

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received MAY 28 1980
date entered JUN 27 1981

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

1. Name

historic Poppasquash Farms Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

RI 114

street & number Between R.I. Route 114 and Narragansett Bay not for publication

Hon. Fernand J. StGermain

city, town Bristol vicinity of congressional district 1

state Rhode Island code 44 county Bristol code 001

3. Classification

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use, and Accessible. Includes checkboxes for various property types like 'public', 'occupied', 'museum', etc.

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple, public and private

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bristol Town Hall

street & number 9 Court Street

city, town Bristol state Rhode Island

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Bristol, Rhode Island has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972-1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence state Rhode Island

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Poppasquash Farms Historic District, containing twenty-three historic buildings, structures, and seven sites, lies at the head of Poppasquash Neck, a large peninsula formed by retreating glaciers, jutting southwesterly into Narragansett Bay, and defining the northern and western boundaries of Bristol Harbor. Today, nearly ninety percent of the district is in public ownership. Colt State Park, contains four hundred and sixty-six acres, including the thirty-four acre Mill Gut and fifteen acre Mill Pond. The remaining ten percent, approximating fifty acres, contains the historic buildings rimming the perimeter of Bristol Harbor and one mid-twentieth century subdivision of fourteen houses, built just before acquisition of the Colt estate by the State of Rhode Island in 1965. Only the vision of Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt, who began acquiring the Poppasquash Farms in 1903 with the clear intent of creating a public park, prevented this district from intensive residential development. Perhaps nowhere else in Rhode Island can the public today experience the unique interface of land, water, and sky, accentuated by outstanding examples of architecture and sculpture representing eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century life styles that are represented in this district.

The Poppasquash Farms district begins on the north off Hope Street (Route 114) at the famous Bull Gates (map #1) of Colt State Park, created in 1913 for Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt, by sculptor Isadore Bonheur (see Photo 1). Asylum Road, laid out in 1822 for the Town Poor Farm (map #3) and lined with chestnut trees, runs due west from the gates past the North Burial Ground (map #2), opened in 1823. A new exit road for Colt State Park parallels Asylum Road, which slopes down a gentle hill to a panoramic overlook of the head of Bristol Harbor, crosses the Providence, Warren and Bristol Railroad (opened in 1855 and now abandoned) then splits southerly into Colt Park Drive, and continues to Bristol Town Beach where an expanded town recreation complex (map #25 and #26) is under development. Colt Park Drive meanders westerly through open fields accentuated by formal plantings of rhododendrons, pines, quince and hawthorn bushes. The drive divides at the shore of Narragansett Bay offering a sweeping view westerly across the Bay to the low hills of the west shore and northerly to the landmark spires of the adjacent towns of Barrington and Warren. To the south an unspoiled landscape is revealed with extensive salt marshes leading to tidal Mill Gut, filled with mussel beds and sand bars, and rimmed by old cherry, sycamore, and oak trees. Very little change has come to this open space since the first proprietors laid out the Poppasquash Farms from 1689 to 1696.

Continuing southwesterly, Mill Gut Bridge (1906; map #4), now denuded of its famous classical statuary and closed to automobile traffic, arches over the inlet evoking a picture of medieval Lombardy (see photo 2). A modern concrete-and-timber bridge (1967; map #4A), parallels the historic span. The park drive continues to North Point, site of the Old North Point or Chase Farm, a complex of three houses and five outbuildings,

(see continuation sheet #1)

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 26 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY 27

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, demolished by the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources after 1965. The North Point overlook, frequented all year long, offers an unexcelled view of Narragansett Bay and chance to experience the endless rhythm of waves breaking on the shore.

The long, elliptical modern park drive continues south, past old fields now used for kite-flying, baseball, picnics, games and sunbathing. At the crest of a low hill to the east, eighteenth-century stone walls define an outdoor chapel (map #28). Just south of the lane leading to the chapel is the site (map #5) of Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt's famous Casino (1907; demolished 1960s), frequented by many of the most prominent leaders of the period; all that remains are broken fragments of two massive Borghese urns that flanked the front terrace overlooking Narragansett Bay. The drive turns easterly through a clump of woods to open meadows and the magnificent Colt dairy barns (1917; map #7), designed by Wallis E. Howe, for Colonel Colt's prize Jersey herd. The barns are now re-used for park offices and maintenance (see photo 3). To the east of the barns, rolling meadows slope gently down to Mill Gut.

A narrow, treelined section of Colt Drive branches easterly along the old "way from Mazzard Cherry Lane" to Coggeshall Farm (map #8), operated by the Coggeshall Farm Museum, Inc., an offshoot of the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society. Original elements include the Coggeshall Farmhouse (c.1760 and 1799)--a modest, four-bay, mid-eighteenth century dwelling (see photo 4); the ruins of a random fieldstone spring house (map #8A) at the head of Mill Gut, and the one-story, stone, well house (map #8B), dating from the Colt estate period of 1907-1921. Reconstructed elements include a blacksmith shop (map #8C), sheep-pen (map #8D), barn (map #8E), pottery shed (map #8F), and pole barn (map #8G). The way continues easterly past open fields, defined by rough, post-and-rail fences, past Byfield's tomb (map #8H), to meet Poppasquash Road.

