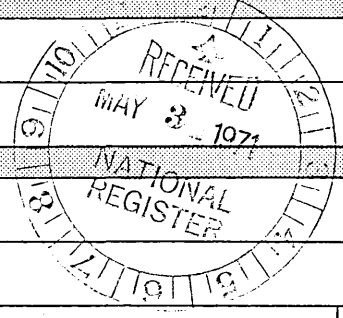


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.4.38.0010	DATE 4/28/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
Armory of the Kentish Guards

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Armory and Peirce Streets

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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:
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
East Greenwich Town Hall

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:
Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970-1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: 70.4.38.0010 DATE: 4/28/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(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

The armory building, constructed in 1842, is a timber-framed structure faced on three sides with clapboarding and on the fourth, or front, by matched boarding. It rests upon a basement of either stone or brick, now covered by cement, and carries a gable roof. Its corner site slopes downward considerably from front to rear. The building is an oblong of about sixty-one (originally fifty) feet by thirty feet; it was extended at the rear in the 1890's. It is painted white.

The armory is of Greek Revival temple-form in its proportions and its frontal appearance, particularly. At the west end, the entrance front facing on Peirce Street, is a shallow temple portico (its base very close to sidewalk level) with Doric columns placed distyle in antis between panelled corner piers with concomittant classical capping treatment. Above is a plain, well-proportioned pediment above an architrave with small dentils (the frieze area not being omitted). Within the portico a very large centre doorway of two leaves has an enframement of attenuated panelled pilasters supporting a frieze and cornice. Flanking the door are two large windows with similar but simpler trim. The leaves of the six-foot-wide door are hung on six great strap-hinges and are of matched boards painted a dark green and heavily studded by diamond-headed nails in a diaper pattern. The two-leafed shutters of the front windows are similarly treated. The north and south sides of the building each have four very tall, narrow windows enframed like those at the front, but without exterior shutters. At the east end of the building, where it was extended and where the land drops, windows are of normal size and serve three interior levels, including the basement. This is a highly pleasing and successful simple exterior of its period and style--a provincial classicism often used for small-town court houses, academies, libraries, banks.

Its interior arrangements are at present thus:



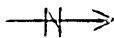
First floor.



Second floor.



Basement.



(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.4.38.0010	4/28/90

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The main interior space of the armory has always been the large drill-hall with its tall windows. Originally, however, this was somewhat diminished by a ward-room on each side of the main entrance at the west. In the 1890's these two rooms were re-located in the eastern extension of the building, where other small rooms were built above them and where there was installed a stairway which also serves the basement and a shallow balcony overlooking the drill-hall. Probably at this same time occurred the application around the drill-hall of a five-foot wainscot of quartered oak. Two large glazed cabinets and three exit doors now fill the east wall of the drill-hall below the balcony. Behind the cabinets and through the doors are, on first-floor level, the flag room, the drum-corps room and the stairwell. Above are the quartermaster's room, two storage rooms and access to the balcony. The basement now contains the company room, a kitchen, toilet facilities and a heater room--the first and second of these taking up most of the space.

The building is owned by the State of Rhode Island but continues in occupancy by the Kentish Guards, who meet there every week and who preserve their records, relics and trophies of nearly two hundred years of existence there.



8. 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) 1842

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Armory of the Kentish Guards is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture as used for semi-public buildings which, however small, were nevertheless intended to have a dignified and--if possible--monumental aspect. This is achieved here through the portico and the arrangement of openings which it contains. The building has, of course, been since its erection a visually pleasing landmark of East Greenwich. It still serves its original purpose, housing the activities of the volunteer militia unit or "chartered company" for which it was built.

This group, the Kentish Guards, has importance in Rhode Island history. It was founded and named in 1774 by fifty-six citizens of Kent County; its first captain was James Varnum, and at the beginning it received military training under the direction of Nathanael Greene. By April of 1775 the body had grown to one hundred and ten men, who set forth on the march within three hours of hearing of the Concord-Lexington battles. They subsequently returned to East Greenwich and throughout the Revolutionary War garrisoned harbour and other local defences. During the War of 1812 they were stationed at Newport, and during Dorr's Rebellion in this state in 1842 they were sent to protect the State Arsenal in Providence. The Guards provided two full infantry companies in the Civil War. The fifth-oldest chartered military company in the United States, this body has provided many men besides Varum and Greene who have been prominent in Rhode Island's military history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McPartland, Martha R.: The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677-1960 ... (East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1960), pp. 73-79. Anniversary Celebration. The Kentish Guards, Rhode Island Militia. 1774-1969 (East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1969), 32 pp.

