

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire	
COUNTY: Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Richard Jackson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Richard Jackson House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Northwest Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth

001 Congressional District

STATE New Hampshire	CODE 33	COUNTY: Rockingham	CODE 015
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:
141 Cambridge Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rockingham County Registrar of Deeds, County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hampton Road

CITY OR TOWN: Exeter	STATE: New Hampshire	CODE 33
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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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 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

The Richard Jackson House at Christian's Shore, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is an excellently preserved and restored seventeenth century wooden house. Built in 1664 by Richard Jackson, a ship-builder, this is the oldest building in Portsmouth.

Fronting on an orchard at the river front, this ambitious early house presents its two full storeys and very steep-gabled shingle roof on this side. The main house is a two room plan with lean-to, the entrance porch puncturing the handsomely weathered clapboard at the centre, and leading to the hall to the right and parlor to the left. Straight behind the entrance is the steep and narrow stair leading to the upper chambers.

While there are virtually no two seventeenth century New England houses exactly alike, they do generally conform to a few standard types, and the Richard Jackson House is no exception. The basic two-room plan about a massive central chimney with lean-to added later at the rear, may be referred to as a completed two-room plan and was generally found in New England during this period. The plan grew from the one-room plan, a hall with its massive chimney for both cooking and heating, into the two-room plan when more space was needed, and even larger when the lean-to was added for the same reason. Houses were built both from a single room with the other rooms added, and also with the two rooms and lean-to already completed from the beginning. The Jackson House was originally a two-room plan only. Here at the Jackson House we also have two additions, one to either end, added probably in 1764. They combine with the center to give the building an extremely interesting combination of flat and geometric shapes, of lights and shades, of acute and oblique angles,

The lean-to at the rear of the Jackson House is particularly striking, insofar as it very nearly sweeps right down to the ground. It was left unfinished on the interior and is still so today. The date at which it was added to the two-room building is not known. As was commonly done, the new lean-to assumed the cooking function from the hall when a new flue was punched through at the back of the center chimney. Also typically, two rooms flanked this new kitchen, a so-called birth-and-death room and a buttry.

Each of the eighteenth century wings has a corner fireplace and the larger wing at the northern side of the house was used as the shipping office. The windows at the east front of the Jackson House, while not original- are accurate restorations of the leaded casement windows that were once there. While they may seem narrow and hardly efficient to us today, the very idea of a triple casement window at this time when glass was such a scarce item in the colonies, reveals

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c.1660, 1774

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 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 checked="" 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

The Richard Jackson House in Portsmouth New Hampshire, built in 1664, is the oldest remaining house in that community and one of the finest of the surviving seventy or so seventeenth century wooden houses in New England. Through its weathered clapboard exterior, its two-room center-chimney plan, its steeply-sloping gable roofline, its narrow leaded casement windows, and other medieval architectural details, the house not only represents a very fine example of the New England "saltbox" house, but also, because of a remarkable interplay of planar and geometric shapes in both the original center section and later additions, offers us a beautiful exercise in abstract geometry as well.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
 William Pierson, American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles (New York, 1970).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
 DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

UTM CO-ORDINATE
 19.356200.4771100

Acreage of property is approximately
 one acre.

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
 DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
 OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
0			0		

One

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:
 James Dillon, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION:
 National Historic Landmarks, OAHP, NPS

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
 Washington

STATE: D.C.

DATE: 3/11/75

Designated: Nov. 24, 1968

Boundary Certified: 8/2/77

CODE: 11

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 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/10/77

ATTEST:
 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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just how above-average this house originally was. While sash windows had been introduced into England from Holland during the seventeenth century, they were for long used even there only for the more ambitious public buildings and certainly had not found their way to the English colonies.

Inside, and again typical of houses of this period in New England, we find the massive chimney, broad oak floor planks (some as much as twenty inches wide) large exposed beams, some chamfered and beaded, and either roughly plastered or sheathed walls. The framing of the house is the typical massive-member medieval type with ground sill, two-storey posts, chimney girts, and summer beam. There is no overhang at the Jackson House.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION

The Richard Jackson House is located on an inlet of the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth, at a place known as Christian Shore. The area has now become developed, as Portsmouth has itself expanded, and the house is bordered by two narrow roads. Several houses are in the immediate vicinity as well as a power plant. Eighty feet north of the Jackson house stands another known as The George Rogers House. Both are owned by The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Originally, the holding of land on the North Mill Pond which was deeded to Richard Jackson by his father-in-law, Richard Seaward, consisted of thirteen acres. Subsequently, the family holding increased to as much as sixty acres, but by 1927 when the S.P.N.E.A. acquired the Jackson house, less than an acre of land went with it. The adjacent property, upon which stands the Rogers House, was in danger of being sold to a developer in 1959, so the S.P.N.E.A. purchased it for the purposes of using the house as resident overseer's quarters, of conserving the orchard next to it, and of protecting the setting of the Richard Jackson House.

The boundary of this National Historic Landmark extends along the eastern edge of the unpaved Northwest Street from the East-west boundary line separating the Rogers House parcel from the Jackson House parcel, south to a point about fifteen feet south of the house where an access road known as Jackson Hill Road (going to a nearby power plant) diverges from Northwest Street. The boundary then follows the northern edge of this Jackson Hill Road, east to the western edge of the water of the Piscataqua River to the east-west boundary separating the Rogers House parcel from the Jackson House parcel. That boundary line begins at Northwest Street and continues directly east into the water of the North Mill Pond/Piscataqua River. The line begins at a point 87 feet from the northwest bound of the

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total parcel (the combined Jackson and Rogers House holding of the S.P.N.E.A.) and therefore about 210 feet from the Southwest bound of the Richard Jackson House, since both parcels combine to front 300 feet on Northwest Street. Total area of the landmark property is approximately one acre. The house, as stated, is owned and is well-maintained by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, which offers access to the public when one calls at the George Rogers where the overseer lives.

The orchard located with in the landmark boundary is of nineteenth century origin and does not add to the historical significance of the Richard Jackson House.