

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	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Indian Burial Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Narrow Lane

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlestown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02813 CODE: 441 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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:
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 441

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 372

CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown STATE: Rhode Island, 02813 CODE: 441

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century and 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century before

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phil. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Indian tradition records that this site was the Royal Burial Ground of the combined tribes of the Narragansett and Niantic Indians, a burial place of privilege for the Indian sachems, or chiefs, and their families. As such, it is one of the few remaining traces of a once-large and powerful Indian nation in New England, and it is historically linked to the nearby remains of the former Narragansett reservation

Before it was protected as a park, the site was subject to abuse by the local citizenry. Without consent, a group of nine local persons opened one of the graves in May, 1869, in order to ascertain how the Indians buried their dead and to collect relics. Covered with large, flat stones, the tomb was found to contain a log coffin. Two logs had been split to serve as top, bottom, and sides, and were bound together by iron chains. A brass kettle was found at one end, and an iron kettle at the other, along with numerous other relics. Legal action was brought against the men by members of the tribe, but the accused were exonerated. A published history of the area in 1887 states that much of what was found was sent to Brown University, although the whereabouts of these artifacts is no longer known there. The same history claims that there was a subsequent exploration by a Dr. Parsons of Providence who found fewer relics, even though he opened quite a number of graves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" 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

In a small clearing at the top of a wooded hill, the ancient burial ground of the Narragansett Indians is now maintained as part of a twenty-acre park by the State of Rhode Island. Though this site once commanded a magnificent view of the sea and the countryside, it is now surrounded by dense growth. In a clearing, a 20' by 100' rectangular, grassy plot rises several inches above the surrounding ground level and is surrounded by an iron post-and-rail fence. This fence and a marble tablet in the center of the plot were erected in 1878 by order of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Although virtually all traces of the original mounds are now gone, the Burial Ground was described in the nineteenth century as one row of mounds raised above the next. In 1878 the mound was recorded to be thirty feet by one hundred feet and three feet high. The site was completely wooded until the great gale of 1869, which levelled many of the trees. Since that time the site has been kept cleared.

Seven small stones, placed on end in the enclosed plot, are possibly head and foot stones of recent graves. An addendum to the Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Master Book, which records the graves of war veterans, lists the recent burial of George Alexander Hazard, World War I veteran. The family name "Hazard" is found among local residents of Indian descent.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Committee of Investigation: Narragansett Tribe of Indians, Report of the Committee ... (Providence, Rhode Island, 1880).
 U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, 1937).

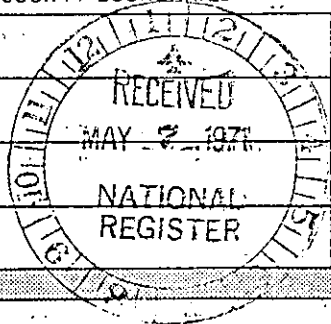
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 24' 13.50" N	71° 37' 53.48" W	
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.11 acre

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: Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: April 16, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: State House, 90 Smith Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Therese R. Williams</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>April 28, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
---	---



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)

STATE
Rhode Island

COUNTY
Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Indian Burial Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Narrow Lane

CITY OR TOWN:

Charlestown,

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

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.

Railed portion of the burial ground, looking south-west.

This Tablet is erected and
this spot of ground enclosed
by the state of Rhode Island,
to mark the place which Indian
tradition identifies as the
Royal Burial Ground of the
Narragansett Tribe,
and in recognition of the
kindness and hospitality of
this once powerful Nation to
the founders of this State.

Done by order of the General Assembly
at the Department of State, June 11, 1878, under

LEO GARNETT, CLERK, DANIEL H. CROSS,
J. LUIGI B. BARLOGGI, STEPHEN C. BROWN, JR.,
Commissioners.

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)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Indian Burial Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Narrow Lane

CITY OR TOWN:

Charlestown

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

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.

Stone tablet in the center of the burial ground.