

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet 69

Item number 7

Page 69

NAME: Captain Oliver Gardiner House
LOCATION: 4451 Post Road
OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Andrews
4451 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02818
CONDITION: Excellent; Altered; Original Site

DESCRIPTION:

The Captain Oliver Gardiner House is located on heavily traveled Post Road (U.S. Route 1) in a suburban residential neighborhood just north of East Greenwich village. It is a large, two-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed, timber-framed, clapboard-sheathed Colonial structure with an open porch on the south and an entrance portico on the east (both twentieth-century additions); a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed ell on the north; and two brick end chimneys--a twentieth-century exterior one on the south and an original interior one on the north. Its irregular six-bay facade (east side) contains a centrally placed doorway with a transom and a Federal interlace frieze hidden from view by the early twentieth-century portico. This entrance opens into a central hallway running through the house to a rear doorway, making this one of only two or three eighteenth-century houses in Warwick with a center-hall plan. The partitions between the front and rear first-floor rooms have been removed, so there is now only one large room on each side of the hall. To the left (south) is a living room with a fireplace trimmed with tiles and a one-story Federal style mantel, French doors opening out onto the south porch, interior window shutters, a summer beam (marking the location of an original partition), and a ceiling articulated into square panels with applied battens. To the right (north) is a dining room with a fireplace trimmed with a one-story Federal-style mantel with a beveled panel over it, interior window shutters, and a ceiling articulated with battens. In the ell are a kitchen, a family room, a back stair opening into the dining room and family room, a back entry hall, and a water closet. On the second floor, a large master bedroom is located over the living room and contains a fireplace with bolection molding around the firebox and a beveled panel above. The area north of the center hall is divided into a front bedroom, a back bedroom, and a bathroom off the center hall. The front bedroom has a corner fireplace with bolection moldings and a central, recessed cabinet above flanked by beveled panels. The second story of the ell is outfitted as a studio/den.

PERIOD: 1700-1799, 1900-
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
SPECIFIC DATES: ca 1750, ca 1923

(See Continuation Sheet # 70)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet 70

Item number 7

Page 70

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: original builder unknown; Peter A. Soderlund,
architect of restoration

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Captain Oliver Gardiner House is a fine surviving example of a mid-eighteenth-century dwelling notable for its center-through-hall plan, a feature rare if not unique among houses in Warwick of the period. Alterations made in the 1920s have significance as an example of a typical early twentieth-century "restoration" based on a romanticized, picturesque approach rather than one that is strictly academic or archeological.

The Gardiner House was built about 1750 for Oliver Gardiner, a sea captain who came from Newport. After his death it changed owners many times and fell into disrepair. In 1923 Howard V. Allen purchased the property and engaged East Greenwich contractor/architect Peter A. Soderlund to refurbish the dwelling. Work was completed by 1927, when the house was opened to the public as part of the 250th anniversary celebration of the town of East Greenwich. The Gardiner House was featured in Arts and Decoration magazine in November 1930 as a good example of a restored Colonial residence.

The visual image of the Gardiner House, with its long gambrel roof, massive north interior chimney, and quaint twelve-over-twelve windows, is emphatically Colonial. This and the property's highly visible location make it one of the most recognizable and prominent historical landmarks in the community, serving as an especially important symbol of Warwick's Colonial past.

ACREAGE: less than one acre
QUADRANGLE NAME: East Greenwich, R.I.
UTM: 19 296100 4615780

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property is coextensive with lot 26 in Assessor's Plat 220, as defined by the City of Warwick, and measures 29,690 square feet. This parcel includes the cultural resource and its immediate surroundings.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

(See Continuation Sheet #71)