

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
James Fones Greene House *Bowen*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fones Greene House *see letter 4-26-74*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
698 Buttonwoods Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Warwick

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2: Robert O. Tiernan

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 003

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Unoccupied residence</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Edward S. Bowen (see continuation sheet #1)

STREET AND NUMBER:
698 Buttonwoods Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Warwick City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
3275 Post Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
H.A.B.S. & H.A.B.S.I. (RI-270) (see continuation sheet #1)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937, 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue & First Street, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

STATE:	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
Rhode Island	2	1974
COUNTY:	FOR NPS USE ONLY	
Kent		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The core of the Fones Greene House in Warwick is a two story block, 27x27', built c.1715. Appended to this are one story mid-eighteenth century additions. The house faces south. Behind it and down a brush covered bank is a brook feeding into Buttonwoods Cove. The brick chimney stack nearly fills the west side of the original section of the house. The brickwork, laid up in flemish bond, is painted the same bone white as the rest of the clapboard exterior.

Abutting the west end of the house is a one story lean-to, unfinished within, 10x27'. This addition has preserved a section of early, but not original, ship-lapped clapboards on the exterior wall of the original part of the house. They show evidence of oxblood red paint under white-wash, and are affixed with rose head nails to horizontal planking which now sheathes the old house.

A second lean-to addition, 6' wide and fully finished, was built across the back of the building. When the additions were constructed in the mid-eighteenth century, the pitch of the gable roof was lowered. These alterations created the dwelling's classic "salt box" profile.

The existing fenestration and window sash is not original. The windows with 6/6 double hung sash on the south elevation replace much smaller windows (the casing of one, 17x37", remains in the first floor southeast closet). A fire which damaged portions of the northwest corner of the building some twenty years ago obliterated the remains of a two-section casement window at the second story level in the rear of the house. This has been recorded in a photograph published in 1937. Other changes resulted from the fire, including boarding and clapboarding over a northwest entrance and window.

The oldest part of the house is of heavy post and beam construction. The frame is oak, its elements measuring as much as 11x12" in section. Members are framed into each other with mortise and tenon joints held firm with wood pegs. The exterior walls of the house are studded and, at least on the first floor level, the interstices between the studs are filled with brick nogging. Horizontal sheathing boards are nailed to the studs in the oldest part of the house and the clapboards are nailed to the boarding. The interior face of these exterior walls have been covered with lath and plastered. The exterior walls in the north lean-to addition are made of vertical planks fastened to sill and plate. Clapboards are nailed to the exterior and plastered lath to the interior surface.

The first floor is divided into a "Great Room" at the front of the house and a smaller back room -- both with large fireplaces -- an entry in the southwest corner beside the chimney, and a stairhall in the northwest corner (see floor plan, continuation sheet 2). The chimney stack measures 6x21', the entry 6x6'. The remainder of the original 27' square is divided into three structural bays 9' wide and 21' across.

See continuation sheet 1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
101	JAN 2 1974

(Number all entries)

4. Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Bowen
40 Fatima Road
Warwick, Rhode Island Code: 44
6. Rhode Island State Inventory
1970, 1974 -- State
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
52 Power Street
Providence, Rhode Island Code: 44

7. Description cont.

Some partitions are plastered, others are fashioned from vertical sheathing with beveled and beaded edges. The ceilings are plastered. The framing members, left exposed on the interior, are chamfered and finished with lamb's tongue terminals. In some rooms wood clothes pegs have been doveled into the framing members. The Great Room, two structural bays wide, has an exposed summer beam running from chimney girt to end girt.

The chimney tree of both the Great Room and back room fireplaces are elaborated with complex cyma—moulded chamfering. Above each chimney tree a plastered cover rises to the chimney girt. A hole has been cut in each cove to take a stove pipe. The Great Room fireplace is 9' wide and 3' deep. The back room fireplace was altered in the mid-eighteenth century to accommodate a beehive oven and smaller fireplace. This alteration is now only partially intact. The paneled mantel piece has been removed in recent years; the oven is in ruin. A central brick panel in the back of this fireplace is laid up in herring bone pattern. The rear corners of this fireplace are square, while the rear corners of the Great Room fireplace are rounded.

The Great Room was originally 20x17½'. A small bedroom and a closet 5' wide now occupy the east end of the room. The back room, originally 9x12', was enlarged to 16x12' when the rear lean-to was built. This addition also provided a 6x7' room in the northeast corner of the house, and a closet and a second entrance in the northwest corner. Above the board and batten doors leading from the closet and entry to the back room are pierced-work frets sawn to baluster form.

