

PH0690872

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 28 1977

DATE ENTERED NOV 25 1977

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

Narragansett Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

South Ferry Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

n of Narragansett on

South Ferry Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Narragansett vic VICINITY OF

#2 - Hon. Edward Beard

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Rhode Island

44

Washington

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: unused

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography

STREET & NUMBER

South Ferry Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Narragansett VICINITY OF

Rhode Island

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Narragansett Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

15 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Narragansett

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Not so represented

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

South Ferry Church, one of the finest Early Victorian churches still standing in Rhode Island, is set on a hilltop about 1000 feet from Narragansett Bay, across the road and slightly west of the Narragansett Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island. It is a one-story, gable-roofed frame structure with a whitewashed fieldstone foundation, built on the standard rectangular church plan with a projecting central steeple at the front (south) end. The church measures approximately 24 feet by 44 feet, and the steeple is about 70 feet tall. Wall surfaces are covered with hexagonal-patterned wood shingles now painted white, while window and door openings are covered by flush-board panels painted a dark green, added about 1938 to protect the building from storms. There are four tall arched windows on each side of the church and two shorter, narrower arched windows on the front, flanking the steeple. The first level of the steeple has one small arched window on each side and an arched single-leaf door on the front (the original door, located inside the protective outer door, is composed of flush boards assembled in a chevron pattern), while the second level has paired arched windows on the sides and the front of the tower. The belfry, slightly smaller in plan than the base of the steeple, rises from a short, sloping roof which acts as a transitional element. It has paired arched openings on each of its four sides. The belfry is topped by a broach spire with four arched dormer windows set in the faces which are parallel to the walls of the steeple.

The church's decorative trim is very simple and is derived from the Romanesque architecture of medieval Europe. All of the window openings have plain trim and corbelled sills except the spire dormers, which lack sills but have drip moulds surmounted by acroteria. The door has a drip-mould supported by corbels. On each side of the church the rafters extend beyond the walls to form eaves brackets, while the cornices of the gable ends are ornamented with boards cut to resemble corbel tables. Rows of corbels are set under the pent roof between the steeple base and the belfry, and also along the belfry cornice. Finally, the front corners of the steeple base have been chamfered to make them look like the corner buttresses on the towers of Romanesque and Gothic churches.

The interior of the church is very simple. The base of the steeple forms a vestibule which leads into the auditorium, a rectangular room with a low dais at the front (north) end. The walls are plastered, with the upper portions now painted white and the lower sections sheathed with beaded matchboard wainscoting painted gray. The plain trim of the four windows on each side of the room is painted to match the wainscoting. The auditorium is furnished with rows of pews running from a central aisle to the walls. The two antique Gothic-style side chairs and the pulpit on the dais were installed when the church was restored in 1926 (the original furnishings were removed when the congregation moved to a chapel in

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 28 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 25 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE 2

Saunderstown, R. I. in 1908). There are a number of commemorative plaques, dedicated to the memories of former church members, attached to the rear (south) wall. The cast iron Victorian lamp holders along the side walls have been converted into electric lights, and a modern electric chandelier, modeled after a 19th-century oil lamp, has been installed over the dais.

Currently owned by the University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Church is used occasionally for special events, such as weddings of university students and graduates. The building is kept closed and shuttered the rest of the time. The church is structurally sound but is in need of minor repairs, which the owner would like to undertake with assistance from the National Park Service grant-in-aid program.

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 28 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 25 1977

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

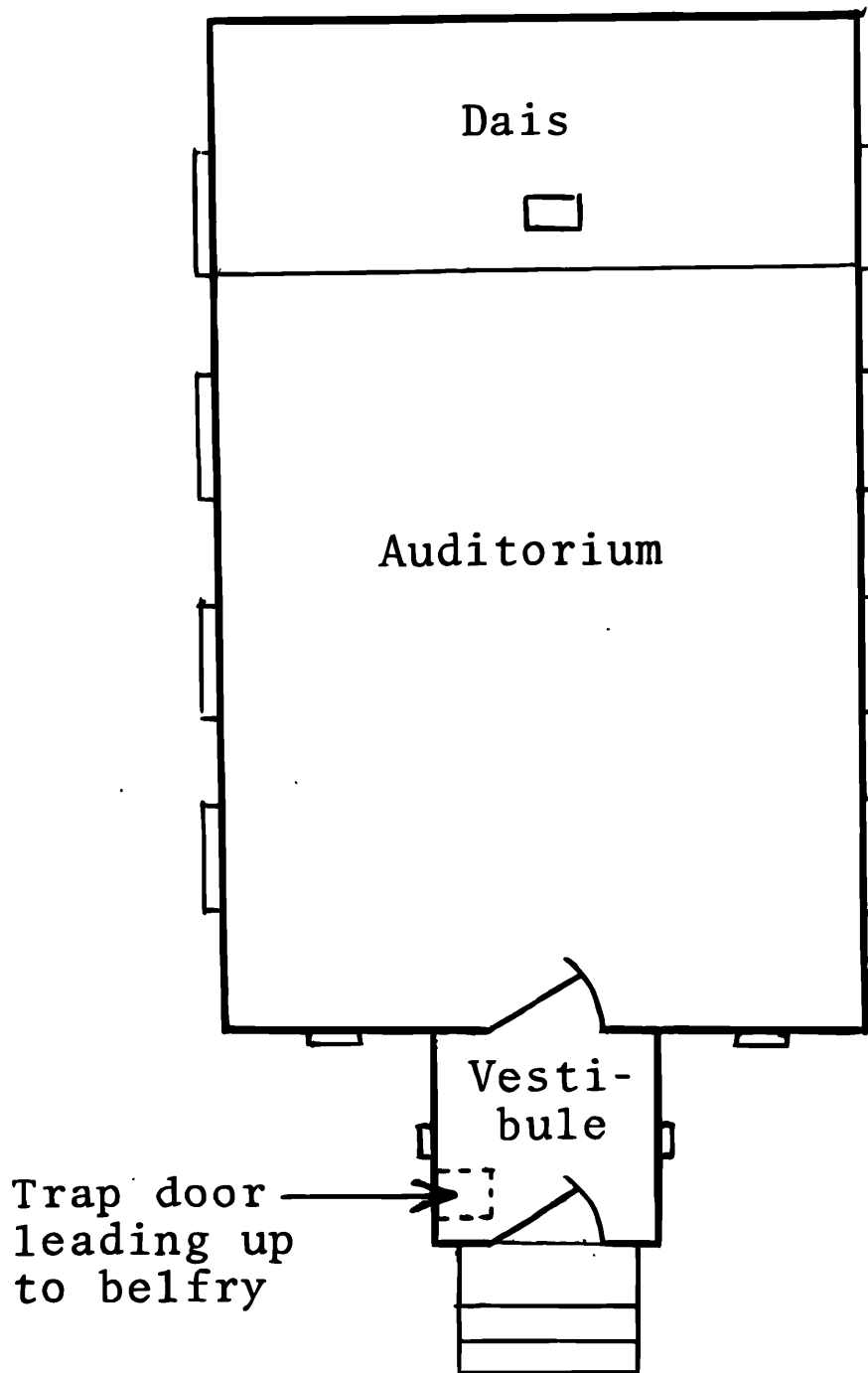
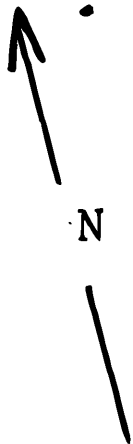
2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3



Narragansett Baptist Church
(South Ferry Church)
Narragansett, R.I.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION ←
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 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 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 1850-1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Thomas A. Tefft

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

South Ferry Church, designed by Thomas A. Tefft, a prominent 19th-century Rhode Island architect, is a cultural resource of statewide significance. In addition to its intrinsic architectural value, the church, visible from much of the surrounding countryside and from Narragansett Bay, is an important landmark which served as a navigation aid to 19th-century mariners bound for the thriving seaport which once stood nearby.

