

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 22 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Windmill Cottage

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
114 Division Street

CITY OR TOWN:
East Greenwich

STATE: Rhode Island, 02818 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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Paul R. Ladd

STREET AND NUMBER:
114 Division Street

CITY OR TOWN:
East Greenwich

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02818

CODE:
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
111 Peirce Street

CITY OR TOWN:
East Greenwich

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02818

CODE:
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 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

STATE:

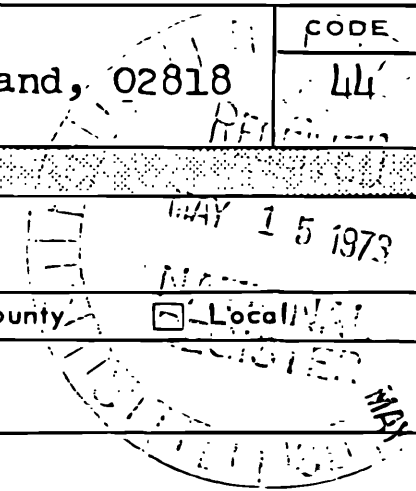
COUNTY:

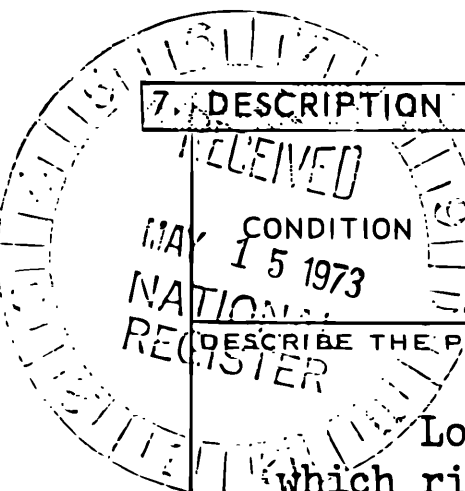
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the crest of an old, tree-shaded residential street which rises westerly from East Greenwich's Main Street, Windmill Cottage is a picturesque composite structure consisting of a house dating from 1800 or possibly earlier (there are not positively confirming records), to which a windmill of c. 1790 or even pre-Revolutionary date (here again, available local records and local legend are not in agreement), once operating nearby, has been moved and conjoined as an annex. This mating was accomplished in 1870.

The main house, somewhat greater in size and accommodation than is indicated by its "cottage" appellation, was built upon a small, flat, corner lot of land for Martin Nichols and is a two-and-a-half-storey, gable-roofed structure set upon a very low stone foundation; it is timber-framed, vertically boarded, and faced with clapboarding. Until its union with the windmill it had the locally traditional five-room, centre-chimney plan whose arrangement and structural boundaries are still visible on the interior. The house has been enlarged by an early south-eastern kitchen ell; a slight, gabled western projection; an extension of about seven feet across most of the rear of the dwelling--the latter two, both of 1870 and needed to help in embracing the windmill, having altered original proportions, room plans and uses.

The entrance front of Windmill Cottage faces north, behind a low stone wall covered by creeper-vines; it is close upon Division Street and presents a very simple elevation with four irregularly-spaced openings on each floor. Excepting a modest moulded wooden cornice within the end-gables, and the main entrance, the old house is without exterior adornment. The front doorway, which lies between two eastern and one western windows, has fluted Ionic pilasters supporting an entablature--this enframing carried out in a provincial, vernacular style. Windows are completely untrimmed penetrations of the clapboarding, although those on the first floor are topped by plain and slim board "hoods" canted out at an angle over each of these three openings. Old, small-paned window sash survives only on the top floor.

The windmill attached at the south-west corner of the house is of four storeys, octagonal, timber-framed and covered by painted shingles; its shingled bonnet--from which the axle holding the now-gone wind-catching blades once protruded--is of bee-hive shape. This structure formerly stood across a street to the east of the cottage and was in commercial operation as a grist-mill until 1843. After a quarter-century of disuse it was purchased by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet, who had it moved and attached to the house just described and at that time occupied by his friend, Professor George Washington Greene. Following the move, new and larger windows with moulded pediments were cut in some sides of the tapering mill octagon, and pedimented dormers were pushed through its roof. Just below this dome-like roof was applied a frieze-board from which curved Victorian brackets extend to uphold a projecting moulded wooden cornice.

(See Continuation Sheet 1.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

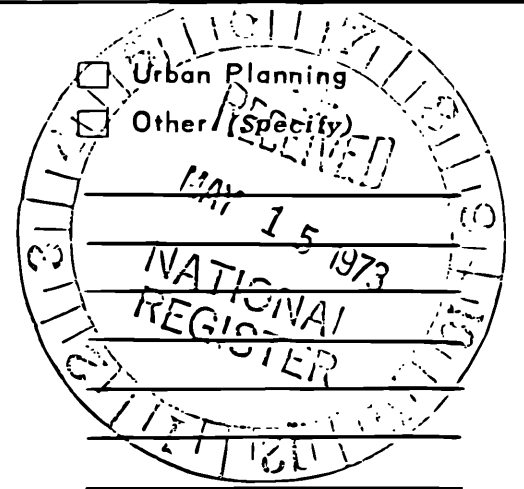
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1790, c. 1800

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" 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 | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aside from its picturesque architectural qualities, its unusual silhouette and its visually enjoyable setting in a context of other old dwellings on the crest of tree-lined Division Street--a section which is to East Greenwich rather like what College Hill is to Providence--this house has an interesting history in respect to its succession of occupants, their activities, friends, connections and visitors.

In 1800 or thereabouts Martin Nichols, a mariner, purchased the quarter-acre corner lot at Division and West Streets and built the existing "cottage. By about 1805, however, it was sold to William Green^w, member of a family active in early settlement of the Warwick-East Greenwich area, notable because of the place taken by General Nathanael Greene in the Revolutionary War, and ever since prolific and prominent in this section--subsequent members appearing and reappearing in the history of Windmill Cottage. After three years, William Greene sold the house to a relative, Franklin Greene, nephew of the great general. After another three years it was sold to Ethan Clarke, prospering first president of the Rhode Island Central Bank.

Clarke had one daughter, Anna Maria, who married Nathanael Greene, the general's son; this union produced two sons, one of whom was Professor George Washington Greene, educated at but never a teacher at Brown University. In the meantime, the cottage was acquired in 1835 by Henry Elbridge, who lived in it and operated the grist-mill on the opposite street-corner until milling became unprofitable in 1843.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the famous poet and Harvard professor, had met George Washington Greene when both were travelling in Italy in their youth, and a lifelong friendship developed--both men frequently exchanging visits in East Greenwich and in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where both had membership in a literary group known as the Dante Society. Greene, who had a wife and family which Longfellow--himself twice a widower--doubtless enjoyed, was somewhat improvident in money matters, and Longfellow benevolently and continuously assisted his friend. In 1866 the cottage in East Greenwich came up for sale, and Longfellow bought it as a gift and residence for the Greens (prudently deeding it to the wife) and also as a place where he would be welcome

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McPartland, Martha R.: The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677-1960 ... (East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1960), pp. 45, 101, 251.
 Elliott, Maud Howe: This Was My Newport (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1944).

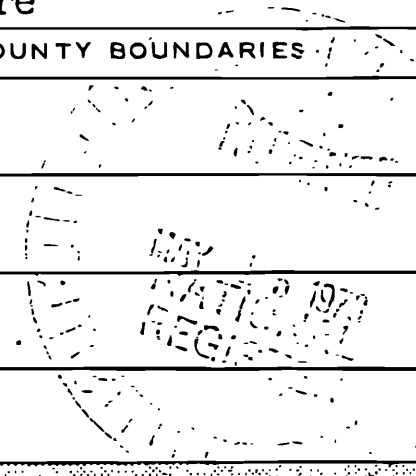
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	0 : "	0 : "		41° 39' 48.92" N	71° 27' 23.41" W	
NE	0 : "	0 : "				
SE	0 : "	0 : "				
SW	0 : "	0 : "				

