

Preliminary Entry for submission to NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
by RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION (Nomination Form to  
follow before May 1, 1971).

Rhode Island.  
Washington County.

70-4-38-0008 Fort Ninegret  
(The Niantic Fort),  
Fort Neck Road (southerly end),  
Charlestown,  
Rhode Island (38), Washington County (009).

Site. Public Ownership. Unrestricted Access.

Owned by the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,  
State House, 90, Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903.

Landscape remains of Indian fortification built by or before  
1637.

As the designated State Liaison Officer  
for the National Historic Preservation  
Act of 1966 ..., I hereby nominate this  
property for inclusion in the National  
Register and certify that it has been  
evaluated ... The recommended level of  
significance of this nomination is: To be supplied later

Name:

*Frederick C. Williams*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: March 18, 1970

*William Schuttler*

Keeper of The National Register

APR 13 1970

Date

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

*Robert Allen Connally*

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 28 1970

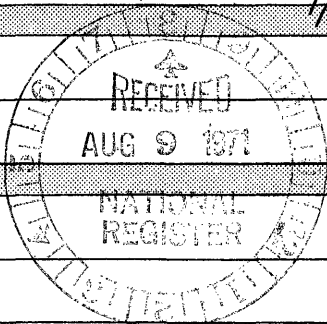
Date



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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Ninigret

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Niantic Fort

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Fort Neck Road (southerly end)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charlestown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02813      CODE: 44      COUNTY: Washington      CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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.:  
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 373

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charlestown

STATE:  
Rhode Island, 02813      CODE: 44

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

4/28/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

At the head of Fort Neck Pond--an arm of Ninigret Pond on the southern coast of the state--stand the remains of a small earthwork fort which was probably built by Dutch traders in the first half of the seventeenth century. The fort, high on a cliff just above the water's edge, is basically square: approximately 170 feet by 150 feet, with hexagonal bastions approximately 20 feet across at all but the southwest corners. The fort's shape is defined by a continuous low embankment of earth and stone rubble, with a slight trench bordering it along the outer edge. The walls were originally stone but have long since been torn down for building material.

Originally thought to have been an Indian fort, the three-quarters-of-an-acre site was dedicated as a memorial to the Niantic and Narragansett tribes on August 30, 1883, and named "Fort Ninigret" in honor of the great Niantic sachem. The original outlines are now protected by an iron railing, and an engraved boulder marks the center of the fort's location. Since 1883 the site has been maintained as a park by the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

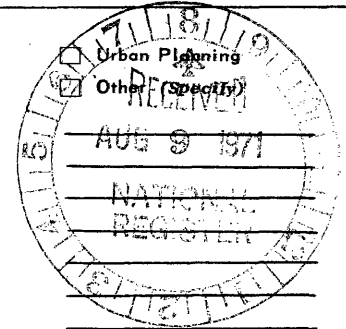
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |                                       |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **C. 1637**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input 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 checked="" 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

It is believed that Fort Ninigret was originally a Dutch trading post established in the first half of the seventeenth century. As such, it is evidence of early exploration along Long Island Sound and of early military engineering in America. The Dutch West India Company, formed in 1621, built its first fort in Connecticut in 1633, and the erection of Fort Ninigret must date from soon thereafter. These forts were small in scale and were used as outposts for trading with the Indians.

Tradition suggests that the fort was later held by the Niantic Indians. This tribe had been driven from Connecticut by the Pequots and under their chief, Ninigret, had found refuge among the Narragansetts.

In 1737 the General Court of Connecticut declared war on the belligerent Pequots. Late in May of that year Captain John Mason, with a force of ninety men, sailed into Narragansett Bay. Reinforced by about one hundred Narragansetts, Mason's group marched along the shore, headed for the Pequot fort at Mystic, Connecticut.

Upon reaching Fort Ninigret they were met with open hostility. Many Niantic braves had married Pequot squaws, and tribal sympathies were distinctly against white men. After two days of talk, Mason continued on his way, with neither help nor hindrance from the Niantics. On June 7 he surrounded and destroyed the Pequot fort, thus saving the English settlement in Connecticut.

Because of this legendary connection with the Niantics, the remains of Fort Ninigret were made a memorial to that tribe in 1883.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, Massachusetts, 1937).  
 Rider, Sidney S.: The Lands of Rhode Island as They Were Known to Ca-  
 nonicus and Miantunnomi (Providence, Rhode Island, 1904).  
 Tucker, William F.: Historical Sketch of the Town of Charlestown  
 (Westerly, Rhode Island, 1877).

