

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Stephen Hopkins House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Governor Stephen Hopkins House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 Hopkins Street, at Benefit Street, College Hill

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: COUNTY: **Providence** CODE:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" 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"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: **Mrs Martha A. Greig, President, Rock Hill Farm, P.O. Box 146,
State of Rhode Island; Jamestown, R.I. 02835. Administered and maintained
by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America**

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Stephen Hopkins House, No. 18 Hopkins Street, in the State of R.I.

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **02903**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall, Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kennedy Plaza, Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/2-acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (15 sheets, 7 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1937-38** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington STATE: **D.C.** CODE:

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STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Except for a 1707 ell, the Hopkins House was built by Stephen Hopkins in 1742-43. The L-shaped house is a two-story frame structure with gable roof, two chimneys, and clapboarded walls. First-story windows are topped by cornices. The north arm, four bays wide and one bay deep, measures about 14 by 31-feet and the rear arm 20½ by 24-feet in size. This rear ell, now two stories in height, incorporates the original one-story dwelling erected in 1707. The north (Hopkins Street) elevation, four bays wide, originally had a window in the first story of each bay. In 1928 a reconstructed door, with triangular pediment and pilasters typical of the mid-18th century, was inserted in place of the window that had occupied the second bay from the left corner. The new door became the main entrance. The original main entrance, a panelled door topped by a rectangular transom, was located in what is now in the west side, in the third bay from the rear corner of the ell; this door opened in to the "keeping room." Except for the addition of the new main entrance, the exterior of the house is otherwise little-altered.

The new door opens into a central hall which contains the main stairway set against the east (left) wall. To the left of the Hall is the Governor's study and to the right the parlor. The parlor fireplace has a set of recessed shelves topped by rounded headed and shell shaped carving set in the paneling above the hearth. The fireplaces in the study and keeping room have simple paneling. To the right of the parlor fireplace a door opens into a short passageway that in turn opens in the large keeping room. In the southeast corner, off the keeping room, is a small bedroom without a fireplace. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, and of these chambers two have fireplaces. The interior of the house, including the stairs, woodwork, floors, and fireplaces, is largely original. The structure was carefully restored by Norman M. Isham in 1927-28, when the house was moved to its present location. The building is maintained in excellent condition and is open to visitors as a historic house museum.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1742-1785

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input 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.)

The home from 1742 to 1785 of Stephen Hopkins, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Rhode Island, merchant, politician, royal governor of Rhode Island, and jurist. The little-altered house is the only extant structure closely associated with Stephen Hopkins.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Stephen Hopkins, 1707-1785

Stephen Hopkins was born March 7, 1707 in the town of Cranston (1754-1868) (now a part of the City of Providence), Rhode Island. His boyhood, however, was mostly passed in the section that since 1731 has formed the town of Scituate. A farmer and surveyor, Hopkins married Sarah Scott in 1726, by whom he had seven children. She died in 1753 and in 1755 he married Mrs. Anne (Smith) Smith.

When Scituate was set off from Providence in 1731 Hopkins was made moderator of the first town meeting; in 1732 he became town clerk and in 1735 president of the town council. From 1732 to 1738 (with the exception of 1734) he represented Scituate in the Rhode Island General Assembly. In 1741 he was again elected assemblyman and he became speaker in 1742. In 1736 he was chosen one of the justices of the court of common pleas for Providence County, as well as justice of the peace, and in 1741 became clerk of the court of common pleas. About 1740 he joined his merchant brother in his commercial ventures and in 1742 Hopkins moved to Providence, where he resided for the rest of his life.

From 1744 to 1752 he served again in the General Assembly, from 1747 to 1749 he held the position of assistant justice of the Rhode Island superior court, and from 1751 to 1755 was chief justice. From 1755 to 1757 he was royal governor of Rhode Island. Hopkins attended the general colonial congresses of 1754, 1755, and 1757, where he favored a union of the English colonies.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IX, 219-220. Article by Irvin B. Richman.
 Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 5.
 Antoinette F. Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Va., 1937) 133, 137, 142, 145, 161, 171, 206, 207, 209, 212, 275.
Rhode Island, A Guide to the Smallest State (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 280.

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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		41	49	29
SE	° ' "	° ' "		71	24	25
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 6/22/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 - 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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