UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON:
The Richard Jackson House
AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Richard Jackson House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Northwest Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth
STATE:
New Hampshire

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object
OWNERSHIP
☐ Public ☐ Private ☒ Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
☐ In Process ☒ Being Considered

STATUS
☐ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Yes:
☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) ☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
STREET AND NUMBER:
141 Cambridge Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Boston
STATE:
Massachusetts

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Rockingham County Registrar of Deeds, County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
Hampton Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Exeter
STATE:
New Hampshire

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None
DATE OF SURVEY:
☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

NEW HAMPSHIRE ROCKINGHAM

FORM 10-300
(July 1969)
The Richard Jackson House at Christian's Shore, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is an excellently preserved and restored seventeenth century wooden house. Built in 1664 by Richard Jackson, a shipbuilder, this is the oldest building in Portsmouth.

Fronting on an orchard at the river front, this ambitious early house presents its two full storeys and very steep-gabled shingle roof on this side. The main house is a two room plan with lean-to, the entrance porch puncturing the handsomely weathered clapboard at the centre, and leading to the hall to the right and parlor to the left. Straight behind the entrance is the steep and narrow stair leading to the upper chambers.

While there are virtually no two seventeenth century New England houses exactly alike, they do generally conform to a few standard types, and the Richard Jackson House is no exception. The basic two-room plan about a massive central chimney with lean-to added later at the rear, may be referred to as a completed two-room plan and was generally found in New England during this period. The plan grew from the one-room plan, a hall with its massive chimney for both cooking and heating, into the two-room plan when more space was needed, and even larger when the lean-to was added for the same reason. Houses were built both from a single room with the other rooms added, and also with the two rooms and lean-to already completed from the beginning. The Jackson House was originally a two-room plan only. Here at the Jackson House we also have two additions, one to either end, added probably in 1764. They combine with the center to give the building an extremely interesting combination of flat and geometric shapes, of lights and shades, of acute and oblique angles.

The lean-to at the rear of the Jackson House is particularly striking, insofar as it very nearly sweeps right down to the ground. It was left unfinished on the interior and is still so today. The date at which it was added to the two-room building is not known. As was commonly done, the new lean-to assumed the cooking function from the hall when a new flue was punched through at the back of the center chimney. Also typically, two rooms flanked this new kitchen, a so-called birth-and-death room and a buttery.

Each of the eighteenth century wings has a corner fireplace and the larger wing at the northern side of the house was used as the shipping office. The windows at the east front of the Jackson House, while not original— are accurate restorations of the leaded casement windows that were once there. While they may seem narrow and hardly efficient to us today, the very idea of a triple casement window at this time when glass was such a scarce item in the colonies, reveals
The Richard Jackson House in Portsmouth New Hampshire, built in 1664, is the oldest remaining house in that community and one of the finest of the surviving seventy or so seventeenth century wooden houses in New England. Through its weathered clapboard exterior, its two-room center-chimney plan, its steeply-sloping gable roofline, its narrow leaded casement windows, and other medieval architectural details, the house not only represents a very fine example of the New England "saltbox" house, but also, because of a remarkable interplay of planar and geometric shapes in both the original center section and later additions, offers us a beautiful exercise in abstract geometry as well.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

UTM CO-ORDINATE
19.356200.4771100

Acreage of property is approximately one acre.

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS

DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS

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:
James Dillon, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION:
National Historic Landmarks, OAHP, NPS

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

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 ________________________________

Title ________________________________

Date ________________________________
just how above-average this house originally was. While sash windows had been introduced into England from Holland during the seventeenth century, they were for long used even there only for the more ambitious public buildings and certainly had not found their way to the English colonies.

Inside, and again typical of houses of this period in New England, we find the massive chimney, broad oak floor planks (some as much as twenty inches wide) large exposed beams, some chamfered and beaded, and either roughly plastered or sheathed walls. The framing of the house is the typical massive-member medieval type with ground sill, two-storey posts, chimney girts, and summer beam. There is no overhang at the Jackson House.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION

The Richard Jackson House is located on an inlet of the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth, at a place known as Christian Shore. The area has now become developed, as Portsmouth has itself expanded, and the house is bordered by two narrow roads. Several houses are in the immediate vicinity as well as a power plant. Eighty feet north of the Jackson house stands another known as The George Rogers House. Both are owned by The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Originally, the holding of land on the North Mill Pond which was deeded to Richard Jackson by his father-in-law, Richard Seaward, consisted of thirteen acres. Subsequently, the family holding increased to as much as sixty acres, but by 1927 when the S.P.N.E.A. acquired the Jackson house, less than an acre of land went with it. The adjacent property, upon which stands the Rogers House, was in danger of being sold to a developer in 1959, so the S.P.N.E.A. purchased it for the purposes of using the house as resident overseer's quarters, of conserving the orchard next to it, and of protecting the setting of the Richard Jackson House.

The boundary of this National Historic Landmark extends along the eastern edge of the unpaved Northwest Street from the East-west boundary line separating the Rogers House parcel from the Jackson House parcel, south to a point about fifteen feet south of the house where an access road known as Jackson Hill Road (going to a nearby power plant) diverges from Northwest Street. The boundary then follows the northern edge of this Jackson Hill Road, east to the western edge of the water of the Piscataqua River to the east-west boundary separating the Rogers House parcel from the Jackson House parcel. That boundary line begins at Northwest Street and continues directly east into the water of the North Mill Pond/Piscataqua River. The line begins at a point 87 feet from the northwest bound of the
total parcel (the combined Jackson and Rogers House holding of the S.P.N.E.A.) and therefore about 210 feet from the Southwest bound of the Richard Jackson House, since both parcels combine to front 300 feet on Northwest Street. Total area of the landmark property is approximately one acre. The house, as stated, is owned and is well-maintained by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, which offers access to the public when one calls at the George Rogers where the overseer lives.

The orchard located within the landmark boundary is of nineteenth century origin and does not add to the historical significance of the Richard Jackson House.