Poppasquash Road contains a cluster of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century houses, hugging the shore of Bristol Harbor and reflecting changing architectural styles over a two-hundred-year span. Four out of five homes built by the Church family from 1770 to 1886 survive, with two remaining in family ownership today. Poppasquash Road runs north from Colt State Park past the site (map #9)

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 28 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN-27 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

of Major William D'Wolf's mansion, "Hey Bonnie Hall" (1808 et seq; demolished 1944), designed by Russell Warren, Rhode Island's leading exponent of the Greek Revival style, for one of the great merchant princes of Bristol (see photo 5). On the west stands the Mervyn Clay House (1953; map #11); designed by Wallis E. Howe, a member of the firm of Church & Howe (see photo 6), it reproduces the wide gambrel roof form of Nathaniel Byfield's "Point Pleasant," built in 1690, which stood just south of this district and burned in 1925. At the bend in the road stands the Stephen Church House (c.1790), a fine, Federal, hip-roofed, house (Map #15), one of four surviving properties built by members of the Church family (see photo 7). Next door is the Colonial, gable-roofed, center-chimney Thomas Manchester House (c.1770; map #16), built on land willed in 1749 by Samuel Viall to his grand-son, Samuel W. Church (see photo 8).

The upper section of Poppasquash Road winds past "Harbor Point" (c.1900; remodeled 1954), a gambrel-roofed Queen Anne summer cottage (map #17), moved from the site of the "The Castle" in 1917 by Stephen W. Church and remodeled after the 1938 hurricane by John W. Church. The Thomas Church Homestead (c.1780 and c.1860) stands on the north side of the road at the end of a short dirt lane (map #19). It is distinguished by its curving gable-breaking-gable Victorian roof, built over the original gable roof by Samuel W. Church, who returned to the family farm in 1854, continuing its development into a "model farm" recognized throughout Rhode Island (see photo 9). Directly east are two Late Victorian country houses built by two of Samuel W. Church's three sons from 1880 to 1886. Still in Church family ownership, the complex of the James C. Church House (c.1886; map #20) and Charles H. Church House (c.1880; map #21), with mirror-image barns and outbuildings (map #20A, 20B, 20C and 21A), serviced by a narrow driveway, offers a remarkable image of country life in the late nineteenth century (see photo 10 and 11).

The Poppasquash Farms district ends at Windmill Point, now occupied by "The Castle" restaurant (map #22, a sprawling complex obscuring the outline of a private fortress begun in the early 1910's. No sign remains of the site of a seventeenth-century windmill (map #23), recorded in 1690 as Bristol's first mill, and a later "Spider Mill," (see photo 12). To the north of the small bridge, the Mill Pond, survives, used today only by fishermen and for experimental oyster beds in an attempt to revive a traditional Narragansett Bay industry. Poppasquash Road continues to intersect busy Hope Street (Route 114),

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

JUN 27 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

an historic road now serving the needs of modern Bristol.

The following Inventory lists contributing and non-contributing structures and sites within the Poppasquash Farms District:

Poppasquash Farms Historic District

Inventory

Contributing Structures and Sites

- Map #1
UU Bull Gates (1913): Two great bronze bulls, each over six feet tall and weighing more than a ton, modelled by sculptor Isadore Bonheur and cast in Paris by the Val d' Onse Company, with bases of White Georgia marble (modeled on the sentry boxes at the Petit Trianon, Versailles) flank the main entrance to Colt State Park on the west side of Hope Street on the site of the old North District School House. Dedicated on September 26, 1913, the gates carry the inscription, "Colt Farm. Private property, public welcome" (See photo 1).
- Map #2
S Rhode Island Historical Cemetery, Town of Bristol, Number 1 (1822 et seq.): The North Burial ground, bought by the town of Bristol in 1822, contains gravestones of many prominent Bristolians, including the Church, Spooner, Bourn, Herreshoff, and Gooding families. At the north side at the top of a slight knoll is a Civil War monumental column with a Union soldier holding a furled flag, erected by the State of Rhode Island in 1902, surrounded by graves of Civil War veterans.
- Map #3
S Site of the Town Asylum (1822, demolished 1950s). Built by Benjamin Norris of native stone for the town's "House of Industry," Poor Farm, or Asylum, a nine-bay, gable-roofed structure burned in 1952; the derelict structure and out-buildings were demolished by the early 1950s.
- Map #4A
U Mill Gut Bridge (1906): This three arch span of rough granite, the largest private bridge in Rhode Island at date of construction, was originally adorned with five bronze and seven stone statues including Cupid and Apollo and Venus on the north abutments, the "Maiden of the Bath" and "Diana of the Bath" and two wild boars (copies from originals in

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

JUN 27 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET 4

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 5

the Vatican) on each end of the main arch; and "Diana of the Hunt" and "The Gladiator" on the south abutments. Other nearby statues include a bronze dog sitting on a rock and the "Neapolitan Fisher Children," and "Child and Frog" and "Child and Tortoise" on the right and left of a long drive leading south. By 1959 vandalism and defacement forced removal of the statues, and the beloved bronze dog had been stolen. No statues exist on the bridge today -- now used for pedestrian traffic only (see photo 2).

