

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Minkins, John Carter, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

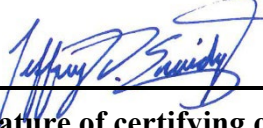
2. LocationStreet & number: 345 Glenwood AvenueCity or town: Pawtucket State: Rhode Island County: ProvidenceNot For Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national x statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A x B C D

	State Historic Preservation Officer	2/28/2025
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Vinyl, concrete, asphalt, brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The John Carter Minkins House at 345 Glenwood Avenue is near the southern edge of the Woodlawn neighborhood in southwest Pawtucket, Providence County, Rhode Island. Constructed by a speculative builder and purchased by John and Rosa Minkins in 1900, the house is a two-story, Colonial Revival-style building on a double lot with a mid-twentieth-century, two-car garage. The property is on the north¹ side of Glenwood Avenue in a compact turn-of-the-twentieth-century neighborhood of single-family houses. The Minkins House served as the home of the Minkins family for more than 110 years and has integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship. It retains its original massing, has had no additions or alterations to the original floor plan, and many original exterior and interior materials are present.

Narrative Description

Setting

The John Carter Minkins House occupies a rectangular 0.18-acre lot on the north side of Glenwood Avenue in a densely developed residential neighborhood of Pawtucket, Rhode Island (Photo 1). The house is on the west half of the nearly square lot, with an asphalt-paved driveway to the east leading to a two-car garage in the northeast quadrant of the lot (Photos 2 and 3). The house is set slightly back from the street edge behind

¹ Glenwood Avenue runs northwest/southeast, but for simplicity the four main cardinal directions are used in this documentation.

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a narrow garden and a concrete sidewalk. A low, wood picket fence with a pedestrian gate and a vehicular gate runs along the south, east, and west sides of the lot. A stockade fence runs along the north (rear) property line. A wood flagpole is located at the edge of the driveway near the southeast corner of the house. A concrete walkway leads north from the sidewalk to the principal entrance in the west elevation and continues north to the rear property line (Photo 4). The rear yard is landscaped with grass edged by planting beds, and several large trees stand along the west property line and in the rear yard (Photos 5 and 6). Almost all the houses on the south side of Glenwood Avenue were built between 1880 and 1895, with development of the north side occurring between 1895 and 1902. The houses form a cohesive streetscape of similar scale, massing, form, and setback, and even share some design details, such as bay windows and stained glass. The Minkins House is the only house on the block that is oriented with the principal entrance not facing the street.

House (1900)

One contributing building

Exterior

The John Carter Minkins House is a two-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, Colonial Revival-style, wood-frame building with an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof, vinyl-sided walls, wood trim, and a brick and rubblestone foundation. The roof has slightly projecting eaves and cornice returns on the end walls. A brick chimney is at the north end of the ridgeline, and gable-roof dormers are centered on the east and west lower roof slopes.

The principal entrance is centered in the building's three-bay west elevation and accessed by a hip-roof entry porch below the west dormer. A run of wood stairs with a wrought-iron railing leads north from the entrance walkway to the porch. The porch roof has a wood cornice supported by Ionic columns on a kneewall and Ionic engaged pilasters (Photos 7 and 8). The entrance contains a six-panel wood door with a rectangular, leaded, opalescent and stained-glass window in the upper half and a molded wood surround (Photo 8). A pair of windows is north of the porch, and a single window is to the south. The dormer above the porch has paired windows flanked by louvered shutters set below a pediment embellished with a carved wood urn and floral motif (Photo 9).

A secondary entrance is centered in the east elevation under a narrow shed-roof overhang supported by decorative scrollwork brackets (Photo 10). The entrance has a replacement paneled wood door with a small arched decorative glass window in the upper third and a molded wood surround. Single windows are north and south of the entrance; the north window is smaller and not in the original location. The east dormer above the entrance has a small single window and no pediment. The street-facing south elevation contains a single window in the west bay, a one-story bay window in the east bay, and two single windows centered in the second story. The north elevation has four symmetrically spaced windows, two in each story. All the window openings have one-over-one vinyl replacement sash with molded vinyl surrounds and are flanked by fixed vinyl shutters. The basement has rectangular window openings with plain wood sills; some have been infilled or covered with plywood while others have single-pane vinyl replacement sash.

Interior

The house's interior configuration and finishes are largely original to its construction. The first story has a center-hall plan with two rooms on each side of the east-west hall (see Interior Photo Key). A multi-light pocket door divides the hall into a front (west) entrance/stair hall and a rear (east) entry hall (Photo 11). An open, straight-flight staircase to the second story begins near the east end of the front hall and runs along

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the north wall. The staircase retains its original wood newel post, treads, carved baseboard, and turned balusters (Photos 12–14). A small bathroom, added in the 1970s, is located under the stairs. The south side of the hall has a double-parlor configuration with a wide doorway between the southwest room, which is used as a dining room, and the southeast room, which has the bay window and is used as a living room (Photos 15–17). Contemporary accounts indicate that John Carter Minkins used one of the rooms on the south side of the hall as his office/library.² The northwest room, likely the original dining room (Photo 18), is used as a second living room and has a doorway into the northeast room (kitchen) (Photo 19).

The dining room and both living rooms retain original plaster ceilings, plaster walls with narrow crown molding, molded wood window and door trim, molded wood baseboards, and narrow-plank, wood floors. The southwest and southeast rooms have original plaster ceiling medallions, and the northwest room has a wood chair rail (not historic). The doorways from the front hall to the dining room and the two living rooms contain non-historic multi-light doors. The front and rear halls and the kitchen have modern tile flooring. The doorway from the rear hall to the kitchen contains a non-historic folding louvered wood door. The kitchen has modern fixtures and a relocated window above the sink on the east wall. The rear hall has wood wainscot and chair rails and a short set of steps with tile treads down to the rear entrance.

The second story has four bedrooms and a bathroom arranged around an L-shaped landing (see Interior Photo Key). A small, semi-circular wood shelf, possibly intended to hold a telephone, extends off the balustrade, near the door to the northwest bedroom. A secondary handrail was added to the balustrade at the landing around 2022, to meet safety codes. (Photo 20). The bedrooms and landing have original plaster walls, molded door and window surrounds and baseboards, narrow-plank wood floors, and replacement paneled doors (Photo 21). The bathroom, located on the east side of the house, has a tile floor and modern fixtures and is illuminated by the single window set within the dormer on the east roof slope. A small opening in the ceiling of a bedroom closet provides the only access to the attic.

The partially finished basement is accessed from the rear entry hall by a set of open-tread wood stairs with simple wood railing and is primarily used for storage and laundry. It has concrete floors, painted brick and concrete exterior walls, and floating particleboard partition walls. A small area of the basement is sectioned off with a brick wall. The brick chimney base contains a small, rectangular metal door set near the floor (possibly an ash dump) and is embossed “Wakefield Branch Co., Wakefield R.I.” A set of louvered wood shutters in the basement with a carved script “M” in the upper and lower panels (Photo 22) likely belonged to the Minkins family and may have flanked the building’s principal entrance.

Garage (ca. 1955)

One contributing building

The one-story, two-car, wood-frame garage (Photo 23) east of the house has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof; vinyl-clad walls; and a poured concrete foundation. The south elevation contains a pair of modern overhead doors, and a half-light wood door is near the north edge of the west elevation. Two square window openings are evenly spaced in the north elevation.

² A 1954 profile of Minkins in *The Pawtucket Times* notes, “And if you’re up and around his home at 345 Glenwood avenue [sic] at 3 or 4 a.m. you may well hear him pounding out a story, or notes for a story, or ideas for a letter to the editor. Later in the day, if you peek in his library window, you may see him reading Latin or philosophy or dipping into a book of English literature.” This description strongly suggests that Minkins’ home office/library faced the street, which would place it on the south side of the house. *Pawtucket Times*, “Minkins, at 85, Still Whips out ‘Copy,’” November 17, 1954.

