# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Exp. 10-31-84

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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 6

Page

Entered in the National Register:

Camp Endicott (Davisville Construction Battalion Center) Historic District Hamilton Mill Village Historic District Lafayette Village Historic District Wickford Historic District RI-1000, Lischio Archaeological Site, Routes 2 and 102 Silas Casey Farm, Boston Neck Road Old Narragansett Church, 60 Church Lane Allen-Madison House, Davisville Construction Battalion Center Gilbert Stuart Birthplace, Gilbert Stuart Road YWCA Archaeological Site, off Gilbert Stuart Road St. Paul's Church, 76 Main Street Six Principle Baptist Church, 85 Old Baptist Road Smith's Castle/Cocumscussoc, Post Road \*Hall-Northup House, 7919 Post Road George Douglas House, 7060 Tower Hill Road

Determined eligible for the National Register:

Quonset Point Naval Air Station Historic District (10/12/78) Scrabbletown Historic District (5/28/81) RI-667, Archaeological Site, Route 102 (9/8/81) RI-669, Bestwick Archaeological Site, Scrabbletown Road (9/8/81) RI-670, Scrabbletown Brook Site, Stony Lane (9/8/81)

Historic American Engineering Record, <u>Rhode Island: An Inventory of</u> <u>Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, 1978:</u>

Gilbert Stuart Snuff Mill & Grist Mill Hamilton Web Company Mill (Hamilton Village Historic District) Lafayette Mill (Lafayette Historic District) Shady Lea Mill (Shady Lea Historic District) Quonset Point - Davisville Navy Bases

Historic Americal Building Survey:

Cocumscussoc, Post Road Northrup House, Post Road Stuart House, Gilbert Stuart Road

\*Listed in the National Register as the Palmer-Northrup House. Further research indicates that the present name, Hall-Northup House, is more accurate.

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7. Desc	cription						
Condition _X_ excellent _X_ good _X_ fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	<u>_X_altered</u>	Che Original site moved da	See	individual	entries	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

North Kingstown is a 44.5-square-mile town on the west side of Narragansett Bay, about twenty miles south of Providence. It shares borders with Warwick, East Greenwich, Exeter, South Kingstown, and Narragansett. The population is about 25,000.

The town's most prominent geographical feature is thirty miles of Narragansett Bay coastline, much of it remarkably attractive, with inlets, sheltered coves, wetland areas, and dramatic bluffs overlooking the water. The town has considerable variation in topography, with a high elevation of 320 feet in the northwest corner, near the village of Scrabbletown, and also a number of hills nearer the bay in the south, one 220 feet high. The west-central part of town, Swamptown, is a region of small steep hills and depressions and glacial kames and kettles. Further west is the Slocum area, an outwash plain of flat land with good soil still used for farming. Most of the town, though once farmed, is now heavily wooded.

There are about a dozen ponds of varying size, many of them increased in area by nineteenth-century mill dams. These ponds are part of North Kingstown's three small river systems, all with headwaters in the central part of town.

The Hunts River, flowing northeast into the tidal estuary of the Potoomut River, forms much of the Warwick-East Greenwich border. Old Davisville a village fragment on this river. Sand Hill Village, another village fragment, is on Sandhill Brook, a second tributary to the Potowomut River.

The Annaquatucket River, also called the Shewatuck at one of its headwaters, flows southeast through a series of ponds--including Belleville Pond, the largest in town--and empties into the Bay at Bissel's Cove. Mill villages and hamlets on the Annaquatucket River include Lafayette, Oak Hill, Belleville, Annaquatucket, and Hamilton. They bear witness to the fact that the Annaquatucket was North Kingstown's most important nineteenth-century in--\_\_dust\_ial waterway.

The third river, the Mattatuxet, flows south through Silver Spring, Shady Lea, and Carr ponds into the Pettaquamscutt River, the latter a tidal estuary with access to the Bay in Narragansett. The Mattatuxet River generated the milling hamlets at Silver Spring and Shady Lea and powered the eighteenth-century snuff mill and sawmill that are now the Gilbert Stuart memorial.

Principal modern transportation routes running north and south and connecting the Providence metropolitan area with the southern towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown are Post Road (U.S. 1) and Route 2 (which continues through part of town as the divided Colonel Rodman Highway), and Tower Hill Road. Route 138 enters at the east from the Jamestown Bridge and crosses half of the town before joining Colonel Rodman Highway. Boston Neck

(See Continuation Sheet  $#^2$ )

Continuation sheet

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Road is another north-south route. East-west roads include Route 102, which connects Wickford to Exeter; the locally important Stony Lane; and Gilbert Stuart Road, with its extension as the Shermantown Road. A section of the main line of Amtrak slices diagonally through the western part of town. Stations once existed at Slocum, Wickford Junction, and Davisville. A trunk line, built during World War II, branches off the main line at the Davisville Station and runs to the former Navy bases of Davisville and Quonset Point. The Quonset Point Naval Air Station airport remains from World War II development of the area.

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The population of North Kingstown in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was of predominantly English and Welsh stock--people who engaged in farming, fishing, and trading. The numerous mill villages which grew up along the three rivers in the nineteenth century drew largely upon this local Yankee farm population for labor but also brought in some Canadian and Irish workers who became integrated with the earlier "English" population. Coastal summer-resort developments in the early twentieth century, such as at Plum Beach and Saunderstown in the south and at the Quonset Point area in the north, brought seasonal residents from the Providence area and also from New York and Philadelphia. With World War II and the building of the major Navy bases at Quonset and Davisville, the population was dramatically increased and transformed as residents, both temporary and permanent, arrived from all over the nation.

Since the war, the tendency toward extensive suburbanization of large areas of the formerly rural sections of town and further influx of people from the more heavily urbanized center of the state and elsewhere in the country has, with some fluctuation, continued. New industries have arrived, a commercial highway strip has grown along Post Road, and a large park (surrounding Belleville Pond) and a state park have been founded. Areas which had been farmed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and overgrown by woods in recent times are in the process of subdivision for houses.

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NAME: Camp Endicott Historic District LOCATION: Davisville Construction Battalion Center

(Entered on the National Register, 10/19/78; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

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NAME: Crowfield Historic District LOCATION: Boston Neck Road OWNERS: Multiple; see owners list on file at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission CONDITION: Excellent; Altered; Original Site

Item number

7

#### . DESCRIPTION:

Continuation sheet

The Crowfield Historic District encompasses a small cluster of early 20th-century shingled houses set on the gentle, wooded slope between Boston Neck Road and the Narragansett Bay shore. The houses are set well back from Boston Neck Road and are reached via dirt tracks through the woods which screen the houses from the road and from each other. The district includes four houses: Crowfield, Jamieson House, Champ de Corbeau, and Orchard House, and their dependencies all constructed as second residences between 1906 and 1924. All are 1½- to 2½-stories, wood-frame structures, covered with shingles, and built in simplified versions of the Shingle Style.

Dry-laid stone walls, some of which pre-date the houses, thread through the woods surrounding the houses. The buildings of the district have been little altered since construction.

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Contributing structures are defined as those constructed during the period of significance, 1906-1924, during which Crowfield was developed as a summer residential area for the Cope family and their associates.

BOSTON NECK ROAD

Crowfield (1906, c. 1915): A 2-story shingled house, designed by Philadelphia architect James P. Jamieson for Eliza Cope. The house is rectangular with a high gambrel roof, slightly flared at the eaves and pierced by several dormers which light the second floor. Two asymmetrically-placed brick chimneys rise above the roof. The center entrance is deeply recessed under a porch protruding from the east elevation, and is flanked on each side by three large, nearly square windows. The interior is plainly finished: ornamentation is minimal, fireplaces have no mantels, the stairway has treads but no risers, and the doors are re-used and all different, perhaps coming from Pennsylvania or Europe. A lower, gambrel-roofed extension from the northwest corner houses a kitchen and was added around the time of World War I by the architect Thomas Cope, son of Eliza Cope.

\* see letter from RD Cope, 27 Sept 89, genfile.

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Boston Neck Road (cont)

- \_\_\_\_Jamieson\_House\_(1906): Built simultaneously\_to\_Crowfield and designed by the same architect--here building for his own family--Jamieson House is smaller than the Copes' house. One-and-a-half stories, it is complexly-massed: a small, gambrel-roof section is nearest the bay and stands almost independent of the flank-gable roofed mass behind it. At a right angle to the latter is an ell covered by another gambrel roof. Dormers, chimneys, a variety of door and window shapes, and a mixture of shingle and clapboard covering, add further variety to the building's composition. Several simple, shingled outbuildings are located on the property.
- 1600 Champ de Corbeau (1905-1910): A large, 2½-story shingled house, designed by New York (and Saunderstown) architect Grant Lafarge for his friend Owen Wister. Set under a wide gambrel roof, the house is rectangular in mass and covered in shingles; a large wing projects from the northwest corner. The house has an asymmetrical facade on its (west) entrance side, with the entry set under a flat-roofed porch with Tuscan columns. The more formal eastern elevation faces the bay, with its center Colonial Revival entrance, projecting first floor bays, and symmetrically arranged windows and dormers.

A small caretaker's house, constructed with the main house and designed by the same architect, is set to the west of Champ de Corbeau. It is a one-and-one half-story, shingled building with a gambrel roof echoing that of the larger house. A recessed veranda runs along the east side.

Orchard House (1924; 1950s): The smallest of the summer houses in Crowfield Historic District, Orchard House was built originally for Oliver Cope and Derrick January. Two stories high, it has the shingled walls and gambrel roof which are characteristic of the district. The entrance is recessed under a southeast corner porch with a low pyramidal roof. A 1-story gable-roofed addition (from the 1950s) is attached to the house by a covered walkway.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1900-AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Literature, Other; Recreation SPECIFIC DATES: 1906, 1909-1910, 1924 BUILDER/ARCHITECT: See inventory entries

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Crowfield Historic District is significant as a well-preserved early twentieth-century summer resort compound built for members and friends of an extended family and for its association with Owen Wister, author of the first popular western novel. The district is unusual in North

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Kingstown where resort development ordinarily consisted of isolated houses or was oriented to earlier seacoast villages.

Crowfield began in 1906 when Philadelphian Eliza Middleton Cope, widow of architect Walter Cope, joined\*her aunt\*Mary and uncle Owen Wister in the purchase of one hundred and twenty acres from the heirs of Oliver Greene. They named the property "Crowfield" after the estate of an English ancestor. Mrs. Cope immediately began plans for a summer house which also became known as Crowfield. The architect was James P. Jamieson, who had been the chief draftsman in Walter Cope's architectural firm and became a partner after the death of Walter Cope. Simultaneously, Jamieson began construction on his own house at Crowfield. By 1920 the house had been sold to Eliza Cope and soon thereafter became the home of her daughter Elizabeth Cope and her husband Dr. Joseph Aub, a Boston physician.

Owen Wister began construction on his house Champ de Corbeau, designed by Grant LaFarge (a friend and former neighbor in Saunderstown). in 1909-1910. It was not occupied until 1913. Wister was already an important figure in American literary life as author of The Virginian (1902), a popular Western, the stage version of which played for years, and of a non-fiction best seller about European politics at the time of World War I.

The last addition to the Crowfield Historic District was the 1924 Orchard House, built for Derrick January and Oliver Cope, son of Elizabeth Cope.

Crowfield today is little changed from the early decades of the twentieth century. Some major alterations have been made to the houses but they are for the most part well preserved. Equally important is the setting; there have been on intrusions constructed and the woods separating the houses from each other and the road have been preserved as have the views to the shore of the Narragansett Bay which originally attracted the Cope family. Crowfield remains a peaceful, scenic summer retreat.

ACREAGE: c. 56.3 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM REFERENCES:

19 А 298280 4600930 B 19 298250 4600680 С 19 297400 4600270 D 19297230 4600500

\* see letter from RD Cope, 27 Sept 89. Sen file

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#### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Crowfield Historic District has been drawn to encompass all those properties associated with the development of the district as a summer resort compound and, in addition, some land which has been associated historically with these properties. This land, still wooded as it was during the period of significance, is an important component of the setting of the district's building; its inclusion within the district documents the environmental and visual relationship of the houses to each other, to the road, and, most importantly, to the water's edge which originally prompted a summer settlement here.

All numbers refer to plats/lots: The boundary begins at the southwest corner of 42/201, proceeds north along the east side of Boston Neck Road to the northwest corner of 42/197, west along the north lines of 42/197 and 42/196 to the northeast corner of 42/196; then southeast along the east, north, and east lines of 42/196 and 42/194, then east along the north line of 42/190 to the shore of Narragansett Bay, south along the shore to the southeast corner of 42/190, then west along the south lines of 42/190, 42/187, and 42/201 to the point of beginning.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

Photo numbers 1-5

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NAME: Davisville Historic District LOCATION: Davisville Road Owners: Multiple; see owners list or file at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CONDITION: Good, Excellent; Altered; Original site, except 277 Davisville Road, moved 1856, within the district.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Davisville Historic District along both sides of Davisville Road south of Hunts River, is an area of fields, woodland, the site of a nineteenth-century textile mill (and earlier grist mill), five well-preserved eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings, a cemetery and the sites of some additional mill nineteenth century houses.

The district includes a mill site, used since 1700, first for a gristmill, later for a textile manufacture. The district's five houses are all 2½-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame structures, dating from 1715 through the 1850s. Most are set back only slightly (20-30 feet) from Davisville Road, which has been widened several times; however, there is a short by-pass on the west side of the road, passing in front of 277 and 299 and divided from the road by a narrow greensward; it documents the relationahip of some of the district's buildings to the early road and suggests the character of the road before its widening and straightening. The Joshua Davis House, 296 Davisville Road, is set far back, about 200 feet from the road. On both sides of the road, the houses are backed by woods; and cleared fields on the west side of the road, the woods stretch back to Hunts River. Some fine dry-laid stone walls divide 299 and 277 Davisville Road from the road, and outline the Davis family cemetery set behind 299.

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Contributing buildings are defined as those dating from the period of Davisville's development as a small, rural milling hamlet. There are no non-contributing structures and the district retains to a large extent its nineteenth-century setting: the close integration of woods, cleared fields and houses; the relationship of the houses to the road and to one another; graveled and dirt paths leading to the houses from the road. The North Kingstown Planning Commission has granted permission for the development of a housing subdivision on the east side of Davisville Road (between 296 and 350) but the land has not yet been platted. The path of a proposed access road has been cleared from Davisville Road to the east building of the district.

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#### DAVISVILLE ROAD

Mill Site (1700-1929): The mill site at Davisville, set on the south side of Hunts River near the Davisville Road Bridge, has been used since an eighteenth-century gristmill operated here. Today only the mill trench lined with dry-laid rubble, some foundations and what appears to be fragments of the mill's turbine remain. The mill was demolished in the 1970s as the site has been little disturbed since then, it appears to be a good candidate for future archeological investigations.

Mill House Sites (mid-19th century): The west side of Davisville Road, north of 277, was the site of several houses owned in the late 19th century by the Davises' company and presently used to house company's workers. Probably demolished in the 1920s or 1930s, the outlines of some foundations remain. It is unlikely that their sites have been heavily disturbed since demolition and, in the future, they may prove good candidates for archeological investigation. Together with the mill site and the remaining owners' workers' houses would help to complete the portrait of mill life at Davisville.

- 277 Ezra Davis House (1805): A 2½-story, central-entry central-chimney, Federal house with a doorway with fanlight under pediment and fluted pilasters. This, the second Davis house in Davisville, was moved about 1500 feet north in 1856 when Bellefield (299 Davisville Road) was built. The interior, whose finish is now much altered, is arranged in the typical 5-room, center chimney plan.
- Joshua Davis House (c. 1715 and 1820): This 2-story clapboarded .296 house with an unusual plan was built in stages, beginning in the early eighteenth century as Joshua Davis' home. The plan of the older, western part is unusual for an eighteenth-century house, with its chimney well off center: the five rooms are grouped asymmetrically around the large chimney rather than following the typical centerchimney plan. Restoration architect John Hutchins Cade, who restored the house for Rhode Island historian, William Davis Miller in 1948, believed that the beaded, encased summer beam and exposed girts in one of the rooms of the western section might have originally been the frame of a two-story, two-room stone-ender, a house type characteristic of Rhode Island's first building period. This could explain the unusual plan. Later in the eighteenth century the house was nearly doubled by an addition to the east built by the second Joshua The house is set back from the road, and the property also Davis. includes a barn, a shed, and a handsome picket fence.

