

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 1074	DATE JAN 11 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
The Forge Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Birthplace of Major-General Nathanael Greene

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
110 Forge Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Warwick

STATE Rhode Island, 02818	CODE 114	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Thomas Casey Greene

STREET AND NUMBER:  
110 Forge Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island, 02818	CODE 114
-------------------------------	-------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island
------------------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957

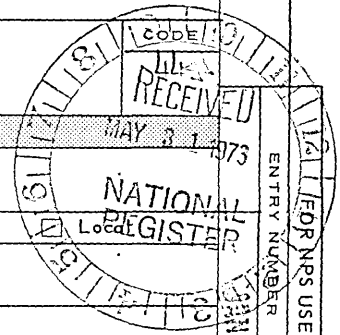
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11
--------------------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE



8. SIGNIFICANCE

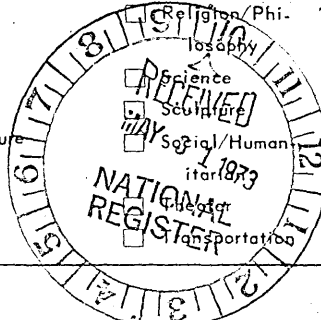
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1684 ff.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | <u>History: Original settlement of area</u>         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanities    | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   | _____   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Forge Farm property is on a part of the XVII-Century "Potowomut Purchase" made from the Indians by a group of Warwick settlers, of whom one was John Greene, whose son James came to Potowomut after the Indian wars, erecting there a farmhouse (the core of the present dwelling). Later, James Greene's son Jabez, in company with Thomas Hill, improved an old Indian dam across the Potowomut River and constricted a sluiceway to provide water-power to operate a saw- and grist-mill, and a forge or smithy was established--from which the farm takes its name.

James Greene's farmhouse of 1684 was enlarged and re-cased in the XVIII Century and again in 1862-1863--accounting for its present exterior appearance--although internally it retains many of its older features, such as corner-posts, panelling etc. and much hardware made at the family forge. It contains also furniture dating back to the earliest Quaker Greenes, as well as relics--such as his cradle and his militia sword--of Nathanael Greene. The house is in possession of the ninth generation of Greene descendants and is used as a residence, still the head-house of large farm acreage upon which stand various outbuildings and where the family burying-ground is maintained.

Historically, however, the house is generally assigned its greatest prominence as being the birthplace in 1742 of the famous Revolutionary War officer, Major-General Nathanael Greene, Rhode Island's outstanding figure in that conflict. The first thirty-two years of his life were spent at The Forge Farm, where he helped with its agricultural operations and with the running of the family's milling, forge and foundry enterprises. At the same time, he was also pursuing a course of reading and study which had been laid out for him by the eminent Newport divine and diarist Ezra Stiles, later to be president of Yale College. Greene became a freeman of the town of Warwick in 1765, and in the early 1770's he was a representative to the colony's General Assembly. In 1773 he became interested in military matters, for which he was expelled from the local Quaker meeting; and in 1774 he helped organise in nearby East Greenwich the militia body known as the Kentish Guards and still existing to-day.

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lawrence, Anna M. M.: History of Potowomut (East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1931).  
 Greene, George Washington: The Life of Nathanael Greene (New York, 1867-1871).  
 Mayer, Theodore: Nathanael Greene, Strategist of the American Revolution (New York, 1940).  
 Clarke, Louise Brownell: The Greenes of Rhode Island (New York, 1903).

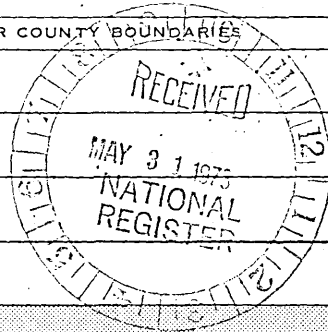
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 38' 40.37"N	71° 27' 10.21"W				
NE	41° 38' 27.16"N	71° 26' 13.37"W				
SE	41° 38' 14.60"N	71° 26' 54.81"W				
SW	41° 38' 27.82"N	71° 27' 21.20"W				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 179 acres

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: November 1, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: 114

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 W. Williams  
 State Historic Preservation  
 Officer

