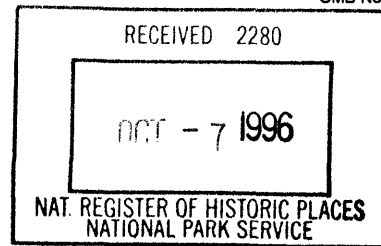


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# National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form



## A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

## B. Associated Historic Contexts

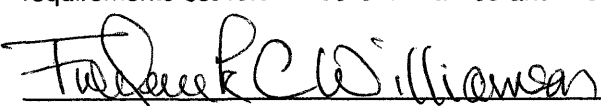
## C. Geographical Data

This MPS encompasses the entire state of Rhode Island.

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

## D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

  
Signature of certifying official

  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

  
Date

Multiple Property Listing Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

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**E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

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X See continuation sheet

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**F. Associated Property Types**

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X See continuation sheet

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**G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

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X See continuation sheet

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**H. Major Bibliographical References**

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X See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- X State historic preservation office  
\_\_\_ Other state agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. Form Prepared By**

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The following is a list of codes for individual cities and towns in the state. In each case, they will be found in alphabetical order, numbered sequentially.

BA=Barrington  
BI=Block Island  
BR=Bristol  
BU=Burrillville  
CF=Central Falls  
CH=Charlestown  
CO=Coventry  
CR=Cranston  
CU=Cumberland  
EG=East Greenwich  
EP=East Providence  
EX=Exeter  
FO=Foster  
GL=Glocester  
HO=Hopkinton  
JA=Jamestown  
JO=Johnston  
LI=Lincoln  
LC=Little Compton

MI=Middletown  
NA=Narragansett  
NE=Newport  
NI=Narragansett Indian Tribe  
NK=North Kingstown  
NP=North Providence  
NS=North Smithfield  
PA=Pawtucket  
PO=Portsmouth  
PR=Providence  
RI=Richmond  
SC=Scituate  
SM=Smithfield  
SK=South Kingstown  
TI=Tiverton  
WA=Warren  
WK=Warwick  
WG=West Greenwich  
WW=West Warwick  
WE=Westerly  
WO=Woonsocket

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## Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

### INTRODUCTION

Single-family houses which post-date European settlement comprise the major category of Rhode Island's historic domestic buildings. Located in urban, suburban, and rural locations, they are key to the definition of community character. Historic single-family houses exist in each of the state's 39 cities and towns, and all date from the period 1676 to ca. 1945, reflecting the geographical areas, time periods, and themes of their over-arching historic contexts. Their development expresses local, regional, and national trends in the annals of American architecture.

Rhode Island's single-family houses possess certain characteristics sustained throughout their history. Nearly all are detached houses; the rowhouse form is extremely rare and limited to a handful in urban settings. Free-standing single-family houses in Rhode Island are generally one to three stories in height, constructed of wood and/or masonry, and include examples of most prevalent American architectural styles and construction methods. They encompass both high style and more modestly designed dwellings, with representatives of the work of notable architects and builders.

Because Rhode Island's survey of above-ground historic and architectural resources is essentially complete, single-family houses statewide have been located, and in most cases identified, but not fully evaluated. The major data gaps lie in the identification of seventeenth-century houses, some of which may be obscured by later modifications, and in the understanding of twentieth-century houses, due to their relatively recent date and substantial numbers. In addition, information on plans and finishes and on the use and function of interior spaces is sporadic. Nevertheless, a sufficient record exists on the salient characteristics of single-family houses to warrant development of a comprehensive description and evaluation system for the property type. This essay is intended as a basis for evaluating the individual National Register eligibility of single-family houses on architectural merit.

This statewide context reorganizes and integrates information available in Rhode Island's series of community contexts. The Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Plan describes a system of contexts based on city, town, and neighborhood. Each of these contexts is based on a survey and

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contains a context statement which outlines the historical and architectural development of the community. Information from each of these contexts has been integrated into this essay which addresses a property type located in each and all contexts.

## EARLY COLONIAL (OR POST MEDIEVAL ENGLISH) ca. 1676-ca. 1725

Although residential construction began with the earliest settlement at Providence in 1636, most houses were destroyed during King Philip's War (1675-76), and the earliest surviving dwellings date from about 1676. Derived from traditional late medieval English forms and construction techniques, these blocky houses were built by the yeoman settlers, who brought knowledge of vernacular building crafts from England. The houses were structured with heavy post-and-beam timber framing resting on fieldstone foundations, ranged in height from one to two-and-one-half stories. They possessed steeply pitched gable, gambrel or high hipped roofs, asymmetrically placed small casement windows, massive stone (and brick in later examples) chimneys, and often an added rear lean-to section. Exterior sheathing was clapboard or wide weatherboard over plank walls, or, occasionally, a wall infill of brick nogging. No examples of framed overhangs or pendant drops survive, but one house with a cove cornice exists in Newport.

On the interior, frankly exposed framing timbers, sometimes with chamfered edges, and mortise-and-tenon joinery were treated as part of the decorative scheme. Walls were plastered or covered in wide tongue and groove boards, and the massive firebox was the predominant feature.

Houses of this period fit into two basic types known from Rhode Island and Plymouth Colony: the end-chimney type and the center-chimney type. End-chimney dwellings had a one-room plan or a two-room plan, with the fireplaces and rooms arranged side-by-side (either original or extension). This once common type has come to be known as the Rhode Island stone-ender. Center-chimney houses were built with one or two rooms on one side of the chimney and enlarged to a two-room or four-room plan on the opposite side of the chimney.

Due to attrition over time, the extant houses of this earliest period are rare. At least eight houses built before 1700 are still standing, and perhaps a dozen from the first quarter of the eighteenth century remain. Examples exist in many of the towns ringing Narragansett Bay and the island

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communities, but Providence has few. A second, scattered group, including notable stone-enders, is located in the northern towns. Relatively unaltered examples are present in Johnston, Lincoln, Cranston, Warwick, East Greenwich, and Glocester. Others that are altered, but retain important, and often early, features exist in Barrington, Bristol, Newport, Jamestown, Pawtucket, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, and North Kingstown.

Early Colonial houses are expected to have been altered by later additions and in many cases to have been restored. The majority of this group has been located and identified, but unidentified survivors may also exist, encased in later phases of construction. Two landmark studies, Early Rhode Island Houses by Albert F. Brown and Norman M. Isham (1895) and Early Homes of Rhode Island by Antoinette F. Downing (1937) record the development and status of these houses. They provide detailed information on houses that have since been destroyed and serve as a watershed for interpreting new information that has come to light since their publication.

Related themes: archaeology, architecture, early exploration/settlement, agriculture, preservation/restoration philosophy and practice (ca. 1890 to 1940).

## COLONIAL/GEORGIAN 1700-1800

After 1700, more up-to-date English Renaissance and Baroque design, reflecting the work of Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) and his contemporaries, increasingly influenced residential construction Rhode Island and the other colonies. The houses of this century exhibited a trend towards symmetrical arrangement of architectural elements, larger openings, new roof configurations, increased decoration, and the development of standard forms used well into the nineteenth century. The work of the earliest colonial architects and builders appears, including Richard Munday (designer/builder) and Peter Harrison (designer) of Newport and Caleb Orsmbee (housewright), Martin Seamans (carpenter-builder), and Joseph Brown (1733-1785, designer) of Providence.

Construction technology continued to be based in heavy pegged timber framing. Plank or, occasionally, brick nogging, walls covered in weatherboard or clapboard continued to be used, but stud infill wall construction and vertical board sub-sheathing also occurred in frame houses. Brick was available by the second quarter of the eighteenth century, although brick and brick end exterior-wall houses were relatively



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scarce and generally reserved for houses of the wealthy. Brick was, however, increasingly favored for chimneys and foundations.

These houses were built as one- to three-story structures, capped with gable, gambrel, hip, and gable-on-hip roofs. Flank roof orientation of the facade was typical, although end-gable roofs were sometimes used on small in-town lots. Gabled dormers appeared on the roofs of some substantial houses. Larger sash windows appeared, and on upper stories were set either just below the roof cornice or, in vernacular examples, mitered into the cornice.

Stylistic details became more ornamental, showing the influence of Palladio and the first published English architectural design books such as James Gibbs' Book of Architecture (1728), Swan's Designs (1745), and William Salmon's Palladio Londinensis (1767). Heavy molded trim, projecting window surrounds, and entrances with transom lights, pediments, pilasters, and porches appeared. However, vernacular houses rendered in simplified versions of the style predominated, particularly in rural areas. On the interior, plaster finishes, cased framing, wood raised paneling, more elaborate woodwork, and smaller fireplaces superseded the exposed framing and simple finishes of the earlier period.

The most common and enduring Colonial/Georgian house type was the five-bay-facade, center-entrance, center-chimney dwelling, with either a five-room or four-room plan. More elaborate houses contained a center-hall, four-room plan with two interior chimneys or four end-wall chimneys. This latter group was common in Newport by the 1750s and in Providence by the 1770s, but rarely occurred in outlying towns before the Revolution. Relatively few houses were built as three-bay "half houses" or four-bay "three-quarter" houses, a type sometimes subsequently expanded to a five-bay form. Also appearing, but uncommon in this period, was the two-bay or three-bay form with a side-hall plan under an end-gable or hip roof. The most high-style examples from the Colonial/Georgian period were three-story, hip-roof, brick houses built mostly in urban areas.

A number of distinctive types were built during this period in Rhode Island. In several northern Rhode Island towns, these types included mid-eighteenth-century end-chimney houses, and houses with exposed stone basements set into south facing hillsides; the continued use of stone chimneys in the quarry-rich area of southern Rhode Island; and placement of the kitchen to the side rather than rear of the center chimney, a variant observed in towns west, east, and north of Providence and in Kent County.

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It should also be noted that the standard center-chimney type, throughout its period of use up to about 1850, occasionally contained two interior kitchens, a feature not apparent from the exterior, suggesting its construction as a two-family house.

A higher number of Colonial/Georgian houses remain than from the previous period, particularly those constructed after ca. 1750, but many have been demolished. Extant examples are expected to be altered by later additions and in many cases to have been "restored". The approach and success of restoration efforts have varied. While some projects have been accurate and appropriate, others have been less so. Entrance and window alterations are not uncommon, as are enlargements of small houses and additions of service ells. The majority of this group has been located and identified, but unidentified survivors may also exist. The highest concentration of sophisticated houses in this group are in Newport and Providence. Others are located in Bristol, East Greenwich, Cranston, Warwick, North Kingstown, East Providence, Middletown, Pawtucket, Portsmouth, Cumberland, Lincoln, and Foster. Simpler versions are located in all communities, with a few exceptions, e.g., Central Falls.

Related themes: archaeology, architecture, agriculture, early exploration/settlement, maritime mercantile, early industry, country estates, preservation/restoration philosophy and practice (ca. 1890 to 1940).

## FEDERAL/EARLY REPUBLIC 1790-1840

Single-family houses built in this period gradually transformed from the basic types established in the eighteenth century towards distinct new plans and forms at the middle of the nineteenth century. Increased influence of English architectural design derived from recently discovered Graeco-Roman art at Pompeii, and interpreted particularly in the work of Robert Adam (1728-1792) and James Adam (1732-1794), offered new stylistic options with lighter surface decoration, and flattening of visual planes. The publication of American builder's handbooks and pattern books such as Asher Benjamin's American Builder's Companion (1806), helped disseminate both practical and stylistic ideas. At the opening of the period, the Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers, a builders' trade organization, formed in 1789 at Providence, provided a forum for information exchange and training on increasingly complex issues of form, technology, and style. Providence architects John Holden Greene (1777-1850) and James Bucklin

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(1801-1890), with his partners William Tallman (fl. 1822-1862) and Russell Warren (1783-1860), were among those using rudimentary architectural drawings, scale models, and expanding libraries of design source books.

Houses in this period were one to three stories tall. Timber framing remained the basic construction technology but was engineered with lighter members and often with newly introduced stud bearing walls. Brick was used for wall construction but remained rare; at least two brick veneer on timber-frame houses exist, both in Providence. Brick end-wall construction, incorporating chimneys also occurred (see below). Granite and sandstone block joined brick and stone as foundation materials. Roof configurations generally followed earlier trends. The hip form, however, supplanted the gambrel in frequency, and the monitor-on-hip roof emerged as the characteristic form of the period. Windows, usually located below the cornice, were set closer to the wall surface, and had slightly larger openings and thinner sash. Massive brick center chimneys continued to be common, particularly before 1825. Multiple chimneys, either in two interior or four end-wall positions became more frequent. The use of paired (four) end chimneys was rare, and was most often used in houses with brick end-wall construction in Providence and a few surrounding towns.

The eighteenth-century center-chimney, four-room or five-room plan continued to be favored into the 1820s, especially appearing as vernacular dwellings in rural areas. Center-hall plans with multiple chimneys and either four rooms (hall extending through to rear) or five rooms (hall terminated by a room across the rear) came into common use about 1800 and remained popular until the middle of the century. Smaller houses of the latter type often incorporated a rear kitchen chimney at various positions. The side-hall-plan, three-bay half house increased in popularity after 1810 in urban areas. Construction of side or rear service ells contemporary with the original house became a common feature.

Federal houses were decorated with classically inspired surface treatments, often finely rendered, including one-story entrance porches, roof balustrades, bowed elements, elaborate cornices (running, modillion, dentil, rope molding), splayed window lintels, Palladian windows, and entrances with transom lights, fanlights, blind fans, sidelights, leaded tracery windows, pediments, flat entablatures, and molded side pilasters. Roof monitors and cupolas were often used on larger houses.

The most elegant houses were built in urban areas, in prosperous seaport and nascent industrial villages, and in scattered rural agricultural and

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country estate locations throughout the state. A similar distribution applied to modest versions, perhaps distinguished simply by a transom-light/entablature entrance and splayed window caps. Vernacular forms continued to predominate, particularly in rural areas.

Many Federal houses survive across the state, with examples present in all communities, although some have been lost to demolition. Extant examples are expected to be altered by later additions and in many cases to have been "restored" with varying degree of accuracy. Entrance and window alterations are not uncommon, as well as the expansion of small houses and the addition of service ells. The majority of this group has been located and identified, but unidentified survivors may also exist. The highest concentration of sophisticated houses in this group are in Newport and Providence. Others are located in Bristol, East Greenwich, Cranston, Warwick, North Kingstown, East Providence, Middletown, Portsmouth, Cumberland, Lincoln, and Foster.

Related themes: archaeology, architecture, agriculture, maritime mercantile, early industry, country estates, preservation/restoration philosophy and practice (ca. 1890 to 1940).

## ROMANTIC AND PICTURESQUE 1820-1890

By the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, profound changes occurred in Rhode Island's domestic architecture. The dramatic transformation was based on new concepts and technologies, on national and international aesthetic interests in the romantic and picturesque, and on the emerging professionalism of architects. These themes were expressed in a series of revivalist architectural styles, of which the traditional classically-inspired (Greek and Italian Renaissance) were most popular, in concert with Gothic, French Renaissance/Second Empire, and exotic antecedents. Prior to this period, American architectural style was essentially singular, derived from English precedents and English interpretations of Roman and Italian Renaissance architecture and employed primarily as surface decoration on standardized forms. In the second half of the nineteenth century, a number of diverse styles were popular simultaneously. Houses of the period typically were associated with a barn or stable. Except in the most elaborate houses, where the architecture of the outbuilding echoed the house, these were usually vernacular buildings.

