

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Joseph Spaulding House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

30 Fruit Street

CITY, TOWN

Pawtucket

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1 Ferdinand St. Germain

STATE

Rhode Island

VICINITY OF

44

COUNTY

Providence

CODE

007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Johnson

STREET & NUMBER

30 Fruit Street

CITY, TOWN

Pawtucket

VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pawtucket City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

137 Roosevelt Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pawtucket

STATE

Rhode Island

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

not so represented

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph Spaulding house of 1828 stands on a slight rise in an old residential section of Pawtucket near the city center. It originally overlooked the Blackstone River and the historic Slater and Wilkinson mills; but Interstate Route 95 has recently cut through this section (several blocks to the north and west of the house), obscuring both the view and the neighborhood's close historic relationship to the rest of the city.

The Spaulding house faces due south and is set back only slightly from the sidewalk of Fruit Street, at its northeast corner with South Street. It is a five-bay, story-and-a-half, clapboarded structure with a large central brick chimney and full basement. This basement, with thick dry-stone walls, has always been used as a ground floor and has a full-height door opening on the west wall, where the land slopes away to the north and west. A one-story gambleroofted ell was added on the north about 1850.

The original section of the house has crisp federal detailing within and without. The front facade has four six-over-six double-hung windows (modern sash) with flat frames evenly spaced flanking the central door. One of the few significant alterations to the house was the removal of the original door-frame and the addition of a flat Victorian hood supported by sawn consoles. The present owners, after careful structural analysis, have restored the door frame to the federal style copied from a contemporaneous house nearby at 316 Roosevelt Avenue. Slender paired panelled Doric pilasters, separated by four-paned sidelights, flank the six-panel door (also a restoration, copied from the original front door which had been cut down for use in the basement). Above the lights and door is a wide entablature with triple molded architrave and molded cornice framed into and matching the original cornice of the house. The vertical line established by the pilasters is continued by raised panels with incised herringbone patterns in the frieze, around which the architrave and cornice moldings break out and flare.

Within, the house follows with one slight variation the five-room floor plan typical of central-chimney houses. In the generous entry hall a short curving staircase with curly

(See Continuation Sheet # 1)

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maple stair treads, rises to the second floor. Its arched hand-rail, on slender rectangular balusters, and interior baseboard echo the curve of the staircase itself. The space beneath the stairs, originally open, was closed in when a staircase to the cellar was installed here about 1840, when the house held two families.

The southwest parlor has the finest detail of any in the house, retaining the original molded chair-rails and baseboards, the complex molded six-panelled doors, the built-in full-height cupboard on the north wall, and the elegantly-detailed mantel. This mantel has slender paired engaged Doric columns on each side of the fireplace opening, which support a wide flat entablature with raised end panels which continue the vertical line of the columns and flare boldly into a series of complex moldings breaking out above them and swelling up to the mantel shelf itself. This use of complex cornice moldings to cap the vertical line established by the columns is similar to the restoration of the front door. The baroque boldness and flare of these molding contrasts effectively with the federal delicacy of the columns.

The southeast parlor suffered several alterations, most of which have been undone by the present owners. In the Victorian period a black marble firefront was inserted in the original fireplace opening and the walls were replastered. In the mid-twentieth century bookcases set upon enclosed cupboards were installed on the full width of the east wall. Current restoration work has retained these bookcases, but has removed the firefront, uncovered the original, open, slant-back cupboard above the fireplace, and installed a new molded mantel shelf and fireplace wall panelling appropriate to the period of the house.

Behind this parlor is what was originally a small simply-appointed bedroom. At its rear is the back entry hall leading to the 1850 north wing which housed a new kitchen. West of the bedroom is the back staircase to the second floor. The stairs to the basement were originally placed directly beneath, but were relocated about 1840, and the space reused for a closet.

Victorian period alterations to the original kitchen, the central north room (see floor plan), made careful analysis and restoration work necessary. The original fireplace, with bake-oven and wood-storage compartment beside it, had been plastered

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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over and the hearth removed. Recent work has included opening the fireplace and installing a simple mantel copied from the original mantel in the basement summer kitchen. In addition, the hearth has been rebuilt with old brick rescued from a contemporary Pawtucket house demolished in 1957.

Occupying the northwest corner of the house is a fairly small room which was originally divided in two the most northerly section serving as a pantry or buttery and the other as a weaving room.

The second floor originally consisted of four bedrooms, (one with a small fireplace,) and an open storage room with original built-in closet behind the chimney. A partition added about 1840, perpendicular to the north face of the chimney, has recently been removed to restore this original configuration.

One of the most interesting aspects of Joseph Spaulding's house is the basement. The eastern half of the basement has small high window openings and was used as a root cellar. Because of the slope of the land, however, the western half of the basement has normal-sized double-hung windows, and was used from the start as a summer kitchen, with a small entry room and a pantry accessible on the north. Originally lathed and plastered, the kitchen and the pantry both retain their early finish. The windowless pantry is still lined with wide hand-planed shelves; and the summer kitchen still displays in fine condition (now that the modern heating ducts have been re-routed) its generous hearth, cooking fireplace, and beehive bake oven. The simple mantel, with its broad flat surround defined by a crisp applied molding strip and molded shelf, served as the model for the upstairs kitchen mantel restoration.

Old stone foundations extend to the north of the original house, and partly under the 1850 ell, suggesting the existence, in Spaulding's day, of some kind of shed extension, possibly for the chaise Spaulding is known to have owned. Whatever other structures may have stood on the property have long since vanished. Much of Spaulding's original tract of land, which stretched several blocks northward, has been sold for development and heavily

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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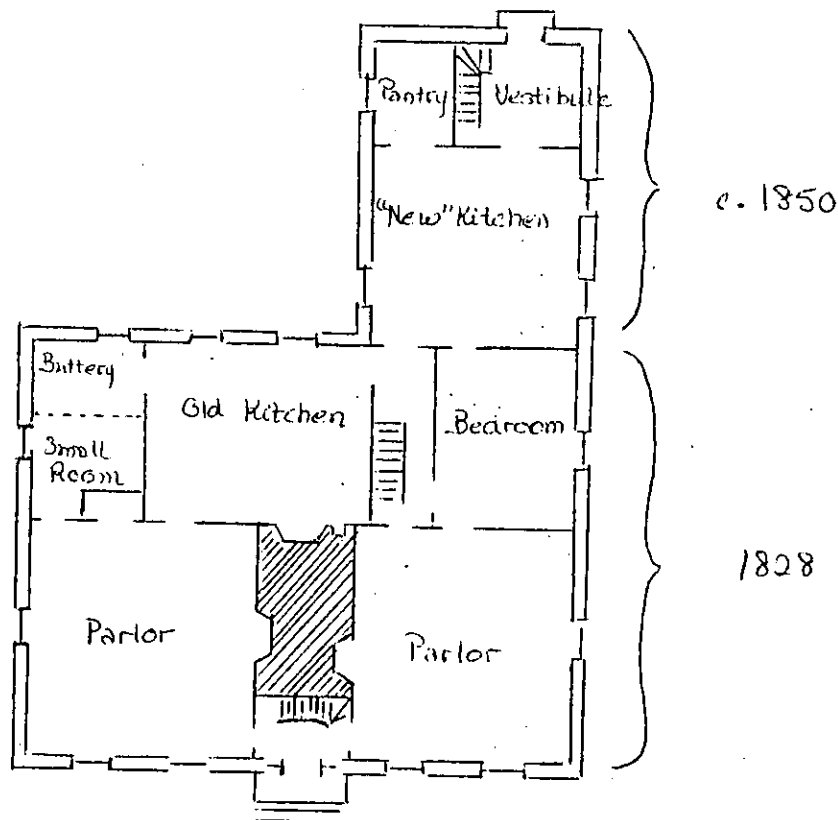
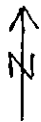
CONTINUATION SHEET 3

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built up. Except for a terrace and lawn on the west, Joseph Spaulding's house is closely surrounded by other, generally later, city dwellings.

The Spaulding House fortunately has escaped the blight of alteration and deterioration which so often occur in older city neighborhoods. It stands today handsomely restored and one of Pawtucket's best-cared-for federal style buildings.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1828; c. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Urban renewal in residential areas and in the heart of Pawtucket, and the cutting through of Interstate Route 95, have removed many of the city's older structures. Those that remain are generally in sadly altered or deteriorated condition, or in isolated and/or dislocated neighborhoods. Fortunately Joseph Spaulding's handsome and well-built house of 1828 stands in its original location and is now excellently restored.

Its present owners in extensive research have established that Joseph Spaulding was born (in 1797) and educated in Plainfield, Connecticut. Upon graduation from Plainfield Academy in 1815 he moved with his mother to what was then Seekonk, Massachusetts, where he entered a five-year apprenticeship with Amos Read of Pawtucket to learn the trade of cabinetmaking. For a short period therefore, he had a "Cabinet and Chair Maker's Shop" at "Seekonk Cove," which premises he advertised for sale in 1822.

In 1823 he leased land in Pawtucket to set up a cabinet maker's shop there. Pawtucket was then the heart of the industrial revolution in America, a prosperous and expanding town where his products would sell easily and where he might entice some clientele from Providence as well. He evidently did well, for in 1826 he bought out Amos Read's ware room and shop-- which, according to Spaulding's advertisement of July 8, 1826 in the Pawtucket Chronicle, were located " a few rods east of the Bridge (over the Blackstone River) ... and shop, a short distance further south." At the same time advertised for six or eight "Journeyman Cabinet Makers and a lad from 14 to 16 years of age as an Apprentice." Spaulding's business continued to prosper until 1839, when ill health forced him to give it up and move back to the family homestead in Plainfield, where he died in 1870.

(See Continuation Sheet # 4)

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Spaulding was a contemporary of the locally noted master builder Clark Sayles. He was also one of the fifteen charter members of the Pawtucket Congregational Society, which on its founding in 1828, was the first Congregational Society in the Village of Pawtucket. (Pawtucket, at this time and until the agreement of 1862, was a part of Massachusetts). Spaulding is mentioned in Wendell D. Garrett's article, "Providence cabinet makers, chairmakers, upholsterers, and allied craftsmen, 1756-1838" (Antiques, October, 1966), as one of a large group of recently recognized cabinet makers who worked in and around Providence following the shift of political, commercial, and educational leadership within Rhode Island from Newport to Providence in the wake of the Revolutionary War.

To some extent, at least, Joseph Spaulding was involved in the actual design and building of his house. Evidence of his skill as a cabinetmaker can be seen throughout the house. The front staircase in particular, bears witness to his craft in the way the stairs are bevelled and framed into the string courses at an angle, in the use of the fine curly maple for the treads (instead of for its decorative value in a piece of furniture), and in the various curving lines of the staircase itself, the baseboard, and the arching hand rail. The fine details of the southwest parlor -- particularly the mantel, the complex moldings of the door panels, and the inside shutters -- and the original built-in clothes closet upstairs are also mute testimony to Spaulding's skill and thoughtfulness as a "carpenter-builder."

Elias Tingley, a carpenter and builder who came from Cumberland in 1832 to help rebuild the Main Street Bridge, bought Spaulding's house from him in 1839 and promptly sold half of it -- specifically, the eastern half of the house, the use of the front hall, and the northern half of the cellar -- to his son-in-law, blacksmith, Hiram Carter. This division of the house accounts for a number of the alterations in the main house previously described: the relocation of the cellar stairs and the partition added on the second floor behind the chimney stack.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

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The house remained in the Tingley family until 1918, when it was purchased by Frederick Ratcliffe, whose grand-daughter now resides there with her husband. The Johnsons, with the advice and assistance of restoration housewright Gene Cadorette (coincidentally, also of Cumberland, Rhode Island) have thoughtfully and carefully restored the house to its present fine condition, a condition Joseph Spaulding would have recognized and approved, and one which strongly commends the house for entry on the National Register.



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PAGE 2

- 3.) Pawtucket Chronicle (Pawtucket, Massachusetts) 1826-1839  
passim
- 4.) Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Probate and hand Records.  
(In City Clerk's Office, Pawtucket, Massachusetts)  
1863-1918 passim.
- 5.) "Records of the Pawtucket Congregational Society"  
(Handwritten manuscript in possession of the Pawtucket  
Congregational Church, beginning February 2, 1828).
- 6.) Spaulding, Charles Warren, A. M. : The Spaulding Memorial  
(American Publishers' Association, Chicago, 1897).

(Deed Records, Taunton, Mass. Book 122-00 555-56  
August 21, 1827 \$250 lot at corner of South and  
Robinson Streets from Dan (iel) Robinson)  
Probate Records, Taunton -- 6k 80 p. 483 quince trees  
mentioned ( $\frac{1}{2}$  quinces left to Mary Munroe by father)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1.) "Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate and hand Records"  
(In Town Clerk's Office, Taunton, Massachusetts)  
1823-1862
- 2.) "Garret, Wendell D. "Providence Cabinetmakers, Chairmakers,  
Upholsterers, and Allied Craftsmen, 1756-1838" (Antiques  
October, 1966). (See Continuation Sheet # 6)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	30,2	45,0	4,6	3,8	30,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Richard B. Harrington and Ancelin V. Lynch

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission December, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

150 Benefit Street

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Providence

Rhode Island

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE   X  

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Joseph Spaulding House

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CITY, TOWN

Pawtucket

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Providence

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Ancelin V. Lynch

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

September, 1975

**4** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Exterior from the south-east, showing later ell  
at far right.

PHOTO NO.

1



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**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Louis Federici

DATE OF PHOTO

June, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Front staircase, showing skillful use of curving lines  
(in handrail, baseboard, and staircase) and use of curly  
maple cabinet wood for stair treads.

2



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PHOTO CREDIT

Louis Federici

DATE OF PHOTO

June, 1975

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Mantel in south-west room, first floor.

PHOTO NO.

3





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Preservation Commission

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View toward the east in the summer kitchen

PHOTO NO.

4

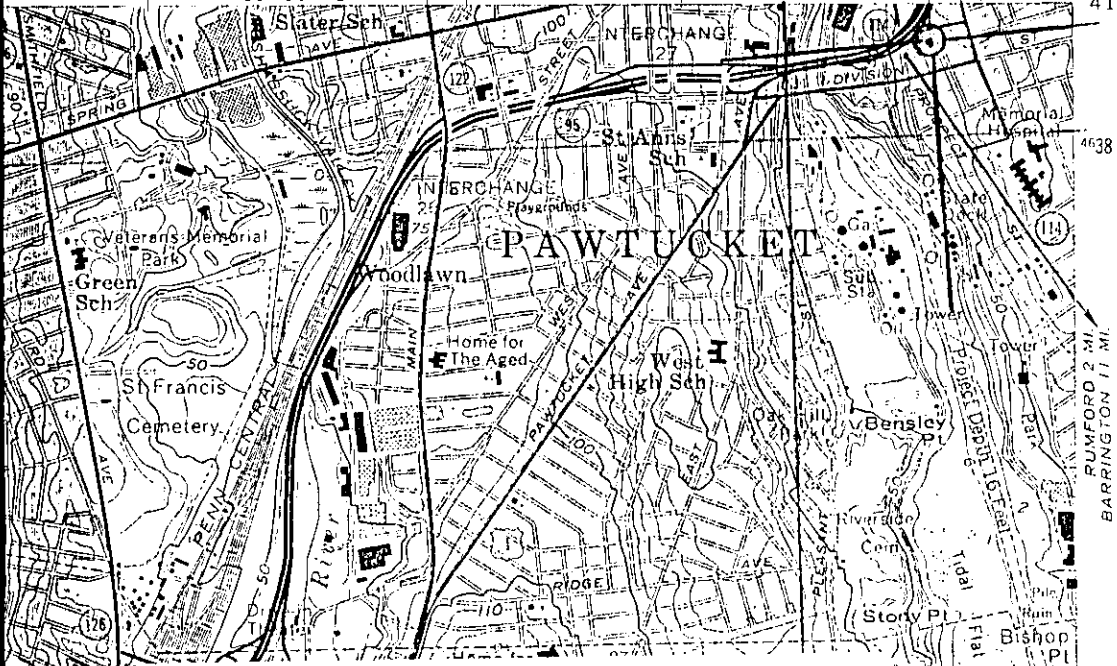
PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE  
RHODE ISLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

BOSTON, MASS 40 MI.  
SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS. 2.2 MI.  
1530 00 FEET

67° 14' NE  
(ATTLEBORO)

WOONSOCKET 12 MI.  
LONSDALE 2.6 MI.

71° 22' 30"  
41° 52' 30"

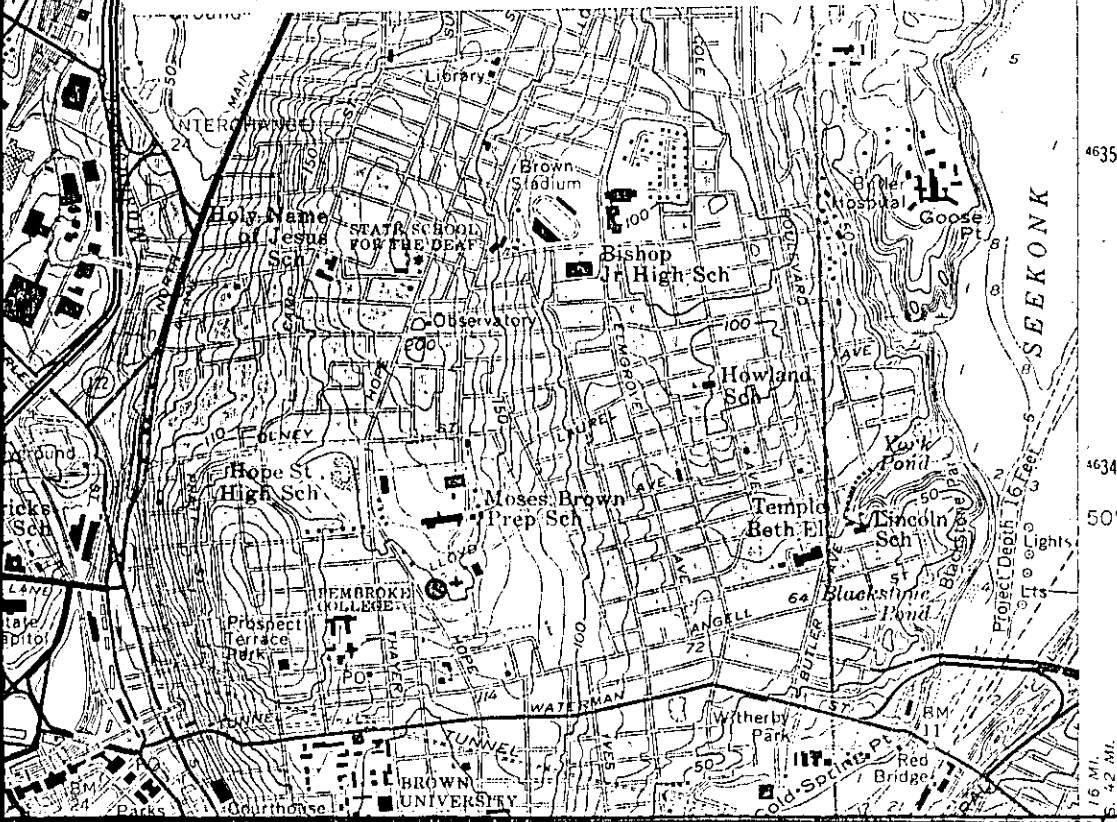


Joseph Spaulding House

19 . 302450 . 4638300

RUMFORD 2 MI.  
BARRINGTON 11 MI.

4636  
280 000  
FEET



4635

4634

50'

1.6 MI.  
2.2 MI.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

**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
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES