

**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:
Esek Hopkins House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
97 Admiral Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input 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:
City of Providence

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, Dorrance Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Registry of Deeds, Providence City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1956 Federal State County 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
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 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 Esek Hopkins House is situated on slightly over three acres of land in a rapidly deteriorating area on the northern outskirts of Providence. It faces southwest onto Admiral Street and consists of three distinct structures. The main section is a two-story gable roofed house of one room side hall plan. Adjoining is a one-and-a-half story, gambrel roofed structure, three bays wide, with modified five room plan. *At the rear of the main house is a long one-story gable roofed ell. A portion of this ell is shingled, but otherwise the house is clapboarded and a wide, wooden watertable conceals much of the fieldstone foundation. There is one brick interior end chimney in the main section, two interior chimneys in the gambreled section, and one in the ell.

Throughout the house the windows have twelve-over-twelve double hung sash with old glass. These are restorations which replaced Victorian two over two sash. The window caps have cyma recta mouldings, the frames are beaded, and the sills are thick and projecting. On the front slopes of the gambreled section there are two shed dormers joined by an inappropriate balustrade, all probably added in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The present entrance is crowned by a wide, projecting cornice with panelled soffit and Greek fret design.

Just before the house was given to the City of Providence in 1908 it was "restored" by the last ^{direct} descendant of Esek Hopkins. During this restoration the Victorian features were removed from the doorway and the sash returned to twelve over twelve. Inside, except for the ell the house was papered and painted. In the late 1950's the interior underwent thorough renovation. At this time new chair rails and baseboards were installed and the walls, with the exception of the southwest room, were replastered. The rear of the house was remodeled for modern bath and kitchen facilities while the second story was made into a caretaker's apartment.

The architectural detail in the hall and front rooms is all light in scale and typical of Federal work of the period from 1810 to 1830. The fireplace in the southwest parlor has a wide, plain frieze, pilasters with recessed panels, and a plain, moulded cornice which breaks outward over the pilasters. In the two parlors of the gambreled section is a matching pair of more elaborate fireplaces. On either side of the opening is a half column set on a high base while above there is a wide frieze bordered by recessed panels and capped by a rope moulding beneath the cornice. The front hall staircase has square, balusters and columnar newel posts, each having a mushroom cap set on a rectangular block, moulded capital, and moulded base.

The rear ell contains a room traditionally known as the dining room, behind that a large kitchen and finally a horizontally sheathed passage off of which are the storeroom and well house. Both the architectural

(See Continuation Sheet)

*Early accounts indicate that this is the part built in 1756, but its interior detail is now early nineteenth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet) 1.

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Description

trim and the one-story mantel of gray marble in the dining room are typical of Early Victorian work with modified Greek Revival characteristics. The walls in this room are covered with early pictorial wallpaper, depicting a hunting scene, which warrants special study. The kitchen has a large, unaltered cooking fireplace with side oven and wood storage niche. In this room are two doors of eighteenth century type on which are excellent early open face latches.

The house remained in the Hopkins family until 1908 when it was deeded along with the land and a very good collection of family furnishings to the City of Providence by Mrs. Frederick L. Gould, a great-great granddaughter of Esek Hopkins, and her son, Mr. C. M. Gould, who stipulated in the deed that the property be well-maintained, used for patriotic purposes, and kept as a park.

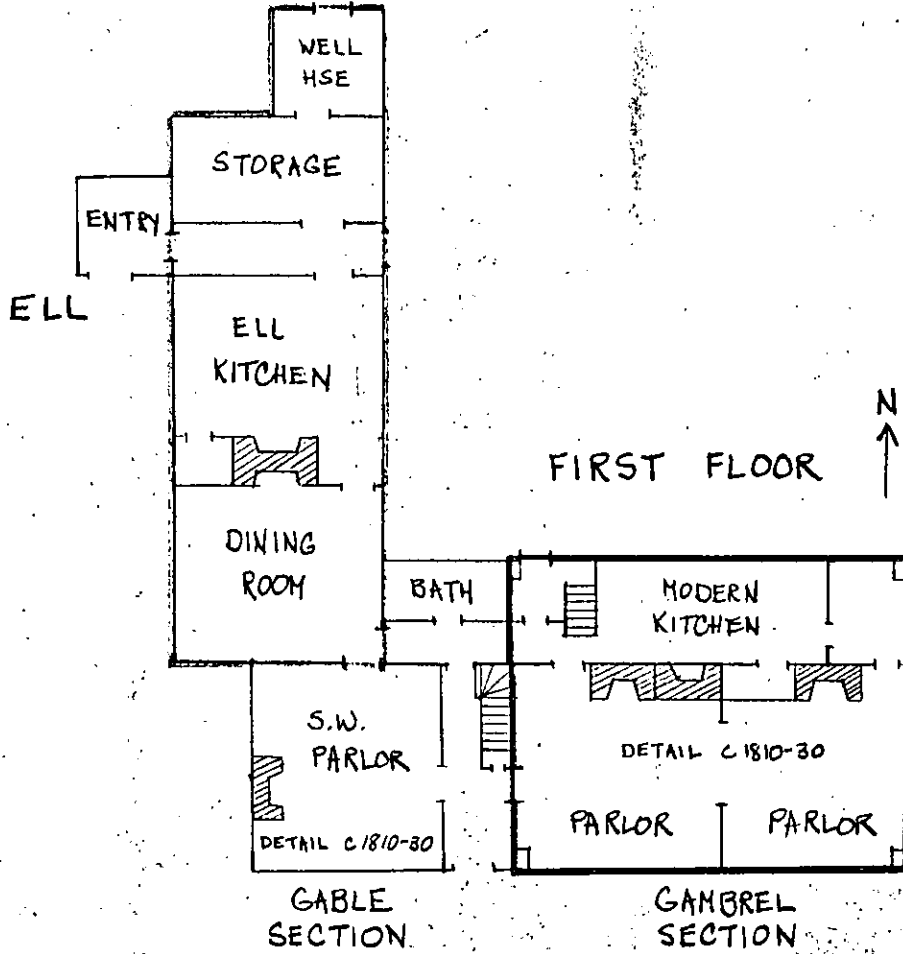
Today the house stands isolated from the surrounding community, encircled by a high chain link fence and open to visitors by appointment only. A major highway will soon pass to the east of the property while the neighborhood is one of the poorer areas in the city. It is hoped that public awareness of its national historical significance will promote general interest in the Esek Hopkins House and action to improve its environment.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2.

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)
Description



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) 1756

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 significance of the Hopkins House lies in its association with Esek Hopkins. The house itself has been altered over the years and there is no clear record of its 1756 appearance. Esek Hopkins is a figure of national importance in military history as he was the first Commander-in-Chief of the American Navy. He commanded the only major naval victory of the Revolution and dared to oppose the influential merchants of the colonies in order to strengthen the Navy. In Rhode Island Hopkins prevented, as commander of all state forces, the British occupation of Newport before war was declared, was a prominent Providence merchant, and served in the Rhode Island General Assembly for eight years.

Born a Rhode Islander, Esek Hopkins began his life at sea at the age of twenty. Using trade and war to best advantage, he at one time owned seventeen ships and at his death left a large estate. He engaged in the slave trade and privateering, first against the Spanish and later the French during the French and Indian War, along with his more respectable mercantilist activities. About 1751 Hopkins moved his family from Newport to Providence where he later bought two hundred acres of land north of Providence. As the land was unsuitable for farming, the sea remained his sole pursuit.

When the American Revolution broke out, Hopkins was given the task of defending the city against possible attack by the British fleet off Newport. His experience as a privateer and familiarity with long guns had provided the necessary background. In October of 1775 he was made Commander-in-Chief of all Rhode Island state forces. While at this post his most notable achievement was his negotiations with Commander James Wallace of the British fleet off Newport. They agreed to stay out of Newport, thus making that city neutral. In this way Hopkins avoided any major clashes with the British in the eight months before independence was declared.

In November of 1775 the Naval Committee of the Continental Congress, of which his brother Stephen was a member, named Esek Hopkins Commander-in-Chief of the newly-created American navy. With a squadron of eight

(See continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 3.

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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(Number all entries)

Significance

ships Hopkins set out in February of 1776 to harass British shipping off the coast of Virginia. Rough weather forced him to abandon his mission and Hopkins sailed to New Providence in the Bahamas. There he captured the fort protecting that city and seized a vast quantity of military stores desperately needed by Washington's army.

When he returned to Providence, Hopkins discovered that the local merchants and sailors preferred privateering to continental service due to the profit involved. He made an unsuccessful attempt to have the Rhode Island General Assembly declare a moratorium on privateers but the influential merchants of Providence blocked the measure. Hopkins was thus forced to fit out one ship at a time as finances permitted. Gradually the citizens of Providence became hostile to the fleet, believing its presence would draw the British. Discontent among the officers over prize money and promotion further hindered the effectiveness of the fleet. The final setback was the arrival in December, 1776, of a British fleet off Newport, thereby trapping the American navy in Narragansett Bay.

In Congress opposition to Hopkins was also growing. The wealthy merchants were lobbying for his dismissal so that their privateering could continue unchecked. Other naval officers were looking for advancement and the anti-New England bias of the Congress was well known. On April 15, 1777, Hopkins was dismissed. He served in the Rhode Island General Assembly until 1785 and in 1802 died at his home in Providence.

Esek Hopkins was far from the incompetent commander which history has made him out to be. The man and the navy were overpowered by men whose private ambitions exceeded their patriotism. When Hopkins was relieved of his command, all hope for concerted fleet operations was lost. As the war dragged on, a few American warships engaged the British but only in indecisive single ship encounters. With the dismissal of Esek Hopkins the Continental Navy never again became a cohesive fighting force.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Field, Edward, Esek Hopkins, Providence, 1898.
 Miller, Charles H., Admiral Number One, New York, 1962.
 Preble, George Henry, Esek Hopkins, The First "Commander-in-Chief"
of the American Navy, New York, 1885.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41°	50'	30.27"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		71°	25'	15.06"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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:
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Sullivan, Consultant and Grants Administrator

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: April 16, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
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 _____

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)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Esek Hopkins House		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Rhode Island	Providence	Providence
STREET AND NUMBER		
97 Admiral Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Chris Bene	November 1971	R.I. Hist. Pres. Comm.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Front or south side of Hopkins House.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. NAME

COMMON

Esek Hopkins House

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

2. LOCATION

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Providence

TOWN

Providence

STREET AND NUMBER

97 Admiral Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Chris Bene

DATE

November 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT

R.I. Hist. Pres. Comm.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Fireplace and windows in southwest parlor.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 50' 30.27" N

Longitude: 71° 25' 15.06" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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1. NAME

COMMON: Hopkins (Esek) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

97 Admiral 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.