

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Palmer-Northrup House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
7919 Post Road, Wickford

CITY OR TOWN:
North Kingstown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02852 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Comments: _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Hiram Eliason

STREET AND NUMBER:
7919 Post Road, Wickford

CITY OR TOWN:
North Kingstown

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02852

CODE:
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
North Kingstown Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
80 Boston Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:
North Kingstown

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02852

CODE:
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940, 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two-story, gable-roofed, end-chimney house shown as "Hall's" on an estate map of 1802 and known as the Palmer-Northup house, near the Post Road just north of Wickford, is located in the immediate vicinity of the trading post Roger Williams established in 1638 and where soon after 1644 he built the permanent house he occupied for at least six years. It is adjacent to Smith's Castle, the trading post Richard Smith built at Cocumscussoc about 1641. Williams sold his trading post and other Cocumscussoc property to Smith in 1654, and there has been some confusion about the history of his house; but there is good reason to believe that the old part of the Palmer-Northup house may have been Williams's trading post and that it somehow--as Smith's Castle did not--survived the firebrands of King Philip's War.

As originally built, this part of the house, measuring only about 24' by 17', was a true gable-roofed, one-room, story-and-a-half "Rhode Island stone-ender," with a massive exposed stone chimney forming the major part of the northeast wall. Sometime before 1740 or 1745 the house was expanded on the south, raised to two full stories and covered with a new gabled roof; but the stone chimney--though increased in height by a new brick top--has retained its original form with cap intact.

The original low-ceiled kitchen-keeping room measuring approximately 16' by 18', with its exposed and chamfered girts and posts and its (now cased) summer beam about 12" by 12" in section and running at right angles to the chimney, has also survived with comparatively little alteration and serves as an authentic example of early building practice. Probably when the house was enlarged the massive fireplace opening was reduced in size, a bee-hive oven built in on the right side and new mantel facings added, but the original lintel--about 12" deep--is still in the chimney-breast. The present staircase to the upper chamber runs up from the original old entrance on the southwest wall and past the southeast corner of the original house, where part of its original corner-post, together with the brace beam and the original roof plate, combine to indicate the original half-story height of the old attic chamber. The post for the northeast corner--this one complete with its tenon and measuring 3'4" from the attic floor--can also still be seen behind an attic closet door.

As said above, sometime before 1740 or 1745 the house was expanded on the southeast, when two rooms, a dining room and a second room now serving as a kitchen, were added on the ground story and the whole was converted into a two-story house of about 33' by 24'. A new brick section was built on top of the original stone chimney to bring it above the new roofline, and a second chimney of brick was built against the old for fireplaces in the new dining room and the chamber above. The fireplaces in these new rooms are set diagonally across the room corners, a typical mid-eighteenth-century practice. The one-story mantel in the dining room

(See Continuation Sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century
- 15th Century
- 17th Century
- 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1640, 1740

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 17th-century character of the original interior, chimney and frame, and the deed from Roger Williams to Richard Smith, could establish this as a building from the first generation of settlement in Rhode Island. The house may well have been here before Cocumscussoc took its present shape and before the Indian war of 1675. As a trading post only a mile from the harbor landing which would become Updike's New Town (now Wickford), and across the trail from Cocumscussoc, it will have been an important station on a very old road which still serves the west coast of Narragansett Bay. Happily, this building was never thought of as large or important enough to warrant drastic restoration: therefore the character of the present interiors on the 1740 side of the house has survived, and the fireplace of the older side has not been restored to its original breadth and depth. Some exploration of the cavities in the chimney would be rewarding, as would an investigation of the largely-unexcavated area under the house. The floor framing was measured and drawn for the Historic American Buildings Survey plans of 1940.

The preservation of the Palmer-Northup house seems assured; its site is reasonably protected. With Cocumscussoc, it forms a small echo of some of the Massachusetts coastal-village associations of 17th-century buildings with 18th-century accretions, and it also echoes such an ecology as the Hempstead and Huguenot houses in New London, Connecticut.

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7. Description.

probably dates from after the Revolution, but the fireplace in the room above is finished with a panelled mantel-breast extending from floor to ceiling and belongs to the date of the house's enlargement. There is space on the floor between the upper reaches of the two chimneys to allow for a closet and a stairway to the new garret. Over the newer part of the house, the garret has a remarkable built-in room which utilizes for its uprights the braces of the rafters.

All the stairs appear to have been altered and are without architectural features. The original windows for the old part of the house have all been replaced, and the present windows (probably partly restorations by Norman Morrison Isham) vary from 12-over-12 and 9-over-9 to 6-over-6 sash. There are a number of early batten doors with long strap hinges and old latches, and the old kitchen fireplace has retained an 18th-century crane.

Externally the house is eye-catching because of its two chimneys of clearly different ages, its four completely different façades--none of which is symmetrical--and its picturesque placement in a disciplined enclave of stone walls within a wilderness of ledge and boulders.

Surrounding properties are largely state-owned--including an old burial-ground which may be that of the Palmer and Northup families--and are quite unlikely to suffer from modern subdivision; across the highway lies the protected estate of Cocumscussoc, the later home of Roger Williams's friend and buyer--this recently added to the National Register. The Palmer-Northrup house is occupied and well maintained by the present private owners.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Woodward, Carl R.: Plantation in Yankee Land (Chester, Connecticut, 1971).
 Isham, Norman M., and Wall, Albert F.: Early Rhode Island Houses (Providence, Rhode Island, 1900).

