

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 685 941

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Caleb Greene House

AND/OR COMMON  
Greene Memorial House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
15 Centerville Road

CITY, TOWN  
Warwick

STATE  
Rhode Island

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
VICINITY OF #2 - Hon. Edward Beard  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CODE 44 COUNTY Kent CODE 003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Institutional</u>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME American National Red Cross, c/o New England Chapter ✓

STREET & NUMBER  
99 Brookline Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Boston

STATE  
VICINITY OF Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Warwick City Hall

STREET & NUMBER  
3275 Post Road

CITY, TOWN  
Warwick

STATE  
Rhode Island

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Rhode Island Statewide Survey - Warwick Survey

DATE  
1975-1978

--- FEDERAL  STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Providence

STATE  
Rhode Island

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Caleb Greene House is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, early nineteenth-century timber-framed structure with a four-bay facade and a large brick center chimney. It has a one-story, gable-roofed ell on the east side and a two-story, gable-roofed ell extending from the west end of the north (rear) side. These ells, with their evidences of heavy post-and-beam construction, are very early additions, if not part of the original fabric of the house. A third ell, built in the middle of the twentieth century and used as an auditorium by the present owners, runs off the rear of the east ell and connects the house to a modern three-bay garage. The house, located in Apponaug Village, the governmental center of the City of Warwick, faces south onto Centerville Road (State Route 117) and is set right on the sidewalk, with a tiny landscaped garden in front of the east ell. This garden and two nearby trees give some sense of what the house's original village setting was like, but the character of Apponaug has changed radically over the years and the property is now hemmed in between an early twentieth-century brick factory building on the west and a mid-twentieth-century brick commercial building on the east.

For the most part, the Greene House is a typical dwelling of the post-Revolutionary period, combining features of the Federal style with elements which are holdovers from the Colonial era. The building's chimney and doorway are off-center due to the asymmetrical four-bay arrangement of the facade. The principal ornament of the exterior is the front entrance, which is framed by fluted pilasters supporting a cushion-frieze entablature and a pediment embellished with dentils and modillions, forming a standard Colonial entry treatment which remained popular in this region through the early Federal period. Windows on the end elevations and first floor front have splayed-lintel caps, while those on the second floor front abut the eaves and have the cornice molding mitered out around their frames. Exterior walls of the house and the east wing are sheathed with clapboards, most of which have been put up in the course of repairs made through the years, but in some places the boards are ship-lapped, and may be part of the original wall cover. Exterior walls of the northwest and northeast ells are sheathed with shingles, except for a small room with concrete-block walls which connects the auditorium in the northeast ell to the garage.

The interior of the house has been altered to accommodate public functions; this makes it difficult to reconstruct the original plan. The chimney, however, is so close to the east end of the house it is unlikely that the five-room plan typically found in center-chimney houses was used here. The most provocative feature of the interior is the existence of two large kitchen fireplaces with ovens and wood-storage compartments, one on each floor on the north side of the

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chimney stack. This factor presumably indicates that the structure was divided into flats to house two different families. This could explain the early character of the east and northwest ells, which were either constructed with the main block or added soon afterward to permit utilization of the house as a two-family residence (a fully excavated basement extends under both the main block and the northwest ell, which may indicate that these sections were built at the same time). One important feature of the original plan, a short, steep closed-string staircase with winders at the bottom and top, exists intact in the small entry hall in front of the chimney stack. A second, enclosed staircase with winders at the top is located in the northwest ell. Cased posts can be seen in most of the rooms of the older sections of the house, while the only visible horizontal timber, located in the northwest ell, is a transverse beam supported by cased posts, one of which has a gunstock profile.

Asphalt-tile flooring, wall-to-wall carpeting, plywood paneling, and dropped acoustic-tile ceilings have been installed throughout the house in this century, but a considerable amount of nineteenth-century interior finish still survives. There are many two- and four-panel doors with strap or H-L hinges, and two rooms on the first floor have horizontal-board wainscoting composed of boards measuring up to eighteen inches wide. Fine Federal-style mantels adorn the fireplaces in the northwest ell, southwest parlor, and the southwest and southeast chambers, and the southwest parlor also has doors and windows with eared architraves and a cornice embellished with dentils (part of this cornice was damaged in a fire and a crudely fashioned replacement has been installed). An apse-like niche in the southeast parlor, set where the fireplace would normally be, is the last notable feature of the interior. It has a semi-elliptical-arched top with decorative keystone, and was designed to accommodate a wood-burning stove.

In spite of numerous changes in the structure and its surroundings, the Greene House still projects a sense of its antiquity to people passing by on the street. When viewed from Centerville Road, the modern northeast ell cannot be seen, and the building appears to be an intact example of an early nineteenth-century Federal dwelling.

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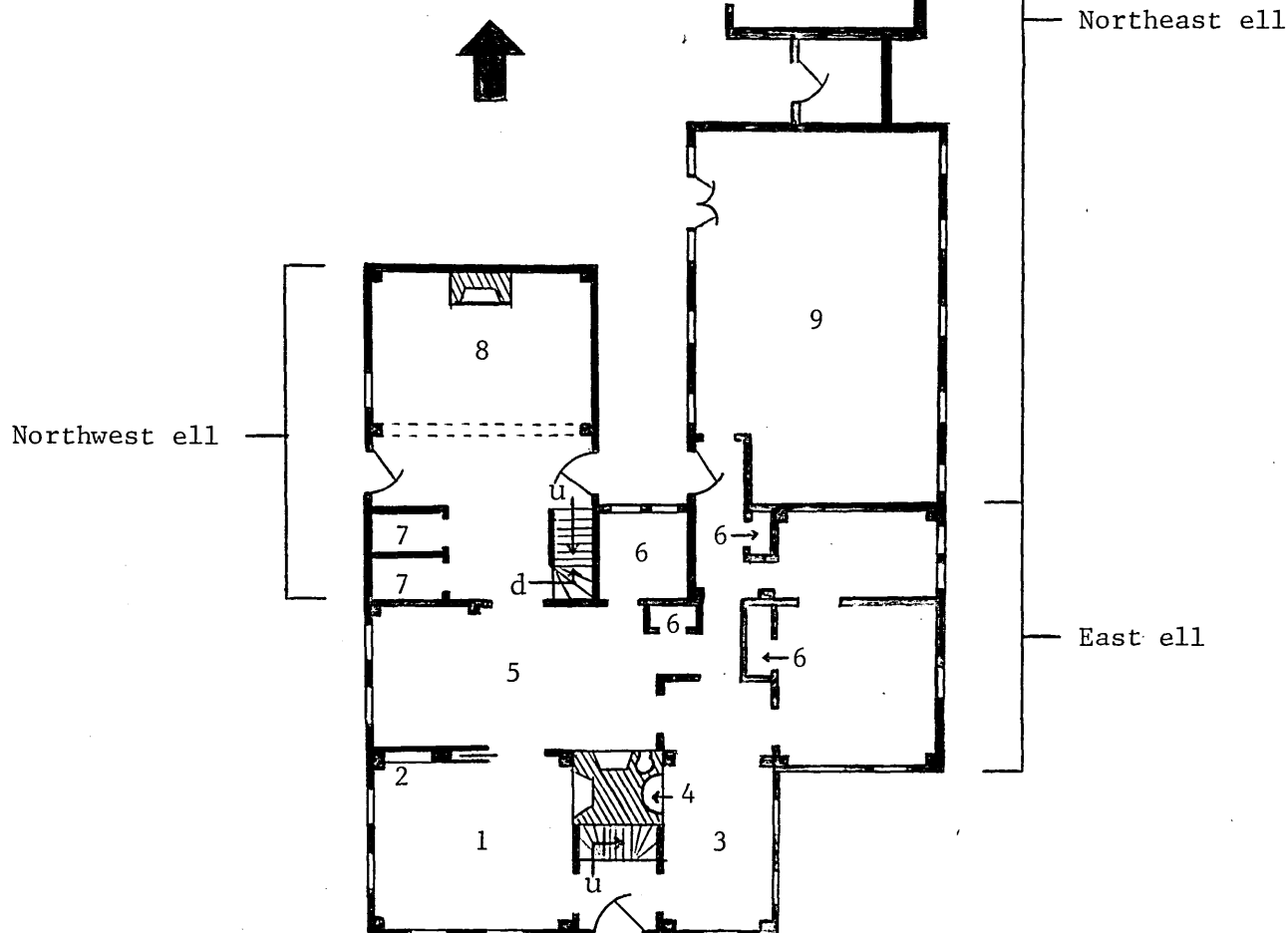
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CALEB GREENE HOUSE, 15 CENTERVILLE ROAD  
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

Key to plan:

- 1 - Southwest parlor
- 2 - Shallow closet with bookshelves
- 3 - Southeast parlor
- 4 - Stove niche
- 5 - Original kitchen
- 6 - Closets
- 7 - Lavatories
- 8 - Present kitchen
- 9 - Auditorium
- 10 - Garage



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Caleb Greene House is a good local example of Federal domestic architecture and is significant for its association with individuals and institutions that have played an important part in the history of Apponaug. The house, built in 1800 for Caleb Greene, a manufacturer who owned large tracts of land and mill property in Apponaug, was originally one of numerous eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings in what was once one of Rhode Island's most quaint and picturesque villages. With the continuing destruction of the historical fabric of the community in this century, however, it has become a relatively rare relic of its period.

The site of the Greene House, Apponaug, was first settled about 1696. It was one of the principal villages in the Town of Warwick, which was in turn one of the four original townships within the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. With its swift-moving streams and sheltered cove, Apponaug was perfectly suited to commercial and industrial development, and in the eighteenth century sawmills, gristmills, and fulling mills were erected along the brooks here, and wharves and shipyards were built around the harbor. After Samuel Slater's successful experiment in cotton spinning at Pawtucket, R. I. in the 1790s, the water privileges at Apponaug were also used to power textile mills, and the village became an important manufacturing center. Mercantile activities continued, with local vessels involved in the West Indies trade as well as coastal shipping, and the village was also a major stop on the Post Road, the primary highway and coach route at the time between Boston and New York.

This prosperity led to the construction of many elegant Colonial and Federal residences in Apponaug. Today, fewer than ten of these houses are standing, half of them in deteriorated condition. The Caleb Greene House is one of the better preserved of the survivors, and provides an important link with the village's rich and colorful past.

Among the varied historical associations of the Caleb Greene House, perhaps the most notable is the fact that it was the birthplace and boyhood home of Caleb's son, General George Sears Greene. Greene, born

(See Cont. Sheet 3)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Article on the Caleb Greene House in the Providence Journal,  
27 August 1899, p. 9.  
Article on the history of Saint Barnabas' Church of Apponaug  
in the Providence Journal, 9 May 1942, p. 5.

(see cont. sheet #5)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	2,9,5	2,2,0	4,6	1,9	0,4,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is coextensive with lot 230 in  
plat 246, as designated in the records of the Tax Assessor  
of the City of Warwick

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE: Robert O. Jones, Jr., Historic Preservation Planner  
 ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Pres. Comm. DATE: September 1978  
 STREET & NUMBER: 150 Benefit Street TELEPHONE: 401-277-2678  
 CITY OR TOWN: Providence, Rhode Island STATE: Rhode Island

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE: September 29, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Robert O. Jones, Jr.</i> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE: <u>11/28/78</u>
ATTEST: <i>Franklin D. Wood</i>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE: <u>11/22/78</u>

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here 6 May 1801, was admitted to West Point in 1819 and graduated second in his class in 1823. In 1836, after thirteen years of service at West Point and in the Army, he left the military and became a civil engineer in New York. He was engineer-in-charge of the enlargement of the New York City water works, oversaw the construction of the Croton Aqueduct, and drew plans for the new reservoir in Central Park.

In 1862, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Greene was commissioned a colonel and was later promoted to brigadier-general. He served the Union cause with distinction, and earned his greatest fame for his heroic defense of Culp Hill at the Battle of Gettysburg. In that action, Greene commanded a brigade of 1300 men which repulsed four charges and a flank attack by a Confederate force numbering between 8000 and 10,000 troops. In a message to General Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, General Henry W. Slocum wrote "...the failure of the enemy to gain entire possession of our works was due entirely to the skill of General Greene and the valor of his troops...."

Though General Greene lived outside of Rhode Island most of his life, he always maintained his ties to his birthplace. A devout Episcopalian, he gave the local Episcopal parish, Saint Barnabas', free use of the family's Apponaug homestead. After his death in Morristown, N.J., on 28 January 1899, his body was returned to Warwick to be buried in the family cemetery about nine hundred feet north-northeast of his father's house (this cemetery is not within the bounds of the house lot and is not included in this nomination). Greene's choice of final resting place indicates his strong feeling for his boyhood home, and the Greene House is therefore notable for being the property most closely associated with this valiant military figure.

The historical significance of the Greene House, however, extends beyond its tie to a famous personage to include its role in the religious and social history of Apponaug. After Sears Greene's death, his son, General Francis Vinton Greene, refurbished the house and donated it to the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island for use as a guild hall by Saint Barnabas' Church. When the original church edifice housing the congregation burned down in 1911, services were held in the Greene House. A new church was finally built by the parish between 1921 and 1926.

(See Cont. Sheet 4)

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In the 1950s, the Greene House came into the possession of its present owners, the American Red Cross. This organization provides social and humanitarian programs for the citizens of Warwick and nearby towns. It continues the tradition of service to the community which Francis Vinton Greene hoped to foster when he donated the house for public religious and social purposes seventy-nine years ago.

The Greene House's link to important local institutions and to a figure prominent in the annals of American military history, together with its role as an architectural relic evoking a sense of Apponaug's past, make it a landmark worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



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Bartlett, John Russell, Memoirs of Rhode Island Officers who were Engaged in the Service of their Country During the Great Rebellion of the South (Providence: S. S. Rider and Brother, 1867), pp. 139-145.