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Statement of Integrity

The John Carter Minkins House possesses integrity of design, workmanship, location, association, feeling, setting, and materials. The home of John Carter Minkins from 1900 until his death in 1959 and of his daughters until 2014, the house retains its internal configuration and many original finishes associated with the Minkins family's ownership. It is a good and representative example of a modest Colonial Revival-style residence constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. The surrounding neighborhood of compact, turn-of-the-twentieth-century, single-family houses on small lots contributes to the setting and feeling. The original wood entry porch, front door with inset opalescent and stained-glass window, and wood trim are intact, as is the carved wood urn and floral motif in the west dormer. Exterior alterations to the house since its construction primarily consist of the installation of vinyl siding and vinyl windows in the original openings and replacement of the roof shingles (most recently between 2019 and 2022). Most of the interior finishes are intact, including the main staircase and wood floors, plaster walls, and wood trim on the first and second stories. Significantly, the first-floor rooms on the south side of the house – one of which served as John Carter Minkins' home office/library – are highly intact, retaining their original dimensions as well as finishes, including plaster walls, ceilings, and ceiling medallions; wood flooring; molded wood window and door trim, molded wood baseboards, and plaster crown molding. A late twentieth-century kitchen renovation included the relocation of the north first-story window in the east elevation and installation of tile flooring in the kitchen and hall. Interior alterations also include the replacement of interior doors and infill of some basement windows. The extant garage on the property appears to have been constructed in the mid-twentieth century to replace an earlier garage set farther back on the lot. New garage doors were installed between 2011 and 2019, as was the wood picket fence.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNICATIONS

SOCIAL HISTORY: CIVIL RIGHTS

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Period of Significance

1900–1959

Significant Dates

1900: John Carter Minkins purchases newly constructed house at 345 Glenwood Avenue

1959: Death of John Carter Minkins

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Minkins, John Carter

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The John Carter Minkins House is significant at the statewide level under Criterion B in the areas of Communications, Social History: Civil Rights, and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the longtime residence of John Carter Minkins (1869–1959), a pioneering journalist and advocate for Black civil rights. Minkins' long and distinguished career included positions at several Rhode Island newspapers (beginning in 1891, when he moved to Rhode Island from Virginia), as well as writing for national outlets, all at a time when Black journalists were rare. In 1906, Minkins became editor-in-chief of the *Providence News-Democrat*, making him the first Black editor of a white-owned newspaper in the country, according to contemporary sources. In addition, Minkins was active in advocacy organizations, such as the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and regularly gave speeches in support of Black civil rights. He remained active, professionally and politically, well into his 80s.

Minkins' trailblazing career spanned many decades and numerous places of employment; through all this, his residence at 345 Glenwood Avenue remained a constant. He lived there for nearly sixty years, not only raising his daughters with his wife, Rosa, but also hosting gatherings of politicians and newspapermen and, importantly, working from his home office/library as a correspondent for newspapers across the country (this work was in addition to his positions at Rhode Island-based papers). While two buildings associated with the Rhode Island newspapers for which Minkins worked still stand (the offices of the *Pawtucket Times* and the *Providence News-Democrat*), no single workplace captures the breadth of Minkins' career. His longtime home, therefore, is the best place to represent Minkins' contributions to the history of journalism, and the struggle for Black civil rights, in Rhode Island.

The period of significance for the John Carter Minkins House begins in 1900, when the house was constructed and the Minkins family purchased it, and ends with Minkins' death, at age 90, in 1959. This period encompasses almost all the time that Minkins lived in Rhode Island and reflects the significant role he played as a Black journalist up until his death.

Note that the John Carter Minkins House is being nominated at the statewide level of significance, based on Minkins' well documented contributions to Rhode Island history. Although Minkins may be a figure of national importance, additional contextual information would be required to make that evaluation.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The John Carter Minkins House is significant for its association with the life and work of the prominent newspaper writer and editor John Carter Minkins (Figures 1-3). Minkins, considered the first Black editor of a white-owned newspaper in the country, was an important figure in the early twentieth-century civil rights movement in Rhode Island. He belonged to the broad coalition of Black activists linked by organizations such as fraternities, civil rights organizations, and churches that sought to influence local, state, and federal policy. As an orator, Minkins was an outspoken proponent of the rights of Black Americans. Most significantly, Minkins used his position as a journalist at several Rhode Island newspapers to further the cause of Black civil rights.

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John Carter Minkins was born on January 29, 1869, in Norfolk, Virginia to Georgiana Minkins (birth/death unknown), who was Black, and William H. Carter (birth/death unknown), a white man from Connecticut. Minkins never met his father, and his mother died when he was young; he was raised by his maternal grandmother and an uncle.³ In 1888, he graduated in the first class of the Norfolk Mission College, a privately funded public school for Black students, and took a job at the city's white-owned *Evening Telegram*. Minkins was assigned to report on Norfolk's Black community in a daily column called "Among Our Colored People."⁴ He also organized and ran three delivery routes for the paper. That same year, he delivered a Memorial Day speech at the Soldiers' Home in Hampton, Virginia – an early entry in what would become a long list of public speaking engagements.

The *Evening Telegram* folded quickly, and Minkins took charge of the *Tidewater Republican*, a four-page weekly newspaper covering the 1889 gubernatorial election in Virginia. Minkins was just 20 years old – too young at the time to vote – when his name appeared on the paper's masthead: "Tidewater Republican. / Published Weekly at 18 Talbot St., / By / Jno. C. Minkins" (Figure 4). The Republicans lost the election, and the issue immediately following included an editorial – unattributed, but likely written by Minkins – decrying the apparent fraud and obstruction in the election, noting that "Democrats in this city were voted sixteen times as fast as Republicans were allowed to vote" and asserting that "with a fair election – a free vote, and an honest count – the Republicans would have won, no one doubts." The editorial page also included this firsthand account of voter intimidation, presumably written by Minkins:

A monumental mistake was made last week by the energetic and efficient officer of the law, who arrested the publisher of this paper thinking him to be a voter. The justice, however set things to rights by allowing the accused to *prove* his innocence of the charges preferred [sic]. We do not point a moral or adorn a tale, but this we do say: If this officer is not more particular in future in making arrests, the majesty of the law may, in him, find itself trampled upon and outraged. It is certainly not compatible with the dignity of American citizenship, for the citizen to be forced to protect himself, against those who should be his protectors.⁵

The *Tidewater Republican* closed soon after the election and, in June 1890, Republican party members appointed Minkins to conduct the first federal manufacturing census in Norfolk, Virginia.⁶

As the story of Minkins' arrest illustrates, Black people living in Virginia in the 1890s faced serious institutional and societal restrictions on their civil rights. In 1883, the US Supreme Court had declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875, a Reconstruction-era law intended to provide Black people with equal access to public accommodations, unconstitutional and asserted that the Fourteenth Amendment prohibited states but

³ J. Stanley Lemons and Diane Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," *New England Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (2003): 413–38.

⁴ The Norfolk Mission College closed in 1916, and the building became Booker T. Washington High School, which had an all-Black student population. The building was demolished in 1955 for the construction of the current Blyden Branch of the Norfolk (VA) Public Library system. "Blyden Branch Library," Norfolk, VA, <https://norfolk.gov/facilities/details/Blyden-Branch-Library-120>; Alexander Fella, "Norfolk: A History of Segregation," The Urban Renewal Center, March 2020, <https://theurnorfolk.com/norfolk-history-segregation-timeline>; Armistead Scott Pride, *A History of the Black Press* (Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1997), 127.

⁵ *Tidewater Republican*, "The Election," 9 November 1889, 2. Box 45, John Carter Minkins Papers, Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections.

⁶ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 414–416.

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not private citizens from discriminating on the basis of race. In 1896, the same court issued the *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that “separate but equal” facilities satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment equal protection guarantees. Both cases effectively sanctioned the Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation throughout the South and influenced the treatment of African Americans across the country. Between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and World War I, white people enacted numerous state and local laws to limit Black freedoms.⁷ Minkins was particularly affected by the January 1891 defeat of a bill that would have required federal election officials to protect Black voters. As he later wrote, it dashed his “hopes of reestablishing Negro suffrage in the South” and prompted him to move North, where explicit segregation was less prevalent and opportunities for economic advancement were greater.⁸

In June 1891, Minkins moved to Providence, Rhode Island, to manage a weekly Black newspaper, the *New England Torchlight* (7 College Street, Providence; not extant) (Figure 5),⁹ and boarded at 125 Cushing Street (not extant), in the heart of a largely African American community in the College Hill neighborhood.¹⁰ He was, according to his obituary in the *Providence Journal*, “the first Negro to enter the newspaper business” in the entire state of Rhode Island.¹¹

The community in Norfolk celebrated Minkins’ success. In a letter dated July 12, 1891, which opens with the salutation, “Dear Friend,” John Gibson wrote, “Since the people here have heard of your appointment to a lucrative position on a New England paper, they all at once knew that you would do well.... So you may rest assured that you are now an ideal young man and your gain has been Norfolk’s lost [sic].” Gibson expressed his personal pleasure at learning of Minkins’ relocation to Rhode Island, noting:

...you have been so fortunate as to find employment suited to your ability as a journalist and society congenial to your fancy. I imagine that you feel as though the 13th amendment to the Constitution has just been adopted since your arrival at your new home where the color of one’s skin, if it happens to be dark, is not a complete barrier to the full engagement of his rights as an American citizen.¹²

Minkins was part of a wave of Black people moving north following emancipation; this number grew steadily, particularly to heavily industrialized cities. Rhode Island’s Black population increased from 3,952

⁷ Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS), *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island: A Narrative Summary of People, Places & Events* (Typed manuscript, on file Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI, 2018).

⁸ Diane Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: The First African-American Editor for a White Newspaper” (Thesis, Rhode Island College, 1995), 9–10; John Carter Minkins, “There Were Giants in Those Days,” *Rhode Island Free Press*, December 8, 1944, 1.

⁹ Minkins had begun working with the *New England Torchlight* prior to moving to Providence; the John Carter Minkins Papers at the University of Rhode Island include a letter, dated February 26, 1891, from the paper’s editor to Minkins, at his Norfolk address, requesting the “continuation of your articles to the Torchlight.” Joseph W. Henderson to John Carter Minkins, 26 February 1891, Box 12, Folder 131, John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections.

¹⁰ *Providence Journal*, “Mr. and Mrs. John C. Minkins Hold Golden Anniversary Celebration,” July 3, 1944; Lemons and Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman,” 41; Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson, *College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)* (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, on file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI, 2018).

¹¹ *Providence Journal*, “John C. Minkins, 90, Dies, Veteran Negro Newsman,” October 30, 1959, 22.

¹² John Gibson to John Carter Minkins, 12 July 1891, Box 12, Folder 125, John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections.

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in 1860 to 9,092 by 1900.¹³ Providence's more than doubled between 1860 and 1875 (1,537 to 3,487) and reached 4,045 in 1895, although Black people still represented only 2% of the city's total population in 1900.¹⁴ About 30 newspapers operated in the city at the time, including two published by and for Black people: the *New England Torchlight* and *The Sun*.¹⁵ Minkins left the *Torchlight* after only three months to become a reporter at the *Providence News* (7 Weybosset Street, Providence; not extant), a newly established white-owned daily Republican paper. At the same time, he wrote a weekly column published across the country that largely focused on politics. His series of columns comparing the 1856 and 1892 elections were syndicated by the Republican National Committee, garnering Minkins nationwide notice.¹⁶

Like many Black voters in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Minkins supported the national Republican Party as the party of Lincoln and emancipation. However, he worked for publications on both sides of the political spectrum throughout his career and called both Democrats and Republicans friends. In late 1892, Minkins took a position with the larger *Providence Evening and Sunday Telegram* (2 Weybosset Street, Providence; not extant), which was the principal Democratic rival of the city's other main newspaper, the Republican *Providence Journal*. At the *Telegram*, Minkins worked as suburban editor, telegraph editor, news editor, and Sunday editor. He cemented his place in the newspaper industry as the only reporter of color covering the sensational Lizzie Borden murder trial in nearby Fall River, Massachusetts.¹⁷ While other reporters published increasingly salacious rumors about the case, Minkins attempted to stick to the facts. He also criticized other reporters, such as a *Boston Globe* reporter who purchased the testimony of a private investigator who had fabricated eyewitness accounts of the murders.¹⁸

Minkins returned to Norfolk, Virginia, in 1894 to marry Rosa Lerisa Jessup (1871–1945), a former classmate at the Norfolk Mission College who was working as a public-school teacher. Shortly after their wedding, the couple moved to Providence and rented a house at 136 Cushing Street (not extant). In addition to his job at the *Telegram*, Minkins worked as a correspondent for Hearst newspapers and wrote articles for the *New York Herald*, *New York Press*, and Joseph Pulitzer's *World*, as well as editorial letters for a variety of newspapers including the *New York Mail and Express*. This additional work – which Minkins was doing as early as 1892, when the Managing Editor of the *New York Mail and Express* wrote to tell him, “Your story on outrages in the South will be used in the course of a few days”¹⁹ – would have expanded Minkins' reach considerably, as New York newspapers boasted large circulation numbers; the *World*, for example, at one point claimed to reach 600,000 readers, making it the most widely circulated paper in the country. In 1898, Minkins became the managing editor of the *Telegram*, which was at the time the largest circulated newspaper in Rhode Island, with 36,735 readers. Newspapers around the country reported on his position as “a colored man” in a leading role at a white newspaper.²⁰

¹³ Irving H. Bartlett, *From Slave to Citizen: The Story of the Negro in Rhode Island* (Providence, RI: Urban League of Rhode Island, 1974), 9.

¹⁴ Grover and Larson, *College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)*.

¹⁵ James T. Haley, *Afro-American Encyclopaedia* (Nashville, TN: Haley & Florida, 1895), electronic edition, UNC at Chapel Hill, Documenting the American South.

¹⁶ *The Providence Almanac and Business Directory* (Providence, RI: Sampson, Murdock, & Co., 1891); Lemons and Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman,” 417–418.

¹⁷ Scott MacKay and Jody McPhillips, “The Rhode Island Century,” *Providence Journal*, May 23, 1999.

¹⁸ Lemons and Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman,” 419.

¹⁹ *New York Mail and Express* to John Carter Minkins, 2 May 1892, Box 1, Folder 10, John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections.

²⁰ *Iowa State Bystander*, “Untitled,” September 23, 1898; *The Newsman*, “It Is a ‘Korker,’” VIII, no. 11, November 1891, 7; *American Newspaper Directory*, 1900 (New York); Seymour Topping, “Biography of Joseph Pulitzer,” <https://www.pulitzer.org/page/biography-joseph-pulitzer>.

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Photographs and newspaper articles suggest that Minkins was relatively fair skinned, which at the time may have given him some advantages over other Black men and potentially helped him gain success in the newspaper industry.²¹ While white people in the North did not enshrine Jim Crow policies into their laws as in the South, they did adopt many segregationist practices. In general, Black Rhode Islanders found limited employment opportunities despite the region's overall economic growth. Excluded from the state's largest industry, which was manufacturing, most Black men in Providence worked as janitors, barbers, teamsters, delivery drivers for companies and residents, porters in stores and hotels, cooks and waiters for catering companies, laborers on commercial vessels, or stevedores and longshoremen on the wharves and dockside warehouses.²²

Minkins proudly used his voice in the press to advocate for Black Americans. In his letters, he protested discrimination against Black people and called for fair and equal treatment under the law. He backed up his assertions with data such as the number of Black people who were lynched in the American South in a given year, noting "How long would any other race in this country submit to such foul and deadly proscription?"²³ Minkins also encouraged the growth of Black newspapers in the United States, writing in 1898 to the editor of the fledgling Baltimore *Ledger*, "The white newspapers as a class ... are not disposed to give the Negro that measure of recognition which he is entitled to as a citizen and a man."²⁴

Minkins resigned his position with the *Telegram* in December 1899, although he remained close friends with the paper's editor-in-chief Frank E. Fitzsimmons, and began working for the *Pawtucket Times*, a daily Republican newspaper with a circulation of more than 12,500, in January 1900.²⁵ (The *Pawtucket Times* building, constructed in 1895, still stands at 23 Exchange Street in Pawtucket and was listed in the National Register in 1983.) As a copy editor and desk writer at the *Times*, his yearly salary was approximately \$1,200, roughly equivalent to \$45,000 today and on par with the salaries of doctors and lawyers at the time. He augmented his salary by continuing to write for Hearst- and Pulitzer-owned newspapers and producing a weekly column for the *Boston Globe*.²⁶ Minkins later estimated that this "side writing...brought him in well over \$100 a week, sometimes as high as \$175" and was "what enabled him...to buy his own home."²⁷

Minkins purchased the home, a newly constructed, two-story, wood-frame dwelling, in 1900, soon after his move to the *Pawtucket Times*. Located in southwest Pawtucket, in a neighborhood that would come to be known as South Woodlawn, the property initially had an address of 141 Glenwood Avenue (the house

²¹ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 425.

²² Edward K. Hooks, *The Formation of the NAACP, Providence Branch* (Providence, RI: Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, 2013), 4; Grover and Larson, *College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)*; Andrew J. Bell Jr., *An Assessment of Life in Rhode Island as an African American in the Era from 1918 to 1993* (New York: Vantage Press, 1997), 6; Richard Youngken, *African Americans in Newport: An Introduction to the Heritage of African Americans in Newport, Rhode Island, 1700–1945* (Newport, RI: The Newport Historical Society, second printing, 1998), 28.

