

**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 69-11-38-0003	DATE 11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Towers

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
the Towers (or tower entrance) of the Narragansett Casino

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ocean Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Narragansett

STATE Rhode Island	CODE 38	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
				No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

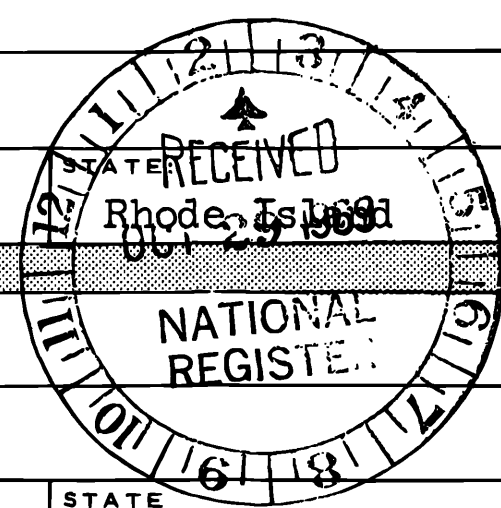
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	being proposed
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	closed for	as a City
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	further repair	Hall

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Town of Narragansett

STREET AND NUMBER:  
66 Rodman Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Narragansett



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1693 Kingstown Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
West Kingston

STATE:  
Rhode Island

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .166 acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Technical paper #2. A report on the Historic points of interest, Louis C. David, Jr. R. I. Statewide Comprehensive Transportation and Land use \*

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: R. I. Statewide Comprehensive Transportation and Land Use Planning Program Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Providence

STATE:  
R. I.

\* planning program

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As it existed, but the north tower roof has been removed. Present plans call for exterior restoration of that tower as well as other original exterior details. Interior to be replanned to serve as the Town Hall.

The Towers are the stone remnant of the Narragansett Casino (1883-1885), an extensive, mostly wooden, building which burned in 1900 and which was one of McKim, Mead, and White's most picturesque compositions. The Towers provided one of the entrances to a complex of dining, card, and guest rooms, and a bridge across the coastal highway to the sea shore.

In essence the Towers are two three-storey blocks in coursed rock-faced granite, with semicircular ends; between these "pylons," a parallel pair of tremendous segmental arches, spanning the highway, carried a single great open room, which is the entire third storey. Above this, a steep pavilion roof makes, with the semi-conical terminations of the roofs of the flanking pylons, a handsome skyline. The seaward pylon is about fifty feet from the rocky shore; attached to the landward pylon on its inland side is a low square wing -- originally supporting a tall wooden stair tower -- which since the fire of 1900 has been simply roofed as a low buttress-like form. The lower flight of the original stair is still entered from the pavement alongside the highway, but its second and third flights have been rebuilt after two fires. The first landing is an open square with a semicircular room on each of two sides; the second landing opens directly to the great room, dumbbell-shaped in plan, over the arches. This room was originally open to the weather in summer; it terminated at the sea end in a wooden balcony, the corbels for whose timbers are still in the outer walls. The openings are now glazed with wooden casements. After a fire in the 1960's the pavilion roof was rebuilt but without the cupola. The seaward pylon has not suffered from fire but has no stylistic character internally. The whole building is a superbly rugged and disciplined sculptural mass, a landmark containing usable space. The fire marshal now permits occupancy for not more than seventy-five people. Fireproof remodeling is indicated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1883-1885**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Narragansett Casino, a slightly more flamboyant competitor to the Casino designed for Newport by the same architects, served a large fashionable public during the generation whose bearers of old money, makers of new money, and makers of political decisions for the nation were all likely to be together in summer on the shores of Narragansett Bay. Of this period, after the destruction of the rest of the Casino, its successor the second Casino, and many large wooden hotels, the Towers are the chief and almost the only architectural monument. In size and seafront location they form the trademark and the monument of the town, and they are the necessary nucleus of all visual considerations in town planning. The geographic and climatic advantages of Narragansett have persisted even though the old conjunction of rail head and Bay ferry vanished years ago. At the northern end of a procession of splendid beaches leading to Point Judith, the town and the Towers (now happily town property) present an opportunity. The significance of the Towers as symbol of social history is real enough, but as a great piece of public sculpture indelibly associated with a coastal landscape they have a visual significance which is perhaps more important; and as a focus for community development they have an important future. It has been suggested that fireproof revision of the interior include a Guastavino vault as soffit to the arched span; McKim Mead & White used Guastavino often from the early 1880's and might very probably have used such a vault if a fireproof structure had been contemplated.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

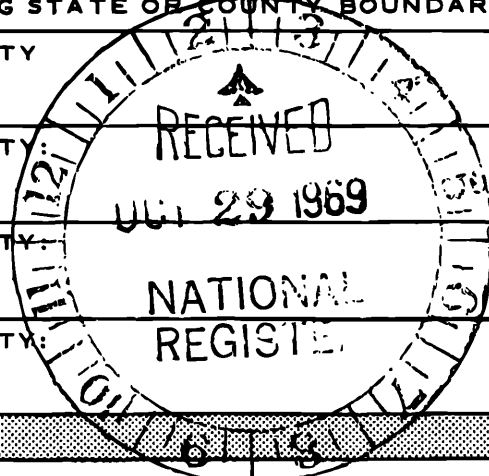
Scully, V. J. Jr. The Shingle Style  
 (New Haven & London, Yale U. Press 1955) 132-134  
 Sheldon, G. W. Artistic Country Seats: types of Amer. Villas and  
 cottage arch: w instances of houses Vol. 1, 5-7  
 N.Y. 1886-7  
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr. Rhode Island Architecture (Providence,  
 R. I., Rhode Island Museum Press, 1939), p. 58, pl. 64.  
 Smith, Eugenia B. Rhode Island Resort Architecture by McKim, Mead & White,  
 (unpub. thesis at Newport Historical Society, Newport, R. I.), pp. 74-76.

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	N.41°	24'	55"
NE	°	'	"	W.71°	27'	27"
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Winslow Ames, Architectural Historian, Social Historian

ORGANIZATION: Member Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
 DATE: Aug. 1, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 24 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence, STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 38

**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 Adelphi T. Schmidt

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 23 1969.

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 25 1969

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh  
 Keeper of The National Register

NOV 7 1969

Date \_\_\_\_\_

19/294770/4589250

UTM REF  
 12-16-75 WNW

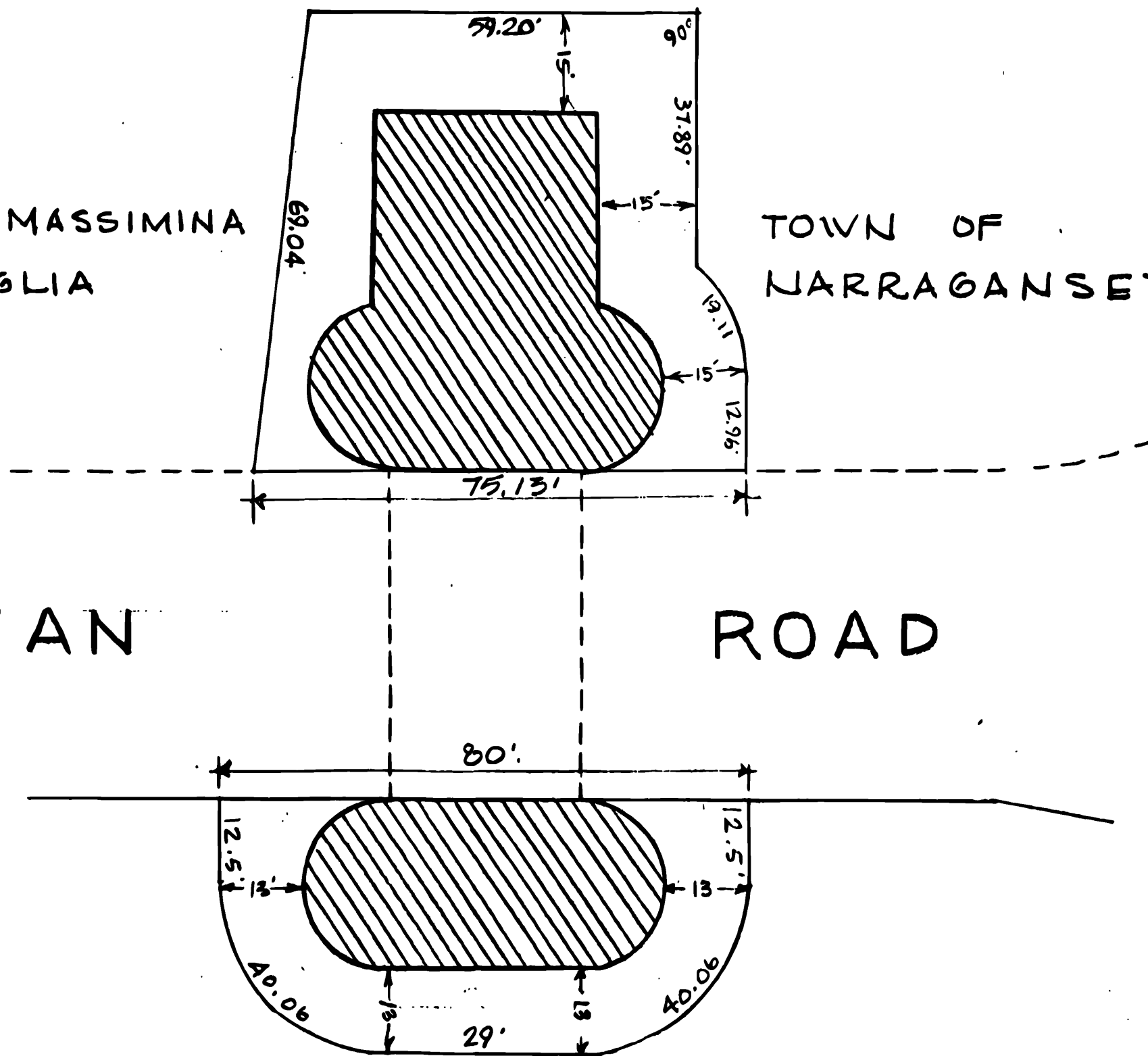
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GAETANO & MASSIMINA  
VENTRIGLIA

TOWN OF  
NARRAGANSETT

OCEAN

ROAD



PLAN OF  
TOWERS PROPERTY  
NARRAGANSETT, R.I.

COMPILED FROM PLAN BY T.G. HAZARD JR.

MARCH, 1965. A.J. EASTERBROOKS, C.E.

SCALE: 1" = 30'

MAGNETIC



COORDINATES OF TOWERS

41° 24' 55" North

71° 27' 27" West

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE	
COUNTY	
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COMMON: **The Towers**  
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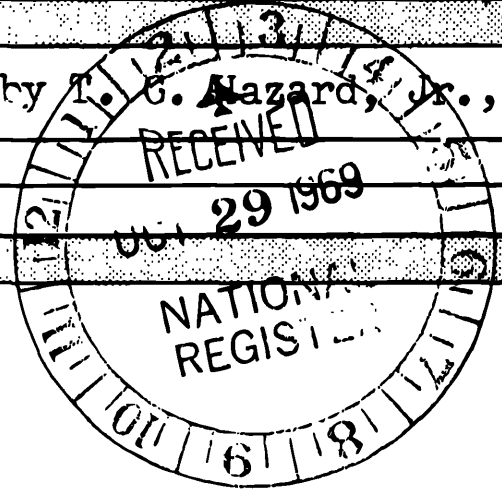
STATE: <b>Rhode Island</b>	CODE <b>38</b>	COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>	CODE <b>009</b>
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: **Plan of Towers property compiled from plan by T. G. Nazard, Jr., and A. J. Easterbrooks, C. E., March, 1965.**

SCALE: **1" to 30'**

DATE: **March, 1965.**



**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.