

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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**1. Name of Property**

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historic name: Red House

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Location**

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street & number: 2403 Post Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: South Kingstown

vicinity: N/A

state: RI

county: Washington

code: 009

zip code: 02879

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**3. Classification**

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: Single-family Houses in Rhode Island, 1636-present

Property name Red House, Washington County, South Kingstown, RI

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Frederick C. Williamson

9/30/96  
Date

Signature of certifying official

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- \_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- \_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>

Property name Red House, Washington County, South Kingstown, RI

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

COLONIAL

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation STONE/Granite roof WOOD/Shingle  
walls WOOD/Clapboard other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1732

Significant Dates: ca. 1732

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Red House, Washington County, South Kingstown, RI

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>285100</u>	<u>4586220</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Virginia H. Adams, Senior Architectural Historian; and Catherine deJarnette Vieth, Assistant Architectural Historian

Organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. Date: Sept. 1995

Street & Number: 210 Lonsdale Avenue Telephone: (401) 728-8780  
City or Town: Pawtucket State: RI ZIP: 02860

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### Description

The Red House at 2403 Post Road is a 2-1/2-story, 4-by-2 bay, flank-gable, 18th-century house with an off-center brick chimney with a corbelled cap and an end-gable kitchen ell extending two bays to the rear (north). The house is situated at the northwest corner of Post Road and Red House Lane on a small, landscaped lot and faces south. It has undergone a complete and careful restoration over the past eight years. The house is clad in relatively new wood clapboard with wood cornice returns and simple wood trim. The roof is covered in new wood shingles. The ledged tongue-and-groove door, located off-center on the facade (south), has a plain surround with a projecting splayed lintel and a granite block step. The foundation is also granite block. The windows are replaced 12/12 double-hung sash with projecting wood frames, lintels, and sills. The second floor windows are framed into the roof cornice. Prior to renovation, the house was sheathed in wood shingle with asphalt roof shingles and a hipped-roof front porch. The windows had been altered to 2/2 double hung sash with the exception of one original 12/12 window on the second story of the north elevation. The replacement windows and window surrounds are copies of the surviving original window. A triple window was given 12/12 double hung sash, but was left in the modern grouping.

The kitchen ell on the east end of the rear (north) elevation is 1 bay wide, 2 bays deep, and 1 story tall under a gable roof. Wood clapboard was found on the wall between the house and ell, suggesting that the ell was added after the original construction of the house. In addition, the foundation is brick and stone, rather than granite block. The small brick chimney on the interior of the dining room was probably an exterior chimney on the original north elevation. An enclosed staircase was also added at the west end of the rear of the house. More recently, a side-gable, 1-bay "mudroom" was added to the north end of the west elevation of the kitchen ell in 1991-92. The simple entrance on the south elevation of the mudroom now serves as the common entrance to the house.

The interior plan configuration is half of a five room plan around three sides of a massive off-center chimney. It includes an entrance and stair hall in the southwest corner of the house and a living room with a fireplace in the southeast corner. Continuing counter-clockwise are a bath/laundry room and a sitting/keeping room. The sitting room contains a large fireplace with a beehive oven, suggesting that it was the original kitchen of the house. The front-room mantelpieces on both floors are relatively simple with a wide, plain entablature, flanked by fluted pilasters. The front rooms also reveal interior corner posts at the

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southeast and southwest corners. In the rear rooms, the mantelpieces are even more utilitarian with no decorative molding other than a mantelshelf. The rear kitchen ell shelters the dining room as well as the kitchen. Many of the interior doors appear to be original, including the door fixtures. Replacement iron fixtures were handcrafted by a local blacksmith, Russell Hayes. On the first floor, the doors are beaded tongue and groove; on the second floor, they are four panel. The second floor contains two bedrooms, each with a fireplace, and a bath. The original floorboards on the second floor are most likely original, although those on the first floor have been replaced. The attic has been finished and is used as studio space with storage space along the sides and the large stone chimney running through the south end of the room. The supporting rafters in the attic are visible and reveal early saw markings. The exposed rafters in the kitchen ell, however, appear to be axe-hewn. In addition, there is a root cellar underneath the east half of the house with entrance doors along the east elevation of the house.

