

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wilbor House

other names/site number Wilbor House

2. Location

street & number 548 West Main Road not for publication

city or town Little Compton vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Newport code 005 zip code 02837

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- other (explain)

Wilbor House Museum Complex
Name of Property

Newport County, Rhode Island
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
6	2	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Postmedieval English

COLONIAL: Georgian

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Shingle

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: Shingle

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Wilbor House
Name of Property

Newport County, Rhode Island
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1690-1957

Significant Dates

1690, 1740, circa 1860: Dates of Construction

1955-57: Dates of Major Restoration Work

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository
Little Compton Historical Society

Wilbor House
Name of Property

Newport County, Rhode Island
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.35

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3															
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jenny R. Fields and Virginia H. Adams

organization PAL date December 2006

street & number 210 Lonsdale Avenue telephone (401) 728-8780

city or town Pawtucket state RI zip code 02860

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Little Compton Historical Society

street & number 548 West Main Road telephone (401) 635-4035

city or town Little Compton state RI zip code 02837

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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DESCRIPTION

Located on the east side of West Main Road in Little Compton, Rhode Island, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the town center, the Wilbur House complex consists of an intact farmhouse and outbuildings group comprising eight resources associated with the historic use of the property as a residence and farm or the current use of the property as a museum and office for the Little Compton Historical Society (LCHS). Contributing resources are either original to the site or are representative of notable local building types or activities. Six contributing resources original to the property include: the Wilbur House (1690–1967), an eighteenth-century outhouse, a circa 1800 barn, a circa 1850 corn crib, a circa 1850 carriage house, and a late-nineteenth-century cook house. Two non-contributing resources moved to or erected on the property for museum purposes consist of the frame of a circa 1750 barn recently encased in modern materials and a modern replica of an eighteenth-century Little Compton schoolhouse. Features that define the setting include two historic wells, restored stone walls, mature trees, grassed areas, a gravel drive, and a 1960s replica of a Colonial herb garden. The Wilbur House occupies a flat, rectangular, 1.35-acre rural property bounded by rustic stone walls and mature trees. The east edge of the property is open to an unused field on the adjacent lot, and the lot to the south contains a cemetery associated with the Wilbur family. Vehicular access to the property is provided via a straight, gravel driveway that extends east from West Main Road through an opening in the stone wall and continues along the southern border of the lot to a Carriage House

Little Compton is a small, rural community with numerous intact agricultural landscapes and a historic town common situated in the southeast corner of Rhode Island. The town is bordered by Tiverton, Rhode Island to the north, Westport, Massachusetts to the east, the Atlantic Ocean to the south, and the Sakonnet River to the west. West Main Road runs north to south through the west side of town and is a direct route parallel to the tidal Sakonnet River from Tiverton to the ocean. The surrounding neighborhood is a low-density residential area with single-family houses set back far from thickly tree-lined roads.

A description of the resources within the Wilbur House property follows.

Wilbur House, 1690–1967 (Contributing)

The Wilbur House was built in multiple phases and consists of three rectangular building sections: an approximately 41-foot, 4-bay, east-west, by 30-foot, 2-bay, north-south, two-and-one-half-story main block; an approximately 20-foot north-south, by 15-foot east-west, one-and-one-half-story north ell located at the west end of the main block north elevation; and an approximately 33-foot north-south, by 20-foot east-west two-story northeast ell that extends north and east from the north end of the main block east elevation. The Wilbur family constructed the east half of the main block as a Rhode Island stone-ender in 1690 and added the west half in 1740 to create a center chimney Colonial building. The north ell and an almost identical east ell were constructed circa 1860. The original east ell measured

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approximately 21-feet east-west and 17 feet north-south and did not extend past the north wall of the main block. In 1967, the first floor of this east ell was incorporated into the current northeast ell, which involved the construction of a new second floor on top of the existing first-story of the original east ell and the construction of an approximately 19-foot east-west by 16-foot north-south extension to the north of the original ell. The east elevation of this extension is set back approximately 2.5 feet from the original ell footprint. The main house and north ell are used as a furnished museum, and the northeast ell functions as administration, storage, and visitor welcoming space.

Exterior

The Wilbor House is a south-facing, early timber-frame building with a rubblestone foundation, unpainted wood shingle cladding (except the primary south elevation of the main house which has unpainted, horizontal wood clapboards), and moderately pitched side-gable roofs. A cellar located under the 1690 portion of the house is accessible from an exterior wood bulkhead at the south end of the east elevation. The building has wood plank trim at the corners and fascias, and protruding plank trim window and door surrounds. All trim is painted white. The roofs are clad with wood shingles and have gable returns. The ridge heights of the ell roofs are lower than the main roof. Modern white gutters and downspouts blend in with the trim on the building. A large, center chimney located on the main house is a 1740 reconstruction of the original 1690 chimney that was probably exposed on the west end of the building before the 1740 addition. An original ridge chimney is extant on the west ell. A third, ridge chimney located at the east end of the east ell and connects to an original circa 1860 fireplace.

Fenestration currently consists of rectangular openings with protruding plain plank frames. All of the second-story window openings are close to the roof eaves and are shorter than the first-story windows. The sash type and configuration varies throughout the house reflecting the typical fenestration of the era of each section of the building. When the LCHS acquired the Wilbor House, all of the window openings contained nineteenth-century 6-over-6 double-hung windows. All of the window openings and their frames on the 1860 and 1740 sections of the house are original. The 1860 section of the house has original double-hung sash with some glazing repair. The 1740 section of the house has all replacement double-hung sash, and the 1690 section of the house has restored window openings with replacement casement windows.

The primary entrance to the building is located in the central bay of the main house south elevation. This door opening was created in 1740 when the west half of the house was added, and replaced an opening located slightly to the east of it. The current entrance consists of a 1950s wood door made of two wide vertical boards, a five-light transom, and a simple plank surround with a wider plank above the transom. Secondary entrances are located at the east end of the main house north elevation, the south end of the north ell east and west elevations, and on the east and south elevations of the northeast ell. The vertical

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plank doors on the north ell are original. One to two original, large, flat stones in front of each door serve as steps.

The LCHS carefully restored the exterior of the Wilbor House between 1955 and 1957, with additional window modifications in 1991. Restoration included replacement of damaged exterior wall and roof cladding, structural repairs, and the replication and restoration of original windows and doors. Fenestration evidence found in the main house included: original, smaller window openings; an original diamond-pane casement window opening at the second story of the south elevation; original 12-over-12 windows stored in the attic of the house; and one intact window in-situ on the north wall.

Interior

The Wilbor House framing is exposed hand hewn posts and beams with mortise-and-tenon joints. The floors are constructed of wide wood boards that are narrower in the later sections of the house. The walls are finished in whitewashed plaster over lath with wood featheredge boards and wood paneling around fireplaces. The ceilings in the older sections of the house are exposed, rather than plastered. The door openings are all square with plank trim and contain wood doors with either vertical board or multiple panel designs appropriate to the date and function of each room. Much of the feather-edge boarding, pine floor boards, wood doors, siding, glass, hewn timbers, and hand-wrought hardware was salvaged from the nearby Waite-Potter House in Westport, Massachusetts which was destroyed in the 1954 hurricane. A description of the interior plan and finishes of the main house and the two ells follows.

Main House (1690, 1740)

The main house is divided into multiple rectangular rooms on each floor, located around the center chimney and stair and hall (Front Hall) on the south. The 1690 eastern section contains one large room on each floor (Lower Great Room and Upper Great Room) above a small cellar. The 1740 western section contains a sitting room (Southwest Sitting Room), a Kitchen Bedroom, and Pantry on the first floor; and two bedrooms (Southwest Bedchamber and Victorian Bedchamber) on the second floor. A kitchen (Long Kitchen) is located on the first floor between the Pantry and Kitchen Bedroom in the northwest corner of the house and a restroom and stairwell in the northeast corner. This room dates to approximately 1740, but evidence in early documents and local historians suggests that an early ell addition was located at the east section of the room and the structure of this early addition may have been incorporated into the 1740 room. A Storage Room is located above the Long Kitchen on the second floor with a stair in the corner to the unfinished attic.

