

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1** NAME

HISTORIC

John Hoxsie House

AND/OR COMMON

Old Kenyon Farm

**2** LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER 1.2 miles east of R.I. Route 112,  
 3/4 miles north of Carolina Village

\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Richmond (Township)

\_ VICINITY OF

2 Hon. Edward Beard

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Rhode Island

44

Washington

009

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Andree P. &amp; J. Peter Doherty

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rural Delivery, Richmond Town House Road (Route 112)

CITY, TOWN

(Town of Richmond)

STATE

Carolina

\_ VICINITY OF

Rhode Island 02812

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town of Richmond, Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Richmond Town House Road

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Rhode Island 02812

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Richmond Preliminary Survey

DATE

1976-1977

\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_ COUNTY \_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

STATE

02903

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Hoxsie house is a one-and-one-half-story frame farmhouse with a central cut-granite chimney, on which "1784" is incised. It measures thirty-four by twenty-seven feet minus its late nineteenth century rear ell. It is of post and beam construction with vertical wide plank sheathing covered with cedar shingles. No evidence of clapboards was found on the sheathing.

The house faces due south and is sited on the east side of a hill at an elevation of 175 feet, which helps to avoid valley frost. South of it, down a path of stone slabs, is a corn crib (see site plan continuation sheet ). To the east are the privy and the foundation of a shop, which contains a small fireplace in its west basement wall of the same construction as those in the house. A dug well still in use is north of the house, and a modern garage is to the west. A shed is being constructed on an old foundation southwest of the house.

Mature hickory, horsechestnut, and ash trees shade the lawn and walled garden. Barn foundations and an unidentified circular depression, as well as the foundation of an earlier Hoxsie house are also found on the sixty acres surrounding the house. The landscape also includes stone-walled pastures and orchards, forest, two brooks, a pond and marsh, and two wild cranberry bogs. Surrounding this tract, which still belongs with the house, are seven hundred acres of land which comprise the wooded valley which contains the unpolluted watershed of Taney Brook. (Only the sixty acres immediately surrounding the house are included in this nomination.) The sole approach to the house is from the west by a 1.2-mile-long dirt road.

The house has few exterior embellishments. The fenestration is irregular: two windows to the right of the front door and one to the left. The four windows in each of the wide spreading gable ends are spaced at random, their order dictated by interior use of space. A small window in each gable lights the attic. A bulkhead on the south leads down stone stairs to the quarter basement under the eastern end of the house.

Half of the original six-over-nine-light double-hung windows remain, many with old glass. The modern sash are six over six. The front and rear doors are four-panelled, unbevelled; four transom lights with original glass, top the front door.

The original portion of the house follows the typical, five-room, center-chimney plan (see floor plan, continuation sheet ). A small front hall with stairs traversing the chimney wall opens on either side into two front rooms of unequal size: a parlor to the right and a smaller bedroom to the left. The large keeping room or kitchen to the

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rear is flanked by two smaller rooms, a bedroom and the milk pantry (now a bathroom) to which one entrance has been added. The rear ell, added in the late nineteenth century to provide a new kitchen, is accessible to the rest of the house through the original back door and has obscured no previous window openings (documented by photographs). All partitions are in their original positions on the main floor and on the second floor, which consists of a hall and four rooms with closet space under the eaves (see plan, continuation sheet ). The two east bedrooms are of equal size; the west ones are unequal. The large west room has access to a closet behind the chimney.

Much of the original plaster remains throughout; so also do many of the original wide floor boards (except in the front hall, bathroom, and original kitchen). Plaster ceilings in the front parlor and in the kitchen, if they ever existed (and the evidence is inconclusive), have been taken down. Thus, the mortise and tenon construction of their ceiling beams is revealed. Seven rough-hewn oak beams of equal size run north-south across the parlor joining the heavier plates, chimney girt, and cornerposts. The eight beams in the kitchen also run north-south, but only six are actually framed into the chimney girt. Two run to the wall between the kitchen and the parlor, where they continue through the wall to the front plate of the house. Both back corner rooms have cased cornerposts.

The house contains three stone fireplaces, one in each of the front rooms and a larger one in the kitchen. The parlor fireplace has a plain early twentieth century mantel surrounded by pine panelling of the same vintage. The bedroom fireplace has no mantel and its massive granite lintel and fieldstone chimney breast are exposed. Lack of any nailing strip for a mantel and lack of any trace of plaster suggest that this may be the original treatment of this fireplace wall. The kitchen fireplace has a very plain mantel which may have been installed about 1800. The firebox is five feet two inches wide and has a bake oven in the rear wall at the right.

Interior decoration is simple. The east kitchen wall is sheathed vertically with wide feathered pine boards. Six interior doors are four-panelled with bevelled sections of the correct proportions for the late 1700s, and four have molded door jambs. The upstairs chimney closet door is two-panelled of a style predating the house. The remaining doors are board and batten, many with early latches. The

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two-run stairs have a closet beneath them, a closed beaded string-course and beaded handrail with a square newel post and reverse curve molding. The upstairs hall railing is composed of horizontal planks. An ox-blood red paint was used on much interior trim as well as on the inside surface of the wall sheathing under the early plaster in the front bedroom. This would indicate the house was finished off on the interior in stages.

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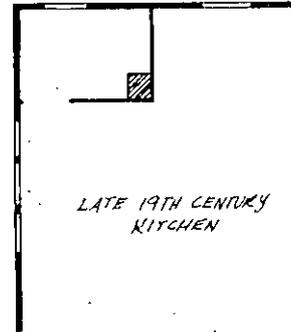
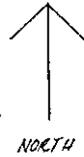
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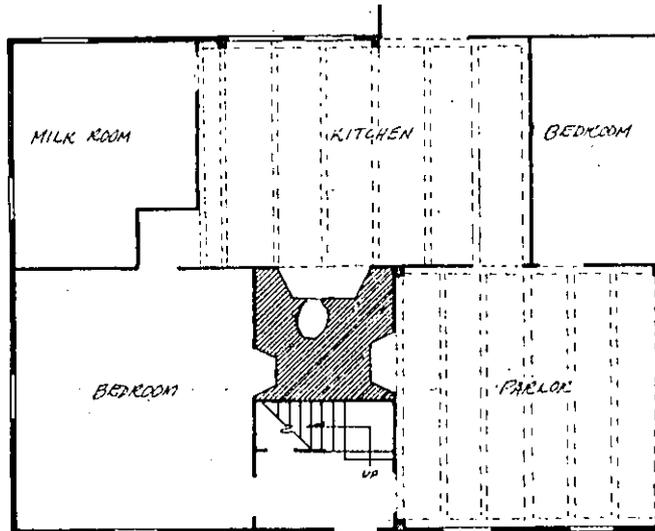
*JOHN HOXSIE HOUSE*

*SKETCH PLAN*

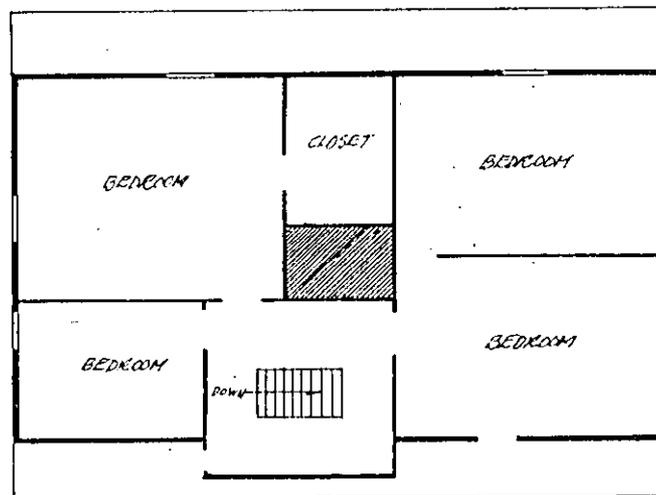
*NOT TO SCALE*



*FIRST FLOOR*



*SECOND FLOOR*



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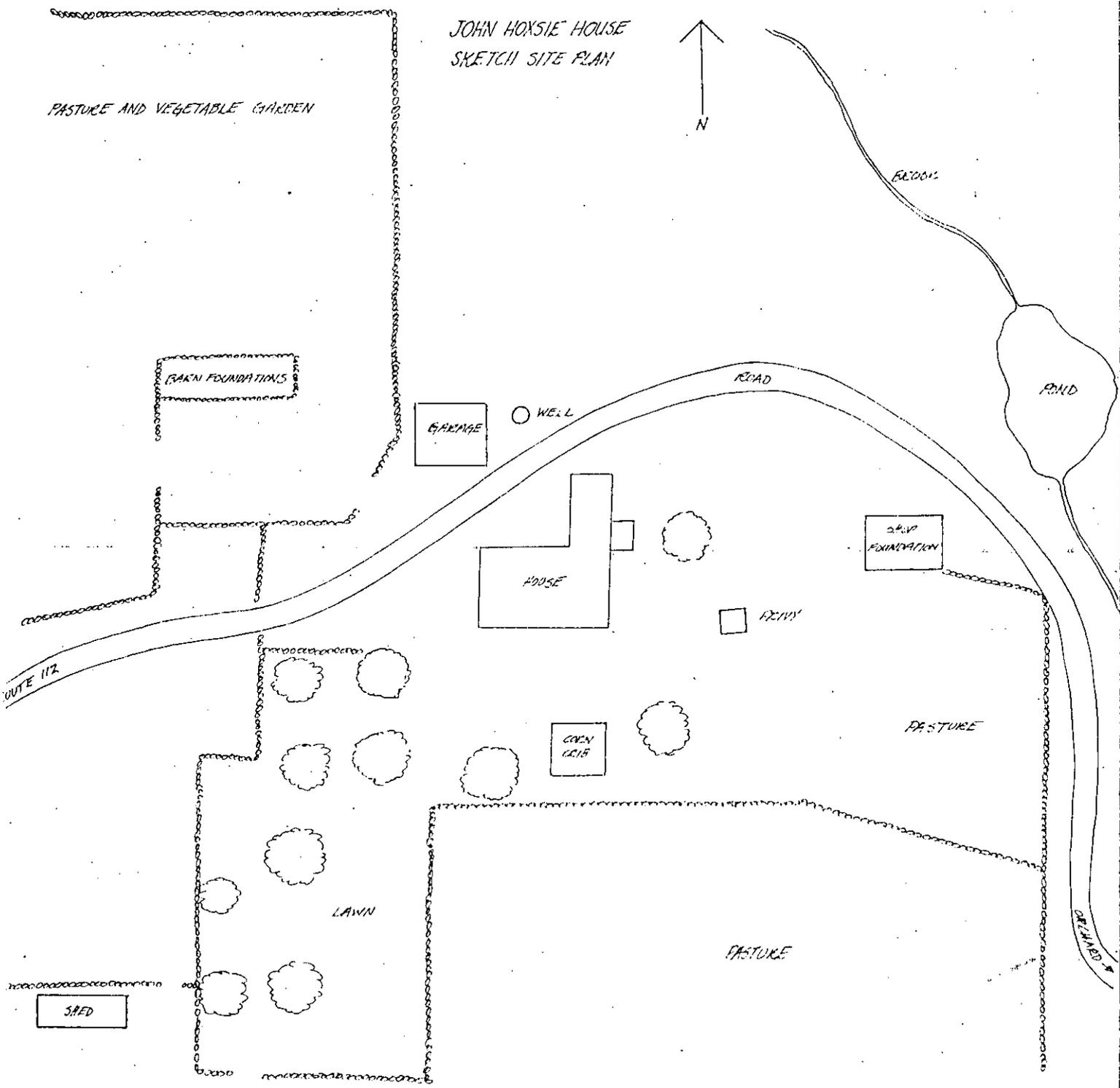
7

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JOHN HOXSIE HOUSE  
SKETCH SITE PLAN

PASTURE AND VEGETABLE GARDEN



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION		
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE		
___1500-1599	XAGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE		
___1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
X1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER		
X1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION		
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		___INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1784

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Hoxsie

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Hoxsie homestead is a relatively intact example of a South County hill farm. Part of the acreage is still in agricultural use; outhouse and corncrib as well as the foundations of barn and other out-buildings still survive; and the house itself retains the majority of its original finish. Of equal importance is the isolated and beautiful natural setting which the house and farmstead retain. Although many of the formerly cleared farm fields have reverted to woodland and the road east to Usquepaugh has long since been abandoned, enough open fields still exist beside the winding dirt road approach and adjacent to the house to give a clear indication of the face of the land when the Hoxsie's lived here and cultivated it. Moreover, the physical isolation, typical of many eighteenth and nineteenth-century Rhode Island farms, is still palpable here.

The modest farmhouse was built by the great grandson of Lodowick Hawksie, an immigrant who came from the British Isles to settle in Sandwich, Massachusetts, about 1650. It remained in the Hoxsie family by direct descent until 1952 and by marriage until 1974. The house stands in an undisturbed rural setting on the eastern half of its original tract and is the best preserved remainder of an agricultural community active along Taney Brook in the late 1700s.

Well before the formation of the mill villages of Carolina, Kenyon, and Shannock in the 1800s, Richmond was settled by farmers who built homes and worked the land on the west side of Taney Brook. They built at least six early houses in the eighteenth century, joined by a north-south ridge road from Wilbur Hill to Shannock Hill Road where a small mill and triphammer blacksmith shop were set up.<sup>2</sup> Four of these houses, three of which still stand, were apparently built by Hoxsie's who had been in the area since about 1698.<sup>3</sup> An 1870 map shows these buildings still owned by Hoxsies (B. Hoxsie, G. W. Hoxsie, L. Hoxsie, and Abial Kenyon).<sup>4</sup> The map also indicates the present east-west road to the

<sup>1</sup>1855 Henry Walling Map, Richmond Town Hall

<sup>2</sup>Dr. J. R. Irish, History of Richmond 1877

<sup>3</sup>Leslie R. Hoxsie, The Hoxsie Family: Three Centuries in America, 1950. Beattie & Co. Portland, Oregon.

<sup>4</sup>1870 School District Map of Richmond. Also 1895 Atlas of Surveys Southern Rhode Island. Richmond Town Hall.

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1784 house, which once continued east to Usquepaugh. The fourth Hoxsie structure was a 1750s saltbox which formerly stood south of the 1784 house and was built by Stephen Hoxsie, grandson of Lodowick Hawksie, on the ruins of an earlier house.<sup>5</sup>

Stephen's son, John, (born May 28, 1752) "settled on a portion of his father's farm...where in 1784 he built a new house",<sup>6</sup> (and carved his initials on the front step.) The account book of John's son Henry (1779-1842) is in the house and shows that wood, leather, and metal work was done in the shop with small fireplace east of the house. Such a small-scale enterprise was typical of nineteenth century farmers, anxious to supplement their usually meager farm incomes and to provide themselves with simple finished wood and metal products for home and farm use. Henry Hoxsie's cousin John W. had a trout farm on nearby White Brook which is now the American Fish Culture. The house passed directly to a grandson, Abial Kenyon and then to his granddaughter, Vetta Kenyon Scudder, who owns the western half of the original long narrow farm and lives there 1.2 miles from the homestead.

The John Hoxsie house is architecturally interesting for a variety of reasons. In some respects it is typical of many Rhode Island rural farmhouses: its five-room plan is a standard one for houses built in the last half of the eighteenth century--throughout much of Rhode Island; its stone chimney, fieldstone with cut-stone firebox lintels on the interior and cut stone on the exterior above the roof ridge, is characteristic of "South County" construction; its southern orientation is also typical. What is not typical, or, at least, not much documented in other houses of the same period, is the very plain and in some cases retardataire detail and finish of the house: the late use of feather-edged vertical plank wall and the surprising location of the bake oven in the rear wall of the kitchen firebox. Also unusual is the ceiling framing in the eastern portion of the house, where at least some beams run the full depth of the house, an impressive twenty-seven feet. The various pieces of evidence which clearly point to the finishing of the

<sup>5</sup>Personal interviews. Vetta K. Scudder, Descendant of the builder. Photographs in her possession of house before ell added, with old barn etc.

<sup>6</sup>Leslie R. Hoxsie, Op. Cit.

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house in stages are also somewhat unusual and worthy of study: the ox-blood red paint found on wall sheathing beneath what might otherwise have been taken as original plaster, the lack of any clear physical proof that either fireplace in the front rooms ever had a mantel or plastered chimney breast, and the late characteristics of the kitchen mantel, which suggest that it, too, was not original. Although many rural houses must have followed a similar evolution in their finishing, few suggest this sequence as clearly today as does the house John Hoxsie built in 1784.

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John Hoxsie House, Richmond, Rhode Island

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A certain tract or parcel of land, with the dwelling house and other improvements thereon, lying easterly of the easterly side of the Richmond Town House Road, so-called, in said Town of Richmond, Rhode Island, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point marked by a drill hole in a boulder at a wall intersection, said point being the southwesterly corner of the tract herein described; thence running northerly following the course of a stone wall a distance of one hundred fifteen and  $\frac{7}{10}$  (115.7) feet to a drill hole on the northerly side of the right-of-way leading to the herein described property; thence turning an interior angle of  $165^{\circ}-53'$  and continuing northerly a distance of two hundred thirty-five and  $\frac{2}{10}$  (235.2) feet to a drill hole; thence turning an interior angle of  $184^{\circ}-23'$  and continuing northerly a distance of three hundred fifty and  $\frac{6}{10}$  (350.6) feet to a drill hole; thence turning an interior angle of  $152^{\circ}57'$  and running northeasterly a distance of one hundred forty-three and  $\frac{4}{10}$  (143.4) feet to a drill hole at a wall corner; thence turning an interior angle of  $240^{\circ}-53'$  and running northwesterly a distance of seventeen and  $\frac{0}{10}$  (17.0) feet to a wall corner; these last five courses being bounded on the west by land of Clara V. Kenyon and Vetta K. Scudder; thence turning an interior angle of  $79^{\circ}36'$  and running easterly, bounded on the north by land now or formerly belonging to Peter Hoxsie; thence southerly, bounded easterly by land formerly belonging to Stephen Hoxsie and land late of Enoch Hoxsie; thence westerly, bounded southerly by land of said Enoch Hoxsie and land formerly of Thomas W. Hoxsie, to the point and place of beginning.

Being the same premises conveyed to John F. Nye and Myrtle M. Nye by Clara V. Kenyon and Vetta K. Scudder, by deed dated July 2, 1952 and recorded in Land Evidence Records in said Town of Richmond.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hoxsie, Leslie R. The Hoxsie Family: Three Centuries in America.  
 Beattie & Co., Portland, Oregon. 1950.  
 Irish, Dr. J. R. History of Richmond. 1877.  
 Scudder, Vera K. Interviews with Vera Skudder, descendant of  
the builder, 1974.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	27,8	6,0	0	4,5	9,4	8,2	0	B	1,9	27,9	5,2	0	4,5	9,5	1,0	0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	
C	1,9	27,9	5,9	0	4,5	9,4	8,4	0	D	1,9	27,9	6,0	0	4,5	9,4	4,9	0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Andree Phillips Doherty, Docent

ORGANIZATION

Providence Preservation Society

DATE

May, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

24 Meeting Street

TELEPHONE

(home phone 364-3796)

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Frank Williams*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-11-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



John Hoxsie House

Richmond, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer

April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the west southwest, showing stone walls,  
house with rear ell and corncrib.

Photo # 1



John Hoxsie House  
Richmond, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer      April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

House viewed from the south, southwest.

Photo # 2



John Hoxsie House

Richmond, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer

April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

Staircase, from first floor hall.

Photo # 3



John Hoxsie House

Richmond, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer      April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

Front bedroom, looking east.