Map #4B J Mill Gut Bridge (1967): This modern, single-span bridge of concrete and heavy timber is dedicated to P.F.C. Joseph W. Borges, U.S.M.C., "first Bristolian who gave his life serving his country in Viet Nam, May 6, 1969." Designed to carry automobile traffic, the bridge is sited parallel to the historic Colt Mill Gut Bridge, compromising the integrity of the original bridge's setting.

Map #4C MC-U Stone Marker at Mill Gut (1965): A bronze plaque, set into a large, rough, boulder carries the inscription "Colt State Park, named in honor of Colonel Samuel P. Colt who generously made this property, his family estate, available for the enjoyment of the public for over forty years. "Dedicated August 21, 1968, John H. Chafee, Governor." This marker, located on a knoll overlooking the saltmarshes and mill gut, just before Mill Gut Bridge, celebrates the acquisition of the Colt Estate, August 3, 1965, as the first purchase of the State of Rhode Island's Green Acres Program.

Map #5 S Site of "The Casino" (c. 1907, demolished 1970s): Originally built for entertaining prominent guests by Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt, the two and one-half-story, hip-roof, shingled pavillion had extensive porches; it was demolished by the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources for a more modern recreational facility. Statues of colts, the family symbol, and two large Borghese urns flanked the entrance in the Casino's heyday.

Map #6 S Site of the Revolutionary Battery (1776-1780): Overgrown depressions in the earth indicate the approximate location of a battery on the shore of Narragansett Bay, identified by Caleb Harris on, "A Map of the State of Rhode Island,"

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 26 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN 27 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET 5

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 6

printed in 1795. Future investigation of this site may reveal valuable information about the construction of colonial defenses along Narragansett Bay during the Revolutionary era.

- Map #7
G W
SB
Colt Dairy Barns (1917): Designed by architect Wallis E. Howe to house Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt's prize herd of Jersey cattle. The picturesque and rustic fieldstone barn complex has a one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, steel framed central section with a two-story, ogee-domed tower at the southwest corner to house Colonel Colt's office and two dramatic large silos. Originally the entire complex, including a cow barn, calf barn, maternity ward, bull pen, and dairy, designed around a spacious courtyard, was roofed with red-glazed pantilles. Due to a fire in the 1930s, the cow barn is today covered with red asphalt shingles. Park offices and maintenance facilities are now housed in the Colt barns. A pair of bronze lions guard the gate (see photo 3).
- Map #8
BB J
Coggeshall Farm (c. 1750 et. seq.): This simple, one-and-a-half-story, four-bay, gable-roofed, shingle-clad cottage with a large central chimney and one-story ell may have been started by Samuel Viall who purchased the land from Samuel Byfield in 1723. The house and well, "being a few rods northeast from the dwelling house", are specifically mentioned in two deeds of March 8, 1799, from Samuel Viall Peck to Shearjashub Bourn along with the "Way from the Cherry Street Walk Drive" referring to Mazzard Cherry trees, imported and grown in Bristol in the eighteenth century. Leased by the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society from the state since 1968, the farmhouse is today the center of a "Living Farm Museum" of eighteenth-century life, containing several new outbuildings and a small barn and attracting over 30,000 visitors annually. The name "Coggeshall Farm" refers to the tenant family who worked the land from the early 1830s. Chandler Coggeshall and his brothers lived at the farm in 1895 and until its purchase in 1903 by Samuel Pomeroy Colt.
- Map #9
S
Site of the William D'Wolf House or "Hey Bonnie Hall" (1808; demolished 1944): Russell Warren, leading exponent of the Greek Revival style in Rhode Island, designed this two-story, hip-roofed, five-bay mansion with flanking, hip-

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 6

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 7

roofed wings, for William D'Wolf, one of Bristol's leading merchant princes, in 1808. Drawings and photographs of "Hey Bonnie Hall," the name given to the mansion by Annie DeWolf Middleton in 1895 following a long court battle and partition of major William D'Wolf's estate, were published in the White Pine Series monograph on "The Bristol Renaissance" in 1917. Damage due to the 1938 hurricane/and lack of preservation "awareness" in the 1940s resulted in demolition of "Hey Bonnie Hall" in 1944; elements of the house and some furniture are incorporated into a contemporary bungalow erected on the southern half of the original eleven-acre site of Major D'Wolf's House.

