

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Conanicut Battery

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
To the west of the northern portion of Beaver Tail Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Jamestown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02835      CODE: 44      COUNTY: Newport      CODE: 005

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 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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Jamestown

STREET AND NUMBER:  
71 Narragansett Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown      STATE: Rhode Island, 02835      CODE: 005

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
71 Narragansett Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown      STATE: Rhode Island, 02835      CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Not so represented

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

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Field, Edward: Revolutionary Defences of Rhode Island (Providence, Rhode Island, 1896), pp. 117, 113-116.  
 Diary of Captain Frederick Mackenzie of the Royal Fusiliers, in the collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island, pp. 122-129, 315-322.

**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 ° 28 ' 38.73" N	71 ° 23 ' 49.32" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **C. 1 acre**

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:  
**B. Christopher Bene, Surveyor-Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission**      DATE: **May 17, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**John Brown House, 52 Power Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence**      STATE: **Rhode Island, 02906**      CODE: **114**

**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

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1776

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which the Conanicut Battery was built originally belonged to Benedict Arnold, a former governor of Rhode Island, but at the time of the Revolution it was in the possession of Jerathmael Bowers. The fortification was built by Americans, probably in May of 1776, and was to be used in concert with a battery at Bonnet Point to defend the West Passage of Narragansett Bay with its six or eight heavy cannon, but it

was occupied by the British from the time they landed in Newport in December, 1776 until August, 1778, when ..., anticipating the arrival and occupancy of the island by the French, they (the British) spiked the guns, destroyed the magazines, abandoned the place and returned to Newport. [Field]

When the French arrived in the summer of 1778, Captain Frederick MacKenzie, who had been with the British Royal Fusiliers in Newport, recorded in his diary:

The General, judging it would answer little purpose to risque the loss of the Detachments upon Conanicut, sent orders, as soon as the French ship had passed the Battery on Fox Hill, to withdraw ... The French took possession of Conanicut this day and hoisted a White Colour there.


Though the cannon of Conanicut Battery were never fired in active fighting, the battery had, nevertheless, a certain effect by its very existence and placement. It was strategic, first, in the intended defence of Narragansett Bay by the Americans and, second--when under British control--in the blockade of the bay which kept the colonial navy bottled up in Providence and also restricted the movements of privateers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Conanicut Battery is a Revolutionary War fortification located on the west side of Conanicut Island (Jamestown), on what is known as Prospect Hill, which has also sometimes been called Fox Hill. Its original plan was supposed to have been thus:  Today one cannot easily surmise this shape, but it is still clearly a rectangular landform with sides that are "pulled in" towards the center. This artillery emplacement could be described as a continuous trench dug about six feet below ground level, with sides which are built up about two feet above ground level, giving an impression of long mounds. The earthwork is about 150 feet in length and 75 feet in width at its maxima, and 100 feet by 50 feet at minima--and thus it has a large central area. Particularly remarkable is the fact that the forms are still so very well defined; perhaps part of the reason for this survival is that the earth here is hard and stony. The land slopes down towards the West Passage in Narragansett Bay; one can see Point Judith and Block Island to the southwest and Dutch Island, with its lighthouse, to the north.

A site of about an acre has been cleared on and around the battery. In 1931, the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a bronze marker (which seems no longer in evidence) at the site and planted three large spruce trees (which remain) symmetrically down the center of the battery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

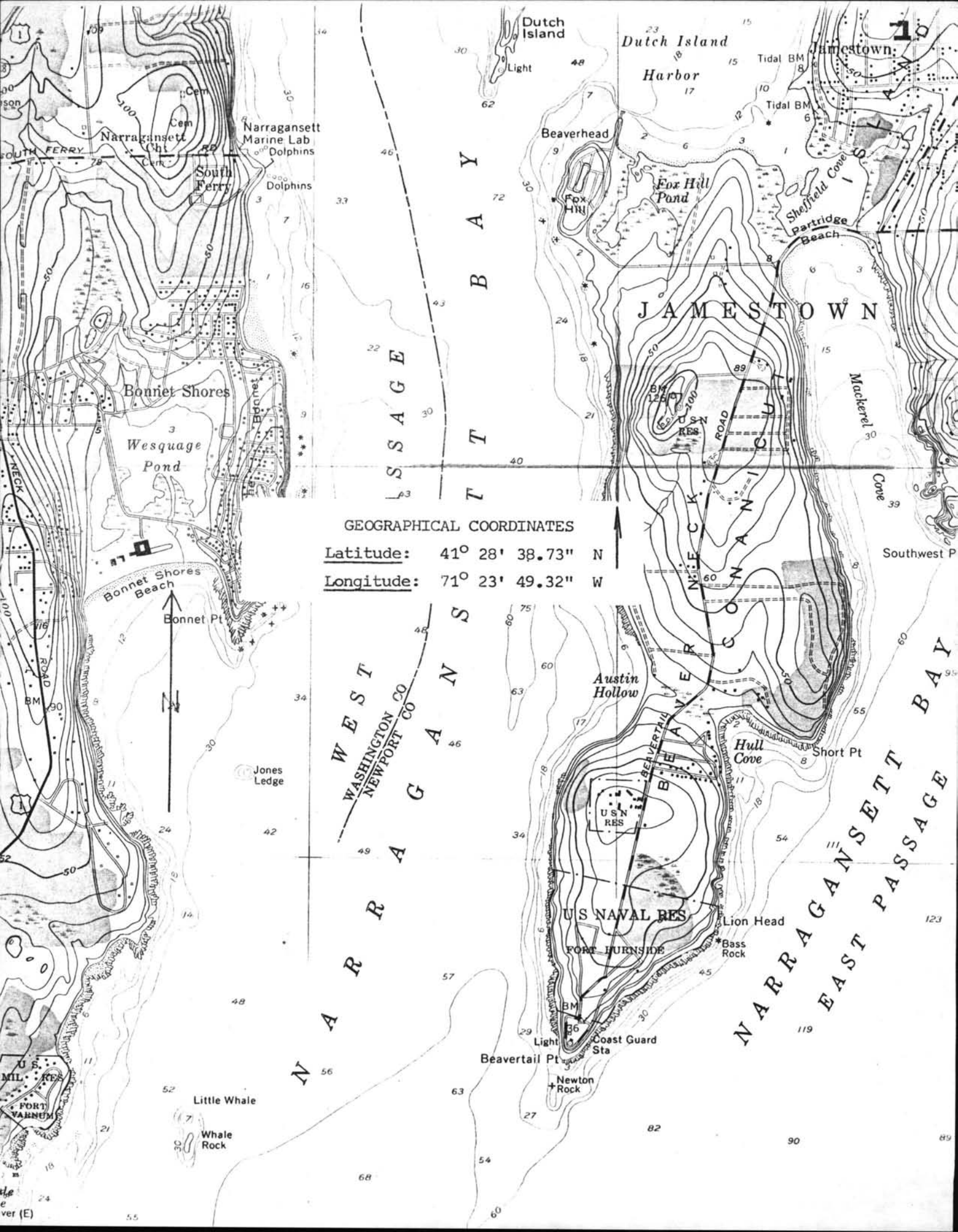
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Conanicut Battery			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: To the west of the northern portion of Beaver Tail Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View towards west.			



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 28' 38.73" N

Longitude: 71° 23' 49.32" W

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Conanicut Battery  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
To the west of the northern portion of Beavertail Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Jamestown

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE	COUNTY:
44	Newport

CODE
005

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.