

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: Woods-Gerry House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Woods (Dr. Marshall) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
62, Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906

CODE: 44

COUNTY: Providence

CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/>		No: <input type="checkbox"/>
	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Rhode Island School of Design

STREET AND NUMBER: 2, College Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903

CODE: 44

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, 02903

CODE: 44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.1 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: 1st Street and Independence Avenue, S. E.,

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house was built during the years 1860-1863 for Dr. and Mrs. Marshall Wood and was designed by the eminent architect Richard Upjohn, of New York. It is a free-standing rectangular town house (the largest in Providence) of brick with wood and sandstone trim and a slate roof. Its main block is 65 feet wide from north to south and 75 feet deep.

Inspired by Italian Renaissance design, as were other buildings being created by Upjohn at this time, it affords an interesting contrast with such irregular, asymmetrical and heavily-trimmed buildings as his Edward King house built in Newport some twenty-two years earlier. The simplicity of detail, the continuing horizontal lines of belt-courses and the swell of the curving bay emphasise the mass of walls--executed in hard red Philadelphia brick, giving the dense surface wanted for simple monumentality. The severity of the building, essentially a smooth, almost square, form, is diminished in the east by the high curved bay, on the south by a porte-cochère and on the west by a one-storey Renaissance triple-arcaded porch or loggia extending almost the full width of the building. Subordinate to the main block, and not affecting its dominant mass, is a service wing of three reduced storeys, to the north.

The structure is covered by a low, hipped roof with a wide, shadowy overhang over simple, minimal brackets. The trim is of sandstone, and the flat belt-courses carry unbroken lines tightly around the building. The segmentally-arched French windows used throughout (which now have wrought-iron grilles) originally had generously projecting balconies of wooden fretwork carried on angular brackets, and a railing of similar fretwork design surmounted the west porch.

The main entrance was originally by way of the porte-cochère at the south. In 1931 access to this was closed off by a garden wall, and the dining-room in the ground floor of the eastern bay was altered to form a round, paved entrance lobby with cloakrooms, entered from a new doorway centred in the bay. Both the old porte-cochère entrance and the newer lobby open into a wide hall running from south to north through the house, with an open, three-storey stair-hall at its north-east end and the first-floor reception rooms grouped on either side--to east and west. This plan is repeated on the upper floors.

The interior finish is reserved, almost severe, with simple dado panelling and door architraves finished in walnut, except for one room in bird's-eye maple, on the first floor (where, however, some trim was painted in 1931); on upper floors the trim is similar, but has always been painted. An exception to this general simplicity is the richly carved wainscot of the stairwell. Throughout the house, mantelpieces are simply designed, generally of light-coloured marble, and without surmounting elaboration.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1860-1863**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input checked="" 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"/>	
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Woods-Gerry House, together with its grounds, has a dominant and enhancing position in the hillside residential neighbourhood where it stands, much maintaining the unity of that neighbourhood. This it has done noticeably for more than a century and, under present ownership and plans, will do significantly in the future. (One regrets to state that "present ownership" had for some time contemplated demolition, which would have disintegrated a whole area, visually and in other ways.)

This house is a thing of pedigree, having been designed by the famous architect Richard Upjohn. It is one of four major commissions executed by him in Providence: two were churches (existing); two were large houses, of which this is the survivor. The Woods-Gerry House is of mid-XIX Century Italianate, rectangular, palazzo style and is to a degree concomitantly adorned; but it has distinction and sophistication beyond most examples of that style in its reticence of surface, its suavity of form and its adornment only "to a degree." Consequently it seems a more intellectual and considered design than many of its contemporaries and, in fact, many other residence designs by Upjohn himself. That much intellect and consideration were indeed involved has been found in the extensive correspondence between architect and client during the house's conception and construction. We have here a tangible piece of both local and national architectural history or development, an example of refinements in American architectural thought, taste and modelling.

Lately the house has provoked a warm interest and enthusiastic energies among a group of the--usually only avant-garde--faculty and students at the Rhode Island School of Design; through them it has been rescued from disuse and decay. This group initiated a program of repair and restoration, doing the labour themselves; and this progresses. The extent and results of their work and the intrinsic aesthetic and useful qualities of the house were demonstrated to the school's new administrators; interest was contagious; and the latter now intend to house

(See Continuation Sheet)

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The house is situated close to the street on its east and north sides and is there protected by a wrought-iron fence between stone-capped piers. To the west, a long grass terrace or informal garden with trees and some green planting slopes down for a considerable distance. There are not now evidences of stables or other outbuildings, if such existed.

