

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,344,0006	DATE 3/31/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Rhodes (Christopher) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

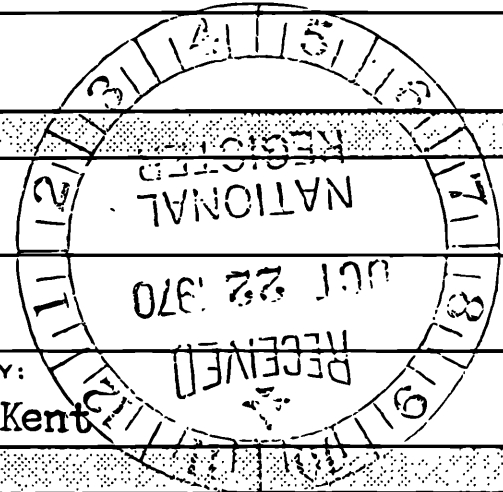
STREET AND NUMBER: 25, Post Road

CITY OR TOWN: Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island, 02889

CODE: 003

COUNTY: Kent



**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: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input 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"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: C. Roland Johanson

STREET AND NUMBER: 25, Post Road

CITY OR TOWN: Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE: 44

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: 3275, Post Road

CITY OR TOWN: Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE: 44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Not yet so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

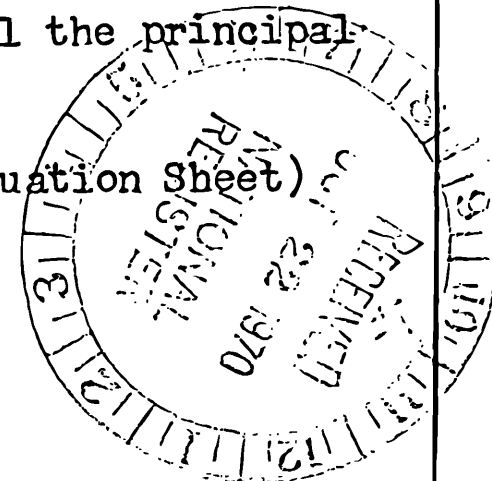
The Rhodes house, built c. 1800, is of timber-framed and clapboard construction above a stone basement (which is entered through a corner bulkhead at the north). It contains two-and-a-half storeys under a gable roof. The front, or long east side, is five bays wide; the ends are of four bays. Projecting from the north-west part of the house at the rear is a short one-storey ell of wood with a hipped roof, centre chimney and rear door (Next it, to the south, a short modern extension of cinder-block has been made). Inside, there is on each principal floor a central stair-hall flanked by two rooms on each side. Each room has a fireplace, and these are back-to-back in plan, being served by two brick chimneys rising through the ridge of the roof.

Exterior good looks rely chiefly on good proportions, a simple eaves cornice which is brought forward over each of the second-floor windows on east and west, and the enframing of the principal entrance. Sections of cornice similar to those breaking out over the second-floor windows may also have topped the front first-floor windows, now replaced by two wide bow windows. Side and rear windows have simple splayed lintels. Many of the original, smaller-paned window sashes remain on the sides and rear of the house.

The entrance treatment is typical of the federal period and more particularly of Rhode Island in that period--there being numerous similarly handsome examples in the state. The doorway is surmounted by a semicircular fanlight with moulded architrave and a three-part wooden keystone; this pierces or divides the horizontal member of the triangular pediment above--as it does the entire entablature assembly. The pediment has modillions and dentils and is over Ionic pilasters above which, in the frieze section of the entablature, are carved floral bosses. The front door itself, contained within the above arrangement, is said to be original to the house; its pattern of panelling is more that of the XVIII Century than the 1800's-federal period, but such "hold-overs" persisted in provincial places.

Internally, there has been no re-arrangement--no changing or adding of partitions or cutting of new openings, with the exceptions of the mentioned bow windows and of a door (where a window used to be) giving access to the south-west cinder-block addition. Trim is intact and is that characteristic of the federal period: slender and not protruding mouldings and chair-rails, well-defined ceiling cornices employing classical elements, mantels using attenuated design motifs from the classical repertory. These features are to be found throughout all the principal rooms.

(See Continuation Sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.44.0006	DATE 3/31/71

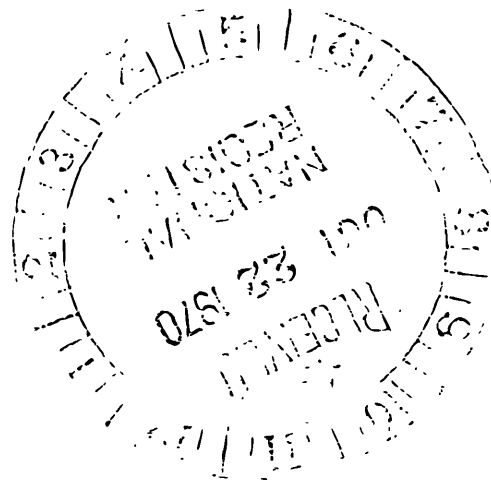
(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The main stair ascends in one long run to a square landing, takes a right-angle turn and completes its ascent in one short run. The treads have mouldings whose ends are finished and overlap the end of the step above. There is flat, sawed, scrolled decoration applied to each stair-end, and a simple grooved string runs from newel to angle-post, and between the two closely-spaced latter. The stair-rail is supported by simple, slender, square posts (The design of the newel cannot be described by this writer, who has not seen it).

