

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



87
1987

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

1. Name

historic Usquepaug Road Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number along Usquepaug Road N.A. not for publication

city, town South Kingstown N.A. vicinity of 2 - Rep. Claudine Schneider
~~congressional district~~

state Rhode Island code 44 county Washington code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N.A.</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tax Assessor's Office, South Kingstown Town Hall

street & number 66 High Street

city, town Wakefield, South Kingstown state Rhode Island 02879

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Kingstown Preliminary Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Usquepaug Road Historic District is a small, primarily mid- and late nineteenth-century linear residential hamlet in the flat open farmland of western South Kingstown. The district runs approximately 1800 feet west to east with two-lane, black-topped Usquepaug Road (R.I. Route 138) as its spine. Anchoring its western end, where the road bends toward the nearby village of Usquepaug, are a large rectangular cemetery begun c. 1867 and enclosed by a later mortared stone wall, Usquepaug Cemetery, and the modest, gable-roofed, clapboarded Queen's River Baptist Church, built in 1911 to replace (and replicate) an earlier church on that site. Two story-and-a-half frame houses (both now sided in vinyl), one vaguely Queen Anne in style built c. 1896 and the other with an L-shape and a mansard roof built in 1883, stand close by to the south and east, respectively. They form a visually distinct cluster with the church and cemetery. About 130 feet east of them, across open fields on the south side of the road, are two nearly reverse mirror-image, mid-nineteenth-century, story-and-a-half, L-shaped, bracketed houses with contemporaneous carriage or horse sheds at the rear. East of these well preserved houses lies the Hopkins Farm, the land out of which the lots for the original 1849 church and later houses in the district were carved. The farm at present includes 187.5 acres on both sides of the road, only 7.5 acres of which on the south side of the road are within the district bounds. On this parcel of land stand the (second) Hopkins farmhouse, a large, center-chimney gable-roofed house built c. 1790 with subsequent rear ells; three large outbuildings; an enclosed animal pen; a small family cemetery (Rhode Island Historical Cemetery, South Kingstown #4); and two small stone foundations, one for the original Hopkins house and the other for what appears to have a bank barn contemporaneous with that house.

The district has two visually distinct parts. The eastern section is made up of the Hopkins Farm, a farm which conveys its rural character and antecedents in its open farmland, farmhouse, and outbuildings. The western part of the district has a suburban character. The buildings are concentrated in a relatively small area, and the lots are generally landscaped, but there is no uniformity in the size of houses, their setback, or their location on the lot. The James Webster House lot is rather stark, or severe, its house appearing isolated and almost uninviting, but the three houses along the south side of the road reflect a greater attention to landscaping.

Landscape elements which contribute to the sense of place of the district include the row of five mature linden trees in front of the Hopkins House, a row of maple trees fronting the well maintained lawns of the two near-twin houses, and, at the western end of the district, several good-sized spruce trees and the stone walls fronting the James Lamond House lot. Surrounding the district on all sides is flat open land. Most of the land on the north side of the road is used for a turf farm, although two modest mid-20th century houses have been built here just outside the district. The land south of the road is used for a dairy farm run by the present owners of the Hopkins Farm.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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received

date entered

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Inventory of Structures and Sites

Contributing properties are marked "C." Two foundations have been located and identified within the boundaries of the district; they are described below. No archaeological investigation of these sites has yet taken place, nor has their integrity or significance been investigated. However, research in early maps has provided some identification for these sites, and while they are not cited here as contributing elements of this district, it seems extremely likely that they will have demonstrated significance when (in the future) their archaeological potential is assessed.