The church originally housed a Baptist congregation, organized 28 July 1850 and chartered in October of that year as the Narragansett Baptist Church. The congregation selected Thomas A. Tefft of Providence to be architect of their meetinghouse. He was a quickly rising young genius, one of the earliest and most original practitioners of the Lombard Romanesque and Renaissance Revival styles in this country. Two years earlier, while still a student at Brown University, he had designed Providence's red-brick Lombard-Romanesque Union Station (now destroyed), which one critic has called "the finest early (railroad) station in the New World."¹ Though by no means as grand as Union Station, South Ferry Church exhibits the same skill in adapting simplified historic architectural forms to new uses. In addition, the church is one of the earliest Victorian structures to use patterned wood shingling to achieve a picturesque effect. Tefft created a very personal, widely admired Romantic Rationalist architectural idiom. He was only 33 when he died in 1859, and the destruction of many of the buildings comprising his rather small oeuvre makes it even more imperative that those structures which have survived be protected. South Ferry Church, therefore, is significant as an example of the work of one of America's lesser-known mid-19th-century master architects.

At the time of its construction, the church overlooked one of the state's most vital rural communities. Ferry service from the foot of what is now South Ferry Road to Conanicut Island was established about 1695. This ferry became the primary means of shipping goods from Washington County plantations to Newport, a major colonial mercantile center. Its importance is attested to by the fact that in 1705 the Post Road from

¹Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, (Baltimore: 1958), p. 89.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chapin, Anna A. and Charles V., A History of Rhode Island Ferries, 1640-1923, (Providence: 1925), pp. 263-75.
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, (Baltimore: 1958), p. 89.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	2,9,7	4,8,0	4,5	9,6	0,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies lot 3, Town of Narragansett Assessors Plat N-C, which has an area of 17,139 square feet.

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

Robert O. Jones, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Pres. Comm.

DATE

April 1977

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Frederick Williamson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/25/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-23-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 28 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 25 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Westerly, R.I. to Newport was laid out through South Ferry. A village grew up near the ferry landing. It had its heyday in the mid-19th century, when Captain Joseph Eaton operated sixteen schooners from South Ferry, sending local products to New York, Philadelphia, and the West Indies. During this period the village was the pre-eminent settlement in the Narragansett district of the Town of South Kingstown, and the Narragansett post office was located here. There were also a mill, nine tenements, a store and school, ferry offices and a warehouse, a livery stable, a carriagehouse, a powerhouse, and an inn. South Ferry Church was set prominently on high ground to the west of these structures, which were all clustered on lower ground along the shore. Changes in transportation technology led to a decline in the village's shipping industry in the 1870s, and ferry service was finally discontinued in 1899. South Ferry became a rural backwater. World War I drew most of the people away to industrial centers in northern Rhode Island, and the physical fabric of the village was gradually destroyed, leaving the Baptist Church as the chief indication of this location's former status as one of the state's most important 18th-and 19th-century coastal settlements.

South Ferry Church was dedicated 23 January 1851. Within a few years the congregation it housed became extinct, but the Baptists of Narragansett reorganized in 1857 and used the church until 1908. In that year most of the congregation moved to a chapel in Saunderstown, about one mile away, taking the church furnishings with them. The church edifice at South Ferry was sold to the Catholic congregation at Saunders-town, which planned to move the structure to that village, but a faction of the Baptist congregation banded together with former church members from out of town and raised such an outcry that the Narragansett Town Council (the Narragansett District was separated from South Kingstown in 1888 and incorporated in 1901) refused to permit the church to be moved. A society was founded which acquired title to South Ferry Church with the intention of maintaining it as a memorial. By 1926 the church had deteriorated to such an extent that it was nearly condemned, but concerned citizens joined with the church memorial society to repair and restore the structure. The church was used for an annual summer religious service until 1975, when title to the property passed to the University of Rhode Island. In spite of its slightly deteriorated condition, South Ferry Church is still an important visual element within the local landscape, and a priceless and irreplaceable part of the architectural heritage of Rhode Island. The continuous effort to protect South Ferry Church from alteration or destruction serves to indicate the local residents' appreciation of the building's outstanding historical and architectural value.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 28 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 25 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

2

Hoag, Wade and Company, History of the State of Rhode Island,
(Philadelphia: 1878), pp. 296-98.
Perspective drawing of South Ferry Church, File Ch (Na) 1.1, Tefft
Drawings, Brown University Archives, John Hay Library, Providence, R.I.
Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, Ships, Sailors and Seaports,
(Kingston, R.I.: 1963), p. 5.
Providence Journal, 27 January 1851, p. 2.
Providence Journal, 7 November 1926, Section F, p. 5.
Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society, The Hinterlander,
Volume XVI, number 4 (October 1972), p. 2.

