

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	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: The Forge Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Major-General Nathanael Greene

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 10 Forge Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Warwick			
STATE: Rhode Island, 02818	CODE: 44	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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Thomas Casey Greene		
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 Forge Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Warwick	STATE: Rhode Island, 02818	CODE: 44

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	CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input 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 Forge Farm, where Major-General Nathanael Greene was born and where he lived and helped with the family agricultural and commercial pursuits until he married and built a house elsewhere, to-day comprises 179 acres, of which a considerable part is still worked as farmland--at present growing alfalfa. On this land there stand the main Greene house and a number of subsidiary buildings; there are also woods, ponds, a sluiceway for the vanished Greene grist-mill and iron-forge, winding dirt roads, a flower garden and a vegetable one, a family cemetery. The grave of Nathanael Greene is not, however, in this last, as he died and was buried with honours in Georgia; but the grave of his brother Christopher, also a Revolutionary War officer, is in the enclosure.

The main house, whose core was constructed in 1684 by James Greene, is near the north-eastern corner of the property, where the land is quite elevated above Forge Road, and is reached by a gravel drive. It is also above the Potowomut (or "Greene's") River to its east, where the Greenes' iron and milling enterprises were located. Today, the house presents externally a mid-XIX-Century appearance, for not only was it re-cased in the latter half of the XVIII Century, but in 1862-1863 it was given an extension and some other alterations; its oldest portion remains, nevertheless--within two coats of clapboarding--and on the interior the old plan is evident. It was built of timber framing (pinned by nails from the family forge, rather than pegged) and vertical sheathing, two-and-a-half storeys high above a low fieldstone basement, and carries a gable roof. The entrance is a central one (now brought forward in a tall, narrow Victorian projection) in its five-bay east front, and the house is two rooms deep--these rooms laid out about a centre chimney in the typical five-room plan: one room on either side of a small entry- and stair-hall, three rooms across the back of the house. Attached at the south was a gambrel-roofed ell (probably a summer kitchen) of a storey-and-a-half, which has been supplanted by a larger Victorian service wing under a gable roof, truncated at one end, and with a connector to the main house; a sitting-porch with wide wooden arcades runs in front of wing and connector. During the 1860's re-modelling the main house may have had the pitch of its roof raised to give greater top-floor accommodation, and it was given an eaves cornice carried on brackets of modest design. At the same time a central entrance "pavilion" of two-and-a-half storeys was protruded; this has the double, glazed front door, sheltered by a square one-storey porch carried upon square wooden columns; above are paired windows surmounted by a hood, and in the third-floor gable is a small single window whose top is of semi-hexagonal shape. Ground-floor windows retain their old capping mouldings, but all windows of the old house, where there used to be twelve-over-twelve sash, now have two-over-two or one-over-one sash.

Upon entering the main door in the projection, one is in a small hallway not greatly larger than the original one; from it a curving stairway, said to pre-date the 1862-1863 changes, ascends, showing a

(See Continuation Sheet 1.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-1

STATE Rhode Island	
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7. Description.

rail with a heavy, turned newel at the bottom, and there is a niche in the conformingly-curved backing wall in front of the chimney, where originally a tight and angular stair would have been. To right and left (north and south) are sitting-rooms--one probably originally a dining-room--both of which have early wainscoting with large, square, raised and bevelled panels. The northern rooms retains all of its early (i. e., XVIII-Century) character, showing cased corner-posts and a low ceiling, as are seen throughout the rest of the house. In this room remains an early and prominent moulded wood cornice; the fireplace treatment incorporates heavy, rounded mouldings around the hearth and an oblong eared panel as over-mantel above the shelf; here the wall spaces are defined by early XIX-Century wallpaper borders carefully preserved. Most doors on this floor were replaced in the 1862-1863 renovations and have panel arrangements with heavy mouldings of the mid-Victorian period. The room to the south of the entry has a mantelpiece of the Federal period, and behind this room a new dining-room was pushed out in the 1860's: this has a semi-hexagonal western bay which extends to the floors above. The wing to the south, containing domestic offices and extra bedrooms, has already been mentioned.

