

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tillinghast Road Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Tillinghast Road not for publication
city, town East Greenwich vicinity
state Rhode Island code 44 county Kent code 003 zip code 02818

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>24</u>	<u>13</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>29</u>	<u>15</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Frank W. Williams 22 Jan 1988
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

Sinda McClelland 3/9/88

- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingAgriculture/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingMuseum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

ColonialFederalGreek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls ShingleClapboardroof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Tillinghast Road Historic District is a linear rural area encompassing seven eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century farm complexes and a church. The district stretches along both sides of Tillinghast Road, from just north of its intersection with Frenchtown Road at Place's Corners to a point about one mile to the south. Tillinghast Road is a winding country road, tar-paved but only a minimal two lanes wide, which runs in a slightly curving course from north to south, past the farmsteads and adjacent open fields (some still kept in hay) or through second-growth forest. Stone walls line most of its length, even where fields and woods have given place to the handful of mid- to late twentieth-century houses erected in response to recent development pressures. Despite the new houses, most of which are set well back from the road and screened by vegetation, Tillinghast Road retains much of the sense of time and place of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century rural East Greenwich.

The following inventory is arranged north to south by farm complex. Numbers are keyed to the district map enclosed with this nomination. Non-contributing buildings are marked by NC.

GREENE-TILLINGHAST FARM (599 Tillinghast Road)

The present property is about nine acres, of which only two acres are included in the district. It includes a house, garage, barn, a shed (non-contributing), and an open agricultural field forming the northwest corner of the intersection of Tillinghast and Frenchtown Roads. Farm land west of the house, plotted (on paper) for future subdivision, and acreage northwest of the buildings, used as a Christmas tree farm since 1959, are excluded.

1. Greene-Tillinghast House (c. 1780, c. 1830 et seq.) is a story-and-a-half, gable-roofed frame house with a 5-bay center chimney plan and rear ell. The front (south) facade, has been altered by addition of a second entrance and a shed dormer the length of the gable flank.

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2. Garage (c. 1928): This is a large cobblestone, gable-roofed structure.
3. Barn (c. 1928): This is a large cobblestone, gambrel-roofed structure set behind the main house.
- NC 4. Shed (1940s): This is a small gable-roofed, shingled storage outbuilding with double-hung sash windows.

ARBA PLACE FARM (1265 Frenchtown Road)

The property, now reduced to 1.5 acres, includes a house, carriage barn, shed complex, barn, and outbuilding foundation.

The siting of the house, and its nearby outbuildings, at the northeast corner of Frenchtown and Tillinghast Road, makes this handsome complex a highly visible local landmark. A cut-granite wall lines the Frenchtown Road frontage at the southeastern corner of the property. West of this wall, and continuing in a line with it, a simple picket fence wraps around the western corner, defining the dooryard and running back to meet the dirt lane. The lane leads north to the carriage barn, then forks and curves behind the house past all the sheds and the barn, and back out to the road again. A pair of large chestnut trees, one now dead, stands in front of the house near a fence; perhaps planted by Arba Place in the tradition of so-called "wedding trees."

5. Arba Place House (c. 1830) is a 1½-story, gable-roofed, frame house, flanked by uneven ells, and is essentially intact on the front (south) facade, although several changes have been made in the rear. The main section of the house has a symmetrical five-bay facade, with a central door set in a Federal door frame with rather wide side lights framed by flat, fluted pilasters with simple molded caps. A low shed dormer on the roof slope above the three central bays of the house, appears to be original, but the continuous fixed-pane window band within it is probably later. The western, original kitchen ell has been enlarged on the north and heavily remodeled on the interior; the eastern smaller ell, offset to the rear, is an outbuilding moved here and converted to a summer bedroom, probably in the early twentieth century. Some alterations have occurred on the interior, including removal of the chimney and floor plan modifications, but many interior finishes remain including the living room fireplace and vernacular Federal/Greek Revival mantel, staircase

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and hall. The second floor, also heavily remodeled, retains a greater sense of age, though finish here was and is very simple.