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 4 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 30 1976

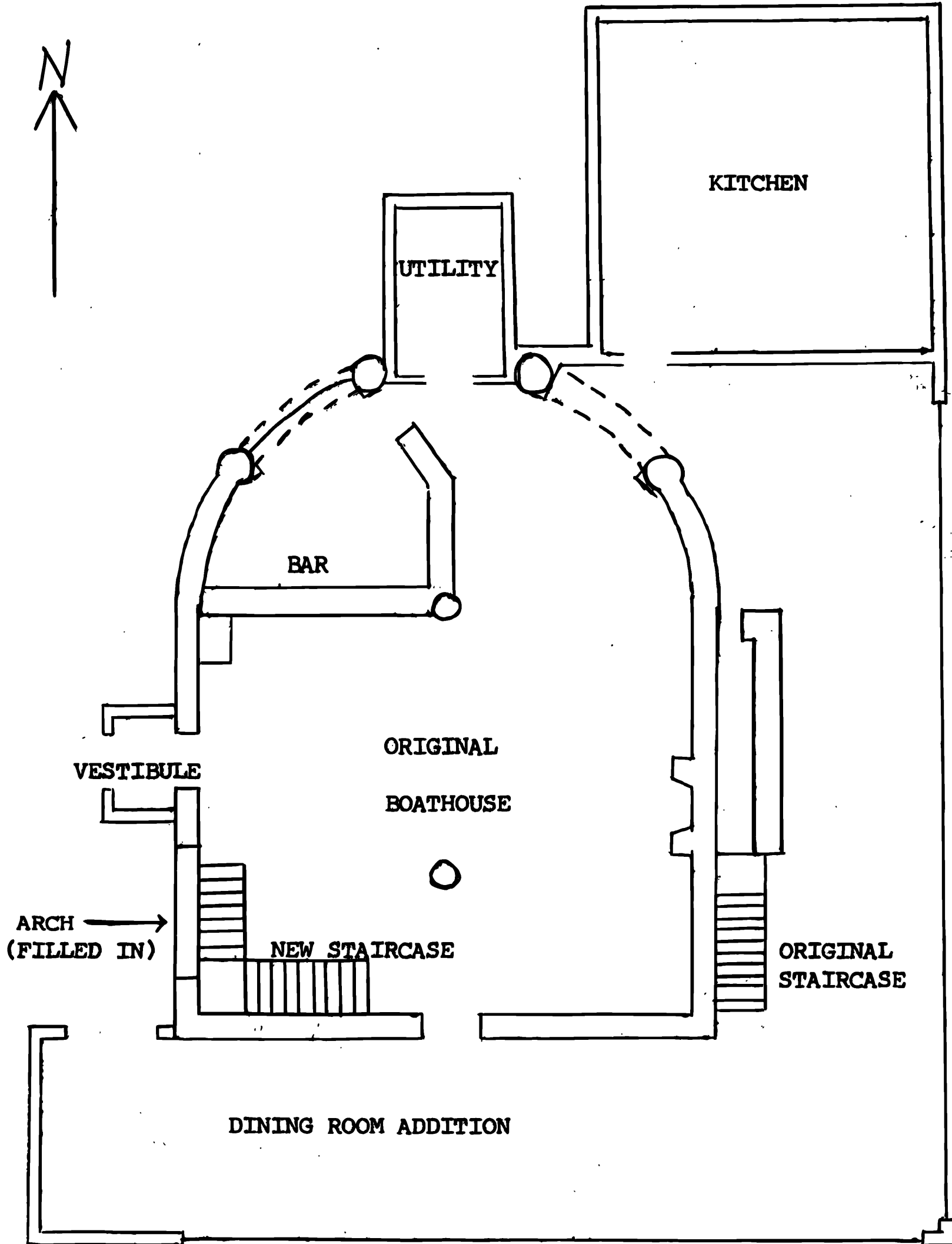
CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE 3



8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 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 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 1888 BUILDER/ARCHITECT McKim, Mead and White

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Life Saving Station at Narragansett Pier was established in the early 1870's as part of a U. S. Life Saving Service expansion program. The Life Saving Service had been founded in 1848 as a volunteer organization responsible for patrolling the New Jersey and Long Island coasts. This volunteer system proved to be unsatisfactory, however, and in 1871 Congress reorganized the Service. Operations were extended to include the New England coast, and full-time crews were hired to man all stations.