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/7/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Al R. Mortensen  
 Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Director,

Date: 1/11/74

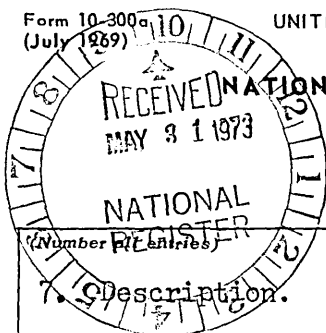
ATTEST:  
Charles A. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-7-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 19/800000 44/12190  
 19/800000 44/12190  
 19/800000 44/12190  
 19/800000 44/12190



STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 11 1974	



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

(Continuation Sheet)-2

7. Description.

cemetery is a stone-walled area a distance west of the house and screened by trees. It is of interest not only because of its succession of occupants but also because of the successive styles of grave markers, starting with the simplest of low, unengraved Quaker slabs of stone stuck in the earth at head and foot and progressing through imposing Victorian monuments to the plainer headstones of this century.

Since the time of Nathanael Greene and his brother Christopher, who inherited it, The Forge Farm has not descended in an unbroken filial line but has sometimes gone collaterally to nephews or cousins. However, it has never had an owner not bearing the Greene surname or not interested in the traditions of the house and the land, and in their maintenance: this even seems assured for the future.

8. Significance.

When war broke out in 1775, Greene was placed in charge of raising, in Rhode Island and nearby Connecticut, 1500 men for the Continental Army, a group which he took to Massachusetts, where General Washington in Cambridge on June 22 created him a brigadier-general. Serving throughout the entire war closely with Washington, Greene was one of the latter's most admired and trusted officers. He was promoted to major-general in 1776 and was present in all the important areas and campaigns, from the earliest ones in Massachusetts on through the concluding ones in the south. He was known both as a strategist and as a brilliant, thorough and effective administrator. Leaving military service finally in 1783, Greene returned to Rhode Island for a short time but then returned south to live on and manage a plantation which the state of Georgia had presented to him as a gesture of gratitude (he also received an estate from South Carolina). Until his death in 1786, however, he returned annually to Rhode Island for extended visits and reunions with comrades-in-arms.

Nathanael Greené's brother Christopher also served as an officer in the Revolutionary War and was the son who received, lived on and maintained The Forge Farm. His grave is in the burying-ground on the property, together with an earlier one of Benjamin Franklin's sister, who had married into this family, and those of other Greenes, down to the late husband of the farm's present owner.

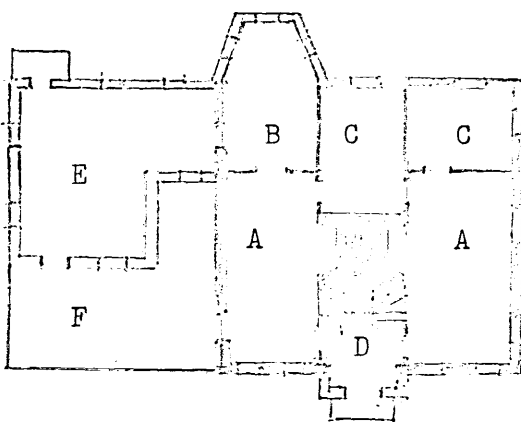
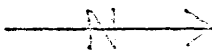
Aside from the values due to notable family associations and to the contents of the main house, the whole complex of residence, outbuildings, stone sluiceway, cemetery, fields and woods is a remarkable survival of a prosperous rural agricultural property--altogether itself a piece of "living history." In 1972 one must also state that this inherited and cared-for property, not far from a major highway and a popular camping-park, is a king-pin towards preserving its immediate and handsome private residential adjacency.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-3

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 11 1974	DATE

(Number all entries)



Sketch-plan of first floor done from memory and not to scale (the original structure is shaded).

