

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Paine House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Francis Brayton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Station Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Coventry		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #2, Robert O. Tiernan	
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44	COUNTY: Kent	CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society		
STREET AND NUMBER: Station Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Coventry	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Registry of Deeds, Coventry Town House		
STREET AND NUMBER: 75 Main Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Coventry	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1955 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> 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:  
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DATE

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered

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(Check One)

Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

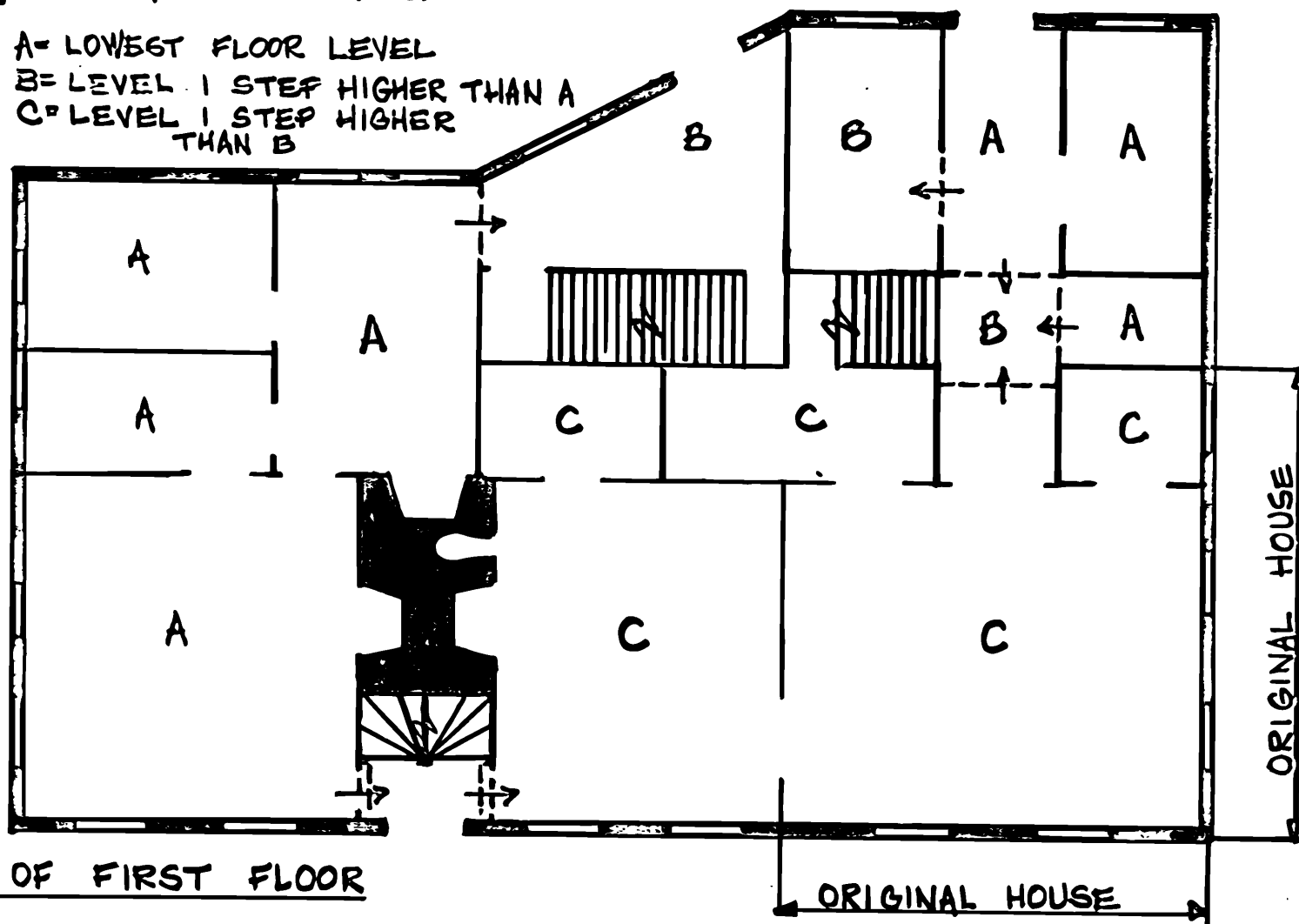
The Paine House is a two-and-a-half story, shingled house set on a stone foundation and covered by a broad gable roof of steeper pitch on the south. The front or south entrance has a four-panel door capped by a four-light transom and surrounded by a moulded frame. All of the windows have six-over-six sash and plain wood-pegged frames.

The roof framing and foundation walls indicate that the original house was built on a one-room plan at the southeast corner of the present house. The chimney for the original house no longer exists (the present chimney is centrally located) but there is evidence that there were once stairs that led from the southeast room to the cellar. This southeast room is on a higher level than the rest of the first floor. The Historical Society believes that the house dates from the years immediately following King Philip's War, and the basic one-room plan as well as the vertical sheathing and batten doors do belong to seventeenth-century tradition. This early date cannot, however, be satisfactorily substantiated by written records or physical evidence.

Throughout the Paine House there are beaded corner posts, plastered walls, and mostly wide floorboards. The interior doors are four-panelled or made of vertical sheathing but none of the original hardware remains. The fireplaces have relatively simple mantels that are one-story and basically alike with moulded, eared surrounds. In the southwest room the fireplace now has a late nineteenth-century mantel. In this room and the center front room the hearths are of stone. There are three staircases, each of which is steep and enclosed with sheathing. In the northeast corner of the cellar there is an old well, now filled in, and on the west, evidence of what must have been a tavern room.

↓ INDICATES 1 STEP UP

A = LOWEST FLOOR LEVEL  
 B = LEVEL 1 STEP HIGHER THAN A  
 C = LEVEL 1 STEP HIGHER THAN B



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input 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 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Records indicate that the Paine House or main part of it was built in 1748 by Francis Brayton (1721-1783), a blacksmith from Portsmouth, Rhode Island. He was descended from Francis Brayton who had come to Portsmouth from England in 1640. In 1742 he married Sarah Phillips; in 1743 his first son Francis, Jr. was born; and in 1745 he bought 190 acres of land in Coventry. Census records for 1747 list Francis Brayton as living in Portsmouth but his fourth son was born in Coventry the following year. Francis Brayton was recognized as a town leader for he served eleven years as a councilman and was one of the four men in Coventry continuously chosen moderator at town meetings.

At his father's death in 1783 Francis, Jr., the eldest of the ten Brayton children, inherited the house and twenty-two acres of land. In 1785 he was granted a license to sell liquor, and twelve years later when he sold the property, it was described as comprising: twenty-two acres, a dwelling house, a blacksmith shop near the highway before the dwelling house, and sundry outbuildings. Charles Holden continued the tavern business, renewing Brayton's license "to retail spiritous liquors and keep a house of entertainment." His son Anthony later ran the tavern and a sign reading "1801, Entertainment for Travelers, Good Stabling for Horses, by A. Holden" remains in the house from this period. In 1849 the property was described as twenty-seven acres of land with a dwelling house, barn, store, and other buildings. The house was acquired by the Paine family in 1866 and in 1953 became the property of the Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society.

The Waterman and Brayton Taverns were two of the most popular and long-lived taverns in Coventry. The Brayton Tavern was located on the "Eight Rod Highway", the principal thoroughfare for the agricultural trade between markets in Providence and eastern Connecticut. This tavern was thus a convenient stopping place for travelers, a center for exchanging news and information, and a place where town and personal business was transacted. The original tap room in the cellar (ground level on the west), large common room on the first floor, and numerous small rooms on the upper floors for overnight patrons are preserved today as a reminder of the brisk tavern business which the Brayton, later known as Holden Tavern, must have enjoyed during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society, "The Paine House"  
 Town of Coventry Deed Records  
 Levesque, George, "Coventry: The Colonial Years, 1721-1733",  
 Masters Thesis at Brown University, 1969.

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 41 ' 29.34 N	71 ° 33 ' 53.14 W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

U 34  
 19/25/54  
 4311490

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mrs. Richard P. Sullivan, Grants Administrator

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: April 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island      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: Wendell Williams  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: APR 12 1974

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

AP Quaterson  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:  
Wendell Williams  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 5.1.74



Paine House

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 41' 29.34" N  
Longitude: 71° 33' 53.14" W

TIOGUE  
LAKE