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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The progenitor of the Greenes of Warwick was John Greene, "surgeon." In 1637 he left Salem to join Roger Williams and became one of the original settlers of Providence. Five years later, Greene was among the twelve men who, under the aegis of their disputatious leader, Samuel Gorton, bought a tract of land known as the Shawomet Purchase from the Narragansett sachem, Miantonomi. Gorton and his followers removed to their new-bought lands and styled their settlement Warwick.

The Greenes prospered in Warwick. They became prominent in local, state and national affairs. The family produced three Rhode Island governors, and a United States Senator. General Nathanael Greene is renowned for his exploits during the Revolution. Of the early Greene houses in Warwick, only the Fones Greene house stands essentially as built.

In 1687 John Greene's grandson, Captain James Greene, erected a house in Warwick at Nassauket, now familiar as Buttonwoods Point. Captain Greene died in 1711, leaving his "nousing and farm" to his son, Fones. It is doubtful that the existing house on Buttonwoods Avenue is the one built by James Green in 1687, however, for, judging by its architecture, it could not date before 1700. Fones Greene's will of 1758 refers to his "Mansion house," and distinguishes between it and the "old house" on the property. For some time a depression 30' northeast of the existing building has been pointed out as the site of this earlier dwelling. Thus, the early eighteenth century house still standing at Nassauket is a dwelling built by Fones Greene soon after he inherited the Buttonwoods farm.

Six generations of the Greene family lived in Fones Greene's "Mansion house." It was sold in 1900 and has belonged to members of the Bowen family since then. The Bowens have not occupied the old house as a residence, preferring to live in the cottage nearby. It has never had central heating, running water or modern plumbing. The last "improvement" made to the house was the installation of stoves on the first floor in the mid-nineteenth centruy, and they have been gone since 1900.

Downing, Antoinette F.; Early Homes of Rhode Island;
Garrett & Massie; Richmond, Virginia: 1937: pp. 18 33 35 45-52
Isnam, Norman M. & Brown, Albert F.; Early Rhode Island Houses:
Preston & Rounds: Providence: 1895: pacetm

Warwick Town & City Records; City Hall, Warwick.

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The core of the Fones Greene House in Warwick is a two story block, 27x27', built c.1715. Appended to this are one story mid-eighteenth century additions. The house faces south. Behind it and down a brush covered bank is a brook feeding into Buttonwoods Cove. The brick chimney stack nearly fills the west side of the original section of the house. The brickwork, laid up in flemish bond, is painted the same bone white as the rest of the clapboard exterior.

Abutting the west end of the house is a one story lean-to, unfinished within, 10x27. This addition has preserved a section of early, but not original, ship-lapped clapboards on the exterior wall of the original part of the house. They show evidence of oxblood red paint under whitewash, and are affixed with rose head nails to horizontal planking which now sheaths the old house.

A second lean-to addition, 6' wide and fully finished, was built across the back of the building. When the additions were constructed in the mid-eighteenth century, the pitch of the gable roof was lowered. These alterations created the dwelling's classic "salt box" profile.

The existing fenestration and window sash is not original. The windows with 6/6 double hung sash on the south elevation reduce much smaller windows (the casing of one, 17x37", remains in the first floor southeast closet). A fire which damaged portions of the northwest corner of the building some twenty years ago obliterated the remains of a two-section casement window at the second story level in the rear of the house. This has been recorded in a photograph published in 1937. Other changes resulted from the fire, including boarding and clapboarding over a northwest entrance and window.

The oldest part of the house is of heavy post and beam construction. the frame is oak, its elements measuring as much as local?" In section, headers are framed into each other with mortise and tenon points held form with wood pegs. The exterior walls of the house are studded and, at least on the first floor level, the interstices between the study are filled with prick nogging. Horizontal sheathing boards are nailed to the study in the oldest part of the house and the clapboards are nailed to the boarding. The interior face of these exterior walls have been covered with lath and plastered. The exterior walls in the north lean-to addition are made of vertical planks fastened to sill and place. Clapboards are tailed to the exterior and plastered lath to the interior surface.

The first floor is divided into a "Great Room" at the front of the house and a smaller back room -- both with large fireplaces -- an entry in the southwest corner beside the chimney, and a stainhall in the normalwest corner (see floor plan, continuation sheet 2). The chimney stack measures 6x21', the entry 6x6'. The remainder of the original 27' square is divided into three structural bays 9' wide and 21' across.

See continuation sheet 1

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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 40 Fatima Road
 Warwick. Rhode Island Code: 44
- 6. Rhode Island State Inventory
 1970, 1974 -- State
 Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
 52 Power Street
 Providence, Rhode Island Code: 44

7. Description cont.

Some partitions are plastered, others are fashioned from vertical sheathing with beveled and beaded edges. The ceilings are plastered. The framing members, left exposed on the interior, are chamfered and finished with lamb's tongue terminals. In some rooms wood clothes pegs have been doweled into the framing members. The Great Room, two structural bays wide, has an exposed summer beam running from chimney girt to end girt.

The chimney tree of both the Great Room and back room fireplaces are elaborated with complex cyma — moulded chamfering. Above each chimney tree a plastered cove rises to the chimney girt. A hole has been cut in each cove to take a stove pipe. The Great Room fireplace is 9' wide and 3' deep. The back room fireplace was altered in the mid-eight-eenth century to accommodate a beehive oven and smaller fireplace. This alteration is now only partially intact. The paneled mantel piece has been removed in recent years; the oven is in ruin. A central brick panel in the back of this fireplace is laid up in herring bone pattern. The rear corners of this fireplace are square, while the rear corners of the Great Room fireplace are rounded.

The Great Room was originally $20x17\frac{1}{2}$. A small bedroom and a closet 5' wide now occupy the east end of the room. The back room, originally $9x12^{\circ}$, was enlarged to $16x12^{\circ}$ when the rear lean-to was built. This addition also provided a $6x7^{\circ}$ room in the northeast corner of the house, and a closet and a second entrance in the northwest corner. Above the board and batten doors leading from the closet and entry to the back room are pierced-work frets sawn to baluster form.

The stairs are unusually ample. Rising in three runs from the first to the second floor, they have a solid vertical plank balustrade finished with a plain rail and posts with disk-like circular finials. The stone cellar stairs descend below this staircase and it is in this cellarway that the brick-filled studding of the original exterior walls can be seen.

See continuation sheet 2

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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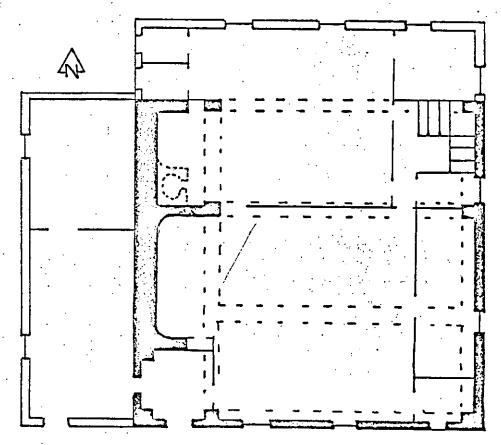
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7. Description cont.

The second story of the house has been divided into five rooms. A garret (badly fire damaged) extends over the north lean-to addition. The room over the Great Room has a mid-eighteenth century fireplace and mantel built into the larger early eighteenth century opening. Again, the framing is exposed, and here the posts are flared to carry the chimney girt and plates. Both plastered and vertical board partitions are found on the second floor. The attic is unfinished.

The Greene House is preserved in its mid-eighteenth century state. Unfortunately, it is in weakened condition. The north addition is separating from the older portion of the house; the north wall is badly rotted-out; loose nogging has caused sections of the south wall clapboard to bulge and fall off.

The area included in this nomination, recorded as lots 5 and 310, plat 370, contains 15.268 acres. Three other buildings stand on the property: A recently built house, a barn and a one and a half story cottage. The latter two date from the late nineteenth century.



First Floor Plan

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

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The Greene's operated their farm on Buttonwoods Point for more than two hundred years. They grew wheat, rye, oats and corn. By 1711 an orchard was producing fruit, and apple trees may still be found on the property. Cattle, numbering between ten and fifteen head, produced milk for cheese and meat. The Greenes kept pigs and their sheep provided wool from which yarn was fashioned. Flax raised on the farm was spun into linen thread.

The Fones Greene House was the focal point of the farm. More than just a residence, it served as workroom and storehouse. Here cheese was made -- the chief "cash crop" of the farm -- and spinning done. Meat, cider, and later, potatoes, were stored in the cellar; wool, flax, feathers and leather in the attic.

As an exemplar of early Rhode Island architecture, the Fones Greene House has few equals. Indeed, it has been famous as an architectural relic since the nineteenth century. For many years it was maintained as a quasi house museum.

The dwelling illustrates the third and final phase in the evolution of what Norman Isham defined as the characteristic Rhode Island house, built between 1640 and 1725. Isham defined the archetypal house of the first phase (c.1640-1675) as a one-and-a-half-story structure of heavy frame construction with a single room on each floor. One end of the building was nearly filled with a stone chimney. Beside the chimney was a small entry containing a steep flight of stairs leading to the upper room. In the second phase (1676-c.1700), this basic configuration was expanded to contain at least two rooms on the first floor with stone fireplaces set side by side. The massive chimneys of houses built in these first two phases gave them the descriptive title, "Stone-Enders." They were

In the third stage of its development (1700-c.1725), the Rhode Island "Stone-Ender" grew once again, increasing to two full stories in height, the plan expanded to include at least two rooms on each floor. In this period brick became the characteristic material from which to construct the end chimney. The Fones Greene House possesses all the earmarks of the third phase. Among dwellings Isham discussed as examples of this period, only this house survives.

Though built in the eighteenth century, the Fones Greene House -- with its chamfered oak frame, immense chimney stack and cavernous fireplaces -- harks back to a medieval building tradition. It was a tradition fast disappearing when the house was built. But the rural agrarian life style lived by generations of Green occupants, rooted as it was in the equally antique lifeways of English yeoman farmers, persisted on the Buttonwoods farm almost into the twentieth century.



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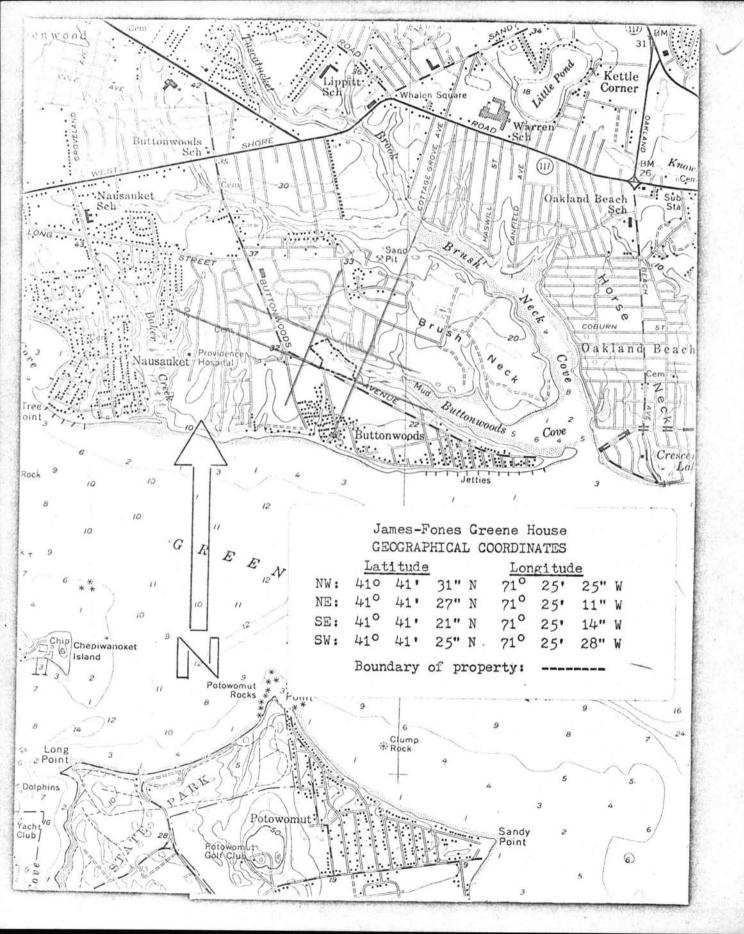
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Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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AND/OR HISTORIC	ames-Fones Greene House c: Fones Greene House	
LOCATION	10000 020000 110000	
STREET AND NUM	698 Buttonwoods Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN:	Warwick	
STATE:	Rhode Isla nd CODE COUNTY: Kent	cop
MAP REFERENCE	E	00
SOURCE:	U.S. Geological Survey	
SCALE:	1:24,000	
DATE:	1957	
REQUIREMENTS		
2. North arro	proundaries where required.	



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)

Rhode I	sland
Kent .	
FOR NPS US	E ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER	R DATE

(Type direntities - attach to of enc.	, , ,	
NAME		
common: James-Fones Greene House		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fones Greene House		
LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
698 Buttonwoods Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN:		
Warwick		
STATE:	CODE COUNTY:	
Rhode Island		CODE
PHOTO REFERENCE	44 Kent	
PHOTO CREDIT: D. W. Chase		
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: R. I. Historical	Preservation Commission	
IDENTIFICATION 52 POWER STREET,	Providence, R. T. 02906	
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Detail, cellarway beneath	staircase	
showing plastered brick no	gging between studs of east	
exterior wall, earliest see	gging between study or east	
checitor warr, earliest se	ction of nouse	



Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Kent

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

соммо	Odmes-rones ordere means			
AND/O	R HISTORIC: Fones Greene House			
2. LOCAT	10 N		-	
STREE	698 Buttonwoods Avenue			
CITY	я тоwn: Warwick) j
STATE	Rhode Island	CODE COUN	Kent	003
3. РНОТО	REFERENCE ,			
РНОТО	CREDIT: D. W. Chase			
DATE	of PHOTO: March 1974			
NEGAT	IVE FILED AT: R. I. Historical P. 52 Power Street, P.			
4. IDENT	FICATION		-	
DESC	RIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
	Great Room Fireplace			
1				



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

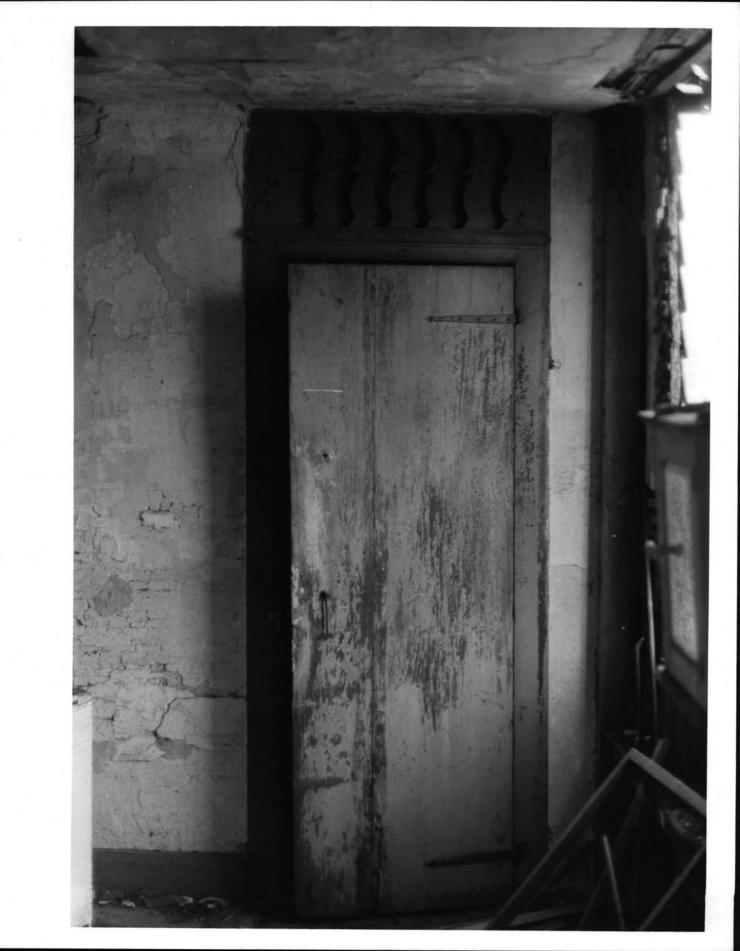
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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	Kent	
F	OR NPS US	E ONLY
ENTE	RY NUMBE	R DATE
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	ames-Fones Greene House			
AND/OR HIS	TORIC: Fones Greene House	9		
2. LOCATION				
STREET AN	NUMBER:			
6	8 Buttonwoods Avenue	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
CITY OR TO	wn:			
W	arwick			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:	co
R	node Island	44	Kent	
3. PHOTO RE				
	DIT: D. W. Chase			
PHOTO CRI	Di II. D. W. Chase			
DATE OF P	юто: March 1974			
DATE OF P	HOTO: March 1974 FILED AT: R. I. Historical	Preservati	ion Commission	
DATE OF P		Preservati Providence	Lon Commission	



PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with I. James-Fones Greene House HISTORIC: Fones Greene House ON AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue R TOWN: Warwick Rhode Island	h photograph)	Rhode Island COUNTY Kent FOR NPS USE ON ENTRY NUMBER	LY DATE
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with James-Fones Greene House Historic: Fones Greene House ON AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue Warwick	code County:	ENTRY NUMBER	CODE
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with James-Fones Greene House Historic: Fones Greene House ON AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue Warwick	code County:		CODE
I: James-Fones Greene House HISTORIC: Fones Greene House ON AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue R TOWN: Warwick	CODE COUNTY:		
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AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue R Town: Warwick	CODE	ont.	
Warwick	CODE		
	CODE	ant	
	174	ent	1003
REFERENCE ,			
CREDIT: D. W. Chase			
рерното: March 1974			
52 Power Street, Providence, I	al Preservat Rhode Island	ion Commission	
FICATION			
Closet door, northwest corner	of north ad	ldition	
batten door, strap hinges, pie	erced-work f	ret above door	
-	52 Power Street, Providence, I IFICATION RIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Closet door, northwest corner	FILED AT: Rhode Island HIstorical Preservat 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island IFICATION RIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Closet door, northwest corner of north ad-	52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906 IFICATION



GREENE-BOWEN HOUSE RESTORATION 44-75-00161-00 Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographer: Russell Wright Date of Photograph: 1975

Negative: Warwick Historical Society

West elevation of Greene-Bowen House.



Form	No.	10-301a
(7/72))	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE		
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COUNTY	Kent	-
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NATIONAL	REGIST	ER	OF	HIST	ORIC	Ρ	LAC	CES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

СОММО	DN: James-Fones Greene House			
AND/O	RHISTORIC: Fones Greene House			
2. LOCAT			-	
STREE	T AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue		>	
CITY	DR TOWN: Warwick			
STATE		CODE COUN	ATY:	сорі
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GREENE-BOWEN HOUSE RESTORATION 44-75-00161-00 Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographer: Russell Wright Date of Photograph: 1975

Negative: Warwick Historical Society

Front or south elevation of Greene-Bowen House.