6. Barn (nineteenth century): This small, story-and-a-half, shingled, two-bay structure is now used as a garage.
7. Shed Complex (nineteenth century): This group of three adjoining shingled sheds of one and two stories has a five-seat outhouse as its westernmost portion.
8. Barn (c. 1830): This large shingled bank barn has a later nineteenth-century extension on its south gable end, a lower gable-roofed section (apparently contemporaneous with the oldest part of the barn) set at right angle at its southwest corner, and a shed-roofed addition along its eastern flank. The addition creates a spacious storage area for wagons, harrows, and the like; a few of these implements remain. The barn is one of the earliest and best preserved barns in East Greenwich today.
9. Foundation (nineteenth century): Located at the northwest corner of the property near Tillinghast Road, this small dry-laid foundation may be the remains of Arba Place's blacksmith shop.

THOMAS TILLINGHAST FARM/NEW ENGLAND WIRELESS AND STEAM MUSEUM
(697 Tillinghast Road)

The property includes a little over seven acres of Thomas Tillinghast's original one hundred-acre farm, a house, a horse barn, a cow barn, a chicken coop, a small shed (non-contributing), a former church building, and a former coastal wireless station building (non-contributing).

10. Thomas Tillinghast House (c. 1760): The well-preserved house appears to have been constructed about 1760 and was standing in 1773 when Thomas Tillinghast purchased the property. A 2-1/2-story, gable-roofed frame structure, the house is four bays wide and two bays deep. The main facade second-story windows on the facade are framed into the cornice. The Federal/Greek Revival door frame of the principal entrance has blocked corners, narrow sidelights, and a blind transom light; it was probably added about 1830. It is similar to the door frames on the Greene-Tillinghast House but more gracefully proportioned and executed. A rear two-story ell may date from this remodeling (c. 1830) or

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from slightly earlier; it is traditionally said to have been built c. 1810.

Despite replacement of the central chimney by a central stairhall with two narrow, flanking brick chimneys (c. 1870), much of the interior architectural fabric remains, including mantels, chair rails, floors, doors, and door frames.

The house faces east, set back on a rise about 35 feet from Tillinghast Road, behind a low picket fence hung on granite posts. The dirt lane passes between granite posts just north of the house, leading to the outbuildings and fields surrounding them.

11. Horse Barn (c. 1870-80): A two-story frame, gable-roofed barn.
12. Cow Barn (1924): Originally constructed with stalls for twenty-four cows, this long one-story building now functions as museum exhibit space.
- NC 13. Shed (1940s): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, shingled outbuilding, framed with reused post and beam timbers.
14. Chicken Coop (early twentieth century): This is a small, frame vernacular structure.
- NC 15. Steam Museum (1963-64, enlarged 1979-80): This is a long, rectangular, gable-roofed frame structure with a modern Palladian window in the north gable end. It was constructed as museum exhibit space.
- NC 16. Former Massie Wireless Station "PJ" (1907, moved 1981): A 2-story, gable-roofed, frame building with a small lookout tower at one gable end, this simple structure housed the Point Judith station of the Massie Wireless Telegraph System in the early twentieth century. Threatened by demolition, it was moved from its exposed beach site to be preserved as a part of the museum.
17. Frenchtown Baptist Church (1822, moved 1972): The former Frenchtown Baptist Church, built as a girls' seminary and used after 1848 as a Baptist church, is a plain, clapboarded Greek Revival structure, three bays long, with an enclosed vestibule added c. 1890, a short belfry, and a gable roof. Despite the reversal of the pulpit and the pew orientation when the vestibule

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was added, the sanctuary retains an early to mid-nineteenth-century vernacular rural architectural character. The church was moved by the museum in 1972 from its site on Frenchtown Road, about a quarter of a mile west of Place's Corners, to save it from demolition. It is set on a high new basement which houses the museum library.

DANIEL BRIGGS FARM (864 Tillinghast Road)

The property includes about sixty-seven of its original ninety-seven acres, a house, two barns, an icehouse, a well, and several non-contributing structures: a tractor shed, a well house and a chicken coop. The house is set back several hundred feet from Tillinghast Road and faces south, with outbuildings arranged around its eastern end. South of the house is a short stretch of young woods; beyond that, as well as to the east and north, stretch broad open fields defined by dry-laid stone walls, still used for grazing Angus cattle.

