Name: White Horse Tavern (1673)

Location: 26 Marlborough Street Newport, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

Constructed before 1673, 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.



The White Horse Tavern is listed on the NHR and a contributing Property to the National Historic Landmark District.

Name: Touro Synagogue (1763)

Location: 72 Touro Street Newport, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

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.



The Touro Synagogue was designated a National Historic Site in 1946.

Name: Rochambeau Plaza

Location: Wellington Avenue Newport, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

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.









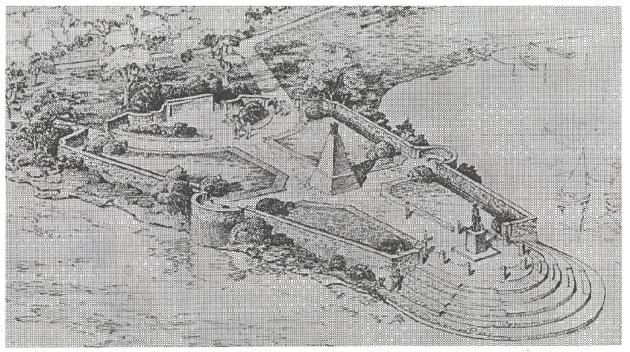


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Rochambeau Plaza, in King Park, Newport, R.I., where the statue of Marshal Count de Rochambeau, Commander in Chief of the French Army sent to help the American Colonists during the Revolution was erected — Behind is the Pyramid marking the very location of the landing in 1780 of the first convoy of 6000 French soldiers with guns, ammunitions, food and medical supplies.



Chief of the French Army sent to help the American Colonists during the Revolution was erected — Behind is the Pyramid marking the very location of the landing in 1780 of the first convoy of 6000 French soldiers with guns, ammunitions, food and medical supplies.

Vault A, Box A-16, NHS. This box contains much valuable information on the 1931 commemoration as well as the events of 13 July 1934 and of 4 July 1940.

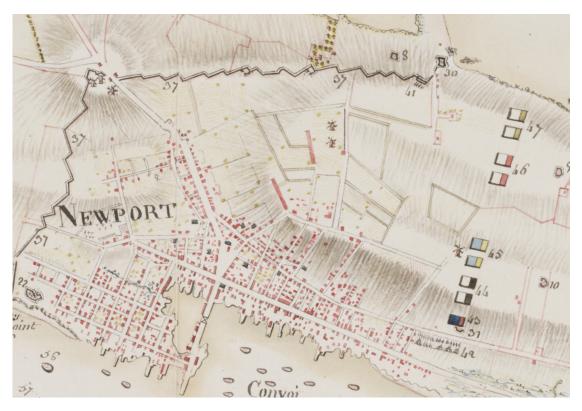
Name: French campsites, July 1780-November 1780

Location: Newport, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

"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."<sup>1</sup> 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.



42: Artillery Park46:43: Auxonne Artillery47:44: Bourbonnois48:45: Royal Deux-Ponts

<sup>46:</sup> Soissonnois 47: Saintonge 48: Lauzun's Legion quartered at Castle Hill

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> John B. Hattendorf, *Newport, the French Navy, and American Independence,* (Newport, 2005), p. 62.

Name: Market House (1773)

Location: Market Sq. and S. Main St. Providence, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

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 Bourbonnais 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.



The Market House is listed on the NHR.

Name: Site of the barracks/hospital at Poppasquash

Location: Poppasquash Road Bristol, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

The barracks at Poppasquash were used as hospitals. Their exact location 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."<sup>2</sup> Corny's letter implies that the buildings were not useable during the winter months. The hospital was shut down in early August 1780 and the sick were transferred to Providence.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bouvet, Service de santé, p. 56.

Name: Joseph Russell House (c. 1774)

Location: 118 North Main Providence, RI 02903

# **Historical Significance:**

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



The Joseph Russell House is listed on the NHR as part of the College Hill Historic District.

Name: Joseph Brown House (1774)

Location: 50 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903

#### **Historical Significance:**

The John Brown House served as quarters for baron de Vioménil and his aides.



The Joseph Brown House is listed on the NHR as part of the College Hill Historic District.

# **Resource 45**

Name: Site of the Nicholas Brown House

Location: 27-31 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903

#### **Historical Significance:**

The Nicholas Brown House served as quarters for Rochambeau's aides, esp. Axel von Fersen and Damas. The structure at 31 South Main Street is a 1982 office tower.

