

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Walker (Philip) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
132 Massasoit Avenue, Rumford

CITY OR TOWN:
East Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02916	CODE: 14	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) _____ _____ _____
			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Potter

STREET AND NUMBER:
132 Massasoit Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: East Providence	STATE: Rhode Island, 02916	CODE: 007
----------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
East Providence City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Taunton Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: East Providence	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 007
----------------------------------	------------------------	--------------

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

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 Philip Walker house, located near the Seekonk River in the village of Rumford in East Providence (originally part of Rehoboth, Massachusetts), stands on a former expanse of farmland. The oldest (1679) house in the area, it is presently a two-and-one-half-storey, gable-roofed, shingled structure with two large brick chimneys--one internal and the other at the south end. There is a nineteenth-century small entry porch on the east, or main, front; and an old one-storey, gable-roofed ell at the south end was converted into an open porch about 1900. At about the same time a one-storey, gable-roofed ell was built on the north end to house a new kitchen. About 1750 the seventeenth-century main house was lengthened to the south by extending the gable roof and adding four rooms, two on the ground floor and two above, with a brick chimney of triangular plan set between them.

The original (northern) part of the house is still clearly identifiable. It is heavily framed throughout, with exposed plates, girts and summer beams (all now cased, this probably done when the house was enlarged) and is nearly square--about 28 by 28 feet. Originally clapboarded, it was built around a very large plain-topped off-center brick chimney on a somewhat atypical three-room scheme (see plan). In this plan the main entrance, located in the south (left) front bay, does not face the chimney but--as originally designed--let directly into the keeping-room opposite the staircase, which was built against the south wall of that room. This staircase, built in one long run with a short turn at the top, has a wide-boarded closed string course, some seventeenth-century vertical beaded and bevelled sheathing below, plain square posts and a handrail molded on the outer face only. The present flat "S"-shaped balusters were made by the present owner's father about sixty years ago, but he followed the original pattern. Except for a small room just south (left) of the staircase wall, the keeping-room originally extended across the entire east front. The room has long since been divided by a wide vertical-boarded partition along the old summer beam to separate the present hallway from the keeping-room-kitchen, which became related to the northern half of the former large room. Here the large cooking fireplace--with its brick hearth and a beehive oven, closed by a two-panel door, at its right-side front--extends from the summer beam and partition wall nearly across the west side of the room. It has retained its original lintel, and some seventeenth-century beaded and bevelled vertical sheathing finishes the remainder of the wall. The original plastered ceiling has been removed to expose the old floor joists above.

The rear (or west side) of the original house consisted of a large living-room at its southern end and in the northwest corner a small room tucked in behind the chimney, each with its own fireplace. In the back

(See Continuation Sheets.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-1

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

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

living-room the heavy framing beams, including the summer beam, all now have casings of c. 1750 and run moldings applied at the cornice level; they are the most conspicuous features of the room. A simple one-storey mantel of c. 1800 frames the fireplace opening.

The two ground-storey rooms added on the south in 1750 or thereabouts consist of a dining-room and a "back parlor;" this latter room is treated as an extension of the back living-room in the early part of the house. In each of these added rooms a handsome, wide mantel-breast is set across the room corner; each room is panelled from floor to ceiling, with a typical (for 1750 work) bolection molding framings its fireplace opening and run moldings forming the ceiling cornice. The treatment above the dining-room mantel, now darkened with age, consists of a narrow and a wide horizontal panels above the fireplace; that above the back room fireplace has cupboards with panelled doors closing upon old book hinges. The small room south of the staircase in the original part of the house has been converted into a closet for the dining-room.

Upstairs, the two new chambers are without special detail, but the second storey of the original house has several interesting features. Noteworthy is the unusually large, and evidently original, upper stair-hall which conforms to the entry plan downstairs as it was later altered. A batten door with strap hinges leads into the northeast corner chamber, above the kitchen. This room has an extraordinary mixture of seventeenth-century vertical sheathing with wide bevels and unusual (probably homemade) groovings, combined with a provincial version of stile-and-rail panelling that repeats the detail of the sheathing. The stairs to the garret, formerly located between the chimney and the western wall of the above-kitchen chamber, have been removed to allow space for a bathroom. At the rear, the above-living-room chamber, like its counterpart below, has heavy exposed and cased beams. The mantelpiece in this room probably dates from 1750, when the house was enlarged. It is embellished with very colloquially-handled pilasters that frame the mantel panels and come to a baseless stop above the molding for the fireplace opening. Two-panel doors are used in this room.

