

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,344,0007	DATE 3/31/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chepachet Village *West Point*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Both sides of US 44 (roughly from intersection of US 44 and R.I. 102 N to

CITY OR TOWN:
Glocester Township *intersection of R.I. 102 and 102*

STATE: Rhode Island, 02814 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

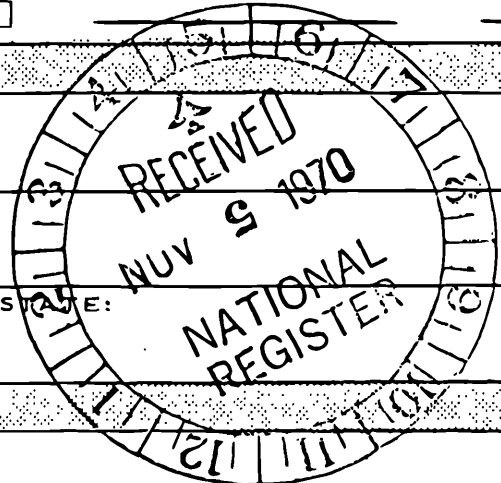
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Putnam Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Chepachet STATE: Rhode Island, 02814 CODE: 44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *528 acres ±*

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not yet so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

71,344,0007/31/70

7. DESCRIPTION

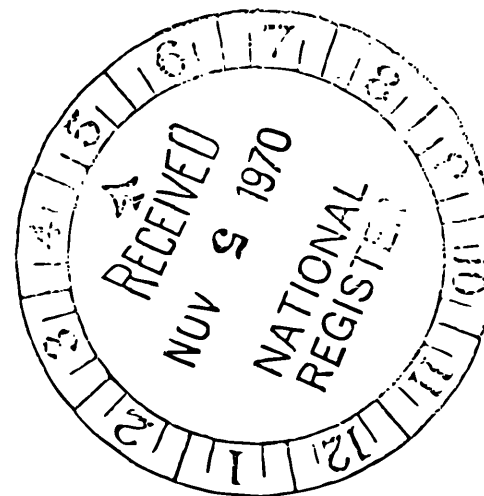
CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The district is an early settlement of Rhode Island and in 1970 contains at least 76 buildings possessing architectural and/or historical value. About 40 of these buildings are of XVIII or earliest XIX Century date, while the remainder belong to the early and middle XIX Century. The village has in the last sixty years lost many of its older buildings, but those still existing and included in the above count are close to their original appearance, well maintained and in general requiring only a moderate amount of restoration. All of the historic buildings in the district are of wood frame construction except the stone mill--the last remaining of several which once depended upon the Chepachet River running through the village and upon the mill pond and waterfall, which still do exist.

Some of the buildings of historical note and architectural interest in the district are two fine frame churches, one built in 1821 and the other in 1846; a stone mill dating from 1814; the Masonic Hall, in continuous use for its original purpose since 1802; the stage-coach tavern, built c. 1800, which was military headquarters for the Dorr Rebellion; the Brown and Hopkins grocery store, built in 1799, in business under the same roof since 1806--thought to be a record in this country; and numerous handsome, well-maintained old dwellings exhibiting a sequence of architectural styles over a full century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>A contained,</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>continuing</u>
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>village and its</u>
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>architecture</u>
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

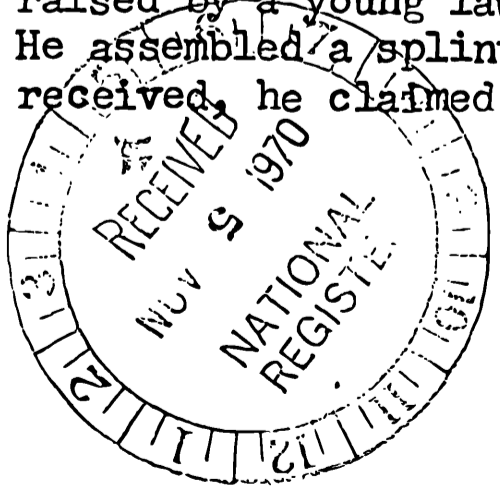
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The village is important as one of the very early, and remaining, settled communities in this state; it continues as a town center for all of the surrounding Gloucester area and displays, through its buildings, its history and its continuity. It is a visually attractive area which can, in capsule form, illustrate the history of the entire state.

