

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 27 1972	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
Lippitt (Governor Henry) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
199 Hope Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE Rhode Island	CODE 02906	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" 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		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
199 Hope Street Corporation, c/o Edwards & Angell, Attys.

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 Westminster Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance Street at Washington Street

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1962** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11
------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 imposing, brick-faced Italianate house of three stories built c. 1862-1865 by Henry Lippitt stands on a prominent, embanked corner lot in Providence's residential East Side. Under its hipped roof, it is a near-cube of palazzo style, though it has a rounded bay on its south elevation, a semi-elliptical one with porte-cochère on its north one, and a service wing extending well to the east. Its principal façade is the west one, which has a slightly projecting, pedimented central "pavilion" incorporating the main entrance.

The first floor rises upon an ashlar brownstone basement and is defined by quoins and terminated by double belt courses separating it from the story above; its windows are aedicular and emphasize the verticality of the house. The second floor has windows less elaborately enframed but with balusters, in imitation of balconies, below them -- continuing a vertical emphasis. The smaller windows of the third story have segmental heads. Quoining does not rise above the first story; walls above contain panels between corner piers.

Principal features of the west façade are the semi-elliptical entrance porch with tall, fluted Corinthian columns supporting an entablature with an elaborate foliate frieze and surmounting balustrade, behind which is a pedimented, tripartite window of aedicular form at second-floor level. A dominant feature of the north elevation is the commodious porte-cochère, balustraded, and supported on robust panelled piers. Crowning and surrounding the house is a vigorous and projecting entablature with dentils and modillions.

The smooth, salmon-colored brick wall surfaces contrast with the somber, dark-brown-painted porches and trim, creating a striking effect. Bracketted ombrae, side (south) porches and some cast-iron adornments are additionally picturesque. The site is contained by a brownstone retaining wall with piers, between which originally ran a cast-iron fence of geometrical pattern. A curving driveway runs under the porte-cochère.

The interior of the main floor is of an L-plan -- a variation on the traditional symmetrical central-hall plan -- with the large hall opening on both the north (porte-cochère) and the west. The staircase is not visible from the formal main entrance on the west but is found in the hall's short arm leading to the porte-cochère. The principal rooms open along the length of the hall, whose great openness is emphasized by two heavy metal chandeliers. Like the rooms opening from it, the hall is finished with elaborate wood wainscoting and stencilled plaster walls.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

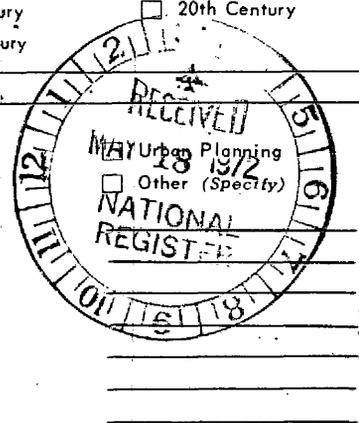
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1862-1865**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Governor Henry Lippitt House is one of the most important mid-19th century buildings in Providence. As an example of an Italianate palazzo, it recalls the style that Sir Charles Barry popularized in England, as well as some of Thomas A. Tefft's buildings of the 1850's. Anita Glass says

the rounded projection on the side of the Lippitt House looks back to the [Thomas Poynton] Ives House of 1806 and also was used by Upjohn in the Marshall Woods mansion, which was built at the same time. Another reminder of the Ives House is the Palladian window element [on the west side]...

The Lippitt House is especially interesting, however, because it represents a first move away from prescribed forms to a more eclectic, Victorian mode, and because of the great taste and imagination that Henry Childs used in his design. Coming later than the other more rigidly academic Italianate houses -- the Marshall Woods, Thomas Hoppin, and Tully Bowen Houses of the 1850's -- the Henry Lippitt House outdoes them visually through a restrained and intelligent elaboration on the style.

Childs was known as a builder rather than as an architect, and it is unresolved whether he is responsible for the conception of the house or for only the working drawings. In any case he must have had an extensive knowledge of the architectural works of his time.

The house provides a point of focus for an entire East Side district in Providence, both visually and historically. On the corner of two main thoroughfares, this house is the conspicuous symbol of an area of old mansions stretching for some blocks to its north and south. As a reminder of Rhode Island's past as well as an extremely striking example of domestic Italianate architecture, the Henry Lippitt House deserves continued attention.

(see continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Overby, Osmund R.: Governor Henry Lippitt House (Historic American Buildings Survey, No. RI-239. 1962). 5 pp.
 Glass, Anita: Early Victorian Domestic Architecture on College Hill (Thesis for Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 1960).
 Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1957), p. 140.

19/300800/11633260
 12-12-75
 UTM P.F.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		41	49	41.51N
SE	° ' "	° ' "		71	23	53.87W
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one 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, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **Sept. 13, 1971**

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

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: *David Williams*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 5, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/27/72

ATTEST:

William M. Sturtevant
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.20.72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

HR

STATE	Rhode Island	
COUNTY	Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	NOV 27 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The drawing room does not, however, retain its original wall decoration, for in 1910 it was given panelling defined by plaster moldings and hung with damask; it does contain its original white marble Louis-XVI-style mantel. The smoking room (originally the billiard room) appears somber because of its small window area and dark simulated wood panels (of plaster with painted graining) outlined with real wood moldings. The library, which extends into the curved south bay, has stencilled walls, a compartmented and stencilled ceiling, and, between the windows of the bay, a fireplace treatment comprising a wood and marble mantel with a large surmounting mirror in a carved enframingent. Etched glass doors lead to the dining room, where carved wainscoting runs along the wall, and there is a patterned frieze below the cornice. The reception room is perhaps plainer than the other rooms, but has a compartmented ceiling and a small arched marble fireplace. The walls display their original stencilled border designs. The rather sumptuous materials in the house include woods such as oak, curly maple, ash, black walnut; and marbles for the mantels such as rose Pyrénées, black, veined Lisbon, pink, and Carrara. The bedrooms upstairs are more plainly but no less carefully handled. Many of their ceilings have painted designs.

