

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:
Joseph and William Russell House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
118 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
B. B. Realty Company, c/o Ernest Blazar

STREET AND NUMBER:
490 Angell Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 02906 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Dorrance Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 02903 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
College Hill Demonstration Grant. Project R. I., D--1

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Providence Redevelopment Agency

STREET AND NUMBER:
10 Dorrance Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 02903 44

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Rhode Island

COUNTY: Providence

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Russell house, built in 1772, is an almost square, five bay wide, timber-framed house faced in rubbed brick. The house faces east, and at present is set above a ground level of shops. The appearance of the original basement level is not known but it is possible that a double flight of steps led to the main entrance set above. A change in the level of the street may account for the unusual height of the basement level. It is of three stories --- the third one of diminished height --- and has a hipped roof capped by a small monitor. Such fenestrated monitors became a common characteristic of Providence houses by the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and this is one of the very earliest. A round-ended, three story projection has changed the appearance of the south side in the past century.

There is little exterior adornment, but what there is is visually meaningful. Projecting, horizontal brick courses divide the large cube into three units. An elaborate, central entrance on the eastern front provides the decorative focus of the facade. Copied from Plate 36 of Batty Langley's Builders' Compleat Assistant (London, 1736), the wooden doorway is framed by a modillioned and dentilled segmental pediment resting on a Corinthian entablature en ressaute above engaged, fluted Corinthian columns. A rusticated area is in respond to the columns and entablature and forms a surround to the door. A fine, academic wooden cornice of modillions and dentils runs continuously around the house below the eaves. Splayed brick lintels above the windows on the facade are in contrast to the segmentally-arched windows on the other elevations.

The interior plan is conventional for large houses of the period: two rooms placed to either side of a long, central hall with two interior chimneys providing back-to-back fireplaces for each room. With storage areas and passageways adjoining the fireplaces, they appear flush to the wall. The main staircase rises in two runs at the back end of the hall, lighted by a pilastered, Palladian window on the landing.

The interior has been greatly altered. Most of the woodwork has been dispersed among museums in Minneapolis, Brooklyn, and Denver. The length of the first-floor hall was originally paneled from mop-board to chair-rail height with handsome raised and bevelled paneling, and decorated with an elaborate cornice of modillions and dentils. A semi-elliptical arch with keystone, supported on engaged Corinthian columns, divided the entrance hall from the main hall. The ramped rail and turned balustrades of the stairway curled around the newel on the first floor.

Interior trim throughout was academic and derived from English builders' handbooks of a decade or two earlier. The principal rooms were fully paneled, cornices were elaborate, and some internal openings were given paneled arches supported on pilasters. The fireplace mantels throughout were elaborate and varied.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

The house suffered increasing neglect and decay. In 1875 it was converted into a hotel, and in 1920 the interior was stripped and the structure was used for storage and commercial activities. Today it is used for shops, lofts, and apartments, but it has retained the major part of its original exterior character.

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) 1772

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 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 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

Erected in 1772, the Russell house was one of the earliest, large-scale brick houses built in Providence. Such expensive and academically-inspired decoration was far more common in Newport than in Providence, and was not to be repeated in the city until well after the Revolutionary War. Built by the Russell brothers, who had prospered as retailers, the house was located near the downtown commercial and shipping areas rather than in the increasingly fashionable Benefit Street-College Hill area.

The fine entrance and elaborate, original interior detail fully reveal the then common practice of American builders to copy from the English design books, such as those of Batty Langley. Even in its altered and neglected state, the Russell house retains its fine proportions, its careful, textured brickwork, and its sparse, though striking, exterior adornment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins. The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950. Providence: The Bookshop, 1957, pp. 44-46(floorplan).

Downing, Antoinette F. Early Homes of Rhode Island. Richmond (Va.): Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1937, pp. 235-38, 244-45, 247, 280.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Rhode Island Architecture. New York: DaCapo Press, 1968.

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° 49' 10"	71° 24' 36"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			WEST	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Alice H.R. Hauck and Clifford M. Renshaw III, Surveyors

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: April 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 124, State House

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE: 02903

STATE CODE: 44

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



ODY

WATCHES
DIAMONDS
SILVERWARE

RHODY DISTRIBUTORS
WHOLESALERS AND JOBBERS
RELOCATION SALE
40-60-90% DISCOUNT
SACRIFICE PRICES
WATCHES GO

RHODY
DIAMONDS
WATCHES

B B
CLOTHING
114-116

INDUSTRIAL
VISION
EMPLOYERS
OVERLOAD

NO
PARKING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 118 North Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Alice H. R. Hauck			
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior seen from the south-east.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

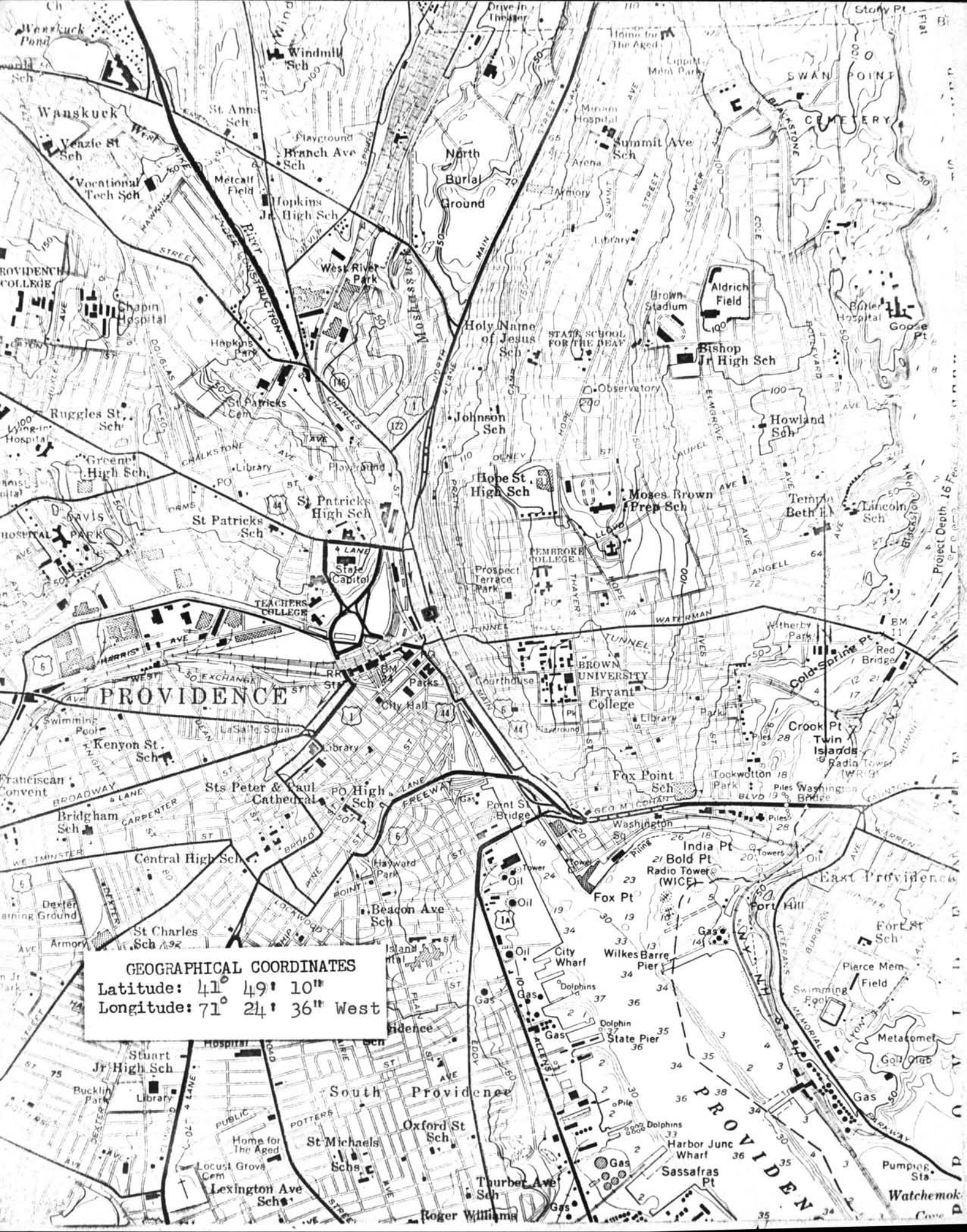
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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Main entrance.			



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 49' 10"
 Longitude: 71° 24' 36" West

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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2. LOCATION

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118 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.