1. Original Hopkins House foundation (late 17th or early 18th century): This small dry-laid stone foundation is all that remains of the original Hopkins Farmhouse. Samuel Hopkins made the initial Hopkins purchase of land in this area--most of today's Hopkins Farm--in 1697. The Hopkinses owned and worked the farm into the twentieth century.
2. Hopkins Barn Foundation (early 18th century): This small, three-sided, dry-laid stone foundation built into a slight hill slope is probably that of a barn for the first Hopkins House.
- C 3. Hopkins Family Cemetery/Rhode Island Historical Cemetery, South Kingstown #4 (18th and 19th century): This small unfenced cemetery, located back from the road in a copse of trees about 400 feet east of the present farmhouse, is overgrown and in neglected condition. Many of its crude, uninscribed grave markers lie fallen and covered with leaves and other debris. This cemetery was used by the family until about 1867, when Isaac Hopkins purchased a lot in the Usquepaug Cemetery.
- C 4. Hopkins Farm Complex (c. 1790 et seq.): This complex centers on a generously proportioned, 2½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney house, with a 2½-story, gable-roofed three-bay rear ell. Despite the fact that the house has been re-sided in aluminum or vinyl clapboard and that what was probably a fanlight in the pedimented central entry has been covered over, the house reads clearly as a late eighteenth-century structure. In front of the house along the road are five large linden trees. Behind the house are three outbuildings surrounded by fenced-in animal lot. The oldest, the middle building, is a nineteenth-century frame barn of mortise-and-tenon construction now used to store hay. It has two later frame sections (30 x 40, pre 1946, and 50 x 60, 1965) at the rear which are used to house cattle and horses. West of this composite building is a cinderblock milk house (30 x 35, 1965) with a large frame cattle house (26 x 84, 1974-75) at the rear. East of the center building is a smaller frame wood shed, machinery shop, and storage building, at least part of which predates 1926.
- C 5. Aplin-Webster House (c. 1865): This story-and-a-half, clapboarded, L-shaped house is composed of two gable-roofed sections: a three-bay main section oriented gable end to the road with doorway in the right bay and a three-bay ell set back from the plane of the main facade.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Each section is ornamented with a course of sawn cornice brackets, has a medium sized brick chimney, and is flanked by a one-story open porch with a low hip roof and square posts ornamented by recessed panels and moulded caps. The eastern porch has a simple trellis at each end; the porch fronting the western ell has been screened in. Behind the house stands a contemporaneous story-and-a-half, gable-roofed, shingled, carriage-and-wood shed now fitted with two modern roll-up garage doors. Well kept shrubbery and other plantings surround the house and a manicured lawn sweeps down to the row of maple trees sheltering the property at the road's edge. The house was built by Stephen A. Aplin about 1865. Aplin, with William L. Lockwood, had purchased the prosperous Independence Mill in nearby Usquepaug in 1864 but the mill burned in 1866 and was never rebuilt. Aplin's house was purchased by the Webster family shortly after 1870. The Websters lived here until the twentieth century.

- C 6. Lockwood-Kenyon House (c. 1865): This clapboarded, bracketed, L-shaped house is almost identical to the Webster House beside it. The only exterior differences are the presence of a pair of eyebrow windows in the front cornice of the ell, the positioning of the doorway with flat bracketed entablature at the left in the three-bay gable-end facade, and the fact that the ell porch retains its lattice end despite the addition of screens. The interior retains much of its original trim including a marble fireplace and Honduras mahogany staircase railing. Behind the house is a contemporaneous one-and-a-half-story shingled horse or carriage shed which still retains a pair of double swinging doors into the main area and a smaller door into the woodshed or storage area. The house was built by Independence Mill co-owner, William L. Lockwood. Mrs. Lockwood (presumably his widow) lived here briefly in the 1870s. Subsequent owner Dr. Herbert A. L. Stillman, a physician and surgeon, sold his house and medical practice to Dr. Edward E. Kenyon in 1882. Kenyon was a well-known physician throughout Rhode Island's "South County."
- C 7. James S. Lamond House (c. 1896): This 2-story, cross-gable-roofed house with hip-roofed rear ell is distinguished by irregular massing, gable-end overhangs, and open porches with turned posts and balustrades which are vaguely Queen Anne in style. The house has been re-sided in vinyl clapboard but retains its porches intact and at least some of its original window detail. Behind the house is a modern (c. 1945) three-bay garage, a non-contributing structure. Several large Norway spruces stand along the road north and west of the house and there is a low mortared stone wall in front of the house. James Lamond, a Scotsman, was a tailor and kept a small farm here. He also served on the South Kingstown Town Council and was a member of the town's School Committee in the 1920s and 1930s.

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- C 8. James Webster House (1883): This boxy, L-shaped mansard-roofed house has been re-sided in either vinyl or aluminum clapboards not only on its first story walls but also on the lower slope of the mansard roof. Although the open, low-roofed entry porch at the southwest corner of the house has lost its original railing, its sawn spandrels survive. So, luckily, do the paired brackets spaced along the cornice of the roof and of the bay window at the house's southeast corner. Two frame outbuildings, a shed, and a former blacksmith shop (now a garage), stand to the northeast far back from both the road and the house, James C. Webster, son of the keeper of a tavern in the Richmond section of Usquepaug, carried on a lively carriage business here. He made and sold "Carriages of Every Description" and also dealt in harnesses, whips, and blankets according to the 1910 South Kingstown Directory. He carried on the trade into the 1920s.
- C 9. Queen's River Baptist Church (1911): This modest one-story gable-roofed frame church on a raised basement is sited right at the road's edge. The building is three bays wide by three bays long; the entrance, with double-leaf door and flat moulded entablature, is located in the south gable end. A lunette window lights the gable end above the door; elsewhere, on the main level, the windows contain 12 over 12 double-hung sash. A short, square, hip-roofed enclosed belfry rises on the roof ridge at the front of the building. The Church was built to replace and intentionally replicate an earlier church on the site (built 1849-1855 and burned 1908). A Baptist society had gathered in this area by 1819. For many years it met in local schoolhouses, but in 1844 Isaac T. Hopkins and his wife Susan (of nearby Hopkins Farm) gave about 8 square rods of land for a meetinghouse.
- C 10. Usquepaug Cemetery/Rhode Island Historical Cemetery South Kingstown #2: This rectangular, 2-acre cemetery, bounded by mortared stone walls and entered at the southern end between two heavy, canted posts with square granite caps, was probably begun at the same time the first church was built (1849-1855) but was not formally incorporated according to local records, until 1867. It is divided into 70 plots and contains numerous mid- and late 19th-century granite and marble markers as well as later burials.

