

## 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 Pettaquamscutt 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*



*Laport Family at Canonchet Farm circa 1940  
Photo courtesy of South County Museum*

For more information regarding the history of the Canonchet Farm area visit the Friends of Canonchet Farm website at [www.canonchet.org](http://www.canonchet.org) and the South County Museum website at [www.southcountymuseum.org](http://www.southcountymuseum.org)



## Canonchet Farm History Trail

**A WALK THROUGH THE WOODS ~  
A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME**



*View across salt marsh to Pettaquamscutt Cove  
Photo by Beth Laliberte*

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

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

# Canonchet Farm History Trail



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

## 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.

## H6-B 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 rooms.

## 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.