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This period coincided with the establishment and wide recognition of architecture as a legitimate profession. Architect-designed houses became a significant category for the first time, although most houses continued to be executed by designer/builders. Particularly in the second half of the nineteenth century, a number of architects traveled to Europe to study historic and modern architecture first hand and to train at the prestigious Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The country's first degree-granting school of architecture was established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1865, although smaller private schools had existed throughout the century. Among the most prominent architects working in Rhode Island domestic architecture were James Bucklin (1801-1890), Thomas Telft (1826-1859), Russell Warren (1783-1860), Alpheus Morse (1818-1893), Richard Upjohn (1802-1878), George C. Mason 1850-1924), Gridley J.F. Bryant (1816-1899), and Arthur Gilman (1821-1882).

During this period, single-family houses maintained their previous height range of one to three stories. Wood remained the mostly widely used construction material, and brick single-family houses were relatively rare, especially outside of Providence. Stone houses were concentrated in southern Rhode Island where stone quarrying and a local tradition of masonry construction continued. The standard center-chimney, center-hall, and side-hall plan types continued to be used and adapted to new design ideas and technologies. The basic forms had a particularly long history in vernacular buildings. Among the major technological advances were the development after 1850 of light balloon framing, which permitted greater flexibility of massing; machine-made wood trim elements and nails; and the shift after 1840 to heating stoves and central heating, which allowed the use of smaller and fewer chimneys. Service ells, or more elaborate service-oriented rooms (pantries, sculleries, etc.) within the house block, as integral parts of the original construction became more common.

Building patterns also shifted beginning in the 1830s and 1840s with the early widespread development of speculative plats for middle class and worker housing in urban areas. Small numbers of seaside resorts and residential suburbs also began to appear towards the end of the period. In rural areas, single-family houses tended to be farm houses; in small rural villages, they were occupied by professionals or by mill owners or superintendents. Most mill housing was multi-family, although a few vernacular single-family houses were erected.

With examples in all communities across the state, most houses built after about 1825 remain, although a few have been lost to demolition. Extant

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examples are expected to have experienced little alteration, although later additions and restoration are fairly common. The majority of this group has been located and identified.

Related themes: archaeology, architecture, agriculture, commerce, industry, country estates, early suburban development, urban growth, summer resort.

## **Greek Revival ca. 1825-1860**

The Greek Revival style introduced Greek proportional and stylistic vocabulary to American architecture. The new style was associated with Greek and American republican ideals and became immensely popular. It dominated Rhode Island building ca. 1830 to 1850 (and even later in some parts of the state). The typical characteristics of Greek Revival single-family houses were wood-frame construction; clapboard or, less commonly, flushboard sheathing; gable roofs with end returns or pediment; corner boards and, less commonly, facade strips treated as pilasters; deep cornice, window, and entrance entablatures; and sidelights. Entrances were often recessed, and columned one-story porches and entrance porticos were not uncommon. Narrow brick chimneys, large windows set below the cornice, and service ells were all common features. A very few examples were built in stone or brick, and only a handful were capped with nearly flat hip roofs.

The archetypical form was a rectangular box surmounted by a triangular pediment with crisp classical lines and heavy ornament. Greek Revival houses were built in three basic forms, both one-and-one-half and two-and-one-half stories. The three-bay, side-hall-plan house with end gable roof was most common, appearing in all communities of the state. Only slightly less popular was the five-bay-facade, center-hall-plan house with a flank gable roof and center entrance. The most elaborate Greek Revival form, the full temple front with columned portico, was seldom constructed in Rhode Island.

The most sophisticated, but rare, examples of the Greek Revival style are located in Bristol, Providence, and Newport. The smaller towns and villages have at least one example. Large groups of middle class houses are distributed in communities throughout the state.

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## Italianate ca. 1850-1895

The picturesque Italianate style entered into wide use in the 1840s, particularly after publication of Andrew Jackson Downing's treatise Cottage Residences in 1842. Within two decades it had supplanted Greek Revival as the most common residential style. The Italianate houses shared a number of similarities in height, materials, and roof form with the Greek Revival. However, brick and stone were used more frequently, particularly for high-style urban houses. In addition to gable roof forms, Italianate residences incorporated cross-gable and low hip roofs. The windows were often grouped, tall and narrow, or set in round-arch openings. These houses were also built as three-story residences, sometimes with taller towers. Roof dormers, which had been rarely used until about 1830, began to appear more frequently with the Italianate style, although the first widespread use was on mansard roofs (see below).

Emphasis on smooth wall surface textures, contrasting bold decoration, and the use of elaborate polychrome schemes characterized the Italianate single-family house. They are ornamented with heavy moldings, brackets and consoles, wide cornice overhangs with brackets or modillions, heavy rustication, arcades and loggias, bracketed door hoods, entrance porticos, projecting bay windows, and bracketed window caps.

Like the Greek Revival, the most common Italianate form was the three-bay (or two-bay), side-hall-plan; it was used throughout the state. The three-bay or five-bay center-entrance facade with center-hall plan appeared both in elaborate and simple houses, sometimes with a central gable breaking the cornice line. Another form related to tradition, was palazzo-derived, box-like houses, usually having a three-bay center hall plan (side-hall plan less common), and distinguished by a hip roof and wide cornice overhang. This group appeared primarily in urban areas. The form that broke most strikingly with tradition was the Italian villa, an asymmetrical, often L-shape or T-shape house, frequently with porches. The most elaborate usually incorporated a tower to capture urban or countryside views. Its simpler versions were widely used as a vernacular form.

The availability of machine produced brackets allowed the frequent application of this trim to traditional forms. Transitional Greek Revival/Italianate features appeared on buildings into the 1860s. The vernacular Italianate houses built through the end of the century were sometimes referred to as "Bracketed".

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In the 1870s, the High Victorian Italianate emerged as the most fully developed manifestation of this style. Rarely used for domestic buildings, it incorporated segmental, flat-top, and rectangular arched windows. The few notable examples are located in Providence.

Italianate houses are distributed throughout the state with examples in every community. The major concentration of simpler houses is found in urban settings, reflecting the style's popularity for middle class housing, and as rural farm houses. The most elaborate Italianate houses appear as substantial in-town houses and as the focal point of country estates.

## Second Empire ca. 1850-1890

The Second Empire style, which became increasingly popular by the mid-1860s, was a free adaptation of contemporary French revivals of French Renaissance and Baroque vocabularies. It was primarily distinguished by its mansard roof with a double slope hip configuration and use of lush ornamentation, often borrowed from the Italianate style. The mansard roof allowed greater use of the upper story of the one-and-one-half- to two-and-one-half-story dwellings. The lower slope, which could be convex, straight, concave, or flared was always pierced by dormers (arched or gabled). The use of elaborately shaped and colored slate shingles, which had occasionally appeared on earlier gable roofs became a common decorative feature of the mansard. Towers were also occasionally used.

The house form on which the roof was attached paralleled those of the Italianate style three-bay center-hall-plan (side-hall-plan less common) and the L-plan or T-plan, with porches in the angles. The typically ornate bracketed detailing was classically inspired, with slightly larger proportions than the Italianate.

Elaborate Second Empire houses are infrequent in Rhode Island, with examples generally limited to Providence and Newport. The more modest expressions of the style are fairly common, and are represented in small town villages and scattered rural locations in most communities.

## Gothic Revival ca. 1840-1880

The Gothic Revival emerged out of English picturesque architecture and was highly praised by a number of American architectural writers in the first



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half of the nineteenth century. It first appeared in Newport and Providence in the 1840s and reached its height of vogue in the 1860s and 1870s. Gothic Revival houses were up to two-and-one-half stories tall and typically of wood construction, although stone and brick were occasionally used for more substantial examples. Hallmarks of the style were steeply pitched cross gable roofs, prominent dormers, lancet windows, drip molds, pierced or sawn bargeboard trim, and delicate porches. A few examples of the villa form were constructed, but the Gothic Revival appeared most commonly in domestic architecture as the Gothic cottage. Gothic detail elements such as bargeboards or a single lancet window were also occasionally used as decoration on vernacular houses.

The latest and most high style manifestation of the Gothic Revival, termed High Victorian Gothic, was scarcely seen in Rhode Island residential architecture. Appearing during the 1870s, it was characterized by pressed brick with polychrome stone decoration, asymmetrical massing, emphasis on verticality, and Gothic details.

Less popular than the Greek, Italianate, or Second Empire revival styles in Rhode Island, the distribution of Gothic Revival houses is scattered. A few villas exist in Newport and several prominent seaside towns. Gothic cottages and vernacular houses are found in larger numbers in Providence and Newport, and many towns have at least one. One High Gothic house exists in Providence.

## Octagon Mode ca. 1850-1880

The Octagon was a seldom used romantic mode developed and promoted by Orson S. Fowler in The Octagon House, a Home for All (1849) and other pattern books. Fowler advocated the healthful and efficient aspects of the design, but practical problems, notably awkward interior spaces, were reflected in its limited popularity. The form was primarily distinguished by the octagonal arrangement of exterior walls. The houses were built as one- or two-story structures, fabricated of wood with board-and-batten walls, or occasionally stuccoed or poured concrete walls. They had porches and cupolas, and were ornamented with Bracketed or Gothic style elements.

Few Octagons were built in Rhode Island, though at least four remain today in Providence (three) and in Bristol (one).

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## Swiss Style ca. 1850-1880

Introduced by Andrew Jackson Downing in The Architecture of Country Houses (1850), this rare picturesque style drawn from Swiss vernacular architecture was a cognate mode of the Gothic Revival. Characterized by an irregular profile and wood-frame construction, the Swiss Style was distinguished by low pitched gable roofs with broad overhangs, matchstick and jigsaw detailing, porches and balconies. In Rhode Island, the style initially rose to popularity in seaside resorts during the 1850s, but later examples were also constructed in suburban areas.

The earliest representatives are in Newport, and a concentration exists in the Providence suburb of Elmwood. A few other isolated examples are found in other towns.

## LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY 1870-1910

Rhode Island's domestic architecture of the last decades of the nineteenth century followed national trends, moving towards free adaptations of medieval and classical styles, with a tendency towards eclectic mixtures of style and details. Single-family houses, both high-style and vernacular examples, proliferated throughout the state. Designs often incorporated elements of more than one style. The application of new kinds of decorative details to standard house forms, especially the three-bay, side-hall and center-hall-plan forms was also a common occurrence. Wood-frame construction continued to predominate, with widespread, but not exclusive, use of the balloon framing techniques and wire nails. Industrial progress provided mass-produced house elements and trim, sold by catalogue, that could be ordered and mixed in any combination by carpenter-builders and owners. Some houses had accompanying outbuildings, usually a stable. In the more substantial houses, the stable typically reflected in simpler fashion the architecture of the main house.

The number of architects and architect-designed houses increased, and the first professional magazine and mass-circulation periodicals on architecture went to press during this period. The roster of important local, regional, and nationally known architects and architectural firms whose work is represented in Rhode Island's single-family houses include: Stone Carpenter & Willson (1883-1907), Martin & Hall (1893-1917), Norman M. Isham (1864-1943), Richard Morris Hunt (1827-1895), Walker & Gould (1876-1881), McKim Mead & White, H.H. Richardson (1838-1886), William Ralph

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Emerson (d. 1917), John D. Johnston (1849-1928, Newport builder-architect), George C. Mason & Son (1871-1894), Dudley Newton (1845-1907), William R. Walker & Son (1881-1937), Peabody & Stearns (1870-ca. 1921), and William Gibbons Preston (1842-1910).

Housing development trends expanded the themes evident at the middle of the century. Construction continued in the densely built city of Providence, and in the single-family house suburban residential plats of surrounding towns. The state's industrial villages, rural farms, and summer coastal resorts all experienced new single-family house construction.

The survival rate of the thousands of houses built during this period is reasonably good across the state, with examples present in all communities. Few have been lost to demolition. Extant examples are expected to have experienced little alteration. The majority of this group has been located and identified.

Related themes for late nineteenth-century houses (1870-1910): archaeology, architecture, landscape architecture, agriculture, commerce, industry, country estates, suburban development, urban growth, summer resort.

## Modern Gothic ("Stick Style") ca. 1870-1890

The Modern Gothic, sometimes referred to as "Stick Style" and also used to encompass Carpenter Gothic, drew inspiration from many sources, including the half-timber vernacular houses of medieval Europe and the chalets of Switzerland. The style spread to America in the 1860s from contemporary seaside resorts in France and the Low Countries. Characteristic features included asymmetrical massing, simulated half-timbering, vertical board siding, and jigsaw and timberwork ornamentation on porches, window and door hoods, eaves, and gable peaks. Despite its suggestion of structural representation, the ornament was purely picturesque and associational. Accordingly, it was easily applied in various manners to a variety of established house types and eclectically combined with elements from other styles.

The Modern Gothic flourished in Newport and Providence in the 1870s to the early 1880s, where the most fully developed examples are found. The style was not widely used in smaller towns and remote areas, although isolated

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examples exist of this style, used as singular ornament on a vernacular house, or applied in conjunction with other period styles.

## Queen Anne 1874-1910

The Queen Anne was an English derivative style named for the early eighteenth century British monarch. Developed in England in the 1860s, the style in America drew on an eclectic mixture of medieval French, English, and American classical and traditional themes and motifs. The William Watts Sherman House of 1874 in Newport, designed by H.H. Richardson, is the national prototype and the earliest example in the country. Illustrations of large, complex Queen Anne houses were widely published in architectural periodicals and built examples first appeared in Rhode Island in the late 1870s. The style dominated Rhode Island's, and the nation's, residential architecture in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Complex massing and roofs, highly textured and colored surface treatments, mixture of materials and stylistic elements, and rich decoration characterized this immensely popular style.

Built as both small and large houses, sometimes with taller towers, Queen Anne houses used wood-frame construction, with asymmetrical and complex massing and roof configurations. The simpler houses often were regularly arranged, continuing the traditional three-bay end-gable type, commonly appearing as a two-bay with a first floor entrance and a bay window. The range of massing for moderate and large houses incorporated basic L-, T-, and cross-plans, elaborated by a mixed assemblage of towers and turrets (usually round or octagonal), overhangs, bay and oriel projecting windows, cut-away corners, recessed and projecting porches, and porte cocheres. The roof became a prominent feature and was similarly varied and complex using gable, gambrel, hip, mansard, and conical forms in a variety of combinations. The massive roofs of some fully developed examples contain two stories within a gambrel or hip roof. Dormers and ornamented tall chimneys were a common feature, and iron ridge cresting and finials were also used.

The use of more than one type of exterior cladding was typical. Queen Anne houses were sheathed in clapboards or shingles (often cut in patterns), as well as stone, brick (sometimes patterned), slate shingles, stucco, half-timber, and terra cotta. A common single-family house scheme combined masonry on the first floor and wood on the second floor. In simpler houses, this duet featured clapboards below and shingles above. Applied

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ornamentation revealed the capabilities of sawn and, particularly, turned woodworking in spindlework screens, balustrades, and porch posts; Eastlake ornamented surfaces, and decorative panels. Classically-derived columns and trim also appeared.

In addition to bays and oriels, fenestration possibilities included grouped windows in a variety of sizes and proportions, further articulated by diamond, ribbon edge, and a range of glazing configurations. Stained glass windows, both alone or as glazing or transom components of larger windows added to the surface play of light and color on these houses.

The plan of Queen Anne houses were characterized by a large combination entrance, stair, and living hall, often containing a fireplace, with a smooth flowing arrangement of other major rooms off the hall.

Queen Anne style single-family houses are found in all the communities of the Rhode Island. Concentrations of above average size houses, sometimes architect-designed, exist in the larger cities and their associated suburban towns, while at least one or two relatively elaborate examples stand in mill and country villages.

## Modern Colonial ("Shingle Style") ca. 1880 to 1900

The Modern Colonial style, also referred to as the "Shingle Style" emerged in the early 1880s as a derivative of vernacular, shingled Colonial and Federal dwellings. The interpretation included some Modern Colonial houses with applied colonial detailing, but most were relatively simple. Their predominant characteristics were emphasis on the picturesque with asymmetrical, simplified massing and ornament. The houses were capped with prominent roofs; sheathed in shingle, textured shingle, and rough stone wall surfaces; and possessed informal and open interior plans. The examples that combined these elements with Japanese influences in a nearly abstract, non-historicizing design formula were the most pure examples of the "Shingle Style". Modern Colonial and "Shingle Style" houses were also noted for their references to interaction with the surrounding garden or natural landscape.