18. Daniel Briggs House (c. 1702-1717, c. 1725): The heart of the complex is the house, six uneven bays long and two generous bays deep, with a gable-end overhang on either end and a one-story hip-roofed porch across the rear, added in 1913. Although a detailed structural analysis has not been undertaken, it seems likely that the first section of the house was built sometime before 1717 and probably closer to 1702. It was three bays wide and perhaps two stories high with a large stone chimney just inside, or forming the western end wall. This section corresponds with the "keeping room," whose heavy chamfered summer beam, corner posts, and end girt are still visible. Cased gunstock posts in the front chamber directly above suggest the two-story height. The stairhall in the front of the chimney with its three-run staircase, pendants, heavy square newels with moulded caps, and cased chimney girt exposed on the western wall, is typical of the 1725 period, a date traditionally assigned to the house.

In its present configuration the house follows a slightly modified center-chimney, five-room plan. The additional bay on the eastern end appears to be quite early, for it has cased gunstock posts on the second floor (as elsewhere in the house on this level) and a gable-end overhang, visible on the exterior. Interior changes include installation of new windows, window frames, doors, and door frames and removal of the partition

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between the parlor and the north central room. Nevertheless, the house retains much of its early finish, notably the stairhall newels and pendants; the bold moulded and paneled mantels of various configurations in the southwest parlor and chamber and the north-central room; a plain plank corner cupboard in the keeping room; and a much more elaborate cupboard, with raised panels below chair rail level, paired glazed doors above, and a projecting moulded cornice with a keystone, originally in the parlor, now in the north central room.

19. Barn (c. 1890, additions 1940s, 1980s): This is a large frame, gable-roofed barn with several attached additions used for hay storage.
20. Barn (late nineteenth century): This is a frame gable-roofed structure, now used for horse stalls.
21. Icehouse (nineteenth century): A stone- and wood-frame structure, set into a slope.
22. Well (eighteenth century): This stone-lined well may be the original well on the property.
- NC 23. Well House (mid-twentieth century): A small wood-frame structure, protecting a later well.
- NC 24. Chicken Coop (mid-twentieth century): A small wood-frame structure.
- NC 25. Tractor shed (c. 1960): A long wood-frame structure with sheet metal roof, three open bays, and one enclosed bay, used for equipment storage.

BAILEY-COOK FARM (929 Tillinghast Road)

The property includes a house, barn, carriage barn, a well house, a small burial plot, as well as four non-contributing structures: a guest house, an animal shelter, and two chicken coops. The house is set about 150 feet west of Tillinghast Road, facing toward it across a lawn with a dry-laid stone wall along the road front. Outbuildings are located behind the house.

26. Bailey-Cook House (c. 1782): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house, five symmetrical bays wide by two bays deep, with a plain door

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frame with transom, 12-over-12-pane window sash, a large stone central chimney, and a small gable-roofed milk room attached at the south end. The interior follows the standard five-room plan, with kitchen in the rear central position; except for a few twentieth-century additions on the rear, both the plan and detail are essentially intact.

27. Barn (mid-nineteenth century): A moderate sized, wood-frame, gable-roofed hay barn, set into an embankment.
28. Garage/Barn (early twentieth century): A wood-frame, gable-roofed structure, with three garage bays.
29. Well (eighteenth century?): The well, located at the front of the house, is covered with a small frame well house structure.
30. Cook Cemetery (mid-nineteenth century): A small cemetery, surrounded by a drylaid stone wall which contains the (now unmarked) graves of the Cook family.
- NC 31. Outbuilding (mid-twentieth century): A one-story, gabled frame structure with wire cages along both sides, constructed as an animal shelter.
- NC 32. Guest House (mid-twentieth century): A one-story, wood-frame cottage with a low-pitched gable roof and front porch.
- NC 33. Chicken Coop (c. 1951): A small, wood-frame structure now used for storage.
- NC 34. Chicken Coop (c. 1951): A small wood-frame structure now used for storage.

DANIEL W. PLACE FARM (1037 Tillinghast Road)

With only two-and-a-half acres of land remaining, the Daniel W. Place Farm centers on its farmhouse set about twenty feet east of, and facing, Tillinghast Road. Evenly spaced granite posts, which until the 1970s supported a low picket fence, edge the section of road directly in front of the house. Just north of the house a dirt lane leads west past the carriage/horse barn and a shed, where it forks. One arm of the lane then leads past a second barn, a barn foundation, and a foundation of an unknown outbuilding. The other branch of the lane leads behind the house

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outbuilding. The other branch of the lane leads behind the house and back out to Tillinghast Road.