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#### DAVISVILLE ROAD (cont)

299 Bellefield (1856; barn, 1883): An unusually well preserved and substantial, 2½-story, Victorian house typical of the mid-1850s in its mixing of Greek Revival form with bracketed Italianate detailing: the corner posts with recessed panels are typical of the earlier period as is the pedimented treatment of the facade, while the brackets under eaves and window hoods are characteristic of the later style. A onestory, flat-roofed, open veranda wraps around the front and the sides. The interior is handsomely finished and little altered since the 1890s.

Outbuildings, including an early shed and a barn, are strung in a row behind the rear ell. Across the drive and north of the house is a clapboarded barn built in 1883 and ornamented by patterned shingles, with a delicate cupola centered on its cross-gable roof. West of the house is the Davis family burial ground, set at the edge of cleared fields and woods.

- 345 Henry Sweet House (ca. 1850): This is a 2½-story clapboarded, endgable house. The house is a far less exuberant example than Bellefield of the transition between the Greek Revival and bracketed styles. Corner posts and a closed pediment front are conservative as is the modest application of brackets under the eaves. A two-story ell with a modern fieldstone porch extends from the south side of the structure's main, two-and-one-half story mass. An unusual lattice screen with a Palladian motif, probably early twentieth century, connects the house to a large shed in the rear. Further back from the road is a barn with a jerkinhead roof erected in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.
- 350 Albert S. Reynolds House (ca. 1850). A simple, clapboarded, Greek Revival, 3-bay house. A 2-story ell projects from the 2-story, endgable main section. A glazed porch and entrance portico were added in the 20th century.

PÉRIOD: 1700-1799; 1800-1899 AREÁS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Industry SPECIFIC DATES: c. 1715, 1805, 1847, c. 1850,1856 BUILDER/ARCHITECT: See inventory entries

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

Davisville is a diminutive linear hamlet, significant for its early and long history of water-powered milling, for its ability to document the visual aspect of a small nineteenth-century industrial village which never grew into a substantial development, and for the



architectural quality of its constituent buildings.

Milling had taken place at this location on Hunts River since 1700 when Joshua Davis operated a gristmill here. Davis' first house (in East Greenwich to the north) is gone, but his second dwelling dating from c. 1715 remains, embedded in a series of later additions. From 1811 to 1824, Ezra and Jeffrey Davis operated a water-powered woolen loom, one of the earliest in the state, an enterprise which developed from Jeffrey Davis' previous ventures in carding and dressing wool for home weaving. The early mill burned in 1847 and was replaced by a small wooden mill where manufacturing by the firm of Davis, Reynolds & Company continued until 1924; The mill's principal product was "Kentucky jean." The mill was demolished in the 1970s, but its trench and some remnants of its gatehouse remain.

The small-scale prosperity of Davisville produced a series of well-preserved houses associated with the Davis family: Joshua, Davis' c. 1715 house, later enlarged by a second Joshua Davis' the 1805 Federal house built by Ezra Davis; James Davis' handsome 1856 Bellefield; the c. 1850 house built by Henry Sweet, son-in-law of Ezra Davis and superintendant of the mill; and the simple Albert Reynold's house (c. 1850), built by the Davises' partner. A series of small workers' cottages, a stove, and a post office which once stood on the west side of the road are gone, but the remarkable collection of houses which are left document the presence here of a small industrial operation, owned and managed by members of a single family for over three centuries. The five residences erected by the Davis family and business associates not only reflect the profits of the milling enterprises, they are in themselves architecturally noteworthy. The Joshua Davis House is particularly interesting as it appears to have evolved from a stone-ender, a characteristic early Rhode Island house type. The three Davis houses (277, 296, and 299 Davisville Road) and their outbuildings exhibit high quality craftsmanship and fine design, and are well preserved. The other residences (345 and 350 Davisville Road), while not as outstanding, are nonetheless good examples of mid-nineteenth century construction and they are visually and historically related to Davisville. Together, the five properties form an impressive display of architectural styles popular in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In the 1870s, the Davis family sold some of their land to the south to O. S. Briggs, who platted lots and sold them; Reynolds Manufacturing Company built a steam-powered mill here; and eventually the newer village (also called Davisville) overtook in size and import its early neighbor.

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Approximately 30 acres. ACREAGE: QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM REFERENCES: А 19 293800 4601400 19 В 293570 4610480 С 19 293200 4610210 D 19 293020 4610680

#### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Davisville Historic District has been drawn to include the remaining structures historically associated with the Davis family's occupation and use of the mill site on Hunts River and some land which is historically associated with those structures and which documents their historic environmental setting. The boundary excludes some modern residential development, especially along the north side of Charles Street and includes some wooded land on the west side of Davisville Road which, according to 19th-century maps, was the site of a small group of workers' houses, since demolished (at a date unknown, but probably early 20th century) this cluster may be a candidate for future archeological investigation.

Item number

All numbers refer to plats/lots: The boundary begins at the southeast corner of 154/3, proceeds west along the south line of 154/3, across Davisville Road, and along the south line of 152/46, north along the west line of 152/46, west along the south line of 152/1 to the point where the line turns southwest; proceeding across 152/1 to the west corner of the historic cemetery, northeast and southeast along the cemetery bounds to the north line of 152/1, then west along the north line of 152/1 to the southwest corner of 152/13, north along the east line of 152/13, 152/11, crossing 152/10, along the east line of 152/12, east along the north line of 152/12, crossing Davisville Road, north along the west lines of 152/13 and 153/1 to Hunts River, east along the river to a point opposite the northeast corner of 153/13, then south across 153/1, along the east line of 153/13 to the southeast corner of 153/13, then south to the northeast corner of 154/3, crossing 153/1, passing south along the east line of 154/3 to the point of beginning.

Level of Significance: State

Photo numbers 7-12

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NAME: Hamilton Mill Village Historic District LOCATION: Boston Neck Road, Salisbury and Webb Avenues

(Entered on the National Register, 11/3/83; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

 

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NAME: Lafayette Village Historic District LOCATION: Bounded by Mill Cove, Wickford Harbor and Cove, the railroad right-of-way, Tower Hill and Post Roads

Entered on the National Register, 12/31/74; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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LOCATION: Boston Neck Road, Briggs Road, Cavanaugh Court, Church Way, Ferry Lane, Ferry Road, Gould Way, Keeley Road, Saunders Road, Stillman Road, Waterway, Waterway Extension, Willett Road

Item number

7

OWNERS: See list on file at R.I. Historical Preservation Commission CONDITION: Good, Excellent; Altered; Original site, except 18 Waterway, moved within district

#### DESCRIPTION:

Saunderstown is a large historic district, containing 92 structures, most dating from the late nineteenth century, when the area served as a boat-building center, and the early twentieth century, when it became a summer resort. For the most part, houses are one-and-a-halfor two-stories, clapboarded or shingled, vernacular cottages or simple versions of popular architectural styles from the 1870s through the 1920s. The district is set in the southeast corner of North Kingstown, on a slope leading to the shores of Narragansett Bay.

Boston Neck Road crosses diagonally (southwest to northeast) at the western edge of Saunderstown; a small cluster of the district's buildings are set west of this major road. The district's three major roads are Ferry Road, which connects Boston Neck Road to the shore, and the Waterway and Willet Road which run parallel to the shore. The community is largely residential, though a tiny community center (Post Office and Town Recreation Building) is located at the intersection of Boston Neck Road and Ferry Road.

Houses are set on large lots, often well back from the road, and the landscape is still rough and semi-rural. Wooded areas visually separate many of the houses from each other and the roads. Streets are small and narrow, without sidewalks, and, in some cases, unpaved (some are not, in fact, public roads but remain private ways). Fine, dry-laid stone walls thread throughout the district, most marking lot lines, drives, or the road edge; some walls may document earlier agricultural uses of the land as they appear to mark field divisions.

#### INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Contributing structures are defined as those which are relatively well preserved and which date from the period of Saunderstown's development as a late 19th-century boat-building center and early 20th-century summer resort. Few new structures were added to Saunderstown during the Continuation sheet

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1930s, but throughout the 1940s to the present, building has continued in the area and Saunderstown is now becoming a year-round residential village. Many of the houses constructed since the 1940s are fine examples of how modern construction need not destroy the historic character of a district--their scale, materials, and siting respect the earlier buildings. A few of the newer houses are characteristic of the forms of development, such as suburban tracts. However, all of these later buildings have been defined as technically non-contributing; none meets the test of exceptionality, although many are attractive and sympathetic. Only a few are real intrusions on the historic character of the district, but they describe a later stage in the development of Saunderstown which, while not unimportant, is not so significant as the earlier stages. This accounts for the relatively large number of non-contributing structures; it should be understood that, while these buildings do not add in an exceptional manner to the district's character, neither do they significantly detract from it. When buildings from the period of significance are well preserved except for re-siding with vinyl or aluminum, they are described as contributing.

Item number

#### BOSTON NECK ROAD

- 2500 Saunderstown Country Store (c. 1914): A simple, 2½-story, shingled and clapboarded commercial building.
- 2549 Former Fire Barn, now Town Recreation Building (c. 1900): This simple, 2-story, shingled building was a community hall for theatricals, dances, and public suppers before 1905, when it was converted into a fire barn. By 1909, it housed the first motorized fire apparatus in southern Rhode Island. After the construction of a new Saunderstown fire station in the mid-1960s, it once again became a recreation center.
- 2590 Henry S. Newcombe House (1921): A 2½-story, Colonial Revival house designed by Jackson, Robertson and Adams of Providence, set well back on a private drive, and built on the foundation of the 17th-century Willet-Carpenter House. Owen Wister wrote most of his novel <u>Lady</u> <u>Baltimore</u> here but was dissuaded from purchasing the Carpenter House when the Misses Carpenter insisted upon a deed restriction forbidding alcohol on the premises.
- 2600 House (c. 1900): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, gambrel-roofed structure with monitor dormers and a recessed front porch. North of the house is a small guest cottage, c. 1960 and non-contributing.

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#### CAVANAUGH COURT

- 1 House (c. 1915): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story bungalow with wide clapboards, a partially recessed porch around the southeast corner, and broad, shed-roofed dormers on the slopes of the gable roof.
- 2 House (c. 1915): Once similar to #4, this house has been altered by enclosure of its veranda, installation of a bay window, and vinyl siding.
- 3 House (c. 1915): A large gable projects from the front roof slope of this 1½-story, flank-gable-roofed house. The roof's exposed rafters cover a small veranda and are supported by piers of concrete blocks cast to simulate stone. The same type of blocks are used for the foundation. Clapboards cover the lower section of the house, with shingles appearing above.
- 4 House (c. 1915): Similar to #3, but somewhat smaller. It has a veranda across the entire front elevation.
- 5 House (c. 1915): Similar to #3, with a full front veranda; completely sheathed in shingles.
- 6 House (c. 1930): The jerkinhead roof of this small house is echoed by a jerkinhead door hood; a flat-roofed addition is set to the east.

#### CHURCH WAY

- 5 House (c. 1870): A 2-story, gable-roofed cottage with a veranda edging the east and south sides.
- 36 House (c. 1935): A 1<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>-story, shingled house with a screened porch to the east.
- 60 House (c. 1935): A gable roof covers this 1½-story, shingled residence.
- 70 House (c. 1935, c. 1945 additions): This 1½-story, shingled residence evolved from a 1-room cottage that was enlarged following the second World War.

#### FERRY ROAD

4 House (c. 1900): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, gable-roofed house, covered with painted shingles and set on a stone foundation.

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Ferry Road (cont.)

- 20 Saunderstown Post Office, former Narragansett Baptist Church (1902): This 1-story, hipped-roof building with a 2-story, hipped-roof entrance tower was built in 1902 as a Baptist mission chapel. It became the Narragansett Baptist Church in 1908 when a large part of the congregation which had met at the South Ferry Baptist Church moved here. The tower was once open on the upper level with arched arcades.
- 53 William S. Nichols House (c. 1900): A cross-gable roof, its broad eaves cantilevered out by long, exposed modillions, covers this 2story residence which is clapboarded on the first floor and shingled above. A veranda, which stretches along the north elevation and wraps around both corners, is supported by turned posts. A large wing was added to the south soon after the house was built; an attached garage has been built recently.
- 54 Saunders-Arnold House (c. 1855): This house was built by Stephen Saunders, one of four Saunders brothers who settled in the area around 1855, and had been owned by the Arnold family since 1865. The 2½story house is gable-roofed; two small gables break the eave line of the facade; a front porch is now enclosed.
- 69 Reuben Garlick House (c. 1900): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house that is clapboarded on the first floor and shingled above. A veranda with turned posts faces Ferry Road.
- 99 Martin Saunders House (c. 1880): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house with a large ell to the rear and a veranda around the east and north sides. The lowest row of shingles has a zigzag edge where the second floor shingle covering meets the clapboards on the first floor. This house belonged to the Saunders family until 1960.
- 116 House (c. 1890): A 2½-story house with irregular massing; staggered shingles under the east gable accent the shingled exterior. A 1story screened porch wraps around the east and south sides. The house is set far back from Ferry Road on a private lane.
- 122 House (c. 1915): A 2½-story, 5-bay house covered by a gable roof. A 1-story polygonal bay projects to the east. To the south and east a deck has been added.
- 136 House (c. 1915): The Georgian Revival proportions of this cubical, 2-story house are unusual in Saunderstown. The Tuscan-columned veranda runs along the south and part of the east elevations.

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Ferry Road (cont.)

- 137 House (c. 1910): A 2-story, shingled building with a veranda that runs across the front gable end and continues along the east side. A 1-story addition is set to the south. The building was used as a guest house for the John Dennis estate (28 Waterway) in the 1920s.
- 161 Daniel Saunders-Benoni Lockwood House (c.1855 and later): A rambling, 2-story, clapboarded house with several gables and eaves edged with decorated vergeboards. The core of the house was built by Daniel Saunders, one of the four brothers who came to Willettville (Saunderstown) in 1855 to found a marine railway and shipyard. After 1875, the house was occupied by Major Benoni Lockwood of New York, the first out-of-state summer resident in Saunderstown and creator, with his many friends and relations, of the Saunderstown summer community.
- 166 Saunders Homestead (c. 1853, 1930s): A 2-story, gambrel-roofed house with a projecting 2-story entrance bay with a pedimented, 2-story entrance bay and a large 2nd-story window over the front door, partially screened by a balustrade. This was the home of Captain John Aldrich Saunders, Jr., who moved to Willettville (Saunderstown) in 1855 in order to create the marine railway and shipyard. Stillman Saunders, steam ferry designer and founder of both the Narragansett Transportation Company and the Saunders House Hotel, later lived here. The house was at first a 2-story, gable-roofed cottage which was expanded and given the popular gambrel roof in the 1930s.
- 176 House (c. 1880): This 1½-story, clapboarded structure has a crossgable roof. A veranda wrapping around the south, east, and north elevations is partially enclosed.
- 185 Bay Cottage (c. 1890): A fine example of picturesque late nineteenthcentury design. A veranda overlooking the bay to the east wraps around the sides. A polygonal tower projects from the northeast corner, topped by a flared, pointed roof. The 2½-story, hip-roofed house also features hip-roofed dormers, corbelled chimneys, an inset balcony on the southeast corner of the second floor, and Colonial Revival detailing. The house was probably built by Edgar Logan, who worked at the Saunderstown shipyard.

Willow Tea Cottage (1889): A veranda wraps around the gable end of this 1½-story, shingled structure that overlooks the bay. Above the veranda an unusual rectangular bay projects from the east facade. An ell extends to the north. The cottage was built and operated in conjunction with the Saunders House, once directly to the north, and continued to serve refreshments after the hotel was demolished in 1933.

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#### GOULD WAY

- 21 House (early 20th century): A 1½-story, shingled residence with a large veranda on the east and south.
- 22 Gould-Osborne House (c. 1900 with later changes): The original part of this house was built as a caretaker cottage for the LaFarge estate and occupied by Alfonzo Gould, a retired sailor. The house later was occupied by Margaret LaFarge Osborne and was much added to and much remodeled, some of it in a Colonial Revival mode by architect (and Osborne cousin) Alexander Knox.
- 30 House (c. 19 0): Built as a barn and servants quarters for #22, this is a 1-story, shingled building.
- 31 House(c. 1900): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, gable-roofed house with a screened veranda on the east and a 1-story extension, including a garage, to the west.

KELLEY ROAD (a private path linking Church Way with Old Boston Neck Road)

A. Livingston Kelley House (1928): A 1-story, flank-gable house. Kelley and the neighboring Staley family built houses at the same time and established a cooperative farm further down the road. The land was not divided until the 1970s.

#### SAUNDERS ROAD

- 12 House (c. 1935): A shed dormer displaying exposed rafters and staggered butt shingles runs across the entire front roof slope of this 1½-story, gable-roofed house. The house and its front veranda are on a high foundation.
- 18 House (c. 1900): This gambrel-roofed, shingled house has had an exterior brick chimney added in the past decade.
- 24 House (c. 1890): This 2-story house has a tall, steeply pitched, gable roof. The walls of the house are greatly recessed to create a broad piazza. Turned posts and carved brackets support the overhanging eaves.

