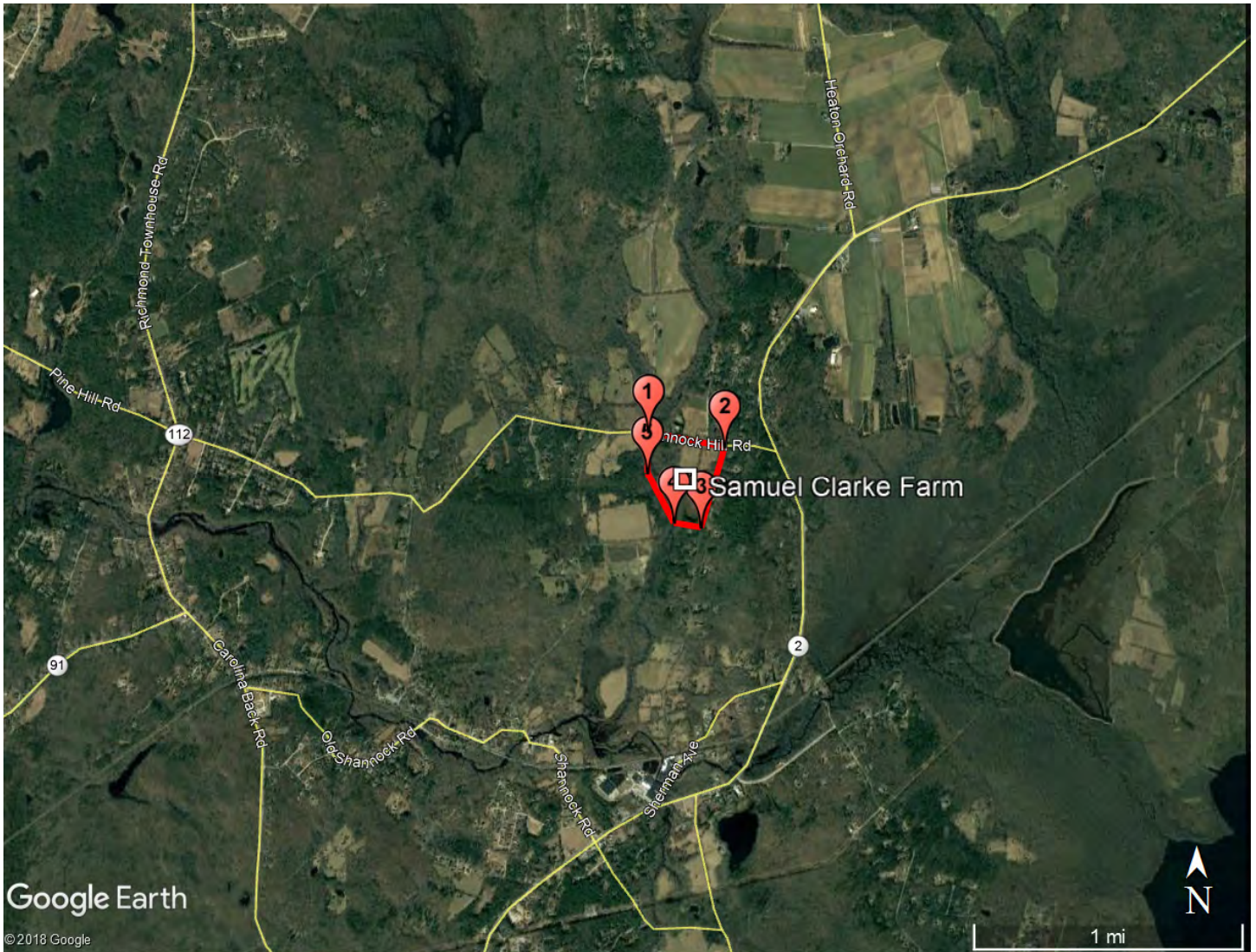


**Samuel Clarke Farm**  
**106 Lewiston Avenue**  
**Richmond, Washington County, Rhode Island**

Coordinates

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Latitude: 41°27'50.56"N | Longitude: 71°37'41.08"W |
| 2) Latitude: 41°27'47.60"N | Longitude: 71°37'21.49"W |
| 3) Latitude: 41°27'32.03"N | Longitude: 71°37'27.58"W |
| 4) Latitude: 41°27'32.94"N | Longitude: 71°37'34.48"W |
| 5) Latitude: 41°27'42.62"N | Longitude: 71°37'41.32"W |





**Samuel Clarke Farm**  
**106 Lewiston Avenue**  
**Richmond, Washington County, Rhode Island**

Coordinates

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Latitude: 41°27'50.56"N | Longitude: 71°37'41.08"W |
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

**Supplementary Listing Record**

NRIS Reference Number: SG100003413

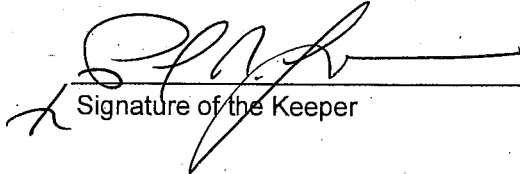
Date Listed: 2/4/2019

Property Name: Clarke, Samuel, Farm

County: Washington

State: RI

-----  
This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

2/4/2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Significant Dates:**

The Significant Dates are revised to read: 1691, 1700, 1785, 1816, 1844, 1870, 1895 and 1937.  
[The significant dates box should only record specific dates or years rather than ranges. The current NRIS database is unable to record ranges for this field.]

-----  
The RHODE ISLAND SHPO was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)





















































