35. Daniel W. Place House (c. 1780): The house is a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed clapboarded structure, with a symmetrical five-bay facade. Six-over-six windows and the sidelighted door frame, which appears to be a later (c. 1850) alteration, are framed into the cornice. Other modifications include: replacement of the central chimney with two slim brick end chimneys (one exterior on the south, one interior on the north); installation of new windows and openings at the southwest corner of the house; and changes to the interior plan.
36. Carriage/Horse Barn (c. 1860-70): A 1½-story, end-gable wood frame structure with 6-over-6 and 2-over-2 double hung sash windows.
37. Shed (early nineteenth century): A small gable-roofed, wood frame structure.
38. Horse Barn (early twentieth century): A small wood-frame, gable-roofed barn with double entry doors in the gable end.
- NC 39. Barn Foundation (1937; demolished 1975): A concrete slab foundation/floor of a former wood-frame structure.
40. Foundation (early to mid-nineteenth century): A dry-laid stone, U-shaped foundation of unknown function, set into the hillside where it falls away southward to a small brook.

MAWNEY-HOPKINS FARM (1140 Tillinghast Road)

The southernmost complex in the district, the Mawney-Hopkins Farm is comprised of 47.42 acres. The house and a single barn outbuilding are set several hundred feet east of Tillinghast Road. Along the road north and south of the buildings is a dry-laid stone wall, enclosing broad open fields.

41. Mawney-Hopkins House (c. 1800): A 1½-story flank-gable, clapboarded house with a five-bay symmetrical facade, two slim brick chimneys (one approximately central and one just inside the southern gable end), and a small shed dormer (four lights wide) above the sidelighted entry.

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42. Outbuilding (c. 1800): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, wood frame, clapboarded structure located just north of the house.

OTHER NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Located on the Daniel Briggs Farm property and set about 500 feet east of Tillinghast Road, these buildings are not visible from the road.

- NC 43. House (mid-twentieth century): A 1½-story frame nondescript cottage.
- NC 44. Building (mid-twentieth century): A 1-story frame nondescript cottage or outbuilding.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Three of the seven photographs accompanying this nomination date from 1971. These photographs have been field checked, and they accurately portray the resource described.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Agriculture
Architecture

c. 1680-1937

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Thomas Tillinghast, Sr.

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Tillinghast Road Historic District is significant as one of two small areas in western East Greenwich (see Fry's Hamlet Historic District, East Greenwich, Kent County, Rhode Island, National Register listed) where a coherent relationship of historic structures and agrarian landscape retains sufficient integrity to provide a clear picture of the town's early rural settlement and agricultural development from the early eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. At three of the seven farm complexes in the district, some form of agricultural use continues. There, fields are kept open and walls and outbuildings generally are kept in repair. Domestic and agricultural buildings on the farm are good and, by and large, well preserved examples of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century rural vernacular architecture. The district also has associations with prominent members of one of East Greenwich's most influential early families.

Historically, lands within and around the Tillinghast Road Historic District were part of the 5,000 acres granted to East Greenwich's forty-eight original proprietors for services in King Philips' War (1675-76). The district was encompassed in six 100- to 150-acre farm lots of the second (southern) land division. Early property owners in the district included members of the Greene, Wanton, Bailey, Thurston, Waight, and Jones families, although half of the lots had already changed hands by 1716.

The pattern of early land settlement in East Greenwich at the beginning of the eighteenth century was characterized by scattered farms in outlying areas and the beginnings of a concentration of houses at what was to become the town center on Greenwich Bay. The fertile soils, gently rolling topography and available water of inland East Greenwich lent itself well to agriculture, while the port provided access to the maritime trade

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

 See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property +/- 160 acres

UTM References

A 1,9 | 2,9,0,7,5,0 | 4,6,1,1,0,2,0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1,9 | 2,9,1,2,2,0 | 4,6,0,9,3,1,0

B 1,9 | 2,9,1,0,0,0 | 4,6,1,0,7,6,0
Zone Easting Northing

D 1,9 | 2,9,0,8,0,0 | 4,6,0,9,2,8,0

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Consultant

organization _____

date August, 1987street & number 24 Broad Streettelephone 401-245-6935city or town Warrenstate R.I.zip code 02885

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along Narragansett Bay.

The earliest settler and farmer in the Tillinghast Road Historic District may have been Daniel Briggs (Inventory No. 18). Briggs, of Patience Island, purchased a tract of ninety acres, the sixteenth farm in East Greenwich's land division, for £40 from Joseph Waight of Kingston in 1702. According to historical records, by February 1717/18 he was living on a farm. When he died c. 1729, he left his property to his son Benjamin, who owned it until his death on November 25, 1759. Daniel Briggs's probated inventory (entered March 28, 1730) lists, among other items, a Negro boy, cider mill, pair of oxen, five cows, two mares, six geese, six fowls and two steers. Daniel Briggs's house, constructed before c. 1717 and possibly as early as 1702-3, is an excellent example of an early eighteenth-century 2½-story, center-chimney house, and is especially notable for its gable-end framed overhang.

Another early settler in the district may have been Hugh Bailey who in 1716, owned the lot which included the land on which the Bailey-Cook House stands (Inventory No. 26). According to local tradition, the original Bailey House burned and was replaced (c. 1782) with the gambrel-roof house standing today, perhaps on the same foundation.

In the mid-eighteenth century growth throughout East Greenwich was slowed. The population declined between 1730 and 1770 as did new construction in this district. The actual effect of this economic decline on the existing agricultural farmsteads and on residents in the district is not known. However, with the creation of the port of East Greenwich in 1770, some of the town's economic interests turned to mercantile pursuits and later, after 1800, to industrial opportunities as well. The port and subsequent industrial development (by 1850 over ninety percent of the town's workers were employed in industry) provided new markets and opportunities for agricultural prosperity.

Members of the district's most visible and illustrious family, the Tillinghasts, for whom Tillinghast Road is named, purchased land and an existing house in the 1770s, at the time economic conditions began to improve.

Thomas Tillinghast, Sr. (1742-1821), known as Esquire, purchased his 100-acre farm, with dwelling (Inventory No. 10), in

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1773 from Thomas, Richard, and Solomon Matteson. Thomas Tillinghast was one of East Greenwich's outstanding citizens. He served as a member of the Rhode Island Legislature from 1772-1780, was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1779, Justice of the State Supreme Court from 1780-1794, and U. S. Representative from Rhode Island for the 5th and 7th Congresses, 1797-1803. He served in the Second Company of East Greenwich militia, attaining the rank of Colonel; was among the founding members of the East Greenwich Library Association; and served on the Council of War Commission from 1779-1800. With Theodore Foster, one of Rhode Island's first two U. S. Senators, he purchased a tract of over 5,000 acres of land in Randolph County, Virginia, presumably as an investment; he also owned several farms and considerable land in East Greenwich. In 1812 he or his son, Thomas, Jr. (records are contradictory) and Christopher Rhodes of Warwick began the operation of the first cotton mill (and the only water-powered textile mill) in East Greenwich, the Tillinghast Factory. The archaeological site of this mill and small village (RI-1679), located less than a mile to the northeast, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as a separate entry.

Thomas had four sons: Allen (1768-1851), Pardon (1770-1849), Thomas, Jr. (1772-1824 or 1826) and Joseph J. (1778-1863). All four were involved at least briefly in the Tillinghast Factory. Sometime before 1818, Thomas and his wife Mary also owned, and were living, east of the road at the Daniel Briggs Farm. At that time Thomas apparently gave Thomas, Jr. part of the homestead farm including the dwelling house; Thomas, Sr.'s will, probated in 1821, does not mention the dwelling, although it does dispose of several parcels of farm acreage to Thomas, Jr. and Pardon. A transfer of land from father to son in 1797 had given Thomas, Jr. twenty acres just north of the house.

Thomas Tillinghast, Jr., a physician, served as a Surgeon's Mate in the Second Artillery of Engineers, 1798-1802, and was also a minister in the Frenchtown Baptist Church. He married Lucy Allen, of North Kingstown, in 1795 and died intestate either in 1824 or 1826. Lucy, his widow, sold the farm in 1831 to Nathaniel Hill Cole, a housewright. Nathaniel Cole was most likely responsible for the Greek Revival remodeling of the front entrance, for he owned the farm from 1831 till 1853 during the height of the style's popularity.