Modern Colonial house were typically no more than two-and-one-half stories tall and were invariably of wood construction sheathed in shingles, though lower levels were sometimes stone. Their simplified massing could be a basic rectangular box with a massively scaled gable or gambrel roof (often

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containing the second floor and attic within the roof slope) and sometimes a polygonal tower in the center or one corner. These houses shared similarities with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles in massing and detailing but were more simply rendered. A variety of window configurations with very simple surrounds, porches, bays, overhangs, and large chimneys were all elements featured in the Modern Colonial house. The interior plan arrangement was open, informal, and conceived as a flowing series of spaces.

This style is primarily associated with summer seaside resorts along Rhode Island's shoreline. Some examples are also located in the residential neighborhoods of Providence and its immediate suburbs, especially those adjacent to Narragansett Bay.

## Colonial Revival 1880-1910/1940

The Colonial Revival style grew out of the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876, which presented exhibitions of colonial buildings and antiques on the occasion of the nation's centennial. In Rhode Island, awareness of the state's Colonial (and Federal) architectural heritage was evident through lectures and articles as early as the 1850s. In the mid-1880s, interest arose in the restoration of colonial houses and in new construction designs inspired by Rhode Island's wealth of old buildings. The Colonial Revival style varied in its "correctness" of proportion and detail, but for the first time in revival architecture, was based on indigenous buildings. Concerted study began in the 1880s, and the first scholarly book on the subject in the United States was Providence architect, Norman Morrison Isham's Early Rhode Island Houses, published with Albert Brown in 1895. Initial houses of the 1880s and early 1890s were fairly restrained. By the mid-1890s, however, the picturesque aesthetic of the period was manifest and these Colonial Revival houses were generally distinguished from their original prototypes by larger massing, overscaled roofs, and the incorporation of eclectic Queen Anne style elements, such as towers, bays, and oriels. After about 1910 and the waning of the Queen Anne style, profiles and massing became tighter, and the Colonial Revival Houses built between about 1910 and 1940 returned to a more restrained appearance.

The Colonial Revival style enjoyed widespread popularity. It replaced the Queen Anne as the most prevalent domestic style by 1900 and remained the dominant style for single-family houses until World War II. And indeed,

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"Colonial" trim was popular for suburban ranch and "Cape Cod" houses into the 1960s.

Single-family houses built in the Colonial Revival style were rarely over two-and-one-half stories tall, and occasionally incorporated the second floor and attic within a high roof. Forms included three-bay center and side-hall entrance, five-bay center entrance, and other variations of Colonial and Federal arrangements, usually conceived as a symmetrical or at least balanced unit. Gable and gambrel roofs appeared most often in pure Colonial Revival houses, but hip and mansard forms were also used. Dormers were a common feature.

In plan, early Colonial Revival houses showed the influence of the open "living hall" plan developed in the 1880s. Many more substantial houses returned to a version of the center-hall plan of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Houses were built either of wood or brick, and sometimes of stone. Clapboard sheathing was most common, but shingled houses also appeared, particularly in "vernacular" houses in the twentieth century. Brick houses tended to be more formal and built as the homes of the more wealthy. Classical decorative detailing combined Colonial and Federal motifs including pedimented entrances and dormers, Palladian windows, Adamesque swags and garlands, classical porch columns, balustrades, and cornices.

The most fully realized, often architect designed, Colonial Revival style single-family houses are located in Providence (where two distinct forms are identified) and Newport. Suburban enclaves, mill villages, and resort areas also possess a few examples. In seaside resort and inland country estate towns, a rambling "vernacular" was built in a rural setting. In its more modest renditions, Colonial Revival houses are present in all Rhode Island communities.

## Beaux-Arts ca. 1890-1930

The Beaux-Arts style reflected the precepts of the prestigious Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France and was popularized in the United States by the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Several important examples designed by Richard Morris Hunt had already, however, been built or were under construction in Newport, Rhode Island. Characterized by its lavish classical decoration based on Italian and French Renaissance precedents,

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expensive masonry materials, and imposing scale, the Beaux-Arts belonged to the most elaborate, architect-designed houses of the country's wealthiest citizens and appeared in major urban centers and affluent summer resorts before about 1920. The design idiom of the Beaux-Arts extended to city planning and, on a smaller scale, to the development of formal gardens in association with private houses.

Single-family Beaux-Arts style houses in Rhode Island were built in two or three stories, of limestone or other pale masonry, and capped with flat, hip, or mansard roofs. They were large, usually symmetrical houses, often resembling small palaces and consisted of a central block with front or side projecting wings. Terraces, surrounding lawns, and parterres were important elements of the overall design scheme.

Ornate detailing included rusticated surfaces, heavily accented cornices, balustrades, arcaded loggias and banks of full-height windows, pilasters and columns (often paired), as well as the use of floral, leaf, swag, bracket, escutcheon, and medallion motifs on panels, window and door surrounds, and cornices. Interior plans were generally formal and axial, incorporating large, often multi-story, "great halls" and ballrooms for entertaining.

Beaux-Arts style single-family houses are relatively rare in Rhode Island, but include some of the finest examples in the country. Their location is restricted principally to Newport, though a few also exist in Providence.

## EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY 1900-1945

The architecture of single-family houses in Rhode Island during the first half of the twentieth century continued to be dominated by the Colonial Revival and, to a lesser degree, a range of other historicizing styles drawn from vernacular and high style English, French, and Spanish sources. Design tended towards the eclectic, but was less idiosyncratic and more uniform than the Queen Anne houses of the 1880s and 1890s. The more expensive, architect-designed houses often displayed archaeological attention to proportion and fine detailing. The modernist styles and modes drew less favor for domestic architecture than for commercial and industrial functions, but a few houses in these categories were erected. House types, except the most elaborate, showed an overall trend towards smaller scale and size, simplified design, and more restrained profile. New standard forms emerged, and the proliferation of contractor-built



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houses created common types to which any kind of ornament or historical architectural reference could be applied. Wood frame construction continued to be the most popular, although the number of brick and stone veneer houses increased in overall proportion. Stucco also came into greater use, both for half-timbering and full house cladding. Wood or slate shingles were most common, although ceramic tile was also used. Houses were constructed with two new kinds of appendages. Sunporches, open side porches, and pergolas became increasingly popular. The small detached garage was introduced to wide usage about 1910 and by the end of the period became attached to the main house, usually with a breezeway.

In contrast to the nineteenth-century architects, those of the early twentieth century had a more thorough formal education, broader travel experience, and better information exchange. Among the important architects and firms whose works are represented in Rhode Island single-family houses are: Albert Harkness (1886-1981), Ogden Codman, Jr. (1863-1951), George Locke Howe (1898-1977), Jackson Robertson & Adams (1912-1956), Stone Carpenter & Sheldon (1907-ca. 1925), Norman M. Isham (1864-1943), Wallis E. Howe (1868-1960), George Locke Howe (1898-1977), Thomas J. Gould (1849-1923), Frank W. Angell (1851-1943), Frank H. Swift (1860-1936), Verna C. Salamonsky, Murphy Hindle & Wright (1908-1918), and Frederick E. Field (1864-1931). Many houses were designed by architects, but a far greater number were executed by contractor-builders using standardized types and mixed stylistic ornamentation. The wide proliferation of architectural periodicals and publications on historic houses, disseminated design ideas. These sources were supplemented by popular magazines and by the catalogues of manufacturing and prefabrication companies selling both architectural parts and complete houses.

Construction within the cities and the expansion of suburban residential areas continued, now based on automobile transportation rather than railroad and streetcar. Zoning, first introduced in the 1920s, helped reinforce existing patterns and fostered new ones. Summer resorts along the state's shoreline experienced a similar growth, but the decline of agriculture and the gradual fading of the state's major nineteenth-century era of industrial development brought little new construction to these inland farms and mill villages.

The survival rate of the thousands of houses built between 1900 and 1945 is good across the state, with examples present in all communities. By comparison with other periods, few have been lost to demolition. Extant examples are expected to have experienced little alteration. The majority

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of this group has been located and identified in Providence and major suburban communities. Documentation is less complete for outlying towns and cities which have fewer fully realized examples and have tended to classify their historic character in terms of eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century buildings.

Related themes for early-twentieth-century houses (1900-1945): architecture, landscape architecture, country estates, suburban development, urban growth, summer resort.

## Colonial Revival ca. 1900-1945, et seq.

This twentieth-century phase of the Colonial Revival was marked initially by a shift away from the large, full-blown single-family houses of the last two decades of the nineteenth-century and a movement towards more restrained, symmetrical forms with closer attention to correct detailing. The perennial popularity of the Colonial Revival style throughout the twentieth century has been attributed to its associational qualities with cultural and social stability and with family and community continuity. Architects in Rhode Island looked to Colonial, Federal, and Greek Revival sources, both in the state and across New England, for inspiration, and produced the group of houses best termed Neo-Georgian. Other regions, notably the Middle Atlantic and the Deep South also provided design models for a smaller number of houses. Other, less frequently drawn upon sources were the direct adaptation of the English Georgian style that had inspired American eighteenth-century Colonial design, and the English Regency style that was the early-nineteenth-century counterpart to American Federal architecture.

The Neo-Georgian houses tended to be constructed of brick, although wood was also used. Usually, they were two-and-one-half stories with a five-bay (or, less often, a three-bay) center-entrance facade and a gable, hip, or gambrel roof (sometimes sheathed in slate). Classically derived detail executed in wood, stone, or cast stone included: columned porticos, elliptical-fanlight and sidelight entrances, broken-scroll-pediment entrances, splayed window caps, roof and porch balustrades with urn finials, Palladian windows, and dentil and modillion trimmed cornices. Window configurations returned to the multi-pane sash characteristic of the Colonial period. Some of the earliest houses constructed between about 1900 and 1925 were modeled closely on the originals.

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The influence of the Mid-Atlantic residential architecture of eastern Pennsylvania and Tidewater Virginia appeared in houses constructed of stone, stone and wood, and brick. These houses were capped with gable or hip roofs. The Southern Colonial influence was relatively rare, and was often characterized by a monumental veranda with colossal columns across the front.

The Greek Revival was understood in the early twentieth century as the end of the Colonial building tradition. Incorporation of the Greek Revival aesthetic resulted in buildings typically more massive in scale and more severe in detail than their Neo-Georgian counterparts.

English Regency influences achieved popularity primarily in the 1920s and 1930s. They appeared as delicate and sometimes exotic-pattern ornamentation details: octagonal windows, flared metal door hoods, and lacy, geometric trelliswork porches. Regency details were used on Neo-Georgian houses, and also on modernistic structures, termed Regency Moderne.

A popular type throughout the period was the so-called Dutch Colonial single-family house, derived from eighteenth-century New York and New Jersey prototypes. It was constructed in either wood or brick and characterized by a gambrel roof to gain full use of the upper story, usually a full shed dormer across the front slope, and a center-entrance five-bay or three-bay facade. This house tended to be conceived as a modest residence, but more elaborate examples also were built.

The Dutch Colonial was one illustration of the trend towards standardization of Colonial, Georgian, and Federal forms into the vernacular in the early twentieth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, this phenomenon had occurred to the three-bay, side-hall-plan house set end to the street; in the twentieth century, the two-and-one-half-story, center-hall, gable-roof dwelling emerged as a standard form of long-lived popularity. Colonial Revival elements were also commonly present on bungalows, a single-family house type that developed out of the Craftsman style (see below).

After about 1930, new single-family residences were introduced that foretold the prevalence of the typical contractor-built speculative housing after World War II. Exterior sheathing materials often appeared in combinations, second-story garrison overhangs were occasionally used, and window configurations varied, with grouped windows a common occurrence in

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these later houses. The houses included fairly modestly scaled, wood or masonry, picturesque buildings with eclectic Colonial motifs and bay windows. The wood-frame "Cape Cod" cottage was built with three-, four-, and five-bay facades, clapboard or shingle sheathing, and a simplified Colonial entrance.

The distribution of Colonial Revival houses is perhaps the broadest among all the single-family house groups. Examples are located in all communities. The most elaborate are typically found in the urban centers and their surrounding suburban towns, as well as in seaside resorts which experienced development in the twentieth century.

**English Medieval Revival: Tudor Revival, English Cottage, Old English, "Jacobethan" ca. 1900-1940**

Medieval Revival domestic architecture, often referred to as Tudor Revival, was derived from English medieval styles and a widely favored and diverse group of design modes. The earliest Rhode Island examples appeared in the 1890s, and the mode enjoyed great favor, particularly for larger houses in urban and suburban areas, until World War II. It was often combined with elements drawn from the counterpart French Historic Revival.

Medieval Revival single-family houses built in Rhode Island ranged from a small number of simple structures with one or two details applied to standard massing, to, more commonly, modest cottage and fully conceived manor house forms. The typical characteristics were asymmetrical massing, steep gable roofs, long and sloped facade gables often incorporating the main entrance, and medieval details: Tudor arch doorways, drip molds over windows, banks of multi-pane or diamond windows, and prominent chimneys with molded chimney pots. Most commonly, the houses were no more than two-and-one-half stories tall, capped with gable or, less frequently, hip roofs. The medieval vocabulary was carried also by materials, often used in combinations: stone, brick, slate, stucco, and half-timbering with either stucco or patterned brick infill. Medieval Revival houses showed a wide range of forms including simple box or rectangle, L-shape, and complex massing. Facade gables and pavilions gave the appearance of complexity to relatively simple forms.

Medieval Revival houses are associated primarily with urban and suburban residential development and are found in these categories of communities.

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## French Historic Revival: Norman Farmhouse, Provencal, and French Provincial 1910-1940

French antecedents inspired a relatively rare category of revivalist domestic architecture as well. Norman farmhouses were more literal translations of the vernacular dwellings of Brittany and Normandy than some of the earlier "Shingle Style" houses which drew on the same source. Norman dwellings were generally stone or stucco, gable-roofed, asymmetrical masses, often with an L-shape or rambling plan, and usually incorporated a cylindrical, conical tower. Half-timbering, mixed cladding materials, and bands of casement windows were also typical features. The vernacular structures of Provence and small French Renaissance manor houses were the basis for Provencal and French Provincial single-family house designs. Provincial residences were characterized by symmetrical rectangular massing, central pavilions, steeply pitched hip roofs that were sometimes flared, brick, stone, or stucco walls, corner quoins, and double-hung segmental-arch windows. Most commonly, both types were built as substantial urban or suburban houses on spacious lots. Distinguished primarily by massing and materials rather than details, the French revival modes introduced no new elements to vernacular design, but were often employed in conjunction with English historic revivals.

French Historic Revival houses are associated primarily with urban and suburban residential development and are found in these categories of communities. They are also located in coastal resort communities, particularly those on the Narragansett Bay islands and on the east side of the bay.

## Spanish Colonial Revival, Mission, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mediterranean 1915-1940

Scholarly studies and publications on Spanish Colonial buildings of Florida and California, the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, and fashionable national architects and builders' magazines were the prime popularizing forces behind mediterranean-derived styles. Interest in the Italian Renaissance domestic architecture revived at the same time. The dominant features of these styles were stucco walls, low pitched and tiled hip, gable, or flat roofs, smaller and simpler second floor windows, round-arch openings, and classical details borrowed from Italian or Spanish models. They were one or two stories in height and forms ranged from a simple, three-bay or five-bay, center-entrance, symmetrical box, to asymmetrical

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and, occasionally, rambling examples. In Rhode Island, most houses combined various aspects of these modes, and are thus best termed Mediterranean.