Following long occupancy by the Woods family, the house in 1931 became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Goelet Gerry. They created the new east entrance and lobby, made two reception rooms at the west into one, changed the course of the driveway, installed some inner garden walls for privacy and substituted flat wrought-iron grilles at the windows in place of the former projecting balconies. During the Woods and Gerry ownerships the house and grounds were meticulously maintained.

This property was acquired in 1959 by the Rhode Island School of Design, which then proposed to demolish the house--a move strenuously opposed locally and successfully obstructed over an eleven-year period. During this time the house was allowed to be constantly vandalised, although damage appears to have been confined mainly to broken glass, smashed locks, cracked panels, destroyed mantels and the disappearance of most of the inside window shutters. In 1970, after a change of mind partly persuaded by its own faculty and students, the School of Design has undertaken complete rehabilitation of this handsome house for exhibition-gallery use on the first floor, administrative and hospitable accommodations on the second and third floors.

Adapted from studies made by
Antoinette F. Downing, Anita F.
Glass, Osmund R. Overby.

8. Significance.

themselves in the Woods-Gerry House. This administration has promised to carry on the restoration and proper maintenance which this outstanding structure deserves. Thus saved, it can continue to be a building of use and one worthy of study and admiration, as it always has been.

Richard B. Harrington.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, 1957), p. 140.
 Upjohn, Everard M.: Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman (New York, 1939), p. 204.
 Providence Preservation Society: Second Street Festival (Guide) (Providence, 1960), pp. 28-29.
 Glass, Anita F.: Early Victorian Domestic Architecture on College Hill (Unpublished thesis for Department of Art, Brown University, Providence, 1960), pp. 27-33.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 49' 42"	71° 24' 24"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 49' 42"	71° 24' 22"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	41° 49' 40"	71° 24' 22"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	41° 49' 40"	71° 24' 27"		° ' "	° ' "	

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: July 27, 1970

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

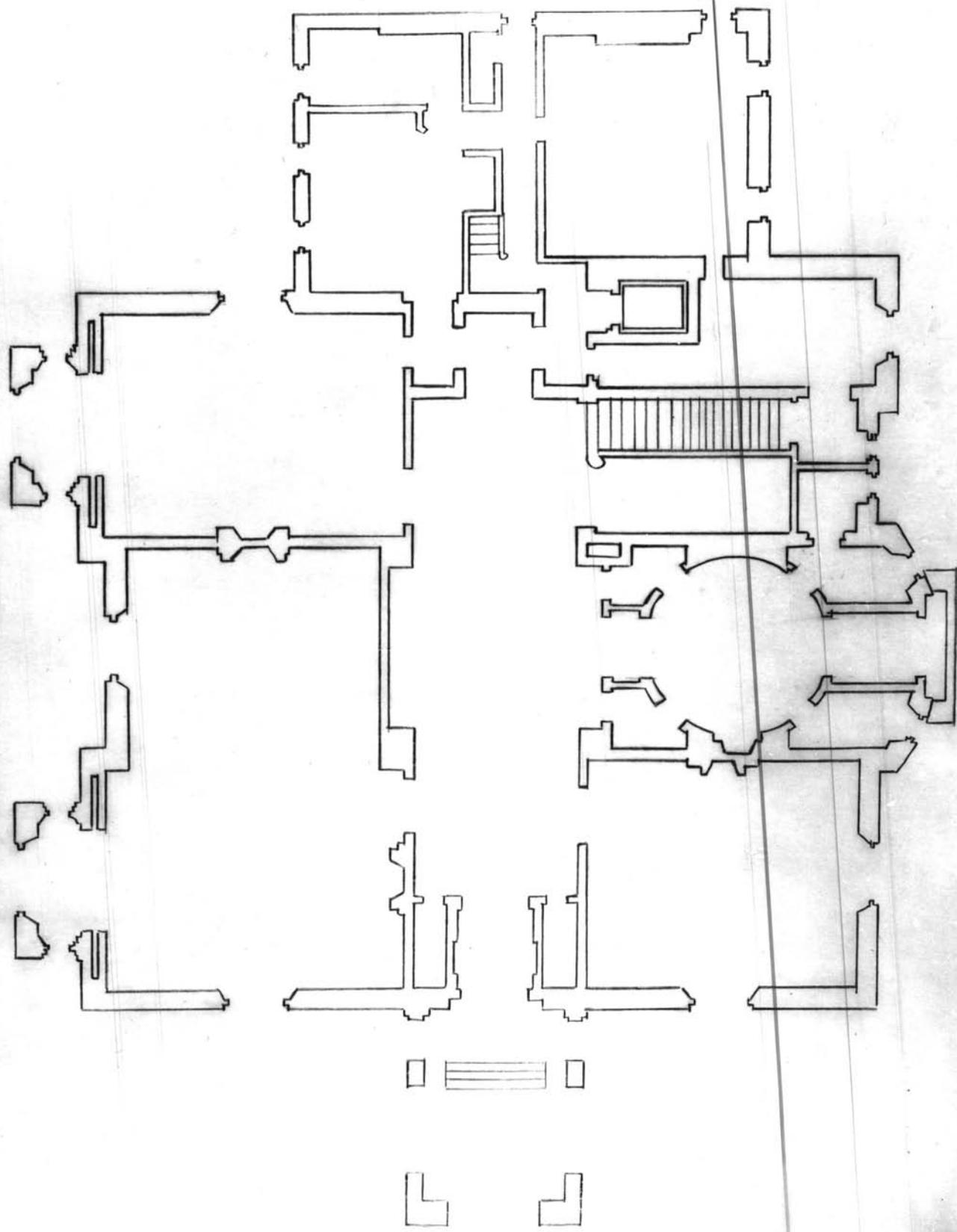
Date _____

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)

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Woods-Gerry House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Woods (Dr. Marshall) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

62, Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island, 02906

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island School of Design

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969-1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Rhode Island School of Design,
2, College Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Ground-floor plan drawn in 1969 or 1970 by the group interested in preservation and restoration of the house. It shows (bottom) the circular lobby inserted in 1931 and (top) the centre and south reception rooms combined by removal of an original partition, and the filling-in of a door from centre room to hall.

PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE
 RHODE ISLAND
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

BOSTON, MASS. 40 MI.
 SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS. 2.2 MI.
 53000 FEET

WOONSOCKET 12 MI.
 LONSDALE 2.6 MI.

7 IV NW

299

25'

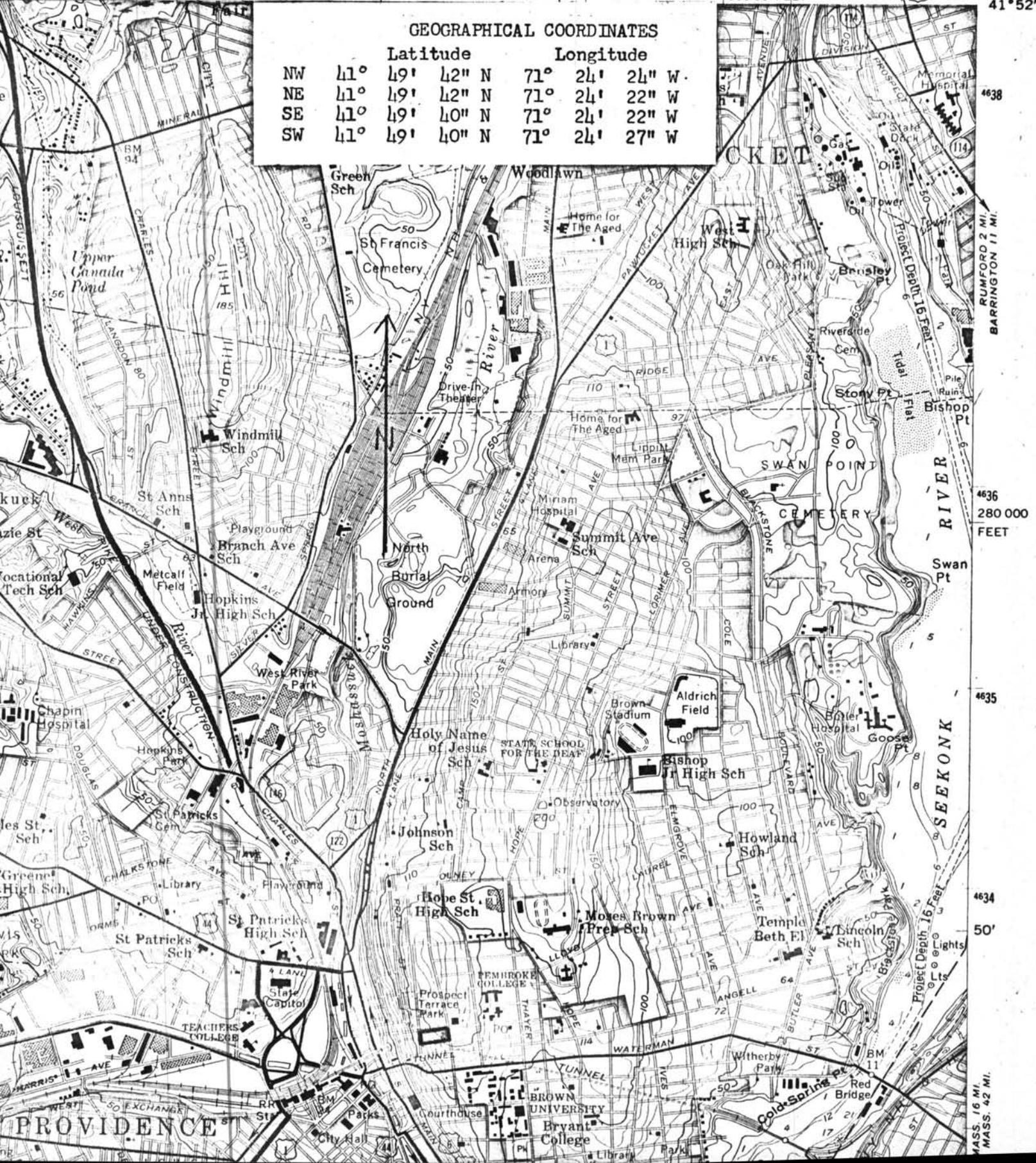
300

301

71°22'30"
 41°52'

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	41° 49' 42" N	71° 24' 24" W
NE	41° 49' 42" N	71° 24' 22" W
SE	41° 49' 40" N	71° 24' 22" W
SW	41° 49' 40" N	71° 24' 27" W



4638

RUMFORD 2 MI.
 BARRINGTON 11 MI.

4636

280 000
 FEET

4635

4634

50'

MASS. 16 MI.
 MASS. 42 MI.

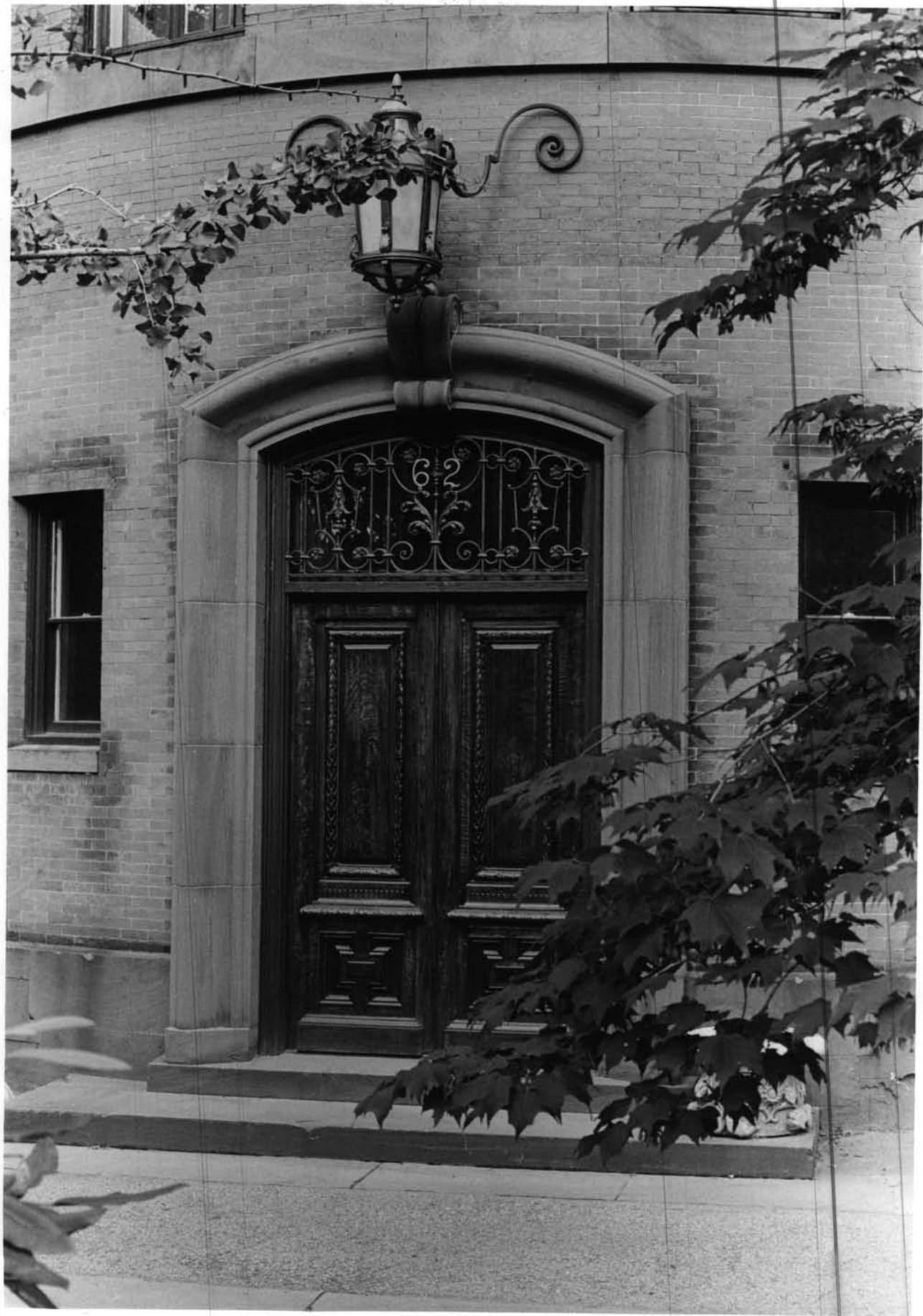
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Woods (Dr. Marshall) House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 62, Prospect 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.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STREET AND NUMBER:
62, Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Preservation Society

DATE OF PHOTO: C. 1955-1960

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Not known

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior seen from the south-east, after the removal of original window balconies and insertion of new entrance (partially visible) in ground floor of bay.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island School of Design (Robert Thornton)

DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island School of Design,
2, College Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View towards north in centre drawing-room on west front (while undergoing restoration and repair in 1970 for future exhibition-gallery use). The mantelpiece, cornice etc. are characteristic of the restrained trim throughout the house.



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STREET AND NUMBER:
62, Prospect Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906	CODE 44 23	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Copy negative: Rhode Island School of Design
DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1900
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island School of Design,
2, College Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from south-west, showing original balconies and railings in place.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Woods-Gerry House	Woods (Dr. Marshall) House	

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Rhode Island	Providence	Providence

STREET AND NUMBER

62 Prospect Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Eric Hertfelder	1972	R.I.H.Pres. Com.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

East side of building showing segmentally-arched French windows with wrought iron grilles, original on third story and restoration on second.



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Woods-Gerry House

AND/OR HISTORIC

Woods (Dr. Marshall) House

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

2. LOCATION

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Providence

TOWN

Providence

STREET AND NUMBER

62 Prospect Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

R.I. School of Design

DATE

1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT

R.I. School of Design

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Loggia on west side of house before restoration



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Market House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Market Square

CITY OR TOWN:

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, State House,
90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the north-west, showing the ground-floor arcades as
now enclosed and glazed.



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Providence

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62 Prospect Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

R.I. School of Design

DATE

1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

R.I. School of Design

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

West side of house after restoration.



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

R.I. School of Design

DATE

1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

R.I. School of Design

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Fire escape designed by School of Design faculty on south side of house.



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COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Copy negative: Rhode Island School of Design

DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1900

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island School of Design,
2, College Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

West loggia, with railing (no longer existing) above.