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Cellar (1690)

An approximately 4-foot-high, 14-foot-11-inch north-south, by 11-foot-7-inch east-west cellar is located under the 1690 section of the house. The cellar is constructed of a dirt floor, dry-laid stone walls, and two round tree trunk posts on stone footings that support wood joists. Exterior wood bulkhead doors at the southeast corner of the house provide access into the cellar. An interior stone stairway to the cellar on the north wall was blocked off during the 1740 addition to the house.

Lower Great Room, 1st floor (1690)

The Lower Great Room is an approximately 19-foot by 19-foot square room with a stone fireplace in the center of the west wall. All of the structural and finish wood in the room is unpainted and exposed. An original chamfered summer beam runs east-west through the room and is flanked by north-south joists. The underside of the wide floor boards for the floor above also serve as the Lower Great Room ceiling. These boards are laid in the same direction as the summer beam, opposite from the north-south boards on the floor of the room. The fireplace is constructed of irregularly coursed fieldstone, Portland cement mortar, and a fieldstone hearth. The back wall and hearth of the fireplace is original. The sides of the firebox have typical seventeenth- and eighteenth-century flared walls. The opening of the fireplace is 7 feet wide at the front and 2 feet deep. Vertical wide board paneling flanks the fireplace. The Lower Great Room is accessible through three door openings. A door constructed of two, wide, vertical feather-edge boards with strap hinges in the southwest corner of the room leads into the Front Hall. Another door of the same design in the center of the north wall provides access into the Long Kitchen. The third wood door is located in the northeast corner and opens into the Reception Room. All of the doors are historic.

Front Hall, 1st and 2nd floor (1690/1740)

The Front Hall is a central entrance to the house. The hall measures approximately 7 feet by 7 feet, but the northern half of this space contains a quarter-turn stairway to the second floor, and a door to an enclosed space within the chimney. An approximately 5-foot-wide hallway existed in the east side of the current hall in 1690 and was entirely occupied by the stairway. During the 1740 addition to the house, the original 1690 stairs were deconstructed, moved a few feet, and rebuilt in their current location. The stairs are constructed of simple red-painted wood boards and the stairway is paneled with vertical feather-edge boards. A molded wood railing is attached to the north wall of the stairway.

Southwest Sitting Room, 1st floor (1740)

The Southwest Sitting Room is an approximately 15-foot by 15-foot square room with a fireplace in the east wall, on the opposite side of the Lower Great Room Fireplace. The room has cased corner posts stained brown, plastered ceilings and walls, and wide wood floor boards painted brown. The plaster

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walls, ceiling, floors, and corner posts are original. The fireplace is constructed of brick and measures approximately 2 feet deep and 4.5 feet wide at the opening. The mantel consists of a wide plank surround with a large recessed rectangular painting-size panel with two narrow horizontal panels below. A tall, narrow, floor-to-ceiling wood door with two vertical rectangular panels is located adjacent to the fireplace in the northeast corner of the room. This door opens into a small closet. A wood door with two recessed panels, located in the north wall of the room near the closet, provides access into the Long Kitchen.

Long Kitchen, Kitchen Bedroom, and Pantry, 1st floor (circa 1740)

The Long Kitchen is an irregularly shaped room that is approximately 23 feet long. It is 13 feet wide on the west end, 9 feet wide on the east end, and has a brick fireplace set on an angle in the south wall, opposite the fireplace in the Lower Great Room. The room has an exposed ceiling like the Lower Great Room, exposed posts, plaster walls, and wide east-west laid floor boards painted brown. The fireplace is constructed of stone and brick and measures 6 feet wide at the opening, and 2 feet deep. The wall above the fireplace is covered with vertical wood board paneling. Two doors constructed of vertical featheredge board and strap hinges, located in the east wall of the room, provide access to a back stairway to the north of the Upper and Lower Great Rooms. The stairway shows evidence of having originally been turned in the opposite direction. An exterior door is located in front of the stairs on the north wall of the building and a door in the east wall of the stairway leads to a hall and restroom between the stairs and the Reception Room. The east end of the Long Kitchen, back stairway, and restroom area may have been an addition to the 1690 house in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. Such additions were common and typically had shed or salt box roofs.

The Kitchen Bedroom and Pantry are two small, 8-foot-long, rectangular rooms located off the west side of the Long Kitchen. These rooms are finished with the same materials as the Long Kitchen and date to circa 1740. A wood door at the west end of the north wall of the Long Kitchen opens into the Victorian kitchen in the 1860 north ell.

Upper Great Room, 2nd floor (1690)

The Upper Great Room is an approximately 19-foot by 19-foot square bedroom with a brick fireplace in the center of the west wall. All of the structural and finish wood in the room is unpainted and exposed. The ceiling has exposed framing with an original north-south oriented summer beam, the walls consist of plaster with original exposed gunstock posts, and the floors are constructed of original, wide east-west oriented boards. Diagonal braces between the posts and girts are visible at each corner of the room. The historic fireplace may date later than the room. The west wall featheredge boards and a horizontal, recessed picture panel located above the fireplace are original. A replacement batten door to the south of the fireplace opens into a narrow closet with multiple wood shelves. An original batten door constructed

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of two vertical plank boards and a replacement latch is located in the southwest corner of the room and opens into it from the front hall.

Southwest Bedchamber, 2nd floor (1740)

The Southwest Bedchamber is an approximately 15-foot by 15-foot square room with a fireplace in the center of the east wall, located above the Southwest Sitting Room. The room has cased corner posts painted green, a cased east-west oriented beam, a plaster ceiling, plaster walls, and wood plank floors. All of these elements are original. The posts and beams, and plank trim window and door surrounds are painted pale green. The floors are painted light gold. The paint scheme matches the earliest paint layer found through scraping. The brick fireplace is original and is recessed from an original paneled wood surround, painted blue. A rectangular picture panel located above the fireplace is flanked by a tall, narrow panel on each side—a design representative of the mid-eighteenth century. A tall, narrow closet with a 2-panel wood door is located north of the fireplace. A Georgian wood door with four rectangular panels, located near the east end of the north wall opens into the adjacent Victorian Bedroom. The Southwest Bedroom is interpreted as an eighteenth-century bedroom.

Victorian Bedchamber, 2nd floor (1740)

The Victorian Bedchamber is an approximately 13-foot square room located above the Kitchen Bedroom and Pantry. The room has partially exposed square corner posts and girts, plastered ceilings and walls, plank floors, plank trim door surrounds and simple molded window surrounds. This room is interpreted to the late nineteenth century. The trim is painted tan, the floor is covered with a throw rug, and the walls are papered. A door constructed of vertical wood plank, located at the east end of the north wall provides access into the Hired Man's Room and a door constructed of vertical featheredge board in the center of the east wall opens into the Storage Room.

Storage Room and Attic, 2nd and 3rd floors (1690-1740)

The Storage Room is a partially finished rectangular space above the Long Kitchen that was historically and is currently used as storage space. It has an exposed ceiling constructed of north-south laid joists and wide wood boards, exposed posts, some plastered walls and some walls clad in vertical board, and a wide wood board floor. A quarter-turn wood stairway along the east wall of the room descends to a small hallway east of the Long Kitchen. This stairway has winders at the top, plain wood steps painted red, a plain wall-mounted wood railing, and unfinished vertical boards on the walls. Steep wood stairs located along the south wall in the west end of the room ascend into an attic space above the 1690 and 1740 sections of the house.

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The attic retains the original, exposed 1690 and 1740 principal rafter roof framing. Wide wood boards were laid horizontally over the rafters. In the first half of the twentieth century, 2-inch by 6-inch boards were added between extant rafters for additional support. The 1740-rebuilt chimney is also clearly visible in the attic. The top portion of the chimney that is visible from the interior of the attic is constructed of stone and brick. The reason for this unusual mixture of materials is unknown. The west end of the attic contains a small, wallpapered room with a batten door. The Storage Room and Attic are used for storage.

North Ell (1860)

The north ell contains one primary space on each floor. The first floor is a kitchen (Victorian Kitchen) and has a pantry closet along the north wall. The second floor is an unfinished attic space (Hired Man's Room) and is reached by a stair in the northwest corner. .

Victorian Kitchen, 1st floor (1860)

The Victorian Kitchen is located in the 1860 west ell and is divided into an approximately 13-foot square main space with an approximately 7-foot square pantry in the northeast corner and an enclosed stairway to the Hired Man's Room above, in the northwest corner. The pantry and stairway flank the chimney. The Victorian Kitchen has plastered walls and ceilings, narrow wood plank floors laid east-west, and no exposed framing. The walls are painted yellow-orange and the floors are painted in a green color, with a white splattered paint design. The paint scheme is based on the earliest paint layer found through scraping. Wood plank trim painted with a faux grain finish is located around doors and serves as a baseboard and as picture molding 2 feet below the ceiling. An iron stove is located in front of the chimney in the center of the north wall. Two original, vertical wood plank doors are located across from each other at the south end of the east and west walls. Low, plain, wood cabinets and a cast iron sink extend across the majority of the east wall. Additional storage is located in the pantry, which has floor to ceiling wood shelving.

Hired Man's Room, 2nd floor (1860)

The Hired Man's Room is an unfinished attic space above the Victorian Kitchen. The rectangular room is approximately 20 feet long and 13 feet wide. It has exposed ceiling consisting of a principal rafter system roof with horizontally laid wood boards and wood plank floors. Plain wood stairs in the northwest corner descend to the Victorian Kitchen. The room was originally used as a sitting space for a hired farmhand.

Northeast Ell (1860, 1967)

The northeast ell is a single visitor reception room on the first floor with an open stair along the north wall accessing an office and kitchen on the second floor.

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Reception Room and Office, 1st and 2nd floors (1860, 1967)

The northeast ell interior is a modern space with some original circa 1860 features. The first floor is one open, approximately 32-foot long, 18-foot-wide, rectangular room with a stairway to the second floor along the north wall. The room has a modern drywall ceiling, wood crown molding, modern carpet on the floor, and historic wood, molded window and door trim. An original brick fireplace is located in the center of the east wall of the original ell footprint. The fireplace has an original wood mantel with a horizontal panel and dentils. The stairs are constructed of wood, with ornate turned reproduction balusters, square newel posts, and a molded wood railing. The second floor includes a kitchen with 1967 finishes and an office with modern finishes. The second floor is not open to the public.

Outhouse, Eighteenth Century (Contributing)

The Outhouse is a south-facing, 6-feet-3-inches long by 4-feet-11-inches wide structure located northeast of the house at the terminus of an east-west stone wall. The structure has a shingled, side-gable roof, horizontal wood board cladding on the south elevation and shingles on the other three sides, and wood plank trim. A square, four-pane wood window with a protruding lintel and sill is located on the west elevation. A door constructed of vertical wood plank is located in the center of the south elevation. The Outhouse interior contains an original three-seat bench. The LCHS restored the Outhouse using mostly original material.

Original Barn, circa 1800, ca. 1925 (Contributing)

The Original Barn is a 54-feet-9-inch-long east-west, by 26-feet-7-inch-wide north-south, rectangular 2-story, timber-frame building that faces south. It has a fieldstone foundation, wood shingle cladding, wood plank trim, and a shingled side-gable roof with a square, vented cupola. The barn consists of two sections, a circa 1800 English eaves-front bank barn, and a circa 1925 section consisting of additional bays added to the east end of the original barn. The barn has a fieldstone and cement foundation banked on the south side. The Original Barn was constructed circa 1800 closer to the house, moved to its current location and expanded eastward by an approximately 19-foot-4-inch addition and a shed roof shelter to the north side circa 1925 when it was converted for use as a dairy barn, and restored from 1970 to 1972. The LCHS purchased the barn in 1970 and it is now used as museum exhibit space. Four of the original cement troughs remain to interpret the use of the barn for dairy production. A large object in the museum collection, *Peggotty*, a circa 1850 catboat that was converted to a studio by renowned Rhode Island artist, Sydney Burleigh (1853–1931), is located under an early-twentieth-century shed roof shelter with wood posts and a vertical-plank wall attached to the north elevation.

Fenestration consists of rectangular openings with plank trim flush with the exterior shingles. The facade contains two 9-pane hopper windows located at the first story on the east end of the building. Three of

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these windows are regularly spaced on the first story of the east elevation, beneath a 6-over-6 double-hung window centered below the gable. The west elevation contains three regularly spaced square, 6-pane hopper windows at the first story and two small basement windows. The second story has a paired mid-nineteenth century 12-over-12 double-hung window, installed in place of original hoist bay double doors. The north elevation is blank.

Double-height, sliding double doors constructed of vertical wood plank with a horizontal 4-pane window are located on the west half of the south elevation, in the center of the 1800 section. A pedestrian pass door constructed of vertical planks and strap hinges, is located to the east of these doors. Another set of sliding double doors is located at the basement level of the east elevation. This entrance contains paired vertical plank wood doors that open to accommodate the movement of livestock and equipment.

The interior is an open space with exposed square rule wood framing. Posts and lateral braces support beams and a roof with a common rafter construction system. The walls and floors are constructed of unfinished wood plank. The second floor is a loft and a section of the floor in the middle of the west end is open to below. The surfaces at the east end of the first floor, which contains troughs for cows, are painted white. The interior structure of the barn provides evidence of the original three internal bays, although the partitions that would have originally separated the 1800 barn into three sections for stables, threshing, and a haymow are not extant.

Carriage House, circa 1850 (Contributing)

The Carriage House is a one-and-one-half story, timber-frame building located to the southeast of the Wilbor House at the end of the gravel driveway. The building measures 21-feet-5-inches long, by 19-feet wide and faces west. It has a rubblestone foundation, shingle cladding, and an wood-shingled front gable roof. A pair of sliding wood doors constructed of vertical plank occupies the width of the first story of the west elevation. A 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash window is located in each gable end and on the first story of the east elevation. A pedestrian entrance with a wood door constructed of wide vertical boards is located at the east end of the north elevation. This entrance faces an interior stairway along the east wall of the building. The interior is constructed of wood posts and beams with vertical saw marks. The timbers are connected by mortise-and-tenon joints with pegs, rather than nails. All of the wood members, including a wood plank floor on the second floor, are unfinished and exposed. The first floor surface is dirt covered with gravel. The Carriage House is used for exhibits and storage.

Corn Crib, circa 1850 (Contributing)

The Corn Crib is a one-and-one-half story, south-facing, 18-foot-5-inch by 14-foot-8-inch, wood-frame structure located immediately east of the Outhouse. It has a shingled front gable roof, red cedar shingle cladding, and simple wood trim. The Corn Crib is mounted on granite pier and cap stones placed on the

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ground in regular intervals, in lieu of a foundation, in order to protect the corn stored inside the structure from rats. A 6-over-6 wood double-hung window is located in each gable, and a sliding wood door is located in the center of the south elevation. The interior structure consists of posts and beam framing with nailed studs; corner braces that are mortared into the wall; and circular-sawn, nailed rafters. The floor is constructed of nailed wood slats. The first floor is divided into three sections: a slat-walled bin in the west, a central open area, and quarter-turn stairs on the east side ascend to an upper floor. The Corn Crib was constructed circa 1850 and replaced an earlier corn crib on the property.

Cook House, late nineteenth century (Contributing)

The Cook House is a late-nineteenth-century, one-story, approximately 11-foot by 9-foot structure located east of the Archival Storage Barn. It has a shingled side-gable roof, wood shingle cladding, and rests on piled stone. A wood plank door and 6-over-6 double-hung wood window is located on the east elevation. The interior structure of the Cook House consists of corner posts, studs, and beams with wood board walls, ceiling, and floor. Although it was moved to the Wilbor House property from a residential property on East Road in Tiverton, Rhode Island, the Cook House is significant as a rare surviving example of an agricultural building type that was an integral component of poultry farms because it was used for the preparation of cooked food fed to chickens. This building interprets the history of the Rhode Island Red chicken, which was developed in Little Compton.

Peaked Top Schoolhouse, 1975 replica of 1725 building (Non-Contributing)

The Peaked Top Schoolhouse is a one-story, approximately 16-foot square building located slightly northeast of the Carriage House. The Schoolhouse faces west and is flanked on the north and south sides by a stone wall. It has a tall pyramidal wood shingled roof, horizontal wood plank cladding, and sits on piled stone. One 8-over-8 double-hung wood window with a simple wood trim is located on the north, south, and west elevations. Each window has a hinged shutter constructed of two vertical, wide wood boards. A door made of vertical boards is located at the north end of the west elevation. The interior of the schoolhouse is an open room with exposed posts and beams, vertical wood board walls, and wood board floors. Gunstock corner posts support perimeter beams, which support the roof of the building. The roof is constructed of seven rafters resting on the perimeter beams and a central post supported by an east-west summer beam. All of the wood members are unpainted.

The Schoolhouse is a replica of the first one-room schoolhouse built in Little Compton, which was constructed on the town common in 1725. The original schoolhouse was used for more than 200 years and moved down West Main Road during that time. The town constructed this replica for a tri-centennial celebration, with saw-cut boards from a mill in New Hampshire and salvaged timber. The placement of windows and doors was based on descriptions of the original schoolhouse in historic manuscripts and

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paintings. The town permanently moved the replica building to the Wilbor House site after the tri-centennial celebration and it is now part of the museum complex.

Archival Storage Barn, Interior: circa 1750, Exterior: 2002 (Non-Contributing)

The Archival Storage Barn is located northeast of the house, just east of the Corn Crib. The two-and-one-half-story barn measures approximately 39 feet north-south by 31 feet east-west and consists of a modern exterior shell over the frame of a circa 1750 barn from Topsfield, Massachusetts. The building has a stone foundation, vertical wood board cladding, and a shingled saltbox roof. Two-story double doors constructed of vertical plank and strap hinges are located on the south elevation and are flanked by pedestrian doors of the same construction. Pedestrian doors are also located on the east and west elevations. The interior of the barn is climate controlled and contains a lobby, storage space, and gallery. The gallery space is used for changing exhibits and is open to the public.

Setting Features

Two historic wells remain intact on the Wilbor House property. A circa 1690 stone-lined well enclosed by an approximately three-foot-high, horizontal wood board, square structure is located on the lawn west of the house. A replica well sweep constructed of tree branches is located at the well. The second well is located near the north boundary of the property, west of the Original Barn. This well is an original stone well with a newer artesian well added to it about 1925. It is covered by an octagonal concrete cap.

Irregularly coursed fieldstone walls with a consistent course of flat cap stones are located along the north, west, and south boundaries of the Wilbor House property. The north wall extends from the street to the Outhouse. Another wall extends north to south across the property in the area between the Original Barn and the Peaked Top Schoolhouse. An opening in this wall was made to accommodate the replica Peaked Top Schoolhouse, which was originally situated with stone walls on either side of it. All of the stone walls are in original locations, but have been rebuilt in the same manner and with the same materials as the original walls.

The Herb Garden is a symmetrically planted 20-foot square garden enclosed by stone walls that is located off the east elevation of the Wilbor House 1967 ell. The Little Compton Garden Club designed and planted the garden in the 1960s. The garden design is based on Colonial herb gardens typically found on city residential lots.

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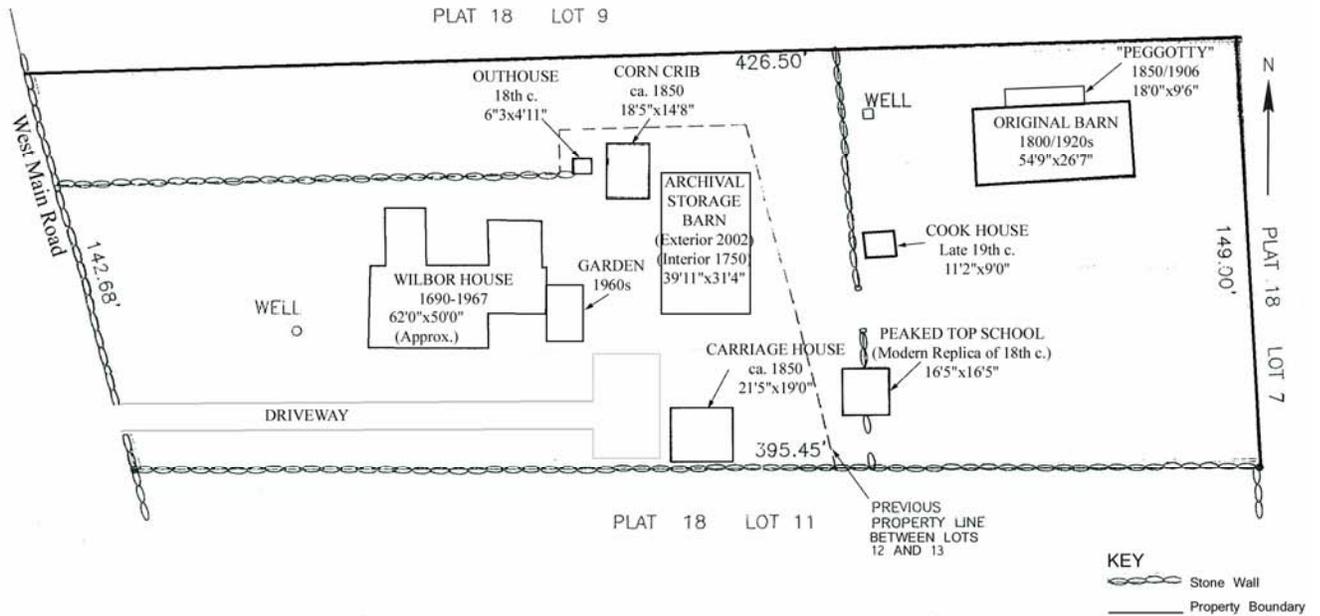
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Wilbor House Site Plan

Not to Scale



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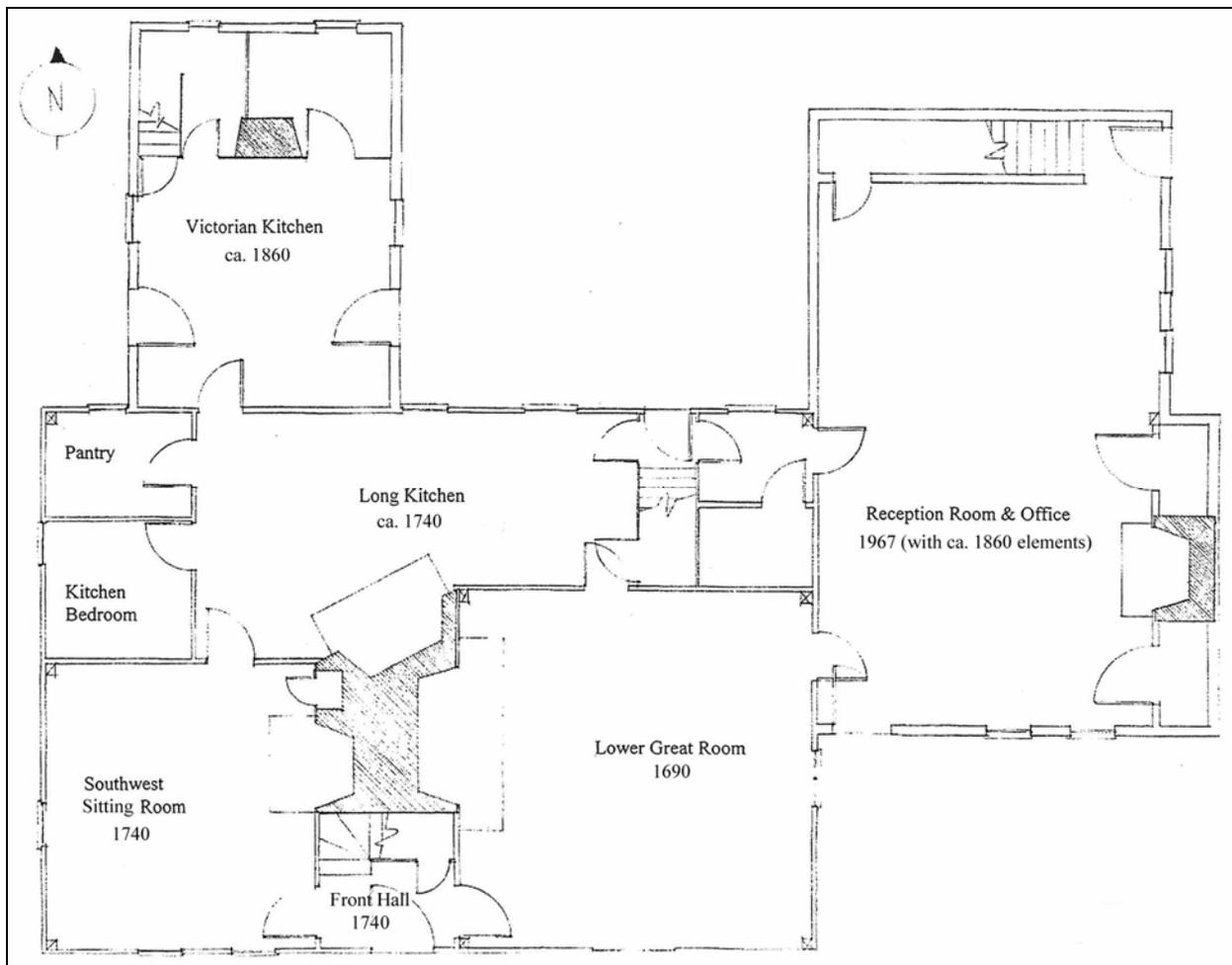
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Wilbor House First Floor Plan (Marshall 1994)

Not to Scale



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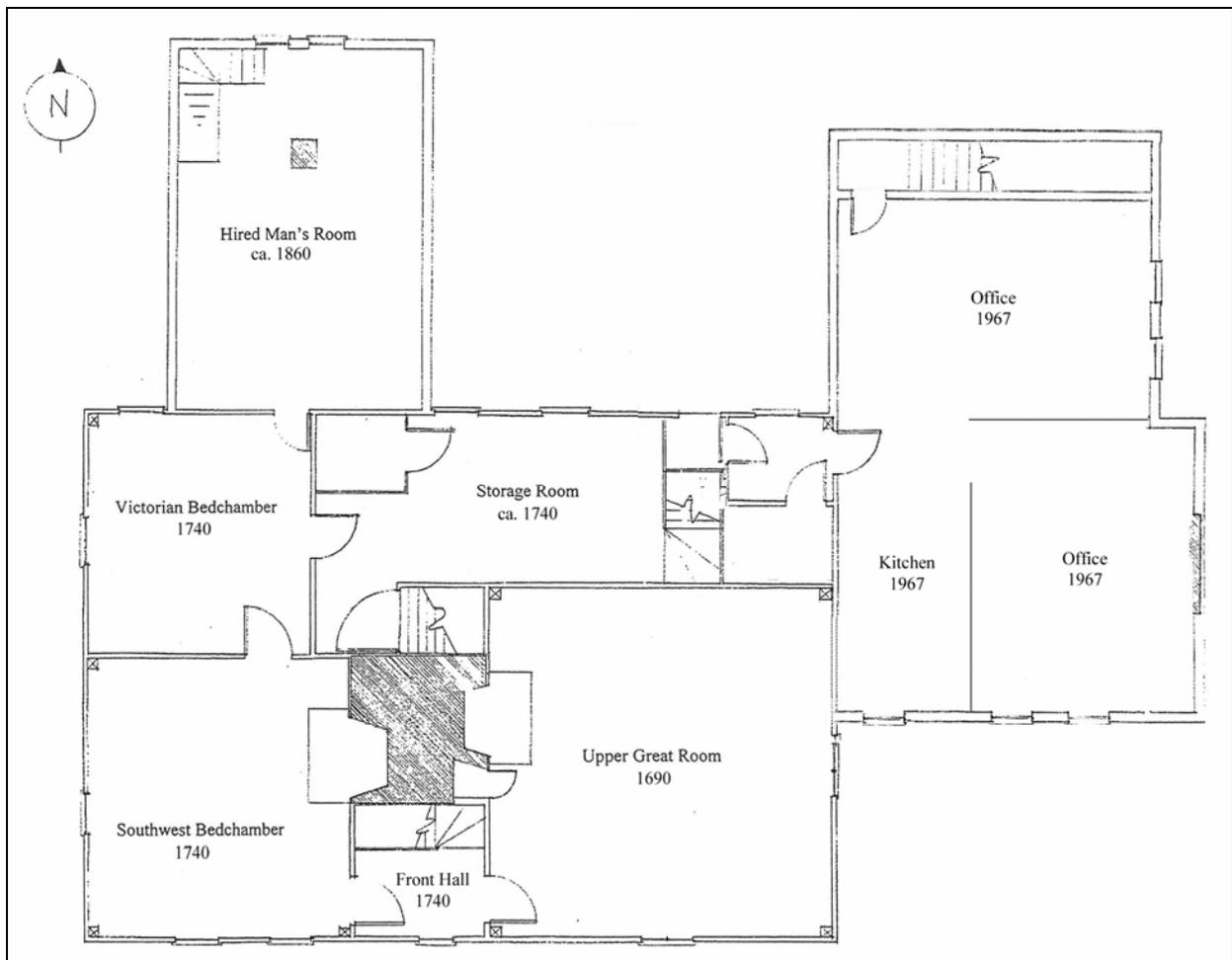
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Wilbor House Second Floor Plan (Marshall 1994)

Not to Scale



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View of Wilbor House in 1876, looking east from West Main Road (LCHS)



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East Elevation of Wilbor House during restoration, circa 1955 (LCHS)



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Photographic Information

Photographer: Alyssa L. Wood and Jenny R. Fields

Date of Photographs: August, 2006

Negative Location: PAL
210 Lonsdale Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860

(Note: These photographs were taken with a digital camera at high resolution and printed on Epson Premium Glossy paper using Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks per the National Park Service March 2005 Photo Policy Expansion list of Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images).

Index to Photographs:

1. General View of Wilbor House property, looking northwest, showing from left to right: Peaked Top Schoolhouse, Wilbor House, Archival Storage Barn, Cook House, and Original Storage Barn
2. View of west and south elevations of Wilbor House, looking northwest from West Main Road
3. View of south elevation of Wilbor House, looking north from driveway
4. View of south and east elevations of Wilbor House, looking northwest from Carriage House
5. View of north elevation of Wilbor House, looking southwest
6. Interior view of Lower Great Room, looking southwest towards fireplace and Front Hall
7. Interior view of Southwest Sitting Room, looking northeast at fireplace
8. Interior view of Long Kitchen, looking west, showing Keeping Room and pantry
9. Detail view of fireplace in Long Kitchen, looking southeast
10. Interior view of Victorian Kitchen, looking north towards stairs and pantry
11. Interior view of Upper Great Room, looking west at fireplace

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12. Interior view looking north from Southwest Bedchamber into the Victorian Bedchamber
13. Interior view looking west in attic, showing chimney and roof framing
14. View of south and west elevations Outhouse and Corn Crib, looking northeast
15. Interior view of Original Barn, looking northeast in east end of first floor
16. Interior view of Original Barn, looking northeast from west end of second floor
17. View of east and north elevations of Peaked Top Schoolhouse and Carriage House, looking southeast

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Wilbor House is significant as a fine example of a very early rural Rhode Island house, and as a document of settlement patterns and agricultural history in Little Compton. The Wilbor House property possesses significance under Criterion A as the homestead of multiple generations of the Wilbor family for two centuries. Under Criterion C, Wilbor House is significant as a rare well-preserved example of one of the earliest buildings in Little Compton, and as an artifact illustrating vernacular construction methods from First Period and Colonial post-and-beam framing to early-20th-century stud framing. The outbuildings represent a range of important agricultural functions and building types. The Wilbor House is also a notable testament to historic preservation efforts in Little Compton, embodying early- and mid-20th-century historic preservation philosophies and associations in an effort to protect an important historic building.

Historical Significance

The Settlement and Development of Little Compton

Settlement in Little Compton began soon after Awashonks, a Sakonnet sachem sold land on the Sakonnet River to the expanding 1620 Plymouth Colony in 1673. West Main Road ran through the middle of the first lots, and by 1700 more than 600 people lived in the area. The Massachusetts Bay Colony absorbed the Plymouth Colony in 1692, and in 1747 Little Compton became part of Rhode Island (Woodward 1990:5–18). Agricultural interests drove the economic and physical development of Little Compton for more than 200 years. The remote location of Little Compton encouraged subsistence industry in the town and protected rural growth patterns while other communities became more urbanized and industrial. Poultry production was the first regional market to develop in Little Compton. Local farmers raised geese in large numbers by 1800, and chicken production became the primary focus through the nineteenth century, culminating in the development by Isaac C. Wilbor of a popular breed of chicken, known as the Rhode Island Red, in the 1890s.^a In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the organization of Little Compton farms shifted from small, family-run businesses to larger commercial operations, particularly for poultry, milk, and egg production. Immigrants did not settle in the remote town the mid nineteenth century, when the growing number of commercial farms provided employment opportunities, especially for the Irish and Portuguese. Development of Sakonnet Point as a summer destination for Providence residents also began around 1850 and continues to shape the town's landscape. Town officials adjusted

^a Isaac C. Wilbor lived on West Main Road and was related to the Wilbor family residing at 548 West Main Road.