In general, throughout the house are to be found several door types, including batten and four-panel ones as well as the above-mentioned two-panel doors; and much of the hardware--which includes strap, several versions of H-L, H and book hinges, various types of bean or pointed latches and box locks--is original. Most of the old wide-board flooring is in place. Except for the kitchen, where the joists were exposed later, walls and ceilings are plastered.

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-2

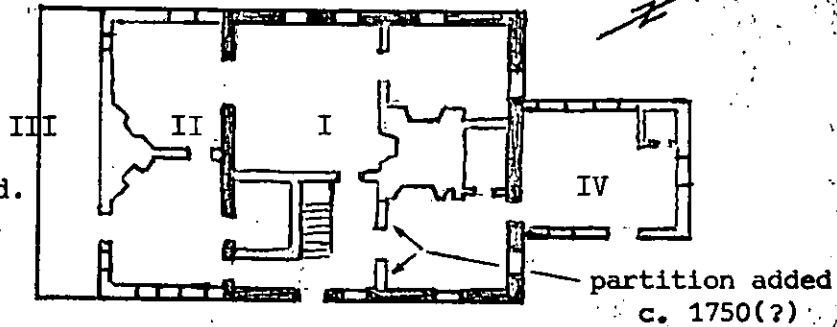
STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The oldest remaining windows are in the northeast corner rooms. They have nine-over-nine sash, as do most of the other windows, and probably date from about 1750.

Sketch-plan (not to scale) of the first floor. The outline of the original structure is darkened.



- I. Original house.
- II. C. 1750 addition.
- III. Southern one-storey addition converted to open porch.
- IV. Modern kitchen.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1679, 1750 ff.

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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Philip Walker's first house was burned in the Indian War of the mid-1670's that devastated all the buildings in its area. In 1678-1679 Walker rebuilt his house on the old foundation. Although his "new" house does not conform to the Rhode Island stone-end houses considered typical for this period, its plan--in which an entry-cum-stair-hall is lacking and the three main rooms are swung around an off-center chimney--is an interesting one and akin to the Christopher and Job Townsend houses in Newport. The original framing, with its heavy summer beams, girts, plates and corner posts, is still intact and--together with some seven-teenth-century sheathing and the staircase--can be studied profitably. The 1750 addition at the southern end and the general refurbishing that took place at that time furnish excellent examples of mid-eighteenth-century finish.

Walker himself was a prominent local figure. In the words of Richard LeBaron Bowen he was a "farmer, weaver, swamill proprietor, deacon of the church, constable, and incidentally the second richest man in Rehoboth." He was also the chronicler in verse of the bloody battles of King Philip's War; and again, according to Bowen, his house is "the oldest poet's house in New England [while] few houses are so unquestionably dated." With a small amount of careful restoration the inherent architectural importance of the Philip Walker house can be made more evident. Its local historical importance has long been recognized.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

Bowen, Richard LeBaron: Early Rehoboth (Concord, New Hampshire, 1945).
 Isham, Norman M.: Early American Houses ... (reprint, New York, 1967).

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° 49' 48.77" N	71° 21' 49.14" 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:
 Mrs. George E. Downing, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: May 3, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: hh

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

MEMO

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PAMELA A. KENNEDY

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Penn

TO

file

*Photo removed
5/13/07*



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 Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Walker (Philip) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 132 Massasoit Avenue, Rumford			
CITY OR TOWN: East Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 111	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
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			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior from the south-east, small porch marking original entrance.			