#### STILLMAN ROAD

2 House (c. 1920): A 2½-story, shingled building with shed-roofed dormers protruding from the gable roof. An enclosed veranda runs across the south side.

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#### Stillman Road

- 7 House (c. 1905): The gable roof of this 2-story structure has rafters exposed beneath the eaves. A garage is incorporated into the first floor, and a porch extends to the east.
- 22 House (c. 1890): A large, 2½-story, gable-roofed structure that, judging from its irregular massing, has probably experienced some alterations. It was perhaps constructed in conjunction with the Saunders House.
- 32 House (c. 1915): Vinyl siding covers this bungalow which features a broad, flank-gable roof with a shed-roofed dormer, a deeply recessed porch, and a foundation of cast concrete blocks.
- 40 House (1889): A steeply-pitched gable roof covers this L-shaped, 1½-story cottage, built as part of the Saunders House complex.

#### WATERWAY

- 10 Captain George Kenyon House (mid-19th century, later alterations): The gambrel roof of this 2½-story house and the combination of clapboard and shingle wall covering probably date from about half a century after the initial consturction of the house in the mid-1800s.
- 18 House (c. 1895; moved and additions after 1912): This 1½- and 2½story house has a polygonal bay, pendant drops, broad eaves, and vertical board siding. The building originally housed the Saunderstown post office and probably stood near the intersection of Ferry and Saunders Roads. It was moved after 1912 to its present location and a large rear section was added.
- 22 House (c. 1895): A 1½-story, clapboarded cottage on a high foundation. On the south a veranda runs across the 3-bay facade, and shedroofed dormers break the eave line of the gable roof.
- 25 Captain Alfonso Gould House (c. 1850): A 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, clapboarded house which was rented by Owen Wister before he built his own house at Crowfield.
- 28 John Dennis House (c. 1900): This large, 2½-story, cross-gambrelroofed house overlooking the water has had several additions. Inset cut shingles create diamond patterns under the gambrel ends.

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#### Waterway (cont.)

- Garlick-Wharton House (late 19th and early 20th centuries): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>story, L-plan, shingled house that was built in three stages in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The core of the house belonged to Captain Charles H. Garlick in the 1880s. The house was later owned by Frances Willing Wharton, a daughter of Benoni Lockwood and a once well known story writer, and her husband Henry T. Wharton. The Whartons were cousins of the novelist Edith Wharton who visited here frequently.
- 174 Spindrift (c. 1893): A large, 2½-story, gambrel-roofed, shingled, summer house built by H.B. Dexter, a Pawtucket lumber merchant. A large shingled garage/apartment stands by the road.

#### WILLETT ROAD

- 5 House (c. 1890): A 2-story, gambrel-roofed, shingled cottage. Ballon-post newels flank the stairs leading to the veranda which is recessed on the east and south sides.
- 8 House (c. 1925): A tiny shingled cottage on a concrete block foundation.
- 15 Harry Saunders House (c. 1890): A 2-story, flank-gable house with a large gable centered in the front over a full-length veranda. There is a rear ell.
- 19 House (c. 1895): A gambrel-roofed, shingled cottage with a porch extending from the front. A large ell extends to the rear.
- 25 House (c. 1900): A 2-story, end-gable structure with a wing to the south. Recent alterations include addition of a bay window to the wing and vinyl siding.
- 34 House (c. 1925): A 2-story, gable-roofed structure, sheathed in shingles, with a first floor veranda. It is set well back from the road.
- 35 House (c. 1870): A 2-story, flank-gable-roofed structure with a handsome bracketed porch to the east and south and a large rear ell. Shingles cover the second floor, clapboards the first.
- 42 House (c. 1890): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- and 2-story, gable-roofed structure set back from the road. Clapboards cover the first floor, with staggered butt shingles above.

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Willett Road (cont.)

- 45 House (c. 1890): A 2-story, shingled residence with an end-gable roof and a large, hip-roofed ell to the north.
- 54 "Rest Cottage" (c. 1890): This 2-story, gable-roofed structure was built by the Women's Christian Temperance Movement. Some decorative elements were unfortunately removed when vinyl siding was applied. A diagonal bay projecting from the southeast is surrounded by a veranda on the first floor.
- 65 Chapel of Saint John the Divine (1895, 1971): Land for this picturesque, gable-roofed, shingled chapel, with its pyramidal-roofed bell tower, was given by the Misses Carpenter, descendants of the Willett family, as a memorial to their sister. Elisha M. Robinson of Wakefield was the builder and the Reverend Philip M. Prescott, a summer resident from Washington, D.C., who donated \$2,200 to the building, oversaw its construction. Rockwell K. du Moulin was architect of a sympathetic new wing.
- 66 House (c. 1910): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival house, with large shed dormer. A door with sidelights is centered in the 5-bay facade. A wing extends to the northwest.
- 72 Thomas J. Gould House (c. 1870): Second floor windows break the eave line of this gable-roofed house and create gabled dormers. The shingled structure stands close to the road, the property edged by a tall stone wall.
- 75 St. Stephen's House (1902): A large, 2-story, gable-roofed, shingled house with central chimney and front porch. The house was originally owned by St. Stephen's Church.
- 90 Adolphe Borie House (1903): A large, 2-story, frame house with a hip roof. It was designed by the Philadelphia firm Zantzinger, Borie and Medary, for architect Borie's brother, Adolphe Borie, a well known artist. Some windows have been modernized and the porch on the south side filled in. Another building on the property was once a barn but has been converted into a residence. A handsome peacock weathervane is perched atop the latter's cupola.
- 126 House (c. 1920): A steep, cross-gambrel roof covers this 2-story, shingled house, which has a large glazed porch extending to the southeast and a Tuscan columned veranda to the southwest. A small carriage/ caretaker's house near the road was built in the 1920s and also has a gambrel roof.

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Willett Road (cont.)

- 140 House (c. 1924): A tall gambrel roof with a broad shed dormer covers this 2½-story, clapboarded house. The recessed east porch overlooks a wide lawn that slopes to the Waterway. An ell has been added to the north.
- 156 House (1924): Similar to #140, but it has no northern ell and is shingled.

INVENTORY OF NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

BRIGGS ROAD

- 29 "The Shack" (c. 1940): A 1-story cottage with painted shingle sheathing and low gable roofs over its several sections.
- 44 House (c. 1950): A gable roof covers the irregular massing of this shingled residence.
- 56 House (c. 1945): A small, 1-story, shingled cottage.

CAVANAUGH COURT

16 Cottage (c. 1940): A low, shed-roofed dormer extends along the gable roof of this 1½-story house. The roof pitch flattens to cover a veranda on the east.

CHURCH WAY

- 20 House (c. 1955): A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, shingled residence with a gable roof.
- 35 House (c. 1966): A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story residence with a 1-story section connected to the northwest by an open deck.
- 76 House (c. 1965): A 5-bay, Colonial-style house with a second-floor overhang. A garage is attached to the north.

FERRY LANE

- 3½ House (c. 1950): A shingled, 1½-story, gable-roofed house with a large shed-roofed projection from the southern roof slope.
- 33 House (c. 1950): A steep gable roof covers this 1-story house, which has a lower extension to the north and an asymmetrical gable hood over the front door. At each end under the gable is an unusual thin,

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Ferry Lane (cont.)

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round-headed window with a keystone detail.

#### FERRY ROAD

- 33 House (c. 1950): A 1-story, gable-roofed house.
- 80 Winslow Ames House (1958): This modern shed-roofed house, clad in weathered vertical boarding was designed by Rhode Island architect Rockwell K. du Moulin for art historian Winslow Ames.
- 100 House (c. 1955): A broad driveway leads to the double garage which, owing to a slope, is set under the main floor of the house. A low gable roof covers the L-shaped plan.
- 110 House (c. 1945): A 1<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>-story, gable-roofed residence. The front roof slope has a large shed dormer.
- 131 House (c. 1950): Separated from Ferry Road by a large lawn, this is a 2-story, gable-roofed structure.
- 156 House (c. 1960): This 1-story, gable-roofed house with vertical board siding rests on a high concrete basement. An exterior stone chimney rises to the south.
- 190 House (c. 1940): A 1<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>-story, gable-roofed, shingled house set back from the road. A garage is attached to the west.

#### WATERWAY

D.B. Wilson House (1950, 1968): The southern portion of this low, gable-roofed house was designed by the architect Alexander Knox in 1950; the northern section was added by Frederick Lansing Day of Boston in 1968. Horizontal flush board siding covers both sections. The house stands on the site of the Grant and Florence LaFarge house, which burned in 1945.

- 71 House (1954): The central section of this 1-story, cruciform plan house is slightly taller than the rest. A deck runs across the east facade. The house is sided with vertical boards.
- 77 House (1973): The broad eaves of the low gable roof of this 1-story house are supported by prominent cantilevers. A deck is attached to a pavillion extending eastward.

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Waterway (cont.)

- 78 House (1975): A gable roof form is created by joining right angle triangles back to back, which meet unevenly. The structure is covered with vertical boards.
- 110 House (1954): Vertical board siding covers this low, cross-gable house. To the east is a 1½-story, clapboarded structure that has a large stone chimney with a tapered brick cap. A 1½-story barn/residence by the road was built in 1965 and has a gambrel roof and clapboard siding.

WATERWAY EXTENSION

Saunderstown Yacht Club (1962): A long, gable-roofed building that extends parallel to the shoreline. The central section is taller; the entire building is covered in shingles. The building occupies the site of the Saunders House, built in 1889 and demolished in 1933, and the Saunders boatyard, active from about 1855 to 1911. The first clubhouse, erected shortly after the Saunders House was removed, was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane. The former Saunders House laundry shed was then converted and served as a clubhouse until the present structure was constructed.

WILLETT ROAD

- 8 House (c. 1945): A small shingled cottage.
- 95 House (c. 1955): A low, shingled structure with a large bay window.
- 110 House (c. 1965): A split-level house with a 2-story central gable, a double garage to the north, and a bay window in its south wing.

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PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1800-1899, 1900-AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Other: Community Development, Recreation SPECIFIC DATES: See inventory entries BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Various; see inventory entries

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

Saunderstown Historic District is significant as a small, late nineteenth-century boat-building center (one of several on Narragansett Bay) and as an early twentieth-century summer colony, whose residents were attracted by the historic character of the old village, the rough wooded setting, and the exceptional location on the Bay.

Like many areas of North Kingstown, Saunderstown was farmed throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. A major change was initiated in September, 1856, when John A. Saunders, Jr., his three brothers, Elias, Stephen, and Daniel, and William Caswell and Thomas J. Gould bought land here at what was then called Willettville, for the purpose of developing a marine railway and shipyard, The Saunders brothers were the sons of the shipwright John Aldrich Saunders who, first in Westerly and later in Newport, South Kingstown, and North Kingstown, built at least twenty-one sailing vessels, mostly for the coasting trade. At his North Kingstown site, near the Gilbert Stuart mill, Saunders had constructed the schooner Nonsuch, one of the most famous Rhode Island boats of the first half of the nineteenth century. The Saunders family, characterized by their descendant-historians as "compulsive boat designers and builders," kept at their trade at Willettville through John Aldrich Saunders, Jr., and, later, Stillman Saunders and his brothers. Between 1859 and 1874, three sloops were constructed at their shipyard, and many other vessels were repaired; their yard was located on the site now occupied by the Saunderstown Yacht Club. The six original settlers of the boat-building village had expanded to twenty families by 1878 in what by then was called Saunderstown. The male population was engaged in the coal trade, fishing, or in boatbuilding at the Saunders boatyard, which, by 1888, was run by the inventor and promoter Stillman Saunders.

Stillman Saunders, the colorful and dynamic moving spirit of his community in the first part of this century, designed six steam-screw ferry boats, construction of which was supervised by his brother, Martin Saunders. <u>The West Side</u>, the J.A. Saunders, the <u>Narragansett</u> and the 373-ton <u>Newport</u> carried people and goods from Saunderstown to Jamestown and to Newport. The <u>Newport</u>, built in 1907 for this run, was for some time the fastest and largest boat plying Narragansett Bay. The <u>Wyona</u> and <u>Anawon</u>, two earlier Saunders boats (1884 and 1893 respectively), were used principally on a Saunderstown-Wickford-Providence route.

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Capitalizing on his ferry buisness and, perhaps, taking a suggestion from the presence of Major Benoni Lockwood, a New Yorker who some fifteen years earlier had become Saunderstown's first summer resident, Stillman Saunders built in 1889 on part of the shipyard site, a hotel, Outre Mere, or Saunders House, and a group of dependent cottages. Travelers awaiting the next boat to Newport from the Saunders ferry wharf at the base of Ferry Road could stay overnight at the hotel. Some of them decided that the informal, working village-on-the-bay was more to their taste than their intended destination and stayed. Many of Saunders House's early guests were Benoni Lockwood's friends and became North Kingstown's most widely known residents.

Saunderstown's resort history is unique in North Kingstown for the national reputation in literary, artistic, and political realms of some of its denizens. Benoni Lockwood, who first rented (about 1875) and then purchased the Daniel Saunders House (161 Ferry Road), was a son of a Providence West India trader of the same name. Saunderstown's Benoni Lockwood came to North Kingstown to escape the consuming social life of Narragansett Pier, and his friends and family followed. His daughter, Frances Willing Wharton, a well-known story writer who published in magazines such as <u>Lippincott's</u> and <u>Cosmopolitan</u>, summered a little down Waterway, in the former home of her husband, Henry Wharton, a Philadelphia coal industrialist. The Whartons were cousins of the novelist Edith Wharton, who visited in Saunderstown from Newport.

Just south of the Wharton House stood the larger home of the Grant LaFarge family, which burned in 1945. Grant LaFarge was a son of a major American artist, John LaFarge of Newport, and was a well known New York architect. Grant LaFarge's wife, Florence, another Benoni Lockwood daughter, entertained the family's many friends and relations at daily croquet games followed by formal tea and her famous conversations, a university in talk for the numerous younger generation of the colony. President Theodore Roosevelt was a guest at the LaFarge house on several occasions, and Mrs. LaFarge was his guest at the White House.

The next generation of LaFarges included sons Christopher and Oliver who became authors. Christopher LaFarge's <u>Hoxie Sells His Acres</u> was a popular novel in verse published in 1934. In 1929, Oliver LaFarge won a Pulitzer Prize for <u>Laughing Boy</u>, a story about American Indians, and he is generally considered one of the most important ethnologists this country has ever produced. His preoccupation with Indian affairs may have begun during his boyhood summers in Saunderstown.

On the west side of the Waterway, at number 25, Owen Wister, a friend of Benoni Lockwood and the LaFarges, author of America's first western novel, <u>The Virginian</u>, rented the Captain Alfonso Gould House for ten years before building his own large summer house designed by Grant LaFarge two miles to

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the north (1600 Boston Neck Road). Wister was an important figure in American literary and political life early in the twentieth century as the author not only of a popular novel which generated years of traveling productions of its play version and several movies as well, but also of a nonfiction best seller about European politics at the time of World War I. Wister was a close friend of Theodore Roosevelt and was involved in diplomatic work in Europe. Other literary and artistic residents of Saunderstown, perhaps better known in their own day, lived in other modest shingle houses in this rustic bay-side setting, creating for themselves and their offspring memorable summers of vigorous outdoor pursuits--swimming, camping, hunting, fishing, riding-in--in the North Kingstown countryside, interspersed with equally vigorous discussions of matters scholarly, literary, and civic.

ACREAGE: c. 79 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM: A 19 298300 4597840 В 19 298010 4597340 С 19 297480 4597240 D 19 297360 4597600 297910 4598410 E 19 BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary of the Saunderstown Historic District is drawn to encompass the greatest number of buildings which have participated in the district's significance as a boat-building village and summer colony and th exclude, insofar as is feasible, buildings which do not contribute to its historic character. The district proposed for National Register listing does not include all the area popularly known in North Kingstown as "Saunderstown." While there are some older buildings to the north and west of the boundary, development in these areas is more scattered and less oriented to the shoreline of Narragansett Bay. Only a handful of buildings on the west side of Boston Neck Road are included in the district: the Saunderstown Post Office, the former Fire Barn, and a single house (4 Ferry Road). These are included since the Post Office and Fire Barn mark a tiny community center, because they have been historically associated with the summer colony, and because they serve as a visual "sign" on the principal road passing through the area that Saunderstown is located here--without these buildings, the historic district is well hidden from the major thoroughfare.

All numbers refer to lots in Plat 1: the boundary begins at the shore on the southeast corner of 148, proceeds west to the southwest corner of 165, north along the east side of Willett Road, to a point opposite the southeast corner of 71, west along the south line 71, south, west, and north around 52, west on the south line of 28, north along the west lines of 28, 21, and 26, west across 24 to Boston Neck Road, northeast along the east side of the road, crossing Boston Neck Road to the southeast corner of 19, north along that lot's west bound, across 3 to the west line of 17, across 3 again to the southwest corner of 14, north, east, and south around 14, and across Ferry

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Road; then east along the south line of Ferry Road, across Boston Neck Road to the southwest corner of 31, north along the east side of Boston Neck Road to the northwest corner of 53, then east along the north lines of 53, 74, 88, 89, 101, 102, 110, 111, 112, and 127, to the shore, then south to the point of beginning.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

Photo numbers: 13 - 19

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NAME: Shady Lea Historic District LOCATION: Shady Lea Road and Tower Hill Road OWNERS: Multiple; see list on file at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission CONDITION: Good; Altered; Original Site (except a corn crib at 1340 Tower Hill Road, moved, 1970s, within district)

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DESCRIPTION:

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The Shady Lea Historic District is a small, linear, nineteenthcentury milling hamlet set on the Pettaquamscutt River. A long, narrow district, Shady Lea's form is created by the Pettaquamscutt River, a relatively small stream which flows south through southern North Kingstown; at the north end of the district is the mill owner's house; at the southern end is Shady Lea Pond, created by draining the Pettasquamscutt. The district's buildings are located along the north-south axis created by Shady Lea Pond; at the north boundary is Tower Hill Road ( a muchwidened stretch of the old Post Road).

The west edge of the district is marked by the Shady Lea mill pond probably created in the 1820s. At the southern end of Shady Lea Pond is the Shady Lea Mill, a rambling, L-shaped, factory complex of wood, stone, and brick, mostly two stories high, with two stair towers, two engine buildings, and several outbuildings, all from the nineteenth century. The mill is now used for staple manufacture. A cluster of nineteenth-century double mill cottages is set east of the mill; several others are set along Shady Lea Road. Several modern houses at the northern end of Shady Lea Road (33, 39, and 47) have been built in the district.

Set at the north end of Shady Lea is the Rodman House, a large mansard-roofed structure. North of the Rodman House (on Tower Hill Road) is a large Rodman-built horse barn.

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Contributing structures are defined as those dating from the period of Shady Lea's significance as a small rural nineteenth-century mill village. All buildings are of frame construction unless otherwise indicated.

#### SHADY LEA ROAD

20 Charles Rodman House (mid-1860s): A 2½-story mansion with a mansard-roof, brackets under the eaves, first-floor bay window and veranda. Granite gateposts, picket fence, and fine trees maintain the Victorian setting. The house was apparently built by Charles

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#### SHADY LEA ROAD (cont)

Rodman; Robert Rodman lived here before moving to Lafayette village.

- . 63-69 Mill Tenement House (mid-19th century): 2½-story, flank gable, centered-double-entry-plan, multifamily dwelling with projecting bracketed door hoods, built to house workers at the Shady Lea mills.
  - 111 Mill Cottage (mid-19th-century): This is a 2-story flank gable, 5-bay residence, with a 1-story porch with square posts and small addition across its street facade. Small square windows, tucked under the eaves. A 1-story ell is attached to the rear.
  - 150 Mill Cottage (mid- to late 19th century): A 1½-story, 5-bay, flank-gable shingled house with dormers; its door is set at the center of the facade.
  - 162 Mill Cottage (mid- to late 19th-century): A small, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, 3-bay, flank-gable house with center door; the fenestration has been altered somewhat and vinyl siding applied.

Shady Lea Mill (before 1832 and throughout the 19th century) А rambling, L-shaped, factory complex of wood, stone, and brick, mostly two stories high, with two stair towers, two engine buildings, and several outbuildings, all from the 19th century. The earliest part of the mill (remains of a stone-and-wood building with some Federal 12-over-12 windows) was probably built by Esbon Sanford during the first third of the 19th century. It is now hidden within the mid-19th-century eastern end, with only a few Federal-style 6-over-6 windows showing to the right of the stair Several brick extensions to the west and south date from tower. a series of building campaigns of the second half of the century. Most of the sturdily crafted frame outbuildings were in place by These include the office, set to the west of the mill; 1883. stock houses, to the south; carpentry shop to the southwest; wheel turbine house attached to the southern end of the mill; and, across the Pettaquamscutt River, the smithy. Together, they form an unusually well-preserved mill complex.

- 203 Mill House (mid-19th century): A 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story, flank-gable, brick house, its flat front facade directly opposite the road from the mill; its narrow door is set in the center of the facade. A 2-story ell has been added to the rear.
- 233 Double Mill House (mid-19th century): A simple 1½-story, 8-bay, shingled house, with a flanking gable roof. Flat boards mark the corners and frame the two doors with transoms.

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SHADY LEA ROAD (cont)

234-236 Double Mill House (mid-19th century): Same as 233, except that it retains its original clapboard siding and has an ell to the north-west.

TOWER HILL ROAD

- 1340 Potpourri Potters, Former Rodman/Shady Lea Mill Barn (late 19thcentury): A modern pottery now occupies this handsome large barn, with clapboard wall cover, attached silo, jerkinhead gable roof, and cupola, probably built for the Rodman milling operations at Shady Lea. A corncrib (moved, 1977, from a nearby location on the farm) is set near the road; its wall cover and roof form repeat those of the larger barn. A small, shingled, gable-roofed shed is also set nearby.
- 1376 House (mid-19th century): A particularly fine 5-bay, 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with a handsome pilaster-and-architrave doorframe, panelled pilasters, large 2-over-2 window and a bracketed veranda on a rear ell.
- 1410 House (ca. 1865): A 1½-story, cross-gable house, with projecting front porch with turned posts and delicate brackets, first floor bay, trefoil bargeboards, and 2-over-2 sash.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

SHADY LEA ROAD

33 House (ca. 1955): A simple 1-story, flank-gable shingled house.
39 House (ca. 1955): A simple gable-roofed, 1-story house.
47 House (ca. 1955): A simple gable-roofed, 1-story house.
PERIOD: 1800-1899
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Industry
SPECIFIC DATES: Various (see inventory entries)

BUILDER: Various, unknown

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Shady Lea Historic District is significant for its ability to document a relatively well-preserved, nineteenth-century rural milling village, and for its association with the Rodman family's textile firm. Throughout the nineteenth century small textile mills were constructed

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on the waterways of North Kingstown and generated about themselves small villages to house mill workers; in North Kingstown few villages grew to substantial size and most remained small industrial outposts set in a rural landscape; Shady Lea is representative of this development pattern. The Rodman family was instrumental in the development of three of the town's villages: Shady Lea, Silver Spring (north of Shady Lea), and Lafayette (already entered on the National Register). Operating in the southernRhode Island tradition of small, highly paternalistic textile firms, the Rodmans produced cottons and woolens from the 1840s through the 1940s. At Lafayette, the Rodmans created a fully-realized company town with mills, houses, and attendent institutions, managed on a daily basis by resident owners. The Shady Lea Mill mills supplemented production at Lafayette throughout the last half of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth.

Manufacture of jeans at Shady Lea on the Pettaquamscutt River was begun by Captain Esbon Sanford, Jr., who sold the operation in 1832 when he moved to Annaquatucket. For several decades, different owners manufactured a variety of cotton and wool textiles: flannels, linsey woolseys, and cassimeres. Under Walter B. Chapin, builder of a mill in Wickford, Shady Lea made blankets for the Union Army during the Civil War. Robert Rodman purchased Shady Lea in 1870 for the manufacture of warps used in jeans. He expanded the factory to the west and it remained in his empire until the Rodman family disbanded their holdings in 1952.

Of special significance at Shady Lea is the mill itself, little changed since the early twenteilth century and still used for manufacturing. Especially noteworthy is the collection of small mill outbuildings (office, carpenter shop, stock houses, and the like) which are among the most fragile and least likely to survive of industrial buildings; they document the multiple phases of textile production and help to tell the story of nineteenth-century manufacture in North Kingstown.

ACREAGE: c. 18 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM: A 19 294100 4601480 B 19 294600 4600810 C 19 294440 4600590 D 19 293930 4601250

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Shady Lea Historic District is drawn to encompass those structures which historically participated in the district's significance as a rural industrial village: mill, workers' houses,
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the Rodman House and barn. A small wooded area located between Shady Lea Road and the Pettaquamscutt River and east of the Shady Lea Pond is included; this land has historically been associated with the mill ownership and its inclusion documents the historic environmental setting of the district. Shady Lea Pond, created to power the mill, is also included.

All numbers refer to plots/lots: The boundary begins at the northwest corner of 7/18, proceeds south to the southeast corner of 7/18, southwest along the southeast lines of 7/18, across the Shady Lea Road, 7/19, and 7/11, northwest along the southwest line of 7/11 to the west side of Shady Lea Pond and the west side of the Pettaquamscutt River to Tower Hill Road; then north along the east side of Tower Hill Road to the northwest corner of 7/23; then southwest, southeast, and southwest again along the east lines of 7/23, 7/13, and 7/9; crossing Shady Lea Road to the northeast line of 7/3; then following the west side of Shady Lea Road to a point opposite the northwest corner of 7/14, crossing Shady Lea Road and proceeding east, south, and west around 7/14 and 7/15, back to the east side of Shady Lea Road, proceeding south along the east side of the road to a point opposite the northwestern corner of 7/8, then northeast to the point of beginning.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

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Photo numbers 20-25

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NAME: Rathbun House LOCATION: 343 Beacon Drive (formerly 287 Hatchery Road) OWNER: Craig Willey & Celia Crawford Whilley, 343 Beacon Drive, N. Kingstown CONDITION: Good; Altered; Original Site 02852

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Rathbun House is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, centerchimney house, dating from the mid-eighteenth century, and set amid late twentieth-century residences.

The house is set under a steep gable roof and is covered by unpainted shingles. The corners are marked by flat boards and the cornice by a heavy molding. The simple, south-facing entry is slightly off center and is surrounded with a simple, flat frame; the door itself is modern. The windows, whose frames were apparently replaced in the early twentieth century, have two-over-one sash. The foundation was recently rebuilt with concrete block. The chimney, recently rebuilt so as to preserve its original appearance, is of brick.

The interior arrangement of the house follows the standard five-room plan. An enclosed stair turns tightly against the chimney; it faces the door across a small entrance hall. Both front rooms have full-height fireplace breasts, the panels of which are raised in the southwest room, recessed in the southeast. The wide kitchen fireplace in the rear center room has a simple surround which continues to the ceiling around a recessed, plastered niche. All fireplaces are of brick; the kitchen fireplace contains an oven. Four-panel doors with original latches and H-hinges separate the rooms. Corner posts are cased; walls and ceilings are plastered, except for an early twentieth-century wainscot in the rear center room.

Alterations are more extensive in the two attic rooms; modern panelling covers the walls and a fireplace in the west room, but wide plank flooring remains.

Two outbuildings are located on the property: a small gable-roofed shed to the west and a rubblestone barn (or ice-house?) built partially below grade just north of the house.

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PERIOD: 1700-1799 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture SPECIFIC DATE: Unknown; probably mid-eighteenth century BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Unknown

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Rathbun house, a simple one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, centerchimney house, is one of the few intact farmhouses remaining in North Kingstown from the mid-eighteenth century, a well-preserved example of a house type that once dotted the town's rural landscape during an important early phase of its development.

The house may be the second oldest of the four Rathbun houses once situated on that family's large landholdings in this area. Several Rathbuns from New Shoreham, perhaps cousins, began buying land in the area shortly thereafter and through land purchases and marriage became tightly interwoven with the small number of families who controlled the west-central edge of North Kingstown through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

ACREAGE: less than 1 acre QUAD NAME: Slocum, R.I. UTM: A 19 291100 4605120

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The Rathbun House boundary is the lot line of lot 112, Assessor's Plat 103, and includes the house itself, two small outbuildings, and the immediate surroundings.

LEVEL: Local

Photo numbers 26-28

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NAME: Silas Casey Farm LOCATION: Boston Neck Road

(Entered on the National Register, 8/14/73; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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NAME: Old Narragansett Church LOCATION: 60 Church Lane

(Entered on the National Register, 7/2/73; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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NAME: Allen-Madison House LOCATION: Davisville Construction Battalion Center

(Entered on the National Register, 3/28/80; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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NAME: Esbon Sanford House LOCATION: 88 Featherbed Lane OWNER: Robert & Diane Plante 88 Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, RI 02852 CONDITION: Excellent; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Esbon Sanford House is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, gable-roofed house, its detailing an amalgam of the Federal and Greek Revival styles.

The chimney centered on the flank-gable roof is deceptive because the plan is organized around a center hall. The flues of the fireplaces in two rooms flanking the hall join on the second floor and emerge from the roof as a single stack, with a smoke chamber tucked in the niche below their intersection. A kitchen ell which appears to have been constructed at the same time as the front section, extends from the center of the back.

Exterior ornamentation is indicative of a period of stylistic transition and vernacular creativity. The front doorway, centered on the facade, has three-light sidelights; the overdoor panel is framed by pairs of flat pilasters. Recessed panels edged by bolection molding ornament the corner posts.

Two alterations have been made in the past decade. A gable-roofed entry porch was added to the north wall of the ell. The roof of the ell was raised by half a story to permit creation of a large room on the second floor.

Interior woodwork is simple. Shallow panelled pilasters frame the two front fireplaces and support a wide entablature interrupted only by a single strip of horizontal molding. Panels with raised molding extend below the windows to the floor in the northeast parlor. Window and door frames have a simple molding; some have corner blocks with gouged circles. Panelled interior shutters fold into the splayed sides of deep-silled windows on the first floor. A third chimney is located in the kitchen ell. The kitchen fireplace is edged by molding and has a simple shelf.

The house rests on a foundation of granite blocks. A cellar runs beneath the entire structure. Along the Featherbed Lane frontage a wood picket fence stands on a granite base and has granite gateposts. Two small, gable-roofed outbuildings are set directly behind the house. To the southwest low stone walls surround three sides of what was, perhaps, the site of a barn.

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PERIOD: 1800-1099 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Industry SPECIFIC DATE: probably 1832 BUILDER: Esbon Sanford

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Esbon Sanford House is significant for its unusual chimney arrangement, an interesting hybrid resulting from the desire to retain the traditional central chimney on the exterior while accommodating the newer central hall plan. The quality and creative design of the exterior and interior woodwork are also noteworthy, particularly given the rural context. The house is also of interest as the long-time residence of Esbon Sanford, founder of the nearby Annaquatucket mill, no longer extant.

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The house presumably dates from about 1832, the year that Esbon Sanford, Jr., dammed the Annaquatucket River to form a mill pond. He soon thereafter established a factory to produce jean cloth and red and blue flannel. His house and five others, including the Stephen Northrup house at 99 Featherbed Lane (also nominated to the National Register), formed a hamlet on the fifty-acre parcel of land owned by Sanford. He and several relatives were involved with other milling enterprises in North Kingstown as well, but the mill by his house was probably his major interest.

A new dam was built to enlarge the Annaquatucket Pond in 1861. At this time Sanford was leasing the fifty acres with the factory and buildings in the hamlet to Owen Vaughan, who was active in the previous decade at the Hamilton Mill to the east. When Sanford died in 1864 his heirs continued the lease. The original factory burned in 1875 and was rebuilt. In 1877 the heirs sold the property to Joseph Greene of New York, who had taken over the mill at Hamilton several years earlier. The mill ceased operation early in the twentieth century and is now a ruins, but the dam remains, with Featherbed Lane running across it. Fortunately the Sanford and Northup Houses have survived as a remnant of the earlier mill hamlet.

ACREAGE: less than one QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM: A 19 295790 4602610

#### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Sanford House boundary is the lot line of Assessor's Plat 70, lot 17, and includes the Sanford House, its nearby outbuildings, and their immediate surroundings.

LEVEL: Local

Photo numbers 29-32

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NAME: Stephen Northrup House LOCATION: 99 Featherbed Lane OWNER: Emma Rogers 99Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, RI 02852 CONDITION: Good; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Stephen Northrup house is a two-story, shingled, flank gable structure, set in a relatively rural area south of Wickford near the Annaquatucket River. The original house, built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century, had a large section added to its chimney end in the mid- or late eighteenth century; an ell was built on back in the mid-nineteenth century. Framing and interior detailing reflect the construction phases: large chamfered beams are visible in the original structure, while beaded corner posts and more elaborate woodwork appear in the eighteenth-century section and machine-finished materials in the ell. The three sections of the house are remarkably intact.

