

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:  
Smith's Castle

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Cocumscussoc, Smith (Richard) House, Updike House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Kingstown

STATE Rhode Island, 02852	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Cocumscussoc Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Kingstown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02852	CODE 44
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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
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Not yet so represented

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: 	CODE 
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" 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 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

Smith's Castle at Cocumscussoc holds an important place in Rhode Island for three reasons, covering three different periods in the state's history.

The original Smith's Castle, probably built in 1638 (and such a name was given at that time to a fortified dwelling) was a trading-post owned by Richard Smith. For almost fifty years the settlers and Indians lived together peacefully. Roger Williams, a close friend of Smith's, was largely responsible for this and has come to be closely associated with the first house.

Towards the end of Williams's life (he died in 1683), the friendly relations between whites and Indians deteriorated, resulting in what came to be called King Philip's War. In the autumn of 1675 the Narragansetts retreated to their fortified village in the Great Swamp near Kingston. In December of 1675 Smith's Castle became the military headquarters for the troops from Massachusetts, Plymouth and Connecticut. They departed from Cocumscussoc for the Great Swamp Fight, a major defeat for the Indians. Many of the dead and wounded were brought back to Smith's Castle, and forty of them are buried in a common grave near the house.

When the house was left undefended through the removal of troops, the Indians attacked in 1676, and the house was burnt. In 1678 it was rebuilt on the same site by Richard Smith, Jr., who died without issue in 1692 and left the property to his nephew, Lodowick Updike. Various members of the Updike family (who held the house until 1813) remodelled this house: it became a mansion and the social and political center of the area. The list of distinguished guests is long; but several names stand out, among them Benjamin Franklin, General Nathanael Greene and the Marquis de Lafayette. In addition, it was often a meeting-place for the leaders of the various New England colonies, where they discussed the many, varied and important affairs of their era.

Lived in continuously for almost three hundred years, Smith's Castle contains not only interesting examples of interior architecture and furnishings--the daily life--of the XVII and XVIII Centuries, but it also holds an important place in the history of Rhode Island and, indeed, of the whole country.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Downing, Antoinette F.: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 4, 25, 36, 39, 67, 79, 172, 174, 175, 195.  
 U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, 1937), pp. 330-331.  
 Isham, Norman M.: Papers at the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island.  
 Cady, John Hutchins: Papers at the Rhode Island Historical Society, 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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 35' 06" N	71° 27' 33" W		°	"	
NE	41° 35' 05" N	71° 27' 23" W				
SE	41° 34' 56" N	71° 27' 24" W				
SW	41° 24' 59" N	71° 27' 35" W				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: June 25, 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 <i>National Register</i> 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 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 <i>National Register</i>.</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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Smith's Castle lies on flat wood- and farmland overlooking at the east a winding inlet from Narragansett Bay. Its history--or at least that of its construction--goes back to a wooden block-house (fortified dwelling) erected c. 1638. This structure was burnt in 1676 during an Indian war and rebuilt by Richard Smith, Jr., in 1678, using some of the timbers salvaged from the original building. It is thought that the rebuilding produced a one-and-one-half-storey house of three-room plan, having a room at either side of a central chimney, and probably a rear kitchen ell. This second house, however, was greatly enlarged and elaborated by the Updike family, to whom it had devolved, in the 1740's. Daniel Updike apparently enlarged the house to a full five-room, two-storey plan (adding the rear corner rooms and possibly extending from this new rectangle a small, newer, rear ell). He was responsible for rebuilding the chimney, adding the staircase and remodelling the existing principal rooms with panelling, the casing of timbers, etc. The chief remains of the salvaged structural parts of the pre-1676 building and of the original interior appearance of its immediate successor are contained within the southern end of the present (XVIII-Century) house.

The house is now a gable-roofed, two-and-one-half-storey dwelling of farmhouse type set upon a stone basement; it has a strong timber frame, and its exterior walls are clapboarded (probably over inner siding of vertical boards). There is a wide moulded wooden water-table projecting prominently over the foundation. The entrance front, of five widely-spaced bays, faces east. The house is deep from front to back, causing the end gables to be rather spreading. Window openings are spaced in four bays on the south and are irregularly spaced on the north and west. Updike's enlarged, massive, central brick chimney remains. Exterior trim is that of the XVIII Century in its most simple form. Windows set in frames projecting well out from the clapboard facing are capped by the simplest of mouldings except under the prominent entablature of architrave and cornice, which breaks forward over each east and west second-floor window frame. Windows doubtless had sashes with more and smaller panes than those (six-over-six) now in place generally. The present front entrance is of modest federal type (a typical later fashionable "improvement"); it has a three-part arrangement of door and sidelights contained between slim, panelled pilasters; above runs a horizontal wooden strip with a false fanlight, and this is contained between stubby unpanelled pilasters supported on the attenuated ones below. Running across all are architrave, frieze and a decisive cornice. Projecting from the north end of the house's west front is a small one-storey gabled ell with a still smaller and later gabled ell tailed onto it. Also on the west front is a one-storey XIX-Century porch.

The first floor of the house contains a shallow entrance hall in front of the chimney, its shallowness caused by the stair to the second

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) - 1

STATE Rhode Island	
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(Number all entries)

## 7. Description.

floor, which rises in three right-angled runs against the big chimney. (Beneath the second run of this stair is a door opening on stone steps to the basement.) Stair trim is one of the few elaborate features of the interior and is of expected mid-XVIII-Century type. There are rounded newel and angle posts, moulded at top and bottom and carrying square cushion caps. The handrail is supported by three simply-turned balusters at each step. At the end of each tread is a moulding, a below it a flat, scrolled, sawn appliqué. The underside of the third run is panelled, the paired panels having arches, slightly indented from the outer corners of the panels, forming their tops. There are pendants of early type at the bottoms of the stair's angle posts.

Left of the entry is a large room, with fireplace, extending half-way to the rear of the house. Walls here are of matched and moulded sheathing, unpainted (though perhaps only one sheathing-board is original and the rest were made to match it during restoration); the crossed summer-beams show chamfering and lamb's-tongues. This room now displays its treatment as of the first rebuilding, for after much study by the late Norman M. Isham and the late John Hutchins Cady, Providence architects and architectural historians, later panelling, casing-in of beams etc. were removed in 1951-1956 so as to show and emphasise one portion of this house in its original appearance of structure and trim. To the rear, or west, of this room are a small and customary south-west corner chamber (now a lavatory) and a passage to the rear door.

North of this passage and taking up most of the rear of the house is the kitchen or "keeping-room," thought to have been the ell in the XVII Century. The deep hearth, about eight feet in width and with two beehive ovens at its rear, was made--with some rebuilding--its present size during the 1951-1956 restorations supervised by Cady. Beyond the north wall of this kitchen is a narrow stair running to second floor and garret; and beyond this is now a small modern kitchen from which the presently standing and much later ell (custodian's quarters) is entered. The north-east room, part of the XVII-Century house, is now treated as a dining-room. Here, the 17thO casings and overlay were not removed in the restoration of the 1950's. This room has raised, or bolection, panelling to dado height with plaster above on three sides; the fireplace (south) wall is completely panelled (17thO's), with short stretches of bolection moulding between upper and lower panels, at dado or chair-rail height. Doors have moulded architraves.

The second-floor plan is a duplicate of that below, except that there is no passage to a rear exit. On this floor the south-west chamber is panelled in a manner like that of the dining-room, and corner-posts were generally encased on this floor. However, one gunstock-shaped corner-post in the south-west room has been partially uncovered to reveal a

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

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7. Description.

portion of the building's most ancient construction. In the undivided garret space, each rafter has a vertical brace (old, but perhaps not as old as the main roof structure itself) at a point about one-third of its run up from eave to ridge; these props rest upon long horizontal timbers running the length of the garret's floor, and they may have become a necessity due to the aforementioned wide spread of the gables.

Over a long period of residential occupation the house did not suffer greatly from alterations (though at some time the gables were truncated or hipped, but have since been restored to original form). In 1948 Smith's Castle was acquired by the Cocumscussoc Association, which soon began a program of repair and restoration under well-chosen guidance. Appropriate paint colours have been used outside, and furnishings in consonance with the rooms which they occupy have been brought in. A fenced XVIII-Century garden has been created at one end of an arbour which runs the length of the house's east front. There are no outbuildings remaining. There is an historic burial-ground to the north of the house, and a small island in the inlet upon which Smith's Castle fronts is in possession of the Cocumscussoc Association.



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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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Smith's Castle

AND/OR HISTORIC: Cocumscussoc, Smith (Richard) House, Updike House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Post Road

CITY OR TOWN:

North Kingstown

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles L. Booth

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cocumscussoc Association, Post Road,  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island, 02852

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Dining-room, looking north-east.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Post Road			
CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Charles L. Booth			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cocumscussoc Association, Post Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, 02852			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Hearth in kitchen or keeping-room.			



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Post Road			
CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Lorenzo Kinney			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Lorenzo Kinney, Kingston, Rhode Island.			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Main stairway.			



