

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY:<br>Kent        |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY       |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER           | DATE |
|                        |      |

1. NAME

COMMON: Armory of the Kentish Guards

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Armory and Peirce Streets

CITY OR TOWN: East Greenwich

STATE: Rhode Island, 02818      CODE: 111      COUNTY: Kent      CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP   | PUBLIC ACQUISITION   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |  |  |  |                                   |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         | _____                                    | _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        | _____                                    | _____                             |

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: 111

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: East Greenwich Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: 111 Peirce Street

CITY OR TOWN: East Greenwich      STATE: Rhode Island, 02818      CODE: 111

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970-1971       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island, 02903      CODE: 111

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                       |      |
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|                       |      |

((Number all entries))

7. Description.

The main interior space of the armory has always been the large drill-hall with its tall windows. Originally, however, this was somewhat diminished by a ward-room on each side of the main entrance at the west. In the 1890's these two rooms were re-located in the eastern extension of the building, where other small rooms were built above them and where there was installed a stairway which also serves the basement and a shallow balcony overlooking the drill-hall. Probably at this same time occurred the application around the drill-hall of a five-foot wainscot of quartered oak. Two large glazed cabinets and three exit doors now fill the east wall of the drill-hall below the balcony. Behind the cabinets and through the doors are, on first-floor level, the flag room, the drum-corps room and the stairwell. Above are the quartermaster's room, two storage rooms and access to the balcony. The basement now contains the company room, a kitchen, toilet facilities and a heater room--the first and second of these taking up most of the space.

The building is owned by the State of Rhode Island but continues in occupancy by the Kentish Guards, who meet there every week and who preserve their records, relics and trophies of nearly two hundred years of existence there.

7. DESCRIPTION

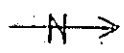
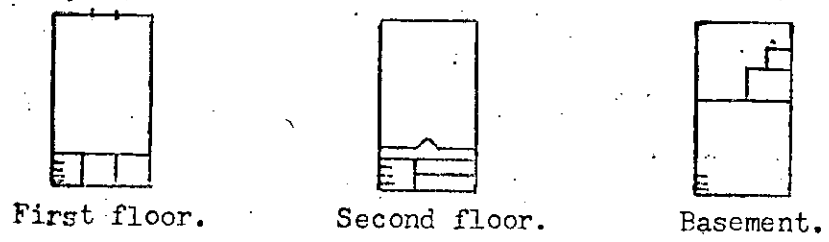
|           |   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 armory building, constructed in 1842, is a timber-framed structure faced on three sides with clapboarding and on the fourth, or front, by matched boarding. It rests upon a basement of either stone or brick, now covered by cement, and carries a gable roof. Its corner site slopes downward considerably from front to rear. The building is an oblong of about sixty-one (originally fifty) feet by thirty feet; it was extended at the rear in the 1890's. It is painted white.

The armory is of Greek Revival temple-form in its proportions and its frontal appearance, particularly. At the west end, the entrance front facing on Peirce Street, is a shallow temple portico (its base very close to sidewalk level) with Doric columns placed distyle in antis between panelled corner piers with concomittant classical capping treatment. Above is a plain, well-proportioned pediment above an architrave with small dentils (the frieze area not being omitted). Within the portico a very large centre doorway of two leaves has an enframement of attenuated panelled pilasters supporting a frieze and cornice. Flanking the door are two large windows with similar but simpler trim. The leaves of the six-foot-wide door are hung on six great strap-hinges and are of matched boards painted a dark green and heavily studded by diamond-headed nails in a diaper pattern. The two-leafed shutters of the front windows are similarly treated. The north and south sides of the building each have four very tall, narrow windows enframed like those at the front, but without exterior shutters. At the east end of the building, where it was extended and where the land drops, windows are of normal size and serve three interior levels, including the basement. This is a highly pleasing and successful simple exterior of its period and style--a provincial classicism often used for small-town court houses, academies, libraries, banks.

Its interior arrangements are at present thus:



(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Armory of the Kentish Guards is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture as used for semi-public buildings which, however small, were nevertheless intended to have a dignified and--if possible--monumental aspect. This is achieved here through the portico and the arrangement of openings which it contains. The building has, of course, been since its erection a visually pleasing landmark of East Greenwich. It still serves its original purpose, housing the activities of the volunteer militia unit or "chartered company" for which it was built.

This group, the Kentish Guards, has importance in Rhode Island history. It was founded and named in 1771 by fifty-six citizens of Kent County; its first captain was James Varnum, and at the beginning it recieved military training under the direction of Nathanael Greene. By April of 1775 the body had grown to one hundred and ten men, who set forth on the march within three hours of hearing of the Concord-Lexington battles. They subsequently returned to East Greenwich and throughout the Revolutionary War garrisoned harbour and other local defences. During the War of 1812 they were stationed at Newport, and during Dorr's Rebellion in this state in 1842 they were sent to protect the State Arsenal in Providence. The Guards provided two full infantry companies in the Civil War. The fifth-oldest chartered military company in the United States, this body has provided many men besides Varum and Greene who have been prominent in Rhode Island's military history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McPartland, Martha R.: The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1677-1960 ... (East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1960), pp. 73-79. Anniversary Celebration. The Kentish Guards, Rhode Island Militia. 1774-1969 (East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 1969), 32 pp.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 41° 32' 40" N   | 71° 27' 04" W           |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Richard B. Harrington, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **February 8, 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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Kent        |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|   |            |                 |             |
|---|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>  |            |                 |             |
| COMMON: Armory of the Kentish Guards  |            |                 |             |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:  |            |                 |             |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>  |            |                 |             |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>Armory and Peirce Streets   |            |                 |             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>East Greenwich   |            |                 |             |
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island  | CODE<br>44 | COUNTY:<br>Kent | CODE<br>003 |
| <b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>   |            |                 |             |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Richard B. Harrington   |            |                 |             |
| DATE OF PHOTO: 1970   |            |                 |             |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,<br>State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903 |            |                 |             |
| <b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>  |            |                 |             |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.<br><br>Exterior seen from the south-west.  |            |                 |             |