- Map #10 *US* John S. Palmer House (1937): A large-scale, two-story, gable-roofed, five-bay, Colonial Revival country home with brick, end chimneys, and brick-and-shingle wall cover, was designed by Providence architect Albert Harkness on the northern half of the D'Wolf estate. The main two-level entrance on the north side has a flat-roofed portico supported by round Doric columns. The house commands a sweeping view of Bristol Harbor and has a private dock.
- Map #11 *33* Mervin Clay House or "Point Pleasant" (1953): Architect Wallis E. Howe of the firm of Church and Howe, Providence, designed this replica of "Point Pleasant" for Mervin Clay, secretary of the Bristol Lace Works. The original "Point Pleasant," built by Nathaniel Byfield in the late 1600s and willed to Sarah Brown and Carl Frederick Herreshoff by her father John Nicholas Brown in 1801. Burned in 1925, it stood just south of the border of the Poppasquash Farms District. The one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed, Colonial Revival, brick country house, with addition of a modern service wing and garage, commands a sweeping view northerly across meadows to Mill Gut and Narragansett Bay. Outbuildings include a shed and gambrel-roof play house (see photo 6).
- Map #12 *B* "Red Crest: or Kortwright House, now the Bristol Yacht Club (1868, remodeled c.1955): Originally this two-story, three-bay, steeply-pitched, hip-roofed house had a hexagonal turret on the east and the three-story, flat-roofed tower with cresting on the west side. These elements and a wrap-around porch

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 28 1988
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

7

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 8

with curvilinear brackets and projecting central portico were all removed and first-floor windows altered with conversion to yacht club use in the 1950s.

Map #13 *NC-B* Atlantic Sailing Yachts (1948 et seq.): The main building is a two-story, shingled structure with a bowed-gable roof used for a boatyard with an attached two-story, gable-roof shingled ell used for a clothing and boat shop.

NC-B 13A Boat Shed (1948 et seq.): A one-story, ten-bay, saw-tooth roof, board-and-batten, auxiliary building, located on the west end of the boatyard site.

V 14 Stone Pier (c.1870s et seq.): This rough stone wharf, extending approximately eighty feet into Bristol Harbor and used today for a modern boatyard, appears on the 1870, D.G. Beers Map of Bristol, Bristol County, Rhode Island.

NC-V.B Map #15 Stephen Church House or "Yankee Hearths" (c.1790): This two-story, hip-roofed, center-chimney, four-bay, wood-clap-boarded house was built by Charles DeWolf, one of Bristol's leading merchants, shipbuilders and banker, for his daughter; it remained in Church family ownership until purchased by Samuel Pomeroy Colt in 1904. Modern additions (including a swimming pool and field house, two-car garage, and two ells) have not marred the integrity of the original house. Exterior detailing includes a fine pedimented entry with elliptical pierced fanlight and arched frame with a center, console block. A well scaled Greek Key frieze surrounds three sides and handsome quoins trim the corners (see photo #7). Outbuildings include the large Early Victorian barn directly to the north standing on land leased from Colt State Park.

10 Map #16 Thomas Manchester House (c.1770): This two-story, gable-roofed clapboarded, house with an irregularly spaced center-chimney, five-bay facade and a replaced front-door frame, was built for one of the Church family on land willed by Samuel Viall in June, 1749, to his grandson Samuel Church. The house, today, is in an excellent state of preservation. (see photo #8).

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 20 1980
DATE ENTERED	11/27

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 8

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 9

- Map #17 Grumont House or "Harbour Point" (c.1900, moved 1917; re-modeled 1954): This one-and-one-half-story, gambrel roofed Queen Anne summer cottage, with a two-story tower on the west side, and three patterns of cut shingle wall cover, was moved from the site of "The Castle" in 1917 by Samuel W. Church; rebuilt after damage caused by the 1954 hurricane by John W. Church; and now used for an all year round residence.
- Map #18 Site of Samuel W. Church House (c.1890; demolished 1971): This two-story, asymmetrical, three-bay, Late Victorian house, with a complex hip roof trimmed with a shaped-block cornice and front porch facing Bristol Harbor, was built by one of Samuel W. Church's three sons, and later known as the Wheelwright House. The Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources demolished the house in 1971; vandals burned the barn in 1979.
- Map #19 Thomas W. Church House (c.1790/c.1860): This two-and-one-half-story, five-bay house with a steeply pitched, curving, gable-breaking-gable, Victorian roof displaying paired Victorian bracket and heavy returns, built over the original colonial roof, was built by Thomas W. Church who served in the Revolution and died in 1843. His son, Samuel W. Church, a successful merchant and one of the incorporators of the Providence, Warren and Bristol Railroad, returned to the family homestead with eleven children to develop this "model farm." Changes in the house probably took place following his second marriage in 1853.
- Map #20 James C. Church House (c.1886): This two-story three-bay, Late Victorian house, with a gable-on-hip with intersecting-front-gable roof, was built by James C. Church, one of Samuel W. Church's three sons; a two-story barn repeats the basic form of the house. Detailing includes a full front porch with triangular brackets (accented by a cut-out circular pattern) and dentil frieze under the cornice. The house remains today in Church family ownership (see photo #10).
- Map #21 Charles H. Church House (c.1880): This two-story, Late Victorian, L-shaped country villa with a main gable roof and gabled projection punctured by multiple, triangular dormers

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 28 1980
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 9

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 10

with bargeboard and finials, was built for one of Samuel W. Church's sons. Original details include a compound front door with etched-glass panels in a floral pattern and the wrap-around porch (now screened) accented by strap-work brackets with chamfered edges supporting a saw-tooth frieze and row of dentils. Set back from the James C. Church House and serviced by a common driveway. This house is also owned by members of the Church family (see photo 11).

- Map #23 S Windmill Point Site (1690-mid 19th century). Now abandoned, the Point was the site of a very early, possibly 17th-century water mill and the Spider Mill, illustrated in a handwritten book "My Winter Morning Walk" (poem) by Eliza DeWolf Vernon, illustrated by Martha Gibbs French and published in 1846. (see photo #12).

Poppasquash Farms Historic District

Non contributing structures:

- Map #22 b The Castle (c.1920; renovated): This two-story, castle-like complex, originally was begun as a private house in the early 1920s, following the depression, the structure was used for the large Jamiel family, then converted and enlarged into a restaurant in the 1950s. The original block surface is today covered with stucco; many additions obscure the original form of the Castle.
- Map #24 b U. S. Army Reserve Center (c.1957): A utilitarian, one-story, seventeen-bay, brick-and-concrete building with a shallow gable roof plus a two-story wing with multiple windows offset on the north side. The center, including a two-bay, flat-roofed garage and a fenced yard was built on 5.3 acres of the "Poor Farm" after its demolition in the early 1950s. The location is on a slight knoll north of Asylum Road overlooking Bristol Harbor.
- Map #25 S Recreation Building (under construction, 1980): A two-story, cinder-block, community-recreation building with a hip roof now under construction for the Town of Bristol's recreation complex.
- Map # 26 S Pavillion, Bristol Town Beach (1950s): A one-story, three-

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1978

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 10

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 11

bay, brick structure with central-gable roof flanked by matching two-bay, flat-roofed wings; open in the summer for Bristol residents using beach and playground facilities.

Map #27 Restrooms (1960s): A one-story, hexagonal, utilitarian building, constructed of patterned blocks and fieldstone piers under a pyramidal roof; erected by the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources.

Map #28 Restrooms (1960s): A one-story, hexagonal, utilitarian building constructed of patterned blocks and fieldstone piers, under a pyramidal roof, erected by the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources.

Map #29 Restrooms (1960s): A duplicate one-story, hexagonal, utilitarian building constructed of patterned blocks and fieldstone piers, under a pyramidal roof; erected by the Department of Natural Resources on the site of "The Casino", Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt's famous summer pavillion.

Map #30 7 Harbor View Avenue (c.1955): The first in a row of fourteen houses lining both sides of a curving, dead-end, road laid out in 1953 before development of Colt State Park. This one-and-one-half-story, five-bay Cape with gable roof and gabled dormers, clapboarded on the front elevation and shingled on the other elevations, is screened from Colt Park Drive by a row of mature evergreens.

Map #31 9 Harbour View Avenue (c.1960): A two-story, three-bay, Colonial reproduction, with a gable roof and breezeway attached to a one-story, two-car garage; typical of suburban postwar homes.

Map #32 17 Harbour View Avenue (c.1955): A one and two-story, split-level, four-bay house with a gable roof and projecting wing containing a two-car garage on the lower level (below grade) with living quarters above.

Map #33 19 Harbour View Avenue (1956): A one-and-one-half, five-bay, center-chimney Cape with a gable roof and gabled dormers, with a breezeway and one-car garage attached on the

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 28 1980
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 11

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 12

north side.

- Map #34 Harbour View (c.1960): A large, one-and-one half-story, three-bay Cape, with a gable roof and projecting, gabled ell breaking the line of the facade. The house is set back from the street on a slight rise with a large, nicely landscaped lot, including low, stone walls.
- Map #35 Off Harbour View (c.1955): This large, two-story, three-bay, shingled house with a gable roof and gabled dormer, has a one-story, flat-roofed sun room added onto the southwest corner commanding a spectacular view south across Bristol Harbor to Narragansett Bay and the Portsmouth shores.
- Map #36 Off Harbour Road (c.1960): This two-story, three-bay house with a gable roof and offset, gabled, garage ell, has a full-width, two-story portico with four columns, on its south side overlooking Bristol Harbor. Set at the end of a lane, Anthony A. Nunes, local Bristol contractor, who developed this street after 1953, built this house for himself.
- Map #37 33 Harbour View (c.1955): A one-and-one-half-story, three-bay Cape with a gable roof and five-unit bay window topped by an ogee-curved roof on the main elevation. This house has a one-story wing connecting a two-story wing with a gable roof and full-width shed dormers, containing a two-car garage with living space above. Beautifully landscaped grounds include terraces, greenhouse, and shed-roof, contemporary, auxiliary building.
- Map #38 End of Harbour View (1950): This small, two-bay, summer cottage with a shallow gable roof extended on the north side to form a salt box, may have been converted from one of the outbuildings originally belonging to the large Church farm.
- Map #39 26 Harbor View (c.1955): A typical, postwar, one-story, five-bay ranch house with gable roof and attached garage displays a multi-paned, bowed, bay window, in a slightly projecting front bay on the main elevation; landscaped grounds include a swimming pool.
- Map #40 20 Harbour View (c.1955): A one-and-one-half-story, three-

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 12

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 13

bay, center-chimney Cape with a steeply pitched gable roof with gabled dormers, including a one-story pitched wing on the south with a low-gable roof and one-car garage on the north side.