*cut*  
A 2-bay, 1-1/2-story garage was built in 1991-1992 on the site of the barn that was associated with the house. The garage was designed to stylistically complement the house and contains studio space in the upper rear portion. The previous garage on the same site had been built around the 1920s and was demolished in the late 1980s. The yard is landscaped and has a stone wall that the current owners built by hand running through the front yard. In 1993, a terraced garden was cut into the hill at the rear of the house. The large historic stone wall running behind the house was reset to shore the walls of the garden.

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### Photographs

3. Photographer: Public Archaeology Lab., Inc.
4. Date: August 8, 1995
5. Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
(Above information pertains to all photographs)
  
6. View northwest of facade and garage
7. Photo #1 of 5
  
6. View south of rear elevations
7. Photo #2 of 5
  
6. Interior view of sitting room fireplace
7. Photo #3 of 5
  
6. Interior view of first-floor doors in sitting room
7. Photo #4 of 5
  
6. View northeast of garage
7. Photo #5 of 5

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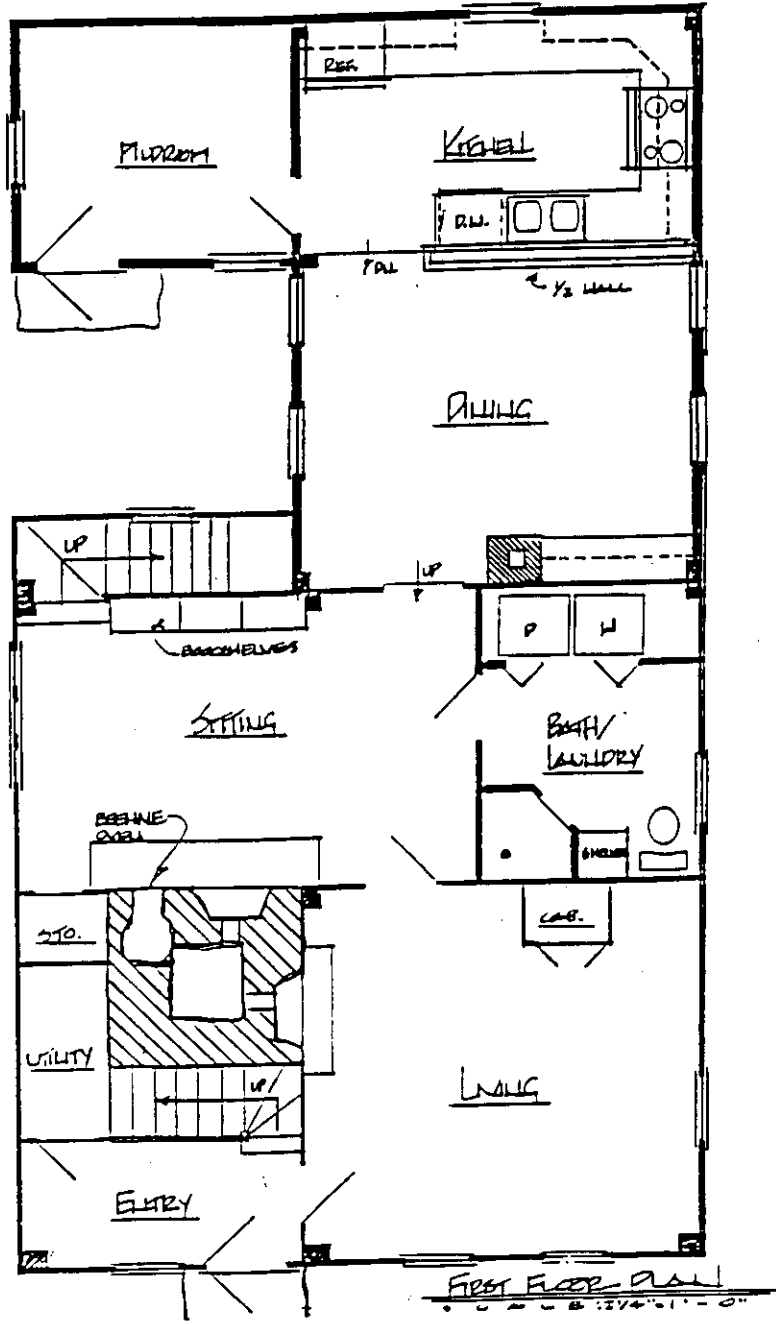
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
Not to Scale  
Drawn by Lisa Nedwidek