Congress authorized the construction of two stations in Rhode Island, one at Narragansett Pier and one on Block Island. The first Pier station, a wooden frame structure, was built at the north end of the town bathing beach and was completed by 1873, the same year the Block Island station was built on the island's western shore. Choice of the Block Island site was undoubtedly influenced by the large number of shipwrecks which occurred on or near the island. Narragansett Pier, though far less dangerous than Block Island, did have a number of treacherous rocks, ledges, and shoals near the shore, a factor which probably led to its designation as a life saving station site.

Other stations were subsequently built in Rhode Island: at Point Judith in 1875-76, New Shoreham in 1876, Watch Hill in 1878, and Brenton Point in 1884-85. In 1888 new buildings were erected at Narragansett, Point Judith, and New Shoreham. The second (present) Pier station, designed by the prominent New York firm of McKim, Mead, and White, was built on a new site just south of the Casino Towers. Stations were also built at Quonochontaug in 1891, Sandy Point in 1898-99, and Green Hill in 1911-12.

In 1915 the Life Saving Service was merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the U. S. Coast Guard. At first the new organization maintained all the Life Saving Service stations, relocating some and replacing others with newer structures, but in the late 1920's it began to consolidate operations. One by one the stations were abandoned, including the one at Narragansett, now popularly referred to as the Coast Guard House. Today the Coast Guard maintains three stations in Rhode Island, all built in the 1930's. Of the abandoned Life Saving Service stations, the Narragansett Coast Guard House is the oldest one still standing.

(see continuation sheet #2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arnold, James N., ed., Narragansett Historical Register, I, 3, (January 1883), p. 194.

Grieve, Robert, Picturesque Narragansett, (4th edition; Providence: no date), p. 194.

(see continuation sheet #4)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

294-810			200		
A	1, 9	295020	4, 5	8, 9	320
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING
C					
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING
D					
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Robert O. Jones, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

March 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

(401) 277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island 02903

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

Richard C. Williamson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/30/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6.25.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 4 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

To an extent, the Coast Guard House is noteworthy as an isolated structure. Seven years after its completion, it was brought to national attention by Russell Sturgis, the eminent nineteenth-century architect and critic. He admired the building's simplicity and lack of academicism, and considered it a good example of the "simple and living architecture...independent of the past" that contemporary architects should be trying to create. Such recognition was flattering, but the Coast Guard House was never to become a landmark in the development of modern American architecture. Its lasting significance is more limited in scope, and is due in large part to its relationship to other buildings.

Along with the Towers (a remnant of the old Casino and already a National Register property) and a few neighboring Victorian structures, the Coast Guard House forms a historic focus for the town center of Narragansett. Before the turn of the century, the Pier was a fashionable resort for business and political figures from all over the United States. Ocean Road and adjacent streets were lined with large, handsome hotels and summer "cottages," some mansard-roofed and bracketed, some in the Shingle Style. Fires, hurricanes, and urban renewal have diminished this architectural heritage and the Coast Guard House is one of the few surviving structures which provides continuity with the past.

Its physical proximity and architectural similarity to the Towers makes it especially important. Designed a few years after the Towers' completion by the same architectural firm, it repeats the same forms and materials and was surely meant to be a companion piece. Though altered, the Coast Guard House still complements the Towers, making it a key element of the town's aesthetic and historic fabric.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 4 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 30 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Historical Records Survey, Inventory of Federal Archives in the States,
(Providence: 1938), series 3: Treasury Department, number 38:
Rhode Island, pp. 14-167.

Sturgis, Russell, Great American Architects Series #1 - The Work
of McKim, Mead and White, (New York: May 1895), pp. 81-2.

Whiting, John D., Storm Fighters, (Indianapolis: 1927), pp. 57-65.