

List of Resources/Resource Inventory
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route
in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Note: This Resource Inventory and Site Survey for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) in the State of Rhode Island focuses on two areas:

- 1) The City of Newport, landing point of Rochambeau's troops in July 1780, and site of the winter quarters of his infantry in 1780/81, and starting point of the W3R.
- 2) The City of Providence, site of hospitals, stores, and depots from 1780-82, site of the first camp of the 1781 march, and site of the last extended camp of the French infantry in November and December 1782 before departure for Boston.
- 3) In 1780/82, East Providence and Eastern Pawtucket did not yet belong to Rhode Island. The areas did not become part of the State until 1863, when they were exchanged with Massachusetts for Fall River. Overland routes from Newport to Providence took French officers such as Rochambeau, Chastellux or de Ternay as well as American officers such as General Washington through Massachusetts.

Public Law No. 106-473, an "Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to complete a resource study of the 600-mile route through Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, used by George Washington and General Rochambeau during the American Revolutionary War," assumed that the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route would begin with the departure of French forces from Newport in June 1781, rather than with their arrival there in June 1780. For the purposes of this architectural and historical resource inventory and site survey, however, it is assumed that the route begins with the landing of French forces under General *comte* de Rochambeau in July 1780.

Scope: This means that sites and routes connected with the winter quarters of Rochambeau's forces in Rhode Island are **included** in this survey. It ends with their departure from Providence for Boston in December 1782.

Also **included** in this resource inventory and site survey are sites and resources connected with the route of the *comte* de Rochambeau to the conference with General George Washington in Hartford in October 1780 and to the Conference at Wethersfield in May 1781.

Also **included** are sites and resources connected with the visit of General Washington to Newport in March 1781.

Also **included** are sites connected with the route of the *comte* de Rochambeau from Providence to Newburgh, New York in December 1782 that form part of *comte* de Rochambeau's route to Baltimore and eventually to France.

Also **included** is the route of the hussars serving as express riders from Newport to Westerly and Hartford, from where Sheldon's cavalry took over the task of maintaining communication with Washington in Newburgh. By this route much of the livestock from Connecticut reached French forces in Newport.

NOT included are sites and resources connected with Rochambeau's travels to inspect hospitals (Providence, August 1780), to reconnoitre possible winter quarters for a Second Division of French forces (which never arrived) or his various journeys such as to Providence in August 1780, or to Boston in December 1780. Also excluded are travels of French officers such as the *chevalier* de Chastellux in the winter of 1780/81, though a visit by such officers is mentioned whenever such a resource also forms part of the W3R.

NOT included are (with very few specific exceptions) sites that are only connected with the presence of the French Navy in Newport. This inventory focuses on the land forces and their movements in Rhode Island.

NOT included are sites connected with French participation in the American War which pre-date the arrival of Rochambeau's forces, e.g., Admiral d'Estaing's forces that participated in the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778.

NOT included are sites such as temporary earthen works on various islands in the harbor or along the coast line since the form neither part of the march nor of winter quarters. They are however mentioned at the appropriate places in the text.

Since no specifics are known about the route from Boston to Providence taken by French reinforcements that arrived in Boston in June 1781, their march is **NOT included** as a separate route. It is assumed that they followed the route taken by the 350 men of the Bourbonnois Regiment, whose transport, the *Isle de France*, had put into Boston in July 1780, and who marched to Newport via Providence, and/or that of French infantry on their return march to Boston in December 1782.

NOT included for the same reason is also the subsequent sea or land route from Providence to Newport of those soldiers among the reinforcements who were too sick to participate in the march. These troop movements are however mentioned at the appropriate places in the text of this survey.

NOT included is the march of those men who had remained behind in Newport under Major DePrez of the Royal Deux-Ponts after the departure of Admiral Barras for the Chesapeake in August 1781. These troops relocated to Providence in August 1781 after Admiral Barras had left for Virginia. In early April 1782, De Prez took his contingent, about 100 men, from Providence to Philadelphia. Their movements are mentioned at the appropriate places in this survey, and their routes covered as part of other routes surveyed in this inventory.

Resources are first listed geographically and then chronologically within a given area in the sequence in which they were visited rather than in a strictly chronological sequence which would have necessitated beginning the inventory with University Hall in Providence rather than the landing sites in Newport.

Within the framework outlined above there are a total of seven land routes and one water route of French forces that can be identified in Rhode Island from their arrival in July 1780 to their departure in June 1781.

For the return march of French forces through Rhode Island in December 1782, and the journey of Rochambeau from Providence to Newburgh two land routes have been identified.

The routes and related sites and resources have been listed as much as possible in the approximate chronological order in which they were visited. All resources are given only one number in this inventory even if they were occupied and/or visited more than once between June 1780 and December 1782.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in the State of Rhode Island therefore consists of the following eleven routes:

- 1) the land route from Newport to Providence and on to Lebanon used by Lauzun's hussars between November 1780 and June 1781
- 2) the land route and stations of the express riders from Newport to Hartford provided by the hussars of Lauzun's Legion
- 3) the land route of the *comte* de Rochambeau and Admiral de Ternay to the Conference at Hartford in September 1780
- 4) the land route of General George Washington on his visit to the *comte* de Rochambeau in Newport in March 1781
- 5) the land route of *comte* de Rochambeau and the *chevalier* de Chastellux to the Conference at Wethersfield in May 1781
- 6) the march of Lauzun's infantry to Lebanon, Connecticut, in June 1781, where it joined the cavalry that had wintered there
- 7a) the sea route of Rochambeau's infantry from Newport to Providence in June 1781 at the start of the march to White Plains and Yorktown
- 7b) the land route of Rochambeau and the French wagon train from Newport to Providence in June 1781, at the start of the march to White Plains and Yorktown
- 8) the land route of Rochambeau's infantry from Providence to Connecticut and New York in June 1781
- 9) the return route of Rochambeau's forces from Connecticut to Providence in November and the march to Boston in December 1782
- 10) the land route of *comte* de Rochambeau from Providence to Newburgh, New York, in December 1782

Part I: Quarters of Rochambeau's Forces in Newport, June 1780 to July 1781

Note: There are two organizations/groups involved in historic preservation in Newport. Together they restored over 150 colonial homes, many, but not all, of which are on the National Register. Some homes may have two plaques on them, one for the NRH/NHL designation and one for either of the two groups. Some have neither.

The oldest of these groups is *Operation Clapboard*, a local grassroots organization that was especially active during the 1960s. The ca. 60 homes restored and saved under their guidance are identified with white signs that say "OC" with an acorn motif. These homes remain privately owned.

About 90 homes have a green and white sign with the initials "NRF" for "Newport Restoration Foundation", a non-profit organization created by tobacco heiress Doris Duke in 1968. Duke bought and restored these properties, which are owned by the foundation and rented to tenants.

Approx. 50 historic homes were restored privately by their owners.

Altogether there are about 300 houses still standing in Newport that date to 1782 and before and which could have been visited by, or occupied by, French officers and men in 1780 and 1781. The following list of resources contains only those houses where there is a documented presence of French personnel during the time-period 1780/81. It is based on the LIST OF QUARTERS OCCUPIED IN THE TOWN OF NEWPORT BY THE ARMY UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU, DURING THE WINTER QUARTERS OF 1780-81 published by Alan and Mary M. Simpson in "A New Look at How Rochambeau quartered his Army in Newport (1780-1781)." *Newport History* (Spring 1983), pp.30-67.

This listing follows the sequence of properties as they are listed in the above article. In all cases the modern street names, rather than those of the eighteenth century as used in the Simpson's article, have been used.

The houses on this official quartering list provided lodging for only 91 officers, incl. naval officers. Rochambeau alone however had more than 350 officers who were quartered during the winter with private families across Newport. No document identifying the quarters of these officers and/or of the troops has yet been found.

All properties listed in this "List of Resources" have been positively identified in the files of the State Historic Preservation Office in Providence kindly provided by Mr. Jeff Emidy, and are all National Historic Landmarks or on the National Register of Historic Places.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Resource 1: **William Vernon House** (c. 1708)

46 Clark Street
Newport, RI

The Vernon House, built ca. 1708, provided headquarters for Rochambeau while in Newport between July 1780 and June 1781, as well as that of his son, the *vicomte* de Rochambeau. Here Washington was a guest from 6 to 13 March 1781.

A plaque on the outside wall of the house commemorates Rochambeau's stay.

The *Memoirs of the Marshal Count de Rochambeau, Relative to the War of Independence of the United States* M.W.E. Wright, ed., (New York, 1971; orig. 1838) provide Rochambeau's own remembrances of the war.

Resource 2: **Charles Tillinghast House**

243-245 Thames Street
Newport, RI

The Charles Tillinghast house, built in 1715, provided quarters for French Intendant Benoît Joseph de Tarlé. *Commissaire des guerres* (Commissary of War) Jacques Pierre Orillard, *comte* de Villemanzuy stayed there as well. The original building was demolished in 1972 or 1973

Resource 3: **Joseph Wanton House**

25 Walnut Street
Newport, RI

This ca. 1770 house served as quarters for Major General Antoine Charles du Houx, *baron* de Vioménil, Rochambeau's second in command, and of his brother Joseph Hyacinthe du Houx, *comte* de Vioménil. Also quartered there were *baron* de Vioménil's aides-de-camp de Pangé and Brisout de Barneville, whose "Journal de Guerre de Brisout de Barneville. Mai 1780-Octobre 1781" was published in *The French-American Review* vol. 3, no. 4, (October 1950), pp. 217-278.

Resource 4: **Captain Mawdsley House**

228 Spring Street
Newport, RI

During the winter of 1780-81, this was the home of French Major-General François *chevalier* Beauvoir de Chastellux, who was third in command of French forces in America. His *Travels in North America in Years 1780-81* Howard C. Rice, Jr., ed., 2 vols., (Chapel Hill, 1963) contain much invaluable information on the campaign in America.

Resource 5: **Jacob Rodriguez Riviera (Rathburn-Gardner-Riviera) House**
8 Washington Square
Newport, RI

Jacob Rodriguez Rivera (son of Abraham Riviera, uncle and father-in-law of Aaron Lopez) hailed from a "Marrano" family from Seville, Spain. He arrived in Newport via Curaçao in 1748 where he introduced the manufacture of spermaceti candle-making. Next to Aaron Lopez, Rivera occupied the highest position in the commercial, religious and social life of Newport's Jewish community. His daughter Sarah, married to Aaron Lopez, and his son Jacob owned the house at 8 Washington Square. During the winter of 1780-81, French Brigadier General Claude Gabriel de Choisy lodged here with an aide-de-camp identified with the name "Saumann". No such officer identified in Gilbert Bodinier, *Dictionnaire des officiers de l'armée royale qui ont combattu aux États-Unis pendant la guerre d'Indépendance* (Château de Vincennes, 1982).

ARMY STAFF

Resource 6: **Moses Levy and Moses Seixas House**
29 Touro Street
Newport, RI

The Moses Levi house provided winter quarters to Pierre François de Bévillie, Rochambeau's *maréchal général des logis*, which translates as "Quartermaster General", who stayed here while in Newport from July 1780 to June 1781. In today's military, a quartermaster performs the functions of a French *commissaire de guerre* of the 18th century. The *Quartermaster* staffs of the armies of eighteenth-century Continental Europe are the roots of the modern General Staff and performed General Staff duties. This house is listed as the Buliod-Perry House (pre-1757) in NHR files.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTERS GENERAL

There are three AQMGs on the quartering list. The *vicomte* de Rochambeau stayed with his father in the Vernon House and Charles de Bévillie de Pont stayed with his father François de Bévillie in the Levi - Seixas House, as did François de Bévillie's other son, 22-year-old Jacques de Bévillie, who served as an aide-de-camp to his father. The journal of Rochambeau's son was published by Jean-Edmond Weelen, *Rochambeau. Father and Son. A life of the Maréchal de Rochambeau and the Journal of the Vicomte de Rochambeau* (New York, 1936).

Resource 7: **Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House**

17 Broadway
Newport, RI

The oldest restored house in Newport (possibly dating to 1675), has been the home of Colonial governors, Tories, patriots, Supreme Court Justices, and site of the Stamp Act riot of 1765. John Wanton purchased the house at public auction. His daughter, Polly, was well known among the French officers of the day, as attested to by the window pane that bears the inscription "charming Polly Wanton." Lieutenant Colonel George Henry Victor Collot, an *aide-de-camp* to Rochambeau, lodged here from July 1780 to June 1781 while in Newport. Governor of Guadeloupe in 1792, he came to the US as a British prisoner of war after the surrender of the island in April 1794. Paroled in Philadelphia in 1796, he was approached by Pierre Adet, the French minister to the United States, to survey the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains and investigate how they could be claimed for France. Having completed his journey along the Ohio and Mississippi, he returned to Paris from Louisiana in December 1796. Based partly on Collot's information, Napoleon acquired the Louisiana Territory from Spain on October 1, 1800, but sold it to the United States 2 1/2 years later.

BRIGADE MAJORS

There were three Brigade Majors with Rochambeau's troops. The *comte de Ménonville* stayed with "Captain George" at 90 Spring Street, and Denis Jean Florimond de Langlois, *marquis du Bouchet* quartered with "Captain Storey" on 265 Thames Street. Both houses do not exist any more. Du Bouchet described his experiences in his *Journal d'un Emigré* which is located in the Division of Rare and Manuscripts Collections at Cornell University. See also my "A French Volunteer who lived to rue America's Revolution: Denis Jean Florimond de Langlois, Marquis du Bouchet" *Colonial Williamsburg. The Journal of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation* vol. 21, no. 3, June/July 1999, pp. 16-25. The third Brigade Major, Jean Josse de Tarlé, was quartered with his brother Benoît de Tarlé in the home of Charles Tillinghast.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Colonel commandant Jean Nicolas Desandrouins of the engineers, quartered with Colonel John Malbone, whose house stood on 28 Thames Street in Newport. It is no longer standing.

Resource 8: **Francis Malbone House**

392 Thames Street
Newport, RI

Lieutenant Colonel Guillaume Querenet de la Combe, second in command of Rochambeau's engineers, lodged there while in Newport, July 1780 to June 1781.

Resource 9: **John Tillinghast House** (c. 1758)
142 Mill Street
Newport, RI

Built in 1760, the John Tillinghast House (identified as Pardon Tillinghast property on the 1781 list), provided winter quarters to Captain Croublier d'Opterre and Captain Marie Louis Thomas, *marquis* de Gazarac, who served as aide-de-camp to his cousin the *baron* de Vioménil.

The quarters of the remaining artillery officers, i.e., Major de Palys (Mrs Gidley), Captain de Doyré (Henry Ward), Captain de Turpin and Lieutenant de Plancher (William Coggeshall) have not been identified. Louis Alexandre Berthier “lodged near the Comte de Saint-Maîme,” colonel of the Soissonnois Regiment. Saint-Maîme quartered in High (=Division) Street at the house of “Miss Coles”. Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns* vol. 1, p. 235 fn 29 write: “the exact location of her house has not been determined.”

ARTILLERY

The lodging of Colonel d'Aboville, commanding officer of the artillery, who stayed with John Overing, is no longer standing.