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With the exception of the Daniel Briggs and Thomas Tillinghast houses and the existence of Frenchtown and Tillinghast Roads, little is known about the appearance of the district prior to about 1780. The period between 1780 and 1830 saw the establishment of the remaining five farms with attendant field clearing and stone wall and building construction, which was to define the characteristics of the district in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Farm acreage ranged in size from approximately 40 to 100 acres. The domestic architecture was expressed in modest vernacular, 1½-story house forms, which remain as well-preserved local examples of rural Federal Period architecture. The utilitarian nature of early nineteenth-century farm buildings is well represented by the large bank barn on the Arba Place Farm, constructed c. 1830 (Inventory No. 8), one of the best maintained illustrations of its type and period in East Greenwich.

No records exist concerning the crops grown and livestock kept by the district's farmers. They probably raised corn, rye, barley, and potatoes, crops cited by contemporary writers as produced in East Greenwich at that time (Pease and Niles 1819: 368), as well as squash, beans, and apples. East Greenwich was especially distinguished for the quality of its cider. Cranberries became another popular fruit crop, and a bog was created on the Daniel Briggs property, probably around mid-century. The cranberry bog or a nearby pond was created on the Daniel Briggs property, probably around mid-century. The cranberry bog or a nearby pond also supplied ice in winter, which was stored in the small masonry icehouse on the property (Inventory No. 21). Livestock most likely included cattle, pigs, horses, sheep, oxen, and poultry in some combination.

The pattern of farm creation along Tillinghast Road, which was essentially completed by about 1830, reflects the fact that by the early nineteenth century almost all tracts of agricultural land had been accounted for in East Greenwich and, in fact, regionally. Farm boundaries remained basically stable throughout the nineteenth century; thus, success depended upon judicious use of resources and application of new techniques of animal husbandry, soil improvements, etc., promoted by organizations like the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, founded in 1820. Although no Tillinghast Road farmers appear to have been members of the Society, they may well have

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known of its existence and purpose, perhaps through members Thomas Fry and Nicholas S. Fry, in nearby Fry's Hamlet.

Blacksmith services were critical to a farm for tool and equipment manufacture and repair and animal shoeing. These services were conveniently provided at the Arba Place Farm (Inventory No. 5), at the intersection of Frenchtown and Tillinghast Roads, known as Place's Corner. Both Arba Place, who owned the property from 1824 to c. 1840, and his son Alpheus Place, who purchased it in 1844 and retained ownership until the 1860s, were blacksmiths. The shop was located at the north edge of the property (Inventory No. 9). Alpheus Place also had a half interest in the former Tillinghast Factory from 1845 to 1879 (see Tillinghast Factory Archaeological Site National Register nomination, proposed).

With construction of the Providence and Stonington Railroad through the town center in 1837 and town population increases after 1840, due in part to immigration from Europe, farms in outlying areas of East Greenwich flourished. Along Tillinghast Road, growth was internal, expressed in new construction of small and large barns for livestock as well as equipment and fodder storage. Most of the farms seem to have been multipurpose concerns, where farmers divided their resources to encompass production of market fruits and vegetables, dairy products and livestock. The field system already established allowed rotation of pasture and crop use. Periods of reduced production or inactivity may relate to lulls in ownership due to death, rather than to fluctuations in market demand. In 1894, four of the district farms were listed in a statewide agricultural directory: Greene-Tillinghast Farm, Jonathon D. Huling, 40 acres; Arba Place Farm, Levi B. Place, 90 acres; Thomas Tillinghast Farm, Timothy Andrews, 100 acres; and Bailey-Cook Farm, Thomas B. Cook, 42 acres. The status of the Daniel Briggs Farm at this time is unclear. The property, then 66 acres, had been purchased in 1877 by Lydia Tillinghast and Anna M. Winslow and perhaps was operating under an unrecorded lease arrangement. Omission of the remaining two farms, however, seems directly related to owners' deaths. The Daniel W. Place Farm comprising 56 acres was sold by his heirs to George E. Hopkins in 1897, and the Mawney-Hopkins Farms comprising 55 acres was sold by the heirs of Ebenezer and Catherine J. Hopkins to Susan E. Johnson for \$10.00 in 1904. Both farms likely became active under their new owners.

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Increasing suburbanization development in East Greenwich and nearby towns in the twentieth century continued to provide a market demand for farm goods. At at least two farms, the Thomas Tillinghast Farm and Daniel W. Place Farm, construction of large cow barns seems to reflect increased specialization in dairy products (Inventory Nos. 12 and 39).