Mediterranean single-family houses are relatively rare in Rhode Island. The majority present the typical square box-like mass, clad in stucco and capped with a tiled roof. A few large, sophisticated examples exist, as well as one or two unusual examples of variants such as the Spanish Colonial Revival bungalow and pure Mission modes. These houses tend to be restricted to the middle and upper-class neighborhoods of urban centers and their associated suburbs. Examples are also found in the coastal resort community of Newport.

## Craftsman 1910-1940

Craftsman architecture grew out of the Arts and Crafts movement in California and was promoted primarily by Gustav Stickley through his publication The Craftsman as well as by pattern books and magazines. Its most common form was the bungalow, a highly favored alternative to the Colonial Revival for small and medium-size houses, although many bungalows featured Colonial Revival detailing. Bungalows were typically one-and-one-half stories with stucco, clapboard, or shingle (sometimes banded) walls rising to a low-pitch end-gable, cross-gable, or hip roof and dormers. Exposed rafter ends or prominent brackets, wide eaves, overhangs, and false gable bracing were typical. Porches were integral to the main roof and supported on tapered piers, piers, columns, or pedestals. Cobblestone foundations, chimneys, and porch supports were associated predominantly with Craftsman bungalows, although they appeared on other early-twentieth-century single-family house types as well. A distinctive bungalow window was a tripartite window with a larger center section, similar to the so-called Chicago commercial window and the precursor to the picture window.

High-style examples of the bungalow are rare in Rhode Island, and are restricted principally to Providence, Newport, and Westerly (Watch Hill). Elsewhere, bungalows appear in modest early-twentieth-century urban and suburban neighborhoods, and as infill buildings in many nineteenth-century villages, as well as in scattered rural locations across the state.

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**Foursquare 1900-1940**

The foursquare type emerged about 1900 and became one of the most common house forms of the first quarter of the twentieth century. It evolved from the cubic eighteenth-century Georgian house, through the sparsely detailed Colonial Revival/Modern Colonial house of the 1890s. The latter served also as inspiration for some aspects of early Prairie style houses, and traces of Prairie influences may be discerned in some later East Coast foursquare houses. The foursquare was a two- or two-and-one-half-story house with cubical massing, three-bay facade, and an overhanging hip roof. Entrances were placed in either the center or side bay. Wood-frame construction predominated, although brick examples were built in Rhode Island. The foursquare was often fronted by a porch and was occasionally stretched to a five-bay width. The massive and solid basic cube form was elaborated in a wide variety of stylistic guises, with Colonial Revival and Craftsman the most popular. The interior plan within the cube generally consisted of four major spaces on each level.

The foursquare form was a widely used house type and is distributed throughout Rhode Island cities and towns. Many examples are present in densely built urban and suburban neighborhoods, and individual examples are scattered in rural areas.

**Modern: Art Deco (1925-1935), Art Moderne (1930-1940), International Style (1925-)**

These modern modes and style were the first to break with the historicizing influences carried over from the nineteenth century in domestic architecture of Rhode Island and the nation. Art Deco derived its name from the Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925. Art Deco and Art Moderne rejected historical sources, but played out essentially as popular ornamentation. Art Deco buildings were characterized by smooth wall surfaces, typically of stucco, flat roofs, stepped parapets, and angular (chevron, zigzag, etc.) geometric decorations. Art Moderne also used smooth wall surfaces and flat roofs, usually with small projecting copings. The hallmark of Moderne buildings was a streamlined horizontal emphasis created by grooved lines, curved corners, and often by glass block windows. The modern modes introduced metal trim and window sash to the set of construction materials.

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Multiple Property Listing Single-Family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

Section E - Statement of Historic Contexts

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In contrast to the popular Deco and Moderne modes, an intellectual aesthetic created the International Style in the 1930s. The International houses were asymmetrical, flat roofed, smooth walled buildings with no decorative detailing at doors or window openings. This progressive and primarily architect-designed style was relatively rare nationwide and was never very popular for more than the most expensive and sophisticated houses built across the country.

Art Deco, Art Moderne, and the International Style are represented in Rhode Island by a small group of elite houses scattered in the state.



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Property name Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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I. Name of Property Type: Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

This context contains only a single property type. Representative examples of the single-family house property type are located in all 39 Rhode Island communities.

Examples of the single-family house property type are located in a range of settings and, therefore, fall into three broad categories of expected boundaries:

- 1) Examples built in densely developed urban neighborhoods and in the regularized plats of suburban neighborhoods are expected to be surrounded by development. Their boundaries are expected to conform to the town/city lots on which they stand and will reflect the historic boundaries of the property.
- 2) Examples built in rural areas as farm houses or country estates within a large tract of land are expected to be surrounded by an agricultural or historic designed landscape. Their boundaries are expected to conform as closely as possible to the historic boundaries of the property.
- 3) Examples are predicted to exist that were originally, but are no longer, associated with large tracts of land. In cases where the land has been divided off and developed for other purposes, the boundaries of the nominated property are expected to conform to the present-day city/town lot.

### Criteria

Rhode Island's single-family houses are significant for the quality of their architecture as representative or fine examples of domestic design, including many masterworks by architects of regional and national renown (Criterion C).

Single-family houses may also qualify for the National Register for their historical associations with important individuals or with broad patterns and/or as contributing components of larger districts (Criteria A, B, & C). In some cases, single-family houses may be associated with a valuable archaeological record and meet eligibility requirements under Criterion D.

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### Level of Evaluation

Examples of single-family houses in Rhode Island will be evaluated at the local, state, and national level. The local evaluation context will be the neighborhood or municipal boundaries, as set forth in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (1995).

### Criteria Considerations

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. However, under Criteria Consideration B, a property significant for its architecture or possessing outstanding historical associations may be eligible. In order to be eligible for individual listing, single-family houses that have been moved are expected to meet Criteria Consideration B.

### Summary of Architectural Significance

The rich and varied legacy of single-family houses in Rhode Island reflects in microcosm the historic trends and ideals in American architecture from the late seventeenth century to the middle of the twentieth century. Rhode Island has some of the finest and most distinctive Early Colonial houses in the country, including an identified type -- the stone-ender -- rarely found elsewhere. The state's Colonial/Georgian and Federal style houses include two of the most important, dense, and numerous concentrations in the nation -- in Providence and Newport -- as well as excellent smaller clusters and isolated examples across the state. Typical and fine examples of the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival and Italianate styles abound throughout the state. Rhode Island's single-family domestic architecture built at the end of the nineteenth century and in the first decades of the twentieth century reflects the era of the state's greatest growth, both as an industrial center and a seaside resort. Many of the houses are unique, highly sophisticated, forward looking, and the work of prominent architects. Others are the designs of builders and contractors, created with the aid of standardized house forms, pattern books, and handbooks. Some houses are the product of nationally available pre-fabricated residences. These groups of houses are a testimony to the inventive vision and skills of the architects, builders, and clients who provided and used these comfortable, pleasant, and fashionable single-family domiciles.

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Property name Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

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### Integrity:

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original or characteristic setting is expected, but is not required. Examples of single-family houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, and materials, the qualities and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in bathrooms and kitchens, and that refurbishing of finishes will have occurred. Interiors must possess adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

### Physical Characteristics:

To be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, a single-family house will be a typical or fine example of domestic architecture and will be evaluated within a defined type, period, or style category of residential building. When a single-family house is nominated as part of a larger group, the nomination will identify the group and explain how the nominated example typifies the class. In cases when a single-family house is nominated as an unusually fine example of residential design and/or significance at the state or national level, the nomination will demonstrate the building's superior architectural value and explicate its distinguishing characteristics.

A single-family house may be eligible for the National Register as a contributing element within a larger district, even when it possesses insufficient significance for individual listing. To be eligible as part

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of a district, a single-family house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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I. Name of Property Type: Single-family Houses in Cumberland, RI

II. Description

This property type consists of houses designed and erected as single-family residences in Cumberland between ca. 1700 and 1944. Cumberland's historic single-family houses fall generally within the characteristics described in the statewide Property Type essay for Rhode Island's single-family houses. Although the first settler arrived in Cumberland in 1635, the town's oldest houses date from about 1700 after King Philip's War. Most eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses exhibit a conservative design approach, drawing on traditional forms and functional considerations rather than innovative construction technologies and aesthetic factors. Locally available wood is the most prevalent construction material. Houses in Cumberland tend to be simple and sturdy. Several houses, however, display sophisticated taste and fine craftsmanship in their construction and detailing, and a few elaborate and architect-designed houses exist.

Geographical Information

Some single-family houses in Cumberland are part of concentrated settlement nodes which took advantage of the water power potential of the Blackstone River and the Abbott Run. These include villages at Cumberland Hill, Valley Falls, and Arnold Mills (NR listed). Single-family houses are also located in the village of Diamond Hill, which developed near stone quarries in the nineteenth century. The late nineteenth-century company-built mill villages of Ashton, Berkeley, and Lonsdale (all NR listed) contain several single-family houses. Individual houses are found in isolated settings within discrete farms, often in association with agricultural outbuildings, and along transportation routes, particularly Diamond Hill Road and Mendon Road. Significant areas remain that continue to reflect historic land use patterns, and many single-family houses remain intimately linked to their historic agricultural and village settings.

Predicted Boundaries

The boundaries of the single-family house properties vary according to circumstance. Some houses are sited on small lots due to their original

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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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location in a village center and in cases where portions of the original land has been subdivided. Some houses stand within large agricultural tracts. In general, National Register boundaries will encompass the land historically associated with the house unless the character of the land has been dramatically altered. Some single-family houses have associated outbuildings (stables, barns, sheds, garages, etc.) and/or historic landscapes that contribute to their historic and architectural significance.

### III. Significance

The single-family houses of Cumberland are significant as rare, typical, or fine examples of residential architecture (Criterion C) constructed between ca. 1700 and 1944. In some cases, significance under Criterion C may also extend to include an historic traditional or designed landscape associated with the house. In addition, many single-family houses possess further significance from their associations with patterns of settlement and development in the town and important broad patterns of state history, including agriculture, industry, summer houses, and suburban development (Criterion A). A few are significant for their associations with important persons (Criterion B), and some may have a valuable archaeological component (Criterion D). This property type includes examples potentially significant at the state and local levels.

The historical context for evaluating the significance of Cumberland's single-family houses (and other historic resources) is found in the Historic and Architectural Resources of Cumberland, Rhode Island (RIHPC 1990) as determined by the process outlined in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995). A brief summary of the context is presented below.

Cumberland occupies the extreme northeastern corner of Rhode Island. The landscape alternates between rocky hills and fertile valleys along the river and streams. The Blackstone River, which forms the western town boundary, is a major topographical feature and one that guided much of the town's development. The primary transportation routes run north-south paralleling the river. Other important natural advantages of the town include a variety of underlying mineral deposits and extensive forests. A variety of historic man-made resources, including an assortment of single-

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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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family houses, help document the ways in which Cumberland residents have used and enhanced the town's topographical features and natural resources over time.

Cumberland's remoteness at the edge of Plymouth Colony drew its first settler, William Blackstone, about 1635. Blackstone was an Anglican clergyman and scholar for whom the Blackstone River is named. Settlement began to take form in the eighteenth century, when houses were built and land was cleared for farms in the gentle river valleys and uplands. Agriculture continued as a mainstay of the town's economy through the nineteenth century. It shaped much of the early cultural landscape as well as providing the basis for some of Cumberland's finest rural houses. Cumberland also developed a strong woodworking tradition in small boat construction and house building during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Industries like grist mills and saw mills, mining, iron extraction and processing, were followed in the first decades of the nineteenth century by the introduction of textile manufacturing. The textile industry deeply influenced the course of the town's history, particularly those sections developed with standard-design, company-built workers' housing by the Providence investment firm of Brown and Ives along the Blackstone River at Ashton (1867), Berkeley (1872), and Lonsdale (1860 and 1886). Cumberland Hill and Valley Falls villages also were associated with textile production, but contained a wider range of house forms. Arnold Mills supported several different industries over time and developed as a cluster of handsome houses. Diamond Hill grew up as a loose group of houses linked to the local granite quarrying industry. The Blackstone Canal, in operation from 1828-1848, and the Providence & Worcester Railroad, opened in 1847, followed the river valley corridor and greatly improved transportation linkages to the north and south.

In 1868, the heavily industrialized village at the northwest corner of Cumberland split off as Woonsocket. Valley Falls then became the new political center, reaffirmed with construction of a new town hall in 1894.

In the early twentieth century, widespread automobile use influenced the pace and impact of growth. Some sections of Cumberland were identified for summer home construction, and while most new houses were small cottages, a few large houses were built as the center of country estates. Later in the

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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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century, suburban plat development occurred as Cumberland became a popular location for new homes. Nevertheless, much of the historic housing stock remains intact and well-preserved.

### National Register Criteria and Areas:

#### Criterion A

##### Area of Significance: Agriculture

Some single-family houses in Cumberland are significant as the residential centers of complexes that formed an important part of the town's economic base in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These houses exemplify early patterns of settlement and land use and elucidate an important aspect of the town's development.

##### Area of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Some of the single-family houses in Cumberland are significant for their associations with the early development of the town. Although no houses are known to exist from the initial establishment phase beginning in 1635, surviving houses of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries are an important physical record of the town's early settlement.

##### Area of Significance: Industry

Some single-family houses in Cumberland are significant for their associations with the industries that developed along the Blackstone River, the Abbott Run, and other locations in the nineteenth century.

##### Area of Significance: Summer Houses (Other)

Some single-family houses in Cumberland may be significant for their associations with the spread of modest summer resort communities and isolated residences into the wooded interior of Rhode Island towns in the twentieth century.

##### Area of Significance: Suburban Development (Other)

Some single-family houses in Cumberland may be significant as illustrations of the suburban residential development that led community planning in the twentieth century. The trend brought new house forms and styles into popularity, as well as transforming much of the agrarian and wooded landscape.



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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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## Criterion B

Some single-family houses in Cumberland may possess significant associations with highly prominent individuals who played important roles in critical events in the history of the town and state.

## Criterion C

Area of Significance: Architecture

Individual houses -- Cumberland's historic single-family houses are significant for their ability to exemplify particular periods, styles, and types of residential design and construction. Cumberland houses illustrate evolving technology in wood-frame construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and, to a certain degree, shifts in architectural styles ranging from the vernacular to the sophisticated at different time periods.

Houses in a district -- Apart from their individual significance, single-family houses in Cumberland may contribute to the sense of time and place, and thus the significance, of a district. In Cumberland, such groups may consist of the concentrated settlements at the mixed-use villages.

## Criterion D

A number of single-family houses in Cumberland may be potentially significant because they possess the potential to provide information about early Cumberland history and the lifeways of its residents. In some cases, Cumberland's single-family houses may have been constructed on or near the site of a previously occupied site, the remnants of which are preserved as an archaeological record. More universally, early houses and farms typically possess buried refuse deposits, outbuilding foundations, and evidence of earth moving activities that can elucidate understanding of history.

## Criteria Considerations

Consideration B: moved buildings

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. Such properties may be eligible if they are significant for their architecture or possess

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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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outstanding historical associations. Single-family houses in Cumberland that meet the NR eligibility criteria standards are expected to retain eligibility despite relocation, in most circumstances. It is anticipated that few properties will be tested under this criteria consideration.

## Level of Evaluation

Examples of this property type will be evaluated at the local level and at the state level for houses with clearly outstanding architectural qualities and far reaching historical associations. The local evaluation context is the municipal boundaries, as explained in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPP 1995).

## Known Related Properties

The properties of this type listed below have been previously evaluated and listed in the National Register. Additional properties are known, but have not yet been evaluated or documented for National Register listing.

