

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: St. Paul's Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 76 Main Street, Wickford			
CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown			
STATE: Rhode Island, 02852	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: St. Paul's Church			
STREET AND NUMBER: 76 Main Street, Wickford			
CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown		STATE: Rhode Island, 02852	CODE 44
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Town Clerk			
STREET AND NUMBER: 80 Boston Neck Road			
CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown		STATE: Rhode Island, 02852	CODE 44
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:

STATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1847, was designed in the prevailing "carpenters'" Romanesque style by Thomas A. Tefft, who was instrumental in the local development of that style, many prominent features of which are displayed in this building. As a translation of the Georgian meeting-house type, the church in its original conception was reduced to the barest compositional elements. The architect's drawings indicate a six-bayed nave beneath a gable roof with a cupola near the front, at the gable peak. The existing structure, however, is more complex and picturesque: a tower with bell turret and clock-faces rises to the left of the projecting central entrance--part of the tripartite façade, and a narthex addition with rather crude detailing, further to the left (or east) completes the asymmetry. Horizontal clapboarding (recently replaced) tends to decrease the vertical effect of the front and of the tall, narrow arched openings and the corbel strips along the sides of the building. Wooden pilasters define the side bays; a rosette window in the front gable is a later insertion. (The contradictory and sometimes overly-assertive detailing found on the main church is absent on the small side chapel to the left: here, the door of the projecting entranceway is of proportionately small size;) Large arched corbel tables are the only decoration on the entry and on the nave, except for a small rosette window (now painted over).

The arch motif of the exterior is carried on inside the church: the side walls have pilasters and corbel tables; the altar railing, altar wainscoting, balcony railing and pews continue the blind-arch theme. The nave doors have heavy strap-hinges, as do the doors of the main exterior entrance. The balcony is supported frontally on thin cast-iron colonnettes and still contains some of the original pews--the pews now used by the congregation on the main floor below are approximate replicas. The walls, which were probably originally beige, are now painted green, and most of the original translucent glass of the windows has been replaced by modern stained glass. The pulpit, altar and Bible-stand are of woodwork dating from about 1890. Large wall plaques commemorate former parishioners but unfortunately disturb the rhythm of the bays. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the interior is the plain timber trussing of the ceiling, a reminder of the austerity of the original conception of the church. Recently refinished, this timbering may originally have been flat-painted, and the balcony-front--also refinished--grained. The church structure has been given minor alterations or occasional refurbishment in the ways mentioned, but the basic integrity of its architecture remains.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1847

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wickford is a well-preserved, if no longer pure, example of the re-use of Romanesque ecclesiogical architecture in the XIX Century by an architect who was not only in the mainstream of architectural development of the time, but who--a native Rhode Islander--gave his state many fine works during his short life (1826-1859). It is in this sense that St. Paul's Church is a monument worthy of care: although the Romanesque style was gaining popularity in the late forties, Tefft was unique in his devotion to this style. Simplifying the style without quite denaturing it, he adapted it for varied domestic, commercial and ecclesiogical purposes.

Tefft's talent has been described by Margaret Ruth Little in her thesis; The Architecture of a Lamented Genius, Thomas Alexander Tefft, submitted in 1971 to Brown University towards a master's degree:

[He was] not interested in ecclesiogical correctness, for his major concern was functionality. He advocated the creative interpretation of mediaeval styles, and felt that "... the adaptation of buildings to our present modes of worship with uninterrupted spaciousness and good acoustic qualities, has hardly been seriously attempted."

His contribution can be seen as one of functional adaptation of a mediaeval style to current needs and means. St. Paul's Church exhibits its spaciousness in its honest structural timbering and unhindered openness. With these, and its generous window areas, its simplified mode of decoration, it achieves what Miss Little terms a "looseness of massing" which here and in other Tefft buildings contributes to a flexible plan. St. Paul's Church deserves attention as a minor landmark of 19th-century architectural forms and freedom and as a major one in the small-scale townscape of Wickford.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Little, Margaret Ruth: The Architecture of a Lamented Genius, Thomas Alexander Tefft (Thesis for Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 1971), pp. 60-62. Unpublished; quoted with permission.
 Tefft, Thomas Alexander: Collection of original drawings of plans, elevations, perspective renderings in Brown University Archives, Providence, Rhode Island.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 34' 17.09" N	71° 26' 59.21" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 B. Christopher Bene, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: Sept. 15, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE RHODE ISLAND	
COUNTY WASHINGTON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: St. Paul's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