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| A: Parlours       | D: Entry and stair-hall |
| B: Dining-room    | E: Added service area   |
| C: Small chambers | F: Arcaded porch        |

Note: The vernacular-Gothic, steeple-like entrance tower in particular, as well as semi-hexagonal bay and the sitting-porch, are features much promoted in builders' handbooks of the late 1850's--both for new houses and to be applied, as here, to older ones.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
FEB 20 1979
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 4

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

10 Geographical Data

UTM Coordinates

- A. 19: 295300: 4612960
- B. 19: 296410: 4612920
- C. 19: 295920: 4611420
- D. 19: 295480: 4611680

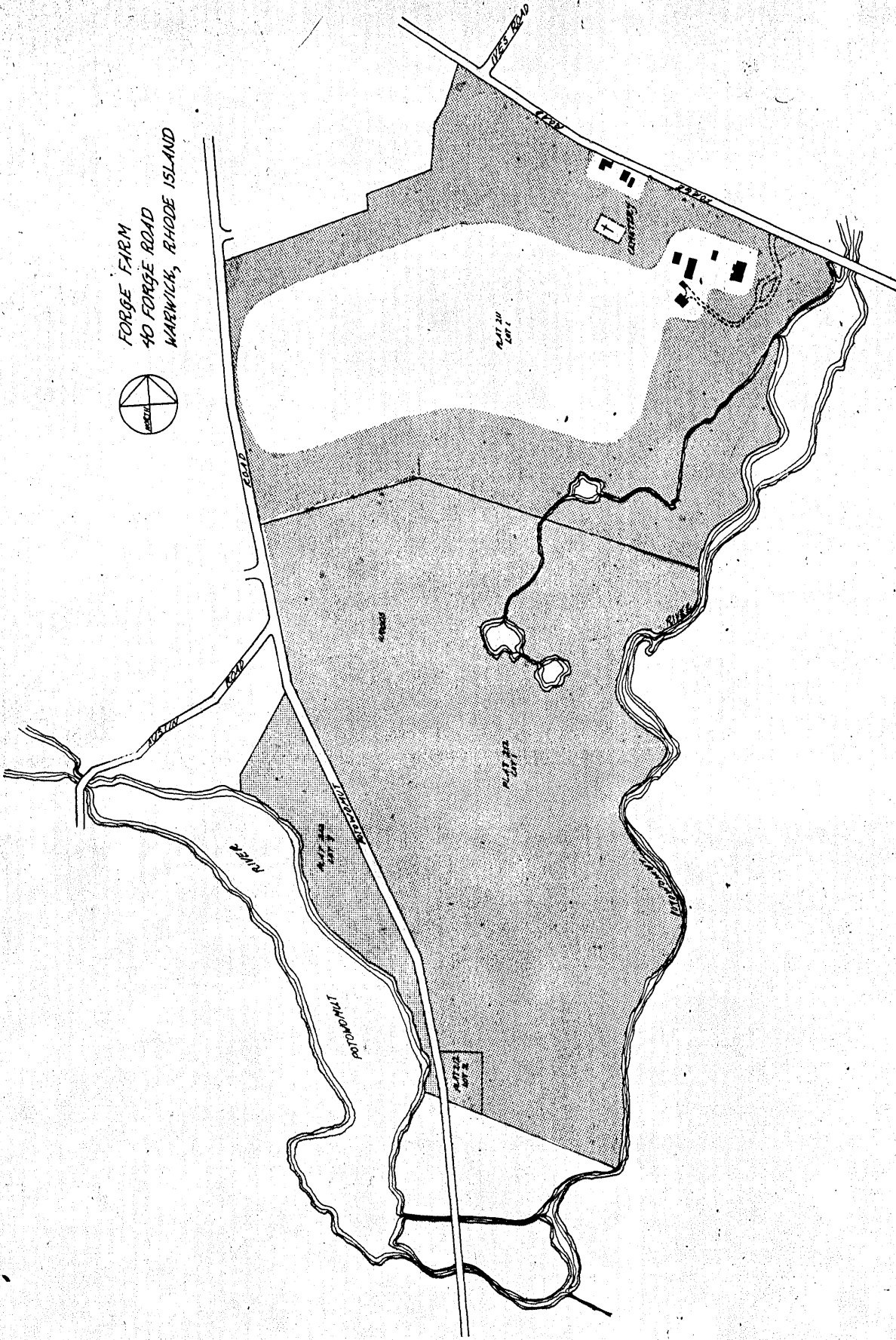
165 acres

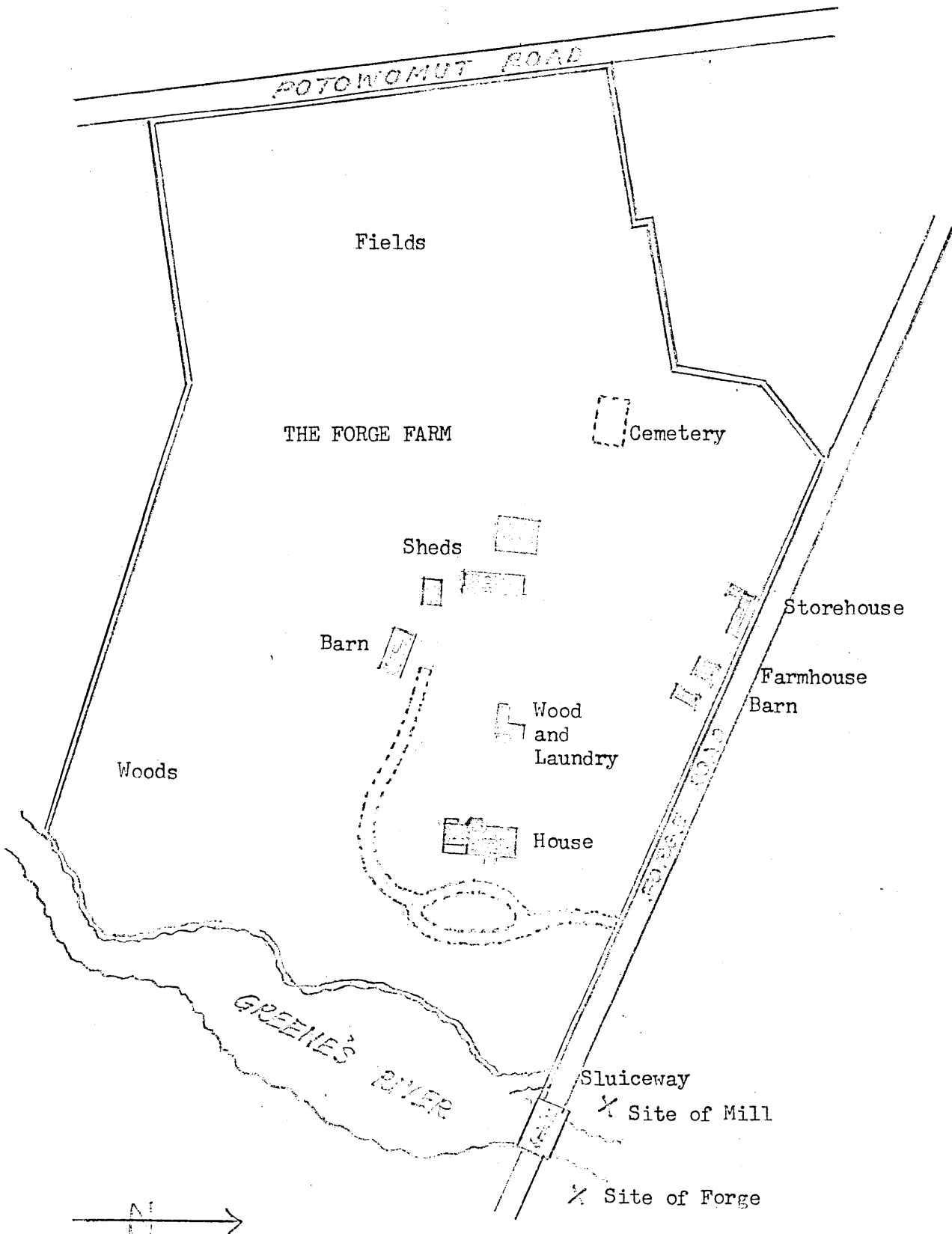
Verbal boundary description

The nominated property includes city plat 211, lot 1, plat 212, lots 1, 2 and 7, all in their entirety (see site map).



FORGE FARM  
40 FORGE ROAD  
WATERVIC, RHODE ISLAND





SEE REVISED MAP