

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet 46

Item number 7

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NAME: Moses Greene House
LOCATION: 11 Economy Avenue
OWNER: Sylvia Laboissonniere
11 Economy Avenue
Warwick, R.I. 02889
CONDITION: Fair; Altered; Original Site

DESCRIPTION:

The Moses Greene House is set on a large lot abutting Mill Cove, a tidal inlet of Narragansett Bay, in a suburban neighborhood of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century houses. It is a rectangular, two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, timber-frame, clapboard- and shingle-sheathed Colonial dwelling with a brick center chimney, a stone foundation, and a rear ell dating from the late nineteenth century. A Victorian-era veranda that ran around three sides of the house was removed in 1979. The house, facing south, has a five-bay facade with a central entrance. The entrance opens into a small stairhall in front of the chimney and contains a tight staircase with winders and a heavily molded closed string. The house originally followed the standard Colonial five-room plan but some time in the late nineteenth century the partition between the center and east rear rooms was removed and the larger space was treated as a living hall, with a more commodious staircase added in one corner and a triple window overlooking the yard. The original kitchen fireplace in this room, with an oven and wood box to one side, had been walled up but was uncovered about 1979 and trimmed with sheets of plywood and stock moldings in imitation of a Colonial chimneypiece. The rear ell contains a kitchen, a vestibule/storage room, a pantry, and a stairhall providing direct access from outdoors to the second floor of the ell, which is fitted as a small, separate apartment. Second-floor rooms in the main part of the house follow the five-room plan, with staircases to the first floor and attic occupying most of the space in the center rear room. In the old section of the house cased posts are visible throughout. Fireplaces in the southwest parlor and southeast and southwest chambers have two-story mantels with beveled overmantel panels and bolection moldings around the fireboxes. The fireplace in the southeast parlor has a one-story mantel with a narrow beveled panel between the firebox and mantelshelf.

PERIOD: 1700-1799
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
SPECIFIC DATE: ca 1750
BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Unknown

(See Continuation Sheet #47)

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SIGNIFICANCE:

The Moses Greene House is a locally significant example of domestic architecture with important associations to Warwick's early history. A rare surviving eighteenth-century structure, it is notable for its unusual combination of Colonial and Victorian space-planning and decorative features. Though the present structure was built about 1750, its site was one of the first in the city to have been occupied by European settlers. In the 1650s a mill and mill dam were constructed here on Mill Cove, driven by tidal flow, and the miller's house stood where the Greene House is today. The property has been owned by the Stafford, Lippitt, and Greene families, all of which have figured prominently in the early settlement and development of Warwick.

ACREAGE: less than one acre
QUADRANGLE NAME: Bristol, R.I. - Mass.
UTM: 19 302740 4620480

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property is coextensive with lot 328 in Assessor's Plat 336, as defined by the City of Warwick, and measures 12,604 square feet. This parcel encompasses the cultural resource and its immediate surroundings.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

(See Continuation Sheet #48)