76 Main Street, Wickford

CITY OR TOWN:

North Kingston

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Hertfelder

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201,
265 Melrose Street, Providence, R.I. 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

exterior from the north-west



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Ross S. McElwee

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House,
90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from east, showing side-chapel and its entrance.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

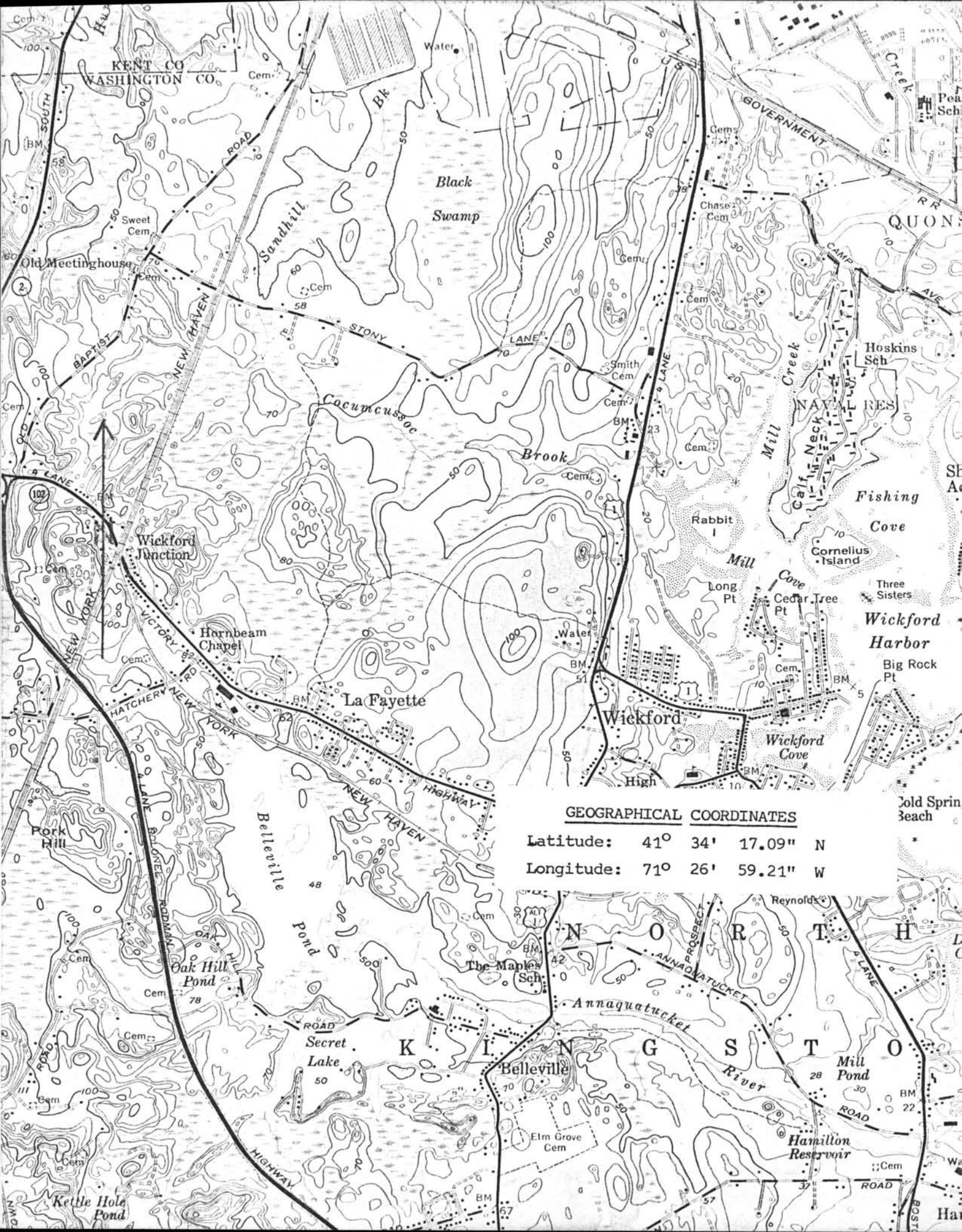
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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
interior of nave, looking north toward the choir loft			



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 34' 17.09" N
 Longitude: 71° 26' 59.21" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown.			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1957			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			