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 Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Walker (Philip) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

432 Massasoit Avenue, Rumford

CITY OR TOWN:

East Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

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

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of main stair, showing sawn rail reproducing the original balusters.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

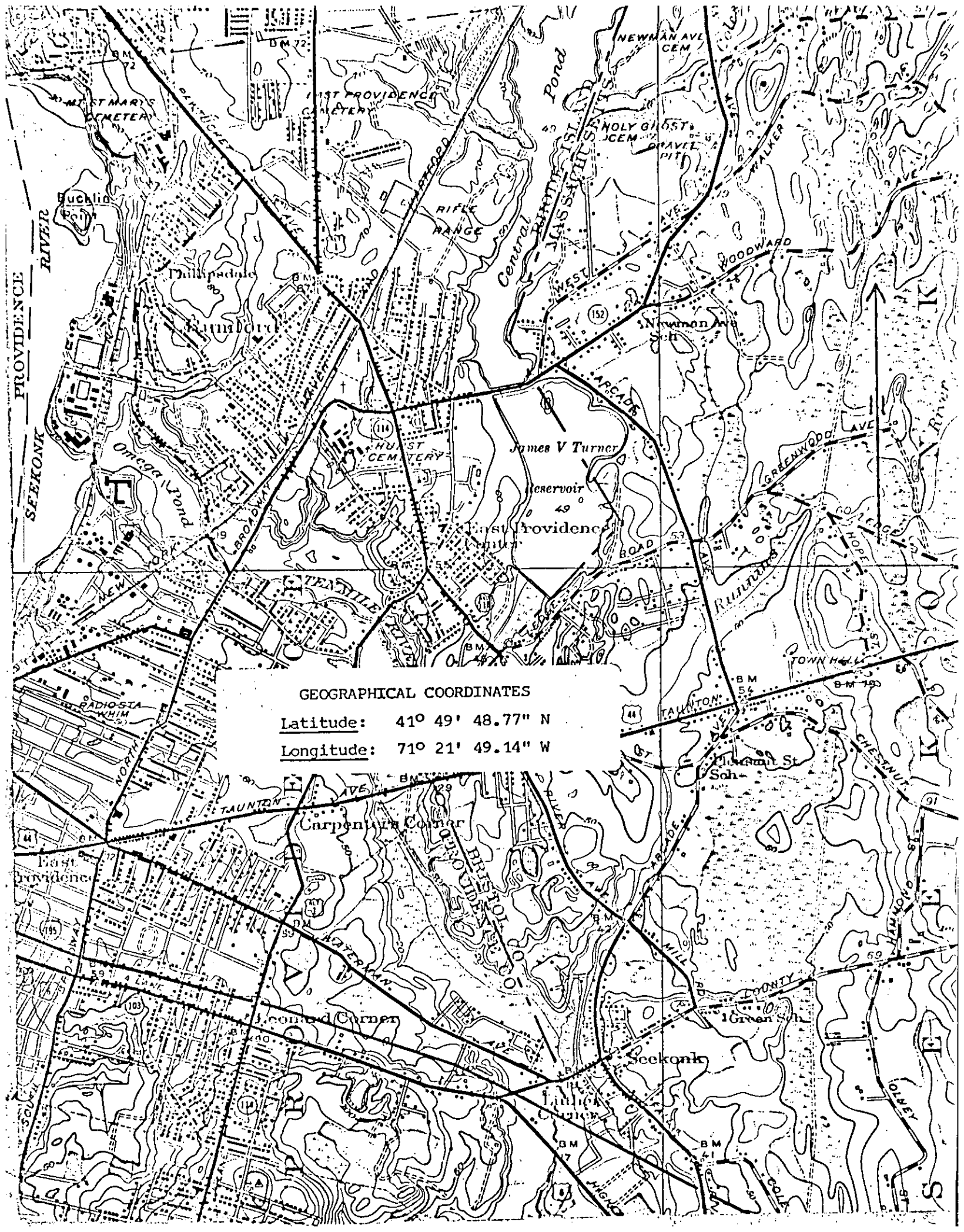
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Walker (Philip) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 132 Massasoit Avenue, Rumford			
CITY OR TOWN: East Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: R. Christopher Rene			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
North wall of the southwest chamber at the rear of the second storey in the original house.			



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: $41^{\circ} 49' 48.77''$ N

Longitude: $71^{\circ} 21' 49.14''$ W

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

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 Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Walker (Philo) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

132 Massasoit Avenue, Rumford

CITY OR TOWN:

East Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE:

1:24,000

DATE:

1919

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS