

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 7 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Churchyard Cemetery

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Artillery Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Road and Narragansett Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Jamestown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02835 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Newport CODE: 005

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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Cemetery</u>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Jamestown

STREET AND NUMBER:
71 Narragansett Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown STATE: Rhode Island, 02835 CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
71 Narragansett Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown STATE: Rhode Island, 02835 CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The churchyard cemetery and one-time artillery park of Jamestown is located at the corner of two primary roads near the island's southern end. It is enclosed by a stone wall with some serpentine portions and with jagged rocks set along its top. The yard is about two feet above street level, and there are a few steps up to it at the gate that opens on North Road. The lot now measures about 100 feet by 150 feet (much less in space than originally) and is lined along the street sides with tall and leafy trees, while coniferous trees grow randomly inside the yard. The ground slopes up gently to a plateau in the north-east corner, the most distant from the streets.

Headstones stand sparsely all around the yard, but in the north-east corner are the oldest of them. Mostly having curved tops, these display typical Colonial carved or incised designs of mourning or resurrection motifs. They bear epitaphs, of which a typical one reads: "In memory of Cap^t Benedict Remington died Novemb^r 22nd 1744 in ye 31rd year of his age." Many of these monuments now exist as little more than very weather-worn pieces of stone stuck in the ground.

The yard is to-day overgrown with thick grass, and weeds, berry-bushes, fallen branches are scattered about--contributing to the extremely picturesque character of this site in the centre of a small island town.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1656, 1775

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 type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Colonial town-</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>planning</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Community facility</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This open space importantly located in the centre of town, has always been a community facility, for the original survey of Jamestown Island in 1656 set aside a sizeable piece of acreage (larger than it is to-day) for an "Artillery Garden, a place for burial of ye dead ... and for other public uses." It is quite evident that the second proposed use was fulfilled, and the space was undoubtedly much used for its first-named purpose of military practice originally, inasmuch as the threat of attack by nearby Indian tribes was a long-lasting and very real one.

Fifty or seventy-five years after 1656, this threat was not great, and from 1731-1745 a part of the town's land was let to John Martin--who lived nearby--for farming and grazing, except that "the Town shall have the liberty of burying there their dead." At a later date Martin took another lease on the plot and promised in 1759 to fence it in.

So, for part of the XVIII Century, the Artillery Park served placid agricultural, pastoral and burial purposes until the real flaring of colonial rebellion in 1775, when the local militia probably marched and practiced on it again.

Much aware of Jamestown's strategic importance, dominating the Narragansett Bay passages, the British landed an occupying force on the island in December, 1775. These marines and soldiers marched across Jamestown from east to west, burning almost all buildings along their route. Recording the event in his diary, the illustrious Rev. Ezra Stiles of Newport reported:

"At the Cross Rodes [i. e., Narragansett Avenue and North Road: the Artillery Park] there was a Skirmish our pple. killed one Officer of Marines and wounded 7 or 8. Not one Colonist was killed or hurt in the Skirmish. The Kings forces fired on Mr. Jno. Martin aet 80 standing at his Door and wounded him badly ..."

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, Massachusetts, 1937), pp. 430-431.
 Watson, W. L.: History of Jamestown (Providence, Rhode Island, 1949), p. 17.

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° 29' 47.03" N	71° 22' 28.89" W		
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: About 1/3 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: B. Christopher Bene, Surveyor-Researcher
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: May 30, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 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 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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Frederick Williamson</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>August 22, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>3/7/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. Brantley</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>3.2.73</u></p>
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19/301770/4596380
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 UTA
 12-10-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

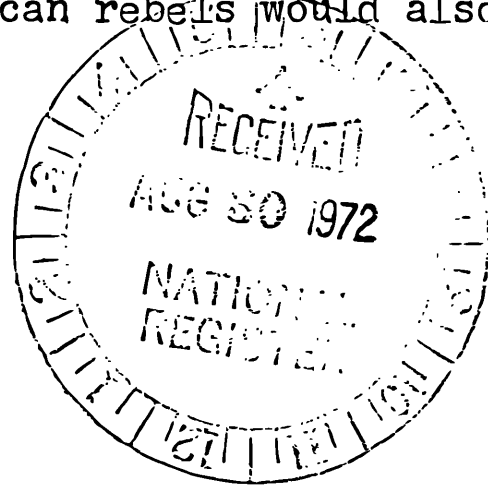
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 618 7	DATE 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance.

During their subsequent occupation of Jamestown, the British found the old Artillery Park and cemetery area a convenient point from which their guns could be moved to earthworks on either side of the island, effectively controlling the east and west water-passages. It is said that such usage at that time was also promoted by the thought that the grave-sites of American rebels would also be noticeably desecrated.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

(WICKFORD)

71°22'30"
41°30'

302000m.E.