Like all its neighbors, Chepachet had a part in the phenomenal, mushrooming industrial development which took place in Rhode Island in the post-Revolutionary era and in the early XIX Century. It had water to provide power for the mills, of which a number operated there. It was a compactly settled point for stops, relays and service on the stage routes running on by turnpike through Connecticut. Never large, never overgrown in ugly fashion, it has remained an un-trumpeted but well known locale in Rhode Island and a point of definite visual interest to out-of-state persons driving through.

Chepachet has produced its share of local, historically important personages, among them being Deputy-Governor Daniel Owen, president of the state convention which in 1790 adopted the Constitution of the United States (born there; his residence demolished in the 1960's). One of the state's foremost attorneys, Samuel Young Atwell, lived there and taught there some who became illustrious later--Ames, Clarke, Jencks, Metcalf, Manchester and Browne.

In 1842, peacefully prosperous Chepachet took center-stage in Rhode Island history when this small state was shaken by the "Dorr War" or "Dorr Rebellion" that arose over questions of expanded suffrage and of the dubious suitability of the ancient state charter--questions raised by a young lawyer-politician, Thomas Wilson Dorr (1805-1854). He assembled a splinter party promising a new state constitution and received, he claimed, a majority vote.



(See Continuation Sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perry, Elizabeth A.: A Brief History of the Town of Gloucester, R. I.
 (Providence, R. I., 1886.)
 Potter, Frank A.: Chepachet and Thereabouts in the Town of Gloucester.
 (Chepachet, R. I., 1939.)
History of the State of Rhode Island ... (Philadelphia, 1878.)
 U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers Project: Rhode Island. (Boston, 1937.)
 Herndon, Richard, comp.: Men of Progress ... Rhode Island. (Boston, 1896.)
 Munro, Wilfred H.: Picturesque Rhode Island. (Providence, R. I., 1881.)

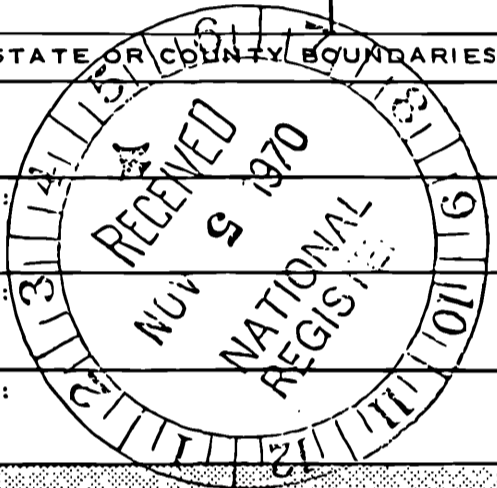
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 19/079 550/4642620
 12-12-70
 DTM: 151
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 19/079 550/4642620

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 55' 27"	71° 41' 02"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 55' 27"	71° 38' 58"				
SE	41° 54' 11"	71° 38' 58"				
SW	41° 54' 11"	71° 41' 02"				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 William H. Gerold, President

ORGANIZATION: Gloucester Heritage Society

DATE: Sept. 25, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester

STATE: Rhode Island, 02814

CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Frederick E. Williams

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: October 9, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: MAR 31 1971

ATTEST:

William J. Mustang
 Keeper of The National Register

DATE: FEB 8 1971

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance.

From this election there emerged the incumbent governor, Samuel W. King, and anti-governor Dorr, whom King proclaimed a traitorous criminal-- calling out the state militia. There were a number of clashes, the most notable taking place in Chepachet, a Dorr stronghold, where Acote Hill had been encamped and fortified. When three regiments of militia advanced on Chepachet there was only desultory scuffling, for Dorr and his supporters had prudently left, avoiding another Concord or Lexington. (Dorr later gave himself up, was tried and vindictively given a life sentence, but in 1845 was released; and in time the reforms which he had promoted were, in fact, incorporated into the frame of the state's government.) Acote Hill is still prominent as one approaches the village from the southeast on U. S. Route 44 and is now a cemetery.