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:
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: March 1, 1973

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: Richard Williams
 State Historic Preservation Officer

Title: _____

Date: 5/7/73

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

Robert W. Utter
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

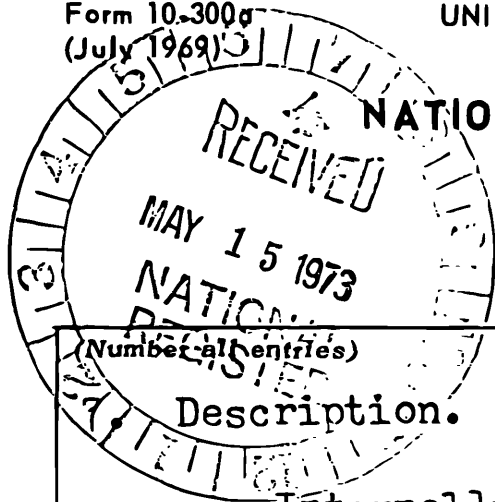
Date: 5/22/73

ATTEST:

Marcel Ford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/18/73

19/895-400, 4615/30
 12-9-73-um
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)-1

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
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(Number of entries)

Description.

Internally, the original plan, with three hearths on each floor served by the centre chimney, is evident although arrangements--due to the windmill addition--are not what they were when the house was built. There is no longer the tight, angular stair directly within the front door, for this ascent was removed in 1870. At that time the room to the right of the entry was converted from a parlour to a sort of lobby, in the south-west portion of which an ample staircase of simple Victorian style was placed to serve both the main house and the windmill addition. To the left of the entry, the dining-room occupies the east side of the first floor and is served from the ell appendages. (The original kitchen or keeping-room takes up the rear-centre portion of the first floor, and its old hearth and ovens, at some time given a discreet Greek Revival trim, are still to be seen.) The lowest stage of the windmill forms, on the first floor, an octagonal sitting-room or study; it has little wooden trim beyond the encasements of the inward-sloping upright timbers of the mill.

On the second floor of the house, the 1870 stair has altered the original room arrangement at the south-west, though not elsewhere. Here, wide-board flooring remains, as is not the case downstairs. The large main bedchamber to the north-east was slightly "modernised" in the XIX Century by the application of a plain Greek Revival mantel. On this level, one walks into the second stage of the windmill, used as a study by Longfellow when visiting. Here the interior walls have been brought out to run across and conceal the mill's uprights, but they have also been intruded into on either side of each window to provide tall, narrow book-shelving, treated as part of each window enframingent and bordered by a flat fascia edged by a simple concave moulding.

Two small, enclosed staircases lead to the upper storey of the main house, where there are former servants' rooms and storerooms and where original hardware is still to be seen, and to the two remaining stages of the mill tower. Beneath and beside these stairs are inserted numerous cupboard spaces. The third level in the mill annex is a guest room (presumably that used by Longfellow en suite with his study below), while the dome-like bonnet--its interior now all lathed and plastered and what remains of the mill's old gears now boxed-in--has served as a play-room and is now used for storage.

While Windmill Cottage has a minimal dooryard area on its Division Street frontage, there is a small lawn at its east end, where there is an old well with a roofed wooden shelter, and there is a larger lawn to the rear, where some trellised sitting-terraces or porches have been built on-to the house and around part of the mill.

The present occupants have owned the house for over thirty-five

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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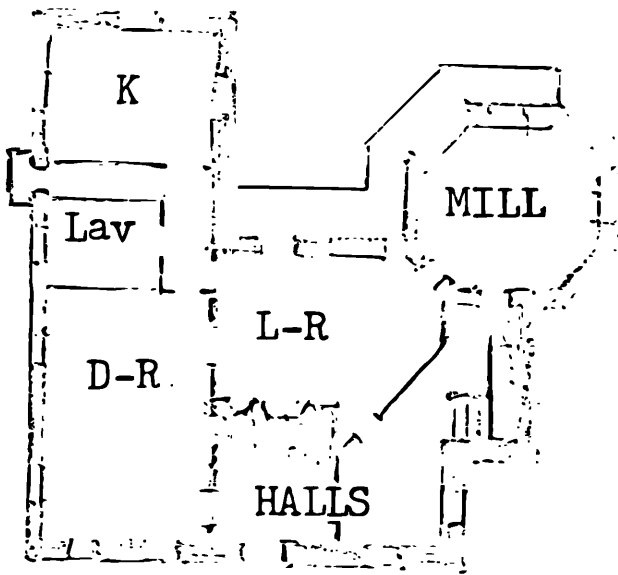
(Continuation Sheet) -2