WICKFORD 8.9 MI.
4.9 MI. TO U.S. I

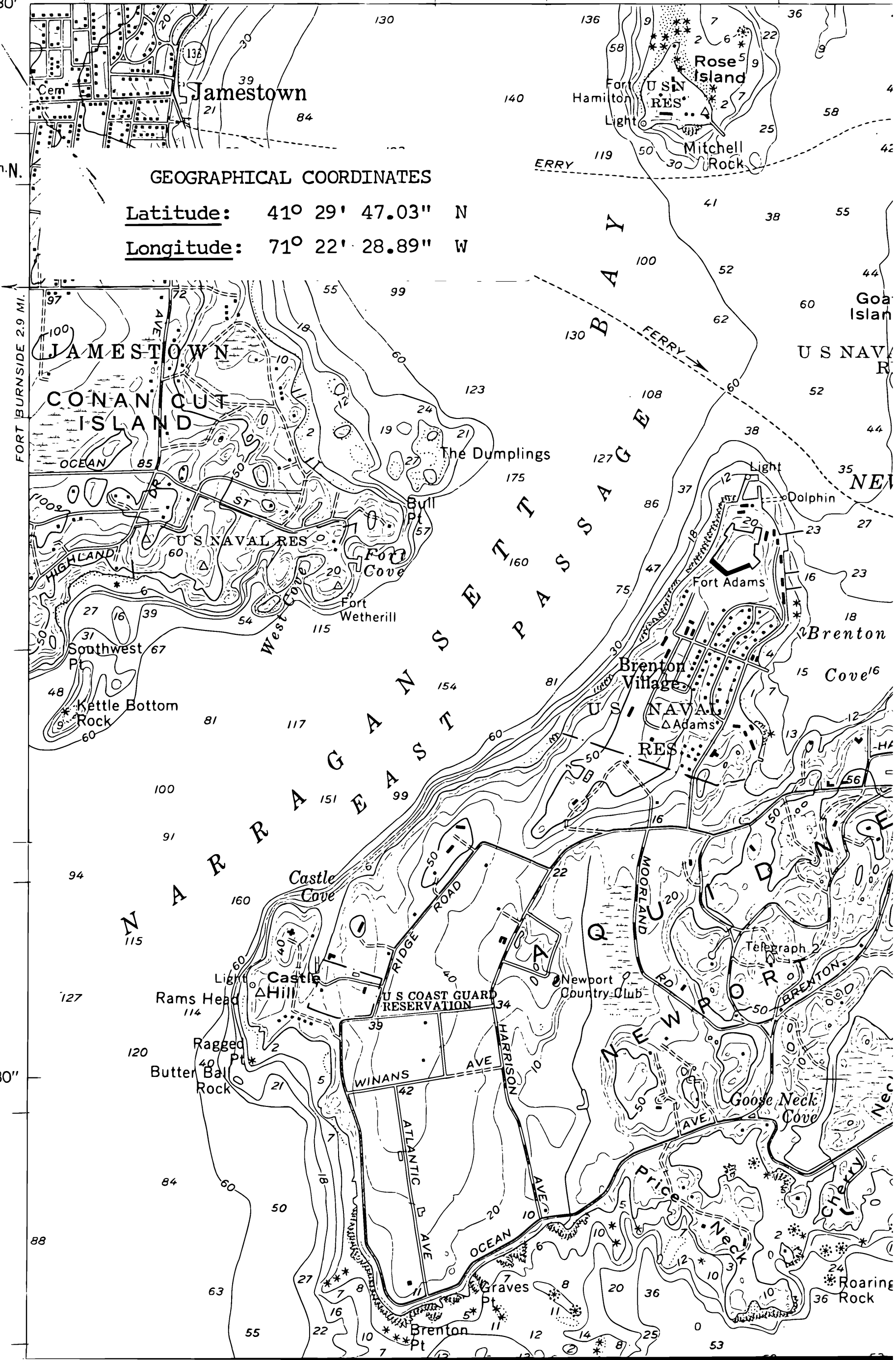
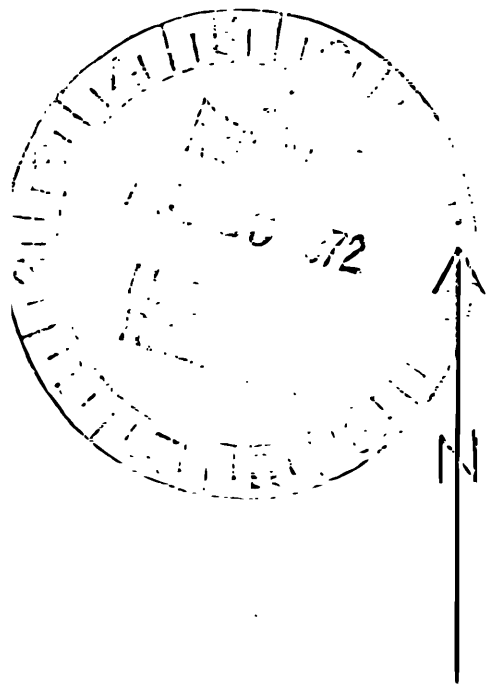
20'

4596000m.N.

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 29' 47.03" N

Longitude: 71° 22' 28.89" W



27'30"

88

Roaring
36 Rock

Artillery Park (Churchyard Cemetery)
Newport County, Rhode Island
U.S. Geological Survey, 1:25,000, 1957