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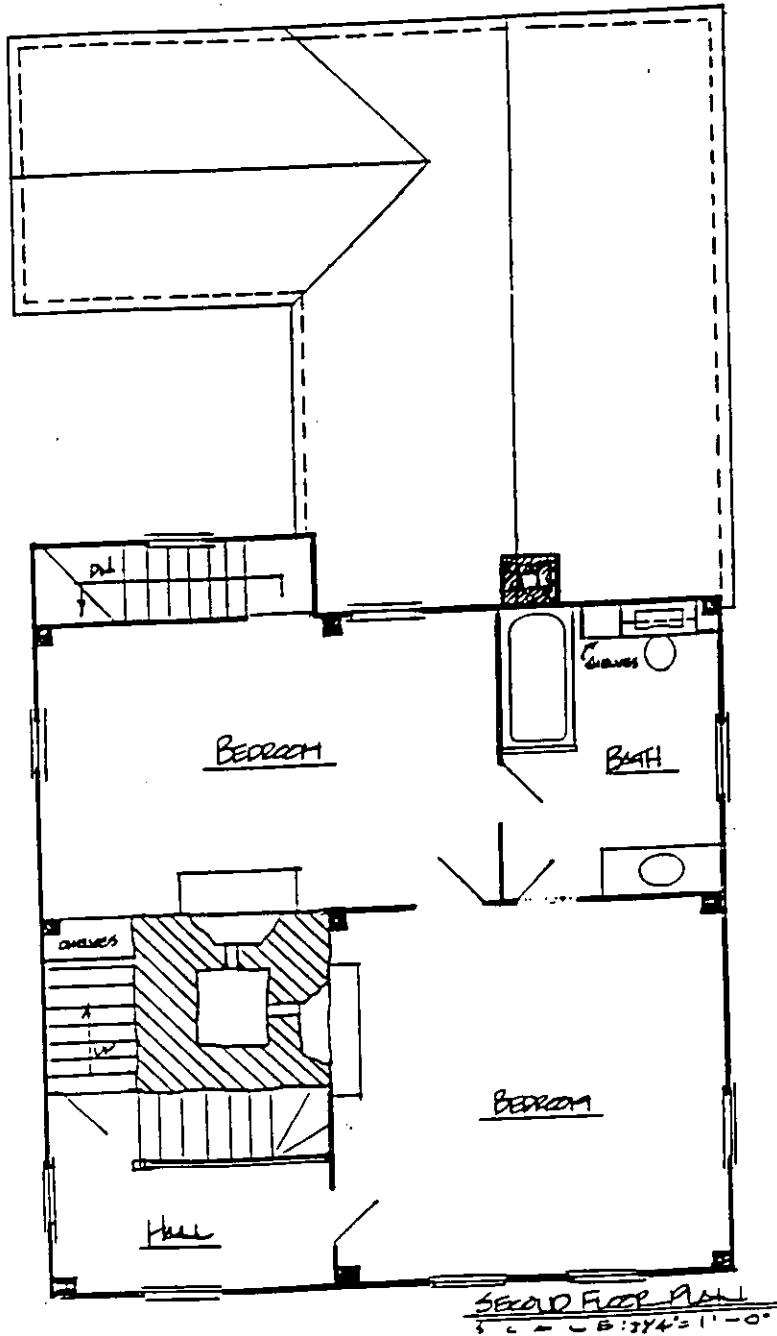
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
Not to Scale  
Drawn by Lisa Nedwidek