Number of contributing structures;

10 buildings

2 structures

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c, 1790 - 1911 **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Usquepaug Road Historic District is a small, well-preserved, mid-to late 19th-century "suburban" rural hamlet which grew up on a much earlier farmstead. The district is a significant reminder of settlement patterns and changing land use in southern Rhode Island and includes a cluster of buildings of local architectural interest.

Settlement and Changing Land Use

The land on which Usquepaug Road Historic District grew up in the last half of the nineteenth century was first inhabited by Native Americans, many of whose artifacts (particularly arrowheads) have been recovered by farmers and other residents. The area was settled by Europeans after the Hall-Knight purchase from Coquanaquant in 1664. A land division in 1693 established nine homesteads in the Purchase, and Samuel Hopkins bought one of the homesteads, comprising most of the Hopkins Farm and the Usquepaug Road Historic District, in 1697. Two foundations included in the district are thought to be those of Samuel Hopkins' house and barn.

Farming has been carried on in the district since the Hopkinses' first settlement. About 1790, the present Hopkins Farmhouse was built, probably by John Hopkins, Esquire. Isaac T. Hopkins owned and worked the farm in the mid-nineteenth century, and the 1860 United States Census, Schedule of Agriculture indicated that the farm at that time consisted of 150 acres of improved land valued at \$3,000. Isaac Hopkins had 1 horse, 4 milk cows, 4 working oxen, 5 other cattle, 19 sheep, and 7 swine, the livestock valued at \$318. The farm produced 125 bushels of Indian corn, 60 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of Irish potatoes, 75 pounds of butter, and 2 tons of hay. Thus, it was a general farm, with no particular specialty. Typical of most Rhode Island farms, it had a variety of crops and animals, much of which was used by the family. The Hopkinses worked the farm into the twentieth century. Subsequent owners have continued its agricultural use, first in dairying, then in potatoes, and again in dairying. Across the road turf farming has been carried on since the 1950s. The land in this part of South Kingstown is unusually level and stone free, which explains both the absence of stone walls, a traditional Rhode Island agricultural landscape feature, and the early settlement and continuous agricultural use in the area.

Overlaid on this agricultural base, rising somewhat abruptly from the broad vista of flat farm fields, is the compact node of houses, church, and cemetery called Usquepaug Road Historic District. Usquepaug proper,

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arnold, Virginia King. "Usquepaugh." Driftways into the Past.
Westerly, R.I.: The Utter Company. 1977. pp. 188-201.

Cole, J.R. History of Washington and Kent Counties. New York:
The Utter Company. 1889. (See Continuation Sheet #6)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 17a⁺

Quadrangle name Slocum, R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	8	2	8	4	0	4	5	9	7	9	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	9	2	8	3	2	8	0	4	5	9	7	7	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	9	2	8	3	2	6	0	4	5	9	7	6	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	9	2	8	2	6	8	0	4	5	9	7	7	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The eastern boundary of the Usquepaug Road Historic District begins at the south side of Useuqpaug Road at its junction with Dugway Bridge Road. From this point, it runs westerly along the south side of Usquepaug Road for

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet # 7)

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Walter A. Nebiker and Ancelin V. Lynch

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date March 1982

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

city or town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frank C. Williamson

title _____ date 19 June 1987



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a village slightly northwest of this node, developed around an early eighteenth-century gristmill and was known as Mumford's Mill until 1836, when the post office name was changed to Usequepaug. In 1836, too, James Potter founded the Independence Mill, which manufactured textiles. The hamlet of Usquepaug and particularly its tavern, according to local tradition, were places of poor reputation at this time. Whether for this or some other reason, when a new Usequepaug schoolhouse was built in 1836 (destroyed by the 1938 hurricane), it was located outside the village on Usquepaug Road. The Queen's River Baptist Church was likewise built outside the village on Usquepaug Road about 1849. The Baptist Society had been organized in 1819, and at first it met in local schoolhouses. However in 1844, Isaac T. Hopkins and his wife Susan gave a small amount of land from their farm along Usquepaug Road to the society, and a simple Greek Revival meetinghouse was erected a few years later.