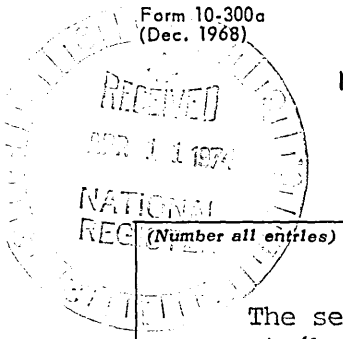
The stairs are unusually ample. Rising in three runs from the first to the second floor, they have a solid vertical plank balustrade finished with a plain rail and posts with disk-like circular finials. The stone cellar stairs descend below this staircase and it is in this cellarway that the brick-filled studding of the original exterior walls can be seen.

See continuation sheet 2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE		Rhode Island
COUNTY		Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	MAY 2 1976	

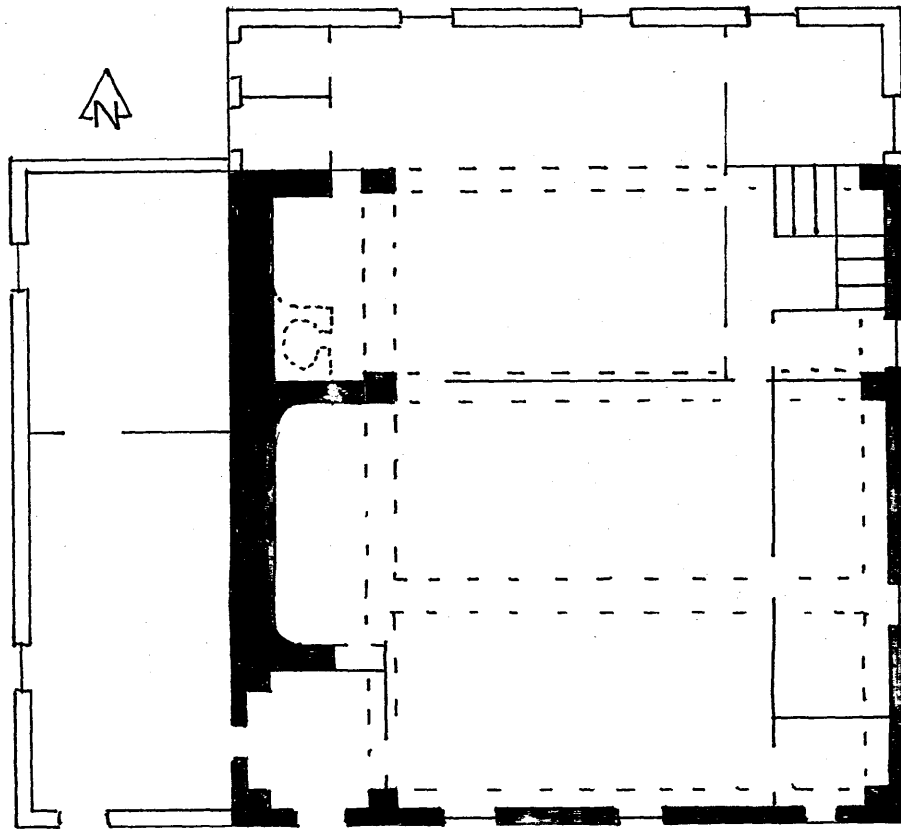


7. Description cont.

The second story of the house has been divided into five rooms. A garret (badly fire damaged) extends over the north lean-to addition. The room over the Great Room has a mid-eighteenth century fireplace and mantel built into the larger early eighteenth century opening. Again, the framing is exposed, and here the posts are flared to carry the chimney girt and plates. Both plastered and vertical board partitions are found on the second floor. The attic is unfinished.

The Greene House is preserved in its mid-eighteenth century state. Unfortunately, it is in weakened condition. The north addition is separating from the older portion of the house; the north wall is badly rotted-out; loose nogging has caused sections of the south wall clapboard to bulge and fall off.

The area included in this nomination, recorded as lots 5 and 310, plat 370, contains 15.268 acres. Three other buildings stand on the property: A recently built house, a barn and a one and a half story cottage. The latter two date from the late nineteenth century.



First Floor Plan

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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. 1715

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>Settlement</u> |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The progenitor of the Greenes of Warwick was John Greene, "surgeon." In 1637 he left Salem to join Roger Williams and became one of the original settlers of Providence. Five years later, Greene was among the twelve men who, under the aegis of their disputatious leader, Samuel Gorton, bought a tract of land known as the Shawomet Purchase from the Narragansett sachem, Miantonomi. Gorton and his followers removed to their new-bought lands and styled their settlement Warwick.