Altogether, the interior has been reasonably well maintained and is not, in need of restoration to great extent or expense, except--mainly--for the replacement of sash-windows and of wood trim when the two new frontal bow windows are removed.

The cinder-block addition, mentioned, at a rear corner, is not visible from the street and might--or might not--be retained for office or record-vault use, painted in a colour conforming to that of the main house. There is sufficient land behind the house to utilise, as probably originally, for a flower-garden, kitchen-garden and sitting area, overlooking the small stream of the Pawtuxet River.



**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) 1800

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Local importance</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>of the residence</u>
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHTR	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>and its owner;</u>
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>planned house-</u>
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>museum use</u>
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

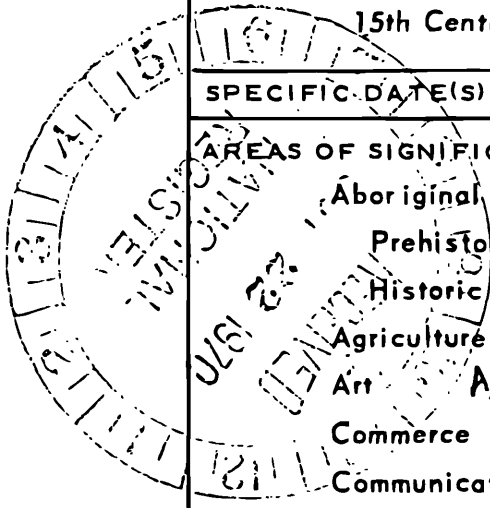
The Gaspee Day Committee of Warwick wishes to acquire, restore and preserve--opening it to the public--this house in the small community of Pawtuxet, on an inlet off Narragansett Bay. It is one of only a handful of XVIII and early XIX Century buildings still remaining, most of them altered, in this compact and historic little area.

In its day, the Christopher Rhodes house, on its slight elevation above the village and river, was probably thought the most important and luxurious establishment in that small community of Pawtuxet. This would have been due to its size and architectural distinction in comparison to its neighbours; to its owner and his local position; and to the social lifewhich centred in it.

Christopher Rhodes and his two brothers, all born nearby, were the leading gentleman-entrepreneurs of their community in the first half of the XIX Century. They founded a cotton-manufacturing business in Pawtuxet in the early 1800's, and this grew to be a buisiness of good size, having several mills. They established The Pawtuxet Bank, an institution which remained there, serving the coastal trade, until it removed to Providence in 1845. Christopher Rhodes was a brigadier-general of the state militia, a representative in the state legislature, and for a number of years on the inspecting committee of the state prison, on whose building committee he also served. The house therefore, beyond reasons of intrinsic architectural quality, also takes on importance through its connection with Christopher Rhodes, who was in turn important in local development and local history.

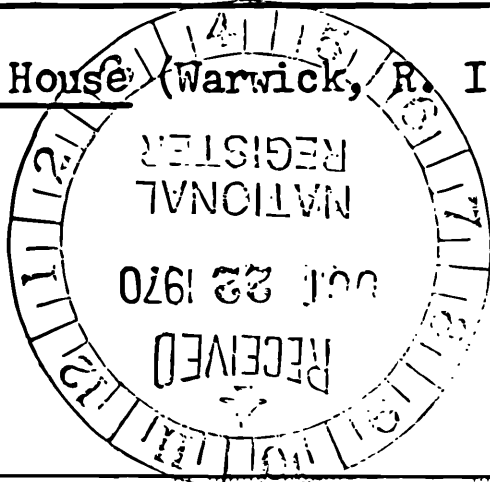
The Gaspee Day Committee is anxious to buy this house in particular and to point out and promote preservation of all of the (not many) old houses of Pawtuxet--the Christopher Rhodes house heading the group and being its showpiece when restored. The other houses have been, in almost all cases, altered in external appearance and internal arrangement, are now in various forms of ownership and occupancy and are unlikely ever to be reinstated to the degree intended for the Rhodes house, which would become a local landmark, historical centre and house-museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Downing, Antoinette Forrester: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), p. 338.  
 (Kennedy, Hazel): Christopher Rhodes House (Warwick, R. I., n. d.), 3 pp.



**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	0 ' "	0 ' "		41° 45' 45"-N	71° 23' 58"-W	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: August 12, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 State House, 90, Smith Street,

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island      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: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: November 30, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*Ernest A. Connally*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 31 1971

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

*William J. Murtagh*  
 Keeper of The National Register

FEB 22 1971

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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