Did you know?

Canonchet Farm is located on land that has a rich historical past. For thousands of years, the Narragansett Tribe hunted, fished and farmed here during the summer. Indeed “Canonchet” was a legendary Narragansett sachem and leader of his warriors during the King Phillip’s War (1675-76).

Part of the Pettaquamsctutt Purchase of 1658, vast acres of land were turned over to English settlers in the early 1700’s. It became the William Robinson Farm which was sold to Governor (and later Senator) William Sprague in 1866. Sprague and his wife, Kate Chase, built a 64 room mansion on the property. On October 11, 1909, the magnificent building burned to the ground, leaving only the remnants of the stable behind.

The Town of Narragansett acquired the 174 acre farm in 1973 and in 1985 granted two acres of land to the South County Museum. The Friends of Canonchet Farm group has been maintaining the property since 2007.

Brought to you by

The Friends of Canonchet Farm, a non-profit organization founded in 2007 to manage Canonchet Farm in cooperation with the Town of Narragansett

Canonchet Farm History Trail

A WALK THROUGH THE WOODS ~
A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

Trail start: Narragansett Community Center, 53 Mumford Rd, Narragansett, RI

Trail finish: South County Museum, 115 Strathmore Street, Narragansett, RI

For more information regarding the history of the Canonchet Farm area visit the Friends of Canonchet Farm website at www.canonchet.org and the South County Museum website at www.southcountymuseum.org

View across salt marsh to Pettaquamsctutt Cove
Photo by Beth Laliberte

Laport Family at Canonchet Farm circa 1940
Photo courtesy of South County Museum
**H-1 Seaview Railroad**
A rise in the landscape is evidence of the bed of a former interurban streetcar line running south from East Greenwich to Narragansett, Wakefield and Peace Dale. It opened in 1899 and stopped running in 1922.

**H-2 Stone Bridge**
The current wooden bridge was built above a historic stone bridge over Crooked Brook, so wagons could pass over it.

**H-3 Paired Allée**
Horse chestnut trees lined either side of this former farm drive leading to the mansion.

**H-4/G-3 Old Farm Road**
Note the stone wall on the right and retaining wall on the left. The stone wall was constructed from boulders in the glacial till, remnants of the last glaciation in the area.

**H-5/G-6 Wall Opening**
The water body visible is the southern portion of the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River known as Pettaquamscutt Cove. A large opening was built in the stone wall to allow access for wagons to collect salt marsh hay in the Spring.

**H-6A Double Stone Wall**
This wall abuts the adjacent, earlier east/west wall.

**H-6B Stone Wall**
Jogs toward cove.

**H-7/G-7 Stile**
Step-like feature built into the wall so that people could easily cross over it.

**H-8/G-8 Gate Posts**
The gate posts are made of granite. The upright post still has an iron ring in it, while the other post has fallen.

**H-9/G-9 Stepped Stone Quarry**
Granite blocks were quarried at this location. Note the drill marks in the blocks that remain.

**H-9A Erratic with feathers and wedges**
Evidence of 18th century quarrying technique utilizing “feathers and wedges” can be seen in the split-off granite lying on the ground.

**H-10 Sprague’s Stable**
Built in 1900 from Narragansett stone and granite, originally 2 stories. The first (bottom) level was for carriage storage, box stalls and a stable for 12 horses. The second story had feed and tack and 2 apartments for grooms.

**H-11/G-2 Robinson’s Family Cemetery**
The “estate walls” surrounding the cemetery indicate a wealthy family. In the 1880s the graves for the Robinsons and Hazards were removed and transported to the Riverside Cemetery in Wakefield, RI.

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Start: Entrance Near the Narragansett Community Center
Finish: Entrance to South County Museum
Total Distance: 1.9 miles/3.1 km

“H” indicates location for the History Trail
“G” indicates a location on the Canonchet Farm Geology Trail