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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

University Hall, built 1770-1771, is an altered example of late Georgian architecture, similar in design to the few pre-revolutionary university buildings constructed in America, such as Hollis Hall at Harvard and Nassau Hall at the College of New Jersey. Hugh Morrison wrote that "By 1770 college edifices in America had crystallized into a more or less standard pattern; a long building mass three or four stories high, covered by a hipped roof and topped by a belfry, with a pedimented pavilion breaking the middle of the long side and three entrance doors." (Early American Architecture, p. 469.)

Modeled after Old Nassau Hall, which was constructed 1754-56, University Hall fits this description exactly. However, Morrison commented that "University Hall lacks the fine proportions that Nassau originally had, the increase in height to four stories being the most damaging difference." Further, he wrote that the three-window pavilion on University Hall "appeared too tall and narrow for its four-story height and that the cupola was "of insufficient size to dominate such large building masses." (Early American Architecture, p. 469.)

The exterior of University Hall appears today, after numerous alterations and restorations, essentially as it did when completed in 1771. It is a four-story red brick structure, trimmed in wood painted white, with a hipped roof and central cupola and balustrade along the roof. The center three bays of the building's seventeen-bay front project ten feet to form pedimented pavilions with gable roofs. On both the east and west facades there are three very simple entrances (the central doors are now blocked from the inside), with small semi-elliptical arches and narrow double wood doors. The rectangular building is quite austere, the slightly arched heads over the windows and doors, and the beltcourses between each story being the only elements which relieve the plain brick walls.

Joseph Brown, a wealthy merchant and amateur architect, was a member of the building committee which drew up the plans for the college's first building. The ground was broken for the College Edifice March 27, 1770 and on May 14 John Brown, Joseph's brother, laid the first foundation stone at the southwest corner, on land once owned by his great-great-grandfather, Chad Brown. Under the direction of the Brown brothers the construction of the frame and walls was completed quickly, at a cost of less than ten thousand dollars. The two lower floors were ready for occupation in the winter of 1771-72, but the interiors of the third and fourth floors were left unfinished until enrollment increased.

From December 1776 until May 1782 university activities were suspended as the College Edifice was used first as a barracks for American troops and then as a hospital for French soldiers. During this time the building was severely damaged. A stable was attached to the hall during this occupation and when it was finally vacated, the building was stripped of every window, hinge, lock and valuable piece of lumber that could be removed. The college sent a claim for damages to the government, but received only a fraction of the costs back, more than ten years later.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(Continuation Sheet)

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(INATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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7. Description: (1)

University Hall, Brown University

The interior of the third floor was completed in 1785, the fourth in 1788, the cupola was finished in 1791, and a major overhaul of the building, amounting to a reconstruction, was undertaken in 1795. When the college's second building, Hope College, was built in 1823, the name "College Edifice" was dropped and "University Hall" adopted. Some years later, Manning Hall, a Greek Revival style building was erected just north of University Hall, and the oldest building was then covered with stucco to blend with the new building. At this time also extensive interior repairs were made, the balustrade was removed and the leaky colonial windows were removed and replaced by more modern ones.

In 1883, after more than a century of hard use, there was, as President Exekial Robinson reported, "a loud demand of many friends of the College" to level University Hall "and to put up a modern structure in its place." Instead the building was completely renovated. The entire inside of the building was removed and replaced with new material. A new roof was put on the old frame, new stairways were constructed, modern windows replaced those with small panes, the chimneys were rebuilt and the cupola encased, and the balustrade was replaced. The stucco coating was left on the brick walls, but "painted of a neutral olive tint."

In 1905 the building was restored to a colonial style by removing the stucco covering and repairing and recementing the underlying brick. Colonial style small-paned windows were installed and the chimneys were remade and the belfry remodeled to resemble the earlier one.

Based on the details of early nineteenth century prints the latest renovation work in 1940, actually the fifth major reconstruction, restored the building very closely to its original exterior appearance. Restorations or copies of the early windows, doors, balustrade, cupola and chimneys were made. The eight new chimneys are built of hand-molded bricks, resembling the bricks of the walls in color and texture.

While the exterior was restored to its original appearance as accurately as possible, the university administration determined that it was neither possible nor desirable to reproduce the original interior of the structure. Although the records of University Hall's construction are very complete in some respects, the archives have no plans which show the exact original floorplan and very little is known of the early interior finish.

The deteriorating parts of the cupola and two hand-hewn oaken beams set into the fourth floor walls of the projections are all that was found of the original woodwork. The restoration architects, Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn studied the interiors of three grand New England Colonial houses, the John Nicholas Brown House and the Avis Brown House in Providence, and the Caleb Clapp House in Boston, for detail models for moldings, pilasters, paneling and doors. However, no particular models were used in the planning of the rooms and staircases. (Continued) Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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(Number all entries) 7. Description: (2)

University Hall, Brown University

Boundary

University Hall, approximately 150 feet long on the westerly and easterly sides and 45 feet wide at the southerly and northerly ends, is situated at the summit of the College Green about 125 feet back of the Van Wickle Gates on Prospect Street. It is one of a row of buildings along the Green, with long lawns on the east and west sides. The landmark boundary runs along the sidewalks closest to the building on each side, leaving a small border of lawn and shrubbery along the front and rear elevations between the building and the walkway. From the northwest corner, the boundary runs east along the sidewalk between University Hall and Manning Hall (immediately to the north), then south along the sidewalk bordering College Green, then west along the sidewalk between University Hall and Slater Hall (immediately to the south), then north along the sidewalk in front of University Hall to the beginning point.

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University Hall, built in 1771, is an important example of colonial university architecture. It was the first, and, until 1832, the only building constructed at Brown University, the seventh college founded in this country. This building possesses significance also in the history of American education by its association with Horace Mann, "perhaps the greatest of the 'founders' of our American system of free public schools," (Cubberly, <u>Public Education in the United States</u>, p. 226).

Born in Franklin, Massachusetts in 1796, Mann entered Brown as a sophomore and graduated with high honors in 1819. A few months after graduation Mann returned to Brown as tutor in Latin and Greek, and remained there until 1821. During Mann's years at Brown, the College Edifice, now University Hall, housed the entire institution.

Although Mann was a very successful lawyer and a member of the legislature, he chose in 1837 to become secretary of a state board of education in Massachusetts and functioned in that capacity for twelve years. His annual reports to the state board of education were most effective presentations of the needs and proposed remedies in the public school situation. He accomplished remarkable results in improving buildings, professional standards, training and teaching conditions.

Horace Mann's influence extended to many other states where his reports were studied and his advice was sought. His period of activity and the years immediately following have come to be known as the common school revival in the United States. University Hall is the only outstanding building closely associated with Horace Mann.

University Hall, known simply as "The College Edifice" until 1823, was built in 1770 to house the college that became Brown University in 1804. In the early days, the institution was called Rhode Island College. It had been founded under Baptist leadership in Warren, Rhode Island in 1764. Providence in 1804 was a town of about 4,000 persons, most of whom lived in some 400 houses concentrated between Benefit Street and the Providence River. The Corporation decided to erect the College Edifice "above the smoke and stir" of the town, preferring the "regions calm, of mild and serence air" up the hill from Benefit Street.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Number all entries) 8. Statement of Significance: (1)

University Hall, Brown University

The Edifice was modeled after Nassau Hall of the College of New Jersey at Princeton, from which Brown's first president, James Manning had been graduated in 1762. As construction of the Edifice was begun by the firm of Nicholas Brown & Co., Manning's letters to his friends were filled with proud references to the new structure. But the Boston Gazette commented that the Corporation was building "a College near as large as Babel; sufficient to contain ten times the number of students that ever have, or ever will, oblige the tutors of that popular university with opportunity of educating or instructing them." The two lower floors of the Edifice were ready for use in the winter of 1771-72, when total enrollment was about 20 students.

In December of 1776, a British fleet of seventy transports, seven ships of the line and four frigates landed 6,000 British and Hessian troops at Newport. The town and Aquidneck Island were quickly occupied, and colonial militia from various areas flocked to Providence to shore up the patriot defenses. The College Edifice was seized to quarter the American Militia, dispossessing about 40 students then in residence. The American troops remained until April of 1780. In vain did Manning complain of the "rude and wasting soldiery" and of the "great waste and destruction" they brought to his College Edifice.

No sooner had the troops departed, when the Edifice was seized again, this time as a hospital for the French troops of Rochambeau, who occupied the building for two years, until May of 1782. The French proved to be even more destructive tenants than the Americans had been. They engaged themselves, the college records assert, in "knocking down the closets...to sell the boards" and in making plans "to sell all the college windows." The building, said Manning, was left in a "most horrid, dirty shattered situation."

Nevertheless, the college was soon back in operation after five years of occupation by troops. There were then about 20 students, and the faculty consisted of Manning and a single tutor. The College Edifice was visited in 1790 by President Washington, who was accompanied by his Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, and other officials. Shortly after Washington's visit, the Corporation voted him an honorary doctorate.

Until Hope College was built in 1822, the College Edifice housed the entire college, containing dormitory rooms, lecture and recitation rooms, the chapel, the library and the dining hall. It continued to house students and class-rooms until the time of the last major renovation in 1940. It now provides office space for most of the University's administrative officers.

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Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE Rhode Island

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(Continuation Sheet)

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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9. Major Bibliographical References: (1) University Hall, Brown University

Bronson, W. C., The History of Brown University, 1764-1914 (Providence, 1914).

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Cubberly, Ellwood P., <u>Public Education in the United States: A Study and</u> Interpretation of American Educational History (Cambridge, 1947).

Hinsdale, B. A., <u>Horace Mann and the Common School Revival in the United</u> States.

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<u>A Brief History of University Hall</u>, Brown University publication (pamphlet, n. d.).

National Historic Landmark

Form 10-817 (Sept. 1967)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE				
NATIO	ONAL SURVEY OF HISTOP	RIC SITES AND BUIL	LDINGS		
1. STATE Rhode Island	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOG Theme XX - A	CAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFOR	RE THEME NO. Lal)		
3. NAME(S) OF SITE University Hall, Br	own University	······································	4. APPROX. ACREAGE		
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6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT O Brown University.	WNER (Also administrator if different from owner)				

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are estant)

Erected in 1770-71, University Hall is an altered example of Late Georgian architecture. It is also the original college edifice of Brown University.

Joseph Brown, wealthy merchant and amateur architect, was a member of the building committee which drew up the plans for University Hall. The design is modeled after Princeton's Nassau Hall, which had been erected in 1754-56. Somewhat smaller than its prototype, University Hall lacks the fine proportions that Nassau Hall originally had, the increase in height to four stories being the damaging difference. The long, rectangular structure has a projecting central pedimented pavilion on both its front and on the rear elevations and the hipped roof is topped by a central cupola and a balustrade. The gaunt brick walls, relieved only by belt courses and the slightly arched heads of doors and windows, give University Hall somewhat of a "factory" appearance.

In 1776 British troops occupied the hall as a barracks. The structure was then used for the same purpose and also as a hospital by the American Army until 1780, when French soldiers moved in. University Hall was finally returned to the college in battered condition in 1782.