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North Kingstown

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Lorenzo Kinney

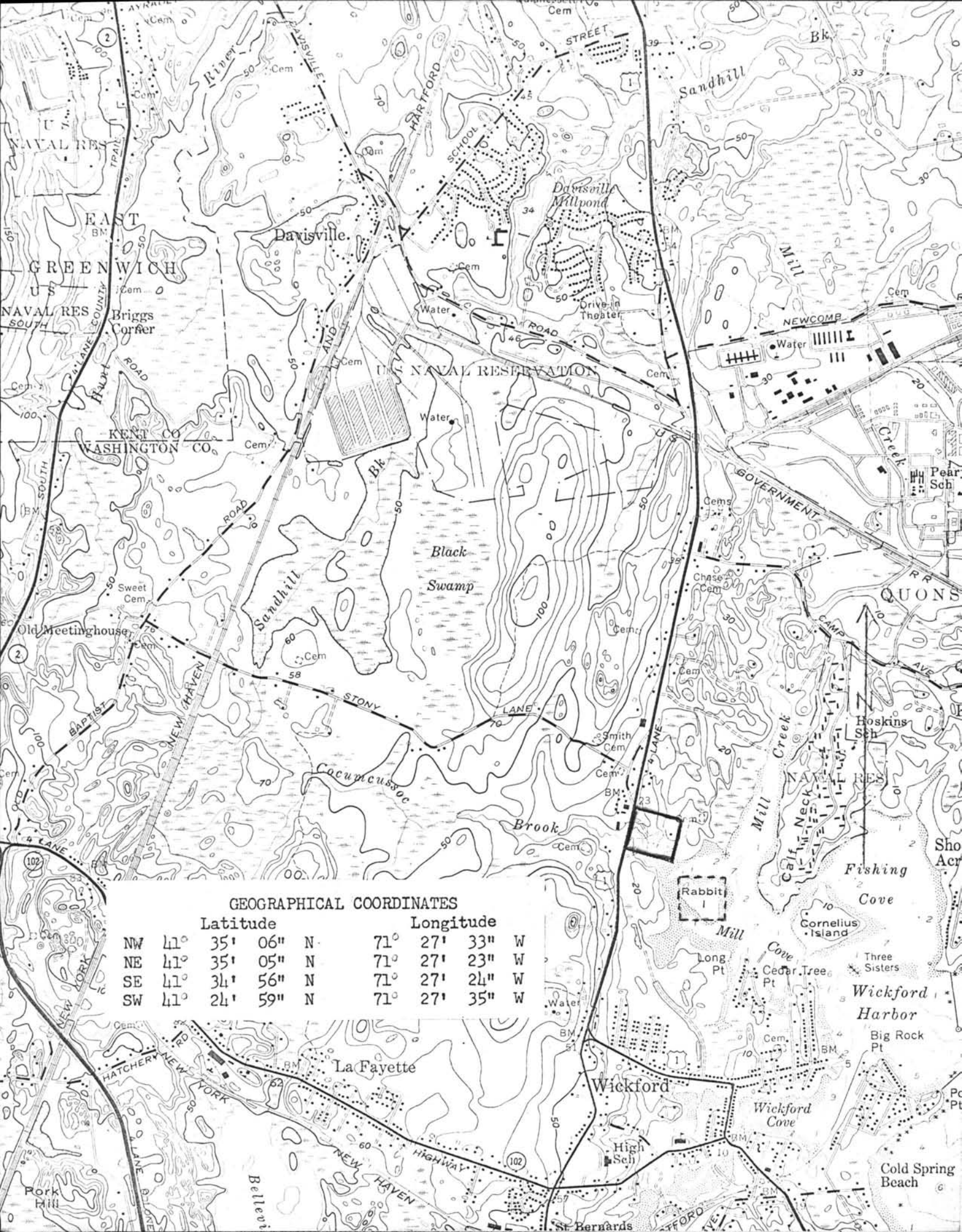
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Lorenzo Kinney, Kingston, Rhode Island

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Early structural upright timber now exposed in south-west chamber on second floor.



**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES**

	Latitude			Longitude		
NW	41°	35'	06" N	71°	27'	33" W
NE	41°	35'	05" N	71°	27'	23" W
SE	41°	34'	56" N	71°	27'	24" W
SW	41°	24'	59" N	71°	27'	35" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Road  
CITY OR TOWN:  
North Kingstown  
STATE: Rhode Island, 02852      CODE 111      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.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Kingstown

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE

441

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles L. Booth

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cocumscussoc Association, Post Road,  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island, 02852

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from the south-east, showing entrance front.



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles L. Booth

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cocumscussoc Association, Post Road,  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island, 02852

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Hearth in kitchen or keeping-room.