The facade, which faces Featherbed Lane to the west, is slightly asymmetrical. The simple doorway is just north of the center of the five-bay facade, its alignment matched by the large chimney projecting from the roof ridge above. This asymmetry reflects the house's construction: the older section to the south is several feet longer than the eighteenth-century addition.

The first floor of the older half has one large room with two very small rooms at the southern end. It is dominated by a heavy chamfered frame and a long chamfered summer beam which runs from the stone fireplace (now covered) in the northern end to the southern exterior wall. There is one raised, two-panel door; the others are of plain board-andbatten design.

The eighteenth-century north section mirrors the floor plan of the older section on a smaller scale. All original woodwork remains including raised, four-panel doors, beaded corner posts, and beaded boardand-batten doors. Its overmantel is comprised of two horizontal, raised panels.

The ell contains two kitchens and two stairways. It was added when the house was divided to serve as mill workers' housing for the nearby Annaquatucket Mill, established in 1832. Apparently little else was added in the conversion. The second floor is divided into rooms, the detailing matching that on the first floor.

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The existence of archeaological evidence on the property relating to the earliest period of occupation is quite probable. Written sources mention outbuildings and, although none remain, ground configuration may indicate possible locations. The property could be particularly rich in archaeological resources since it is undisturbed by driveways or other modern intrusions.

PERIODS: 1700-1799, 1800-1899 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture SPECIFIC DATES: early 18th century (perhaps 1712); mid-18th century; mid-19th century (probably after 1832) BUILDER: Stephen Northrup (?)

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Stephen Northrup House is significant in the history of North Kingstown's architecture as a rare survivor of the early eighteenth century; major additions made in the mid-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries have significance in documenting the use and adaptation of an early house by later owners.

In a 1727 land title case, John Kenyon of Westerly claimed that in 1683 he had moved into the house occupied by Stephen Northrup at the time of the case. Kenyon said that he lived there for eight years, paying rent to "Mayor Smith in behalf of Mr. Killum of Boston," and that Northrup took up residence there when he left. Land acquisition records indicate that Northrup purchased the land about 1712, suggesting that the house may date from this time instead. In either case, the house is a rare surviving example of Rhode Island's early building period which is characterized by a heavy, chamfered frame. Subsequent additions altered this original structure very little and are themselves of interest.

Esbon Sanford, who built the neighboring Annaquatucket Mill in 1832 and lived across the street at 88 Featherbed Lane, owned the property for many decades. He first rented out the house in 1860 and later sold it to the founders of the Hamilton Web Company. The Hamilton Company owned the property until 1952.

Little is known about Stephen Northrup other than that he produced a large family, and that he and his heirs were active in purchasing and exchanging land in North Kingstown.

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ACREAGE: less than one QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM: A 19 295840 4602650

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Northrup House is defined as the lot line of Assessor's Plat 69, lot 27, and includes the house and its immediate surroundings.

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LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

Photo numbers 33-36

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NAME: Gilbert Stuart Birthplace LOCATION: Gilbert Stuart Road

(Entered on the National Register, 10/15/66; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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NAME: Joseph Pierce Farm LOCATION: 933 Gilbert Stuart Road OWNER: Heirs of Virginia MacLeod, c/o Sherman Gifford 10509 Buffapple Drive Richmond, VA 23233

CONDITION: Excellent; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Joseph Pierce House is a clapboarded, one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed, eighteenth-century house, with nineteenth- and twentiethcentury additions. The resulting structure is basically cruciform in plan. The well-preserved house rests on a stone foundation, the basement of the oldest part exposed to the west. It stands adjacent to a cluster of outbuildings atop a hill gently sloping to a pond, its rural setting virtually undisturbed by modern intrusions.

What is now the house's southern wing is the oldest section, dating from the mid-eighteenth century. Its fireplace (now surrounded by English tiles) and two raised-, four-panel doors date from the late Federal period. The beaded corner posts flare slightly at the top, suggesting that they may conceal chamfered posts. In the basement of this oldest wing is a large stone fireplace with a slightly arched stone lintel and an oven.

At a later date, perhaps the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, the house was extended to the north, the addition served by a new brick fireplace backed on the older fieldstone chimney. The fireplace's stone lintel was damaged and replaced by one of wood in the twentiethcentury. Stairs were installed west of the chimney. Alterations to the earlier structure, including the Federal mantel and doors and transformation of the original gable roof to a gambrel, probably date from this time as well.

In the nineteenth century, a one-story, gable-roofed wing containing a milk room and dairy was attached to the northeast corner of the building. The present owners, who purchased the farm in 1939, expanded the north section to the west and added modern conveniences.

Outbuildings, gable-roofed with vertical board or board-and-batten siding, include a barn with attached privy, a tool shed, a hen house, a pump house, and several small connected sheds. A garage and trailer shed have been added since 1939; except for these last two, the outbuildings are typical vernacular structures of the nineteenth century.

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The wooded, gently undulating acres surrounding the house and outbuildings contain several fine stone walls.

PERIOD: 1700-1799, 1800-1899 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Agriculture, Architecture SPECIFIC DATES: Unknown; mid-18th century, late 18th/early 19th century, mid-19th century BUILDER: Unknown

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Joseph Pierce House is significant as a well-preserved eighteenthcentury farm house, able to document early agricultural life in North Kingstown. The successive additions to the house are significant in themselves and describe the adaptation of an early dwelling to the needs of later occupants. Equally important is the collection of nineteenthcentury outbuildings near the house.

Joseph Pierce, who owned the property in 1819, is the earliest person possible to positively associate with the farm using the fire-damaged North Kingstown records. The farm may have begun as one of the Narragansett plantations, a type of agricultural development unusual in New England but common in this area in the eighteenth century. The decline of the plantation system after the Revolutionary War led to fragmentation of the large estates, and this farm appears to have shared that fate. The return of much of the land to untilled acreage and second-growth woods in the twentieth century again parallels a trend evident throughout North Kingstown as agricultural production suffered an overall decrease. Despite the discontinuation of active farming, the house, outbuildings and setting are an exceptionally well-preserved reminder of the area's early rural heritage.

ACREAGE: c. 18	acre	es						1
QUAD NAME: Wick.	ford	1, R	.I.					
UTM REFERENCES:	А	19	296140	4599620	В	19	296180	4599420
	С	19	295790	4599330	D	19	295780	4599490

#### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The property nominated is Assessor's Plat 38, Lot 12; this boundary includes the historical resource and its agricultural setting and includes some land which has historically been associated with the house.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

Photo numbers 37-40

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NAME: Anna LOCATION: OWNER: Fid Bro Phi CONDITION: 10	DE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION PAMELA KENNEDY National Register Coordinator
DESCRIPTION	
The Do: two stories Not I	nnelly House WWWWWW house, sted; returned by NPS; see sect/pending to n a or comments and disposition. ed by ert the ure's antage.
As orig of cypress s and cost wei by about hal accepted and	uction cale uced n was
Few ope is centered the interior Bridge. Nar flatness. T cubic mass. have been pa	which ppen stown 's house's one,
On the quarters to same time th patio, design as a diagona pool has been a garage connedge of the with the hous the west, give the openness	:'s At the assage/ ructed wimming est is outhern tion e to g with
The firs open space, c partition tha	nuous -slat n. A

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fireplace acts as the southern terminus of the space. The furniture, most of which was specifically designed for the house, features geometric shapes made of unornamented wood.

The second floor is reached from the entry hall by a stair with a streamlined chrome rail. Originally there were four small rooms on the second; one wall has been removed to create a large master bedroom.

At the bottom of the cliff a beach house, also sheathed in cypress boards, has two porthole windows in doors opening towards the bay. It was built to replace an earlier one that was swept away by the 1938 hurricane, and is the work of Robert Montgomery Brown.

Several architectural historians, including Henry Russell Hitchcock and Robert Stern, credit the house's design to Brown in conjunction with Howe. Brown and Howe started a loose association in July, 1936, in which Howe would turn over small commissions to Brown for design and construction. Determining which architect was responsible for the design of the Donnelly house is difficult. Correspondence between Howe and Mrs. Donnelly during the building's construction shows that Howe was very much involved with contracting and other details, and Howe visited the construction site several times.

PERIOD: 1900-AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture SPECIFIC DATE: 1937-1938 ARCHITECT: George Howe & Robert Montgomery Brown, Philadelphia

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The 1937-1938 Donnelly House is significant for its architectural quality and for its ability to document the work of the important modernist Philadelphia architect George Howe and his young associate Robert Montgomery Brown. Designed as a residence for a Philadelphia family, the house exemplifies the continuing importance of sea-side summer houses in North Kingstown's twentieth-century development. With its crisp rectangular geometries and tightrope balance between the light plane of walls and the dark void of windows, it is an early New England example of the International Style, and has been recognized as significant in early guides to the architecture of this region.

George Howe, born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1886, had a traditional early twentieth-century architectural education, studying at Rome and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris after graduating from Harvard. He

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joined the conservative Philadel in 1916 and rose to a partnershi disenchanted with the firm's typ as the "Jumbo, Anti-economy Roma to form a partnership with the S Lescaze, an arrangement that las	p within three year ical commission, wh ntic Country House wiss-born, New York	rs. By 1928 he had grown hich he later described Package," and resigned architect William

architectural circles when, upon receiving the commission for the 32-story Philadelphia Savings Fund Society building in 1930, they proposed a dramatic curtain-walled skyscraper with a flexible office plan, a building unlike anything in Philadelphia or most other American cities at that time. In subsequent decades, Howe continued to champion modern design, his ideas making an impact on the architectural profession in part because of his earlier prominence as a traditional designer. His influence on a new

tecture department from 1949 until his death six years later. In 1936 Howe formed a business association with Robert Montgomery Brown. The men had been acquainted since 1930 when Brown was an architecture student. Brown went on to New York University to finish his professional degree, and practiced in the Philadelphia area until his death in 1969.

generation of architects was increased by his chairmanship of Yale's archi-

Whether the Donnelly House was primarily the work of Howe or Brown is difficult to determine and not particularly important, since the building clearly follows Howe's design philosophies. It features many elements, such as ribbon windows and crisp, geometric forms, with which he began to experiment during his partnership with Lescaze. These elements and the emphatic horizontality of the Donnelly House relate the house to the earlier Prairie School and the contemporary streamlined Moderne, as well as to European Bauhaus influences. The house introduced new design ideas to the rather conservative architectural tradition of Rhode Island, and it appears truly modern even today.

ACREAGE: c. 2.5 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM REFERENCES: A 19 298360 4599340

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary is the lot line of Assessor's Plat 19, Lot 98, and includes the Donnelly House and its associated setting.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

Photo numbers 41-45

NPS Form 10,900 #

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NAME: YWCA Archaeological Site LOCATION: Off Gilbert Stuart Road

(Entered on the National Register, 11/21/80; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

NPS Form 10 990-a (3.82)

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NAME: Saint Paul's Church LOCATION: 76 Main Street

(Entered on the National Register, 6-30/72; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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NAME: Six Principle Baptist Church/Stony Lane Baptist Church LOCATION: 85 Old Baptist Road

(Entered on the National Register, 11/21/78; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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NAME: Ezekial Gardner House LOCATION: 297 Pendar Road OWNER: Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Bellamy P.O. Box 112 North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852 CONDITION: Good; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Ezekial Gardner house is a mid-eighteenth century house, with a gambrel roof, central chimney plan, and simple woodwork which are characteristic of early rural North Kingstown houses. The house and an early twentieth-century barn stand at the end of a long, wood-lined lane that leads from Pendar Road.

The south facing house is one-and-a-half-stories; its front door, which has side-lights, is centered in the clapboarded, five-bay facade of the original section. A tall gambrel roof covers the one-story base, with dormers on the north side.

The five-room floor plan with three fireplaces is a typical central chimney plan, though the rear central room is somewhat smaller than usual. A one-story, gable-roofed, wing was added to the west end, probably about 1800.

The second floor of the house is reached by a steep, two-run stairway. There was a single fireplace on the second floor, but it is now covered. Interior finish hides the pegged construction of the gambrel roof. Cased posts and beams are visible on both stories. Original two-panel doors remain throughout, with more recent hardware. Full-height chimney breasts with raised panels are also original.

The barn/garage to the west was built in the 1920s in the Colonial Revival style. Its gambrel roof repeats that of the house. No other outbuildings remain.

The house is surrounded by fields and woods, through which thread some dry-laid stone walls; these may have marked agricultural divisions, but the land has not been farmed for decades.

PERIOD: 1700-1799 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Agriculture, Architecture SPECIFIC DATES: Unknown, probably mid-18th-century, with later 19th-century addition.

BUILDER: Unknown



#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Gardner House is significant as an eighteenth-century rural house, a homestead at the core of what was once a large farm and a seat of one of the Narragansett planter families. The house is exceptionally well preserved, with few alterations since its west wing was constructed in the late eighteenth century; in addition, the setting of the Gardner House is still well-preserved, with its surrounding acreage (some of it returned to forest) still undeveloped.

Documentation of the property is difficult owing to the destruction of many early North Kingstown records and also because of the large number of Gardner relations and the many tracts of land they held. In any case, it seems likely that an early owner was Ezekial Gardner (1712-1802); Gardner was apparently a large-scale planter, owning a large dairy where thousands of pounds of cheese were produced each year. He was politically active and influential as was his son Ezekial, born in 1738, who became a Justice of the Peace and also served on the Rhode Island Supreme Court. The will of yet another Ezekial Gardner (dated 1808) specified that his land and buildings should be leased to support his wife and four unmarried daughters except the "new end of my dwelling house on my homestead farm." This addition had a "great room" and chamber, and is probably this house's west wing. The house and a large tract of land remained in possession of the Gardner family until the early twentieth century.

This is one of three extant mid-eighteenth century-houses built by members of the Gardner family in the vicinity of Pendar Road, once a section of the Post Road. It is the only one of three which is so well preserved.

ACREAGE: 97.31 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM REFERENCES:

А	19	293520	4600650	В	19	293790	4600110
С	19	293290	4600000				4600450
BOUNDARY	DES	SCRIPTION	I:				

The boundary is defined as the line of Assessor's Plat 51, lot 1, and includes the Gardner House and barn, their immediate setting, and some acreage which has been associated historically with the Gardner Farm. Much of the land is no longer open fields, but some stone walls remain which appear to outline field divisions.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

Photo numbers 46-48

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NAME: Hall-Northup House (entered as the Palmer-Northup House) LOCATION: 7919 Post Road

(Entered on the National Register, 4/11/73; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

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NAME: Old Narragansett Cemetery LOCATION: Shermantown Road OWNER: Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island 275 North Main Street Providence, Rhode Island 02903

CONDITION: Good; Altered (by weathering); Original site

#### DESCRIPTION:

The Old Narragansett Cemetery lies in southwest North Kingstown on a site known as "The Platform" because of its elevation on a knoll, a topographical feature now difficult to discern due to growth of trees and bushes in the twentieth century. The cemetery is to the east of the site of the Narragansett Church, constructed in 1707 and moved five miles north to Wickford in 1800. There are about 110 graves marked with stones of slate, fieldstone, granite, and marble. The largest monument is a twelvefoot, granite, Latin cross erected in 1869 to mark the graves of the longest serving eighteenth-century rectors, James MacSparran and Samuel Fayerweather. A number of the members of the early congregation are buried here, though many families used private burial grounds on their own farms. Closed to burials in the 1880s, the cemetery is maintained by the Rhode Island Episcopal Diocese, and is surrounded by a nineteenth-century stone wall that excludes some adjacent slave graves. A narrow path leads about 285 feet south from the road to the cemetery.

Most head and foot stones are slabs of marble, slate, and fieldstone. Those of fieldstone have suffered greatly from exposure to the elements, their inscriptions obscured by weathering. Slate monuments, popular in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, are ornamented with winged heads and skulls, masonic emblems, and scrollwork. One of the most elaborate slate tablets covers the table tomb of Christopher Philips, a prominent early colonist and close friend of Reverend MacSparran. A few brownstone and granite markers also date from the eighteenth century. Most marble monuments postdate the relocation of the church, and are quite simple in design.

All monuments face west (with the exception of the MacSparran/Fayerweather memorial which is inscribed on the four sides of its base), and are arranged roughly in rows running from north to south. The cemetery is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and maintained by an endowment. The property includes an adjacent, one-acre lot that connects the cemetery to the road and was probably the site of a dwelling for cemetery caretaker; it was torn down in 1918. NPS Form 10-900 a (3-82)

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PERIOD: 1700-1799, 1800-1899 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Religion, Sculpture SPECIFIC DATES: Early 18th century through 1880 BUILDER: None

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Old Narragansett Cemetery is significant not only for its age (it is one of North Kingstown's oldest burying grounds) but also for the length of its use, the variety and good condition of most of the markers, and for its ability to document the presence here of a eighteenth-century community center, now otherwise without physical documentation.

