

DH035 8924

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 4 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

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 ~~AND/OR COMMON~~
Greene Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 175 Ocean Road

CITY, TOWN Narragansett VICINITY OF _____
STATE Rhode Island CODE 44 COUNTY Washington CODE 009
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #2 - Hon. Edward Beard

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert J. Haxton
STREET & NUMBER 283 Plainfield Street
CITY, TOWN Providence VICINITY OF _____ STATE Rhode Island

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Narragansett Town Hall
STREET & NUMBER 66 Rodman Street
CITY, TOWN Narragansett STATE Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Not so represented

DATE _____
_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Greene Inn, a Shingle Style structure erected in 1887-88 and designed by William Gibbons Preston of Boston, stands at the northwest corner of Ocean Road and South Pier Road, not more than fifty yards from the Atlantic shore. It is set on a sloping half-acre lot facing east, with a small stone-walled lawn terrace in front. The main section of the building is three and one-half stories tall, roughly H-shaped in plan, with longitudinal axis running north-south. Plain wooden shingles now cover all wall surfaces, but originally there were areas of wavy-and-scallop patterned shingle in the peaks of the south and northeast gables, and a band of scalloped shingles across the south facade between the second and third floor levels. Most of the main block is covered by a complex mass of intersecting gambrel roofs with hipped and gabled dormers. Its southeastern portion, though equal in height to the rest of the block, is treated as a semi-octagonal tower with hipped roof and fieldstone wallcover up to the sills of the first floor windows. A decorative band of stucco once ran around this tower between the second and third floor levels, but it was removed some time in the 1960's. An L-shaped verandah runs along the east side of the building with one wing, now glazed in, extending out from the northeast leg of the "H". This extension is a later addition. Originally the second story, supported by large shingled brackets, projected slightly over a bowed first floor front at this point. The third story of this leg projects over the second and is supported by a row of corbels. A massive stone chimney at the center of the east front has a large wrought iron "G" affixed to it. On the south side of the building a shed-roofed porte-cochère with pediment-like cross gable extends over the sidewalk, and a small shed-roofed porch shelters a door at the western end of this facade.

A two and one-half-story shingled service wing with cross-gabled roof is attached to the northwest corner of the "H" block. This wing is a remnant of the old Southern Hotel (a summer boarding house of the 1850's demolished to make way for the present structure), retained for use as a kitchen, laundry, and employees' quarters. A one-story glazed passageway runs along the south side of this service wing and the west side of the main block.

Inside, the first floor is occupied by the various public function rooms commonly found in nineteenth-century hotels. Their interiors are largely intact. Entering through the porte-cochère on the south side of the building, one passes through a tiny vestibule into a twenty-five-foot square hall. The southeast corner of the hall is taken up by a huge fieldstone chimney breast. This chimney breast contains a fireplace with a slate panel over the mantel in which the motto "Shall I not take mine Ease in mine Inn?" is carved in gothic lettering. Next

(see continuation sheet 1)

JUN 24 1976

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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to the fireplace a door opens into an octagonal solarium. A wooden quarter-turn staircase leading to the second floor runs up from the corner opposite the fireplace. Next to it stands a paneled wood and glass telephone booth in the Queen Anne style. The southwest corner of the hall contains a curved registration desk with a small private office behind it, and two doors open off the northeast corner of this room: one (a double door) out onto the verandah, the other into two parlors arranged en suite. The walls are covered by a dark wooden dado of beaded vertical boards below figured wallpaper of the 1915-20 period. Four dark wood-cased beams run across the ceiling, oriented perpendicular and parallel to the angled corner fireplace, while another, supported by two octagonal piers, runs across the staircase and the registration desk at the west side of the room.

Between the registration desk and the staircase is a short passage leading to a rectangular room about fifteen by twenty-seven feet. This was originally the billiard room, but was later used as part of a cocktail lounge extending through the three rooms along the rear (west side) of the building. The billiard room has a dark wooden dado with wallpaper above; the southern half of the east wall is taken up by a large cupboard with glass doors. To the north of this room is another of about equal size, part of the glazed passageway which links the main block to the service wing. Off the east side of this room, under the staircase, is the entrance to a men's room.

The solarium off the southeast corner of the hall is set in the base of the tower. It has large Queen Anne windows overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and a massive chimney breast of fieldstone and beach cobble with a fireplace set under an arched recess. Doors open out onto the porte-cochère and the verandah, and a row of bookcases runs around the room beneath the windows. The walls are painted.

The parlors off the north end of the hall vary in size and decorative treatment. The one adjacent to the hall is about twelve by seventeen feet and has a fireplace with Colonial Revival mantel in the northeast corner. A shallow bay with double window and a window seat takes up the east wall. A hexagonal display cabinet with Queen Anne-style glass doors pierces the wall opposite the fireplace and is visible from both this room and the hall. The second parlor, to the north, is about fifteen by twenty feet and has a fireplace with Colonial Revival mantel in the southeast corner. The east wall contains a

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triple window looking out onto the verandah. The archway between the parlors can be closed off with a sliding door. The floors in both rooms have parquet borders, and the walls and trim are painted.

To the west of the parlors, a corridor runs from the hall to the dining room. It has the same wooden dado and wallpaper as the hall. The old writing room on the west side of this corridor has been divided into a ladies room and a storage room.

The north end of the corridor opens into a small rectangular hallway with a twenty-four by forty-foot dining room to the north. The entire east wall of the room, which is slightly bowed, is covered with wooden paneling. The other walls have a wooden dado of beaded vertical boards with wallpaper above. Six cased beams run across the ceiling from north to south. A double door in the east wall opens onto the enclosed wing of the verandah, used as part of the dining room. A fifteen-by-twenty-foot serving room off the west of the dining room connects with the kitchen in the service wing. The small hallway adjacent to the dining room leads into a room shaped like one-quarter of a dodecagon. This was originally the small dining room, designed for winter use, when there were fewer guests at the hotel. A bar is now installed at the north end of this room, once used as part of the cocktail lounge. Part of the ceiling here is of wooden latticework, while the polygonal end of the room is all windows, overlooking the glazed passageway and the rear courtyard beyond.

The first floor of the service wing is taken up mostly by the kitchen. There are also some storage rooms, and a hall containing a stairway and the refrigerator and freezer rooms. The second floor of the service wing is divided into six bedrooms and two baths, while the third floor has one large bedroom on either side of the stair hall.

In the main block, there are eighteen bedrooms, three semi-private baths, two hall baths, and a toilet on both the second and third floors, and five bedrooms, one hall bath, and one private lavatory on the fourth floor. Four of the second floor bedrooms have fireplaces with nondescript mantels; the other rooms are very plain, with painted walls, Queen Anne windows, and doors with transoms opening into the corridors.

The Greene Inn was operated as a hotel until about four years ago. The present owner has recently purchased the Inn from an owner who purchased it in 1922. He plans to reopen the restaurant in May of 1976, with renovation and reopening of the rest of the hotel to follow.

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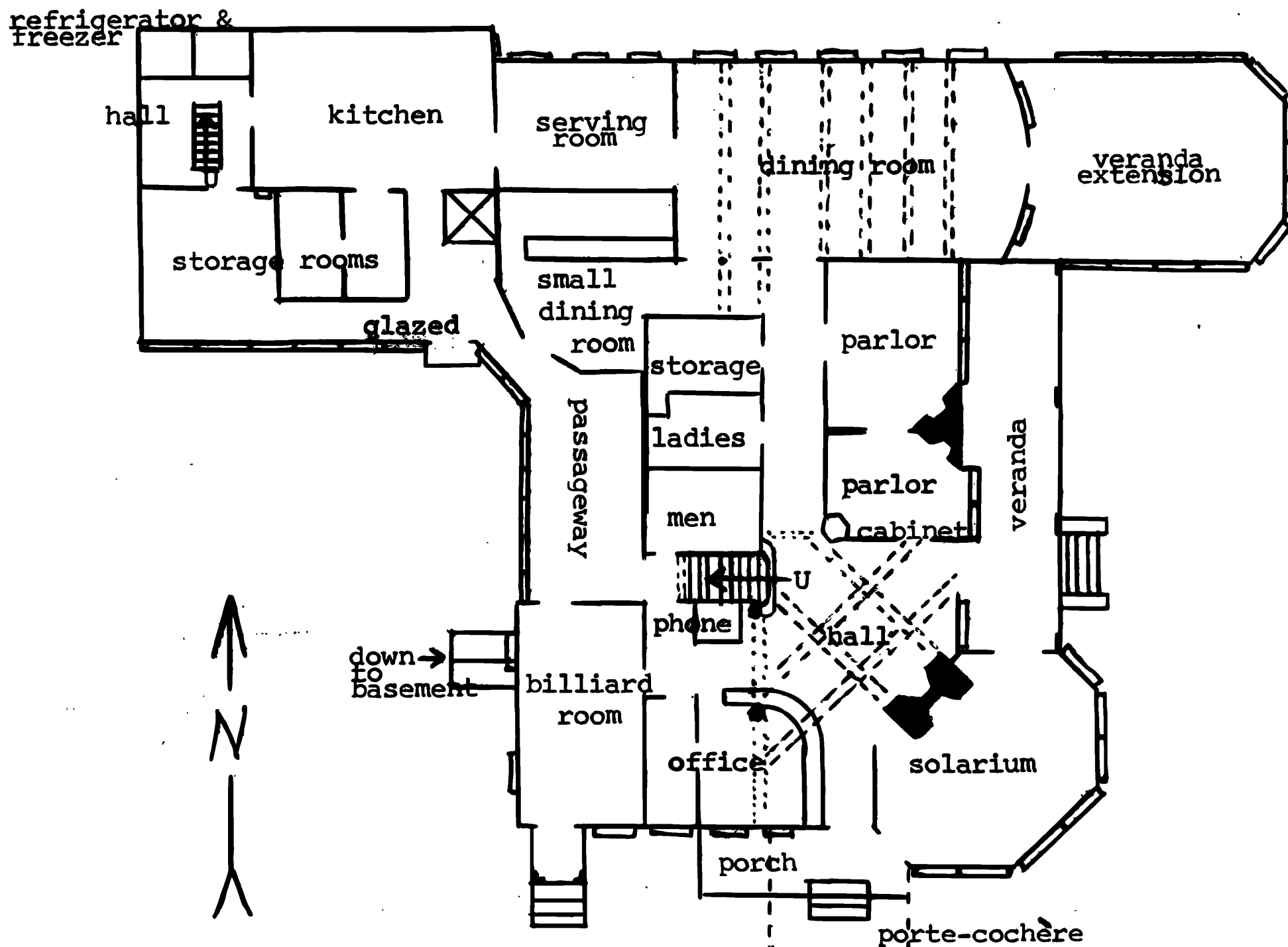
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SOUTH PIER ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN - GREENE INN, NARRAGANSETT, R.I.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" 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

1887-88

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Gibbons Preston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Greene Inn is one of the few structures surviving from the period when Narragansett Pier was one of America's most popular and well-known summer resorts. The history of the Pier as a summer resort dates from the 1840's, when a few people from Providence came to this tiny, remote seaport (founded about 1780) to enjoy its mild climate and its sandy, gently-sloping bathing beach. These visitors had to board with local residents, for at that time there were no hotels. The first hotels, the Revere House and the Narragansett House, were built in 1855-56. By that time the village's reputation had already begun to spread outside Rhode Island. In 1848 Rowland Hazard, owner of the mill in the nearby village of Peacedale, had taken Joseph H. Dulles of Philadelphia, one of his business associates, to visit Narragansett Pier. Dulles was so impressed he reserved rooms at Hadwen's boarding house for the following season. In 1856, Dulles returned with his family and friends to stay at the Narragansett House.

Summer tourism rose from this modest beginning to become Narragansett Pier's major industry. Between 1866 and 1871 eight hotels were built here, catering to visitors from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, New Orleans, St. Louis, and Chicago. In 1876 the Narragansett Pier Railroad was opened, greatly improving travel accommodations (before that travellers had to ride nine miles by stagecoach from Kingston, the nearest station). A casino and several more hotels were built in the 1880's, and some of the wealthier visitors built large summer "cottages" on the road leading south to Point Judith.

The Greene Inn, completed in 1888, occupies the site of W. E. H. Whaley's dwelling house, where Whaley began taking in boarders in about 1860. In 1880 he sold his property to H. W. Greene, who remodeled the house and opened it as the Southern Hotel. In 1887 Mr. Greene and his son Nathaniel had most of the old Southern Hotel torn down, whereupon they began to erect a new hotel which was, in the words of a contemporary writer, "...a decided ornament to the Pier." The new Inn was designed by William Gibbons Preston (1844-1910), a prominent Boston architect who designed the Museum of Natural History on Berkeley Street (now the Bonwit Teller store) and the First Corps of Cadets Armory at Columbus Avenue and Arlington Street in that city. Preston had already built four structures in Narragansett, and was later commissioned to

(see continuation sheet 3)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News, volume XXIII number 631,
(28 January 1888).

Cole, J. R., History of Washington and Kent Counties, Rhode Island,
(New York: 1889), pp. 554-67.

Index to the Preston Collection in the Fine Arts Department, Boston
Public Library. (see continuation sheet 4)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

720			420						
A	1,9	2,9,4	5,5,5	4,5,8,8	5,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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, Survey specialist

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

April 1976

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

(401) 277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Frederick Wilburson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/24/76

ATTEST

DATE

6.23.76

CLERK, DEPT. OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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build four more. The Greene Inn was his only hotel, however, and it was different from the others at Narragansett. At the time of its construction, the Inn was the only hotel at the Pier with central heating, which made it possible for the Greenes to run a year-round establishment. More important, it was much smaller and more intimate than the other Pier hotels. In his design for the Inn, Preston was trying, as reported in the American Architect and Building News, "to produce a hostelry promising some of the creature comforts so commonly found in the smaller hotels of England and which the great caravansaries lining our coast are the farthest possible from furnishing." Preston's efforts were apparently appreciated by the public, for the Greene Inn soon became the most desirable place to stay at Narragansett. According to older residents, the Inn reached its peak of popularity in the 1920's and 1930's, when a number of famous people came to stay there, including Frank Murphy, U. S. Attorney-General during F. D. Roosevelt's administration. In 1920 Nathaniel Greene sold the Inn to Charles Wescott, a Wall Street investor, who in turn sold it to James Muldowney in 1922. Mr. Muldowney ran the hotel for about fifty years, ceasing operations only four or five years ago.

Today the Greene Inn is an important local landmark. Of the fifteen or twenty nineteenth-century hotels which once stood at the Pier, it is the only one remaining. It defines the southern end of the old waterfront hotel strip, with the Towers of the old Casino (a National Register property) marking the other end about one-half mile to the north. In spite of the chaotic streetscape between them, these two monuments serve as a strong reminder of Narragansett Pier's heyday as a summer resort for upper middle class families from the eastern, southern, and midwestern states. The Inn is also noteworthy as an example of the work of a major nineteenth-century New England architect. Most important, however, is the role this building plays in maintaining the historic fabric of the Pier area. With plans for returning the Greene Inn to its former use already under way, its value as a symbol of Narragansett's interesting and glamorous past is greatly enhanced, and makes the building's preservation that much more imperative.

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Narragansett Pier, Its Past, Present, and Future, (Narragansett: 1888),
unpaged.

Taylor, William Henry, Memories of Narragansett Pier, (manuscript at
Pettaquamscutt Historical Society).

Withey, H. F. and E. R., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects,
(Los Angeles: 1956), pp. 486-87.