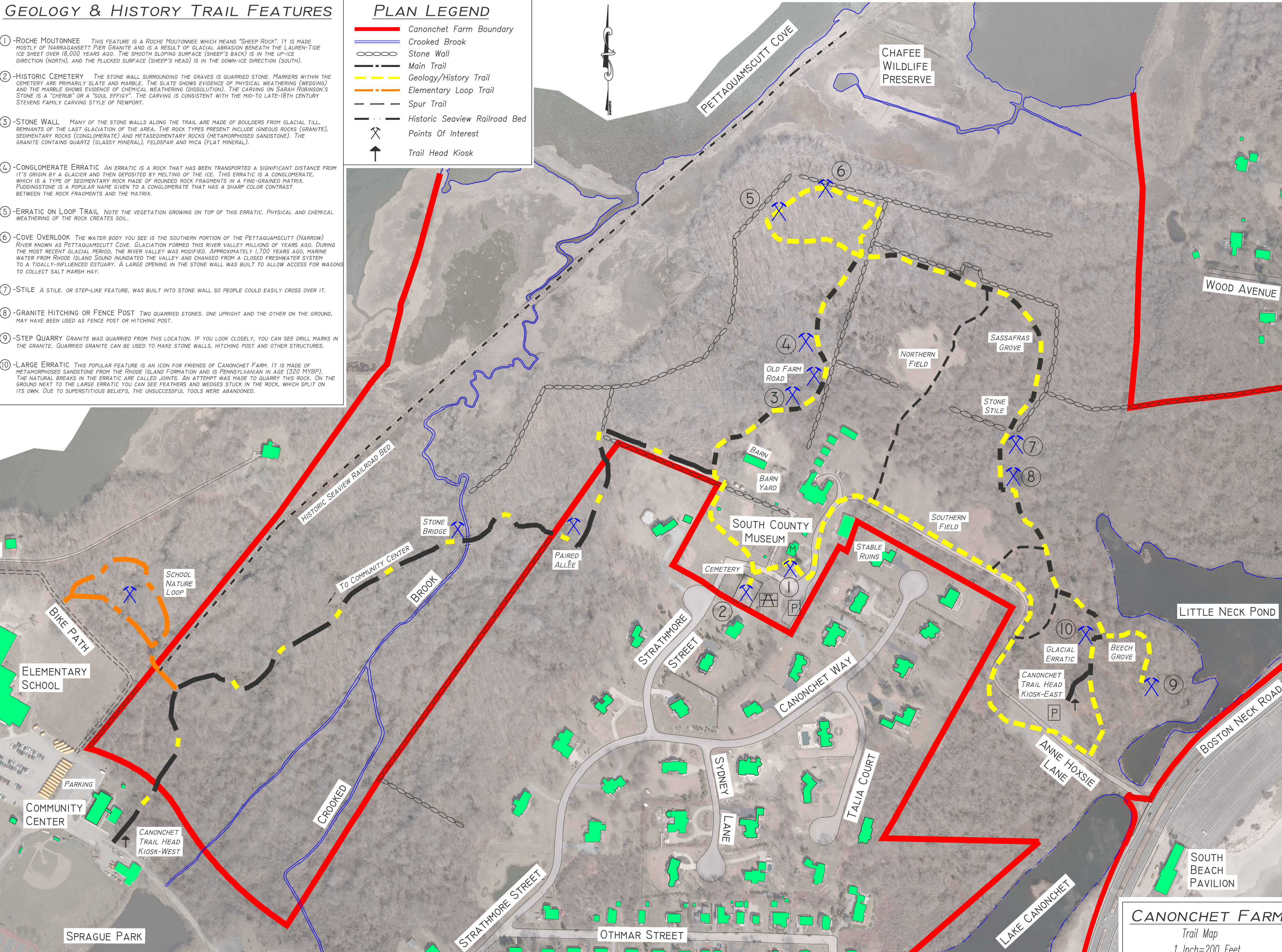


GEOLOGY & HISTORY TRAIL FEATURES

- ① -ROCHE MOUTONNEE THIS FEATURE IS A ROCHE MOUTONNEE WHICH MEANS "SHEEP ROCK". IT IS MADE MOSTLY OF NARRAGANSETT PIER GRANITE AND IS A RESULT OF GLACIAL ABRASION BENEATH THE LAUREN-TIDE ICE SHEET OVER 18,000 YEARS AGO. THE SMOOTH SLOPING SURFACE (SHEEP'S BACK) IS IN THE UP-ICE DIRECTION (NORTH), AND THE PLUCKED SURFACE (SHEEP'S HEAD) IS IN THE DOWN-ICE DIRECTION (SOUTH).
- ② -HISTORIC CEMETERY THE STONE WALL SURROUNDING THE GRAVES IS QUARRIED STONE. MARKERS WITHIN THE CEMETERY ARE PRIMARILY SLATE AND MARBLE. THE SLATE SHOWS EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL WEATHERING (WEDGING) AND THE MARBLE SHOWS EVIDENCE OF CHEMICAL WEATHERING (DISSOLUTION). THE CARVING ON SARAH ROBINSON'S STONE IS A "CHERUB" OR A "SOUL EFFIGY". THE CARVING IS CONSISTENT WITH THE MID-TO LATE-18TH CENTURY STEVENS FAMILY CARVING STYLE OF NEWPORT.
- ③ -STONE WALL MANY OF THE STONE WALLS ALONG THE TRAIL ARE MADE OF BOULDERS FROM GLACIAL TILL, REMNANTS OF THE LAST GLACIATION OF THE AREA. THE ROCK TYPES PRESENT INCLUDE IGNEOUS ROCKS (GRANITE), SEDIMENTARY ROCKS (CONGLOMERATE) METASEDENTARY ROCKS (METAMORPHOSED SANDSTONE). THE GRANITE CONTAINS QUARTZ (GLASSY MINERAL), FELDSPAR AND MICA (FLAT MINERAL).
- ④ -CONGLOMERATE ERRATIC AN ERRATIC IS A ROCK THAT HAS BEEN TRANSPORTED A SIGNIFICANT DISTANCE FROM IT'S ORIGIN BY A GLACIER AND THEN DEPOSITED BY MELTING OF THE ICE. THIS ERRATIC IS A CONGLOMERATE, WHICH IS A TYPE OF SEDIMENTARY ROCK MADE OF ROUNDED ROCK FRAGMENTS IN A FINE-GRAINED MATRIX. PUDDINGSTONE IS A POPULAR NAME GIVEN TO A CONGLOMERATE THAT HAS A SHARP COLOR CONTRAST BETWEEN THE ROCK FRAGMENTS AND THE MATRIX.
