

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
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DATE ENTERED

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

Cook-Bateman Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Cook-Bateman Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northeast corner Fogland Road and  
Puncatest Neck Road So

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tiverton

VICINITY OF

1 Hon. Fernand J. St Germain

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY

Newport

CODE

005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bernard A. G. and Geraldine Taradash

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Little Compton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tiverton Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Highland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tiverton

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rhode Island Historical Society, no date

RIHS Library

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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cook-Bateman Farm includes approximately sixty-three acres of open, gently rolling farm land and a substantial mid-eighteenth-century farmhouse with a series of later outbuildings grouped around it. The property is sited on a slight rise overlooking Nonquit Pond to the east and, at a greater distance, the Sakonnet River to the south. The house faces south toward Fogland Road, once part of a land-sea short-cut route between Newport, Rhode Island and Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Another early road, now called Puncatest Neck Road, passes just west of the house.

The house is a two-story plus attic clapboarded structure, five bays wide, with a central entry on the south front (photo #1). A high mansard roof, added c. 1870, presently covers both the main block (which dates to c. 1730-1748), and the narrower north kitchen ell thought to have been built or remodeled c. 1812-1820. The house is the focal point of the farmstead which began with the purchase of a double lot in 1700 and was increased to 200 acres, its greatest extent, during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Most of the acreage remaining with the house lies north of the house, extending from Neck Road to Nonquit Pond. It is divided into various fields or lots, many of them defined by old rubble dry stone walls topped with large flat slates. A small goose pond occupies the northwest corner of the property.

On the east, a rubble stone dry wall, capped with slates, separates the house lot from a long field with an old orchard. Here the land slopes gently downward to Nonquit Pond (photo #3). The land on north, south, and west also remains open; the countryside views this setting provides enhance the beauty of the house and are especially evocative when seen from the porches and windows of the house itself. It is likely that the eighteenth and nineteenth century uses of the land were heavier than today's, but because there has been no intervening development on these acres, the sense of an earlier agricultural existence is pervasive.

North of the house lot is a smaller barn lot, enclosed by split dry laid stone walls, which contains a large gambrel-roofed frame barn (probably late nineteenth or early twentieth century--photo #3). West of the barn is a stone-wall-enclosed sheep pen bounded by a rambling guest lodge and farmer's house, converted from a former sheep shed and other outbuildings. East of the barn are a hip-roofed outhouse (seating five and featuring plastered walls and tray ceiling), and three sheds of varying sizes and state of preservation. In the shelter of the "L" formed by the main block of the house and the rear kitchen wing is the well, sheltered by a trellised well house.

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Slightly northwest of the well is a two-story hip-roofed frame structure, now used as a garage, but possibly the earliest building of any on the property, perhaps some part of the original farm buildings (c. 1700) now heavily altered (photo #2).

The exact date of construction of the present house is uncertain. Its characteristics are generally Georgian; its detail, very conservative. A Victorian alteration of the plan and chimneys, and extensive Georgian Revival retrimmings complicate the physical evidence, which will require detailed nail, paint, and structural evaluation for full understanding. Based on the character of the house's interior finish and on documentary history and local tradition, however, a 1730-1748 date range is logical.

The south facade has an extremely unusual entry porch extending from a panelled "frontispiece" that includes the door and the side-lights that flank it (photo #1). The frontispiece, which utilizes flat, reeded pilasters and molded raised-field panels, is reminiscent of the full-height mantel treatment in the parlor. The porch has a rather steep hipped roof. Four baluster-shaped posts on bases articulate it into three arched bays. The rail has a solid lower section with balustrade above, and seats built inside. The ceiling is panelled to match the frontispiece. The entry porch has not been dismantled for structural study, but some hammer-formed nail heads are visible in the panelling on the house front, and some nails with cut shanks and stamped heads were recently drawn from the porch rail, presumably evidence of relatively recent repair.

All windows in the house have six-over-six-sash; those on the second floor extend up to the Victorian cornice level, and have straight cornice lintels, while those on the ground floor retain colonial splayed lintels. The house now presents an almost symmetrical facade to the west. The unity of this facade, however, which includes the ell, did not exist before the mansard roof gave it a continuous roofline.

The outstanding feature of the west facade is a pilastered and pedimented door surround (photo #1). Its architrave curves upward above the center of the transom, and the pediment's flat cornice breaks forward above the curve. Doorways of this general type are often seen on Rhode Island houses built around 1740 to 1765, but

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the possibility exists that this door surround is a Colonial Revival copy; much of its detail is excessively flattened, a frequent feature of Colonial Revival execution. (Whether the doorway is Georgian or a copy, the likelihood is that it is not original to the Cook-Brown-Bateman house. It is crudely set into the end post of the original house, and its exterior frame extends well north of the original end wall onto the ell, which, in its present form, was a Federal-period construction. The door is not centered on the west front because it opens to a stair hall, the stairs in which begin their rise immediately to its right (see sketch plan),

The main block of the house was originally organized around a great central chimney, whose base is still visible in the cellar. There was, presumably, a small entry "hall" with stair immediately inside the south door, with a parlor/dining room on the west and hall/parlor on the east. It is not clear now how the long rear space was originally divided; paired interior chimneys were constructed c. 1870 to accommodate a broad Victorian center hall which extends the full length of the house. There may have been a kitchen, with smaller rooms on either side, or the kitchen may have been in the rear ell.

From the south porch one enters the main stair hall (see sketch plan). The staircase rising from front to back, has a heavy square newel post and is basically late Second Empire in style. The balusters have chamfered corners and support a broad molded rail.

The doors leading from the hall to the east and west front rooms have Georgian door surrounds, probably original to the house. The western room (parlor/dining room) has the finest woodwork in the house (photo #4). Its fireplace wall, panelled from floor to ceiling, is articulated by fluted pilasters which carry a dentilled ceiling cornice. This cornice carries around the room breaking out boldly around the pilasters and the cased beaded corner posts and above the windows. The raised-field panels of the fireplace wall have planed-on ovolo moldings. The firebox itself is framed by a heavy bolection molding with another bolection molding framing the single panel above. The front of the reveal is faced with black and white eighteenth-century English tiles attributed to Sadler and Greene, a complete set illustrating Aesop's Fables. The sidewalls have panelled dadoes to the chair rail, with plaster walls above.

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The windows have double-fold panelled interior shutters. An unusual straight-topped china cupboard with a pair of glazed doors above the chair rail and panelled doors below, is set into the north wall. Despite a Colonial Revival appearance, superficial examination shows the piece to be constructed in a manner appropriate to the eighteenth century and its doors have early glass and hardware consisting of brass H-hinges and iron latch.

The hall/parlor east of the main entry also has fine original detail, though it is less elaborate than that in the first room and has been relocated from its original position (photo #5). Its fireplace wall, apparently moved to the north wall of the room when the center chimney was replaced, features full-height panelling with bolection molding around the fireplace. A Federal-period iron fireplace liner has been installed in the firebox. Side walls of the room have panelling to the chair rail with plaster walls above. A late nineteenth-or twentieth-century panelled door leads from this room to the east porch, which was added in the twentieth century and duplicates the details of the south porch.

Behind (north) of the parlor/dining room is a small pantry with a copper-lined sink and scalloped-sided shelves (photo #6). Opposite it, a narrow lavette with marble corner sink has recently been installed. A rear stair rises to the second floor just north of the pantry. East of the stair, a small east-west passage connects the kitchen ell with the parlor/dining room and the rear of the center hall, and gives access to the northeast back corner room. In this simply-trimmed east room, which features a simple mid-nineteenth century mantel and firebox, as well as in the rear center hall, the north windows are fitted with four-panel shutters that slide laterally in tracks in the chair-rail across the windows and adjacent walls.

The kitchen ell is built with riven lath and cut nails with stamped heads, suggesting a construction date of between 1800 and 1820. It may replace or be a rebuilding of an earlier ell -- a plank found in the wall was clearly marked "John Cook" -- but this is not certain. A rear wall of hard Philadelphia-type brick contains a large fireplace flanked by a boiler and an oven concealed behind a board-and-batten cupboard door. Behind this brick wall a modern kitchen has been created. The kitchen walls have simple horizontal board wainscot to the chair rail, with plaster walls above.

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On the second floor the front chambers have panelled fireplace walls with bolection-molded firebox surrounds (photo #7). Window surrounds and baseboards, perhaps original to the earliest period of the house, were applied before the walls were plastered.