Arnold Mills Historic District (12/28/78)

Ashton Historic District (11/1/84)

Berkeley Mill Village Historic District (2/23/72)

Lonsdale Historic District (5/25/84)

Lewis Tower House (8/30/82)  
2199 Mendon Road

Luke Jillson House (8/12/82)  
2510 Mendon Road

Burlingame-Noon House (2/15/74)  
3261 Mendon Road

Cole Farm (8/16/77)  
Reservoir Road

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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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Liberty Jenks House ()  
2500 Diamond Hill Road

Ballou-Weatherhead House ()  
Tower Hill Road

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The following is a partial list of properties identified as deserving further consideration and study for National Register listing.

Diamond Hill Historic District

Old West Wrentham Road Historic District

Rawson Road/Abbott Run Historic District

Tower Hill Road Historic District

Valley Falls Historic District

Follett-Carpenter House and Farm, Angell Road

Squire Senior Nicholson House/"Greyrock", 160 Angell Road

John F. Clark House, 95 Broad Street

Hixon Homestead/"Maple Shade Farm", Hines Road

Miller House, Tower Hill Road

#### IV. Registration Requirements

##### Integrity

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity of essential features to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original characteristic setting is expected, but is also not required. Examples of single-family

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houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the character defining features, qualities, and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance and replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity in most cases. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes from the original construction or from a modification episode of demonstrated architectural importance. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in the bathroom and kitchen areas. Interiors must possess at least the basic elements of the original floor plan and features, as well as adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

### Associative Qualities and Physical Characteristics

Cumberland's single-family houses are significant under Criterion C as good local representatives of statewide and national trends in domestic architecture. Collectively they illustrate many aspects of evolving residential design and technology and as a group record the physical development of the town. To be eligible under Criterion C a single-family house will be a rare, typical, or fine example of domestic architecture. As important components of the community, a house may contribute to the historic character of a larger district. To be eligible as part of a district, a house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

Some single-family houses are significant under Criterion A for associations with specific core historical themes and events in Cumberland. Some are significant under Criterion B for associations with particularly prominent individuals in town and state history. To be eligible under Criteria A or B, a single-family house will exhibit in its history and

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Property name Single-family Houses in Cumberland, Rhode Island

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occupants notable associations with specific important events or activities. Single-family houses must be sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the dwelling and the person or event. A number may be potentially significant under Criterion D because they possess the potential to provide information about early Cumberland history and the lifeways of its residents. It is expected that few houses will be eligible purely for their associative significance or information potential.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in Hopkinton, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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I. Name of Property Type: Single-Family Houses in Hopkinton, Rhode Island

### II. Description

This property type consists of houses designed and erected as single-family residences in Hopkinton between ca. 1750 and 1944.

Hopkinton's historic single-family houses fall generally within the characteristics described in the statewide Property Type essay for Rhode Island's single-family houses. Hopkinton's oldest houses date to the mid-eighteenth century, reflecting its relatively late period of settlement. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses exhibit a conservative design approach, drawing on traditional forms and functional considerations rather than innovative construction technologies and aesthetic factors. Locally available wood is the most prevalent construction material. Houses in Hopkinton tend to be simple and sturdy. Few elaborate or architect-designed houses are found in the town. Examples of early and mid-twentieth-century house types and styles are limited, due to an economic downswing in the twentieth-century.

### Geographical Information

Some single-family houses in Hopkinton are part of concentrated early settlement nodes which took advantage of the water power potential of several streams and rivers. The largest villages are Hopkinton City (NR listed) and Ashaway; others include Hope Valley, Wyoming Village (NR listed; partly in Richmond), Rockville, Woodville (partly in Richmond), Canonchet Village, Moscow, and Centerville. Individual houses are found in isolated settings within discrete farms, often in association with agricultural outbuildings, and along transportation routes. Hopkinton retains much of its early character because it was spared the effects of large-scale twentieth-century development until the last decade. Significant areas remain that continue to reflect historic land use patterns, and many single-family houses remain intimately linked to their historic agricultural and village settings.

### Predicted Boundaries

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Property name Single-family Houses in Hopkinton, Rhode Island

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The boundaries of the single-family house properties vary according to circumstance. Some houses are sited on small lots due to their original location in a village center and in cases where portions of the original land has been subdivided. Some houses stand within large agricultural tracts. In general, National Register boundaries will encompass the land historically associated with the house unless the character of the land has been dramatically altered. Some single-family houses have associated outbuildings (stables, barns, sheds, garages, etc.) and/or historic landscapes that contribute to their historic and architectural significance.

### III. Significance

The single-family houses of Hopkinton are significant as rare, typical, or fine examples of residential architecture (Criterion C) constructed between ca. 1750 and 1944. In some cases, significance under Criterion C may also extend to include an historic traditional or designed landscape associated with the house. In addition, many single-family houses possess further significance from their associations with patterns of settlement and development in the town and important broad patterns of state history, including agriculture and industry (Criterion A). A few are significant for their associations with important persons (Criterion B), and some may have a valuable archaeological component (Criterion D). This property type includes examples potentially significant at the state and local levels.

The historical context for evaluating the significance of Hopkinton's single-family houses (and other historic resources) is found in the Historic and Architectural Resources of Hopkinton, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report (RIHPC 1976) as determined by the process outlined in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995). A brief summary of the context is presented below.

Hopkinton is a relatively remote, rural, inland township located in southern Rhode Island on the Connecticut border. Minor water courses drain the hilly upland terrain of the north and flow to the more level and fertile valleys of the southern sections to join the Wood River and the Pawcatuck River. The water resources fostered the growth of small mill hamlets that dot the townscape today. The wooded countryside, much of which was once cleared for agriculture, is traversed by a largely eighteenth-century road system, and many land tracts remain undivided. A

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Property name Single-family Houses in Hopkinton, Rhode Island

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variety of historic man-made resources, including an assortment of single-family houses, help document the ways in which Hopkinton residents have used and enhanced the town's topographical features and natural resources over time.

In the seventeenth century, Hopkinton was included in a large tract known as the "Vacant Lands". The first major settlement occurred in the fertile Tomaquag Valley in south-central Hopkinton after the "Vacant Lands" were sold by the General Assembly in 1709. The town of Hopkinton was set off from the adjacent town of Westerly in 1757. Agriculture formed the basis of the town's economy until the early nineteenth century, when industry began to occur. The earliest industries were blacksmiths, tanneries, gristmills, and sawmills with direct links to farming. By the early nineteenth century, small-scale manufacture of twine and fishing line, and of cotton and wool textiles was underway in the villages.

Construction of the New London-Providence Turnpike through town in 1815 helped spur growth of Hopkinton City and other locations along its route. New business, banking, educational, and social institutions were formed in the village centers to help support the growing industrial economy. By the mid-nineteenth century, agriculture began to fade, and in the twentieth century industry also declined. The countryside beyond the dense industrial villages remained forest and farmland, and Hopkinton's rural qualities and sturdy building stock have retained a strong sense of identity.

## National Register Criteria and Areas:

### Criterion A

#### Area of Significance: Agriculture

Some single-family houses in Hopkinton are significant as the residential centers of complexes that formed an important part of the town's economic base in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These houses exemplify early patterns of settlement and land use and elucidate an important aspect of the town's development.

#### Area of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Some of the single-family houses in Hopkinton are significant for their associations with the early development of the town. Although no houses



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are known to exist from the initial establishment phase beginning in 1709, surviving houses of the early and mid 18th century are an important physical record of the town's early settlement.

**Area of Significance: Industry**

Some single-family houses in Hopkinton are significant for their associations with the industries that developed along the Pawcatuck River, the Wood River, and other locations in the nineteenth century.

**Criterion B**

Some single-family houses in Hopkinton may possess significant associations with highly prominent individuals who played important roles in critical events in the history of the town and state.

**Criterion C**

**Area of Significance: Architecture**

Individual houses -- Hopkinton's historic single-family houses are significant for their ability to exemplify particular periods, styles, and types of residential design and construction. Hopkinton houses illustrate evolving technology in wood-frame construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and, to a certain degree, shifts in architectural styles ranging from the vernacular to the sophisticated at different time periods.

Houses in a district -- Apart from their individual significance, single-family houses in Hopkinton may contribute to the sense of time and place, and thus the significance, of a district. In Hopkinton, such groups may consist of the concentrated settlements at the mixed-use villages.

**Criterion D**

A number of single-family houses in Hopkinton may be potentially significant because they possess the potential to provide information about early Hopkinton history and the lifeways of its residents. In some cases, Hopkinton's single-family houses may have been constructed on or near the site of a previously occupied site, the remnants of which are preserved as an archaeological record. More universally, early houses and farms typically possess buried refuse deposits, outbuilding foundations, and

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Property name Single-family Houses in Hopkinton, Rhode Island

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evidence of earth moving activities that can elucidate understanding of history.

## Criteria Considerations

### Consideration B: moved buildings

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. Such properties may be eligible if they are significant for their architecture or possess outstanding historical associations. Single-family houses in Hopkinton that meet the NR eligibility criteria standards are expected to retain eligibility despite relocation, in most circumstances. It is anticipated that few properties will be tested under this criteria consideration.

## Level of Evaluation

Examples of this property type will be evaluated at the local level and at the state level for houses with clearly outstanding architectural qualities and far reaching historical associations. The local evaluation context is the municipal boundaries, as explained in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995).

## Known Related Properties

The properties of this type listed below have been previously evaluated and listed in the National Register. Additional properties are known, but have not yet been evaluated or documented for National Register listing.

Hopkinton City Historic District (5/2/74)

Wyoming Village Historic District (5/2/74)

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The following is a partial list of properties identified as deserving further consideration and study for National Register listing.

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Ashaway Village Historic District

Hope Valley Village Historic District

Rockville Village Historic District

## IV. Registration Requirements

### Integrity

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity of essential features to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original characteristic setting is expected, but is also not required. Examples of single-family houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the character defining features, qualities, and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance and replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity in most cases. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes from the original construction or from a modification episode of demonstrated architectural importance. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in the bathroom and kitchen areas. Interiors must possess at least the basic elements of the original floor plan and features, as well as adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

### Associative Qualities and Physical Characteristics

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Property name Single-family Houses in Hopkinton, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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Hopkinton's single-family houses are significant under Criterion C as good local representatives of statewide and national trends in domestic architecture. Collectively they illustrate many aspects of evolving residential design and technology and as a group record the physical development of the town. To be eligible under Criterion C a single-family house will be a rare, typical, or fine example of domestic architecture. As important components of the community, a house may contribute to the historic character of a larger district. To be eligible as part of a district, a house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

Some single-family houses are significant under Criterion A for associations with specific core historical themes and events in Hopkinton. Some are significant under Criterion B for associations with particularly prominent individuals in town and state history. To be eligible under Criteria A or B, a single-family house will exhibit in its history and occupants notable associations with specific important events or activities. Single-family houses must be sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the dwelling and the person or event. A number may be potentially significant under Criterion D because they possess the potential to provide information about early Hopkinton history and the lifeways of its residents. It is expected that few houses will be eligible purely for their associative significance or information potential.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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I. Name of Property Type: Single-Family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

## II. Description

This property type consists of houses designed and erected as single-family residences in North Smithfield between ca. 1690 and 1944.

North Smithfield's historic single-family houses fall generally within the characteristics described in the statewide Property Type essay for Rhode Island's single-family houses. Although the first settler arrived in North Smithfield (then part of Providence) in 1666, the town's oldest houses date from about 1690 after King Philip's War. Most eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses exhibit a conservative design approach, drawing on traditional forms and functional considerations rather than innovative construction technologies and aesthetic factors. Locally available wood is the most prevalent construction material. Houses in North Smithfield tend to be simple and sturdy. Several houses, however, display sophisticated taste and fine craftsmanship in their construction and detailing.

## Geographical Information

Some single-family houses in North Smithfield are part of concentrated settlement nodes which took advantage of the water power potential of the Blackstone River and the Branch River, such as Slatersville, Branch River, Union Village, and Waterford. Others are located in the lower density rural southern part of town scattered along a network of early highways and local roads, most notably the Great Road. Individual houses are found in isolated settings within discrete farms, often in association with agricultural outbuildings. Significant areas remain that continue to reflect historic land use patterns, and many single-family houses remain intimately linked to their historic agricultural and village settings.

## Predicted Boundaries

The boundaries of the single-family house properties vary according to circumstance. Some houses are sited on small lots due to their original location in a village center and in cases where portions of the original land has been subdivided. Some houses stand within large agricultural

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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tracts. In general, National Register boundaries will encompass the land historically associated with the house unless the character of the land has been dramatically altered. Some single-family houses have associated outbuildings (stables, barns, sheds, garages, etc.) and/or historic landscapes that contribute to their historic and architectural significance.

### III. Significance

The single-family houses of North Smithfield are significant as rare, typical, or fine examples of residential architecture (Criterion C) constructed between ca. 1690 and 1944. In some cases, significance under Criterion C may also extend to include an historic traditional or designed landscape associated with the house. In addition, many single-family houses possess further significance from their associations with patterns of settlement and development in the town and important broad patterns of state history, including agriculture, industry, summer houses, and suburban development (Criterion A). A few are significant for their associations with important persons (Criterion B), and some may have a valuable archaeological component (Criterion D). This property type includes examples potentially significant at the state and local levels.

The historical context for evaluating the significance of North Smithfield's single-family houses (and other historic resources) is found in the Historic and Architectural Resources of North Smithfield, Rhode Island (RIHPC 1980) as determined by the process outlined in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995). A brief summary of the context is presented below.

North Smithfield lies along the state's northern border with Massachusetts. The rough forested and hilly landscape is marked by the presence of two major water-power sources, the Blackstone and Branch Rivers, in the north part of town. A variety of historic man-made resources, including an assortment of single-family houses, help document the ways in which North Smithfield residents have used and enhanced the town's topographical features and natural resources over time.

The earliest settlement in North Smithfield occurred in 1666 when the town was part of Providence. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, North Smithfield experienced intense agricultural development, and in 1731 was

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Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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set off as a separate town. Small-scale saw mills, grist mills and the like served the farming communities. A number of excellent early houses exist, often with a series of additions and expansions to the initial house form.

In the nineteenth century, considerable industrial development occurred along the Branch and Blackstone Rivers in the north part of town, and several thriving mill villages were created from tranquil crossroads hamlets. Walter Allen, a master builder, erected several substantial houses with exceptionally fine porticos and other details in Union Village just after 1800. Other villages grew around the textile mills at Slatersville, Branch Village, Waterford, and Forestdale, as industry outstripped agriculture in the middle of the nineteenth century. In Slatersville, and elsewhere, fine single-family houses built in popular styles for mill managers, professionals and businessmen complemented the more functional stock of mill workers' houses.

Nineteenth-century transportation improvements helped the burgeoning small industries. The Blackstone Canal, in operation from 1828-1848, and the Providence & Worcester Railroad, opened in 1847, followed the Blackstone River valley corridor and greatly improved transportation linkages to the north and south.

As agriculture had declined in the nineteenth century, so industry also declined in the twentieth century. An important reversal was the construction of a new mill in North Smithfield by the Blackstone Manufacturing Co. in 1904. Suburban residential development characterized house construction in the twentieth century, as people moved to rural parts of North Smithfield from urbanized Woonsocket and elsewhere. Several neighborhoods of small simple summer houses were also constructed. Today, North Smithfield is a mixed community of residential, manufacturing, and commercial uses. Agriculture, once a mainstay, is a minor activity, and only a few areas of farming landscape are still worked, although other farmland is preserved as woodland.

### National Register Criteria and Areas:

#### Criterion A

Area of Significance: Agriculture

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Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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Some single-family houses in North Smithfield are significant as the residential centers of complexes that formed an important part of the town's economic base in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These houses exemplify early patterns of settlement and land use and elucidate an important aspect of the town's development.

