

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-38-0005	DATE 4/3/70

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hopkins (Governor Stephen) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
as above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
15, Hopkins Street

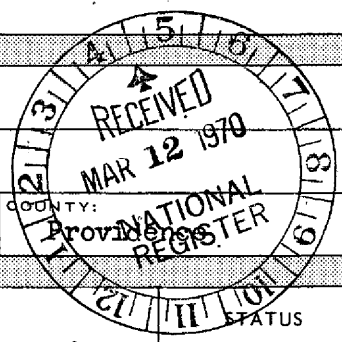
CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE: 38

COUNTY:
Providence

CODE: 007



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" 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"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
38

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds, City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
38

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937-1938 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[This house is said to have had its beginnings in 1707 as a small dwelling of two ground-floor rooms and an attic.] That structure was acquired in 1742-1743 by Stephen Hopkins, who soon afterwards relegated it to the subordinate position of ell, only, to the house of two storeys and attic which he erected and to which it became joined. Although it now stands at the top of a short, steep street, the entire present house was originally at the bottom of that street and more to the north. In 1804 it was moved a short distance (south-east) to a site halfway up this incline, and in 1927 it was moved another very short distance (east) to its present location.

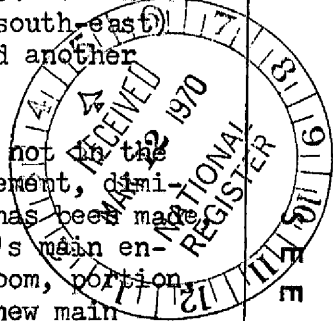
The house, of timber and clapboard construction, has not in the course of time and of these two moves suffered from enlargement, diminution or other detracting alterations. One small change has been made but it is not detracting. On its original site, the house's main entrance remained a door opening into the 1707, or keeping-room, portion. In its last move the house was partially turned around: a new main entrance was cut, leading into the stair-hall of the two-storey addition and replacing a window there. This was skillfully and sympathetically accomplished by a knowledgeable architect who also oversaw whatever minor restoration work the house at that time required.

The original part of the house is low (plus attic) and squarish, and that added by Hopkins high and wide by comparison, but shallow. This later portion is only one room deep, with four bays across its (now) north front, one window only on each floor at the gable ends.

The interior of the Hopkins house has come through the years in remarkably intact state insofar as construction, stairs, woodwork (even floors), fireplaces, trim etc. are concerned. Interior paint colours now to be seen have been carefully researched or copied, as is also the case in respect to the present exterior colour.

While a possession of the State of Rhode Island, the house has for about forty years been in the active and meticulous care of the Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Rhode Island, to which is due its fine maintenance and authentic appearance.

Norman Morrison Isham, FAIA, distinguished restoration architect and author (Early Rhode Island Houses and Early Connecticut Houses, Isham and Brown, c. 1900, Early American Houses, Walpole Society, 1928, etc.) was in charge of the restoration of the house. The new front doorway is typical of mid-18th century doorways found in Providence and elsewhere in Rhode Island.



E I N S T R U C T I O N S

X
X
X
X

8. SIGNIFICANCE

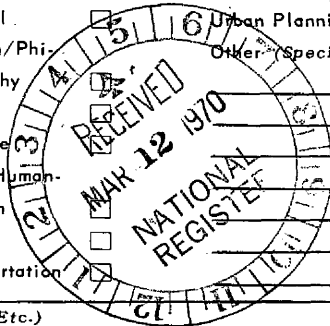
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1707, c. 1742-1743

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		



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

The primary importance or significance of this house is that of association with its owner and occupant, Stephen Hopkins (1707-1785). He was a figure intellectually and politically important not only in the history of his native Rhode Island but in the American Revolution and in the formative years of the republic.

Self-educated, Hopkins was possessed of a broad and acquisitive intellect which throughout his life he put to active use in many areas. He aided in the founding of the present Providence Athenaeum and, in 1764, of Brown University, of which he was chancellor until his death. He was a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly, Chief Justice of the Superior Court and ten times Governor of the State. He was a member of the First and Second Continental Congresses and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. His place in history as scholar, merchant, scientist, writer, jurist and politician is too well known to need further review here, except to mention his friendships with both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, his close association with Moses Brown and all important local personages. In 1776 he was overnight host to General Washington in this house.

The house, though modest, has nevertheless its own significance as an intact part of our architectural and social history--giving a good visual impression of the skills of the XVIII Century housewright, of comfortable but unpretentious early domestic accommodation.

While the house has already been generally described in Section 7, mention should be made of its visible structural and decorative woodwork, its five original fireplaces and original chimneys. The fireplace in the parlour has an interesting ornamental treatment, peculiar to Rhode Island, in the panelling above the hearth, which has as its central feature a set of recessed shelves, round-headed and with shell carving. There is a simple wood cornice in this room, simple fireplace panelling in two other rooms and simple turned or cut design in the two stair-rails.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

X

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

For Hopkins: Dictionary of American Biography etc. and other works dealing with XVIII Century Rhode Island and the American Revolution.

For house: Antoinette F. Downing: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 133, 137, 142, 145, 161, 171, 206, 207, 209, 212, 275.

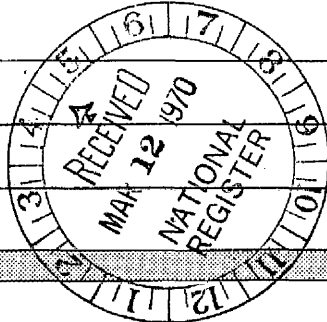
19/300100/4632910
DTM PEF
12-12-75
DWM

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		41° 49' 25" N	71° 24' 23" W	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard B. Harrington**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island State Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **Nov. 8, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER: **24, Meeting Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **38**

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: *Frederick C. Williamson*
Frederick C. Williamson

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: March 9, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 3 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William G. Soutage
Keeper of The National Register

MAR 27 1970

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-4-38-0005 0002	4/3/70

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued).

College Hill Demonstration Grant Study. Project R. I. D--1.
1959 (2nd ed., 1967). Local x
Providence City Plan Commission,
10, Dorrance Street,
Providence, Rhode Island.

8. Significance (continued).

The house has been furnished throughout with pieces appropriate to the time of Hopkins's residence there (until his death), including a few small items which were used by him or his family. It gives a good and accurate picture of mid-XVIII Century domestic life as lived by cultivated but not rich persons.

Adjoining the house to its west, the small garden area of the house's present plateau (supported by a stone retaining wall bearing a wooden fence of period design) has been carefully laid out and planted with flowers, herbs etc. such as were used for family needs and pleasure at the time of Hopkins occupancy.

Historically important as a relic of Stephen Hopkins and through association with George Washington, the house with its small surrounding area has been preserved and is shown in such a way as to make a truly believable background for the person of Stephen Hopkins and an instructive reflection of his probable tastes and personality.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

Stephen Hopkins House

8. Significance (1)

(Governor Stephen Hopkins House)

From 1770 to 1775 Hopkins was a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly and chief justice of the superior court of the colony. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776. He was compelled to return home in September 1776 because of declining health, but between 1776 and 1780 he served as a Rhode Island delegate to conventions of New England States and in 1777 was a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Hopkins helped to establish a public subscription library in Providence in 1753 and a newspaper, the Providence Gazette; and Country Journal, in 1762. He was the first chancellor of Rhode Island College (Brown University), founded at Warren in 1764, and was instrumental in obtaining its removal to Providence in 1770. He was a member of the Philosophical Society of Newport, and in 1769 was concerned in erecting a telescope in Providence for observing the transit of Venus. He died at Providence on July 13, 1785 and was buried in the North Burying Ground. In his will Hopkins freed his Negro slaves.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

The oldest portion of the Governor Stephen Hopkins House, now a rear ell, is believed to have been built about 1707 and was originally a small one-story frame dwelling comprised of two first-floor rooms and a attic. Stephen Hopkins acquired the residence and in 1742-43 enlarged and remodelled the structure into the extant L-shaped two-story Georgian frame house. General George Washington was a guest in this house on April 6, 1776.

The house was originally located on the northeast corner of Hopkins and South Main Street. In 1804 it was moved to the east along the north side and about halfway up Hopkins Street. In 1927 the structure was moved a second time to the east, to its present location on the southwest corner of Hopkins and Benefit Street, to make way for the construction of a new court house. The Hopkins House was acquired by the State of Rhode Island in 1927 and carefully restored under the direction of the architectural historian Norman M. Isham in 1928. Still owned by the State, the grounds and exterior of the Hopkins House are maintained by the State; the interior is maintained, furnished, and exhibited to the public by the Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Rhode Island.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-38-0005	DATE 4/3/70

0002

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Hopkins (Governor Stephen) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: as above			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 15, Hopkins Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 38	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Rhode Island Development Council: Official Highway Map			
SCALE: 1" = $\frac{1}{4}$ mile			
DATE: 1969			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