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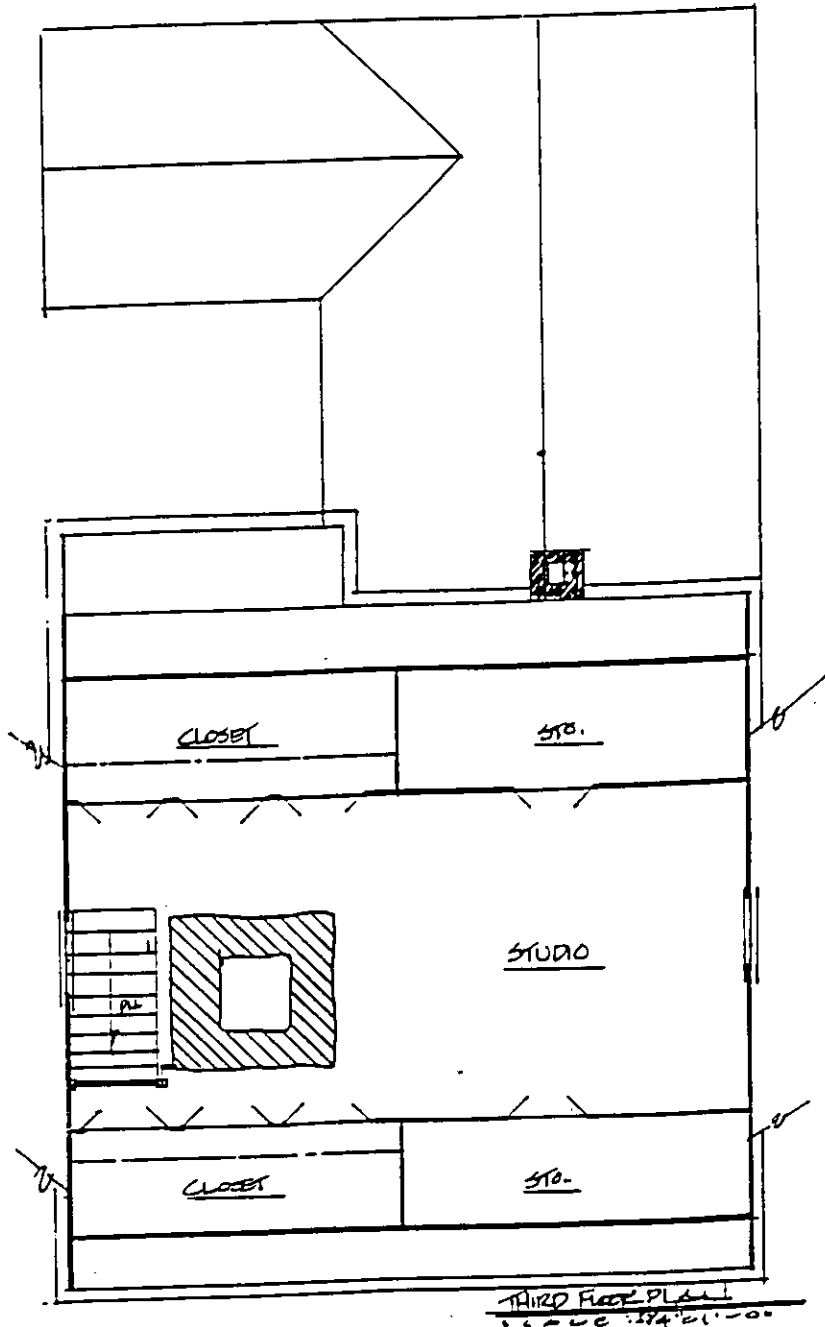
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THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
Not to Scale  
Drawn by Lisa Nedwidek



