

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received JUL 23 1980

date entered AUG 29 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Battey-Barden House

and/or common

2. Location SW of North Scituate on

street & number Plainfield Pike not for publication

city, town North Scituate vic vicinity of congressional district #2 (Hon. Edward Beard)

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name H. David Hibbitt and Susan B. Hibbitt

street & number Plainfield Pike

city, town Scituate, vicinity of state Rhode Island

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scituate Town Clerk's Office

street & number Main Street

city, town North Scituate state Rhode Island

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Scituate Preliminary Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date in process 1979 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 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Battey-Barden House is a large, two-and-a-half story, center-chimney, frame Federal farmhouse with a small one-and-a-half-story mid or late-nineteenth-century kitchen ell at the rear. The house is typical for the period in both construction and plan.

Five bays wide and two deep (see photo 1) the house is framed with traditional mortise-and-tenon joints and the cornerposts, encased, are exposed on the interior; however, the walls are studded and carry diagonal sheathing to which the clapboards are nailed, an indication* of early nineteenth-century construction. Window frames, filled with reproduction 12/12 sash (even on the front), are of simple pegged heavy plank construction with slightly projecting flat drip caps above. The facade, which faces north (oriented toward Plainfield Pike which passes about twenty feet away), is symmetrical and features a fairly unusual doorway treatment: narrow reeded pilasters framing four-pane sidelights flanking what appears to be the original six-panel door and supporting a semi-elliptical wooden fan above. The fan appears to have been carved from a single piece of wood and is capped with a moulding and a heavy, slightly awkward modillion-like central keystone. Both the fan and the reeding are typical federal motifs, but the solid wooden fan is a treatment not too frequently seen on Rhode Island houses.¹

The plan of the main portion of the house (see plan, continuation sheet 3), is essentially the traditional five-room, center-chimney plan but with two typical Federal modifications: the insertion of a narrow side entry and staircase hall on the east in what otherwise would have been the traditional, almost square corner room off the kitchen, and the enlargement of the proportions of the front entry hall (see photo 2) which are significantly more generous than those of earlier farmhouses. Two alterations to the plan have occurred: the blocking in of one rear

¹Two other houses with similar doorway treatments come to mind: the "Plain Farm" house in Providence, as yet undated, but built in the opening decades of the nineteenth century, which also faces (north to) Plainfield Pike, (although its present address is 108 Webster Avenue) and the Rudolphus B. Johnson House in Warren, built c. 1790-1800 and moved to its present location, 43 Miller Street, about 1823 or 1824. The doorway treatment of "Plain Farm" is almost identical to that of the Battey-Barden House. The treatment of the Johnson House doorway features a similar semi-elliptical carved wooden fan and sidelights, but the fan is visually supported by half-round reeded columns instead of the pilasters and has a bold flat entablature above.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

*in conjunction with this framing

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 23 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

window when the rear ell was added overlapping it in the mid or late nineteenth century, and the removal of the south wall of the northwest parlor sometime in the twentieth century. These changes were carefully done and are relatively minor detractions from the house's integrity. Floors throughout are original as are the typically Federal mantels and chair rails.

The prime interest of the Battey-Barden House--other than its good condition and its typicality--is its wall stencilling. Stencilled patterns were a typical decorative treatment for the period, particularly in Rhode Island's rural communities; examples have been documented in Scituate, Foster, Smithfield, Johnston, and Cranston; but each year fewer and fewer examples survive as walls carrying them become dirty, water-damaged, or cracked, and owners tastes change. In the Battey-Barden House most of the original stencils survive in the stair hall (first floor), executed in red and green on a yellow ground (see photo 2). In the two front parlors, the present owner documented the stencils that existed and repainted them. In the northeast parlor (see photos 3 and 4) the pattern has been reproduced almost in toto: the owner left blank the spaces over the mantel, below the chair-rail, and behind the full-width, full-height bookcase on the south wall. In the northwest parlor only the cornice pattern was reproduced and it was extended to include the southwest section of the room, originally a back corner room and stencilled with a different pattern. Mrs. Hibbitt has used varying shades of red and green on a white ground in both parlors, as well as in the kitchen, the first floor bathroom, and one upstairs bedroom. Patterns in the kitchen (see photo #5) were adapted from those in the Willard House in Still River, Massachusetts.² The bathroom and upstairs bedroom bear stencil patterns devised and adapted by Mrs. Hibbitt from a variety of sources.

The rear ell--built apparently some years after the main portion of the house--has been made into a modern kitchen with all that such conversions imply. The present owners plan to make it more in keeping

²Janet Waring, Early American Stencils...Figure 22, ff. p. 32.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3

with the rest of the house by rebuilding the kitchen chimney, in its proper location on the south wall, and removing the large multi-paned window installed by earlier owners also on the south wall.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 23 1980
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

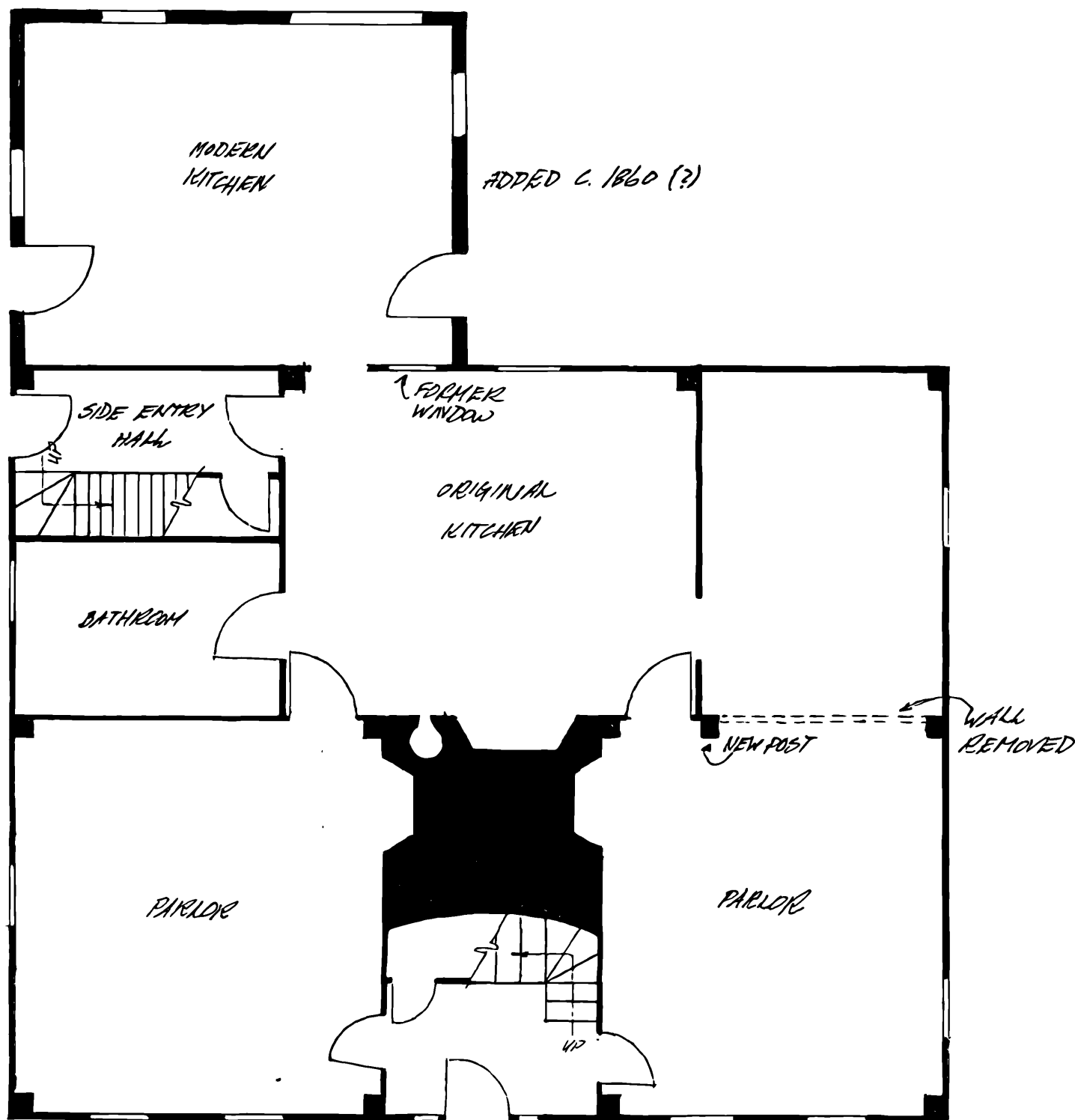
3

ITEM NUMBER

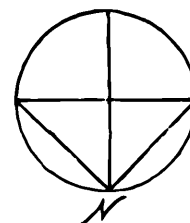
7

PAGE

4



BATTEY-BARDEN HOUSE
PLAINFIELD PIKE
SCITUADE, RHODE ISLAND



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 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 between 1816 and 1831 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Battey-Barden House is primarily important as an excellent example of the Federal farmhouses built by prosperous residents of Rhode Island's rural areas between 1810 and 1830. In construction, plan, and detail it is typical of such houses and it is particularly noteworthy for its wall stencilling, both original and reproduction. The house was built between 1816 and 1831 by or for Horace Battey (1793-1881) probably about 1824, the year of his marriage. Horace Battey was a farmer, ran a general store in a nearby building for a time, was a Scituate Justice of the Peace in 1848, and a deacon in the Baptist Church at nearby Battey Corners. The Batteys were among the mid-eighteenth-century settlers in Scituate, a family numerous and influential in civic and religious affairs.

In 1860, for an as yet undiscovered reason, Horace mortgaged his 160-acre farm. Following default on the mortgage in 1867, the property was sold at auction to Job W. Barden. The house, although with increasingly reduced acreage, was owned by various members of the Barden family until 1962. The present owners are the third since the Bardens.

Because of its integrity and typicality and such features as the doorway and the wall stencilling, Battey-Barden House is of architectural significance to the state and eminently worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bathey, H. V. Samson Bathey of Rhode Island, The Immigrant Ancestor and His Descendents. H. V. Bathey, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1932.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.086 acres **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
Quadrangle name North Scituate **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>281231810</u>	<u>41621971610</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

plat 42 lot 80

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ancelin V. Lynch, National Register Coordinator

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date October, 1979

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

see
these
report
4/8/80

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frank R. Williamson date 7/10/80

title _____ date _____

For HCERS use only

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

Forney Thomas date 8/29/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Paul Andrew date 8/27/80

Chief of Registration

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED July 22, 1980
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Eddy, Ruth Story Devereux. The Ancestry and Descendants of Isaac
Barden of Middleborough and Attleborough, Mass., and Scituate, R.I.
Providence, Rhode Island, January, 1945.

Scituate Land Evidence Records.

Scituate Probate Records

Waring, Janet. Early American Stencils on Walls and Furniture.
Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1968 (reprint of 1937
original), pp 28-32.