Two residences joined the school, church, and farm along Usquepaug Road in 1865 when the new co-owners of the Independence Mill in Usquepaug, Stephen A. Aplin and William L. Lockwood, purchased adjacent house lots carved from the Hopkins farm and built nearly identical houses. During the 1880s and 1890s two additional houses were constructed on former Hopkins farmland along the road, completing this small suburb-like locus of settlement outside of the main village. In 1911 the church was rebuilt along its original lines.

The sites and structures which comprise Usquepaug Road Historic District span 200 years and reflect a shifting land-use from the earliest farm settlement to comfortable country residences in a semi-suburban setting for the families of businessmen and professional men.

Architecture

The Usquepaug Road Historic District is a simple but accurate barometer of rural Rhode Island architecture, a lesson in the vernacular. The sturdy, square Hopkins Farmhouse is typical of a common form built with only minor variations between 1750 and 1820 in the agrarian hinterland. The mirror pair of mid-nineteenth-century cottages, erected contemporaneously by co-owners of the nearby Independence Mill, evokes suburban orderliness, even as their location here set them apart from the more densely settled village of Usquepaug. Designed along late Greek Revival lines, these asymmetrical dwellings are embellished with brackets. The pair is very much a presence on the landscape--a conscious, albeit unsophisticated, statement of modernity and changing land use and economic base. The Queen's River Baptist Church is particularly telling: on rebuilding the 1840s Greek Revival structure after a fire

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in 1911, the congregation chose to repeat the original design rather than to build something modern. As a group these buildings are categorically illustrative of the forms and building traditions favored in nineteenth-century rural Rhode Island.

Two cemeteries, which would ordinarily be excluded from National Register listing, are included within the boundaries of the Usquepaug Road Historic District. Both the Hopkins Family Cemetery and the Usquepaug Cemetery derive their exceptional significance from their age, coeval with the period of significance; and from their association with a series of events: the settlement of the Hopkins family here, their continued use of the land here for agriculture, and the creation of a Baptist church at Usquepaug. In addition, the two cemeteries document an important shift in burial locations which is characteristic of rural Rhode Island. Without an established church seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and early nineteenth-century burials occurred in small family plots located on farms, such as the Hopkins Farm; over the course of the nineteenth century this practice diminished as burial grounds were set aside near to and in association with churches.

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Providence Sunday Journal, October 26, 1919. "Usquepaug Church One
Hundred Years Old."

Stedman, Oliver. "There is Only One Usquepaugh." The Spectator.
March 28, 1973.

Stutz, Jean C. "A Report Concerning Route 138 and the Proposed
Alternate Route at Usquepaug Bulge, South Kingstown, R.I."
Unpublished ms. Conservation Commission, Town of South
Kingstown, R.I. 1981.

MAPS

1855. "Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."
H.F. Walling.

1857. "Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island." From actual
survey under the direction of Henry F. Walling. Copy,
with additions, made in 1933.

1862. "Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."
Henry F. Walling.

1870. Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.
D.G. Beers and Company.

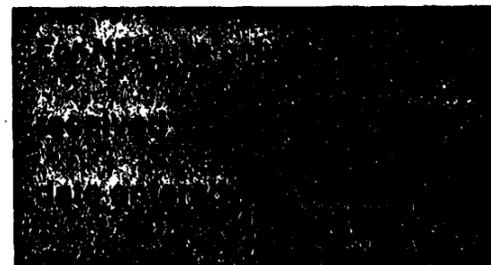
1895. New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Southern Rhode Island.
Everts and Richards.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Bouchard
Samuel H. Cornell
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kenyon, Jr.
Jane S. Prince
Marjorie Schunke
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Wakefield

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about 1300 feet. It then crosses Usquepaug Road and extends about 200 feet north of the road along the eastern boundary of the James Webster place. It turns to the west, running about 300 feet behind the James Webster House to the Usquepaug Cemetery wall, which it follows north about 200 feet, to its rear (northern) end. The line follows the north side, then the 600 foot west side of the cemetery to Usquepaug Road, which it crosses. Then it runs southeast to a point about 300 feet behind the James Lamond House. From here it extends east about 1600 feet, roughly parallel to, and about 300 south of Usquepaug Road, passing behind the Lockwood-Kenyon House, the Aplin-Webster House, the Hopkins House and farm complex, the Hopkins Cemetery, and old foundations; then it turns northerly to meet its beginning point.