- ⑤ -ERRATIC ON LOOP TRAIL NOTE THE VEGETATION GROWING ON TOP OF THIS ERRATIC. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL WEATHERING OF THE ROCK CREATES SOIL.
- ⑥ -COVE OVERLOOK THE WATER BODY YOU SEE IS THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE PETTAQUAMSCUTT (NARROW) RIVER KNOWN AS PETTAQUAMSCUTT COVE. GLACIATION FORMED THIS RIVER VALLEY MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO. DURING THE MOST RECENT GLACIAL PERIOD, THE RIVER VALLEY WAS MODIFIED. APPROXIMATELY 1,700 YEARS AGO, MARINE WATER FROM RHODE ISLAND SOUND INUNDATED THE VALLEY AND CHANGED FROM A CLOSED FRESHWATER SYSTEM TO A TIDALLY-INFLUENCED ESTUARY. A LARGE OPENING IN THE STONE WALL WAS BUILT TO ALLOW ACCESS FOR WAGONS TO COLLECT SALT MARSH HAY.
- ⑦ -STILE A STILE, OR STEP-LIKE FEATURE, WAS BUILT INTO STONE WALL SO PEOPLE COULD EASILY CROSS OVER IT.
- ⑧ -GRANITE HITCHING OR FENCE POST TWO QUARRIED STONES. ONE UPRIGHT AND THE OTHER ON THE GROUND, MAY HAVE BEEN USED AS FENCE POST OR HITCHING POST.
- ⑨ -STEP QUARRY GRANITE WAS QUARRIED FROM THIS LOCATION. IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU CAN SEE DRILL MARKS IN THE GRANITE. QUARRIED GRANITE CAN BE USED TO MAKE STONE WALLS, HITCHING POST AND OTHER STRUCTURES.
- ⑩ -LARGE ERRATIC THIS POPULAR FEATURE IS AN ICON FOR FRIENDS OF CANONCHET FARM. IT IS MADE OF METAMORPHOSED SANDSTONE FROM THE RHODE ISLAND FORMATION AND IS PENNSYLVANIAN IN AGE (320 MYBP). THE NATURAL BREAKS IN THE ERRATIC ARE CALLED JOINTS. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO QUARRY THIS ROCK. ON THE GROUND NEXT TO THE LARGE ERRATIC YOU CAN SEE FEATHERS AND WEDGES STUCK IN THE ROCK, WHICH SPLIT ON ITS OWN. DUE TO SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS, THE UNSUCCESSFUL TOOLS WERE ABANDONED.



CANONCHET FARM
Trail Map
1 Inch=200 Feet