Grave markers here date from the early eighteenth to the late nineteenth century; many are fine examples of the carver's craft, decorated with motifs reflecting changes in artistic fashions and in the perception of the relationship between God and man. Many of the stones are signed, including some slate markers from the workshop of noted Newport stone carver John Stevens.

The Narragansett Church (now St. Paul's), whose former site adjoins the cemetery, was once the center of the religious life of the entire Narragansett region. The Narragansett Church was founded with the aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, an active British missionary association, which sent a minister to the Narragansett country in 1702. Optimism about the area's future, probably inspired by the prosperous planter society that was developing, is indicated by the choice of Narragansett region over Little Compton and Tiverton, other Rhode Island communities that petitioned for assistance at the same time.

The church was erected in 1707 following a typical meetinghouse plan, with entry and pulpit on the long sides and exposed interior framing. A large scroll pediment over the entrance was one of the earliest uses of a classical architectural motif in New England. The pulpit hosted a rapid succession of ministers until the arrival of the Scotsman James Mac-Sparran, an active writer, teacher, physician, and minister, who remained at the church from 1721 to his death in 1757. His house was located just past the North Kingstown line and was known as the "Glebe," following English custom. MacSparran's energetic work increased the importance of the church and his home as the center of intellectual and social, as well as religious, life in the Narragansett region.

Samuel Fayerweather succeeded MacSparran, but his tenure was not as happy. The Church of England was resented by some colonists as a symbol of the mother country and, by 1774, anti-British sentiment was so intense



that Fayerweather closed the church. He continued to preach occasionally in private houses until his death in 1781.

The church was used during the war as an American barracks, and it was not until 1787 that religious services again convened in the building. During the war, however, funding from the Society for the Propogation of the Gospel had ceased and the congregation had dwindled. Only eleven members attended a meeting in 1799 during which a vote was taken to move the edifice to Wickford, the nearby seaport. (The building, which was entered on the National Register on July 2, 1972, and is in the Wickford Historic District, was used regularly until 1847 when a new structure was built nearby.) The move reflects the shift in population which had taken place during the church's century-long history, as the prosperous agricultural life of the eighteenth century gave way to the increasing development at Wickford.

ACREAGE: c. 1.2 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. UTM REFERENCES: A 19 293200 4599130

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary is defined as the lot lines of the cemetery lot shown on Assessor's Plat 25 (surrounded by lots 2 and 3) and Plat 25, lot 2, and includes the cemetery which is surrounded by a stone wall, some slave graves outside the wall, and the site of a (now demolished) caretaker's house.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

Photo numbers 49-50

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NAME: Spink Farm LOCATION: 1325 Shermantown Road, Saunderstown OWNER: Sanford Spink RFD #1, Shermantown Road Saunderstown, RI 02874

CONDITION: Excellent; Altered; Original site

#### DESCRIPTION:

The Spink Farm consists of a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed house, with one outbuilding, a family cemetery, and large open fields bounded by carefully maintained stone walls. The farm lies in the southwest corner of North Kingstown on land that has been owned by the Spink family since 1790. The house dates from about 1798 and has a central chimney plan and Federal detailing. The farm once produced dairy products, corn, potatoes, and fruits; although no longer a working farm, its rural setting is remarkably well preserved.

The two-and-one-half-story farmhouse faces Shermantown Road to the east. A doorway flanked by plain pilasters and topped by transom lights and a shallow hood is centered in the five-bay facade. The central chimney which emerges from the gable roof serves six brick fireplaces, three on the second floor and three on the first. One of the latter, that in the southeast parlor, has been covered and the flue utilized for the furnace in the basement. Fine Federal mantels remain throughout the house. To the right of the kitchen fireplace is an oven. The house is arranged in the central chimney plan; a l<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story kitchen lean-to and a fieldstone porch on the rear are twentieth-century additions.

An orchard, which once stood to the north of the house, and a barn once to the west, are both gone. The only outbuildings on the property are a modern two-car garage and a small milk house (probably nineteenth century) to the southwest, the first floor of which is stone with boardand-batten siding on the story above.

Stone walls outline theopen fields surrounding the house. In the northeast corner of the fields is a small family cemetery holding three generations of the Spink family. Graves are marked by rows of marble and granite slabs, all facing west. The earliest dates from 1838 and was erected for the farm's founder, Isaac Spink. The cemetery is surrounded to the north and west by stone walls, and enclosed to the east and south by a delicate iron fence.

PERIOD: 1700-1799, 1800-1899 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Agriculture, Architecture

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SPECIFIC DATE: c. 1798 BUILDER: probably Isaac Spink

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Spink farmhouse is an intact example of a high quality vernacular structure from the late 1700s, still able to document eighteenth and nineteenth century agricultural life in North Kingstown. Although retaining the central chimney plan, its style and craftsmanship are far more sophisticated than that exhibited by most earlier rural residences. The farm itself, despite demolition of the barn and other outbuildings, is a remarkable survival from the area's agricultural past. While much farm land in North Kingstown has been developed or become reforested and many stone walls allowed to deteriorate, the Spink farm preserves the appearance of rural North Kingstown in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Robert Spink came from England to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1635. In 1648 he moved to Newport, Rhode Island, and in 1665 he settled across the bay in North Kingstown where the Spink family proliferated and became prominent in community affairs. It was Robert's great grandson Isaac, born in 1767, who established this farm on Shermantown Road when he purchased 34 acres in 1790 from Thomas Sherman for "two hundred ten pounds Real Silver." Isaac added twenty acres directly to the north in 1793 and it is these two tracts which are here nominated. With subsequent land acquisition the farm grew to over 200 acres by the late nineteenth century. A small dwelling was erected on the southeast corner of the farm, replaced by the existing house about 1798.

ACREAGE: c. 55 acres QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I. **UTM REFERENCES:** 19 Α 291831 4598400 19291520 В 4597780 291380 C 19 4597900 D .19 291580 4598360 BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Spink Farm is defined as the lot line of Assessor's Plat 10, lot 3, which includes the Spink House, outbuildings, and some open fields outlined by stone walls. The fifty-five acres nominated were historically the core of Spink Farm, acquired by Isaac Spink in 1767 and 1790.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

Photo numbers 51-55

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NAME: Joseph Slocum House

LOCATION: Slocum Road (one-quarter mile south of its intersection with Indian Corner Road

OWNER:

CONDITION: Fair; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Slocum House is a plain, simple, five-bay, one-and-one-halfstory, gable-roofed farmhouse, which dates from the mid-eighteenth century with later additions. The house is oriented to the south with Slocum Road running to the west, and is organized on a central Chimney plan around a massive stone center chimney. Interior woodwork, most notably mantels in the two front rooms, was added in the Federal period. The house is surrounded by flat, fertile land in the southwestern corner of North Kingstown where agriculture, particularly turf farming and nurseries, continues to be an important concern.

Clapboards cover the exterior walls of the house, except on the east wall where they have been replaced by shingles. Other alterations to the exterior include the addition of an enclosed porch to the west and a shedroofed extension to the north. The large central chimney has been stabilized by application of concrete which hides its original stone work. Though the original fenestration pattern remains, the sash is 2-over-2, probably late nineteenth century.

Fireplaces in the front rooms are surrounded by plain, Federal-style mantels. The seven-foot wide fireplace opening in the rear center kitchen which probably contains an oven has been covered, but its mantel is still in place.

Walls and ceilings are plastered on the first floor. The front rooms have simple chair rails. Throughout the house there are four-panel and board-and-batten doors with old hardware. Posts are cased.

The attic is reached by a steep enclosed stair leading from the front entry. Partitions, perhaps dating from the same period as the first floor woodwork, divide the space. The roof is constructed of pegged, common rafters. NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82) OMB No 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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PERIOD: 1700-1799, 1800-1899 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture SPECIFIC DATES: Unknown; mid-17th century BUILDER: Unknown

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Slocum House is a well-preserved example of the plain, vernacular eighteenth-century farmhouse, once common in North Kingstown and now rare. Simple in form and decoration, the house is characteristic of those built by small holders in southern and western Rhode Island in the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries.

Joseph Slocum who owned the house in the early 1800s is the first owner it is possible to document using North Kingstown's fire-damaged land records. It was he, most likely, who installed the simple Federal woodwork. It seems likely that the house was built by a Slocum as this large family settled in this area (still known as "Slocumville") in the early eighteenth century. The Slocums seem to have been small farmers; the house is still surrounded by flat, open land in a section of North Kingstown still used for agriculture.

ACREAGE: less than one QUAD NAME: Slocum, R.I. UTM REFERENCES: A 19 289930 4600040

#### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary line of the nominated property is defined as the lot line of Assessor's Plat 56, lot 3, and includes the Slocum House and its immediate setting.

LEVEL: Local

Photo numbers 56-58

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NAME: George Douglas House LOCATION: Tower Hill Road and Gilbert Stuart Road

(Entered on the National Register, 10/10/75; for further information, see National Register nomination.)

### 8. Significance

_x_ 1600-1699 _x_ 1700-1799 _x_ 1800-1899	archeology-historic	community planning conservation economics education	see inventory sh landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The individual properties and districts in the North Kingstown multiple resource area nomination reflect the development of the town over the last three hundred years. With four districts (Camp Endicott, Lafayette Village, Wickford, and Hamilton Historic Districts) and the ten individual sites and buildings (Silas Casey Farm, Old Narragansett Church, Allen-Madison House, Gilbert Stuart Birthplace, YWCA Site, St. Paul's Church, Six Principle Baptist Church, Smith's Castle, Hall-Northup House, and George Douglas House), which are already entered on the National Register, these five additional districts, eight individual structures, and one cemetery best exemplify in well-preserved physical form the town's long history. The judgement that these properties represent the developmental, economic, social, and cultural history of North Kingstown is based on the results of a comprehensive survey of historic and architectural resources of the town conducted in 1977 and 1978 by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission in conjunction with the Town of North Kingstown.

The first European interest in the Narragansett areas, after some preliminary exploration of the bay, was for the trade with the Indians. Dutch traders from New Amsterdam may have sailed into Wickford Harbor in the early seventeenth century. In 1637, a year after his arrival in Rhode Island, Roger Williams established a temporary trading post in the northern part of what was to be North Kingstown. In 1643, Williams built a permanent house and stayed in it for six years, farming, raising goats on Queen's Island, and trading with the Indians for fur and wampum. Modern estimates as to the location of his house vary, but a granite marker in the Richard Smith Roadside Park on Post Road commemorates his presence. A seventeenthcentury house near this marker, the Hall-Northup house at 7919 Post Road, is so much like the type of Rhode Island house of the mid-seventeenth century-the one-room, one-and-a-half-story "stone-ender" built in Providence in the 1640s--that it could be Roger Williams' 1643 house.

Richard Smith, of Gloucestershire, England, and then of Taunton, Massachusetts, the first permanent settler in North Kingstown, acquired land north of today's Wickford from Canonicus and Miantonomi about 1639. Sometime after 1641 Smith built a fortified trading post but did not permanently occupy it until after 1651 when he left Taunton "for conscience's sake" and moved his family here. In 1651, he also bought Roger Williams' house, Williams needing the funds for a voyage to England to confirm the Providence Plantations charter. Cocumscussoc, or "Smith's Castle," his trading post (55 Richard Smith Drive), became the political, social, and religious capital of the developing Narragansett area, which included all of southwest

(See Continuation Sheet #66)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Rhode Island. The mid-seventeenth-century house was destroyed by Indians in 1676 during King Phillip's War but was rebuilt in 1678. Some of the 1678 building remains, protected by an eighteenth-century expansion.

Colonial jurisdiction over the land which is now North Kingstown was ambiguous throughout the seventeenth century and into the eighteenth. Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts all claimed ownership. The problem of the area's colonial allegiance was not fully resolved until 1728, leaving the region in its earliest period of development a governmental no-man's land assured of no colony's protection. In spite of these jurisdictional problems, settlement in the Narragansett region expanded in the third quarter of the seventeenth century and mandated some political formalization. Kings Towne was founded in 1674 to include the present-day towns of North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Narragansett and Exeter.

In 1675, King Phillip's War, an angry uprising of a misunderstood and greatly wronged native population, raged over southeast New England. The finale of Rhode Island's part in the tragedy was played out in the central Narragansett area, the present South Kingstown, in the Great Swamp Fight of December, 1675, where the Indians were defeated by the colonists. Cocumscussoc served as headquarters for the colonial military operations. The Indians, in retaliation for the devastation of their population in the Great Swamp Fight, reportedly burned all buildings of the European settlers in the area. Thus, though settlement in North Kingstown dates from the 1640s, it has always been understood in modern times that no buildings from before 1676 remain.

Settlement increased in all parts of town in the last part of the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries. Growth was so marked that by 1722 it was deemed necessary to divide Kings Towne in two. North and South Kingstown were created, with the understanding that the former, which had the earliest settlement, was to be the older, 1674 town. A census of 1730 recorded 2,105 people in North Kingstown, almost double the number in a count of 1708.

Growth was aided by the creation of new roads, which allowed the transport of cattle and grains from the interior to the coast for shipment to Newport and other ports. Ten Rod Road, a major route west through the present-day Exeter, which had been separated from North Kingstown in 1742, to Connecticut, was authorized in 1703. It provided a stimulus both for inland settlement and for the growth of Updike's Newtown, later called Wickford, which had been founded within a few years of the creation of Ten Rod Road, close to the road's eastern terminus.

Early eighteenth-century settlement in inland North Kingstown is documented by the Stephen Northup House at 99 Featherbed Lane. The chamfered 

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frame, with an especially long summer beam, possibly of c.1680, is visible inside the southern half of the house.

The southern Rhode Island area had many favorable conditions for development--good soil, a climate tempered by open water, large landholdings, and a location along the bay which permitted relatively easy transportation. These conditions, combined with the liberal use of slave labor, brought into being here a class of farmers known as the Narragansett Planters. In contrast to inland farmers, who worked closer to subsistence level, the Narragansett Planters were stock and dairy men and also traders and shipowners. Vast fields of grass and corn nurtured cattle, sheep, and hogs--which yielded commercial products in the form of pork, butter, cheese, and wool--as well as a special breed of riding or saddle horse, the Narragansett Pacer, which was much in demand in the southern colonies and in the West Indies. The Planters created a society unique in New England, a slave-owning plantation system with a high degree of wealth and education concentrated in the plantation owner's family, frequent though not necessary identification with the Church of England, and a particular penchant for the law. Most of the great plantations of Rhode Island were in South Kingstown or Narragansett, but one at least, Cocumscussoc, emerged in North Kingstown.

In addition, some other large and smaller farms of the eighteenth century shared at least some of the planter-society characteristics. For example, the country villa, built on Boston Neck some time between 1725 and 1760 by Newport Quaker merchant Daniel Coggeshall, survives. The property descended by inheritance to an East Greenwich merchant, Silas Casey, and, as Casey Farm, with outbuildings, open fields, woods, stone walls, and an assortment of domestic animals, it is now a farm museum. Casey Farm commemorates the agricultural prosperity of eighteenth-century North Kingstown and, with its gable-on-hip roof, a form common in Newport after 1720, the house is a reminder of North Kingstown's ties with the aristocratic Newport merchant class.

Still other houses, and even farms, scattered about North Kingstown, stand today as survivors of the vigorous middle eighteenth century. A house at 170 Fletcher Road, built by a descendant of a prosperous mid-seventeenth-century settler, retains much eighteenth-century paneling and stands on land which was farmed in the seventeenth century and which, miraculously, is still farmed today. The Joseph Peirce House, 933 Gilbert Stuart Road, and the house at 297 Pendar Road, which probably belonged to Ezekiel Gardiner, a leading citizen of eighteenthcentury North Kingstown, are fine examples, relatively unchanged, of eighteenth-century, gambrel-roofed farmhouses. The best known example of such a gambrel-roofed house is the snuff mill erected in 1751 by Dr. James Moffatt as a home and workplace for a Scottish miller. This building has 

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been restored as a museum dedicated to the miller's son, born there in 1755, the illustrious painter Gilbert Stuart.

Not all farmhouses of this period had gambrel roofs, however. The one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed Rathbun House on Beacon Drive has fireplace paneling very much like that at Casey Farm, suggesting a mid-eighteenthcentury date. The two-story George Douglas House (c. 1738) at Tower Hill Road, is still another survivor of this age. The Mary Arnold House at 1341 Stony Lane (Scrabbletown Historic District) also dates from the mideighteenth century.