- Map #41 Anthony Nunes House, 16 Harbour View (1953): This contemporary, one-story, L-shaped, five-bay house with a shallow gable main roof and flat roof over the projecting garage ell, has vertical lattice work on the north section of the facade; originally built for Mr. Nunes own use. This house does not relate stylistically to other colonial types along the street.
- Map #42 10 Harbour View (c.1955): A one-story, four-bay, shingled Cape, with a gable roof and offset, gabled ell; breezeway; and attached, two-car garage.
- Map #43 6 Harbour View (c.1955): This one-story, two-bay, cottage with a steeply pitched gable roof, and an offset, one-bay ell on the north side, has a one-story, flat roof addition at the rear and full-width dormer to give more space on the second floor. A small breezeway leads to a large, two-story garage with gable roof and full-width shed dormer on the south side. Good landscaping and stockade fence screen the house from nearby Colt Drive.
- Map #44 Caretaker's Cottage (1970s): This one-story, three-bay, shingled cottage with a gable roof and end chimney, was constructed for Manny Andrade, long-time park supervisor, just north of the historic Thomas Church Homestead, used formerly for the caretaker's residence.
- Map #45 Paul C. Bruno Cottage (c.1944): A one-story, shingled, cottage with hip roof and glassed-in porch, built just south of the site of "Hey Bonnie Hall," demolished in the mid-1940s contains a marble mantle from the historic Major William D'Wolf mansion.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> historic preservation
Specific dates	1680-to present	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The development of the Poppasquash Farms District, reflecting the social and architectural heritage of Bristol, Rhode Island, spans three hundred years. The district deserves recognition by entry in the National Register of Historic Sites and Places for its significance in the areas of agriculture, architecture, conservation, social and humanitarian concerns, sculpture, education, recreation, and historic preservation. Outstanding Bristolians and leading Rhode Islanders, including Nathaniel Byfield, one of the first four Proprietors, Major William D'Wolf, merchant prince; Russel Warren, architect, Samuel W. Church, agriculturist, Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt, industrial leader and philanthropist, and John H. Chafee, governor of the State of Rhode Island, have been influential in the growth and preservation of this unique area.

Historically, this land has been identified as Popoose-Squaw Neck, Pappasquash Neck, Poppysquash and Popasquash Neck. The name Pappoose-Squaw may reflect the use of the Neck by the Wampanoag Indians as a refuge for women and children in time of war, before the English settlement of Bristol in 1680. The Bristol Proprietors recognized the value of this neck, with its dual access to water, its extensive saltmarshes and fertile soil, in the Grand Articles of 1680, which declared that "a farm was to be laid out upon Popasquash Neck for the first four proprietors and other purchasers, a mill was to be built upon it, and a road laid out to it, also a ferry was to be established and a house built." To accomplish this, four equal divisions of eighty-six acres each (delineated on the Plan of Bristol from 1680 to 1696)¹ were laid out on Poppasquash Neck for John Walley, Nathaniel Byfield, Nathaniel Oliver, and Stephen Burton, the four founders of Bristol. Smaller divisions were set off to fifteen other signers of the Grand Articles including Captain Benjamin Church. Place names surviving today, including Windmill Point, Mill Pond, and Mill Gut, are evidence of this settlement period.

By 1723, Nathaniel Byfield had accumulated six hundred and sixty acres (comprising almost all of the Poppasquash Farms District), which he sold that year to Samuel Viall. Samuel Viall willed the northern half of his holdings to his grandson Samuel Church and granddaughter Martha Church in 1749, thereby confirming Church ownership which continued until 1920 when most of the Church property was purchased by Samuel Pomeroy Colt. The southern half, willed to Susannah Richmond, Viall's daughter, passed through her heirs to Shearjashub Bourn, an early nineteenth-century land developer, who in turn sold the farms to Major William D'Wolf. Further purchases from 1802 to 1823 resulted in D'Wolf ownership of two hundred and

¹John W. Church, "Pla- of Bristol, 1680--1696, A True Copy;" Original in Plat Book 2 page 32, Town Hall, Bristol. Copy made mid-nineteenth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, "The Plan of Bristol (1680-1696)," a true copy by John W. Church. Original on file at the Bristol Town Hall, plat book 2, p.32.

See continuation sheet 17.