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	MAY 22 1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

years; they have furnished it throughout with antiques and continue to give it the best of care.



Sketch-plan (from memory and not to scale) of first floor.



8. Significance.

to visit, to relax and to write (and later, as his eyesight failed, to have Greene read to him). In 1870 the Cambridge poet acquired the old windmill nearby and had it moved and attached to the house as an addition to his original present. In its new location and use--stripped of most of its mechanisms, of its rotating blades, and somewhat remodelled--the mill provided four rooms, one above the other: that on the first floor is said to have been Professor Greene's study, that on the second Longfellow's sanctum when visiting, and those on the third and fourth floors were for guests and children. With this new combination of old elements, Windmill Cottage exemplifies the love of the picturesque and the pleasure derived from amusing and romantic effects that was a strong part of the taste of the time. On April 18, 1880, Longfellow wrote to Greene from Cambridge, "I have written several poems of late, one of which, 'The Windmill,' I send you." Its first stanza runs:

"Behold a giant am I
Aloft here in my tower
With my granite jaws I devour
foundation fair"

George Washington Greene had long wanted a college teaching post without having success in obtaining one; eventually Longfellow's influence procured for him an appointment to the faculty of Columbia University in New York, but Greene died before he could fill this position.

(See Continuation Sheet 3.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-3

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 22 1973

(Number all entries)

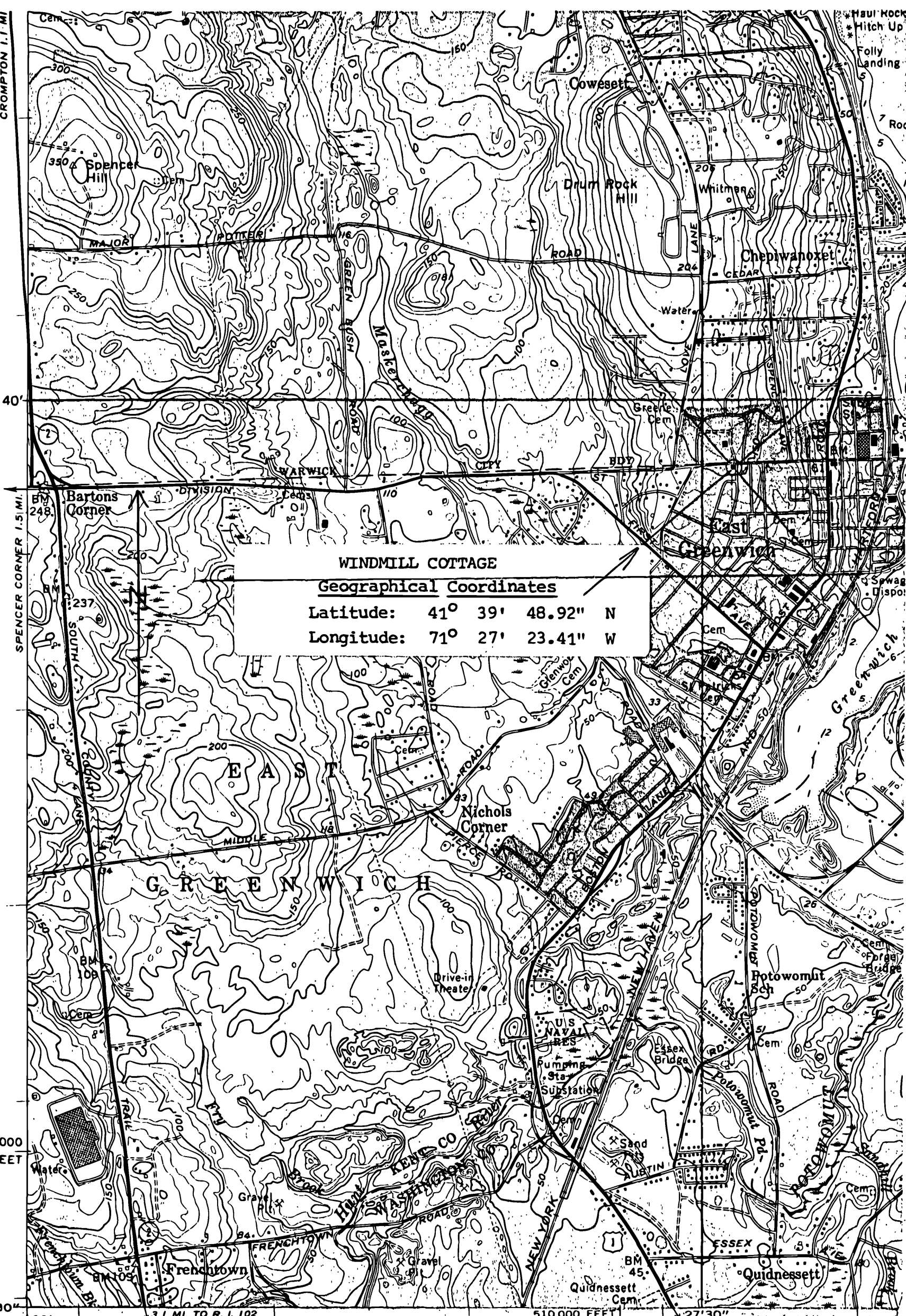
8. Significance.