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 34.36.83	71 ° 27.40.95	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: slightly more than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Mrs. George E. Downing, Chairman; Winslow Ames, Member

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: July 3, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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CITY OR TOWN:

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STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior detail of exposed original stone chimney on the north-east front of the expanded house, showing added top stage of chimney in brick.

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Washington

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Not known

DATE OF PHOTO: C. 1940-1950; copy negative, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior, looking south and showing exposed stone chimney, with newer portion of the house and new chimney to the left.



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009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior, looking east and showing small added ell at left.



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CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Northeast side of original one-room portion of the house, showing hearth with oven behind door at right, exposed corner-post and girt, cased summer-beam.			



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North Kingstown

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CODE

114

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

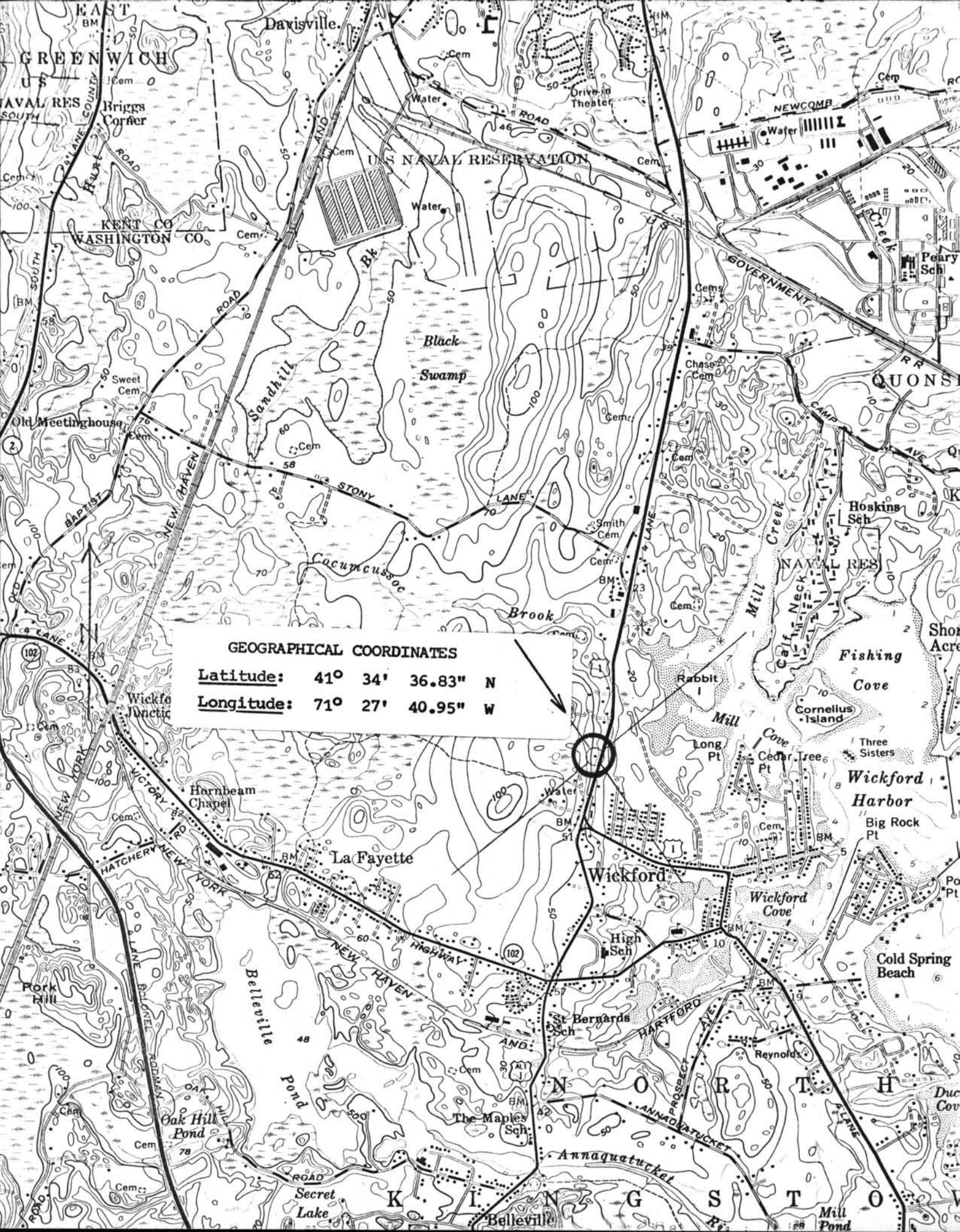
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

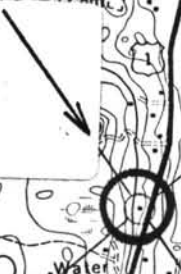
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of present dining-room in the later part of the house,
looking north and showing fireplace.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 34' 36.83" N
Longitude: 71° 27' 40.95" W



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7919 Post Road, Wickford			
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.			