Area of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Some of the single-family houses in North Smithfield are significant for their associations with the early development of the town. Although no houses are known to exist from the initial establishment phase beginning in 1666, surviving houses of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries are an important physical record of the town's early settlement.

Area of Significance: Industry

Some single-family houses in North Smithfield are significant for their associations with the industries that developed along the Blackstone River, the Branch River, and other locations in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

Area of Significance: Summer Houses (Other)

Some single-family houses in North Smithfield may be significant for their associations with the spread of modest summer resort communities and isolated residences into the wooded interior of Rhode Island towns in the twentieth century.

Area of Significance: Suburban Development (Other)

Some single-family houses in North Smithfield may be significant as illustrations of the suburban residential development that led community planning in the twentieth century. The trend brought new house forms and styles into popularity, as well as transforming much of the agrarian and wooded landscape.

Criterion B

Some single-family houses in North Smithfield may possess significant associations with highly prominent individuals who played important roles in critical events in the history of the town and state.

Criterion C

Area of Significance: Architecture



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Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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Individual houses -- North Smithfield's historic single-family houses are significant for their ability to exemplify particular periods, styles, and types of residential design and construction. North Smithfield houses illustrate evolving technology in wood-frame construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and, to a certain degree, shifts in architectural styles ranging from the vernacular to the sophisticated at different time periods.

Houses in a district -- Apart from their individual significance, single-family houses in North Smithfield may contribute to the sense of time and place, and thus the significance, of a district. In North Smithfield, such groups may consist of the concentrated settlements at the mixed-use villages.

## Criterion D

A number of single-family houses in North Smithfield may be potentially significant because they possess the potential to provide information about early North Smithfield history and the lifeways of its residents. In some cases, North Smithfield's single-family houses may have been constructed on or near the site of a previously occupied site, the remnants of which are preserved as an archaeological record. More universally, early houses and farms typically possess buried refuse deposits, outbuilding foundations, and evidence of earth moving activities that can elucidate understanding of history.

## Criteria Considerations

### Consideration B: moved buildings

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. Such properties may be eligible if they are significant for their architecture or possess outstanding historical associations. Single-family houses in North Smithfield that meet the NR eligibility criteria standards are expected to retain eligibility despite relocation, in most circumstances. It is anticipated that few properties will be tested under this criteria consideration.

## Level of Evaluation

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Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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Examples of this property type will be evaluated at the local level and at the state level for houses with clearly outstanding architectural qualities and far reaching historical associations. The local evaluation context is the municipal boundaries, as explained in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995).

## Known Related Properties

The properties of this type listed below have been previously evaluated and listed in the National Register. Additional properties are known, but have not yet been evaluated or documented for National Register listing.

Forestdale Mill Village (6/5/72)

Slatersville Historic District (4/24/73)

Smithfield Road Historic District (11/28/87)

Union Village Historic District (11/28/78)

William Mowry House (2/10/83)

Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm/Todd Farm (2/10/83)

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The following is a partial list of properties identified as deserving further consideration and study for National Register listing.

Grange Road Historic District

Aldrich Farm, Comstock Road

Mowry-Connolly House, Iron Mine Hill Road

A. Aldrich Farm, Iron Mine Hill Road

Ananias Mowry II House, Iron Mine Hill Road

Westacres, Louisquisset Pike

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Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

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Metcalf Marsh House, Mechanic Street

House, 485 Pound Hill Road

Former Nathan Staples Farm, Providence Pike

Blackmar-Wing Farm, 2338 Providence Pike (Considered Eligible)

Former Cyrus Arnold Farm, Woonsocket Hill Road

## IV. Registration Requirements

### Integrity

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity of essential features to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original characteristic setting is expected, but is also not required. Examples of single-family houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the character defining features, qualities, and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance and replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity in most cases. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes from the original construction or from a modification episode of demonstrated architectural importance. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in the bathroom and kitchen areas. Interiors must possess at least the basic elements of the original floor plan and features, as well as adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in North Smithfield, Rhode Island

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### Associative Qualities and Physical Characteristics

North Smithfield's single-family houses are significant under Criterion C as good local representatives of statewide and national trends in domestic architecture. Collectively they illustrate many aspects of evolving residential design and technology and as a group record the physical development of the town. To be eligible under Criterion C a single-family house will be a rare, typical, or fine example of domestic architecture. As important components of the community, a house may contribute to the historic character of a larger district. To be eligible as part of a district, a house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

Some single-family houses are significant under Criterion A for associations with specific core historical themes and events in North Smithfield. Some are significant under Criterion B for associations with particularly prominent individuals in town and state history. To be eligible under Criteria A or B, a single-family house will exhibit in its history and occupants notable associations with specific important events or activities. Single-family houses must be sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the dwelling and the person or event. A number may be potentially significant under Criterion D because they possess the potential to provide information about early North Smithfield history and the lifeways of its residents. It is expected that few houses will be eligible purely for their associative significance or information potential.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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I. Name of Property Type: Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

## II. Description

This property type consists of houses designed and erected as single-family residences in Portsmouth between ca. 1700 and 1944.

Portsmouth's historic single-family houses fall generally within the characteristics described in the statewide Property Type essay for Rhode Island's single-family houses. No seventeenth-century houses survive, however, and Portsmouth's oldest houses date to ca. 1700. Most houses exhibit a conservative design approach, drawing on traditional forms and functional considerations rather than innovative construction technologies and aesthetic factors. Locally available wood is the most prevalent construction material. Single-family houses built at the end of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century also embrace modest summer residences and lavish summer estate houses. The estate houses manifest the most sophisticated tastes in current architectural styles as well as the use of masonry - stone and brick - as construction materials.

## Geographical Information

Some single-family houses are part of concentrated early settlement nodes, particularly Portsmouth village center, or of nineteenth and twentieth century summer colonies; some are in isolated settings within discrete farms, often in association with agricultural outbuildings; others are the centerpiece of large late nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century country estates. In the decades since World War II, residential subdivision of former farm and estate land and new house construction has changed the face of the town's landscape, although significant areas remain that continue to reflect historic land use patterns. Many single-family houses remain intimately linked to their historic coastal, agricultural, and village settings.

## Predicted Boundaries

The boundaries of the single-family house properties vary according to circumstance. Some houses are sited on small lots due to their original location in the village center and in cases where portions of the original

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Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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land has been subdivided. Some houses stand within large estates or agricultural tracts. In general, National Register boundaries will encompass the land historically associated with the house unless the character of the land has been dramatically altered. Some single-family houses have associated outbuildings (stables, barns, sheds, garages, etc.) that contribute to their historic and architectural significance.

### III. Significance

The single-family houses of Portsmouth are significant as rare, typical, or fine examples of residential architecture (Criterion C) constructed between ca. 1700 and 1944. In some cases, significance under Criterion C may also extend to include an historic traditional or designed landscape associated with the house. In addition, many single-family houses possess further significance from their associations with patterns of settlement and development in the town and important broad patterns of state history, including agriculture, the Revolutionary War, maritime activity, summer communities and summer houses, and the development of transportation networks (Criterion A). A few are significant for their associations with important persons (Criterion B), and some may have a valuable archaeological component (Criterion D). This property type includes examples significant at the state and local levels.

The historical context for evaluating the significance of Portsmouth's single-family houses (and other historic resources) is found in the Historic and Architectural Resources of Portsmouth, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report (RIHPC 1979) as determined by the process outlined in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995). A brief summary of the context is presented below.

Portsmouth is a coastal community occupying the northern half of Aquidneck Island and seven large and small islands to its east and west in Narragansett Bay and the Sakonnet River. Numerous bays and inlets, but no natural harbors, mark the town's extensive coastline, and excellent agricultural soils overlay its rolling hilly topography. Over time, Portsmouth residents have used and enhanced these topographical advantages to create a predominantly rural community whose development lies recorded in a variety of historic man-made resources, including an assortment of single-family houses.

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Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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Founded in 1638, Portsmouth is the second oldest settlement in the state. Only a few institutional buildings remain from the earliest period of settlement, which concentrated at the north end of the town near Founder's Brook and Town Pond. After 1740, this area was abandoned for Newtown, a village platted overlooking the Sakonnet River from the east slope of Butts Hill. This area has remained Portsmouth's institutional and commercial center and principal village to the present day, encompassing a loose concentration of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.

Agriculture served as the main source of livelihood for early Portsmouth residents and remained important into the twentieth century. Many farms and remnants of farms are scattered across the town. In addition to barns and other agricultural outbuildings found in conjunction with the core farmhouse, Portsmouth had more wind-powered gristmills than any Rhode Island town; one, Boyd's Windmill, remains. Farming is among the most important historic themes in the town's history, and the surviving farm complexes and whole and remnant farms remain one of the town's most valuable category of historic resources. The Lawton-Almy-Hall Farm (ca. 1700 et seq.) at 559 Union Avenue is one of the best examples.

Important political and economic events in Portsmouth during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries included two significant Revolutionary War events and small scale coal mining and copper smelting.

The greatest changes to Portsmouth's cultural landscape occurred with the introduction of summer country estate houses in the nineteenth century when all of Aquidneck Island, and particularly Newport to the south, became desirable for waterfront seasonal homes. The earliest houses of this type in Portsmouth, such as Metcalf Bowler's House and "Vaucluse" constructed in the late eighteenth century, do not survive. Nineteenth and twentieth century country houses range from the picturesque informality of the medium-size John Barstow House, "Greenvale Farm" (1864-65; John Hubbard Sturgis [Boston], architect) to the monumental and formal Moses Taylor House, "The Glen" (1923, John Russell Pope [New York], architect. Many were designed by noted architects for prominent individuals. Often, they have an associated agricultural component either as the principal setting or as a gentleman farm adjunct to a formal designed landscape. Outbuildings and meticulously laid stone walls commonly accompany these single-family residences. Many estates were laid out over existing farms and in this way helped preserve and enhance the town's agricultural and open landscape. These properties are typically sited so as to maximize the fine

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Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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views overlooking Narragansett Bay or the Sakonnet River. One of the superior concentrations lies east of East Main Road.

A concentration of more modest seasonal houses appeared in a summer colony at the north end of town and Aquidneck Island around Bristol Ferry and the railroad station at the end of the nineteenth century. Summer colonies were also built on some of the islands, notably Prudence and Hog Islands. With construction of the Mount Hope Bridge (NR) in 1929 connecting to Bristol and the Sakonnet River Bridge in 1957 linking Portsmouth with Tiverton, improved accessibility encouraged increased residential construction that continues today.

### National Register Criteria and Areas:

#### Criterion A

##### Area of Significance: Agriculture

Many single-family houses in Portsmouth are significant as the residential centers of complexes that were the town's primary economic base and the force that shaped its physical character throughout most of its history. These houses exemplify patterns of settlement and land use and elucidate an important aspect of the town's development until recent decades.

##### Area of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Some of the single-family houses in Portsmouth are significant for their associations with the early development of the town. Although no houses are known to exist from the initial establishment phase beginning in 1638, surviving houses of the late 17th and early 18th centuries are an important physical record of the town's early settlement.

##### Area of Significance: Maritime History

A small number of single-family houses may be significant for associations with the town's maritime history, which is primarily reflected in the lighthouses that provided warning beacons in the town's rocky coastal waters.

##### Area of Significance: Military

A small number of single-family houses may be significant for associations with two important Revolutionary War events that occurred in Portsmouth:



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Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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the capture of General Richard Prescott in July 1777 and the Battle of Rhode Island in August 1778.

Area of Significance: Summer Resort (Other)

Many single-family houses in Portsmouth are significant as local renditions of the summer estate and summer colony development trend that swept the East Coast and isolated inland areas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In Portsmouth, the summer resort manifestation exhibits a wide range and diversity of new buildings and land use that intersected with historic agricultural patterns.

Area of Significance: Ethnicity (Potential Area of Significance)

A small number of single-family houses may be significant for their associations with specific ethnic groups; however, further studies need to be conducted to verify this potential.

### Criterion B

Some single-family houses in Portsmouth may possess significant associations with highly prominent individuals who played important roles in critical events in the history of the town and state.

### Criterion C

Area of Significance: Architecture

Individual houses -- Portsmouth's historic single-family houses are significant for their ability to exemplify periods, styles, and types of residential design and construction. Some are the work of widely renowned architects and many possess high artistic value and craftsmanship. Portsmouth houses illustrate evolving technology in wood-frame construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and shifts in architectural styles ranging from the vernacular to the sophisticated at different time periods.

Houses in a district -- Apart from their individual significance, single-family houses in Portsmouth may contribute to the sense of time and place, and thus the significance, of a district. In Portsmouth, such groups may consist of the concentrated settlements at the mixed-use town center or in residential summer colonies. Groups of farms and/or summer estates may also constitute a district.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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## Criterion D

A number of single-family houses in Portsmouth may be potentially significant because they possess the potential to provide information about early Portsmouth history and the lifeways of its residents. In some cases, Portsmouth's single-family houses may have been constructed on or near the site of a previously occupied site, the remnants of which are preserved as an archaeological record. More universally, early houses and farms typically possess buried refuse deposits, outbuilding foundations, and evidence of earth moving activities that can elucidate understanding of history. Excavations and analysis of the archaeological component of the Mott Farm (ca. 1639; house removed 1974) on West Main Road are an excellent illustration of this potential.

## Criteria Considerations

### Consideration B: moved buildings

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. Such properties may be eligible if they are significant for their architecture or possess outstanding historical associations. Single-family houses in Portsmouth that meet the NR eligibility criteria standards are expected to retain eligibility despite relocation, in most circumstances. It is anticipated that few properties will be tested under this criteria consideration.

## Level of Evaluation

Examples of this property type will be evaluated at the local level and at the state level for houses with clearly outstanding architectural qualities and far reaching historical associations. The local evaluation context is the municipal boundaries, as explained in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995).

## Known Related Properties

The properties of this type listed below have been previously evaluated and listed in the National Register. Additional properties are known, but have not yet been evaluated or documented for National Register listing.

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Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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Lawton-Almy-Hall Farm/Lakeside Farm, 559 Union Street  
Listed 10/11/78

Oak Glen/Julia Ward Howe house, 745 Union Street  
Listed 3/29/80

Greenvale Farm/Greenvale, 582 Wapping Road  
Listed 1/4/80

## IV. Registration Requirements

### Integrity

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity of essential features to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original characteristic setting is expected, but is also not required. Examples of single-family houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the character defining features, qualities, and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance and replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity in most cases. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes from the original construction or from a modification episode of demonstrated architectural importance. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in the bathroom and kitchen areas. Interiors must possess at least the basic elements of the original floor plan and features, as well as adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

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Property name Single-family Houses in Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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## Associative Qualities and Physical Characteristics

Portsmouth's single-family houses are significant under Criterion C as good local representatives of statewide and national trends in domestic architecture. A number represent the work of masters, often exhibiting the highest standards of quality design, materials and craftsmanship. Collectively they illustrate many aspects of evolving residential design and technology and as a group record the physical development of the town. To be eligible under Criterion C a single-family house will be a rare, typical, or fine example of domestic architecture. As important components of the community, a house may contribute to the historic character of a larger district. To be eligible as part of a district, a house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

Some single-family houses are significant under Criterion A for associations with specific core historical themes and events in Portsmouth. Some are significant under Criterion B for associations with particularly prominent individuals in town and state history. To be eligible under Criteria A or B, a single-family house will exhibit in its history and occupants notable associations with specific important events or activities. Single-family houses must be sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the dwelling and the person or event. A number may be potentially significant under Criterion D because they possess the potential to provide information about early Portsmouth history and the lifeways of its residents. It is expected that few houses will be eligible purely for their associative significance or information potential.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Single-family Houses in South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Section number F - Associated Property Types

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I. Name of Property Type: Single-family Houses in South Kingstown, Rhode Island

### II. Description

This property type consists of houses designed and erected as single-family residences in South Kingstown between the late seventeenth century and 1944.

South Kingstown's historic single-family houses fall generally within the characteristics described in the statewide Property Type essay for Rhode Island's single-family houses. The oldest houses date to the 1690s following King Philip's War. William D. Miller's Early Houses of the King's Province (1941) includes drawings and brief accounts of about a dozen early South Kingstown houses, many of which no longer survive; most have large stone chimneys at or near the end of the house. Early South Kingstown houses exhibit a conservative design approach, drawing on traditional forms and functional considerations rather than innovative construction technologies and aesthetic factors. Detail on these houses is minimal. Locally available wood is the most prevalent construction material, although the South County masonry construction tradition is reflected in some South Kingstown houses. Single-family houses built at the end of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century also embrace modest summer residences and lavish summer estate houses. The estate houses manifest the most sophisticated tastes in current architectural styles as well as the use of masonry - stone and brick - as construction materials. Single-family houses in South Kingstown also fall into two broad subsets of seasonal versus year-round residences, although many summer houses are now lived in all year.

### Geographical Information

South Kingstown's single-family houses are unevenly distributed across the town, reflecting historic patterns of development. The majority are clustered in the Wakefield - Peace Dale - Rocky Brook area. This section of the east central part of town emerged as the town's institutional, commercial, and manufacturing center in the nineteenth century and contains about half of the overall population. Other smaller concentrations are located in Kingston village around the University of Rhode Island (Kingston

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Property name Single-family Houses in South Kingstown, Rhode Island

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Village Historic District; NR), at the tiny hamlet of Usquepaug (Usquepaug Road Historic District; NR) in the northwest corner of town, and in the coastal summer communities of Snug Harbor (Point Judith and Potter Ponds), Matunuck Beach, Carpenter's Beach, and Green Hill along the southern shoreline exposure. The inland areas at Matunuck Hills and Indian Lake contain low density summer residences. Beyond the villages and clustered settlement nodes, single-family houses are dispersed throughout the town. Many lie along and near Route 1, which follows the approximate alignment of the early-eighteenth-century Post Road. The western part of South Kingstown, which includes the large and virtually uninhabited Great Swamp, is sparsely populated. In the decades since World War II, residential subdivision of former farm and estate land and new house construction has changed the face of the town's landscape, although significant areas remain that continue to reflect historic land use patterns. Many single-family houses remain intimately linked to their historic coastal, agricultural, and village settings.

### Predicted Boundaries

The boundaries of the single-family house properties in South Kingstown vary according to circumstance. Some houses are sited on small lots due to their original location in concentrated village settings and in cases where portions of the original land has been subdivided. Some houses stand within large estates or agricultural tracts. In general, National Register boundaries will encompass the land historically associated with the house unless the character of the land has been dramatically altered. Some single-family houses have associated outbuildings (stables, barns, sheds, garages, etc.) that contribute to their historic and architectural significance.

### III. Significance

The single-family houses of South Kingstown are significant as rare, typical, or fine examples of residential architecture (Criterion C) constructed between the late seventeenth century and 1944. In some cases, significance under Criterion C may also extend to include an historic traditional or designed landscape associated with the house. In addition, many single-family houses possess further significance from their associations with patterns of settlement and development in the town and important

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broad patterns of state history, including agriculture, the Revolutionary War, maritime activity, summer communities and summer houses, and the development of transportation networks (Criterion A). A few are significant for their associations with important persons (Criterion B), and some may have a valuable archaeological component (Criterion D). This property type includes examples significant at the state and local levels.

The historical context for evaluating the significance of South Kingstown's single-family houses (and other historic resources) is found in the Historic and Architectural Resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report (RIHPC 1984) as determined by the process outlined in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995). A brief summary of the context is presented below.

South Kingstown is a coastal community, bounded on the south by Block Island Sound, on the east by Narragansett Bay estuaries (Pettasquamscutt River and Point Judith Pond), and on the west and north by inland topography. The east and south areas are rolling coastal plain, with excellent agricultural soils, punctuated by salt ponds and sandy barrier beaches. The inland north and west areas rise through the knobby end moraine terrain of Matunuck Hills to the relatively low and broad northern hills. Over time, South Kingstown residents have used and enhanced these topographical advantages to create a predominantly rural community whose development lies recorded in a variety of historic man-made resources, including an assortment of single-family houses.

South Kingstown was part of a large tract of land, the Pettasquamscutt Purchase, purchased by European settlers from the Narragansett Indians in 1657/68. Settlers laid out some farms and built a number of houses during the late seventeenth century, but the greatest period of land settlement occurred in the eighteenth century, when agriculture dominated the economy. At that time, an aristocratic society, known as the Narragansett Planters and unique in New England, evolved in the low-lying and water-oriented eastern and southern parts of town. The Planters established large estates and utilized slave labor in the raising of horses, cattle, and sheep. These commercial plantations, which shipped their produce to the southern states and the West Indies, prospered until about the time of the Revolution. Few resources reflecting the early plantation culture survive today.

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Other, smaller, farms were created throughout much of the town during the eighteenth century, and small mills, sawing wood and grinding grain, were erected along the waterways at various localities.

Many houses (more than 80) erected in the town during the eighteenth-century -- good examples of Colonial and Federal era architecture -- have survived to the present. The most common forms possessed a gable roof and were either 1 1/2 or 2 1/2 stories high with a three-bay facade and end chimney or a five-bay facade, center chimney, and five-room interior plan. The Samuel Perry House (1696-1716; NR) at 844 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road, a 2 1/2-story, gable-roof half house, with the entrance and massive chimney at one end of a three-bay facade, is the best preserved of the earliest houses. Other important types of the first half of the eighteenth century are illustrated by the Henry Palmer House (1721), 557 Old Succotash Road a five-bay, center entrance, center chimney Cape, and the Henry Marchant House (pre-1760; NR), South County Trail, a 2 1/2-story, five-bay-facade house with an elegant, pedimented center entrance and a center chimney. Only a very small number of houses possess a center hall, paired-end-chimney plan. Three of the finest are in Kingston village. Simple flat board entrance enframements were most common, but some houses have five-light transoms and a rare handful have either tall, narrow entrances with a transom and moulded cap, or a fanlight, pediment, or fluted pilasters (RIHPC 1984:15).

The Post Road, laid out in the early years of the eighteenth century, supported taverns and stagecoach stops at Dockray Corner and at Perryville, where single-family houses also appeared. A small community at what became known as Tower Hill was the principal settlement in South County, serving as the seat of the county courthouse between 1732 and 1752. Little Rest (later Kingston) emerged as the intellectual center when the courthouse function was moved there in 1752.

In the nineteenth century, industry, notably in textiles, eclipsed agriculture as the predominant economic activity in town. Peace Dale, under the guidance of the Hazard family, became the leading manufacturing center. Wakefield also gained large new mills, and commercial growth transformed this village into a relatively large settlement by mid-century. The mills erected at Rocky Brook were responsible for the development of a smaller village there. Modestly scaled factories were constructed at Usquepaug, Mooresfield, Glen Rock, and Biscuit City.



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The earliest railroad, laid out through the northwest corner of town in 1837, by-passed all the villages. Eventually, however, this line helped create the small community of West Kingston and served the students of the agricultural school and experiment station founded in 1888 (renamed University of Rhode Island in 1951).

The single-family houses of the first half of the nineteenth century in South Kingstown continued to be fairly conservative and relatively simple renditions, even as the earlier forms began to be replaced in the 1830s by more romantic and picturesque elements. Most of the town's surveyed Greek Revival buildings (15 buildings) appeared in the village of Wakefield and are 2 1/2 stories in height with end gable roofs and simple trabeated doorways. Italian Renaissance palazzo and villa models became fashionable for a few houses, but the most common usage of the Italianate style was in decorative bracketed trim. Fanciful wood trim derived from the carpenter Gothic also appeared on a number of houses.

The important residential developments of the second half of the nineteenth century in South Kingstown were the establishment of several large rural estates, created from former farms and located mostly along Post Road, and the growth of the beach areas as summer resorts. These houses encompass a small number representing architectural styles popular in the decades following the Civil War, including the Second Empire, the Modern Colonial or "Shingle Style", and the Queen Anne style. Among the earliest of the estates were the Jeremiah P. Robinson House with carriage barn, the R.R. Gardner Estate (late 19th century), Curtis Corner Road. Shadow Farm (1884, remodelled 1904; NR), the Samuel Strang estate on Silver Lake, and Kymbolde (early 20th century), Torrey Road illustrate the later manifestations of the rural estate in various revival modes. Often, the estates have an associated agricultural component either as the principal setting or as a gentleman farm adjunct to a formal designed landscape. Outbuildings and meticulously laid stone walls commonly accompany these single-family residences. Many estates were laid out over existing farms and in this way helped preserve and enhance the town's agricultural and open landscape.

The surf side resort areas of South Kingstown were originally a quieter alternative to Narragansett Pier (part of the town of South Kingstown until 1901). The Narragansett Pier Railroad, built in 1876, served Peace Dale and Wakefield while shuttling passengers and freight between Kingston Station and fashionable Narragansett Pier. Summer houses in the Matunuck

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area included farms converted to summer houses such as Weeden Farm/Willow Dell (1753, 1871 et seq.), Post Road, and new houses such as the Edward Everett Hale House (1880s), 698 Post Road and the Dewey Cottage (ca. 1900), Matunuck Beach.

In the twentieth century, the automobile made the town increasingly more accessible from the state's major urban areas to the north. The college grew considerably, but Kingston remained a quiet village, overshadowed by the continued expansion of Wakefield. The beach areas underwent an "explosion" of summer houses and cottages, particularly at Matunuck and Green Hill. The nearby Matunuck Hills, sparsely populated since the eighteenth century, were newly rediscovered and became a fashionable summer retreat for Providence families.

The traditional agricultural sector of the economy continued on a small scale through most of the twentieth century, but has mostly disappeared since the real estate boom of the 1980s. Commercial fishing has also remained a small-scale but significant enterprise, largely out of Point Judith and Galilee. Recreational boating, an adjunct of the summer resort development, has also expanded in the local marinas.

### National Register Criteria and Areas:

#### Criterion A

##### Area of Significance: Agriculture

Many single-family houses in South Kingstown are significant as the residential centers of agrarian complexes that were the town's primary economic base and the force that shaped its physical character throughout the eighteenth century, and to a lesser extent in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These houses reflect patterns of rural settlement and land use and elucidate an important aspect of the town's development until recent decades.

##### Area of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Some of the single-family houses in South Kingstown are significant for their associations with the early development of the town. Although no houses are known to exist from the initial establishment phase beginning in

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1657/58, surviving houses of the late 17th and early 18th centuries are an important physical record of the town's early settlement.

Area of Significance: Summer Resort (Other)

Many single-family houses in South Kingstown are significant as local renditions of the summer estate and summer colony development trend that swept the East Coast and isolated inland areas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In South Kingstown, the summer resort manifestation exhibits a wide range and diversity of new buildings and land use that intersected with historic agricultural patterns.

Criterion B

Some single-family houses in South Kingstown may possess significant associations with highly prominent individuals who played important roles in critical events in the history of the town and state.

Criterion C

Area of Significance: Architecture

Individual houses -- South Kingstown's historic single-family houses are significant for their ability to exemplify periods, styles, and types of residential design and construction. Some are the work of widely renowned architects and many possess high artistic value and craftsmanship. South Kingstown houses illustrate evolving technology in wood-frame construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and shifts in architectural styles ranging from the vernacular to the sophisticated at different time periods.

Houses in a district -- Apart from their individual significance, single-family houses in South Kingstown may contribute to the sense of time and place, and thus the significance, of a district. In South Kingstown, such groups may consist of the concentrated settlements at the mixed-use town center, rural hamlets, or in residential summer colonies. Groups of farms and/or summer estates may also constitute a district.

Criterion D

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A number of single-family houses in South Kingstown may be potentially significant because they possess the potential to provide information about early South Kingstown history and the lifeways of its residents. In some cases, South Kingstown's single-family houses may have been constructed on or near the site of a previously occupied site, the remnants of which are preserved as an archaeological record. More universally, early houses and farms typically possess buried refuse deposits, outbuilding foundations, and evidence of earth moving activities that can elucidate understanding of history. Archaeological excavations and analysis of the Jireh Bull Garrison House Site (17th century; NR), Middle Bridge Road, conducted in the early twentieth century and in 1981, are an excellent illustration of this potential.

### Criteria Considerations

#### Consideration B: moved buildings

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. Such properties may be eligible if they are significant for their architecture or possess outstanding historical associations. Single-family houses in South Kingstown that meet the NR eligibility criteria standards are expected to retain eligibility despite relocation, in most circumstances. It is anticipated that few properties will be tested under this criteria consideration.

### Level of Evaluation

Examples of this property type will be evaluated at the local level and at the state level for houses with clearly outstanding architectural qualities and far reaching historical associations. The local evaluation context is the municipal boundaries, as explained in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995).

### Known Related Properties

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The properties of this type listed below have been previously evaluated and listed in the National Register. Additional properties are known, but have not yet been evaluated or documented for National Register listing.

Properties in Kingston Village Historic District  
(5/1/74)

Properties in Peace Dale Village Historic District  
(10/30/87)

Properties in Usquepaug Road Historic District  
(10/30/87)

Shadow Farm  
Kingstown Road (2/7/86)

Isaac Peace Rodman House  
1789 Kingstown Road (4/23/90)

William Davis Miller House  
130 Main Street (3/21/85)

Dewey Cottage  
Matunuck Beach Road (5/7/92)

Jireh Bull Blockhouse Historic Site (RI-926)  
Middlebridge Road (11/2/83)

Henry Eldred Farm  
368 Old North Road (11/18/91)

Commodore Perry Farm  
184 Post Road (8/26/82)

Henry Marchant Farm  
South County Trail (8/16/79)

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The following properties have been approved by the State Review Board <IS THIS CORRECT> for National Register listing.

Stanton Tucker House, Antique Road, Matunuck Beach

Palmer Gardner House, Mooresfield Road

John Potter House/ The Great House, 664 Post Road

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The following properties is a partial list of properties identified as deserving further consideration and study for National Register listing.

Dr. Nathan Knight Farmhouse, Usquepaug Road

Docray House, 2 Docray Street. Wakefield

The Wells Place, Littlefield Lane

R.R. Gardner Estate, Curtis Corner Road

Browning Homestead, Matunuck Schoolhouse Road

Samuel Perry House, 844 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road

Green Farm, Matunuck Schoolhouse Rad

Tucker-Albro House, 155 Ministerial Road

Henry Palmer House, 557 Old Succotash Road

Jeremiah P. Robinson Estate, 145 Post Road

William Congdon House/ Brookfield, 159 Post Road

The Watson Tract, Post Road <??>

Rocky Meadows Farm, 205 Post Road

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Weeden Farm, Post Road

George E. Rose, Jr. House, Rose Hill Road

Watson House, Saugatucket Road

Watson House, Saugatucket Road

Solomon Carpenter House/ Chanticleer Farm, 144 South Road

Kymbolde, Torrey Road

Shadblow Farm, Tower Hill Road

## IV. Registration Requirements

### Integrity

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity of essential features to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original characteristic setting is expected, but is also not required. Examples of single-family houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the character defining features, qualities, and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance and replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity in most cases. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes from the original construction or from a modification episode of demonstrated architectural importance. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in the

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bathroom and kitchen areas. Interiors must possess at least the basic elements of the original floor plan and features, as well as adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

### Associative Qualities and Physical Characteristics

South Kingstown's single-family houses are significant under Criterion C as good local representatives of statewide and national trends in domestic architecture. A number represent the work of masters, often exhibiting the highest standards of quality design, materials and craftsmanship. Collectively they illustrate many aspects of evolving residential design and technology and as a group record the physical development of the town. To be eligible under Criterion C a single-family house will be a rare, typical, or fine example of domestic architecture. As important components of the community, a house may contribute to the historic character of a larger district. To be eligible as part of a district, a house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

Some single-family houses are significant under Criterion A for associations with specific core historical themes and events in South Kingstown. Some are significant under Criterion B for associations with particularly prominent individuals in town and state history. To be eligible under Criteria A or B, a single-family house will exhibit in its history and occupants notable associations with specific important events or activities. Single-family houses must be sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the dwelling and the person or event. A number may be potentially significant under Criterion D because they possess the potential to provide information about early South Kingstown history and the lifeways of its residents. It is expected that few houses will be eligible purely for their associative significance or information potential.