On the second floor the old doors with six shallow panels remain, many with their original hardware from the Greene forge. The north-east chamber is the one in which Nathanael Greene was born, and his cradle is still there. The only change made in this room was the installation of a prominently-panelled mantelpiece of heavy Greek Revival-Victorian wood-work. Opening from this major bedroom is a smaller one in the north-west corner of the house which General Greene occupied as a youth. Another large bedroom is across the hall; smaller ones are at the rear of the house and in the wing. There are now also bedrooms at third-floor level in the main house. Furnishings and ornaments throughout are antiques of various periods brought here by many generations and branches of the family. House and contents are meticulously cared for and are not infrequently shown to interested groups and individuals upon request, although the farm is not open to the public in any general sense.

Not far to the rear of the house is a former wood-house and laundry of one storey, of the Victorian style in its plainer form; this has been slightly extended to form a guest-house. To the south-west of the house is a group of outbuildings of various ages, including an old barn moved from a more distant place on the property, enlarged and given a cupola and modest frontal trim in the Greek Revival period; there is also an early-XIX-Century wagon and storage shed. On the eastern border of the land, on Forge Road, are a small, old, one-storey farmhouse with its own barn or shed, and a former storehouse for the mill which until c. 1830-1840 stood nearby on the river, with the forge then on the opposite bank. The family

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) -2

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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 Greene'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.

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)

Aboriginal

 Prehistoric Historic Agriculture Architecture Art Commerce Communications Conservation Education Engineering Industry Invention Landscape

Architecture

 Literature Military Music Political Religion/Philosophy Science Sculpture Social/Humanitarian Theater Transportation Urban Planning Other (Specify)

History: Original settlement of area

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 constructed 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 organize in nearby East Greenwich the militia body known as the Kentish Guards and still existing to-day.

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

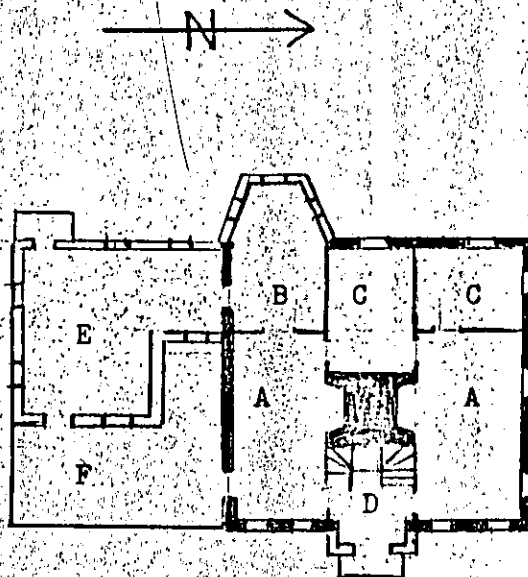
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)-3

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

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

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RECEIVED

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).

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).

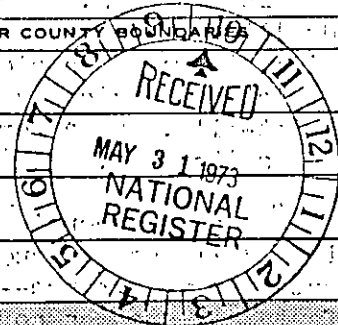
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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
NW	41° 38' 40.37"N	71° 27' 10.21"W			
NE	41° 38' 27.16"N	71° 26' 43.37"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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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: 44

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: Frederick H. Williams
State Historic Preservation
Officer

Title: _____

Date: 5/7/73

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: _____



Forge Farm
Geographical Coordinates

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
NW	41° 38' 40.37" N	71° 27' 10.21" W
NE	41° 38' 27.16" N	71° 26' 43.37" W
SE	41° 38' 14.60" N	71° 26' 54.81" W
SW	41° 38' 27.82" N	71° 27' 21.20" W

INCORRECT - SEE NEW MAP 10/70

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Forge Farm

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

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Forge Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Warwick

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Kent

CODE

003

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.



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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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	CODE 44	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission: copy negative			
DATE OF PHOTO: C. 1860-1862			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. East, or entrance front of the house, showing still, c. 1860-1862, its XVIII-Century appearance and the small gambrel-roofed ell to the south.			



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: James Gibbs

DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of south wall of north sitting-room on first floor, showing XVIII-Century woodwork and early XIX-Century wallpaper borders.



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4. IDENTIFICATION

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Detail of north wall of south-east chamber on second floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

East, or entrance front of the house as seen to-day, showing the alterations and extensions of the 1860's.



FORGE FARM
40 FORGE ROAD
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