The advent of the automobile and development of major naval facilities during World War II at Quonset Point/Davisville, North Kingstown, brought even further development pressure to outlying agrarian areas. At least one property in the district, the Bailey-Cook Farm, was taken by the Navy for housing during that period. Nevertheless, the Tillinghast Road Historic District has, to the present, largely escaped the pattern of conversion of agricultural land to housing and industrial use which characterizes much of East Greenwich's twentieth-century growth. While limited historic documentary materials exist for Tillinghast Road farms (no account books are known to survive and the farmers' visibility in secondary literature is low to nonexistent), and in part because of this dearth of information, these seven farms stand as an important and locally scarce record of agricultural land use and building forms from the late eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Collectively, their distribution along a winding country road and agrarian setting provide a strong sense of East Greenwich's agricultural heritage.

An additional group of resources contained in the Tillinghast Road Historic District is worthy of mention, as components may be determined to meet National Register significance criteria in the future. The collections of the New England Steam and Wireless Museum are housed in agricultural and other buildings, two of particular note, on the Thomas Tillinghast Farm. The collections themselves include important examples of the machinery and equipment developed for these two technologies, as well as memorabilia and primary and secondary research materials. Among the non-agricultural buildings are the former Frenchtown Baptist Church, now used as a meeting space and library, and the former Massie Wireless Station "PJ" (Point Judith); both were relocated here to prevent demolition. The former Frenchtown Baptist Church, originally across Frenchtown road northwest of the district, was the primary local house of worship for over 150 years. Many district residents were church members and several, including Timothy Andrews (Inventory No.

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10), were pastors. Because of its historical associations with the district, the church is designated as a contributing building. The former Massie Wireless Station "PJ" does not relate historically or functionally to the significance themes embodied in the district and is, therefore, designated as a noncontributing building. Nevertheless, it is an extremely well-preserved and rare example of its type. As such, further study may conclude that it meets National Register significance criteria on its own merit, despite relocation from its original site and setting.

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Unpublished land evidence and probate records, East Greenwich
Town House.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Tillinghast Road Historic District boundaries are shown on the accompanying map and are as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of the district, the boundary follows the north and east lot lines of Plat 16C, lot 18, runs due south across Frenchtown Road to the north bound of Plat 18B, lot 1; thence east and south to the north and east bounds of said lot to the southeast corner; thence east and southeast across the southern tail of Plat 18B, lot 42, to the southeast corner of said lot; thence in a line southeasterly across Plat 18B, lot 13, to meet the angle in the south bound of lot 13, approximately 1135 feet east of Tillinghast Road; from that point running south along the eastern lot lines of Plat 18E, lot 14A, and Plat 18E, lot 15; then southwest and west along the south lot line of 18E, lot 15, and continuing in the same line west to meet Tillinghast Road; thence north on the east side of the road to a point opposite the southeast corner of Plat 19B, lot 138, and west across the road to meet that corner; thence west on the south bound of Plat 19B, lot 138, to its southwest corner; thence north on the western lot line and east on the northern lot line to a point on the north bound of lot 138, 30 feet west of Tillinghast Road; thence north on the west side of the road at a depth of 30 feet to meet the south bound of Plat 19B, lot 37; thence west, north and east on the south, west, and north bounds of lot 37 to a point 30 feet west of the western edge of Tillinghast Road; thence northerly following the road at a depth of 30 feet to meet the south bound of Plat 19C, lot 76; thence west on the south bound of Plat 19C, lot 76; thence west on the south bound of Plat 19C, lot 71 to its southwest corner and north on its west bound to Frenchtown Road; thence east on the southern edge of Frenchtown Road to a point 200 feet west of Tillinghast Road; thence northerly across Frenchtown Road and north across Plat 15J, lot 13 at a depth of 200 feet, to a corner 200 feet west of Tillinghast Road, and 400 feet north of the south bound of Plat 15J, lot 13; thence east in a straight line to Tillinghast Road. Then south on the west edge of Tillinghast Road, about 480 feet +/-, to a point opposite the northwest corner of Plat 16C, lot 18; thence east across Tillinghast Road to that corner, the point of beginning.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The district boundary is drawn to include eighteenth and nineteenth century farm houses and farm complexes with their surrounding historically associated fields and stone walls which possess integrity on both sides of Tillinghast Road from several hundred feet north of the road's intersection with Frenchtown Road (called Place's Corners) to one mile south of the Corners.