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### Significance

The Red House on Post Road is significant as a typical and well-preserved example of an early-to-mid 18th-century vernacular house in Rhode Island, as discussed in the single-family house context for South Kingstown (Adams 1994). It possesses integrity of location, design, feeling, setting, workmanship, and association. The house was in extremely deteriorated condition when it was most recently purchased (1987) and has been carefully preserved with replicated materials. The framing of the house and many interior details, however, are original. The house exhibits early, vernacular Colonial details including a simple entrance with a projecting splayed lintel, wood clapboard sheathing with cornice returns, and 12/12 windows. It also features an unaltered four-room configuration with off-center chimney that is earlier and less prevalent than the standard Rhode Island five-room plan and resembles the original lay-out of the Joseph Jeffrey House (NR 1978) in Charlestown, Rhode Island.

Single-family houses form the largest group of historic domestic buildings in Rhode Island. Examples of this house type, dating from 1676 to circa 1945, exist in all of Rhode Island's cities and towns. Buildings were constructed in Rhode Island prior to 1676; however, almost all of them were destroyed during King Philip's War (1675). Single-family homes in South Kingstown are clustered in various areas of the town, including the section known as Perryville. Perryville developed along the Post Road during the early part of the eighteenth century. The Red House (known by this name since at least the nineteenth century) holds a prominent place in the Perryville area, at the corner of Post Road and Red House Lane, which was a driftway until the middle of the 20th century. The house lies just east of the Perryville Church (now a residence) and north of the Perryville Cemetery (also known as the Seaview Cemetery), Rhode Island Historical Cemetery #47. According to a newspaper article (Past times, 1985) quoting from 1935, the house was once used as a wayside inn by Perry Tucker, from whom Perryville derives its name. Some evidence also exists that the house served as the Perryville post office at one time. Deed research conducted by the current owner of the house indicates that the house was owned by Henry Card between 1835 and 1847. By the middle of the 19th century, the house was owned by the Lillibridge family, who sold it to Charles B. Champlin in 1857. Wanton R. Carpenter owned the house, as well as several other properties in South Kingstown, around the turn of the century. By the time of a town survey in 1920, the property was owned by Charlotte Schofield. Catherine Whitford bought the property around 1925 at an auction and rented it until her death in 1952. In 1935, the house is reported as being worked on by W. R. Card, a correspondent for the

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Narragansett Times (1935) and amateur architect. Gladys Spink Norman was one of the inheritors of the house and property and bought out the other heirs in 1953. The current owners, David and Lisa Nedwidek, purchased the house in 1987.

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### Major Bibliographical References

Adams, Virginia H. "Rhode Island Single-Family Houses National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination," The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. Submitted to Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, 1994.

Card, W. R. "Perryville." Narragansett Times. 20 September 1935.

Nebiker, Walter. Historic and Architectural Resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1984.

Nedwidek, David and Lisa. Personal interview, 1995.

"Past times" article, 30 May 1985.

"Past times" article, 22 August 1985.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Historic Building Data Sheet, 1974.

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### Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property boundaries are defined as South Kingstown Assessor's Plat 79-2, Lot 15.

#### Boundary Justification:

The boundaries conform to the present lot associated with the property, encompassing the house, the accompanying outbuilding, and their immediate setting.



The Red House  
Washington County  
South Kingstown, R. I.  
Photo # 1 of 5





The Red House  
Washington County  
South Kingstown, R.I.

Photo #2 of 5



The Red House  
Washington County, R.I.  
South Kingstown, R.I.  
Photo # 3 of 5



The Ice House

Washington County, N.I.  
South Kingstown, R.I.