Photo # 4



John Hoxsie House

Richmond, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer

April, 1977

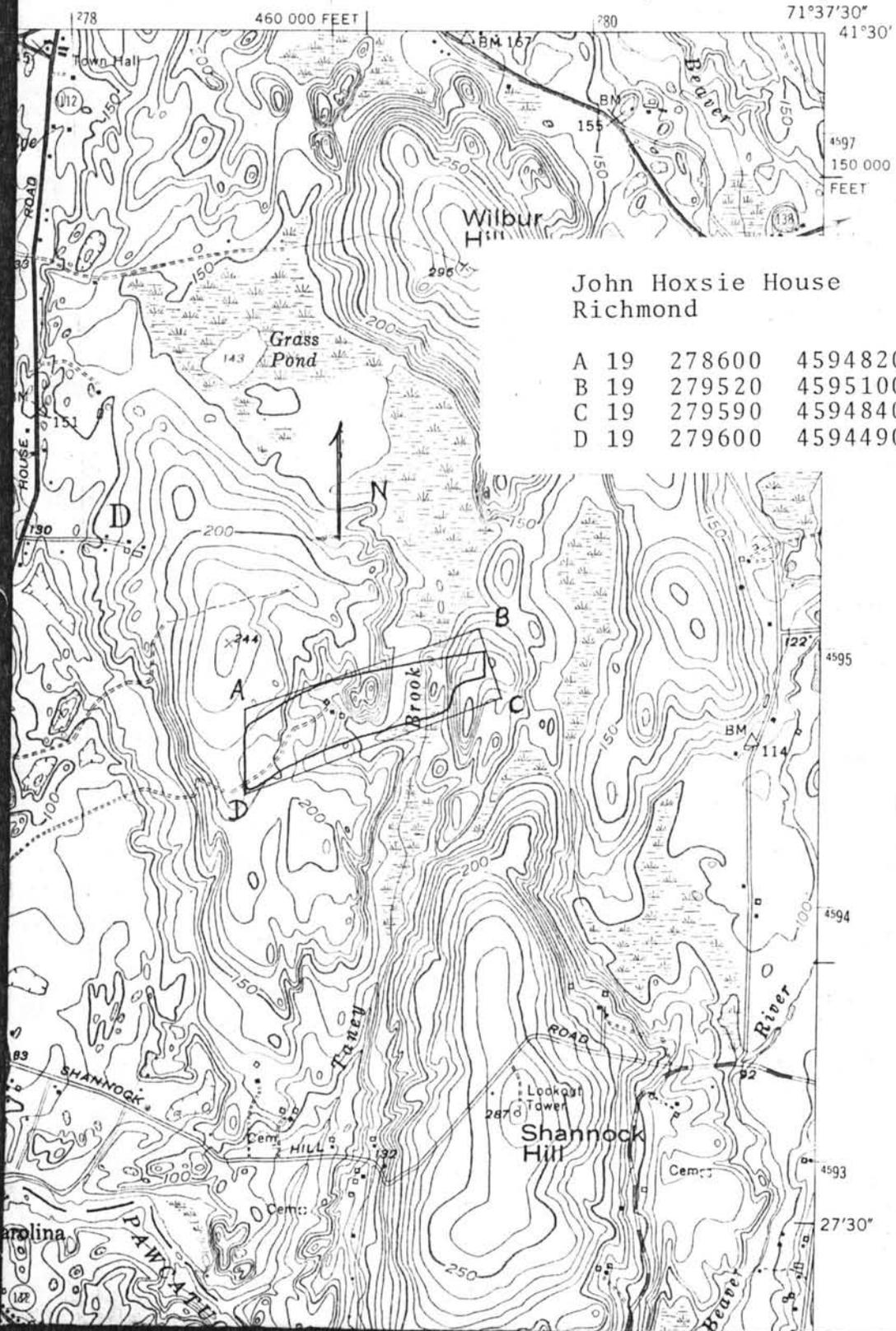
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

Kitchen, looking southeast, showing unusual  
ceiling framing and fireplace.

Photo # 5

CAROLINA QUADRANGLE  
 RHODE ISLAND-WASHINGTON CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6667 II SE  
 (SLOCUM)



John Hoxsie House  
 Richmond

A	19	278600	4594820
B	19	279520	4595100
C	19	279590	4594840
D	19	279600	4594490

A 19 278600 4594820  
 B 19 279520 4595100  
 C 19 279590 4594840  
 D 19 279600 4594490