10. Geographical Data

NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 516 acres

Quadrangle name Bristol

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A

1	9	3	1	0	2	6	1	0	4	6	1	7	6	5	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing												

B

1	9	3	1	0	2	6	1	0	4	6	1	7	3	1	3	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing													

C

1	9	3	0	9	2	7	1	0	4	6	1	5	3	4	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing												

D

1	9	3	0	7	7	1	8	1	0	4	6	1	5	3	1	5	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing														

E

1	9	3	0	8	1	1	0	1	0	4	6	1	7	3	1	8	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing														

F

Zone	Easting			Northing														

G

Zone	Easting			Northing														

H

Zone	Easting			Northing														

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #18

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth S. Warren, Principal Historic Preservation Planner

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date March 1980

street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frank C. Williamson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 14, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

for Bonnie Douglas date 6/27/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 6/3/80

Chief of Registration

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
MAY 20 1988
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 13

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

fifty seven and one-quarter acres of Poppasquash land including the south end of Mill Gut. Following D'Wolf's death in April of 1829, a lengthy and complicated battle over his will, involving both legitimate and illegitimate heirs, ensued, which was not settled until 1895. At public auction, held September 4, 1895, Augustus Stout VanWickle, Pennsylvania coal baron, purchased the bulk of the partitioned estate of Major William D'Wolf, including the tenant farmhouse occupied by the Coggeshall family. After his death, the VanWickle holdings on Poppasquash were sold to Samuel Pomeroy Colt in 1903. The southern boundary of this district² today corresponds to a plat map defining the original D'Wolf farm².

From the settlement of Bristol in 1680 leading to the original division of the lands on Poppasquash Neck in which Nathaniel Byfield, received eighty-six acres, use of this district has remained primarily agricultural. The Byfield farm, totalling six hundred and sixty acres by 1723, became the basis for today's historic district. By the mid-eighteenth century the northern section of Byfield's farm passed into ownership of the Church family, descendants of Captain Benjamin Church, the famous Indian fighter. Centered around the Thomas Church Homestead (1801 and c.1860), Samuel W. Church, successful merchant and noted agriculturist, developed a "model farm", recognized throughout Rhode Island in the years between 1843 and his death in 1886. The southern sections of Byfield's farm came into the ownership of Major William D'Wolf, between 1802 and 1823, remaining in D'Wolf ownership until 1895. Tenant farmers, including William and Chandler Coggeshall, living at the Coggeshall Farmhouse, worked the land on the D'Wolf estate. Beginning in 1903, Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt, founder of the Industrial National Bank and Treasurer of the National Rubber Company, began acquiring the former D'Wolf Farm, the old Chase Farm at North Point, and the Samuel W. Church Farm, a great estate, famous for its herd of Jersey cattle. The Colt estate, opened to the public in 1913, remained in agricultural use, under the trusteeship of the Industrial National Bank after Colonel Colt's death in 1921. The continued agricultural use of this land, uninterrupted over nearly three-hundred years, ended only in 1965 with the condemnation of four hundred and sixty-six acres for Colt State Park.

The Poppasquash Farms district contains several fine examples of

²-----, "Land of Mark A. DeWolf, drawn to a scale of 1- rods to an inch mostly from three original deeds of 182?;" Roger Williams College Archives, Bristol.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 14

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

the colonial, Federal, Early Victorian and Late Victorian styles. Of particular note are the Coggeshall Farmhouse (c.1750 and c.1799) a typical, central-chimney, gable-roof, one-story cottage; the Stephen Church House (c.1790), a handsome, hip-roof, two-story house with excellent Federal detailing; Thomas Church Homestead (1801 and c.1860), displaying a Victorian, curving, gable-breaking-gable roof; the James C. Church House and Charles H. Church House, built by two of Samuel W. Church's three sons from 1880 to 1886, each an excellent example of Late Victorian eclectic taste; the Colt Dairy Barns (1917), designed by Wallis E. Howe, a leading early twentieth-century architect, to house Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt's prize cattle; and the Merwyn Clay House (1953), also designed by Wallis E. Howe, to replicate "Point Pleasant", Nathaniel Byfield's house of 1690. Unfortunately lost is the Major William D'Wolf Mansion, known as "Hey Bonnie Hall", designed in 1808 by Russell Warren, Rhode Island's leading exponent of the Greek Revival style, and demolished in the early 1940's due to damage sustained in the 1938 hurricane.

Conservation of the Poppasquash Farms, the largest open space in the town of Bristol, and its enjoyment by the public, was realized through the efforts of philanthropist Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt, Bristol's leading benefactor in the early twentieth century. Colonel Colt's dream to create a public park included the construction of the largest private bridge in the state over Mill But (1906); the placement of large, bronze and marble, classic statuary throughout the park; the construction of a summer pavillion known as "Casino" for distinguished guests; creation of a winding drive throughout the vast estate; and the dedication of the famous Bull Gates on September 26, 1913--inscribed "Private Property, Samuel P. Colt, Open to the Public."

The issue of conservation and open space became a matter of public concern following Colonel Colt's death in 1921. In 1957, the Colt heirs sought court approval to sell the total acreage for subdivision into upper-class residential housing. Only the objection of Elizabeth Colt Morey, Colonel Colt's granddaughter saved the historic Poppasquash farms from intense development. As early as 1935, the Metropolitan Park Commission, recognizing the need for public open space in the Upper Bay and growing pressures for development of prime waterfront land, recommended that the State of Rhode Island purchase the Colt estate for a public park. For thirty years, the question

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 26 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 15

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

created political controversy leading to a bill, introduced in 1963 with the support of Governor John H. Chafee, stipulating that the park plan could be implemented only if Bristol voters approved through a referendum. Subsequently the citizens of Bristol supported the creation of the park by a three-to-one ratio. Colt State Park was then created in 1965, as the first acquisition under the new Green Acres program, becoming the largest area of open space in Upper Narragansett Bay.