Since the time of Professor Greene and his family Windmill Cottage has had a fortunate succession of owners who have given the house sympathetic care, haven taken pride in it and received there a varied and important stream of persons of note in literary, educational, humanitarian and antiquarian accomplishment--many of whom have remarked on the cottage in their memoirs or other writings. Acquiring the house in 1936, the present owners have kept a continuing share in this traditional hospitality.

While the foregoing history may not be known to the general public, Windmill Cottage itself is to that public--both Rhode Islanders and out-of-state tourists--a very well-known landmark: frequently pointed out and viewed, often photographed and illustrated. It is an important enhancement to its immediate and historic residential enclave which includes, quite nearby, the General Varnum house, already listed on the National Register.



HOPE VALLEY 18 MI
CROMPTON 1.1 MI



WINDMILL COTTAGE

Geographical Coordinates

Latitude: 41° 39' 48.92" N

Longitude: 71° 27' 23.41" W

200 000
FEET

71° 30' 3.1 MI. TO R. I. 102
CHARLESTOWN 20 MI.

WICKFORD (JUNC. R. I. 102) 4.1 MI.
WAKEFIELD 14 MI.

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by planetable surveys 1942

Culture revised by Kelsh plotter from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1957

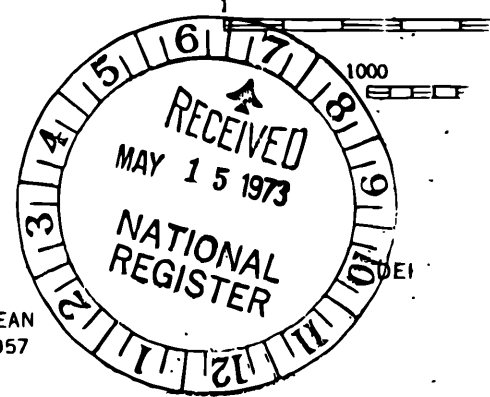
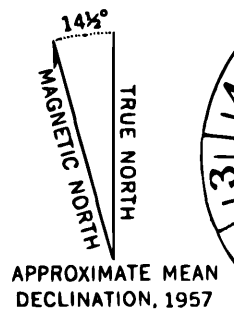
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 278 (1954)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Rhode Island coordinate system

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



A FOLD