

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:
Dexter (Edward) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
72 Waterman Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: Rh COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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
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 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"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Frank L. Hinckley, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
72 Waterman Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: Rh

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: Rh

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
*only by enlargement

The Dexter house, whose architect is unknown, was built between 1795 and 1797 and is of timber-frame, clapboarded construction above a sandstone basement, excepting the two exterior walls (formerly the north and south and now the east and west ones)^{WHICH} are faced in brick for weather protection. It is of two-and-a-half storeys under a low hipped roof with a square monitor. Originally located on the north-east corner of George and Prospect Streets--roughly two blocks away--and facing west, the house was sawn into two sections and moved in 1860 to its new location, where it was turned to face south. Subsequently it was enlarged by extensions at the east which run off to the rear of the house and by the insertion of dormers in the roof. Beyond these obvious but harmoniously handled additions its basic proportions, trim and appearance have not been altered.

In external architectural treatment, the Dexter house is transitional between the Georgian and Federal styles. (Its façade scheme belongs to the type used for the Vassall house of 1759 on Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts.) It is more architecturally adorned than other contemporary houses of similarly moderate size in Providence. Quoins support a fretted and modillioned cornice. The central bay of the entrance front is marked by a pediment (open at its bottom) supported by two-storey pilasters of the Tuscan order, fluted (these in turn supported on pedestals and topped by narrow slices of entablature with single triglyphs). Between the pilasters is, on the first floor, a one-storey entrance porch with smooth Tuscan columns backed by pilasters and carrying a turned balustrade with urns. At second-floor level is a Palladian window whose rusticated centre arch rises into the pediment; glazing in the arched part of the window is "dummy-glazing," for interior ceiling height does not permit the actual window-opening to rise above the spring of the arch. First-floor windows at the front have pediments, while those at the sides and rear, and throughout the second storey, have simple architraves. At the eaves is an urn-topped parapet, panelled above solid wall areas and having opened sections of balusters above windows. An open balustrade topped by urns caps the monitor.

Internally, the house is of central-hall plan, having four principal rooms on each floor, these served by four externally flush chimneys in the end walls. On each side of the hall, front and rear rooms are separated by a space wide or deep enough to provide an arched recess for sofa or sideboard in each front room, the recesses flanked by cupboards or passageways. Antoinette F. Downing further describes the interior: "The scale of the interior decoration is lighter than was common previously ... Bands of reeding decorate the two-story pedimented mantelpiece in the southeast parlour, while the frieze section just above the fireplace opening is ornamented with applied mouldings having quad-

(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) 1795-1797

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dexter house is one of the lamentably few XVIII-Century residences which have survived on the cresting plateau of Providence's College Hill, in the vicinity of Brown University, whose building programs have caused the destruction of many old dwellings. Even when there were more houses of its period nearby, this one took a primacy among them because of its architectural distinction--having an amount of thoughtful elaboration not possessed by its neighbours. It has in fact been stated that in Providence there was only one other dwelling (now vanished) coeval with the Dexter house which also displayed a full two-storey or colossal pilaster order. In its class or size, the Dexter house is as important in Providence and Rhode Island architectural history as are the great John Brown and Nightingale houses in theirs. And it is, to all purposes, architecturally completely intact.

After occupation by the Dexters, a family which remained active and prominent locally well on into the middle and latter XIX Century, the house was acquired by Charles L. Pendleton. While he owned it, it became a setting for his collection of antique American furniture and decorative objects. (When, around 1906, this collection was transferred to the Rhode Island School of Design a museum-house was built on school property to contain it. Internally, this structure greatly copied the plan and décor of the Dexter house.) Subsequently the house came into ownership of the Hinckley family, who still reside there.

Always occupied as a residence and excellently maintained, it deserves to continue in such a state and--hopefully--in such a use. It is centred, above a retaining wall and embankment, in the middle of a city block which faces the older buildings of Brown University and is a visual joy as one emerges from the campus or drives by in the street. (Contrastingly now, and unfortunately, the same cannot be said for adjacent blocks of the same street. It is an important part of its district, a conspicuous bit of local beauty and a small architectural monument.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

rants taken from the corners. The cornices, chair rails and mantel mouldings in all the rooms show a great variety of patterns--reeding, gouge cuts, borings, circles, losenges, key designs, and dentils in various combinations ... The doors ... are crowned with broken-scroll pediments. The stairway belongs to the type common during the first decade of the nineteenth century: its two-run plan and ramped railings conform to colonial precedents, but the balusters have become slender Doric columns, and the landing window is simplified from the Palladian form to a plain round-headed window."

The house, importantly, displays its basic form and its original decorative elements unchanged; those additions of accomodation which have been made are visible as such but fortunately have been sympathetically applied. The building continues in the good state of maintenance it has always had.

8. Significance.

The Dexter house is perhaps soon to be put up for sale, and it needs protection--not to mention assured preservation over--all--lest the often brutal exigencies of the university add it to the total of surrounding XVIII- and early XIX-Century houses already destroyed thereby. (The house is flanked by university-owned properties, some also of architectural value--though unappreciated, and one has no idea what may be the construction or other plans for this block.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette Forrester: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 332, 333, 353, 367, 371, 375-379, 381, 382.
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr.: Rhode Island Architecture (Providence, Rhode Island, 1939), p. 32.
 Isham, Norman M.: ... Providence & Its Colonial Houses. The White Pine Series ..., Volume 4, Number 3 (New York, 1918), pp. 9-10.

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°	49'	30" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		71°	24'	16" W
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: January 2, 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)

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COUNTY Providence	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Dexter (Edward) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 72 Waterman Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory, Providence, Rhode Island, 02912			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. South (entrance) front, showing dormers added in front of original monitor roof.			



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PHOTO CREDIT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory, Providence, Rhode Island, 02912			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. South end of second-floor hall, showing internal treatment of Palladian window .			



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CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

hh

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory,
Providence, Rhode Island, 02912

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

North end of first-floor hall, showing staircase and woodwork treatment, lower portion of large, round-headed window on landing.



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STREET AND NUMBER: 72 Waterman Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 114	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory: copy negative, 1971			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1904			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. South-east drawing-room, looking north-east during Pendleton occupancy and showing arched recess in north wall. (From L. V. Lockwood: <u>The Pendleton Collection</u> . Providence, R. I., 1904.)			



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PHOTO CREDIT: Brown University Photographic Laboratory: copy negative, 1971			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1904			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Dining-room (former kitchen), showing woodwork installed to conform with other trim in the house. (From L. V. Lockwood: <u>The Pendleton Collection</u> . Providence, R. I., 1904.)			



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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
First-floor hall, looking north during Pendleton occupancy and showing (extreme left) part of arched recess in south-west drawing-room. (From L. V. Lockwood: <u>The Pendleton Collection</u> . Providence, R. I., 1904.)			

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 49' 30" N

Longitude: 71° 24' 16" W



PAWTUCKET

PROVIDENCE

SEEKONK

EAST PROVIDENCE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
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1. NAME

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AND/OR HISTORIC:

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STREET AND NUMBER:
72 Waterman Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE
44

COUNTY:
Providence

CODE
007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 12,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.