Extensions of older houses made in the mid-eighteenth century, extensions which made the primitive early houses viable in more affluent times and thus preserved them for posterity, also abound. The most important is that at the Hall-Northup House on Post Road. The Stephen Northup House at 99 Featherbed Lane is another house in which the seventeenth-century core has been preserved by an eighteenth-century addition.

Sometime between the 1760s and the Revolutionary War, the prosperity which had created the affluent planter society declined. Markets in the East Indies for South County products were cut off by war, and slavery, which had probably already been on the decline, was abolished. While it is probable that the limits of agricultural expansion had already been reached by the mid-eighteenth century, certainly by the end of the Revolution the era of the Narragansett Planters was over. Their large landholdings were gradually broken up into smaller farms. These continued as farms, at a less remarkable scale of prosperity, throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century.

Laid out as a port town in the first decade of the eighteenth century by Lodowick Updike, Wickford grew slowly during the early eighteenth century. By the time of the Revolution there had been a long history of speculation in unbuilt lots in the village, but probably only about twenty standing houses. Fifteen pre-Revolutionary houses and inns remain, in whole or in part, along Main Street and on adjacent lanes today; typically, these are five-bay, central-entrance, central-chimney houses, a type built in profusion after 1776 as well. Also standing are some of the many inns and taverns of the eighteenth century where townsmen met for business and pleasure and mustered for service during the Revolution. The houses of Wickford--many of them typical two-and-a-half-story, center-chimney types-clearly defined by the time of the war the Grand Highway (now Main Street), one of the most interesting, beautiful, and intact historic streets in Rhode Island.


The immediate post-Revolutionary period was slow in Wickford as well as in the rest of the state, but by the 1790s, with the resumption of coastal and West Indian trading and fishing, Wickford entered a period of vibrant growth as a busy port, building and maintaining the boats that brought agriucltural products from the Narragansett regions to other ports. The many fine early nineteenth-century houses lining the village streets testify to its growing wealth and prominence.

Expansion of the village and its activities is indicated as well by building for specialized cultural, economic, religious, and governmental institutions. A Quaker meetinghouse was raised in Wickford in 1797; a house of worship for Baptîsts in 1816; in 1800, St. Paul's Church was moved to the village from its original (and now outlying) location. A Masonic Lodge was founded in 1798 (its building, at 44 Main Street, dating from 1828), and a post office was built in 1799. In 1807, North Kingstown constructed its first municipal building, the Town House, which stands today at 136 West Main Street. The first financial institution in this part of the state, the Narragansett Bank, was chartered in 1805 by Benjamin Fowler and associates, and placed in part of his house (99 Main Street). A second bank, the North Kingstown Bank, was begun in 1819 in the brick building at 24 Main Street. In 1819 there were ninety houses and thirty stores in the busy community, which had by then grown into Church and Fowler Streets and into the Brown Street area.

Wickford's boom period ended, in the view of later nineteenth-century historians, when the major Providence traders Brown and Ives were dissuaded from investing in the port by the high price of wharfage set by ambitious landowners. Further decline in the growth rate was assured when the village was bypassed by the Providence and Stonington Railroad in the 1830s. But while the economic changes of the second and third decades of the century meant an end to expansion, the village continued a vital economic existence all through the nineteenth century as a secondary port and as the commercial capital of a town whose prosperity was now becoming dependent upon the developing textile mill villages in the hinterlands.

The early twentieth century in Wickford was a period of somewhat greater economic stagnation, but one beloved by a new kind of resident, the summer visitor. Wickford's history as a summer resort may have been stimulated in part by the post-1870 Wickford Branch Railroad and the steamer from the railroad terminus at the end of Steamboat Avenue to Newport. Thomas C. Peirce's hotel, the Cold Spring House, built in 1881, became a favorite resort of St. Louis families. Some of the new visitors built summer homes, but many more occupied old Colonial and Federal houses. Continuation cheet

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Throughout the nineteenth century both cotton and woolen mills were established along the three principal waterways of the town, sometimes on the sites of previous sawmills, gristmills, or fulling mills, and usually generating about themselves villages to house the workers. By 1832, North Kingstown had six woolen mills, employing altogether eighty workers, and three cotton mills which employed one hundred thirty-three workers. By 1870, there were eight woolen and four cotton mills, employing five or six hundred workers, most of them in the woolen trade. The older agricultural and fishing activities of the town's economy remained, but the value of North Kingstown's manufactured products was more than four times than of farm, forest, and fishing products, according to the 1875 Rhode Island census.

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The opportunity to work in the mills attracted new workers to North Kingstown from other parts of the state, from other states in the union, and from other countries. In 1875, out of a total town population of 3,505, 333 were foreign born. Of these 333 foreigners, 143 were Irish, 85 English, 21 Scottish or Welsh, and 71 Canadian. The predominately northern European origins of the new manufacturing peoples allowed them to be absorbed into the "Yankee" town with little change of its character or institutions, other than the introduction of a Catholic church.

Today whole communities or fragments of these milling villages remain. They are attractive and a testament to a particularly tight community form now rare in the nation. Because of their active economic life deep into the twentieth century, several are well preserved.

At Annaquatucket, the mill is gone, but a handsome waste house remains, as does the house (88 Featherbed Lane) built by Esbon Sanford who began manufacturing here in 1832. Belleville, once one of the town's largest mill villages, retains some early cottages and fragments of one substantial house. The Davis family operated water-powered wool looms at Davisville from 1811 to 1824; their early mill and its 1847 replacement are both gone, but several Davis houses still stand. Milling at Hamilton dates from the early seventeenth century, with grist and fulling mills and an iron manufactory; by the 1840s a textile mill was in operation. The handsome mid-nineteenth century mill with its impressive double monitor remains as do a number of small wood-frame workers' houses on nearby streets. village of Lafayette is noted for its long history of woolen manufacture by a single family; Robert Rodman began making woolens here in 1847 and built the present mill with its mansard towers and five outbuildings, in 1877-1878. In addition to the mill, Lafayette retains a church, Rodman mansions, a school, and an assortment of houses. Narragansett and Oak Hill villages both date from the mid-nineteenth century; only a few houses remain at each. Sand Hill, whose manufacturing life dates from the early nineteenth century,

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was once a thriving village--today only a half dozen houses on Chadsey Road are extant. Manufacture of jeans at Shady Lea was begun by Esbon Sanford, Jr., who sold the operation in 1832; for several decades after various owners made a variety of cotton and wool textiles here. Its mill buildings are still in use and a cluster of houses and outbuildings, some dating from the Rodman family's ownership of the area, remain. Silver Spring village was the site of one of North Kingstown's colonial mills--Joseph Taylor operated a carding and fulling mill here in the 1760s. Like several other villages Silver Spring was at one point owned by the Rodman family. Their mill, the last constructed here, is gone but houses from all periods of the village's history remain.

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Most areas of North Kingstown have been farmed at some time since European settlement. Much of this land was not well suited to agriculture and a high proportion reverted to brush and forest in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. North Kingstown's wooded hills and valleys shelter many cellar holes and stone walls, remnants of these lost farmsteads.

Both early and late nineteenth-century descriptions of North Kingstown note the general north-south agricultural division of the town, with topsoil of sandy loam in the north, best suited to grain culture, and gravelly loam, better for grazing, in the hilly south. The major crops in 1819 were Indian corn, barley, beans, peas, potatoes, wheat, buckwheat, and wood for shipbuilding. The same products--minus wheat, buckwheat, and wood for shipbuilding--with the addition of oats are noted in 1878. The census of 1865 listed an even wider variety: onions, potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, beans, garden seeds, manure, peat, poultry, cheese, eggs, honey, hay, butter, timber, straw, fruit, strawberries, cranberries, tobacco, and wine. Among livestock counted were milk cows, other cattle, sheep, and bees. By 1885 there were 1,400 acres in plowed land and 7,442 acres in pasture.

The North Kingstown farms that produced this rich array were many in number but small in size. In 1865, there were 282 farms; 83 of them had between 50 and 100 acres; none were larger than 400 acres. Some farms were prosperous, but many more were not. Scrabbletown, in the hilly, stony, northwest part of town, was said to have been so named because the people there had to "scrabble" for a living.

Several important nineteenth-century farmsteads remain in North Kingstown. The Gardiner-Arnold Farm includes a Victorian house, barns, corncrib, two large sheds, a milk house, a wash house, cemeteries, and the foundation of an earlier house. The Wilbur Hazard House at 2015 Boston Neck Road is a two-and-a-half-story example which retains marvelous outbuildings including two large barns built in the second half of the nineteenth century. The Gardiner-Arnold Farm (formerly the South County Museum) at 66 Scrabbletown Road is a particularly attractive complex of

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Victorian (with bay windows and eaves brackets) barns (one a fine, twentiethcentury, gambrel-roofed structure), corncrib, sheds, wash house, picket fence, and family cemeteries. Subsurface remains of an early eighteenthcentury house on this property suggest that this might be a case where nineteenth-century agricultural prosperity did-in the ancient house.

Barns, outbuildings, and stone walls are the true indicators of farming history, but are difficult to date for historical purposes and difficult to maintain once active farming has stopped. North Kingstown has lost a number of the barns and outbuildings that once belonged to its many farms. Some do remain, scattered in all sections of town.

North Kingstown has always attracted summer residents. Rome Farm and Casey Farm were country estates for well-to-do Newport merchants in the mid-eighteenth century. "Rustication" by the sea appears as early as the 1850s at Duck Cove Farm, owned by Randall Holden Greene of Brooklyn, New York. From the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth, many of the ancient Quidnesset farms became the summer homes of well-to-do people from other parts of the state.

Contemporary to the Sea View trolley, to the Newport boat connections at Wickford and Saunderstown, and especially to the development of the automobile, many coastal areas were platted into a variety of summer-cottage developments. Of special importance are Plum Beach and Saunderstown.

As a resort community, Plum Beach is one of the older of the twentiethcentury coastal developments--many houses and a hotel having been built soon after 1900. By 1923 there were seventy houses, many of them in a gambrelroofed and shingled style which set a building mode for the community. There was also, by 1923, a beach club with a private parking lot.

Further development of Plum Beach was dependent upon roads after the demise of the Sea View Trolley Line in 1921-1922. The State of Rhode Island had begun an extensive program of scraping and grading existing roads for auto travel as early as 1905 and, by the 1920s, was paving several roads throughout southern Rhode Island.

South of Plum Beach are developments of larger and more individualized houses built deep in the woods by owners whose tastes ran more towards privacy than community. Many of these people were later generations of Saunderstown summer residents. Some, such as Alexander Knox and Mrs. Anna H. Donnelly, built houses of distinction in advanced styles of modern architecture.

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Saunderstown had its origins in the small coastal shipyard village of Willettville, used by the Saunders family as a construction site for their notable sailing and steam vessels. By 1878 the village contained 20 families and was called Saunderstown. All the male population was engaged in the coal trade, seacoasting, fishing, or in the Saunders boatyard.

Capitalizing on the ferry connections between Saunderstown, Wickford, Providence, Jamestown and Newport, and, perhaps taking a suggestion from the presence of Major Benoni Lockwood, a New Yorker who some fifteen years earlier had become Saunderstown's first summer resident, Stillman Saunders built in 1889 on part of his shipyard site, a hotel, Outre Mere, or Saunders House, and a group of dependent cottages. Travelers awaiting the next boat to Newport from the Saunders ferry wharf at the base of Ferry Road could stay overnight at the hotel. Some of them decided that the informal, working village-on-the-bay was more to their taste than their intended destination and stayed. Many of Saunders House's early guests were Benoni Lockwood's friends and became North Kingstown's most widely known residents.

Saunderstown's resort history is unique in North Kingstown for the national reputation in literary, artistic, and political realms of some of its denizens. Benoni Lockwood, who first rented (about 1875) and then purchased the Daniel Saunders House (161 Ferry Road), was a son of a Providence West India trader of the same name. Saunderstown's Benoni Lockwood came to North Kingstown to escape the consuming social life of Narragansett Pier, and his friends and family followed. His daughter, Frances Willing Wharton, a well-known story writer, summered a little down Waterway, in the former home of steamboat captain Charles Garlick (56 Waterway), with her husband, Henry Wharton, a Philadelphia coal industrialist. The Whartons were cousins of the novelist Edith Wharton, who visited in Saunderstown from Newport.

Just south of the Wharton House stood the larger home of the Grant LaFarge family, which burned in 1945. Grant LaFarge was a son of a major American artist, John LaFarge of Newport, and was a well known New York architect.

The next generation of LaFarges included sons Christopher and Oliver who became authors. Christopher LaFarge's <u>Hoxie Sells His Acres</u> was a popular novel in verse published in 1934. In 1929, Oliver LaFarge won a Pulitzer Prize for <u>Laughing Boy</u>, a story about American Indians, and he is generally considered one of the most important ethnologists this country has ever produced. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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On the west side of the Waterway, at number 25, Owen Wister, a friend of Benoni Lockwood and the LaFarges, author of America's first western novel, The Virginian, rented the Captain Alfonso Gould House for ten years before building his own large summer house designed by Grant LaFarge two miles to the north (1600 Boston Neck Road). Wister was an important figure in American literary and political life early in the twentieth century as the author not only of a popular novel which generated years of traveling productions of its play version and several movies as well, but also of a nonfiction best seller about European politics at the time of World War I. Wister was a close friend of Theodore Roosevelt and was involved in diplomatic work in Europe. Other literary and artistic residents of Saunderstown, better known in their own day, lived in other modest shingle houses in this rustic bay-side setting, creating for themselves and their offspring memorable summers of vigorous outdoor pursuits in the North Kingstown countryside, interspersed with equally vigorous discussions of matters scholarly, literary, and civic.

North Kingstown's backwater status, with its little mill villages, farms, somnolent Wickford, and quiet summer colonies, changed dramatically, at least in one region, with World War II and the building of the two major Naval bases, Quonset Naval Air Station and Davisville Naval Construction Training Center, on the southern half of Quidnesset. In 1938, a U.S. Navy report to the Congress rated Quonset, the now-lost point of land north of the entrance to Wickford Harbor, as "the most favorable site in New England" for a base for a naval air station to protect the northeast coast from the escalating war in Europe. President Roosevelt signed the appropriation for \$1,000,000 for land acquisition in May, 1939, and, as hostilities increased in Europe, plans for constructing the base were escalated.

The construction of most of the Navy base, initially planned for a three-year period, was hurriedly executed in one year, between July, 1940, The first seaplane hangar, for the Neutrality Patrol, was and July, 1941. erected in 1939. Rock was blasted at Devil's Foot for a railway spur line from the Davisville station. Landfill added 400 acres to the existing seven-hundred-fifty-acre tract and turned the triangular land mass that once projected into Narragansett Bay into a square one to provide runways for the land-based planes. Three large hydraulic dredges and many smaller ones dug a deep water channel and a turning basin for carriers. Construction of buildings continued during winter under tarpaulins, with fires inside to keep the concrete liquid. The 1,000-foot pier built into the deep-water channel was constructed of steamcured concrete. The runways had to be built of special asphaltic concrete on unsettled fill land. By spring, when the railway spur line was finished, skilled tradesmen from Providence started arriving daily, by the thousands, to continue work on the

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scores of new buildings rapidly rising: hangars, shops, barracks, warehouses, utilities, a power plant, a hospital, and the many more structures needed for a completely functioning military city.

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The buildings erected at Quonset in this remarkable construction campaign stand today as a group of well preserved structures of the 1939-1945 period, as well as a staunch and visible reminder of America's role in World War II.

All of the original brick domestic structures of the new base and the seaplane and landplane hangars were designed by an internationally known industrial architectural firm, Albert Kahn, Inc., of Detroit. At the center of the Kahn-designed Quonset Point base is the vast, two-story enlisted men's barracks with its spread of fifteen dormitory units ranged east and west of the central mess hall. Smaller buildings for other base functions border the barracks on all sides. Although built in the same materials as the barracks-steel frame with brick exterior cover and cast-concrete trim-they are designed to emphasize the individuality of their purpose and are given varying treatments signaling their importance in the military hierarchy. They include dispensary, administration building, bachelor officers' quarters, cafeteria, gatehouse, and officers' club.

The Davisville base--containing the Navy's first Advance Base Depot (established March, 1942), the Naval Construction Training Center (June, 1942) and the Advance Base Proving Ground (Spring, 1943)--was constructed to house the expansion of programs that were begun at Quonset but that soon outstripped facilities there. Davisville, the name taken from the nearby railroad station, was applied to the extensive complex on the Quidnesset Peninsula north of Quonset, stretching from the Bay west to the Post Road and including a triangular area adjacent to the main line railway tracks, west of Post Road.