KENTISH GUARDS

1774



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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Rhode Island, 02818

CODE

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COUNTY:

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CODE

003

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Richard B. Harrington

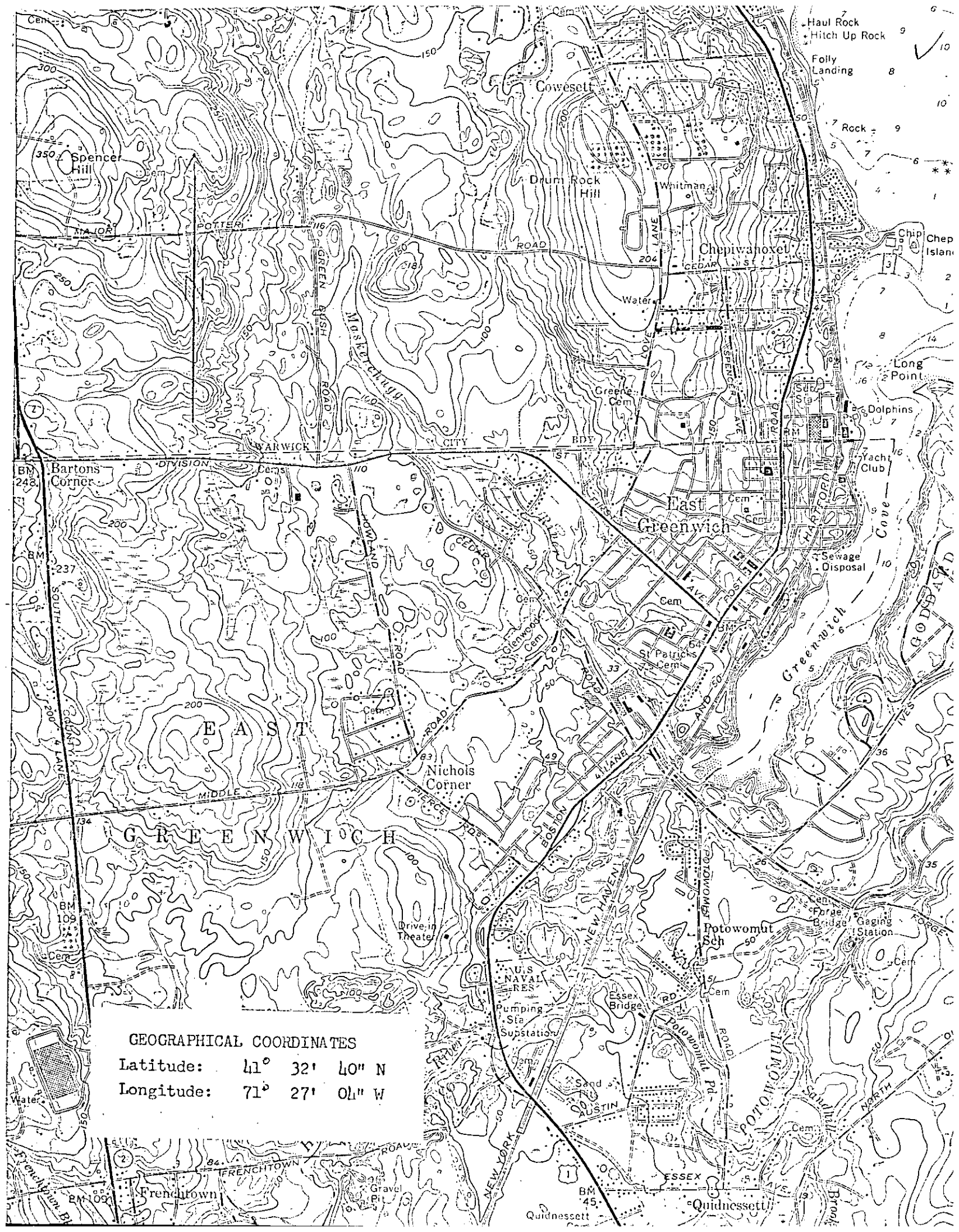
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Entrance façade.



**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES**  
 Latitude: 41° 32' 40" N  
 Longitude: 71° 27' 01" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Rhode Island |      |
| COUNTY<br>Kent        |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE |
|                       |      |

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| COMMON: Armory of the Kentish Guards   |            |                 |             |
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| <b>2. LOCATION</b>   |            |                 |             |
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| CITY OR TOWN:<br>East Greenwich  |            |                 |             |
| STATE:<br>Rhode Island   | CODE<br>44 | COUNTY:<br>Kent | CODE<br>003 |
| <b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>  |            |                 |             |
| SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey  |            |                 |             |
| SCALE: 1: 24,000   |            |                 |             |
| DATE: 1957   |            |                 |             |
| <b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>   |            |                 |             |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS   |            |                 |             |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>North arrow.</li> <li>Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol> |            |                 |             |