The exterior of the hall was plastered in 1835, but this coat was removed in 1905. The building was reconstructed and restored in 1940 and has since housed the administrative offices of the University.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

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1. STATE	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.	
Rhode Island	Theme XX, Arts and Sciences, Subtheme - Education	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE	4. APPROX, ACREAGE	
University Hall		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If diffic	uli to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)	

Brown University, summit of College Hill, Providence, Rhode Island

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)

Form 10-317 (Sept. 1957)

Dr. Barnaby Keeney, President, Brown University 7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are estant)

Brown University, the seventh oldest institution of higher learning in the country, was known as Rhode Island College when it was founded at Warren, Rhode Island in 1764. In 1770 it was moved to Providence, and construction of its first building, now known as University Hall, was begun in March of that year. In 1804 the college was renamed Brown University for Nicholas Brown, one of its benefactors. Although nominally under Baptist control the University has continued the liberal character of its charter. Known originally as "The College Edifice," University Hall comprised the entire physical plant of the college from its construction in 1771-72 until the college's second building was erected in 1823. The building committee for University Hall included Stephen Hopkins. several times a governor of the state, who was also a justice of the Superior Court, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a delegate to the Continental Congress. Another member was John Brown, who in 1772 led the group that burned the British schooner Gaspee at its berth to protest the Sugar Act. University Hall has some importance as the first building of an institution with a long and distinguished record. However, it possesses a more specific significance in the story of education in terms of its relationship to Horace Mann, "perhaps the greatest of the 'founders' of our American system of free public schools."* Born in Franklin, Massachusetts, in 1796, Mann graduated from Brown University with high honors in 1819. A few months after graduation Mann returned to Brown as tutor in Latin and Greek, remaining in this fort until 1821. During Mann's years at Brown, "The College Edifice," now University Hall, housed the entire institution, and the building remains today an outstanding physical link with the great architect of the American public school system.

*Ellwood P. Cubberly, <u>Public Education in the United States</u>: <u>A Study and Interpretation</u> of <u>American Educational History</u> (Cambridge, 1947), 226.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Gire hest sources: give locution of manuscripts and rare works) W. C. Bronson, The History of Brown University, <u>1764-1914</u> (Providence, 1914); Ellwood P. Cubberly, <u>Public Education in the United States</u>: <u>A Study and Interpretation of American</u> <u>Educational History</u> (Cambridge, 1947), 226; Hugh Morrison, <u>Early American Architecture</u> (New York, 1952).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies. as, NPS study, HABS, etc.) Ms. description of University Hall furnished by Secretary of the University, Brown University, May 1962.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS .	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	13. DATE OF VISIT
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(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERICR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

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7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

Form 10-317a (Sept. 1957)

> Cellar digging for University Hall began on March 26, 1770, with construction by Nicholas Brown and Company. The four-story brick building was modeled after Nassau Hall at the College of New Jersey, although one architect has commented that "it lacks the fine proportions that Nassau originally had, the increase in height to four stories being the most damaging difference."** The main building was 150 feet long and 46 feet wide, with two projections from either side of the center, measuring 33 feet by 10 feet. The two lower floors were completed in the winter of 1771-72, but the interiors of the third and fourth floors were left unfinished until enrollment increased.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the building was taken over by American troops as a barracks and hospital, and the College was temporarily disbanded. The troops remained there from December 7, 1776 until April 20, 1780. After they left, plans were made to open the College again, but within a month the government decided to use it as a hospital for injured French troops who had fought on the side of the American Army.

Their stay lasted from June 26, 1780 to May 27, 1782. During this time a stable was one of many disfigurements attached to the hall; and when it was finally vacated, it was stripped of every window, hinge, lock, and valuable piece of lumber that could be removed. The college sent a claim for damages to the government, but received only a fraction of the costs back, more than 10 years later.

The interior of the third floor was completed in 1785, the fourth in 1788, and a major overhaul, undertaken in 1795 following the finishing of the cupola in 1791.

When the college's second building, Hope College, was built in 1823, the name "College Edifice" was dropped, and "University Hall" chosen. Some years later, Manning Hall, built in the Greek revival style that was common at the time, was erected next to University Hall, and the decaying red brick of the latter was covered with stucco to blend with the new building. The leaky colonial windows were removed and replaced by more modern ones.

**Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 468-469.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS . SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Rhode Island	University Hall

7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

Form 10-317a (Sept. 1957)

A major renovation of the structure in 1883 left the stucco in place, but in 1905 the stucco was removed and the underlying brick repaired and re-cemented. Colonial style windows were put in, the chimneys were remade, and the belfry remodeled to resemble the earlier one. The latest renovation in 1940 restored the building very closely to its original exterior appearance.

University Hall presently houses the University's administrative offices.

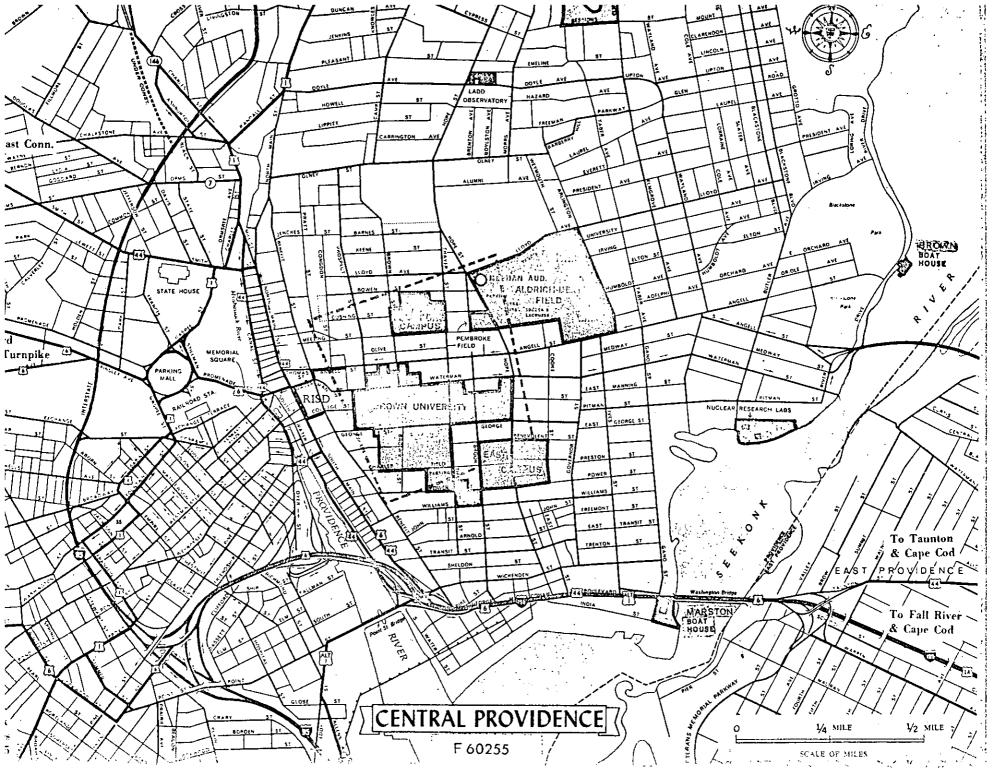
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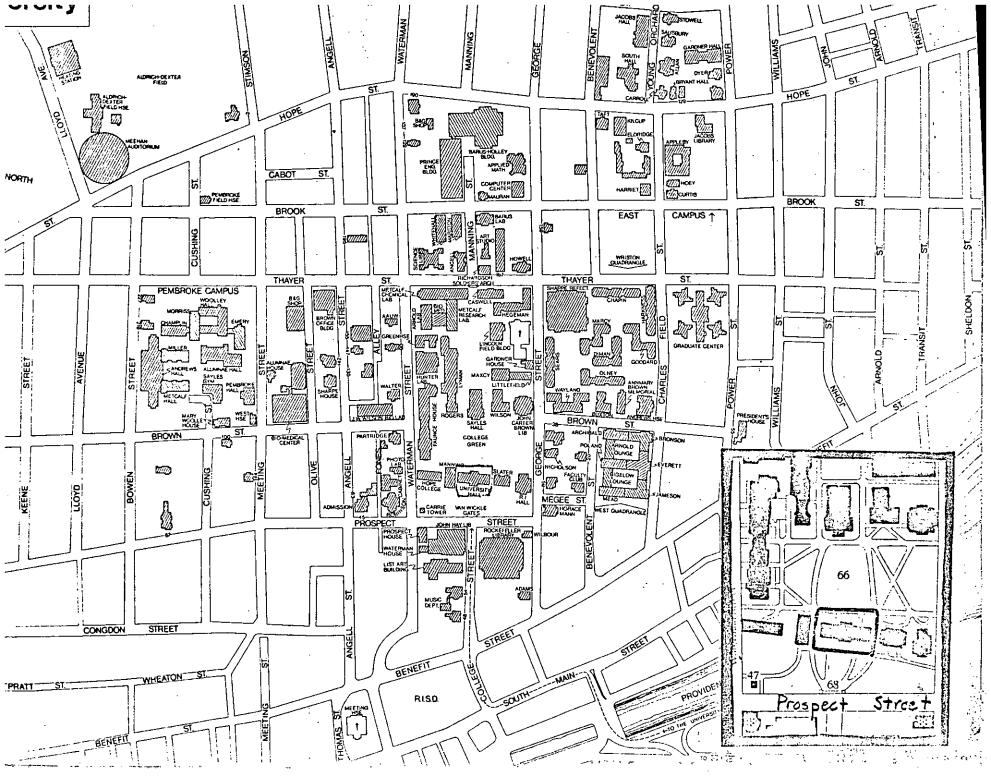
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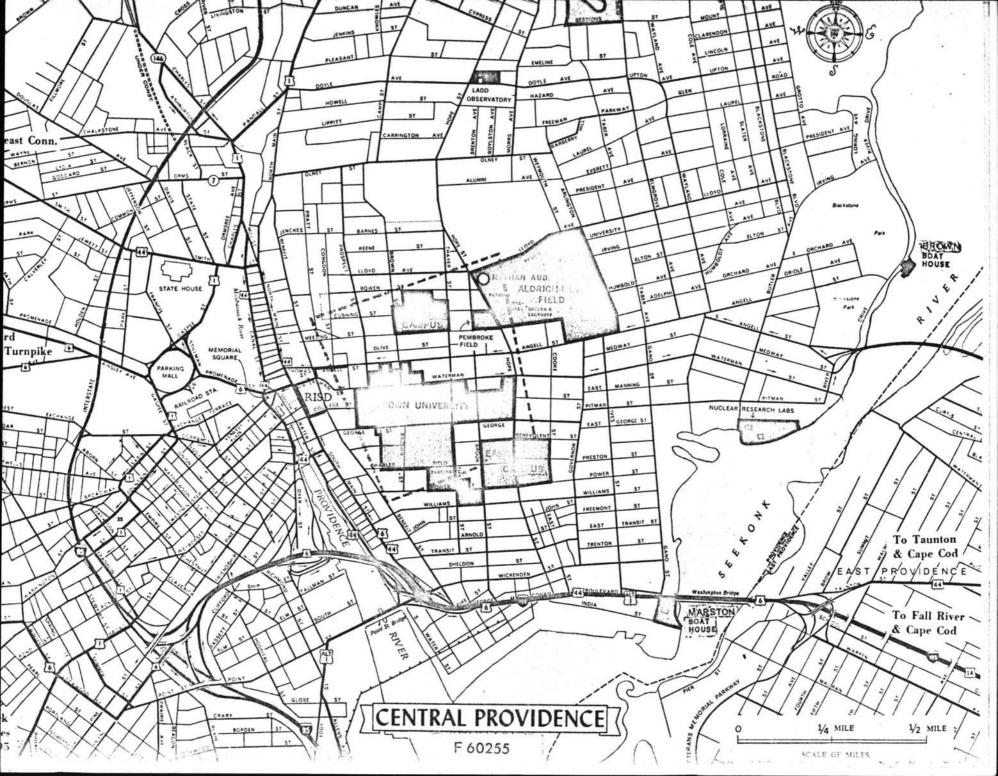