Resource 10: **William Giles House**
30 Golden Hill Street
Newport, RI

Built pre-1777, it was home to Guillaume Cairol de Laziers, *major d'équipage*, the waggonmaster of Rochambeau's artillery and of Thomas Antoine de Mauduit du Plessis, *aide-major* of the artillery. Mauduit Du Plessis had served as a lieutenant colonel in the Continental artillery between 1777 and 1779 and distinguished himself at Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth.

COMMISSARIAT

Rochambeau's commissariat consisted of four officers. Chief commissary Claude Blanchard stayed with Mrs Cozzens on Thames Street; the home is no longer standing. *The Journal of Claude Blanchard, Commissary of the French Auxiliary Army sent to the United States during the American Revolution* Thomas Balch, ed. (Albany, 1876), forms an important source for studying the presence of French forces in America.

Resource 11: **Simon Pease House** (c. 1700)
32 Clarke Street
Newport, RI

The Simon Pease house was the lodgings of Commissary Ethis de Corny while in Newport. Commissary de Villemanzuy stayed with de Tarlé in the QMG office. The lodgings of Joseph François Gau de Voves, Commissary of War and Artillery, who lodged with Rebecca Rider, have not been identified.

MINOR ARMY STAFF

The only officer listed under this category is Captain Thomas Mullins of the guides, who stayed with Mrs Mumford on Congress Street, today's north side of Washington Square. The house has not been identified.

PROVOST

Resource 12: **Town Prison** (c. 1722)
13 Marlborough Street
Newport, RI

Rochambeau's provost de Ronchamp stayed with John Honeyman in Plum Street, today's Pelham Street, close to the town prison, also on Plum Street.

AIDES-DE-CAMP OF THE COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Note: All six of these aides either kept diaries or wrote long letters (some still unpublished) to correspondents in Europe, which provide important information on the French stay in America from 1780 to 1783.

Resource 13: **Robert Stevens House**
31 Clarke Street
Newport, RI

The Robert Stevens House, built 1742-55, provided quarters to Rochambeau's aides the *comte* de Fersen and the *marquis* de Damas.

There is a plaque commemorating the stay on the house. See F. U. Wrangel, ed., *Lettres d'Axel de Fersen a son père pendant la guerre de l'Indépendance d'amérique* (Paris, 1929).

Resource 14: **Henry Potter House**
39 Clarke Street
Newport, RI

The Henry Potter House provided quarters to the *comte* de Lauberdière and Baron Closen whose diary was published by Evelyn Acomb, ed. *The Revolutionary Journal of Baron Ludwig von Closen, 1780-1783* (Chapel Hill, 1958). On Lauberdière see my "Lauberdière's Journal. The Revolutionary War Journal of Louis François Bertrand d'Aubevoye, comte de Lauberdière" *Colonial Williamsburg. The Journal of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation* vol. 18 no. 1 (Autumn 1995), pp. 33-37, and "America the Ungrateful: The Not-So-Fond Remembrances of Louis François Dupont d'Aubevoye, comte de Lauberdière" *American Heritage* vol. 48 no. 1 (February 1997), pp. 101-106. This house is identified as Melville House (c. 1730-1755) in NHR files.

The home of Rochambeau's other aides-de-camp, the *chevalier* de Lameth and Mathieu Dumas with Joseph Anthony in Spring Street is no longer standing. On Dumas see Mathieu Dumas, *Memoirs of his Own Time* 2 vols., (London, 1839).

AIDES-DE-CAMP OF BARON DE VIOMÉNIL

Of the winter quarters of the seven aides-de-camp of *baron* de Vioménil, only one is known, that of Brissout de Barneville and de Pangé, who lodged with the *baron*.

The winter quarters of Colonel *baron* d'Angely (Adam Ferguson), the *chevalier* de Vioménil, i.e., the baron's nephew, and of *vicomte* Amand (Gould Marsh), and de Chabannes and Brintaneau (John Freebody) have not been identified.

AIDES-DE-CAMP OF THE CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

The lodgings of Chastellux' aides Lynch and Montesquieu with Madame MacKay have not been identified. The letters by Montesquieu were published by Octave Beuve, "Un Petit-Fils de Montesquieu. Soldat de l'Indépendance Américaine (d'après des documents inédits)" *Revue historique de la Révolution Française et de l'Empire* vol. 5 (January-June 1914), pp. 233-263. See also Raymond Céleste, "Un Petit-Fils de Montesquieu en Amérique (1780-1783)" *Revue Philomathique de Bordeaux et du Sud-Ouest* vol. 5 no. 12 (December 1902), pp. 529-556, and Raymond Céleste, "Charles-Louis de Montesquieu a l'Armée (1772-1782)" *Revue Philomathique de Bordeaux et du Sud-Ouest* vol. 6 no. 11 (November 1904), pp. 505-524.

AIDES-DE-CAMP OF THE COMTE DE VIOMÉNIL

The winter quarters of Vioménil's three aides, the brothers d'Olonne (Edward Hazard) and Stack (William Almy) have not been identified.

AIDES-DE-CAMP OF M. DE CHOISY

Choisy's aide-de-camp Saumann lodged with Choisy in the Riviera home.

AIDE-DE-CAMP OF M. DE BÉVILLE

Béville's aide-de-camp was his son Jacques who stayed with him in the Levi House.

PAYMASTER

French Paymaster de Baulny was quartered in the Levy-Seixas home.

SUPPLIES

Resource 15: **Robert Lillibridge House** (Pitt's Head Tavern, c. 1726)
77 Bridge Street
Newport, RI

The Robert Lillibridge House provided lodging for Supply Inspector Duval.

Resource 16: **Dr. Nicholas Tillinghast House** (c. 1750)
134-136 Thames Street
Newport, RI

An administrative officer by the name of "Morion", identified as "Cashier" in the quartering list, quartered with Dr. Tillinghast. No such person is identified in Bodinier's dictionary.

The quarters of Manager Daure (William Coggeshall) and Director Bourgneuf (William Gibbs) have not been identified.

HOSPITALS

None of the lodgings for the hospital staff, Manager De Mars (James Taylor), Chief Physician de Coste (William Lyndon), Chief Surgeon Robillard (James Senter) or Abbé de Glesnon, Chaplain (Widow Brayton) have been identified.

BUTCHER'S MEAT

The lodgings of Manager Buret de Blegier (Johetas Gibbs) have not been identified.

FORAGE

The lodgings of Manager Louis with Gideon Sisson have not been identified.

CLOTHING AND ACCOUTREMENTS

Resource 17: **Constant Tabor House** (c. 1750)
47 John Street
Newport, RI

Constant Tabor provided lodging for Storekeeper Martin during 1780/81.

REGIMENTS QUARTERED IN TOWN COLONELS AND SUPERIOR OFFICERS

Bourbonnois Regiment

The *vicomte* de Rochambeau, second colonel of the regiment, stayed with his father in the Vernon House; the lodgings of marquis de Laval, colonel of the regiment, and Major de Gambs (Robinson) and Lieutenant Colonel de Bresolles (Joseph Clarke) have not been identified.

Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment

None of the quarters of the officers of the Royal Deux-Ponts, Christian de Deux-Ponts (George Scott), William de Deux-Ponts (Nathaniel Mumford), Baron Esebeck (William Still) and Major Desprez (Thomas Vernon) have been identified. The account of the war by William de Deux-Ponts, *My Campaigns in America* Samuel Abbot Green, ed. (Boston, 1868), contains much valuable information though it ends after the siege of Yorktown.

George Scott's daughter Polly fell in love with Christian de Deux-Ponts.

Soissonnois Regiment

The lodgings of *comte* de St. Maisme ("Miss Coles"), colonel of the regiment, have not been identified.