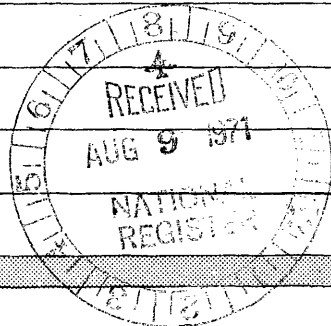
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	71	0	'	57	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	71	0	'	57	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	71	0	'	57	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	71	0	'	57	"

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:  
**Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission**      DATE: **April 15, 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 Williamson

Title State Liaison Officer

Date August 2, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

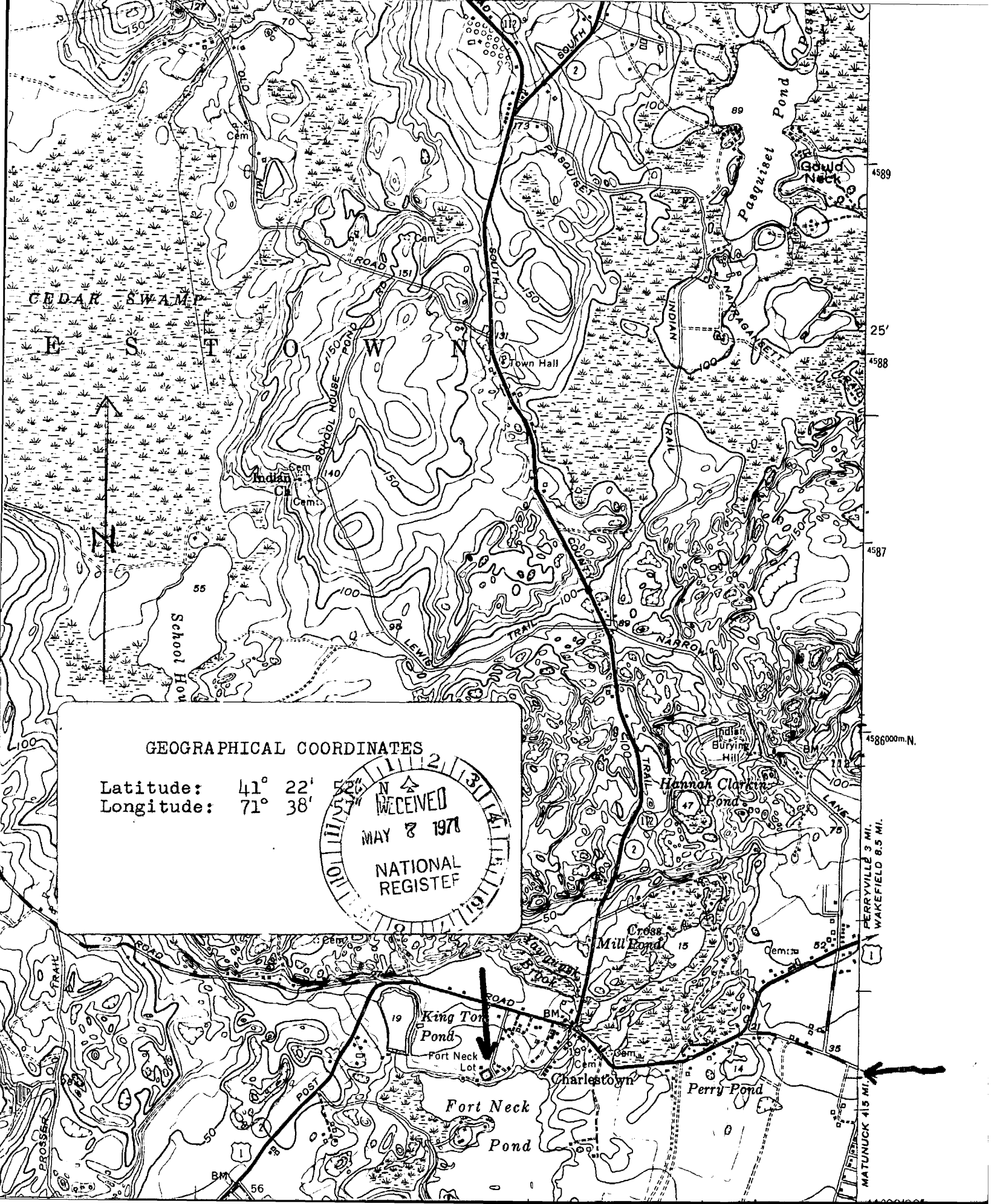
ATTEST:

William M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/13/70

191878540/4584240 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DIM 257



CEDAR SWAMP

Pasquisset Pond

Gould Neck

E S E W

ROAD

Town Hall

Indian Camp

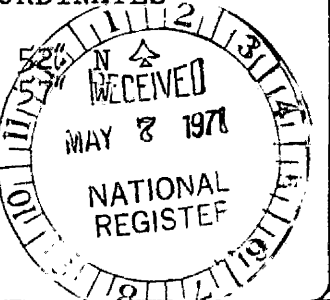
School House

Hannah Clark Pond

Indian Burying Hill

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 22'  
Longitude: 71° 38'



4589

25'

4588

4587

4586000m.N.

PERRYVILLE 3 MI.  
WAKEFIELD 8.5 MI.

MATUNUCK 4.5 MI.

King Tom Pond

Port Neck Lot

Fort Neck Pond

Charlestown

Cross Mill Pond

Perry Pond

PROSPECT TRAIL

56

55

54

53

52

51

50

49

48

47

46

45

44

43

42

41

40

39

38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 4/28/70	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Fort Ninigret			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Fort Neck Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1953			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