The ell chamber contains an arrangement of Georgian panels assembled in later milled stiles and rails, and its entire decorative scheme dates from the house's Georgian Revival phase. Deeply revealed window seats in arches flank the mantel, whose fireplace is surrounded by a bolection molding. The third floor, under the mansard roof, seems to have been finished for servants' use. Bedrooms here are good sized, high-ceiled and give splendid views from their dormer windows north, south, east, and west.

In sum, most of the house is mid-Georgian in character, with a re-worked Federal-period ell, and Federal-type window sash. A Victorian alteration probably made shortly after 1869, changed the shape of the roof and the cornice detail, replaced the center chimney with two interior chimneys, and relocated original interior detail to conform with the new plan. Georgian Revival details, including the ell chamber trim, the east porch, some trim in the east main room, and possibly the west exterior door, may be contemporary with the mansard roof, or, more probably post-date it.

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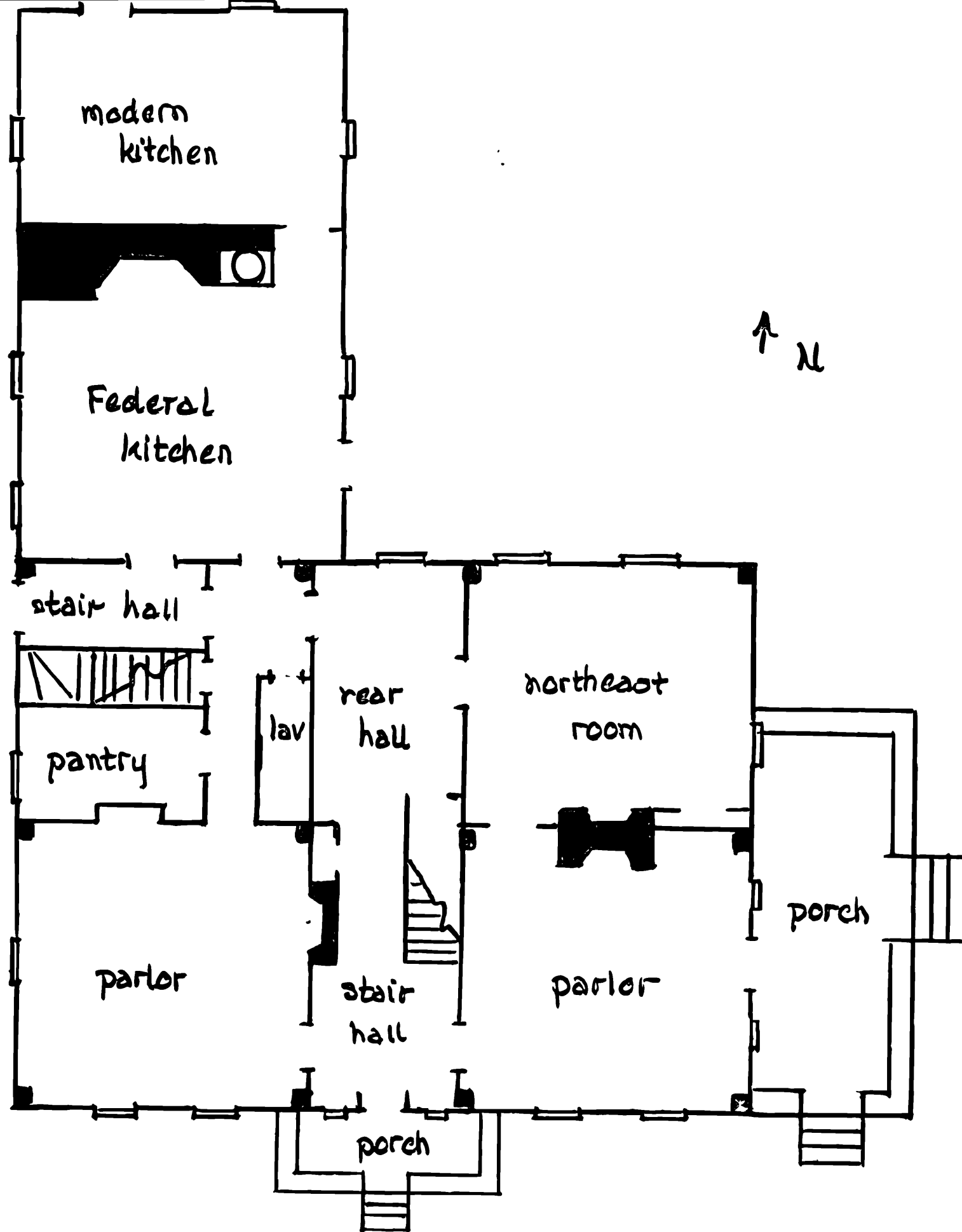
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Cook - Boteman House

