

Preliminary Entry for submission to NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
by RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION (Nomination Form to
follow before May 1, 1971).

Rhode Island.
Washington County.

70.4.38.0007 Indian Burial Ground,
Narrow Lane (north side),
Charlestown,
Rhode Island (38), Washington County (009).

Site. Public Ownership. Unrestricted Access.

Owned by the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,
State House, 90, Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903.

Landscape remains of "royal" graveyard of the Niantic tribe of
Indians; in use XVII Century and perhaps before.

As the designated State Liaison Officer
for the National Historic Preservation
Act of 1966 ..., I hereby nominate this
property for inclusion in the National
Register and certify that it has been
evaluated ... The recommended level of
significance of this nomination is: To be supplied later

Name:

Frederick Q. Williams

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: March 18, 1970

William J. Huntington

Keeper of The National Register

APR 13 1970

Date:

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

Ernest Allen Connelly

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

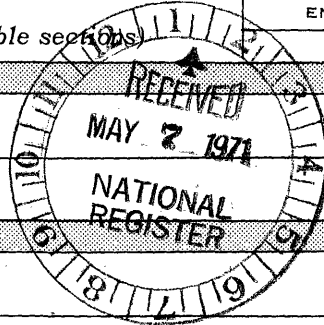
APR 28 1970



**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 4/28/70	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
Indian Burial Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Narrow Lane

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlestown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02813 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 372

CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown STATE: Rhode Island, 02813 CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" 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

In a small clearing at the top of a wooded hill, the ancient burial ground of the Narragansett Indians is now maintained as part of a twenty-acre park by the State of Rhode Island. Though this site once commanded a magnificent view of the sea and the countryside, it is now surrounded by dense growth. In a clearing, a 20' by 100' rectangular, grassy plot rises several inches above the surrounding ground level and is surrounded by an iron post-and-rail fence. This fence and a marble tablet in the center of the plot were erected in 1878 by order of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Although virtually all traces of the original mounds are now gone, the Burial Ground was described in the nineteenth century as one row of mounds raised above the next. In 1878 the mound was recorded to be thirty feet by one hundred feet and three feet high. The site was completely wooded until the great gale of 1869, which levelled many of the trees. Since that time the site has been kept cleared.

Seven small stones, placed on end in the enclosed plot, are possibly head and foot stones of recent graves. An addendum to the Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Master Book, which records the graves of war veterans, lists the recent burial of George Alexander Hazard, World War I veteran. The family name "Hazard" is found among local residents of Indian descent.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century and	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century before	

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 type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" 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"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<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

Indian tradition records that this site was the Royal Burial Ground of the combined tribes of the Narragansett and Niantic Indians, a burial place of privilege for the Indian sachems, or chiefs, and their families. As such, it is one of the few remaining traces of a once-large and powerful Indian nation in New England, and it is historically linked to the nearby remains of the former Narragansett reservation.

Before it was protected as a park, the site was subject to abuse by the local citizenry. Without consent, a group of nine local persons opened one of the graves in May, 1869, in order to ascertain how the Indians buried their dead and to collect relics. Covered with large, flat stones, the tomb was found to contain a log coffin. Two logs had been split to serve as top, bottom, and sides, and were bound together by iron chains. A brass kettle was found at one end, and an iron kettle at the other, along with numerous other relics. Legal action was brought against the men by members of the tribe, but the accused were exonerated. A published history of the area in 1887 states that much of what was found was sent to Brown University, although the whereabouts of these artifacts is no longer known there. The same history claims that there was a subsequent exploration by a Dr. Parsons of Providence who found fewer relics, even though he opened quite a number of graves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Committee of Investigation: Narragansett Tribe of Indians, Report of the Committee ... (Providence, Rhode Island, 1880).
 U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, 1937).

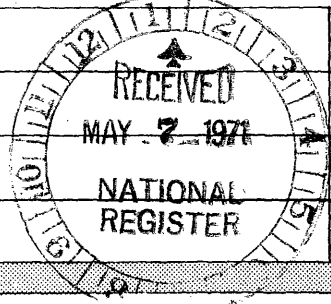
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 24' 13.50" N	71° 37' 53.48" W	
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.11 acre

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
 DATE: April 16, 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

