

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Gardner House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Haile (Joseph) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
106 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02912

CODE: 44

COUNTY: Providence

CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
		Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" 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"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Guest house of Brown	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	University	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Brown University

STREET AND NUMBER:
Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02912

CODE:
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance Street at Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE:
44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962

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:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

This house was built in 1806 for Joseph Haile, a mason, and is a free-standing, four-square, brick townhouse typical of the federal period. It is unusually tall, however, having three-and-a-half stories as well as a high basement due to its hillside location. It is in excellent condition, thanks to the careful restoration undertaken by Dr. and Mrs. George Warren Gardner in the 1930's and to the endowment they provided for its maintenance. They added the fine one-story Ionic entrance porch of wood (either carefully copied or else salvaged from a house of the correct period) on the south, or front, elevation. They were responsible, too, for the addition of almost all of the splendid interior woodwork, which is of a quality equal to or greater than that which the house originally had possessed.

The house faces south on George Street, and its main block measures 40 feet by 38 feet. The windows of the five-bay front are capped by flat brick arches and are vertically graduated in size. The foundations are of brick on the front and of stone on the sides. The unpedimented Ionic entrance porch is on a brownstone platform and has fluted front columns with pilaster responds, and a full entablature surmounted by a turned balustrade. The doorway has an elliptical leaded fanlight and sidelights with a leaded arrangement of alternating oval and flared-diamond motifs.

The house currently has four chimneys: three in the outside walls of the block of the house and one in the two-story wooden wing to the rear, which was added sometime after 1817 but probably not later than 1850. It is more than likely that originally there was a fourth chimney in the main block of the house, located on the northwest back section and corresponding to the chimney remaining on the northeast back. Above a molded and dentilled cornice, a hipped roof carries a high and roomy monitor.

Within, the house was originally of the four-room, center-hall plan. Each room had its own fireplace and chimney, one each in the west and east (side) walls and two in the north (back) wall. The first floor was modified by the Gardners, who removed ~~the~~ the dividing wall between the two western rooms to create one large library-living room with a rear entrance hallway behind it on the northwest. They also added the arched window at the end of the central hallway. The parlor and dining room, at the southeast and northeast respectively, remain as they probably were originally. The kitchen in current use occupies the wing to the rear at first-floor level, although the original basement kitchen has been reconstructed with plaster walls, exposed summer beam and corner posts, slate floor, and wide hearth.

In the central hallway the staircase rises in an open well in a graceful L-shape with a short leg at the top. It is entirely original,

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

with an open string, delicate sawn scroll step-end ornaments, a handsomely molded handrail, and simple rectangular balusters, three to a step. Bedrooms, largely following the plan of the first floor, occupy the second, third, and fourth floors.

Outstanding in this house is its woodwork: its staircase, molded chair rails, cornices, and fireplace treatments. A few of the cornices--molded, fretted, dentilled, or reeded--are original to the house. (Notable is the heavy bolection-molding cornice in the central hall.) Most of the door and window surrounds are original; but the fireplace treatments, at least on the first and second floors, are not, and were installed by the Gardners, who rescued from the wrecking companies of Providence the mantels, overmantels, surrounds, and tiles of appropriate period which were used to restore these in the 1930's.

The fireplace in the living room, with its molded crossetted surround, molded mantel shelf above a fret, and its Delft tiles, is perhaps the finest in the house. The fireplace in the dining room is also a fine one, with its marble facing, its high panelled entablature in the mantel, and its simple panelled overmantel. In the parlor the fireplace displays engaged colonnettes and a projecting molded mantel shelf with reeded fascia. The cornices in these two rooms are skillfully coordinated with the woodwork and fireplace treatments--delicately reeded in the dining room and heavily dentilled in the parlor. On the second floor, the southwest bedroom deserves mention for its bolection-molding cornice, panelled interior shutters, and fine fireplace treatment with a simple columned mantel and a single-panel overmantel.

The flooring of the first and second stories is modern oak laid over the original pine. On the third story the floors are original and are now painted with a spatter technique. On the fourth floor the old pine boards are unpainted.

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)

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

In their restoration and refurbishing of the Joseph Haile house, it was the intent of Dr. and Mrs. Gardner to create a distinguished museum house that could serve as a fitting setting for their own distinguished collections of early furniture and paintings. Thus, the installation of fine interior woodwork from other buildings (and even of a new entrance porch of correct style) is essentially an addition to--and a showcase for--the collections; and the whole complex as we now see it represents the thinking of many collectors and restorationists of the Gardners' day, which differed from the early approaches of the Colonial Revival in the 1890's and 1900's and which may differ from the viewpoints and techniques of the 1970's. The house was planned as a gift to Brown University and is protected from major change by the terms of an agreement signed by the university in 1932. Presently, it serves as a house for guests of the university. The collection of furniture which it contains is an excellent one, the result of generations of collecting by Mrs. Gardner and her family. It spans the periods from William and Mary through Sheraton and Empire.

Although the interior of the house as Joseph Haile built it was undoubtedly a good deal simpler than it now appears, what the Gardners' restoration lacked in absolute original authenticity, it more than made up for in the excellence of the additions and the quality of the contents. The fact that the handsome exterior, the very fine old woodwork and the beautiful antique furnishings are preserved aesthetically together renders the Joseph Haile house a most valuable museum.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Overby, Osmund R.: Historic American Buildings Survey, RI-197 (1962).

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° 49' 31.80" N	71° 29' 09.13" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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:
Ancelin V. Lynch, Surveyor-Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: Dec. 24, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903

CODE: 44

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

COUNTY

Providence

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Gardner House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Haile (Joseph) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

106 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Brown University

DATE OF PHOTO: C. 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory,
Providence, Rhode Island, 02912**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior seen from the south-east.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Gardner House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Haile (Joseph) House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 106 George Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Laurence E. Tilley, for Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1958			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Tilley, 58 the Arcade, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Detail of main staircase.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Laurence E. Tilley, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: 1958

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Tilley, 58 the Arcade, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Living-room fireplace.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 49' 31.80" N
Longitude: 71° 29' 9.13" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Gardner House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Haile (Joseph) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
106 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 111	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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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.