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the local zoning code in 1970 to protect the long-standing rural agricultural character of Little Compton from the national post World War II suburban sprawl epidemic (Woodward 1990:8–34).

The Wilbor Family and the Evolution of the Wilbor House Property^b

Brothers Samuel, William (2)^c, John, and Joseph Wilbor arrived in Little Compton in the late 1680s from Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Their father, William Wilbor (1) was born in Braintree England around 1630, immigrated to Boston, and is believed to have followed the Quakers to Portsmouth. By 1690, Samuel Wilbor erected the east half of the current Wilbor House, on a 122-acre farm. Samuel married Mary Potter in 1689 and likely built the house to start his family of 11 children. The LCHS research indicates that the original house was probably a stone-ender, similar in plan to the Howland House in Plymouth, Massachusetts with a basement, one lower and one upper room, a chimney at the west end, one stairway, and an attic. A steep-roofed one-story summer kitchen porch was added shortly after the completion of the house. The seven Wilbor girls likely slept in the Upper Great Room and the four Wilbor boys in the attic, while Samuel and Mary had a bed in the Lower Great Room. Samuel laid out a cemetery on the south side of his farm, which remained in use until 1915 (Brownell 1998).^d

When Samuel died in 1740, he divided his farm among his sons and deeded the house to son, Dr. William (3) Wilbor. Dr. William Wilbor added the west side of the house in 1740, enlarged the Front Hall, and repositioned the stairs to make more space. This addition modernized the design of the house from a sparse post-medieval Colonial building to a more formal, symmetrical Georgian design. Dr. William Wilbor practiced medicine and farming. He married Esther Burgess. Esther and Dr. William Wilbor's son, William (4), gained ownership of the house in the early 1770s. He married his cousin Hannah Wilbor in 1748 and was an active member of the Quaker Society of Friends (Brownell 1998). He left the house to his sons Jonathan and William (5) when he died in 1796. Jonathan and William (5) likely built the circa 1800 Original Barn. Jonathan Wilbor in turn willed the house to son, Clark Wilbor in 1822. Clark Wilbor held school classes in the Upper Great Room (Brownell 1998).

Clark's sons, Oliver H. and William (6) completed the next major alterations to the Wilbor House. The brothers inherited the house in 1856. William (6) married Susan Simmons the following year and Oliver married Abbie Manchester in 1860. Neither brother had children, but they lived in the Wilbor House with

^b The name Wilbor is descended from the English word "Wildbore" and has multiple spellings, including Wilbore, Wilbar, Willbur, Wilbur, Wilber, and Wilbour. Although members of the Wilbor family in Little Compton used different spellings, the name is spelled in this document consistently as Wilbor, which is the spelling used by the Little Compton Historical Society.

^c Each William Wilbor is numbered to avoid confusion, as almost every generation of Wilbors used this name.

^d This cemetery is extant, but is not on property owned by the LCHS.

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their wives and sister, Deborah. In 1860 Oliver and William constructed identical ells off the north and east elevations of the house to provide separate living spaces for all the adults, altered the interior of the house with partitions and made cosmetic changes. Oliver and William are also associated with the construction of the Carriage House and Corn Crib on the property. Abbie Manchester Wilbor, who survived the other members of her family, lived in the house alone until her death in 1920s, after which the Wilbor family sold the house (LCHS 2006:18).

Manuel De Almo, a Portuguese-American farmer, purchased the Wilbor House property in the 1920s for agricultural use. De Almo moved the circa 1800 barn located near the house eastward to the other side of the north-south stone wall through the property and may have constructed that stone wall. De Almo enlarged the barn and converted it for dairy production. He rented out the house, which was subdivided into as many as six apartments and 20 rooms. All interior finishes were covered over, fireplaces were bricked and partitions were erected. Manuel De Almo sold the Wilbor House and land east of the barn to the LCHS on September 28, 1955, and the last tenant moved out in December of that year.

Historic Preservation in Little Compton and the Restoration of the Wilbor House

Active attempts to retain local history in Little Compton predated the LCHS and began in the nineteenth century with Sarah Soule Wilbour (1804–1891) who was considered the town historian and genealogist in the late nineteenth century, as well as a dedicated women's suffrage activist (Woodward 1990:30). Among her commemorative activities, Sarah Wilbour kept a diary with vivid descriptions of buildings and life in Little Compton, including the Peaked Top Schoolhouse. The LCHS evolved from the Village Improvement Society (VIS), which was founded in 1913 in an effort to provide more amenities to Little Compton residents, but received a separate charter in 1937 (Woodward 1990:30). The early LCHS had a small office and storage space in the Little Compton Garden Club's headquarters and held annual meetings in a new school. Benjamin Franklin Wilbour, a leader in the LCHS at the time, was a passionate genealogist, with little interest in historic buildings. The Friends Meeting House on 234 West Main Road which was donated to the LCHS in 1946 was the first property owned by the LCHS, but the organization found the building difficult to use for modern functions and decided to retain it intact for its architectural and cultural value. By the early 1950s, the LCHS created a committee to look for and evaluate historically significant Little Compton houses, suitable for the organization to occupy. The LCHS identified the Wilbor House as their first choice because it had the most continuity of historic rooms from different eras, with minimal destruction of original features (Brownell 2006).

The LCHS purchased the Wilbor House property for their office space and museum in 1955 with funds donated by Dorothy and David Brayton; and immediately appointed a restoration committee comprised of Carlton C. Brownell, Miles S. Richmond, and David A. Brayton. Carlton Brownell (b. 1917), a high school history teacher, who studied architectural history and the work of notable mid twentieth century

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preservationists including Abbot Lowell Cummings, Norman Isham, and Antoinette Downing, took on the responsibility for completing the restoration of the Wilbor House. Brownell is perhaps the most active preservation advocate to emerge from the Little Compton area and he exemplifies how local activism was an integral part of the regional and national preservation movement. Brownell put himself at the front of the preservation scene by networking and researching at preservation establishments in the region including the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) and Plimouth Plantation in Massachusetts; Strawberry Banke in New Hampshire; and visited Colonial Williamsburg and the Winterthur Museum when those sites opened .

Brownell and the LCHS desired to conduct a historically accurate restoration of the building that would facilitate ongoing use of the property and allow for the interpretation of multiple periods of construction and typical life in the building. The Wilbor House presented difficult restoration issues because the building as acquired encompassed construction original to 1690, 1740, and circa 1860, in addition to cosmetic and partition alterations dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Wilbor House had also suffered structural and cosmetic damage during 30 years of rental use from 1925 to 1955.

Carlton Brownell wrote a letter to Abbott Lowell Cummings of SPNEA on October 20, 1955, informing him of the LCHS's plans to restore the Wilbor House and requesting advice on restoration issues. Cummings replied with a letter dated October 28 in which he wrote:

Many societies and individuals nowadays feel that even later material, if it is not too late and is relatively harmonious with any original features, should be kept as a logical part of the house, rather than replacing it with frankly modern material which at best can only approximate what we think may have been there originally! (Cummings 1955a)

Brownell chose to restore each section of the Wilbor House to its original construction, which made logical sense for museum interpretation and provided for the display of authentic, in situ elements in a more complete historic setting. However, most of the finishes removed from the house dated to the 1920s through 1940s and were therefore not considered historic at the time. Brownell's mission was to "recover as much of the past as possible" by recovering what was already intact behind newer layers of materials (Brownell 2006). All restoration work was based on original, intact structure and materials. Brownell carefully documented his restoration work with slides, which were used to make videos of the restoration of the Wilbor House and the Friends Meeting House in 1995. Brownell archived letters, notes, photographs, and drawings pertaining to the two restorations in the LCHS's files at the Wilbor House Complex. The LCHS's interpretation of the Wilbor House includes tours that progress in chronological order from the 1690 to 1740 to 1860 sections of the house.

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At his request, Alice M. Potter granted Brownell permission to purchase the salvageable feather-edge boards, pine floor boards, doors, siding, glass, hewn timbers, and hand-wrought hardware from the Waite-Potter House in Westport, Massachusetts a typical New England stone-ender, destroyed by a hurricane in 1954 (Potter 1956). Brownell also acquired historic materials from the Duffield-Amasa Gray House and the Hunt House on West Main Road in Little Compton.

When Brownell initiated the restoration of the Wilbor House in 1955, he hired local contractor Isaac Bliss and his son Ambrose to help with the work. Isaac had experience working on several restoration projects, and had practical knowledge on how to conduct restoration work with minimal alteration or damage to historic fabric. Bliss and Brownell finished the exterior restoration of the Wilbor House in 1957, and the LCHS opened the building while interior restoration work was ongoing for the following few years. Brownell and the LCHS continued restoration of the rest of the buildings on the Wilbor House property with the same methods in the later decades of the twentieth century.

Brownell also sought examples of rare local building types to move to the Wilbor House Complex, where they could be safely retained and available to the public. Brownell's acquisition of the Cook House and interior frame of the Archival Storage Barn from Topsfield, MA demonstrate this practice. Brownell located, moved, and interpreted the circa 1750 barn frame from Topsfield, Massachusetts in the same spirit—to make an example of it publicly accessible in a community where it was common. Although this barn is representative of a common framing method in Little Compton, it is not from a local building and is therefore not a contributing resource in the Wilbor House Complex. Brownell also acquired two resources associated with local culture—artist Sydney Burleigh's catboat studio and the reconstructed Peaked Top Schoolhouse, which although non-contributing, are important aspects of Little Compton's community identity

Architectural Significance

Rhode Island Stone Enders and the Progression of Rural Houses

The Wilbor House exemplifies typical design elements and patterns of construction from the Colonial period to the antebellum. The 1690 section of the house was a scribe-ruled, timber-frame, one-room, Rhode Island stone-ender. The chimney was rebuilt and incorporated into an addition in 1740, but it is constructed of both brick (likely from 1740) and stone (probably original to 1690). The interior of the 1690 section of the Wilbor House exhibits original Colonial and stone-ender features, including exposed framing, splayed fireplaces, batten doors, steep winder stairs “butted against the chimney in the corner of the house” (Downing 1937:20). The Wilbor House and the circa 1690 William Pabodie House, located a few houses away at 561 West Main Road, are the earliest extant houses in Little Compton (Woodward 1990:9). Both houses face south and have a similar progression of additions. The Waite-Potter House

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that the LCHS used for Wilbor House replacement materials was a stone-ender, and was the oldest house in the neighboring town of Westport, Massachusetts until the 1954 hurricane destroyed it (*Standard Times*). The oldest house identified in a survey of Tiverton, Rhode Island, north of Little Compton, was the circa 1700 Barker House on Crandall Road, but this building does not have any of the same structural or plan characteristics as the aforementioned houses (Nebiker 1983:4, 91). Across the Sakonnet River from Little Compton in Newport, the early “houses were usually of two-room plan with a central chimney and entry, and the walls were built not of vertical boarding but of studs (Downing 1937:22).” Newport historically developed much faster and denser than the extremely rural Little Compton and more formal, more expensive structures are prevalent there. According to historian Antoinette Downing, the central chimney plan Colonial houses were “confined to Newport and the South County” (Downing 1937:37). Good examples of stone-enders exist in the northern part of the state, in Manton and Lincoln, but these areas are far from Little Compton. One of the most well-known stone-enders in Rhode Island is the circa 1687 Eleazer Arnold House in Lincoln, which retains its original end chimney. This house is larger than the Wilbor House, but has similar original materials, finishes, and framing. The SPNEA acquired the Arnold House in 1918 (Lindgren 1995:90).

Antoinette Downing observed that Colonial buildings were expanded in two ways. The most typical early addition to one-room plan stone-enders was a lean-to across the side or back of the building:

As houses of these years increased in height, so they expanded in width and length. Sometimes a lean-to across the back, included in the original building, furnished the additional width. In such a scheme, the stone chimney was widened so that the keeping room and the back or kitchen room each had a fireplace, side by side. This is the characteristic way of enlarging a house in the seventeenth century, as contrasted with the Massachusetts and Connecticut way of building a room on either side of the central chimney. The resultant width and height of the chimney wall gave to the Rhode Island ‘Stone-ender’ an imposing appearance not equaled elsewhere in the colonies (Downing 1937:41).

The Wilbor and Pabodie Houses contain examples of this long, originally one-story kitchen on the rear wall. This space is called the Long Kitchen in the Wilbor House.

Both houses also exhibit mid-eighteenth century additions to their chimney side, which doubled their size and converted the plan from one-room to a central hall, center chimney, two-room plan. This type of addition was a logical extension of a stone-ender, but also modernized outdated Colonial fashion with a more Georgian style. The common Little Compton house form in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century was a one-and-one-half to two-and-one-half-story, four or five bay building with a gable roof and a rectangular, center hall plan (Woodward 1990:20). The 1740 section of the Wilbor House contains all the elements of a Georgian house, including five rooms per story, paneled doors, plain interior trim, and

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floor to ceiling wood paneling around the fireplace with built-in cupboards or shelving (Woodward 1990:20). The Wilbor House continually evolved into the nineteenth century with another addition but off the previous one. The 1860 ell incorporates modern conveniences available at the time, including a stove rather than fireplace, larger-paned windows, and an increased number of built-ins. However, the rural setting of the house limited the use of ornament which became more prevalent in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Agricultural Building Types

The Wilbor House complex contains a collection of examples of building types that composed the local agricultural landscape.

The Original Barn is significant for its English three-bay design, which was standard in New England through the early nineteenth century, and its 1920s addition, which demonstrates a typical pattern of barn enlargement in the twentieth century. As with houses, builders of early barns in the United States followed English construction practices. The standard design of a seventeenth- or early-eighteenth-century barn was an approximately 30-foot by 40-foot, tall one-and-one-half-story rectangular building with a side-gable roof, paired doors in the center of one of the long sides, and three functional first floor interior bays with storage above (Visser 1997:61–74, 95–96). The circa 1800 section of Original Barn in the Wilbor House complex measures slightly less than 30-feet-by-40-feet, has side-gable roof, central doors on the south elevation, and has three interior bays. Farmers developed this simple barn form later in the nineteenth century through several methods, including: the construction of new gable-front barns, the addition of lean-tos off the sides or rear elevations, the addition of basements, and the extension of an older barn with additional bays on one side of it. By the 1820s, New England farmers began building barns into one side of a hill in order to create a frost-free storage area for manure. These barns had stone foundations on three sides, with an open or exposed wooden wall on the downhill side of the barn. Older barns were often moved onto new foundations of this design. End-gable or eaves-front bank barns remained popular into the early twentieth century, and were sometimes used for dairy or small domestic barns (Visser 1997:68–70, 95). Manuel De Almo made these typical changes to the Original Barn when he moved the barn onto a banked foundation, added an extension off the east elevation, and used it as a dairy barn.

The Carriage House in the Wilbor House complex is typical of a post-1830s carriage house in New England, when farmers began housing the carriage and horses separate from the main barn (Visser 1997:144). Typical design elements present on the Wilbor Carriage House include a front-gable roof, large hinged doors on the facade, few windows, and a second floor for the storage of the carriage or sleigh in the off season.

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The Corn Crib first commonly appeared in New England in the mid-nineteenth century, when corn on the cob gained popularity. The standard design of corn cribs included a front-gable roof with overhanging eaves, tapered slat walls, slat floors, and stone posts in lieu of a foundation. The slanted walls and roof overhang sheltered the corn from rain, the slats allowed for ventilation, and the stone posts protected the corn from vermin (Visser 1997:128).

The Cook House was a formerly prevalent agricultural building type characteristic of Little Compton and its successful poultry industry in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the third quarter of the twentieth century, most of these structures were either being demolished or heavily altered as modern sheds. The LCHS actively searched the local area with the intent of acquiring a cook house and succeeded in rescuing this rare survival from demolition, which was moved to the Wilbor House property.

(END)

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

The property boundaries encompass Lot 12 on Plat Map 18, which contains a total land area of 1.35 acres within Little Compton, Rhode Island. Historically, the property consisted of 122 acres but parcels of land were sold by previous owners of the property. The Little Compton Historical Society purchased Lot 12 in 1955 and Lot 13 in 1965. The two lots were combined in 2000.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the full extent of contiguous historic and structural resources associated with the activity on the property during its period of significance. The boundaries follow legally recorded property lines.

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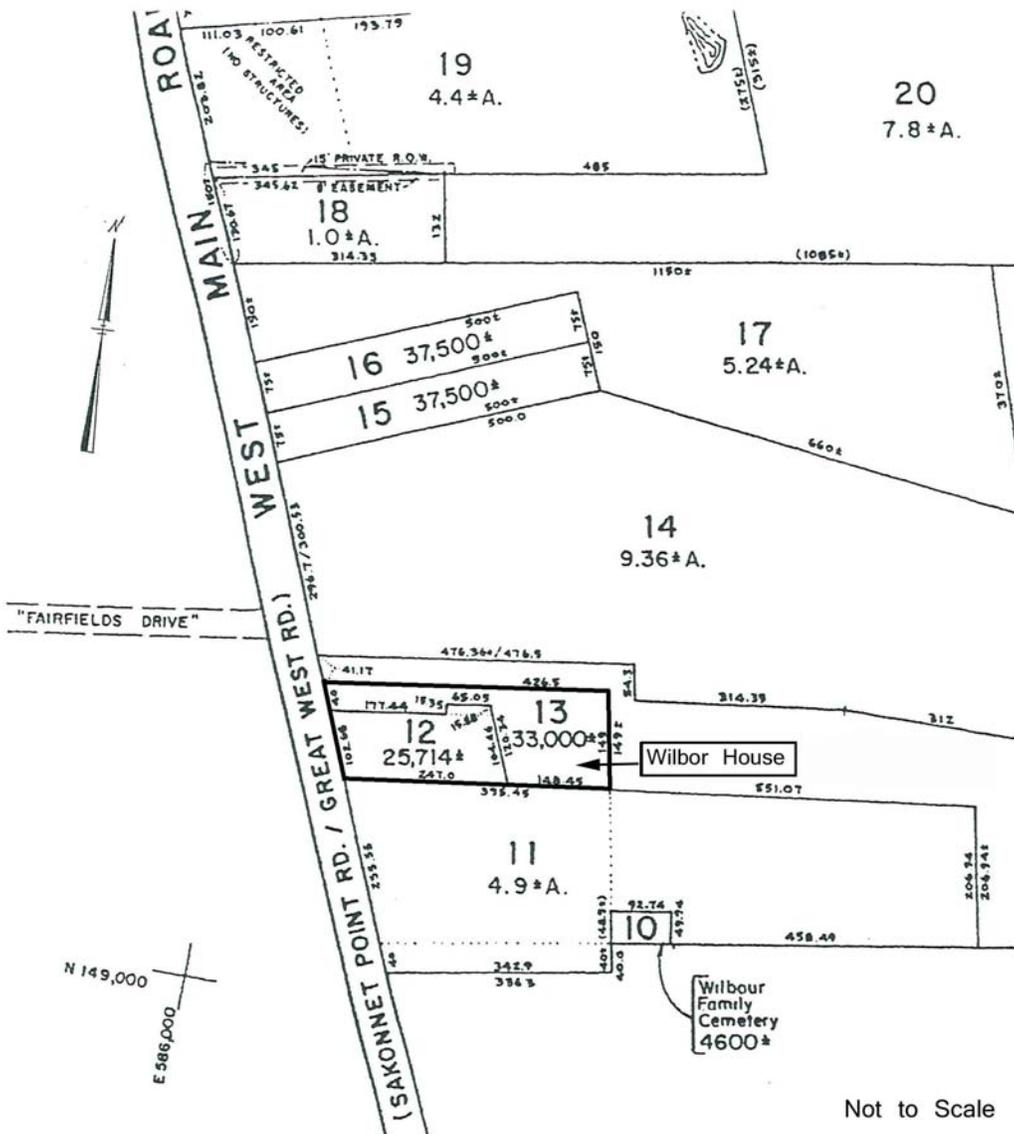
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Little Compton Assessor's Map Number 18



(END)





THE HOUSE IS HOME OF A
STATE PRESERVATION
GRANT
PROPERTY OF THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

























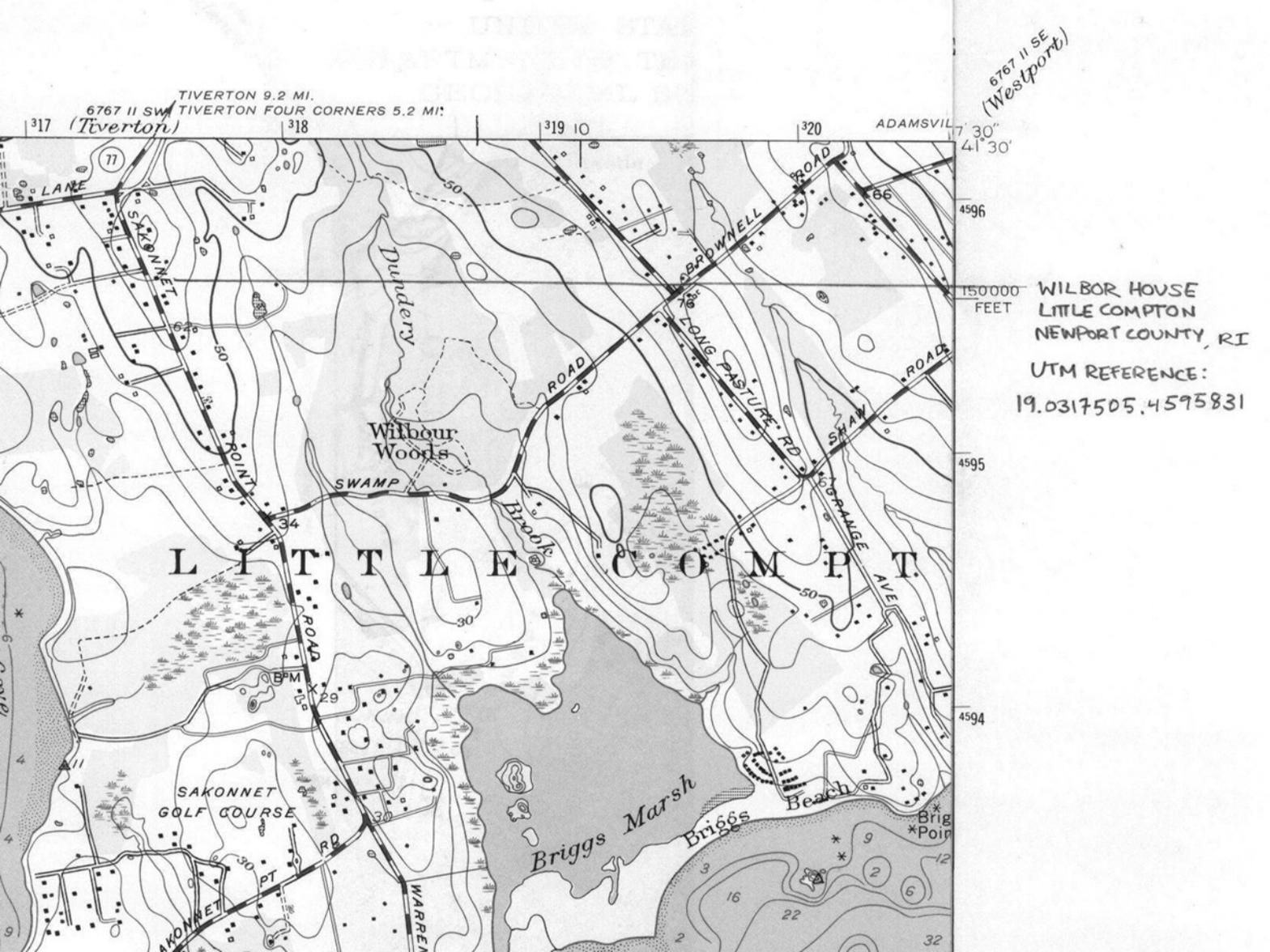
OUT HOUSE

1850-1910









TIVERTON 9.2 MI.
6767 II SW TIVERTON FOUR CORNERS 5.2 MI:

6767 II SE
(Westport)

317 (Tiverton)

318

319 10

320

ADAMSVIL

7 30"
41 30"

150000
FEET

WILBOR HOUSE
LITTLE COMPTON
NEWPORT COUNTY, RI

UTM REFERENCE:

19.0317505, 4595831

L I T T L E C O M P T

4596

4595

4594

*Brig
*Point