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I. Name of Property Type: Single-family Houses in Westerly, Rhode Island

## II. Description

This property type consists of houses designed and erected as single-family residences in Westerly between ca. 1700 and 1944.

Westerly's historic single-family houses fall generally within the characteristics described in the statewide Property Type essay for Rhode Island's single-family houses. No seventeenth-century houses survive, however, and Westerly's oldest houses date to ca. 1730. Most eighteenth and early nineteenth-century houses exhibit a conservative design approach, drawing on traditional forms and functional considerations rather than innovative construction technologies and aesthetic factors. Locally available wood is the most prevalent construction material. The high-quality Westerly granite quarried in the nineteenth century was seldom used for single-family houses. Single-family houses built at the end of the nineteenth century and in the first decades of the twentieth century also embrace modest summer cottages and elaborate, large summer houses. Some of the summer houses manifest the most sophisticated tastes in current architectural styles. The character of single-family houses in Westerly also reflects the fact that summer residents and seasonal visitors more than double the year round population.

## Geographical Information

Some single-family houses in Westerly are part of concentrated early settlement nodes which took advantage of navigable waters and water power in the relatively level valley of the Pawcatuck River, in the villages of Bradford, White Rock, Potter Hill, Avondale, and Westerly Village (the largest urban center in southern Rhode Island and densest population area of Westerly). Other clusters exist as nineteenth and twentieth-century ocean-front summer colonies at Watch Hill, Weekapaug, Misquamicut, and Shelter Harbor. Watch Hill is particularly noted for the picturesque melding of curved roads and artfully placed houses in an uneven terrain. A few houses are found in isolated settings within discrete farms, often in association with agricultural outbuildings. In the decades since World War II, residential subdivision of former farm land and new house construction has changed the face of portions of the town's landscape, although significant areas remain that continue to reflect historic agricultural and

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maritime land use patterns. Many single-family houses remain intimately linked to their historic coastal, agricultural, and village settings; and the visual coherence of the summer communities remains strong in most instances.

### Predicted Boundaries

The boundaries of the single-family house properties vary according to circumstance. Some houses are sited on small lots due to their original location in a village center, as part of a platted neighborhood, and in cases where portions of the land originally associated with the house have been subdivided. A few houses remain within large agricultural tracts. In general, National Register boundaries will encompass the land historically associated with the house unless the character of the land has been dramatically altered. Some single-family houses have associated outbuildings (stables, barns, sheds, garages, etc.) and/or historic landscapes that contribute to their historic and architectural significance.

### III. Significance

The single-family houses of Westerly are significant as rare, typical, or fine examples of residential architecture (Criterion C) constructed between ca. 1700 and 1944. In some cases, significance under Criterion C may also extend to include an historic traditional or designed landscape associated with the house. In addition, many single-family houses possess further significance from their associations with patterns of settlement and development in the town and important broad patterns of state history, including agriculture, maritime activity, industry, and summer communities and summer houses (Criterion A). A few are significant for their associations with important persons (Criterion B), and some may have a valuable archaeological component (Criterion D). This property type includes examples significant at the state and local levels.

The historical context for evaluating the significance of Westerly's single-family houses (and other historic resources) is found in the Historic and Architectural Resources of Westerly, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report (RIHPC 1978) as determined by the process outlined in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995). A brief summary of the context is presented below.

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Westerly is a coastal community in the southwestern corner of Rhode Island. Its boundaries are principally natural water features and are formed by the meandering Pawcatuck River, Little Narragansett Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean, in addition to the neighboring town of Charlestown. The early villages centers are strung along the Pawcatuck River valley. The shoreline is punctuated by several saltwater ponds, and a cedar swamp and Chapman Pond occupy a large tract of the interior where fertile agricultural soils also exist. Over time, Westerly residents have used and enhanced these topographical advantages to create three distinct subareas of development -- coastal, riverine, and inland -- each with its own distinctive character. The history of this development lies recorded in a variety of historic man-made resources, including an assortment of single-family houses.

A trading destination throughout most of the 17th century, Westerly was purchased by Europeans in 1660 and settled soon thereafter. At its incorporation in 1669, Westerly included today's Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton, which were set off as separate towns by 1757. Initial settlement focussed along the east side of the Pawcatuck River which, along with the sea, has played a major role in Westerly's development and growth. Fishing, shipbuilding, and coastal trading and transportation formed the early seaside economy. Agriculture began as the inland lands were occupied, continuing to be important until about 1800 when population declined for about 40 years. Westerly village was destined to become an urban center due to its site where the Post Road crossed the Pawcatuck River near the head of navigation. However, its major growth occurred after 1800, as reflected in the building stock which has few eighteenth-century houses. Westerly Village contains several notable early houses, and a handful of others are located in outlying agricultural and village areas of town.

In the first decades of the nineteenth century, the face of the town began to change with the introduction of industry, business, and banking, along with educational and social institutions. Textiles, printing machines, and elastic manufacturing grew as the mainstay of the town's industrial economy. Although agriculture faded, maritime trades and shipping continued to contribute to the economic base. Expanded residential neighborhoods developed over the course of the nineteenth century in association with these endeavors. Important neighborhoods included the fine late nineteenth and early twentieth-century houses around Wilcox Park (NR listed) and along Elm Street (NR listed) in Westerly Village.

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The small seafaring and farming hamlet of Avondale, which developed in the latter half of the nineteenth century, contains several fine examples of Greek Revival style houses. In the manufacturing villages of Bradford and White Rock, most houses were built as multi-family mill workers' units, although a few single-family houses also exist. Potter Hill developed as a small-scale manufacturing enterprise from about 1762 to the mid-nineteenth-century and contains examples of several nineteenth-century house forms and styles.

The greatest changes to Westerly's cultural landscape occurred with the introduction of summer country estate houses in the nineteenth century when much of the East Coast, including Narragansett Bay, became desirable for waterfront seasonal homes. Watch Hill began its history as a summer resort in the 1830s and became a well-known summer destination by 1870. Beginning in the 1880s the oceanfront area developed as an enclave of handsome and picturesque summer houses built for wealthy families from the west and north. The collection of late Victorian and early-twentieth-century summer houses reflects the evolution from idiosyncratic compositions to increasingly academic designs in this period. It includes many houses of great architectural quality, and quite a few designed by architects from around the country. Watch Hill ranks with Newport and Narragansett among Rhode Island's finest resort communities, a tradition that continued into the twentieth century.

A somewhat quieter summer colony of smaller-scale shingle-clad houses grew up at Weekapaug from the second half of the nineteenth century into the twentieth century. The modest and unpretentious cottages that characterize Misquamicut began to appear in the 1890s. Shelter Harbor, the most easterly and recent summer community, was first inhabited by artists and musicians. It developed with approximately two dozen fine early-to-mid-twentieth-century summer houses often designed in revivalist styles.

### National Register Criteria and Areas:

#### Criterion A

##### Area of Significance: Agriculture

Some single-family houses in Westerly are significant as the residential centers of complexes that formed an important part of the town's economic base in the eighteenth century. These houses exemplify early patterns of

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settlement and land use and elucidate an important aspect of the town's development.

Area of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Some of the single-family houses in Westerly are significant for their associations with the early development of the town. Although no houses are known to exist from the initial establishment phase beginning in 1660, surviving houses of the early 18th century are an important physical record of the town's early settlement.

Area of Significance: Industry

Some single-family houses in Westerly are significant for their associations with the industries that developed along the Pawcatuck River in the nineteenth century.

Area of Significance: Maritime History

Some single-family houses are significant for associations with the town's maritime history well into the nineteenth century. Houses in Westerly Village and Avondale, for example, belonged to sailors, sea captains, ship builders, and traders.

Area of Significance: Summer Resort (Other)

Many single-family houses in Westerly are significant as local renditions of the summer estate and summer colony development trend that swept the East Coast and isolated inland areas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In Westerly, the summer resort manifestation exhibits a wide range and diversity of new buildings and land use.

### Criterion B

Some single-family houses in Westerly may possess significant associations with highly prominent individuals who played important roles in critical events in the history of the town and state.

### Criterion C

Area of Significance: Architecture

Individual houses -- Westerly's historic single-family houses are significant for their ability to exemplify periods, styles, and types of residential design and construction. Some are the work of widely renowned

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architects and many possess high artistic value and craftsmanship. Westerly houses illustrate evolving technology in wood-frame construction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and shifts in architectural styles ranging from the vernacular to the sophisticated at different time periods.

Houses in a district -- Apart from their individual significance, single-family houses in Westerly may contribute to the sense of time and place, and thus the significance, of a district. In Westerly, such groups may consist of the concentrated settlements at the mixed-use villages or in residential summer colonies.

### Criterion D

A number of single-family houses in Westerly may be potentially significant because they possess the potential to provide information about early Westerly history and the lifeways of its residents. In some cases, Westerly's single-family houses may have been constructed on or near the site of a previously occupied site, the remnants of which are preserved as an archaeological record. More universally, early houses and farms typically possess buried refuse deposits, outbuilding foundations, and evidence of earth moving activities that can elucidate understanding of history.

### Criteria Considerations

#### Consideration B: moved buildings

Properties removed from their original locations are among those ordinarily excluded from individual National Register eligibility. Such properties may be eligible if they are significant for their architecture or possess outstanding historical associations. Single-family houses in Westerly that meet the NR eligibility criteria standards are expected to retain eligibility despite relocation, in most circumstances. It is anticipated that few properties will be tested under this criteria consideration.

### Level of Evaluation

Examples of this property type will be evaluated at the local level and at the state level for houses with clearly outstanding architectural qualities

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and far reaching historical associations. The local evaluation context is the municipal boundaries, as explained in the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (RIHPC 1995).

## Known Related Properties

The properties of this type listed below have been previously evaluated and listed in the National Register. Additional properties are known, but have not yet been evaluated or documented for National Register listing.

Main Street Historic District (1/9/78)

Watch Hill Historic District (9/5/85)

Wilcox Park Historic District (5/7/73)

Dr. Joshua Babcock House  
124 Granite Street (7/24/72)

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The following is a partial list of properties identified as deserving further consideration and study for National Register listing.

Avondale Historic District

Bradford Historic District

Potter Hill Historic District

Elm Street Extension Historic District, Westerly Village

White Rock Historic District

Maxon-Cottrell House, Potter Hill Road

Lewis Farm, Spring Brook Avenue

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### IV. Registration Requirements

#### Integrity

To be eligible for National Register listing, a single-family house must retain sufficient integrity of essential features to reflect and document its architectural significance. Integrity of location is generally preferable, but is not required. Integrity of original characteristic setting is expected, but is also not required. Examples of single-family houses will be considered sufficiently well preserved to meet registration requirements if they retain in their exterior form, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the character defining features, qualities, and fabric of their original appearance. Minor alterations of the exterior and limited repair/maintenance and replacement of materials are expected and are not considered a detriment to integrity in most cases. Major alterations are also expected, but must be demonstrated to either have a neutral effect on the building's overall integrity, or to have achieved architectural significance in their own right. The definition of alteration includes modifications and additions to preexisting houses, as well as restorations.

The interior of single-family houses will retain substantial integrity of plan, materials, and finishes from the original construction or from a modification episode of demonstrated architectural importance. It is expected that minor changes will have occurred, particularly in the bathroom and kitchen areas. Interiors must possess at least the basic elements of the original floor plan and features, as well as adequate original woodwork, plaster, flooring, and details to convey its original design intent.

#### Associative Qualities and Physical Characteristics

Westerly's single-family houses are significant under Criterion C as good local representatives of statewide and national trends in domestic architecture. A number represent the work of masters, often exhibiting the highest standards of quality design, materials and craftsmanship. Collectively they illustrate many aspects of evolving residential design and technology and as a group record the physical development of the town. To be eligible under Criterion C a single-family house will be a rare,



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typical, or fine example of domestic architecture. As important components of the community, a house may contribute to the historic character of a larger district. To be eligible as part of a district, a house must have been constructed during the district's period of significance.

Some single-family houses are significant under Criterion A for associations with specific core historical themes and events in Westerly. Some are significant under Criterion B for associations with particularly prominent individuals in town and state history. To be eligible under Criteria A or B, a single-family house will exhibit in its history and occupants notable associations with specific important events or activities. Single-family houses must be sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the dwelling and the person or event. A number may be potentially significant under Criterion D because they possess the potential to provide information about early Westerly history and the lifeways of its residents. It is expected that few houses will be eligible purely for their associative significance or information potential.

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### Geographical Data

The State of Rhode Island.

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### Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The survey of Rhode Island's historic above-ground resources was begun in 1968 and completed in 1994. The survey was undertaken by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and has been performed by Commission staff. The survey is supplemented by a partially completed archeological survey.

The survey was conducted in units based on community and neighborhood boundaries; see the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan (1995) for an explanation of the relationship of the survey to preservation planning in Rhode Island and for a further explanation of how the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission gathers, organizes and manages data about historic resources.

Each town and neighborhood survey is a constituent part of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission's effort to prepare a statewide inventory of sites, buildings, districts, and objects important to Rhode Island's history and pre-history. The products of the survey--survey sheets and published survey reports--are designed to be resources for local, state, and federal planning efforts. They identify the resources which should be taken into consideration when projects are undertaken which may affect them.

The Commission's surveys include four phases of work: field survey, preparation of maps, historical research, and preparation of final survey report. A standard survey form, which includes historical, pre-historical, and architectural/physical information and an identifying photograph, is prepared for each site, building, or object included in the survey. Historical information is obtained through the use of historic maps, published and unpublished histories, guide-books, manuscripts, newspapers and periodicals, selectively conducted deed research, census materials, and local and state records, as well from knowledgeable local residents.

Essential data is transferred from the survey forms to a townwide survey map which indicates location and identifying map number. Detailed maps for areas of special interest and density have also been prepared.

The preservation report for each community or neighborhood is based on the field survey and on additional historical research. Its core is a short but comprehensive history which focuses on the physical development of the

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survey area from the time of white settlement to the present, as it is revealed in the area's morphology, topography, and natural setting, as well as in the physical evidence of human settlement (sites, roads, stone walls, farm complexes, villages, commercial centers, infrastructure, and individual buildings). This historical narrative is followed by preservation planning recommendations, including the identification of properties which appear to meet the National Register eligibility criteria.

The preservation reports, and the recommendations they contain, are reviewed by local officials; knowledgeable local residents; planners at state agencies; Commission members and staff. Upon publication of a report, a copy of all survey material is placed on public file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission's office and (if there is suitable repository) in the community itself. Each set of materials includes the completed survey forms, a copy of the survey map, and the final report.

Each of the surveys was conducted by a qualified professional who meets the requirements set forth in 36CFR61; the results of each survey are reviewed by qualified historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, and architects.

Historic contexts are defined by a process outlined in the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Plan (1995). The typology of properties is based on historic function. A standard list of 21 property types is used throughout the state and in all contexts. Only a single property type is identified and evaluated here. Other property types may be evaluated in the future, either statewide (as in this document) or within each community. The requirements for integrity are based on knowledge of the condition of existing properties.

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