8. Significance

Internally this house is distinguished by its magnificent and intact decoration, in which are employed many woods, many types of marble, important chandeliers and specially designed hardware, painting and graining of walls and ceilings, stencilling, gilding, etc.--all either in perfect state or else undergoing careful restoration. Furniture and ornaments are all in period and most are part of the original furnishings. The owners intend this house to be a house museum, and there is probably no other house of this period in New England of its size, quality and state of preservation.

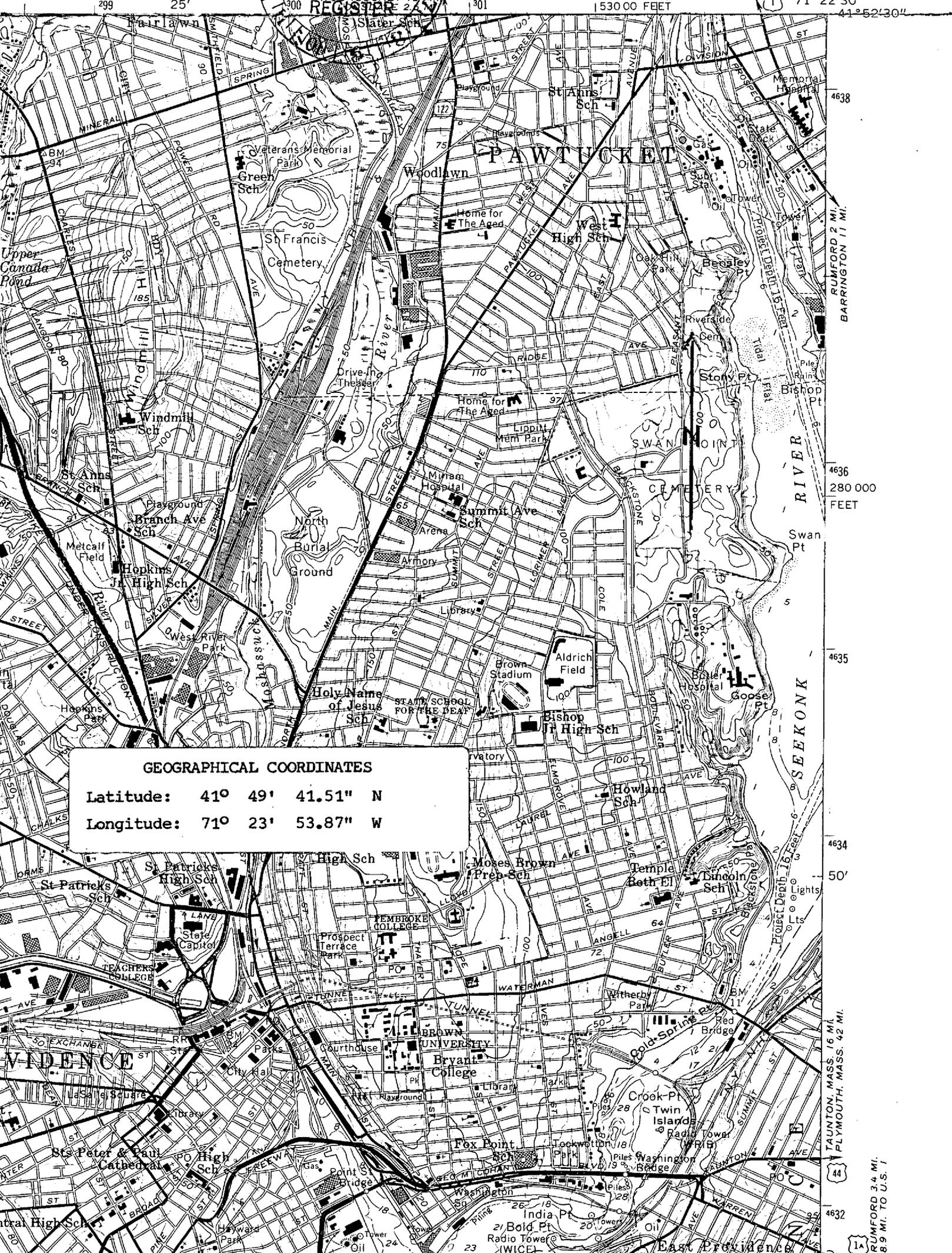


RECEIVED
MAY 18 1972
NATIONAL
REGISTER

PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

BOSTON, MASS. 40 MI.
SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS. 2.2 MI.
153000 FEET

STET IV NE
(ATTLEBORO)



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 49' 41.51" N
Longitude: 71° 23' 53.87" W

4638
RUMFORD 2 MI.
BARRINGTON 11 MI.
4636
280 000
FEET
4635
4634
50'
TAUNTON, MASS. 16 MI.
PLYMOUTH, MASS. 42 MI.
4632
RUMFORD 3.4 MI.
8.9 MI. TO U.S. 1