Name: Benjamin Cushing Jr. House (c. 1737)

Location: 38 ½ North Court Street Providence, RI 02903

# Historical Significance:

In 1781 and 1782, Benjamin Cushing Jr. provided quarters to the aides of the chevalier de Chastellux.



The property was moved here from its original location on North Mains Street and North Court ca. 1869.

Name: Governor Stephen Hopkins House (c. 1707)

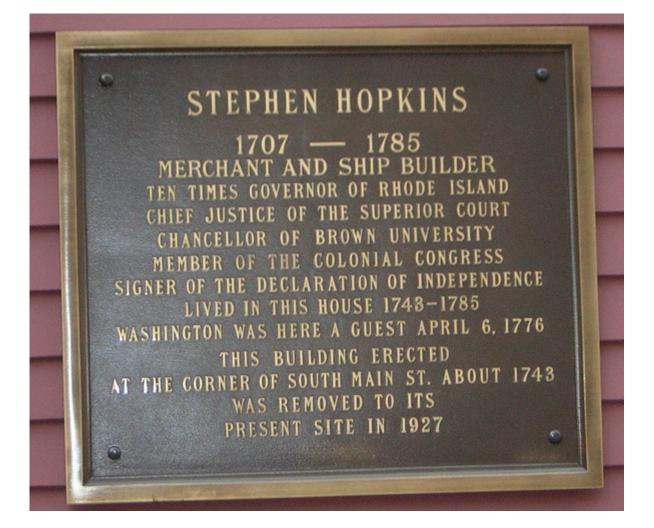
Location: 15 Hopkins Streets (corner of Benefit Street) Providence, RI 02903

### **Historical Significance:**

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.



The Governor Stephen Hopkins House was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 11 November 1971, #70000022.



Name: Campground of the French forces

### Location: Between Cranston and Broad Streets Providence, RI 02903

### **Historical Significance:**

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 on 13 November.



For a map of the encampment see Appendix 3: Roadmaps and Campsite Maps.

Name: **Powder House** (pre-1776)

Location: 27 Cushing Street Providence, RI 02903

Historical Significance:

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."<sup>3</sup>



"The Providence Powder House, built circa 1765, stood on Powder House Lane (now South Court Street) on the northwest corner of Prospect and Old Goal Lane."

Matthew Thomas, *Historic Powder Houses of New England: Arsenals of American Independence* (Charleston, SC 2013), p. 169.

# Resource 50

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> RIHS Mss 9001 P, William Perkins Papers.

Name: Monument in North Burial Ground

Location: Intersection of North Main Street (Route 1) and Branch Avenue Providence, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

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



**Resource 51** 

Name: University Hall (c. 1770)

Location: Brown University Providence, RI 02903

# Historical Significance:

University Hall on the Brown University campus was used as a hospital by the French after 1780.



University Hall was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 13 June 1962, #66000003

Resource 52

Name: French Army Marker

Location: University Hall, Brown University Providence, RI 02903

# Historical Significance:

The marker commemorates the use of University Hall as a hospital for French forces from 1780 to 1782.



**Resource 53** 

Name: Old State House (c. 1760-1762)

Location: 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

#### **Historical Significance:**

"Providence's first County House, a two-story wooden structure, was built in 1730-1731 on Meeting Street, on the lot now occupied by the Brick Schoolhouse. A fire destroyed the building on Christmas Eve, 1758. [...] The following February the General Assembly ordered the construction of a new brick courthouse. The building committee selected a new site north of the previous one. The long, narrow lot extending from North Main to the newly completed Benefit Street provided a grand axial approach to the building. Work began in 1760 and was largely completed by 1762, but funds for finishing the interior were appropriated as late as 1771. Here on May 4,1776, the General Assembly repealed a previous act of allegiance to the crown. The date is now celebrated as Rhode Island Independence Day. While meeting here in 1784, the Assembly passed the first act in the United States providing for the gradual emancipation of slaves. In 1781, George Washington attended a dinner and ball given here in his honor. He returned as President in 1790 to attend a banquet commemorating Rhode Island's ratification of the federal Constitution."

http://www.preservation.ri.gov/about/old state house.php



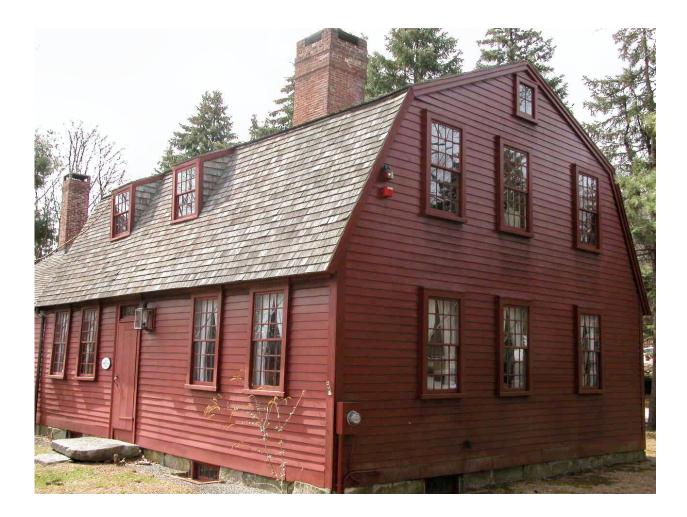
The Old State House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

Name: Joy Homestead (c. 1770)

Location: 156 Scituate Avenue Cranston, RI 02921

# **Historical Significance:**

In 1781, the Joy Homestead was the home of Job Joy and Rachel Westcott, who raised their ten children in this house. It is among the few eighteenth-century homes between Providence and the Connecticut State Line that are still standing.



The Joy Homestead is listed on the NHR.

Name: Nathan Wescott House (c. 1770)

Location: 150 Scituate Avenue Cranston, RI 02921

# **Historical Significance:**

In 1781, the Joy Homestead was the home of Nathan Wescott. It is among the few eighteenth-century homes between Providence and the Connecticut State Line that are still standing.



The Nathan Wescott House is listed on the NHR.



Scituate Avenue; Knightsville Corner; photograph, 1910. A late 19th-century view of two of the houses that still remain along Rochambeau's march route. The two most popular building types from the early- and mid-18th-century are illustrated: a broad-pitched gable-roofed house in the foreground and the gambrel-roofed Nathan Westcott House beyond it. Just behind the Westcott House is the roof of the Joy Homestead. These houses were among the collection of 18th-century houses that came to be known as Joytown.

Name: Nicholas Sheldon House (c. 1728)

Location: 458 Scituate Avenue Cranston, RI 02921

#### **Historical Significance:**

In 1781, the Nicholas Sheldon Homestead was the home of Nicholas Sheldon III, who had inherited the property in 1764. It is among the few eighteenth-century homes between Providence and the Connecticut State Line that are still standing.

The Nicholas Sheldon House is listed on the NHR

Name: Waterman's Tavern (c. 1744)

Location: Maple Valley Road Coventry, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

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



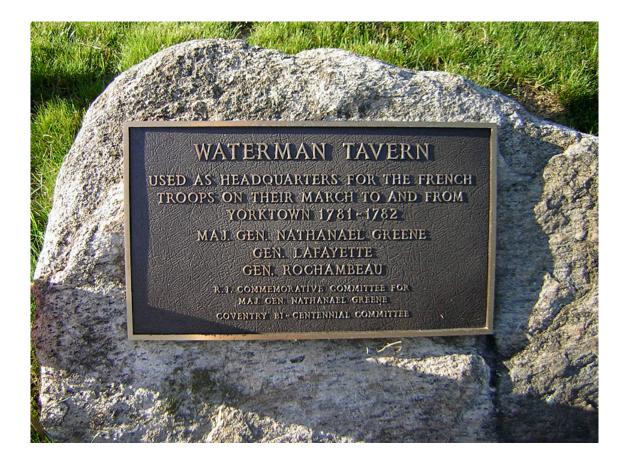
Waterman's Tavern is listed on the NHR.

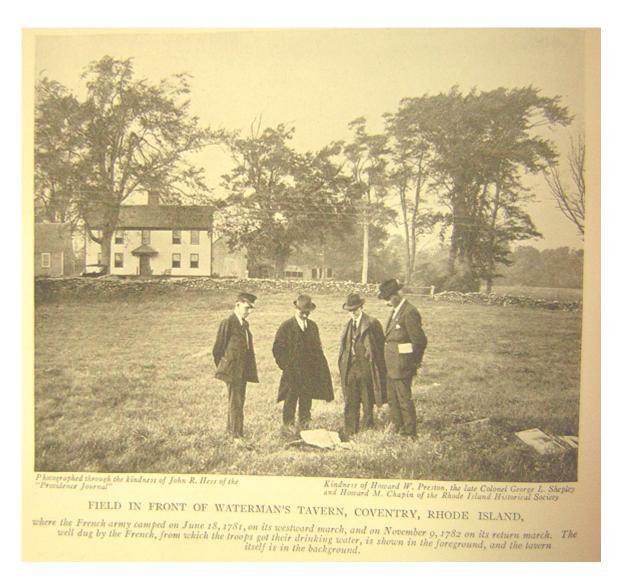
Name: Campground Plaque at Waterman's Tavern

Location: Maple Valley Road Coventry, RI

#### **Historical Significance:**

The following morning Rochambeau and the Bourbonnais 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.





Name: French Campground at Waterman's Tavern

Location: Maple Valley Road Coventry, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

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).

For a map of the encampment see Appendix 3: Roadmaps and Campsite Maps.

Name: French campsite

Location: Between Rochambeau Avenue, East Ave and Pawtucket Turnpike Providence, RI

# **Historical Significance:**

French forces encamped here from 13 November until 1 December, when the infantry began its march for Boston in regimental columns, beginning with the Bourbonnais 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.

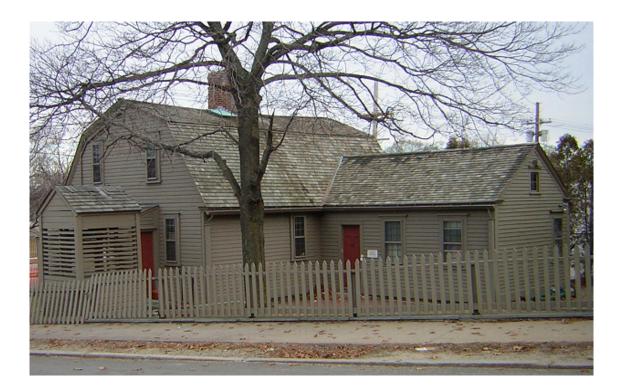


Name: Jeremiah Dexter Farmhouse

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

# **Historical Significance:**

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.



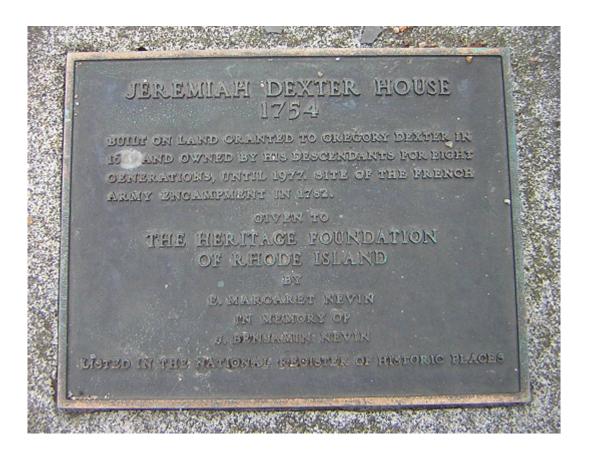
The Jeremiah Dexter Farmhouse is listed on the NHR and has served as the headquarters of Preserve Rhode Island since 2001.

Name: Rochambeau Army Marker

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

# **Historical Significance:**

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



Name: French Campsite Marker (1907)

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

# **Historical Significance:**

The marker commemorates the French camp of November 1782.



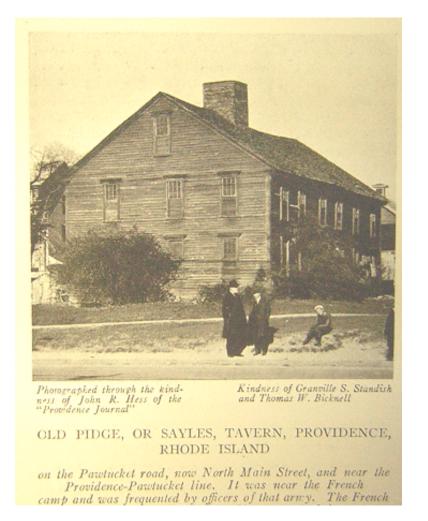
For a map of the encampment see Appendix 3: Roadmaps and Campsite Maps.

Name: Old Pidge or Sayles Tavern

Location: North Main Street Providence, RI

### **Historical Significance:**

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.



The tavern, located at 586 Pawtucket Avenue, is "supposed to have been built by the Sayles family in 1640. If true, this legend makes it the oldest house in" Rhode Island. "Two-and-a-half stories high, it is rectangular in plan with a red-brick chimney, off-center, straddling the roof ridge. It is supposed that the tavern had previously been square with a stone chimney, and that in 1767 it was lengthened to its present dimensions."

Name: General Nathanael Greene Homestead (c. 1774)

Location: 50 Taft Street Coventry, RI

#### **Historical Significance:**

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."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Blanchard, *Journal*, p. 81. There were two brothers Haacke, both captains, in the Royal Deux-Ponts. The chaplain has not been identified.