

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
	DAY 7 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Silas Clapp House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East Greenwich Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
West Warwick

STATE Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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:  
Mr. and Mrs. John Reisert

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East Greenwich Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: West Warwick	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds, Warwick City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Apponaug, Warwick	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

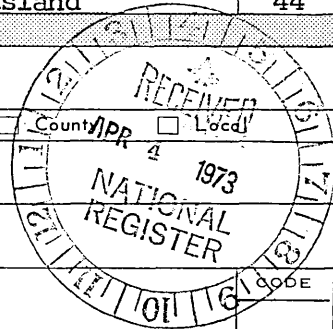
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: 4

DATE: 1973

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

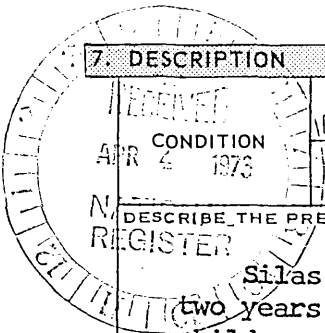
Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered  Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE



Silas Clapp built his house on his family's 100-acre farm in 1804, two years after his marriage. The couple populated the house with six children whose descendants retained ownership of the property until 1883. Since that date the house has been lived in by a succession of sympathetic owners, enabling it to survive intact and in good condition.

The main section of the house is a two-and-a-half-story rectangular block measuring 31 ft. by 35 ft. 6 in. To this is attached at the rear northeast corner a 12 ft. by 12 ft. ell of c.1900. The house rests on a cut fieldstone foundation, has a timber frame covered with clapboarded cedar planking on the front and shingled planking elsewhere. It is covered with a wooden shingled gable roof without a ridge pole. There is one central brick chimney, 9 feet square on the first floor and 6 feet square on the second floor.

The entrance is emphasized with a broken dentilled pediment resting on fluted pilasters with boldly projecting capitals. Above the door is a semi-circular leaded fanlight with arrow patterned radial muntins. Both door and fanlight have frames embellished with grooves horizontally extending in alternating lengths from the outer edge of the frame towards the opening. A moulded keystone crowns the fanlight. The bases of the pilasters are restorations and the door is a twentieth-century replacement. Two doors in the ell provide access to the house from the east side and rear.

The windows are all reproduced, six over six double hung, many with old glass. Splayed flat lintels cap the first story windows and all of the windows on the gabled ends of the house. Each has a projecting sill. The house is without further detail as even the main cornice has no moulding or returns.

The original five room plan has been modified with baths on both floors and the ell on the first floor. Modern bath, storage, and kitchen facilities have been confined to the rear corner rooms and thus the original sense of interior space has been largely preserved. All of the interior woodwork is original and in excellent condition. The interior doors have either four or six panels, the cased corner posts are beaded, the cornices and chair rails are simply moulded, and the floors are of wide pine boards.

The front staircase has a moulded handrail, closed stringcourse with bolection moulding, diagonally set square balusters, square newel posts capped by spheres, and acorn pendants on the angle-posts. The fireplace in the southwest parlor is decorated with a band of short fluting above a Greek key design on the cornice, a double paneled frieze, a vertical

(See continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet) 1.

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7. Description

panel to either side of the frieze to suggest pilasters, and mitered ears. In the southeast parlor the fireplace is slightly simpler with two rows of short fluting on the cornice, a plain frieze bordered with vertical panels, and mitered ears. The walls of the original kitchen are horizontally sheathed below the chair rail and plastered above while the ceiling beams are exposed.

The house faces south on approximately an acre of land. Most of the original 100-acre farm remains undeveloped woodland and pasture and under single ownership. To the east of the house is an early nineteenth-century corn crib covered with wood shingles and resting on nine granite piers. A later shed, carriage house converted into a garage, and a well, are to the east and rear of the property. Old fruit trees and lilacs and stone walls on the north and partially on the south side of the property give a sense of the building's original rural setting.



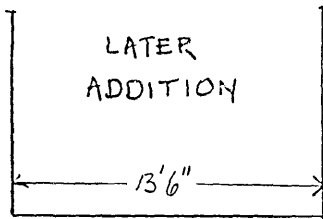
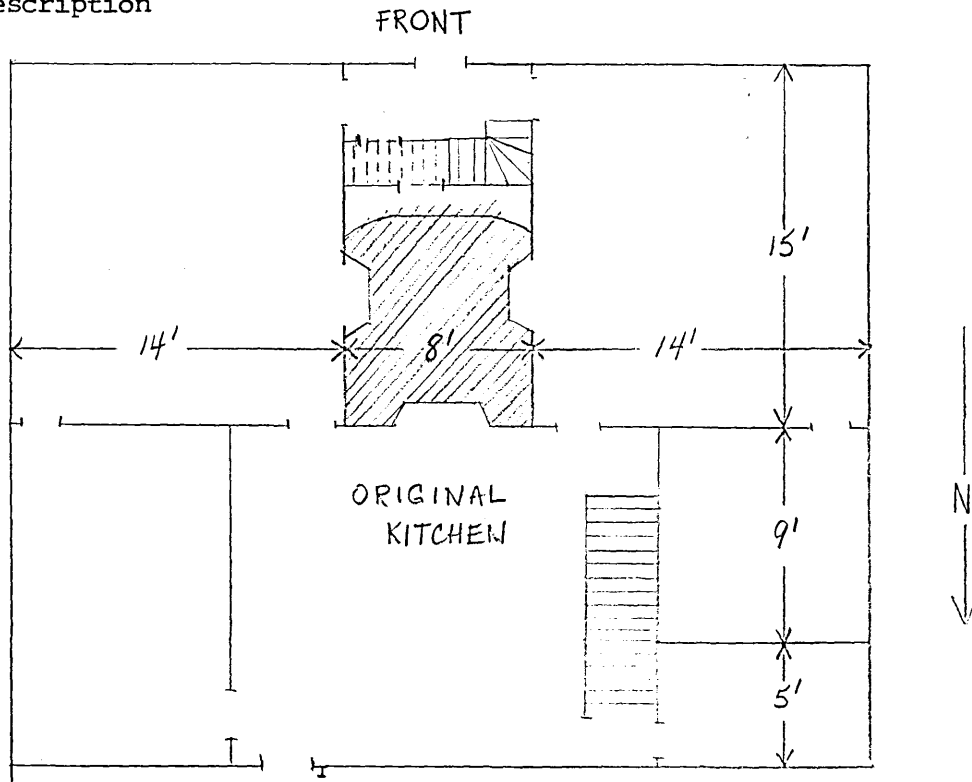
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2.

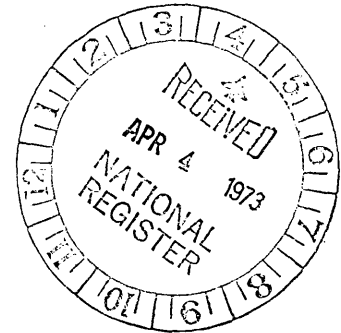
STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
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	MAY 7 1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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 |                                       |

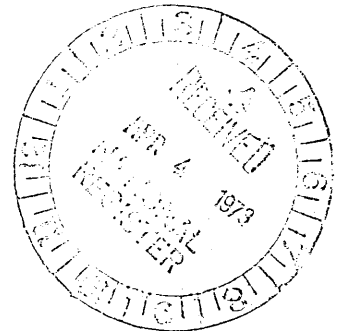
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1804

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Family history</u>                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>or Home Life</u>                                 |
| <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 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

The Silas Clapp House is representative of the federal farmhouses built in rural Rhode Island. Its plan and most of its architectural detail reflect the building practices of twenty five years earlier. Only the leaded fanlight over the front doorway reveals the 1804 date of construction. The house has been well-preserved and little altered for modern living while the original farmlands remain undeveloped. As such the Silas Clapp House is an excellent example of the vernacular building once common in rural Rhode Island. It is of great importance to West Warwick as few buildings from previous centuries have survived in that town and the area is gradually becoming commercialized.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Briggs, Esther A. S., Unpublished notes by a friend of Mary and Marcy Clapp, in the possession of Mrs. Milton MacDonald.

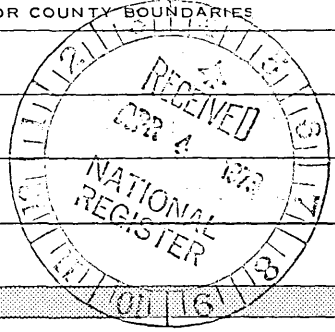
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ° 40 ' 24.73" N	71 ° 30 ' 48.61"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission**      DATE: **March 27, 1973**

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: *Frederick Williams*      Title: State Historic Preservation Officer      Date: 30 March 1973

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/7/73      ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register      Date: 4 25 73