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 Frederick R. Williams

Title State Liaison Officer

Date April 28, 1971

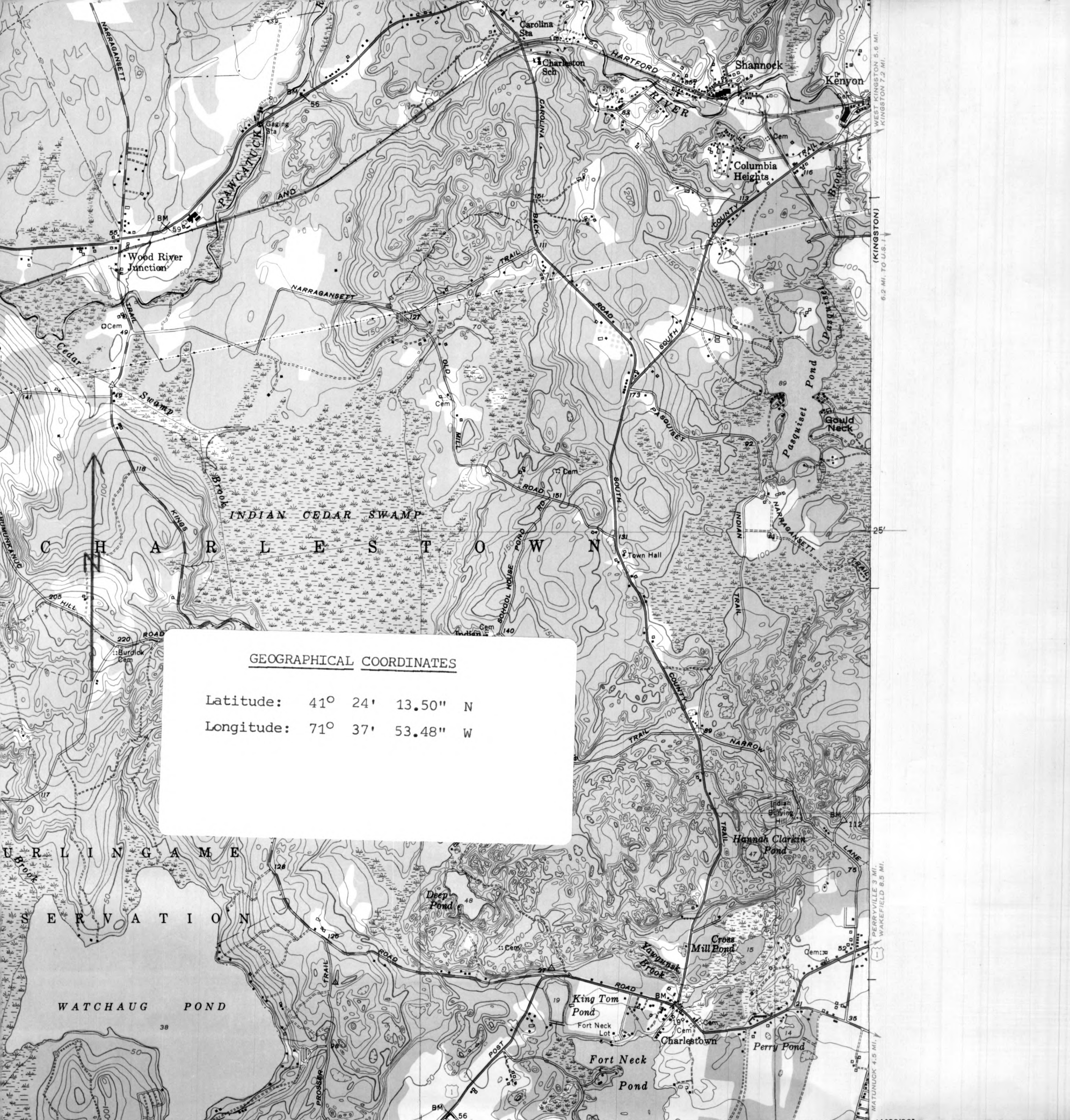
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ewert A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 4/28/70

Date _____

ATTEST:
W. Bradford Ford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date February 17, 1972

DM 227
 7-16-75
 19/007840/4285940

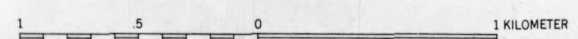
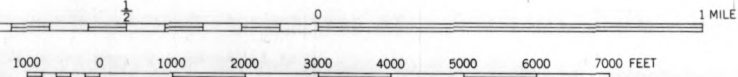


GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 24' 13.50" N
 Longitude: 71° 37' 53.48" W

(QUONOCONTAUG) 40° 40' PLYMOUTH 4.6 MI. WESTERLY 9.5 MI. INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1953 41° 22' 30" 71° 37' 30" (KINGSTON)

SCALE 1:31680



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty

Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route State Route

CAROLINA, R.I.
 N4122.5-W7137.5/7.5

1953

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 4-28-70	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Indian Burial Ground			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Narrow Lane			
CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown			
STATE: Rhode Island, 02813	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 31,680			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			