Photo # 4 of 5

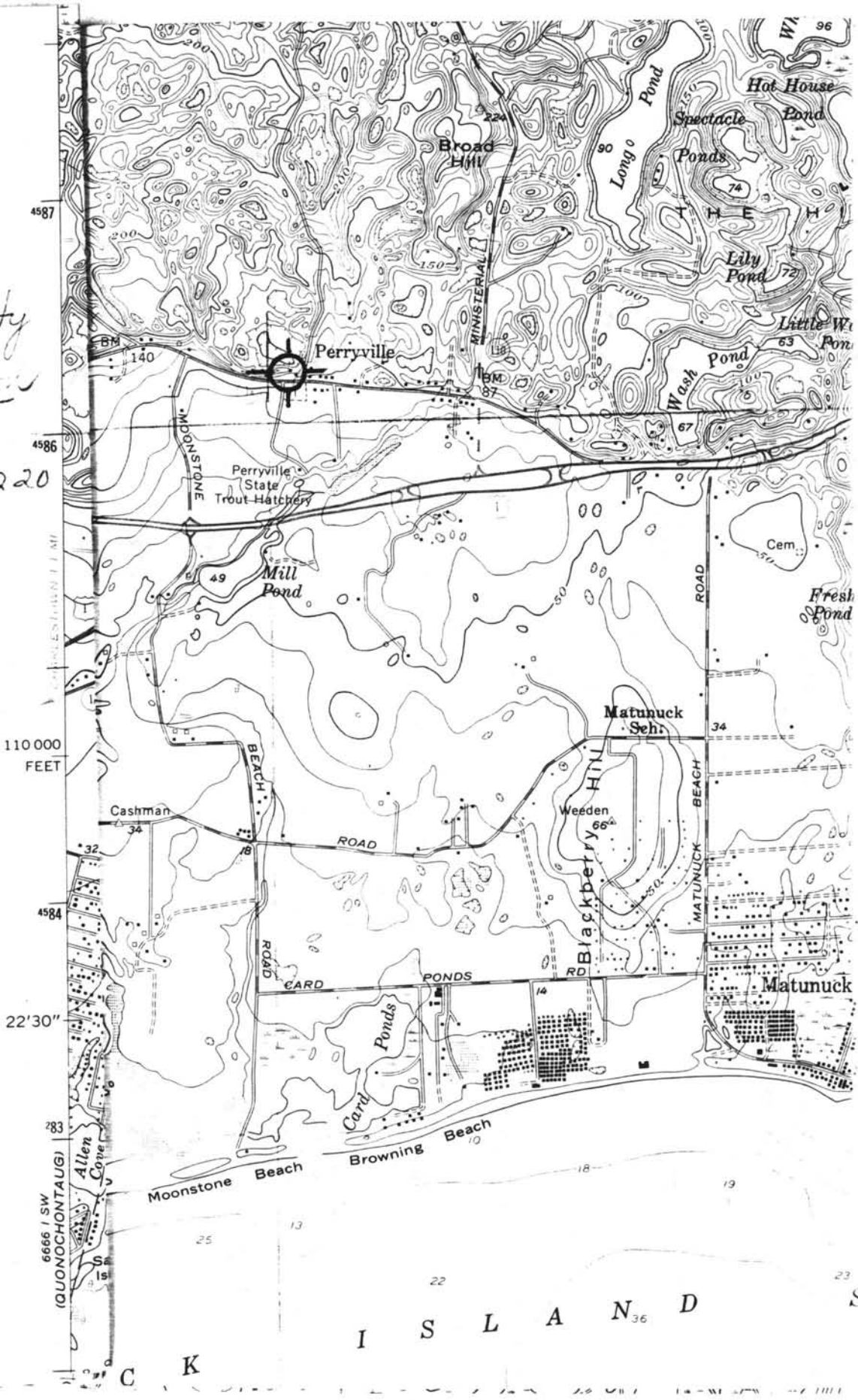


The Red House  
Washington County  
South Kingtown, R.I.  
Photo # 5 of 5



Red House  
Washington County  
South Kingstown  
RI

19 285100 4586 220



Handwritten notes and markings along the left margin, including a vertical scale and various symbols.