²³ *Northern Christian Advocate*, "Untitled," May 11, 1892.

²⁴ *The Ledger* (Baltimore), "An Encouraging Word," August 13, 1898.

²⁵ *American Newspaper Directory*, New York, 1900; Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: The First African-American Editor for a White Newspaper," 12, 17.

²⁶ Minkins remained a Hearst correspondent for 20 years and wrote the weekly column for the *Boston Globe* from 1906 to at least 1942. Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 420.

²⁷ *Pawtucket Times*, "Minkins, at 85, Still Whips out 'Copy'," November 17, 1954.

²⁷ Lee F. Rodgers, "Colored News Notes," *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch and Portsmouth Star*, February 2, 1956.

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number changed to 345 sometime before 1920).²⁸ While Minkins worked at the *Times* and provided copy for other papers, presumably from his home office/library, Rosa stayed at home with their growing family. The couple's first child, Miriam Rebecca (1895–1896), did not live past infancy, but by the time they moved to Glenwood Avenue they had two more daughters: Imogene Louise (1897–1979) and Rosa Jessup (1899–1991). On December 10, 1900, Minkins wrote to an old friend:

We are still alive and well, busily engaged, also, in the home-making industry, with two splendid children in the flesh to bear witness to the success of our efforts and a third, the first, in the spirit.... I am...correspondent of a number of out-of-town newspapers, such as the N.Y. Journal, Philadelphia Times, Washington Post, Chicago American, etc. We are located very comfortably in a nice little Queen Anne cottage I have purchased just over the Providence line in the city of Pawtucket, from which I can reach the office within fifteen minutes by electrics, three lines being within two minutes walk of our home and one within 160 feet.²⁹

For much of the nineteenth century, the area surrounding the Minkinses new home had been open farmland in the town of North Providence. A portion of the Adam Anthony farm along the Pawtucket Turnpike (now Pawtucket Avenue) from the border with Pawtucket (now Sayles Avenue) south to Pidge Avenue had been platted for residential development in 1854 but remained unbuilt until the end of the nineteenth century (Figures 6 and 7).³⁰ In 1874, the Town of Pawtucket annexed most of eastern North Providence, including the undeveloped Anthony Farm plat. Several houses were constructed at the south end of the plat by 1880, and by 1895 houses existed on both sides of Carver and Lincoln streets and on the south side of Glenwood Avenue (Figures 8 and 9).³¹ Real estate broker Charles L. Hazard of East Providence purchased multiple lots on the north side of Glenwood Avenue in 1899 and developed them with single-family, wood-frame houses over the next few years. John and Rosa Minkins paid Hazard \$10 and obtained a mortgage for \$1,800 for the house on Lot 87 (345 Glenwood Avenue). John Minkins also purchased a 5-ft-wide strip of land on the abutting lot to the west (Lot 88) from Verona S. Johnson of Providence, presumably to facilitate access to the house's west-facing entrance (and possibly to the street north of Glenwood Avenue, as discussed below).³²

By 1902, the lots on both sides of Glenwood Avenue contained one-and-one-half or two-story houses (Figure 10). Development progressed slowly, however, with houses on both sides of nearby Trenton Street by 1923 and only a few houses on the south side of Dartmouth Street by 1949.³³ The Glenwood Avenue

²⁸ Sanborn Map Company, "Insurance Maps of Pawtucket, Rhode Island" (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1902); United States Bureau of the Census (US Census), *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1920).

²⁹ John Carter Minkins to W.W. Grove, 10 December 1900, Box 12, Folder 129, John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections.

³⁰ Glenwood Avenue appears as Bowdoin Street on the original 1854 plat map and an 1880 map of the area. H. F. Walling, *Plan of Villa Sites on the Pawtucket Turnpike being a Portion of the Adam Anthony Farm* (Plat Card 34 on file, Records of Land Evidence, City Clerk's Office, Pawtucket City Hall, June 1854); D. G. Beers, *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations* (Philadelphia, PA: D. G. Beers & Co., 1870); G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of the Town of Pawtucket, R.I.* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1880).

³¹ Hopkins, *Atlas of the Town of Pawtucket, R.I.*; Everts & Richards, *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, Rhode Island* (Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Richards, 1895).

