

CHURCH STREET (continued)

noteworthy is the arched entrance design with a heavy molded keyblock and fanlight, similar to 159 High Street and 259 and 843 Hope Street.

- *82 **BYRON DIMAN COTTAGE** (c. 1835, c. 1880s): This end-gable-roof Greek Revival cottage, with a projecting full-height Doric portico, is one of the two small temple-front houses in downtown Bristol (see 27 Cottage Street). Facade detailing includes unfluted columns without bases, paneled pilasters on all corners, and a heavy entablature ornamented with individual dentils running along the flanks. By 1903 a 1-1/2-story, gable-roof wing was added at the rear. Diman was a leading Bristol banker and trader who built and owned a number of rental properties throughout the town.

- *88 **THOMAS HOLMES HOUSE** (c. 1814): In 1833 Thomas Holmes, a carpenter, paid \$950 for this 2-1/2-story, 5-bay Federal house with paired interior chimneys. The entrance, probably a later addition, is a Greek Revival type with a paneled lintel above a 5-pane transom. Other window frames are trimmed with lintels. A large 2-1/2-story rear ell was added by 1873, when Thomas's son sold one-half of the property to his sister Mary E. Holmes. By 1903 two more ells were built on the rear. The date 1814 was found marked under a shingle during a 1970s restoration.

- *108 **METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARSONAGE/RICHARD PEARSE HOUSE** (1811): In 1805 the first Methodist Chapel was built on the southwest corner of the Bristol Common. In 1811 the Methodist Society constructed this 2-1/2-story, 5-bay, center-chimney Federal house for a parsonage at a total cost of \$1850. In 1818 the Society auctioned the house to pay its debts. It became the property of Captain Richard Pearse and remained in his family until 1930. Original window lintels and sills were removed with the addition of aluminum siding in the mid-1970s.

COLT STATE PARK

- * **COLT FARM/COLT STATE PARK** (c. 1905, et seq.): Samuel Pomeroy Colt (1855-1921), a Bristol industrialist, purchased three farms on Poppasquash Neck in 1905. The land included the site of the Bristol battery erected during the Revolution. Here Colt built a large, hip-roofed, shingled summer dwelling called The Casino. This house has been demolished; all that remains are two large urns which once flanked the entrance. Colt Farm was opened to the public in 1913.

Colt died in 1921. His will specified that Colt Farm not be sold and that it remain accessible to the public. Though he left a sum to operate the farm, it ran a deficit, and was leased to the Luther Brothers. The estate sold twenty-six acres north of Asylum Road to the Town as a beach. In 1957 Colt's heirs sought to void the will and requested court approval for a residential development on the farm. The objection of Colt's granddaughter, Elizabeth Colt Morey, who wished to use The Casino, prevented dissolution of the estate.

As early as 1935, the Metropolitan Park Commission recommended that the state buy Colt Farm. In 1965 after approval by Bristol voters, the state purchased 466 acres, creating the largest public park in upper Narragansett