In addition to the conservation of open space ensured by the park's existence, several preservation projects are underway which may help to preserve the architectural, social and artistic heritage of the Poppasquash Farms. Primary among them is the on-going work of restoration, reconstruction and education carried on at Coggeshall Farm. Currently the now-vacant Thomas Church Homestead may be restored for use as a President's House for Roger Williams College; if this proposal does eventuate, it will create a unique opportunity for students in the historic preservation program at the college to learn first-hand historic preservation technical building skills. A third project, to realign and landscape the dual roadway at the Colt Park entrance and to restore the seriously deteriorated marble bases of the famous Bull Gates, has recently been released by the State of Rhode Island.

In the future, archeological investigation of six known sites within the Poppasquash Farms District including Windmill Point, a seventeenth-century mill site; Coggeshall Farm, a mid-eighteenth-century farm; the Battery, an abandoned Revolutionary-era fortification; the Poor Farm, an early, nineteenth-century asylum; the Major William D'Wolf House, an outstanding nineteenth-century mansion; and the Casino, Colonel Samuel Pomeroy Colt's summer pavillion, may reveal significant information about the culture, technology, customs, and wares of Bristol's earlier inhabitants.

The Poppasquash Farms district represents not only three hundred years of historic development but also a long-standing interest in the conservation of land and water resources; a present commitment to the teaching of historic skills and crafts; an active effort to preserve historic structures and sculpture by both the private and public sectors; the protection of natural landscapes retaining elements from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century;

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 28 1980
DATE ENTERED 5/27

CONTINUATION SHEET 16

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 5

the commemoration of the role played by major figures in Bristol's history, and recognition of twentieth-century man's basic need for recreation and green space. During the Tercentennial celebration of the founding of Bristol in 1680, it is appropriate to recognize the significance of the Poppasquash Farms District by its entry in the National Register of Historic Places.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 23 1981
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 18

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

Beginning at a point on the east shoreline of Narragansett Bay at the northwest corner of Colt State Park, lot 1, plat 80, and continuing easterly along the northern border of lot 1 (just south of lots fronting northerly on Melrose Road and Duffield Road) to intersect the west edge of Hope Street (Rhode Island Route 114); then turning south along Hope Street to the southeast corner of Colt State Park, lot 2, plat 82; then turning and running westerly for approximately 1100 feet along the southern border of lot 2, plat 82, and lot 1, plat 82, to a mid-point on the east boundary of lot 1, plat 85; then turning and running southeasterly for 144.05 feet to the southeast corner of this lot; then turning and running westerly for approximately 100 feet, to meet the railroad right-of-way (now owned by the Providence and Worcester Railroad Corporation). The boundary then runs southeasterly along the tracks for approximately 500 feet to the north end of the Mill Pond and continues southeasterly along the east side of Mill Pond to lot 28, plat 5, and continues along its east boundary, then across Poppasquash Road to lot 29, plat 5 and along its east boundary to the shore of Bristol Harbor; then runs westerly and southerly along the mean high water line of Bristol Harbor to the southeast corner of lot 3, plat 131; then turns west and runs along the south border of lot 3 and across Poppasquash Road to meet the south border of lot 21, plat 131; it then continues along the south border of lot 21, plat 131, to meet the shoreline of Narragansett Bay; then runs northeasterly along the mean high water line of Narragansett Bay to the northwest corner of lot 1, plat 80, being the point of beginning. The district includes 466 acres of Colt State Park and approximately 50 acres retained in private ownership circumscribing the head of Bristol Harbor at the beginning of Poppasquash Neck.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 28 1990

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 17

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Baber, David and Coulter, Eugene, "Papoose-Squaw, A Report on the Ownership of Coggeshall Farm," unpublished paper on file at Roger Williams College, Bristol, Rhode Island, 1977.

Dow, Joyce Wheeler, The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, "The Bristol Renaissance," prepared for publication by Russell F. Whitehead, New York, New York, 1917.

_____, "Land of Mark A. DeWolf, drawn to a scale of 16 rods to an inch and mostly from three original deeds of 182?;" Roger Williams College Archives, Bristol, Rhode Island.

Middletown, Alicia Hopton. Life in Carolina and New England During the Nineteenth Century, probably printed, David Davidson, Providence, Rhode Island, 1929.

Munro, Wilfred H., The Story of the Mount Hope Lands, J.A. & R.A. Reid, Printers and Publishers, Providence, Rhode Island, 1880.

Thompson, Charles O. F., Sketches of Old Bristol, Roger Williams Press, Providence, Rhode Island, 1942.

Town of Bristol, Deeds, Probate and Municipal Records, Town Hall, Bristol, Rhode Island.

250th Anniversary of the Town of Bristol, Rhode Island, 1680-1930; pamphlet, Bristol, Rhode Island; 1930.