first floor plan

(not to scale)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cook-Batemen Farm, with its c. 1730 house and outbuildings sited within a 63.2-acre property, is important for its association with early settlement in this area, its unspoiled although no longer farmed rural agricultural landscape, and its architectural interest. It is clear, also, that Cook-Bateman Farm, prior to the colonial era, was the site of significant Late Archaic and Woodland period aboriginal settlement (RI-TV-4). Hundreds of projectile points and numerous stone tools have been collected from the fields by present and former owners. Settlement was probably concentrated close to Nonquit Pond, which, at that time, was tidal and a rich source of shellfish. No archeological testing has been undertaken to date; however, the abundance of artifacts already surface collected indicates that archeological investigation would prove very fruitful.

The land remaining with the farm has never been developed for any purpose beyond the original agricultural one and landscape features, including rubble-walled fields, orchard, and pond, are much the same today as they must have been after the land was first cleared for farming. The outbuildings grouped around the house, most in good condition, are also instructive of an earlier agricultural way of life. The combination of house, land, landscape, and buildings is an important document for study.

The history of Cook-Bateman Farm illustrates the development of a substantial property by acquisition of adjacent lands and consolidation of family holdings. The property has been held, until 1977, by only two families.

The pattern of settlement at Puncatest can be traced fairly clearly from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the present. As early as 1680--and possibly even earlier--documents mention "the way that leads to Puncatest" (Taunton, Massachusetts Land Records, L4 f318), By the middle of the eighteenth century, if not before, a ferry crossed near Fogland Point, just west of the Cook-Bateman Farm. As it is likely that this ferry was part of land-sea shortcut route between Newport and the towns of Dartmouth (including the burgeoning

See continuation sheet 6



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F., Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Va., 1937).

Walling, H. F., Map of the State of Rhode Island...1862.

Rhode Island Historical Society, Maps Vol 2 f.8, Jeffrey (1755).

See Continuation Sheet 3

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 63.2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	31,611,510	4,610,219,610	B	1,9	31,616,410	4,610,219,310
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	31,615,510	4,610,213,110	D	1,9	31,610,810	4,610,213,610
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of the certain lot of parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, located in the Town of Tiverton, County of Newport, State of Rhode Island, described as follows:

Northerly: by land formerly of Almy and now or formerly of M. C. Lema

See continuation sheet 9

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

Ellen Fletcher Rosebrock

ORGANIZATION

The Preservation Partnership

DATE

August 1978/March 1979

STREET & NUMBER

74 Central Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 237-3735

CITY OR TOWN

Natick

STATE

Massachusetts

# 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 C. Johnson*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Coral Spurr*

DATE

10-11-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Bruce M. Douglas*

DATE

10/11/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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New Bedford), the Cook-Bateman site was less isolated than it might first appear to have been.

Captain Benjamin Church of Duxbury, believed to have been the first English settler in the area, took residence in the Little Compton area in 1674, just before King's Philip's War. Not more than twenty-six years later John Cook joined him in that general area.

On May 9, 1700, John Cook, yeoman, of Puncatest, purchased a double lot of land bounded on the east by "Nonquit Pond" and on the west by a highway. The wording of this deed suggests that Cook was not only already in possession of nearby land, but was a resident upon it (Taunton L 5 f 104). A 1707 deed (Taunton, L5 f301) names Thomas and John Cook<sup>2</sup> as sons of Captain John Cook of Tiverton, almost certainly the same person who was living at Puncatest in 1700. John Cook<sup>2</sup> purchased a half share of his father's land "on the westward side of the pond" in 1715 (Taunton 5:737). The farm herein described stands on the land of John Cook<sup>2</sup>.

The present house appears to date from c. 1730 or shortly thereafter and by 1748 a house was standing on the part of the Cook farm that holds the present building. The house was willed that year by John Cook (second generation) to his son Samuel as John's "homestead farm lying in Puncatest Neck where I now live with housing and buildings standing on ye same" (Tiverton Probate Records V2 f289). Although it is not possible to determine just where on the parcel the house was standing in 1748, a map of 1777 indicates that a building then stood on the present house site. In 1764 Samuel Cook willed his real estate to his son John Cook (fourth generation); the language of the will suggested that two households (probably in two houses) then lived on the farm (Tiverton Probate Records V<sup>2</sup> f370). However, two generally dependable maps, one dated 1777, the other 1780, do not indicate a building on the present house site.

There is much about the house that suggests the owner's wish for a fine house combined with a builder's rather vague familiarity with architectural style. Its handsomely panelled fireplace walls and dadoes in its main rooms, and its more elaborate parlor, with panelled wall articulated by fluted pilasters, speak of an attempt to create elegance. The south (main) doorway, with its unique panelled enframement, is far from academic, and might represent a builder's creative

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adaptation of a book illustration showing a frontispiece designed for a house of stone. Overall, the house as originally built and trimmed bespeaks comfortable wealth, careful craftsmanship, and a naive interpretation of stylistic usage.

In 1780, John Cook (fourth generation) increased his Puncatest farm through the purchase of part of the northward-lying farm that had belonged to his uncle, Thomas Cook (Tiverton Land Evidence V 3 f251). At its greatest extent, John Cook's farm included about 200 acres.

In 1812, the farm, was sold to Elisha Brown, Cook's son-in-law and a mariner, who lived in Tiverton (Tiverton Land Evidence V10 f60). It was probably during Brown's tenure that the present kitchen wing was remodelled.

In 1819 the administrators of Elisha Brown's insolvent estate sold 151 acres of the farm to William Bateman of Newport, a yeoman farmer (Tiverton Land Evidence, V 10 f101). Andrew McCarrie, gentleman, of Portsmouth, Rhode Island was a co-purchaser but he soon sold his interest to Bateman. The farm stayed in the Bateman family from 1819 to 1977, when it was purchased by its present owners. William Bateman died in 1851, leaving the farm, then 80 acres, to his children. Seth Bateman acquired a full title to the property in 1869; it was during his ownership that the center hall was created, the center chimney was replaced with the smaller interior side chimneys, and the original roof was replaced by the high mansard that gives the illusion of a broad facade on the west side facing Puncatest Neck Road. Later, more alterations in the Colonial Revival style were made. Some are easily detected, and include the assembled Georgian-style panelling in the ell chamber, and the twentieth-century east porch in the style of the older south porch. Others will be puzzling until structural and paint analyses are done.

Despite its changes, the Cook-Bateman farm is significant in the history of Rhode Island as an outlying early settlement of the Plymouth colony. Its setting, with open fields, orchard, water views, and rubble-stone walls, and assorted outbuildings, is typical of eighteenth and nineteenth century farmsteads. Its long descent in two families makes it a valuable property for a future study of Rhode Island farm life through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. And the house itself is a fine substantial example of a Georgian period farmhouse of some importance.

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M. de Sartine, La Baie de Narragansett ... 1780.

Le Chevalier des Barres, Port de Rhode Island ... a' La Requete de  
Vicomte Howe (1)

"Little Compton and Tiverton Four Corners," Pencil Points  
(December, 1936).

Tiverton Land Evidence and Probate Records.

Taunton Land Evidence and Probate Records.

Tiverton Town Hall Records (Vital Statistics).

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Easterly: by land of the Federal Government  
Southerly: by a way known as Pond Bridge Road; and  
Westerly: by Neck Road

Containing 80 acres, more or less, excepting from the foregoing premises the land taken by the United States of America reference to which is in Book 7k, page 446 of the Land Evidence Records of Tiverton, R.I.

FOGLAND

ROAD

PUNCEBURY NEAR ROAD



HOUSE

WALL

STAIRS

APPROACH



NEW

REPAIRS

REMOVE STAIRS AND

OLD

PROPERTY

LINE

COOK-BATEMAN EMERY  
TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

FENCE

STONE WALL  
STRUCTURE