The Greenes prospered in Warwick. They became prominent in local, state and national affairs. The family produced three Rhode Island governors, and a United States Senator. General Nathanael Greene is renowned for his exploits during the Revolution. Of the early Greene houses in Warwick, only the Fones Greene house stands essentially as built.

In 1687 John Greene's grandson, Captain James Greene, erected a house in Warwick at Nassauket, now familiar as Buttonwoods Point. Captain Greene died in 1711, leaving his "housing and farm" to his son, Fones. It is doubtful that the existing house on Buttonwoods Avenue is the one built by James Green in 1687, however, for, judging by its architecture, it could not date before 1700. Fones Greene's will of 1758 refers to his "Mansion house," and distinguishes between it and the "old house" on the property. For some time a depression 30' northeast of the existing building has been pointed out as the site of this earlier dwelling. Thus, the early eighteenth century house still standing at Nassauket is a dwelling built by Fones Greene soon after he inherited the Buttonwoods farm.

Six generations of the Greene family lived in Fones Greene's "Mansion house." It was sold in 1900 and has belonged to members of the Bowen family since then. The Bowens have not occupied the old house as a residence, preferring to live in the cottage nearby. It has never had central heating, running water or modern plumbing. The last "improvement" made to the house was the installation of stoves on the first floor in the mid-nineteenth century, and they have been gone since 1900.

See continuation sheet 3

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F.; Early Homes of Rhode Island;
 Garrett & Massie; Richmond, Virginia; 1937; pp. 18, 33, 35, 45-53.
 Isham, Norman M. & Brown, Albert F.; Early Rhode Island Houses;
 Preston & Rounds; Providence; 1895; passim.
Warwick Town & City Records; City Hall, Warwick.

NW 19/09/11 MN
 SW 17/09/12 HO/161000
 461000
 4617700
 1 19/09/11 MN
 SW 17/09/12 HO/161000

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	41°	41'	31"	71°	25'	25"	0		
NE	41°	41'	27"	71°	25'	11"	0		
SE	41°	41'	21"	71°	25'	14"	0		
SW	41°	41'	25"	71°	25'	28"	0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15.268

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 David W. Chase, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: March, 1974

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: Therick Williams

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: APR 1 1974

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

APWester
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/74

ATTEST:

Wm. S. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.74

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

(Continuation Sheet) 3

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 2	1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance cont.

The Greene's operated their farm on Buttonwoods Point for more than two hundred years. They grew wheat, rye, oats and corn. By 1711 an orchard was producing fruit, and apple trees may still be found on the property. Cattle, numbering between ten and fifteen head, produced milk for cheese and meat. The Greens kept pigs and their sheep provided wool from which yarn was fashioned. Flax raised on the farm was spun into linen thread.

The Fones Greene House was the focal point of the farm. More than just a residence, it served as workroom and storehouse. Here cheese was made -- the chief "cash crop" of the farm -- and spinning done. Meat, cider, and later, potatoes, were stored in the cellar; wool, flax, feathers and leather in the attic.

As an exemplar of early Rhode Island architecture, the Fones Greene House has few equals. Indeed, it has been famous as an architectural relic since the nineteenth century. For many years it was maintained as a quasi house museum.

The dwelling illustrates the third and final phase in the evolution of what Norman Isham defined as the characteristic Rhode Island house, built between 1640 and 1725. Isham defined the archetypal house of the first phase (c.1640-1675) as a one-and-a-half-story structure of heavy frame construction with a single room on each floor. One end of the building was nearly filled with a stone chimney. Beside the chimney was a small entry containing a steep flight of stairs leading to the upper room. In the second phase (1676-c.1700), this basic configuration was expanded to contain at least two rooms on the first floor with stone fireplaces set side by side. The massive chimneys of houses built in these first two phases gave them the descriptive title, "Stone-Enders." They were peculiar to Rhode Island.

In the third stage of its development (1700-c.1725), the Rhode Island "Stone-Ender" grew once again, increasing to two full stories in height, the plan expanded to include at least two rooms on each floor. In this period brick became the characteristic material from which to construct the end chimney. The Fones Greene House possesses all the earmarks of the third phase. Among dwellings Isham discussed as examples of this period, only this house survives.

Though built in the eighteenth century, the Fones Greene House -- with its chamfered oak frame, immense chimney stack and cavernous fireplaces -- harks back to a medieval building tradition. It was a tradition fast disappearing when the house was built. But the rural agrarian life style lived by generations of Green occupants, rooted as it was in the equally antique lifeways of English yeoman farmers, persisted on the Buttonwoods farm almost into the twentieth century.