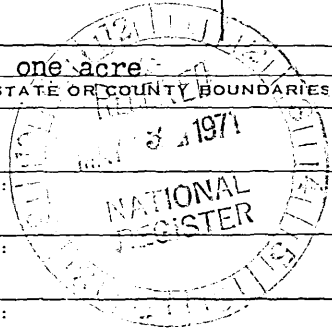
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	32'	40" N
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	71°	27'	04" W
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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
DATE: February 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence
STATE: Rhode Island, 02903
CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 C. Williams

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 30, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

/s/ 4/28/70

Date: _____

ATTEST:

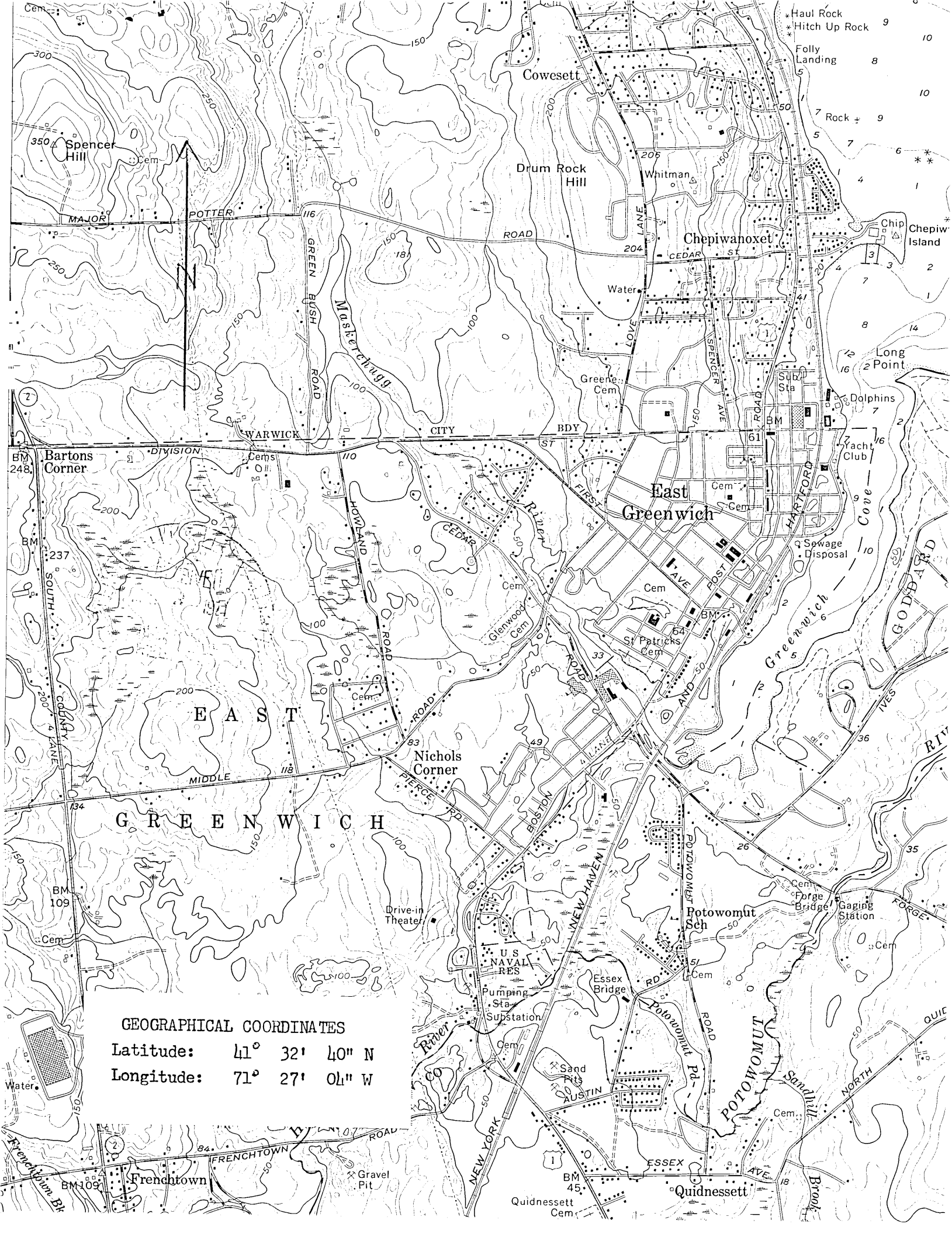
William M. Stewart
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4/13/70

19/2995910/4614920

OTM 2-2-71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 32' 40" N

Longitude: 71° 27' 04" W