The Navy, through its first Advance Base Depot, purchased, stored, and shipped half a million tons of cargo per year to overseas bases during the height of the war. Wartime material--from anti-submarine harbor nets to chocolate bars, vehicles of all kinds and even humble nautical items like rope, nails, and canvas--passed through this North Kingstown port. The depot areas and docks, at the northeast corner of the Navy Quidnessett area, vacated by the Navy in 1974, are now largely used by firms working in offshore oil exploration.

The Advance Base Proving Ground, located in the Allen's Harbor area, acquired all of Quonset's equipment testing operations by spring of 1943. These included research and development of hundreds of pieces of equipment-everything from laundry and galley equipment, engines and generators,

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water-treatment plants, propulsion units, trucks and generators, and pontoon assemblies, all of which had to perform for Allied success in the war effort.

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The Quonset hut--whose memorable form took the Indian name of North Kingstown's lost peninsula around the world--was developed at Quonset Point in several sizes for use as a universal structure. Quonset Naval Air Station, midway in construction in March, 1941, was chosen for this work because the four-lane access road and railway spur into the base and the aircraft-carrier pier needed to ship materiel in and huts out were nearing completion. The famous semicircular, galvanized, corrugated-steel building was designed to be inexpensive and quick to manufacture, compact and lightweight to ship, easy to erect at distant bases, cool in the tropics, warm in the arctic, rigid under hurricane-level winds, capable of supporting sandbags against bombardment, and adaptable to a wide variety of uses. In May, 1941, eleven weeks after the problem was posed for design and manufacture, the first shipment left Quonset's pier. Eventually, 32,253 units would be produced at a West Davisville factory before manufacture was transferred to private firms outside Rhode Island.

The building of the Naval Construction Training Center at Davisville, the country's second Construction Battalion camp, was still another exercise in rapid planning and execution. The building team from Quonset Naval Air Station, fresh from naval-base construction in Great Britain and Iceland, had fifty-nine days, starting on June 13, 1942, to prepare a training camp for a battalion of twenty-five officers and one thousand and seventy-one men. Full capacity of ten battalions was reached shortly thereafter.

Trainees at what became known as Camp Endicott were skilled construction workers, builders, tradesmen, and engineers in civilian life. These men were trained here to function in combat military units with specialized construction skills needed to build overseas bases. Two hundred buildings, mostly of wood, were constructed on the 250-acre site north of Quonset Naval Air Station and south and west of the Advance Base Depot. Most of these are gone, though two of the drill halls remain. A well preserved cluster of Quonset huts, once used as classrooms, also remains. Although Camp Endicott was not the first Construction Battalion ("C.B.") training center, it was here that the name of these units, the "Seabees," originated.

One interesting side effect of the wartime activity at Quonset-Davisville was the construction of some remarkable new suburbs for officers and civilian workers at the base. These residential areas mark the coming of modern subdivision planning to not only North Kingstown but also to the state. In 1943, two congressional committees, one headed by Senator Harry S. Truman,

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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investigated the effects of both the east and west Narragansett Bay Navy bases on their host communities. They concluded that the overcrowding of existing housing in East Greenwich and North Kingstown by Navy families and the difficulty of getting civilian workers from distant Providence to the base were serious problems. Shortly thereafter several subdivisions were constructed near the base. These were Yorktown Manor, Sand Hill Terrace, Quonset Manor, and Plantations Park--feeding off Post Road, north of the bases--and Preston Manor--further south, near Wickford. These were Federal Housing Administration-financed communities and embodied progressive design standards, such as curving street patterns to reflect and reinforce the natural topography, provision for parks within the communities, and rigorous separation of the interior residential streets from heavily traveled arterial roads. These communities of single-family and duplex houses are still memorable for their sense of specialness-of privacy and of place-even though the houses are small and the duplex housing has not fared well Their importance ranges beyond their effect on North on the postwar market. Kingstown, for they introduced Rhode Island land surveyors and developers to modern principles of subdivision layout, so different from the simple street grids of, for example, the slightly earlier Quonset summer-colony subdivisions, and began the dominant style of subdivision layout used throughout the state after the war and through the present day.

There was one remarkable earlier (1941) community scheme--for Cedarhurst Farm, on Fishing Cove Road south of Quonset, which was never built. It is incorporated not only a variety of types of housing but also extensive commercial and recreational facilities--an entire support village for Quonset workers--arranged in an attractive form with a central avenue and symmetrical arrangement of buildings. Had it been built, it might have achieved national recognition for its design quality. The aesthetic power of such planning should not be underestimated. King Phillip's Drive, while not as historic as Wickford's Main Street, is in many ways as attractive, with its curving streets and carefully retained great trees, and adds immeasurably to the quality of life in North Kingstown.

North Kingstown's (and Rhode Island's) largest industry after World War II continued to be the U.S. Navy. Parts of the bases which had been deactivated after the war were re-established in time for the Korean conflict of 1950-1953. The Commander of the Atlantic Fleet Seabees was located at Davisville in 1951 and many of the older proving-ground operations became specialized in developing and testing equipment for Antarctic research stations. The Air Rework Facility continued its operations until 1973. In 1970, there were 14,975 military and 5,963 civilian employees at Quonset and Davisville. In April, 1973, however, the Navy announced that by July 1, 1974 (the beginning of the town's tercentennial celebration) most of the

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Navy functions in North Kingstown would be withdrawn.

Offsetting in part the later loss of the Navy was the arrival in 1964 of Brown and Sharpe, the internationally known precision tool manufacturer, which had vacated its Providence plant for a new one at the northern edge of town. The arrival of this major firm was indicative of both the postwar exodus of business and industry from older urban centers and of the increasing integration of North Kingstown into the large metropolitan area.

More of this integration has been as a bedroom suburb for cities to the north, and is closely tied to the construction of Interstate 95 and Route 4 in the 1960s. The dramatic scale of this residential growth is indicated by the following figures: from 1819 to 1875, a period of substantial growth, the number of houses in North Kingstown increased from 391 to 658. By 1975, there were 5,372 houses. Fully 3,097 of this 1975 figure were built since 1950, mostly in large-lot subdivisions.

Most of the residential expansion of the twentieth century has taken place on wooded land which was farmed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, or on open land which was farmed in more recent times. Prime agricultural land had declined as residential units have expanded. Agricultural pursuits do continue, however, on an impressive and very attractive scale. The dairy farm at 170 Fletcher Road continues a traditional practice into the twentieth century while the vast tracts in turf, nursery, and potatoes in the Slocum area allow one to still characterize North Kingstown as an agricultural as well as industrial and residential town.

### Areas of Significance

NPS Form 10-900-a

Agriculture: North Kingstown has a three-century-long history of agriculture, from the eighteenth-century "Narragansett plantations" through nineteenthcentury small holdings to twentieth-century specialty farming. The town retains evidences of each stage of agricultural development; especially noteworthy are three eighteenth-century farm house nominated here: the Gardner House, once the seat of a planter family, still retaining its agricultural setting; the Spink Farm, including a dwelling and a milk house, set among open fields; and the Pierce Farm, with its well-preserved house, nineteenthcentury outbuildings, and stone walls.

Architecture: The North Kingstown Multipiple Resource Area nomination includes structures representing facets of many periods of the town's growth. The Northup and Pierce Houses are eighteenth-century dwellings with noteworthy additions which describe the adaptation of the early houses for later



occupants. Likewise, the Rathbun House is a fine eighteenth-century residence; the Spink House is an intact, high-quality vernacular farm house, while the Slocum House is representative of the plain dwellings built for the town's small farmers in its second century.

Davisville Historic District includes houses which exemplify those constucted for the owners and supervisors of small rural manufacturing village, active in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Crowfield Historic District includes Shingle Style houses constructed as part of a residential summer compound for members and friends of a single extended family, while Packard Rocks Historic District\* presents another collection of summer houses built in the early twentieth century, here exemplifying the diversity of styles employed by architects of the 1930s. Finally, the Donnelly House is significant for the high quality of its International Style design and workmanship and for its association with modernists George Howe and Robert Montgomery Brown.

Industry: Manufacturing in North Kingstown has taken place since the seventeenth century, and several properties here nominated represent various stages of its development. Davisville Historic District, with its long history of water-powered milling, is a relatively intact nineteenth-century rural mill hamlet; Shady Lea Historic District is significant as a well-preserved nineteenth-century mill village, associated with the important Rodman family; and the Sanford House documents the way of life of a small mill owner on the Annaquatucket River and is one of the last traces of the small village once located here.

Literature: Crowfield Historic District has significance as the summer home of Owen Wister, popular novelist of the early twentieth century.

Religion: Old Narragansett Cemetery is significant as one of North Kingstown's earliest burial grounds and as the sole physical document of the location of an important eighteenth-century religious center.

Sculpture: Old Narragansett Cemetery describes the variety and scope of funerary art produced in Rhode Island during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and, in addition, contains many fine examples of the stonecarver's art, including some stones from the noted Stevens shop of Newport

Other: Community Development: Saunderstown Historic District is significant as a small nineteenth-century boat-building center which later developed into an early twentieth-century summer resort, with buildings from its two stages of development now integrated into a small, but substantial, community.

\*Not approved by Rhode Island Review Board.

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Other: Recreation: The development of North Kingstown as a summer resort was an important stage in the town's nineteenth and twentieth century histor Crowfield Historic District and Saunderstown Historic District represent tw varieties of this important phase: Crowfield was developed as a small compound of houses for the summer life of a single family and their friends, while Saunderstown represents the alteration of a small maritime village for later summer visitors.

SOUTH COUNTY ?.



The Ezekial Gardner House, 297 Pensin Rd., n.K.



# **SAUNDERSTOWN**











Crowfield Historic District

Crowfield North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 6:11)

Description: East facade



Crowfield Historic District Jamieson House North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 6:15)

Description: East facade



Crowfield Historic District

Champ des Corbeaux North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 6:14)

Description: facade



Crowfield Historic District

Champ des Corbeaux Caretaker's Cottage North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 6:20A)

Description: View from northeast



Crowfield Historic District Orchard House North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: 1978

Negative on file at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (EW 17:5)

Description: East facade



Davisville Historic District 296 Davisville Road North Kingstown, R.I. Walter Nebiker Photographer: Date: 1978 Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (WNK 7:27) Description: Joshua Davis House, south facade



Davisville Historic District

277 Davisville Road North Kingstown, R.I. Photographer: Walter Nebiker 1978 Date: R.I. Historical Preservation Negative filed at: Commission (WNK 7:22) und ast Ezra Davis House, north fac Description: elevations



Davisville Historic District

299 Davisville Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Walter Nebiker

Date: 1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (WNK 7:24)

Description: Bellefield, from southeast



Davisville Historic District

299 Davisville Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Walter Nebiker

Date: 1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (WNK 7:26

Description: Bellefield, northeast elevation and outbuildings


Davisville Historic District

345 Davisville Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Walter Nebiker

Date: 1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (WNK 8:28)

Description: Henry Sweet House, northeast facade

Photo No. //



Davisville Historic District

Davisville Road, south of Hunt's River North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 5:22A)

Description: Old Davisville mill site



2500 Boston Neck Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Kim Viall

Date 1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (KEV 7:17A)

Description: Saunderstown Country Store, from southwest



Cavanagh Court North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 3:33)

Description: Left to right: 2, 4, and 1 Cavanaugh Court, from northeast



99 and 54 Ferry Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission CKR 3:31)

Description:

The Martin Saunders House (99, left) and Saunders-Arnold House (54, right) from southeast



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25 Waterway
North Kingstown, R.I.
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Photographer: Charlene Roise

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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 3:29)

Description: Gould-Wister House, east facade



5 Willet Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 3:30)

Description: View from east



65 Willet Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date:1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (15:36A)

Description: Chapel of St. John the Divine, from northeast



End of Ferry Road, Narragansett Bay North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 6:24)

Description: Remains of wharf at end of Ferry Road; Saunders Boatyard site at left rear; Jamestown Bridge behind



Shady Lea Mill North Kingstown, RI

Photographer: Ellen Weiss

Date: 1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (EW 23:26)

Description: Mill from northeast.



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Shady Lea Mill
North Kingstown, R.I.
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Photographer: Charlene Roise

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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:26)

Description: Mill dam and pond, mill in background



20 Shady Lea Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:36)

Description: Rodman House, from southwest



63-69 Shady Lea Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:32)

Description: Mill tenement, north facade



233 (right) and 234-236 (left) Shady Lea Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:31)

Description: Mill double houses from west



1340 Tower Hill Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:35)

Description: Potpourri Potters from northwest (formerly Rodman estate barn)



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Rathbun House
343 Beacon Drive
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer:
              Charlene Roise
Date:
     July 1981
Negative filed at:
                    Rhode Island Historical
                      Preservation Commission
                      (CKR 1:21A)
Description:
            South facade
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Rathbun House
343 Beacon Drive
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date:
       July 1981
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
                      Preservation Commission
                      (CKR 1:23)
Description:
              Ice house in foreground; north
              elevation of house behind
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Rathbun House
343 Beacon Drive
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date:
      July 1981
Negative filed at:
                    R.I. Historical Preservation
                       Commission (CKR 1:14)
Description: Kitchen fireplace
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Esbon Sanford House 88 Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Walter Nebiker

Date: 1978

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (WNK 6:7)

Description: View from southeast



Esbon Sanford House 88 Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 3:20)

Description: View from northeast



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Esbon Sanford House
88 Featherbed Lane
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer:
              Charlene Roise
Date:
       July 1981
Negative filed at:
                    R.I. Historical Preservation
                       Commission (CKR 6:1)
Description:
              Southeast parlor
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Esbon Sanford House
88 Featherbed Lane
North Kingstown, R.I.
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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation
Commission (CKR 6:5)
```

Description: Kitchen



Stephen Northrup House 99 Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative file at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 3:36)

Description: West (front) facade



Stephen Northrup House 99 Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 4:1)

Description: Chamfered summer beam and 2-panel doors in oldest (south) section



Stephen Northrup House 99 Featherbed Lane North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 4:3)

Description: North parlor



Joseph Peirce Farm 933 Gilbert Stuart Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:36)

Description: From southeast: original section to left, with 19th-century addition



Joseph Peirce Farm 933 Gilbert Stuart Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:32)

Description: Oldest (southern) section--early 18th century remodeled in Late Federal period



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Joseph Peirce Farm
933 Gilbert Stuart Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
```

```
Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR (2:35)

Description: Stone fireplace in basement of original section



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Joseph Peirce Farm
933 Gilbert Stuart Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date: July 1981
Negative file at: R.I. Historical Preservation
                       Commission (2:33)
Description:
              Late 18th- or early 19th-century
              addition
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Anna H. Donnelly House
125 Lloyd Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date: July 1981
                    R.I. Historical Preservation
Negative filed at:
                       Commission (CKR 5:13)
             West facade
Description:
```



```
Anna H. Donnelly House
125 Lloyd Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date: July 1981
Negative filed at:
                    R.I. Historical Preservation
                       Commission (CKR 2:3)
Description:
             East facade
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Anna H. Donnelly House
125 Lloyd Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:8)

Description: Looking south: dining room, with living room beyond bar



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Anna H. Donnelly House
125 Lloyd Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
```

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:11)

Description: Stairway

Photo No. 44



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Anna H. Donnelly House
125 Lloyd
North Kingstown, R.I.
```

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:10)

Description: New passage/patio; shows cypress siding of original north wall



Ezekial Gardner House 297 Pendar Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:18)

Description: Kitchen fireplace



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Ezekial Gardner House
297 Pendar Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
```

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:17)

Description: Parlor fireplace

Photo No. 48


Old Narragansett Cemetery Shermantown Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 2:13)

Description: Southeast corner, shows table tomb of Christopher and Sarah Philips



Old Narragansett Cemetery Shermantown Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 3:0)

Description: MacSparren/Fayerweather Monument

Photo No.5D



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Spink Farm
1325 Shermantown Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
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Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:7)

Description: East facade



Spink Farm 1325 Shermantown Road North Kingstown, R.I.

Photographer: Charlene Roise

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:8)

Description: Looking south towards house and fields



```
Spink Farm
1325 Shermantown Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:13)

Description: Looking southeast from graveyard; house at left



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Spink Farm
1325 Shermantown Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
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Date: July 1981
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Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation
Commission (CKR 1:5)
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Description: Fireplace in northeast parlor



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Spink Farm
1325 Shermantown Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
```

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 1:0)

Description: Kitchen fireplace



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Slocum House
Slocum Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
Date:
       July 1981
Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation
                       Commission (CKR 4:17)
Description: Front facade, from southwest
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Slocum House
Slocum Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
Photographer: Charlene Roise
       July 1981
Date:
Negative filed at:
                    R.I. Historical Preservation
                       Commission (CKR 4:10)
DescriptionK Southwest parlor
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```
Slocum House
Slocum Road
North Kingstown, R.I.
```

Date: July 1981

Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (CKR 4:13)

Description: Kitchen fireplace