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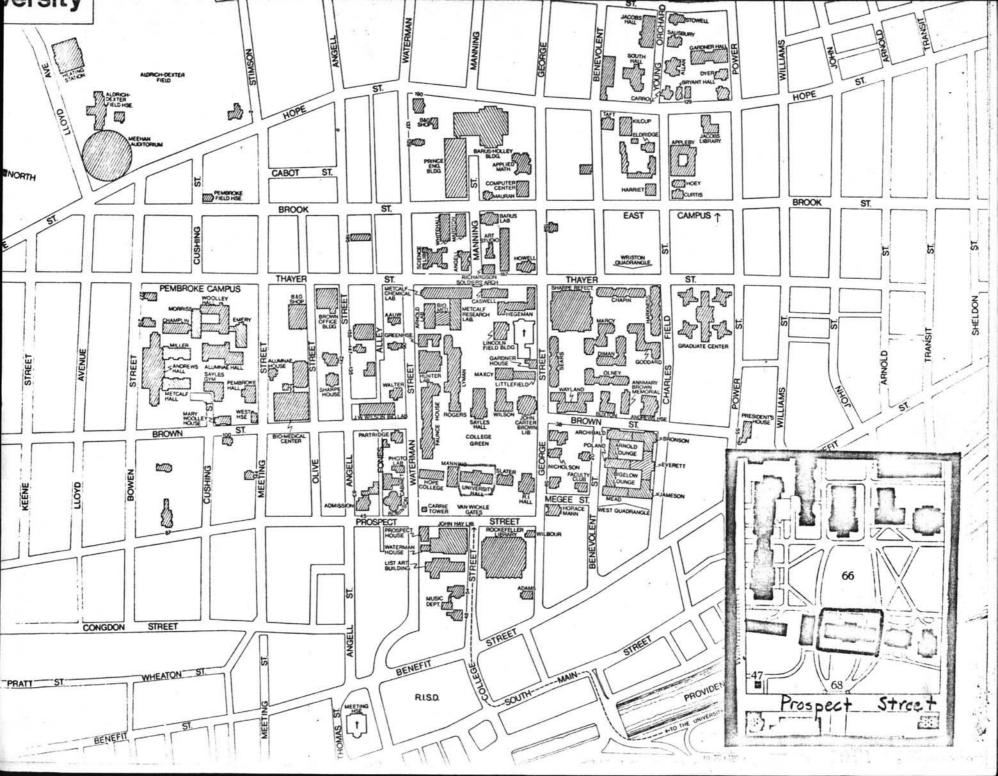
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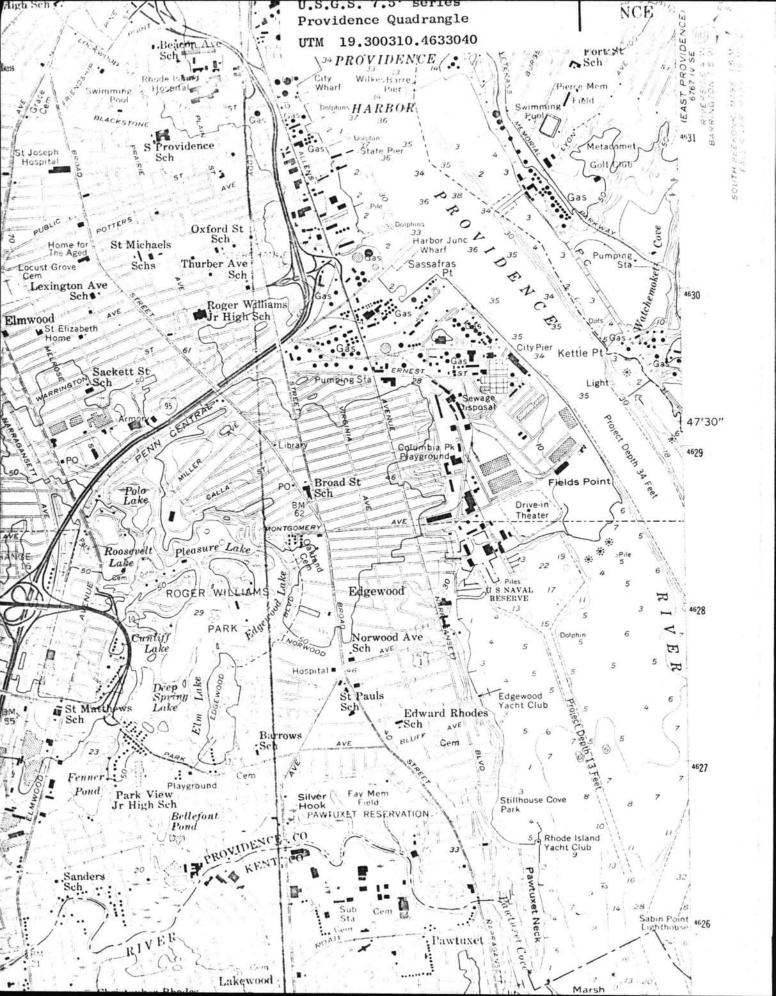
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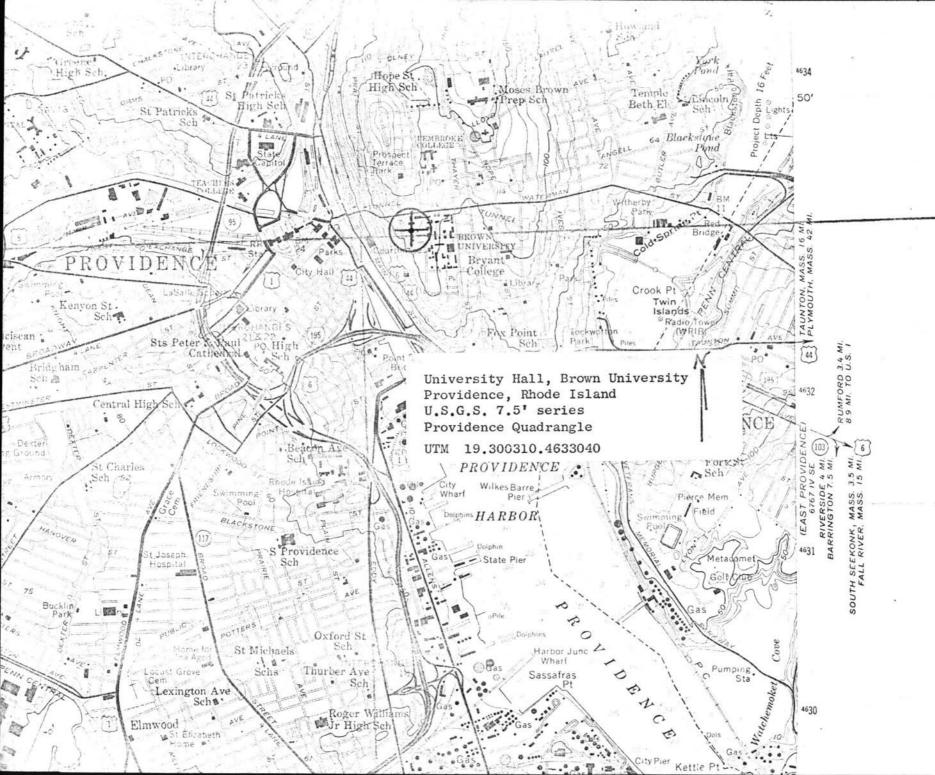












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