Resource 18: **Thomas Robinson House** (pre-1756)
64 Washington Street
Newport, RI

The ca. 1736/1760 Robinson House provided quarters for the *vicomte* de Noailles, second colonel of the regiment.

Resource 19: **Huntington Crandall House**
59 Poplar Street
Newport, RI

This pre-1758 house provided quarters for the servants of the *vicomte* de Noailles.

Resource 20: **William Cozzens House**
57-59 Farewell Street
Newport, RI

This ca. 1760 house provided quarters to Joseph d'Anselme, Lieutenant Colonel of the Soissonnois regiment.

The Robert Lawton House at the corner of Spring and Touro Streets, which provided quarters to Major d'Espeyron of the Soissonnois Regiment, is no longer standing. Robert Lawton's daughter Polly is mentioned in numerous accounts by French officers.

Mrs Richard Jackson Barker, "The Daughters of Liberty." *The American Historical Register and Monthly Gazette of the Patriotic-Hereditary Societies of the United States of America* (September 1894-February 1895) vol. 1 (1895), pp. 29-36, pp. 30-31.

Saintonge Regiment

None of the quarters of the officers of the Saintonge regiment, i.e., Colonel de Custine (Joseph Durfey), *comte* de Charlus (Major Martin), Lieutenant Colonel de la Valette (John Oldfield) and Major de Fleury (Jeremiah Clarke) have been identified. Fleury had served in the Continental Army and distinguished himself at Stony Point.

ARTILLERY PARK

Resource 21: **Captain James Carpenter House** (c. 1765)
406-410 Thames Street
Newport, RI

The Carpenter House provided quarters for Lieutenant Colonel Nadal, director of the artillery park.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, SECOND BATTALION, AUXONNE REGIMENT

Resource 22: **Joseph Tweedy House** (c. 1709-1720)
69 Touro Street
Newport, RI

The Tweedy House provided quarters to Chef de Brigade de Buzelet.

The quarters of Lieutenant Colonel de la Tour (William Lee) have not been identified.

MINERS

The quarters of Chef de Brigade de Chazelles (Major Fairchilds) have not been identified.

WORKMEN

The quarters of Second Captain de la Chaise (Abraham Redwood) have not been identified.

VOLONTAIRES-ETRANGERS DE LAUZUN

The quarters of the *duc* de Lauzun, colonel of Lauzun's Legion with Deborah Hunter, the widow of Dr. William Hunter, on the north side of Mary Street at Thames, are no longer standing. It should be noted, however, that Lauzun spent November and December 1780 with the hussars in Lebanon, Connecticut, where he quartered with David Trumbull.

Resource 23: Peter Harrington House/Leamington Farm
Harrison Avenue/Brenton Cove
Newport, RI

The quarters of Captain Sheldon (Alley Place) have not been identified.

NOTE: This inventory focuses on the land forces and their movements in Rhode Island. Sites that are only connected with the French Navy such as the Naval Artillery Park or the homes of naval captains, though identifiable, are, with few specific exceptions listed here, not included in this survey. For some of these houses see Hattendorf, *Newport, the French Navy*, pp. 71-73.

THE NAVY

Resource 24: **Governor Joseph Wanton Jr. (Hunter) House**
54 Washington Street
Newport, RI

This house, one of the finest examples of colonial residential architecture in America, was built in 1748 for Jonathan Nichols, later deputy governor of Rhode Island. Governor Joseph Wanton Jr. lived here as well. In 1780, it served as head-quarters for Admiral Charles Louis d'Arsac, *chevalier* de Ternay, commanding officer of the French naval force. The admiral, already sick when he arrived in Newport, died here and was buried in Trinity churchyard.

Two of his aides who served as officers on his flagship, the *duc de Bourgogne*, i.e., his *major d'escadre* de Grandchain, Ternay's chief administrative officer, and *aide-major d'escadre* Lieutenant *comte* de Capellis, Grandchain's chief assistant, were lodged in the house, which served as the Naval Office to the French fleet.

Resource 25: **William and Abraham Redwood House**
69 Spring Street
Newport, RI

In 1780/81, this 1759 house was the quarters of Captain Destouches who succeeded Admiral Ternay and was in command of the French fleet in Newport until the arrival of Admiral Barras.

Note: Downing and Scully, *Architectural Heritage*, p. 98, state that the William Redwood House on Bridge Street, home to Destouches, is no longer standing.

Resource 26: **John Townshend House**

19 Second Street
Newport, RI

This 1773-77 house was home to Captain de la Vicomte.

Supplementary sites connected with French forces in Newport:

Resource 27: **Friends Meeting House**

30 Marlborough Street
Newport, RI

This is the oldest religious structure in Newport. Quakers were the dominant religious group for the first 100 years of the Colony's history; and as late as 1730, over half of the people in Newport were members of the society. The meeting house was used as a hospital by French forces following their arrival in Newport in July 1780.

Resource 28: **Trinity Church**

141 Spring Street
Newport, RI

Admiral de Ternay, head of the French fleet, died on 10 December 1780, was given a funeral with full military honors and laid to rest in the cemetery of Trinity Church.

Resource 29: **Tomb Marker for Admiral Ternay in Trinity Church (1785)**

Inside Trinity Church
Newport, RI

When the original marble tomb cover of 1785, was removed to inside Trinity Church in 1872, the French government replaced it with a granite block in 1873.

Resource 30: **Tomb Marker for Admiral Ternay in Cemetery (1873)**

Trinity Church Cemetery
Newport, RI

When the original marble tomb cover of 1785, was removed to inside Trinity Church in 1872, the French government replaced it with a granite block in 1873.

Resource 31: **Redwood Library**
50 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI

Built in 1758 with Peter Harrison as architect, this is one of the oldest continuously used libraries in the United States. Although not documented, it is more than likely that some of the French officers visited it and used its resources.

Resource 32: **Old Colony House** (1739-41)
Washington Square
Newport, RI

Designed by Richard Munday and built in 1739-41 to house the General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, it served as a center for public meetings and religious and social functions. During the Revolutionary War it served as a hospital for British and French forces quartered in Newport. In 1781, when George Washington came to Newport to visit the French Army, a banquet was held in the great hall on the first floor. Tradition has it that the first Roman Catholic Masses in Rhode Island were celebrated here in 1780-81 by the Abbé de Glesnon, French Army chaplain under *comte* de Rochambeau. The Nation's second oldest capitol building, it was used for the General Assembly's Newport sessions until 1900.

Resource 33: **Second Congregational Church**
13 and 15 Clarke Street
Newport, RI

This church was built in 1735. Dr. Ezra Stiles ministered here from 1755 until the British occupation in December 1776; he lived across the street at the Stiles House, (or Henderson House). In 1780-81, the church was used as a hospital.

Resource 34: **Stiles House** (also known as Henderson Home, c. 1756-1765)
14 Clarke Street
Newport, RI

The famous minister of Newport, RI's Congregational Church, Dr. Ezra Stiles lived here while he ministered across the street from 1755 until the British occupation in December 1776.

Resource 35: **First Presbyterian Church**
6 Everett Street
Newport, RI

During 1780-81, the church was used as a hospital by the French navy.

Resource 36: **Brick Market** (1772)
127 Thames Street
Newport, RI

Designed by Peter Harrison, the Brick Market on the edge of the harbor was at the center of economic activity in Newport. Current thinking is that most of the purchasing by individual soldiers and officers for fresh fruit or meats or other such items would have taken place at and around the Market.

Resource 37: **White Horse Tavern** (1673)
127 Thames Street
Newport, RI

This is the oldest continuously operating tavern in America, and it is more than likely that French officers and men spent time in this tavern.

Resource 38: **Touro Synagogue** (1763)
72 Touro Street
Newport, RI

Touro Synagogue is the oldest synagogue on the North American continent. Designed by Peter Harrison, it stands as a symbol of religious freedom throughout the world. When the Jewish community declined after the war of independence, the sacred scrolls were lodged for safe-keeping in a private home (1800). In 1822, Moses Lopez, the last Jew in Newport, moved to New York; the care of the synagogue was taken over by Nathan Gould, a Christian. The synagogue later received a bequest for its upkeep of \$10,000 by Judah Touro, son of the former minister, who lived in New Orleans. His brother Abraham also endowed the building. The ownership of the synagogue devolved on the Shearith Israel Congregation in New York. It was officially re-consecrated in 1883.

Resource 39: **Rochambeau Plaza**
Wellington Avenue
Newport, RI

The statue marks the site of the landing of Rochambeau's forces. There are numerous plaques as well as the original stone placed at the site in 1907 attached to, or integrated into, the sides of the cairn. They are listed as part of Resource 41.

Resource 40: **French campsites, July 1780-November 1780**
Newport, RI

"The camp ran from east to west from present-day Spring Street, where at the west end it overlooked a marsh and the squadron anchorage. On the east end, it overlooked

Easton's Beach." The infantry regiments camped on the east side, the artillery "on the camp's west end close to Spring Street. The area across Spring Street and stretching down to Thames Street was laid out as the French Army's artillery park."¹ Lauzun's Legion took up positions at Castle Hill.

No archaeological search has as yet been done to determine the exact locations of the various campsites.

Part II: Routes Prior to the March to Yorktown

Route 1: The route from Newport to Providence and Lebanon used by Lauzun's hussars between November 1780 and June 1781

In November 1780, Rochambeau decided to quarter Lauzun's hussars in Lebanon, Connecticut. While still in Newport, the hussars received orders on 8 November 1780, to supply themselves with bread for the next two days. On the 10th they were to receive their bread rations for the 12th through the 15th in Providence as well as an eight-day ration of rice for those four days. "Much snow fell and it was very cold" when the hussars began their land march from Newport to Providence in the morning of 9 November 1780. Despite the inclement weather Lauzun gave a ball in Hacker Hall. After two days of rest (10 and 11 November 1780) they left Providence for Windham on 12 November. Here they stayed for a week, but on Monday, 20 November, Lauzun and his hussars rode into Lebanon.

Route description: assuming that they assembled in the Harbor/Long Wharf area, the hussars left Newport on Broadway, which becomes RI-SR 114, until they reached Bristol Ferry. Having crossed over to the mainland, they continued on RI-SR 114, alternately called Ferry Road, Hope Street and Main Street, through Bristol to Warren, where they crossed the Warren Rivers on the Warren Ferry and continued the journey on Nayatt Road (RI-SR 103), which becomes Veteran's Memorial Parkway into East Providence.²



Map details from Charles Blaskowitz, *A topographical Chart of the Bay of Narragansett* (London: Engraved & printed for Wm. Faden, 1777)

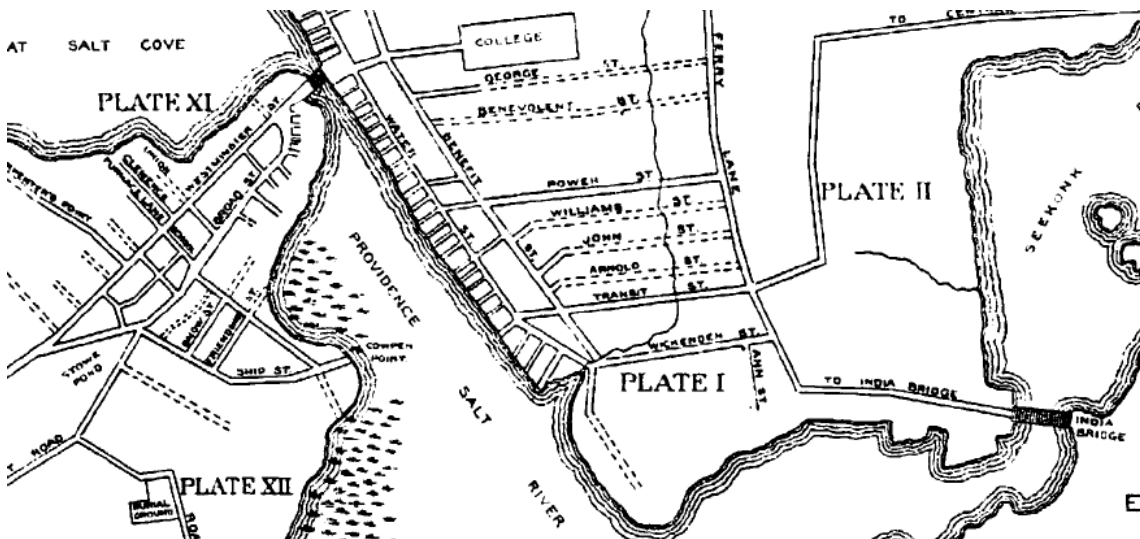
¹ John B. Hattendorf, *Newport, the French Navy, and American Independence*, (Newport, 2005), p. 62.

² In the Proceedings of the Council of War (RISA, Providence) ferry prices were set on 4 October 1780 for transporting one soldier over Narragansett and Conanicut ferries at s 6, Bristol Ferry s 4, Warren and Fullers, s 2, Slades Ferry 2/6. The same price was charged for ferrying a horse.

Turning left on what is today Mauran Avenue they would have reached India Bridge, which they took across the Seekonk River onto India Street, which they followed until they turned right onto Ferry Lane (or Ferry Road), re-named Hope Street in 1806. This connection is today cut off by I-95. On Hope they turned left onto Wickenden Street to either Benefit Street, called Back Street in the eighteenth century, or more likely to Water Street, called Towne Street in the eighteenth century, which they took to the Parade or Market Place and entered their lodgings in the Market House.



In 1781, Westminster Street, Main Street, and Weybosset Street would have been considered "on the harbor" of Providence. There were docks on the southerly side of Weybosset Street for smaller craft, including one called the Muddy Dock, because it was covered with water at high tide and muddy at low tide. There was a bridge across from Main Street and Market Square (The Parade), to Westminster, but there were also wharves and warehouses on the northern side of Westminster. On the East side of the Providence harbor was South Main Street. Back or Benefit Street was, and still is, up the hill. The only street on the harbor was Main Street.



Map detail from Henry R. Chace, *Maps of Providence, R.I.: 1650, 1765, 1770.* (Providence, 1912)



Charles Blaskowitz, A topographical Chart of the Bay of Narragansett (London: Engraved & printed for Wm. Faden, 1777)

Resource 41: **Market House** (1773)
 Market Sq. and S. Main St.
 Providence, RI

Planning for the Market House at the east end of Weybosset bridge was begun in 1758, but construction did not begin until 1773, when Nicholas Brown laid the first stone on 11 June. The building was of brick, 40 feet wide, 80 feet long, and two stories high. The lower story was used as a market, while the second story was divided into offices and occupied in part by the various officers of the town and in part by private tenants. In 1775, the Market House was the site of the “Providence Tea Party.” From 1832 to 1878, the Market served as Providence City Hall; the current City Hall was built in 1878.

On 12 June 1781, the First French Brigade, i.e., the regiments Bourbonnois and Royal Deux-Ponts, arrived by sea in Providence, their first stop on the march to White Plains and eventually on to Virginia. Some spent the night in the empty Market House on Market Square, where baggage and munitions not needed for the march were stored.

Hacker Hall was destroyed by a fire in January 1821.

Route 2: The route of the express riders provided by Lauzun's hussars from Newport to Hartford, 1780/1781

Washington had established that chain of communication with Rochambeau in the summer of 1780, but lack of funds and the removal of Sheldon's dragoons to winter quarters in Massachusetts induced him to suspend it on 17 December 1780. When it became obvious that a direct line of communication was indispensable, Washington re-established the service on 30 January 1781. Lauzun's hussars were responsible for the route to Hartford, Sheldon's riders carried the mail from Hartford to Litchfield, where riders from the Continental Quartermaster General's department took over.

Route description: From Newport the hussars crossed on the Conanicut Ferry to Jamestown, crossed the island on Ferry Road (Narragansett Avenue) and took the Narragansett Ferry to Saunterstown. Here they followed Ferry Road/Boston Neck Road (RI-SR 1A) south to Bridgetown Road/Mooresfield Road (RI-SR 138) to Kingston. Here they turned south on Kingstown Road (RI-SR 108) to Peace Dale and Wakefeld, where they entered the Old Post Road to Perryville. In Perryville, the Old Post Road becomes RI-SR 1A, which weaves north and south across US Route 1 through Charleston until it becomes the Ocean Scenic Highway to Westerly. In Westerly they took what is today CT-SR 2 to Stonington.

The first stop on the route was in a tavern run by Colonel Thomas Potter in Little Rest, where according to a review of 15 March 1781, three hussars were quartered. The next station was at an unknown location in Westerly, where also three hussars were stationed. Two more were in Stonington, and one in Norwich; then came the main quarters of the hussars in Lebanon.

The number of hussars stationed along the route varied according to need. When Baron von Clozen stopped at Little Rest on 5 March 1781, on his way to Newport to announce the arrival of General Washington, he found eight hussars stationed there, whom he admonished to guard Washington "carefully during the night, as there were many Tories in the neighborhood."

Little Rest (soldiers were said to have rested there in 1675 on their way to fight Native Americans) at the crossroads of the Pequot Indian Trail and the road to Tower Hill is now part of Kingston. Known as Little Rest until 1825, Kingston boasted five taverns during the eighteenth century.

Route 3: The route of *comte de Rochambeau* and *Admiral de Ternay* to the Conference at Hartford, 18 - 24 September 1780

On September 8, Washington asked Rochambeau and Admiral de Ternay to meet him in Hartford. On the 18th, Rochambeau and Ternay, accompanied by a small staff, set out for Hartford.

Route description: assuming that the party assembled in the Harbor/Long Wharf area, Rochambeau and Ternay with their suites left Newport on Broadway, which becomes RI-SR 114, until they reached Bristol Ferry. Having crossed over to the mainland, they continued on RI-SR 114, alternately called Ferry Road, Hope Street and Main Street, through Bristol to Warren, where they crossed the Warren Rivers on the Warren Ferry and continued their journey on Nayatt Road (RI-SR 103) which becomes Veteran's Memorial Parkway into East Providence. Turning left on what is today Mauran Avenue they would have reached India Bridge, which they took across the Seekonk River onto India Street, which they followed until they turned right onto Ferry Lane or Ferry Road, re-named Hope Street in 1806. This connection is today cut off by I-195. On Hope they turned left onto Wickenden Street to either Benefit Street, called Back Street in the eighteenth century, or more likely to Water Street, called Towne Street in the eighteenth century, which they took to the Parade or Market Place and entered their lodgings possibly with Deputy Governor Ephraim Bowen. His house stood on Market Square, but was torn down in 1850.

From there they continued the next morning on Westminster Street to Cranston Street which they followed to Knightsville, then west on Phoenix Avenue (RI-SR 12). They remained on RI-SR 12 to Scituate Avenue along the Scituate Reservoir, which covers part of the old Scituate Road, until they turned left on Matteson Road and the right onto Maple Valley Road (which becomes Waterman Hill Road west of RI-SR 102) past Waterman's Tavern to Plainfield Pike (RI-SR 14), which took them into Connecticut.

Route 4: The route of General Washington on his visit to *comte de Rochambeau* in Newport in March 1781

Route description: On his way to Newport, Washington stopped in Hartford for a meeting with Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, spent the night of 4/5 March in Lebanon, Connecticut. Traveling on to Norwich, Washington, who was in a hurry to get to Newport, hired a guide who took the party due east (on CT-SR 165?) to Preston, Connecticut, past Voluntown and possibly onto CT-SR 138/RI-SR 138 through Hope Valley and Usquepaug on the old Kingstown Road to Little Rest, where he spent the night of 5/6 March 1781 in Potter's Tavern.

Note: this itinerary is based on Washington's expense account for the journey, which indicates that Washington hired guides in Preston and again in Kenyon. In the parlance of the eighteenth century this indicates more a general area than the town itself, which lies about five miles south of Usquepaug and the Kingstown Road. In the absence of any other primary source, this routing is tentative.³



On 6 March, Washington entered Newport in triumph. Rochambeau ordered that "As the town is illuminating this evening to celebrate the arrival of His Excellency General Washington, officers will have lampions or candles placed in the windows of the houses they occupy; the same will apply to windows of enlisted men's quarters, where feasible, and expenses are to be reimbursed."⁴

Washington stayed for week in the Vernon House with Washington and watched the departure on 8 March 1781, of the French fleet under Charles René Dominique Gochet *chevalier* Destouches with 1,500 French troops under the *baron* de Vioménil for the Chesapeake. Following talks with Rochambeau concerning the campaign, Washington departed again on 13 March for Providence. He possibly spent the night of 13/14 at the home of Shubael Burr, postmaster of Warren, and the night of 14/15 March at an unknown location in Providence, possibly with Deputy Governor Bowen.

³ See French E. Chadwick, "The Visit of General Washington to Newport in 1781." *Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society* 6 (February 1913), pp. 1- 19.

⁴ Entry for 6 March 1781 in Rochambeau's *Livre d'Ordre*.

Early in the morning of Thursday, 15 March, Washington and his military family left Providence on Westminster Avenue to Cranston Street and Waterman's Tavern for Connecticut.

Upon arrival in Providence, Washington was greeted by the firing of cannon, a popular parade, grand illumination in the evening, dinner at the state house on the day following and a ball in the evening. The address presented to him states how the citizens "beg leave to assure your excellency, that we will manifest our attachment to your excellency, and the great cause in which we are engaged, by exerting the utmost of our abilities in enlisting and supporting such a force, as with the aid of our generous allies, will be sufficient to bring the war to a happy issue. . . . That your excellency may be the glorious instrument of effecting this most desirable event, which will deliver your name to posterity with a fame equal to that of the most celebrated heroes of antiquity; and that you may long enjoy the honors that will be paid you, is the sincere prayer of your excellency's most obedient and most humble servants."

Route 5: The route of *comte de Rochambeau* and the *chevalier de Chastellux* to the Conference at Wethersfield, 19 - 26 May 1781

Route description: Following the route he had taken to Hartford in September 1780, Rochambeau and Chastellux set out for Connecticut on Saturday, 19 May 1781. The location of the overnight in Providence on the way to Wethersfield and on the way back to Newport is unknown but it was probably with Gov. Bowen.

Route 6: The march of Lauzun's infantry to Lebanon, Connecticut, in June 1781, to join the hussars that had wintered there

Route description: The route is geographically the same as that of Rochambeau's infantry but as it is different chronologically it is listed as a separate route.

On 5 June 1781, the infantry and artillery of Lauzun's Legion with its four four-pounders received orders to embark at 6:00 a.m. the next day for Providence, where they were to wait for the arrival of the wagons to transport their equipment to Lebanon. From Providence they were to march via Waterman's to Plainfield and Windham, and on the fourth day of the march they were to arrive in Lebanon. The hussars still in Newport, except two express riders who remained behind, were to spend the night of 6/7 June in the barracks at Poppasquash and join the infantry at Providence on the 7th where they would receive a four-day supply of meat and corn meal for bread. While in Providence, parts of Lauzun's infantry and artillery lodged again in the Brick Market, others occupied the site laid out for the infantry that was to follow a few days later.

The wait for the wagons took almost a week and it was already 13 June when the infantry received orders to depart for Lebanon on 14 June, where they arrived on 16 June. That same day, 13 June, Lieutenant-Colonel Hugau received orders to march to Lebanon on Saturday, 16 June, with the 31 healthy replacements for the Legion from the Royal

Barrois that were due to arrive that day from Boston where they had arrived on 7 June and debarked on 15 June. The 17 replacements who were sick would have to remain behind. Since it took four days to get to Lebanon from Newport, it was already Tuesday, 19 June 1781, when the whole Legion was gathered in Lebanon.

Since the replacements under Hugau took the same route that the infantry had taken a few days earlier it is not listed as a separate route. The route of these replacements from Boston to Providence is unknown but most likely identical with the route taken by Rochambeau's infantry from Providence to Boston in December 1782.

Resource 42: Site of the barracks/hospital at Poppasquash

Poppasquash Road
Bristol, RI

The barracks at Poppasquash were used as hospitals. The exact location of these barracks in 1781, possibly along Poppasquash Road in, or south of, Colt State Park in Bristol, is unknown. On 4 July 1780, Ethis de Corny informed de la Luzerne, French minister in Philadelphia, that he had established a hospital as "a second auxiliary hospital (*hôpital de provision*) between Providence and Newport at Poppasquash. This is strictly speaking an *entrepôt*, or summer hospital built of wood. Dr. Craig had this mediocre establishment built thinking, as did General Heath that it could take the place of the one that had been refused him at Providence, but aside from the nature of these barracks, they will accommodate scarcely 250 or 300 sick."⁵ Corny's letter implies that the buildings were not useable during the winter months and seem to have been empty at the time of the arrival of Lauzun's hussars. The hospital was shut down in early August 1780 and the sick were transferred to Providence.

They were moved frequently, viz. the request by Nathaniel Frayle, President of the Town Council of Bristol, in Minutes of 21 November 1781, in which he asked "for the Loan of one of the Publick Barracks at Poppasquash to use as a Work House for the Poor of said Town." Frayle agreed to take the barrack back to the same place he took it from when and if the state needed it again. He received permission to move the barrack.⁶

⁵ Bouvet, *Service de santé*, p. 56.

⁶ RISA, Minutes of the Council of War, 21 November 1781.

Part III: The March to Yorktown, June 1781

Route 7a: The sea route of Rochambeau's infantry from Newport to Providence in June 1781

Route description: Around 5:00 a.m. in the morning of 10 June 1781, the first Brigade of French forces began to embark on waiting for them in the harbor of Newport to take them to Providence. Some of the troops had to spend the night on the water, and all arrived too late in the evening, around 9:00 p.m., of 11 June to set up camp. Those that reached Providence spent the night in the Market House, others in the Old Work House on the west bank of the Moshassuk River just north of Smith Street. From there they marched the next morning to their campsite, which Berthier described as “a mile and a half out of town on the road to Hartford,” i.e., Westminster Avenue. “Its right flank rested on this road and its left on the Providence River. ... Providence is a small city of the second category, well built and thickly settled. In peacetime it carries on a thriving commerce because of its situation, since frigates can come up to its docks.”⁷

On 14 June, Rochambeau arrived with his staff and the wagon train, which had taken the land route via Bristol, Warren, and East Providence. Since he still had to wait for the arrival of some of his wagons and of his replacements from France, who had just landed in Boston, Rochambeau moved into the home of Deputy Governor Bowen.

Route 7b: The land route of Rochambeau and the wagons from Newport to Providence in June 1781

Assuming that they assembled in the Harbor/Long Wharf area, Rochambeau as well as the wagons he had asked Governor Greene to impress left Newport on 13 (or 14; the wagons may not have been able to make the journey to Providence in a single day) June on Broadway, which becomes RI-SR 114, until they reached Bristol Ferry. Having crossed over to the mainland, they continued on RI-SR 114, alternately called Ferry Road, Hope Street and Main Street, through Bristol to Warren, where they crossed the Warren Rivers on the Warren Ferry and continued their journey on Nayatt Road (RI-SR 103) which becomes Veteran's Memorial Parkway into East Providence. Turning left on what is today Mauran Avenue they would have reached a crossing that took them across the Seekonk River onto India Street, which they followed until they turned right onto Ferry Lane, re-named Hope Street in 1806. This connection is today cut off by I-195.

Assuming that the wagons joined the infantry at their campsite, they turned left on Hope onto Wickenden Street to either Benefit Street, called Back Street in the eighteenth century, or more likely to Water Street, called Towne Street in the eighteenth century, which they took to the Parade or Market Place. Here they turned left onto Westminster Street and crossed the Providence River on the Weybosset Bridge (or Great Bridge) and marched to their camp located between Cranston and Broad Streets. This route can not be completely retraced since Westminster Street is cut off by I-95.

⁷ Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, vol. 1, p. 246.

The arrival of Rochambeau's forces more than doubled the population of Providence of about 4,000 whites and 300 African-Americans and Native Americans.

Note: Highway construction in the 1950s and 1960s destroyed most of what was left of the eighteenth-century core of Providence. A list of eighteenth-century houses in Providence that are on the National Register of Historic Places kindly provided by Mr Emidy contains only about 35 sites that pre-date 1783.

Of the sites identified in the *Etat des logements marques dans la Ville de Providence pour l'Armee aux ordres de M le Comte de Rochambeau* as having housed French officers in June 1781 and again in November 1782, only a very few are still standing.⁸ One version of the list was compiled in preparation of the arrival of French forces in June 1781, the other in anticipation of the return of these same forces in November 1782. At its October 1782 session, the General Assembly voted to appoint Colonel Daniel Tillinghast and Major John Whipple to assist the Town Council to meet "the request of the said Comte de Rochambeau that suitable quarters may be provided for the officers while they remain in Providence." Having fulfilled their task, "the gentlemen wait on Monsieur Beville, at Waterman's Tavern in Coventry, and inform him of the quarters."⁹

Resource 43: **Joseph Russell House** (c. 1772)

118 North Main
Providence, RI

The Russell House was quarters of Major-General François *chevalier* Beauvoir de Chastellux in June 1781.

Resource 44: **Joseph Brown House** (c. 1774)

50 South Main Street
Providence, RI

In 1781 and 1782, the John Brown House served as quarters for *baron* de Vioménil and his aides.

Resource 45: **Nicholas Brown House**

27-31 South Main Street
Providence, RI

In 1781 and 1782, the Nicholas Brown House served as quarters for Rochambeau's aides, esp. Axel von Fersen and Damas. The house itself is no longer standing; at the address 31 South Main Street is now a 1982 office tower.

⁸ RIHS Manuscripts XV, folder 361. For a discussion of the origins of this list see Simpson and Simpson, "Quartering Rochambeau's Troops," pp. 50/51, and Preston, "Rochambeau and the French troops in Providence," p.

⁹ *Colonial Records* vol. 9, p. 603.

Resource 46: **Benjamin Cushing Jr. House** (c. 1772)
38 North Court Street
Providence, RI

Benjamin Cushing Jr. provided quarters to the aides of the *chevalier* de Chastellux.

Resource 47: **Governor Stephen Hopkins House** (c. 1707)
15 Hopkins Street (corner of Benefit Street)
Providence, RI

Hopkins was a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Washington stayed at the Hopkins House a few times, though not on his way to visit Rochambeau in Newport in March 1781. Relocated from 9 Hopkins Street in 1927. A state-owned property, the Governor Hopkins House is managed by the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

Resource 48: **Campground of the French forces**
Between Cranston and Broad Streets
Providence, RI

French forces camped here from 12 to 22 June 1781 on their way to New York and eventually to Virginia. On the return march of 1782, French artillery was encamped here from 9 until 16 November when it departed for Boston. French infantry arrived on 10 and 11 November but moved to a new camp along North Main Street two days later.

Resource 49: **Powder House** (pre-1776)
27 Cushing Street
Providence, RI

On 21 March 1781, the General Assembly resolved that William Perkins should “repair the Powder House in Providence, and the Store upon Knight Dexter’s farm in Such a manner that they will be suited to store powder in as said Building (sic) are to be appropriated for the use and Service of the french army.”¹⁰

Supplementary Sites connected with French forces in Providence:

Resource 50: **Monument in North Burial Ground**
Intersection of North Main Street (Route 1) and Branch Avenue
Providence, RI

The monument commemorates the French soldiers and sailors who died in the hospitals of Providence from 1780 to 1783.

¹⁰ RIHS Mss 9001 P, William Perkins Papers.

Resource 51: **University Hall** (c. 1770)
Brown University
Providence, RI

University Hall on the Brown University campus was used as a hospital by the French between from 25 June 1780 until 27 May 1782.

Resource 52: **French Army Marker**
University Hall, Brown University
Providence, RI

Resource 53: **Old State House** (c. 1760-1762)
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI

Route 8: The land route of Rochambeau's infantry from Providence to Connecticut and New York in June 1781

Route description: in the early morning hours of 18 June 1781, the Bourbonnois regiment broke camp and began its march southwest on Cranston Street, which they followed to Knightsville, where they turned west on Phenix Avenue (RI-SR 12). The troops remained on RI-SR 12 to Scituate Avenue along the Scituate Reservoir, which covers part of the old Scituate Road, until they turned onto Matteson Road and then right onto Maple Valley Road to Waterman's Tavern and their first camp some 15 miles from Providence on the march to White Plains. Over the next three days the remainder of the French forces used the same site as their campground.

Clermont-Crèvecoeur was one of many officers who recorded that “the roads were very poor, and the artillery did not arrive until eleven o’clock at night. The troops did not march well, as frequently happens on the first day’s march.”¹¹

Resource 54: **Joy Homestead** (c. 1770)
156 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, RI

Resource 55: **Nathan Wescott House** (c. 1770)
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, RI

Resource 56: **Nicholas Sheldon House** (c. 1728)
458 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, RI

¹¹ Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, vol. 1, p. 28.

Resource 57: **Waterman's Tavern** (c. 1744)
Maple Valley Road
Coventry, RI

Though there is no documentary evidence it seems fair to assume that Rochambeau, who was traveling with the troops, spent the night of 18/19 June 1781 in this tavern.

Resource 58: **Campground Plaque at Waterman's Tavern**
Maple Valley Road
Coventry, RI

The following morning Rochambeau and the Bourbonnois regiment resumed their march on Maple Valley Road (which becomes Waterman Hill Road west of RI-SR 102) to Plainfield Pike (RI-SR 14), which took them to the next campsite in Connecticut.

Resource 59: **French Campground at Waterman's Tavern**
Maple Valley Road
Coventry, RI

French forces camped here from 18 to 22 June 1781 and again on their return from Yorktown from 9/10 (artillery) and 10/12 November 1782 (infantry).

Part IV: The Return March of French Forces

Route 9: The land route of Rochambeau's infantry through Rhode Island to Massachusetts in November 1782

Route description: retracing their steps of the previous June, the men of the First French Brigade entered Rhode Island on CT-SR 14 on 9 November 1782 and encamped at Waterman's Tavern. The following day, they continued their march into Providence where they set up their tents on the campsite they had used the previous year.

Unable to use it for an extended stay, the infantry on 13 November 1782, marched on Westminster into Providence, crossed the Providence River and turned onto North Main Street (US-Route 44 North), which they follow to the North Burial Ground and their new campsite on the hill overlook the cemetery.

Resource 60: **French campsite**
Between Rochambeau Avenue, East Ave and Pawtucket Turnpike
Providence, RI

French forces encamped here from 13 November until 1 December, when the infantry began its march for Boston in regimental columns, beginning with the Bourbonnois on 1 December and ending with the Royal Deux-Ponts. The stay in Providence had been

necessitated because the vessels of Admiral Vaudreuil in Boston harbor were not yet ready to receive them.

Resource 61: **Jeremiah Dexter Farmhouse**

957 North Main Street
Corner of North Main Street and Rochambeau Avenue
Providence, RI

The Jeremiah Dexter Farmhouse (1754), at the corner of North Main Street and Rochambeau Avenue, is the only eighteenth-century structure still standing in this area. The house is on the edge of the encampment of the infantry parts of Rochambeau's army in November 1782, which was on the hill toward Summit Avenue and Brewster Street.

Resource 62: **Rochambeau Army Marker**

Jeremiah Dexter Farmhouse
Corner of North Main Street and Rochambeau Avenue
Providence, RI

The marker commemorated the encampment of French forces in November 1782.

Resource 63: **French Campsite Marker (1907)**

near the Y corner of Summit Street and Brewster Street
Providence, RI

The marker commemorates the French camp of November 1782.

Resource 64: **Old Pidge or Sayles Tavern**

North Main Street
Providence, RI

Located just to the north of the French campsite of November 1782, the tavern must have seen repeated visits by French officers and enlisted men.

Note: The Rochambeau Branch Library in Providence opened on 6 July 1915 in the Rochambeau Avenue School as the Elodie Farnum Memorial Library Children's Collection. Rochambeau Avenue School, which stood at the corner of Rochambeau Avenue and Hope Street, no longer exists; the present library building at 708 Hope Street opened in 1930 as the Rochambeau Branch Library.

Beginning on 1 December with the Bourbonnois regiment, French forces most likely marched north on Main Street (today's US Route 1) to Pidge Avenue. Here they veered to the right/continued on Main Street to George Street to Broad Street (RI-SR 114 North; be careful - modern traffic patterns turned Broad Street into a one-way street south here!). From RI-SR 114 they continued on RI-SR 121 into Massachusetts (just south of Sheldonville), and marched through Sheldonville on West Street to Wampum Corner. From there they continued on South Street into Wrentham and on north Dedham Street to their camp in Dedham.

Resource 65: **General Nathanael Greene Homestead** (c. 1774)
50 Taft Street
Coventry, RI

Greene, Washington's second in command, designed and built his residence from 1774 to 1783. Commissary Blanchard, Captain Haacke of the Royal Deux-Ponts, and "the chaplain of the hospital" visited there on 28 November 1780.

Blanchard described Mrs Greene as "amiable, genteel and rather pretty. As there was no bread in her house, some was hastily made; it was of meal and water mixed together; which was the toasted at the fire; small slices of it were served up to us. It is not much for a Frenchman. As for the Americans, they eat very little bread. Besides, the dinner was long; we remained to sleep there."¹²

**Route 10: The land route of Rochambeau from Providence to Newburgh,
New York, 1 to 6 December 1782**

Route description: leaving Providence on Cranston Avenue, Rochambeau and his entourage on 1 December opted to take the route past Angell's Tavern to Connecticut.¹³ Jeremiah Angell's tavern and parts of Plainfield Pike (RI-SR 14) taken by Rochambeau and his party were inundated when the Scituate Reservoir was built in the 1920s.

¹² Blanchard, *Journal*, p. 81. There were two brothers Haacke, both captains, in the Royal Deux-Ponts. The chaplain has not been identified.

¹³ The *Journal de guerre* of the *comte* de Lauberdière contains a day-by-day description of Rochambeau's journey to Newburgh, Philadelphia and the point of departure in Annapolis in January 1783.