³² Records of Land Evidence, City Clerk's Office, Pawtucket City Hall, Book 84, Pages 272 and 501; Book 85, Pages 27, 461, and 475; Book 74, Page 429; Book 92, Page 56.

³³ Sanborn Map Company, "Insurance Maps of Pawtucket, Rhode Island" (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1923, 1949).

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area during this period was part of an all-white neighborhood in a virtually all-white city; Black people comprised only .005 percent of Pawtucket's population in 1900 and reached about .025 percent by 1950.³⁴ The street's other residents included a mix of renters and owners with working-class and professional jobs, many of whom stayed in their homes for years. For example, the house to the east of the Minkins family at 329 Glenwood Avenue belonged to white drugstore owner Willard Wood from its construction in 1899 through 1929. Frederick A. Bennett, a white street railway conductor, owned the house to the west at 353-355 Glenwood Avenue from at least 1910 to 1930 and rented part of it to his daughter and son-in-law.³⁵

The Minkins family actively immersed themselves in their new community. John and Rosa had five more daughters — Georgiana Firman (1901–1965), Mary Evelyn Thelma (1903–1919), Hope Virginia (1906–1911), Carolyn Angela (1910–2006), and Beatrice Carter (1913–2014) — two of whom (Mary and Hope) died before reaching adulthood. The family belonged to the Episcopal Church of the Advent (built 1884) at the northeast corner of Pawtucket Avenue and Trenton Street, one block over from their house. John did not attend church regularly, but Rosa belonged to the Altar Guild and took their daughters to church with her every Sunday.³⁶ The concrete walkway along the west edge of the Minkins property (see Photo 4) extends to the rear property line and may have continued across the lots to the north as a shortcut to the church. John and Rosa were charter members of the South Woodlawn Improvement Society and its Women's Auxiliary, which formed in 1904 to address the beautification and material improvements of the neighborhood and existed through at least the 1940s.³⁷ Minkins included a regular feature, "South Woodlawn News," in the *Rhode Island Examiner*, which he owned and published from 1911-1914 (discussed below).

In 1904, Bristol, Rhode Island, manufacturer Samuel P. Colt, Senator Nelson Aldrich, and businessman Marsden Perry purchased the *Pawtucket Times*, which by that time had an average circulation of 16,350, and turned it into a political mouthpiece in support of Colt's unsuccessful run for Rhode Island governor as a Republican. Minkins refused to work for them because of their involvement in crushing a 1902 streetcar strike in Providence and immediately resigned. He returned to the *Providence Evening and Sunday Telegram* as a news and Sunday editor but left that paper after the same trio of men acquired it in 1906.³⁸

In July 1906, Minkins became editor-in-chief of the *Providence News-Democrat* (formerly the *Providence News*), which was owned by former Rhode Island governor D. Russell Brown and had a circulation of about 4,000.³⁹ (The *Providence News-Democrat* offices were located in a building at the corner of Washington and Mathewson streets in Providence, which had a dual address of 105-109 Mathewson Street & 120-128

³⁴ Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: The First African-American Editor for a White Newspaper," 15; US Census, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1950).

³⁵ US Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900); US Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1910); US Census, *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*; US Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930); Rhode Island State Census (RI Census), 1915, 1925 (Ancestry.com).

³⁶ Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: The First African-American Editor for a White Newspaper," 47.

³⁷ *Evening Times* (Pawtucket), "South Woodlawn Improvement Society is Booming that District of the City," October 14, 1904, 9; John Carter Minkins Papers, Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections; Barbara Zdravesky, personal communication with authors, October 21, 2024.

³⁸ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 420–421; *American Newspaper Directory* (New York, 1906).

³⁹ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 413; *American Newspaper Directory* (New York, 1909).

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Washington Street. Originally constructed in 1896, the building was altered and expanded in the 1930s. It still stands and was listed in the National Register in 1984 as part of the Downtown Providence Historic District.) Booker T. Washington (1856–1915), leader of the historically Black Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, wrote to Minkins the following year to recognize his achievement:

My dear Sir: Your letter of some days ago, which I am just getting opportunity to acknowledge, conveys rather surprising information which I am very glad to have. So far as I am informed you are the only colored man in the country holding the managing editorship of a white daily, and this is recognition which is in a high degree encouraging. I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at some time when I am in the North.⁴⁰

Minkins retained this distinction for at least twenty years; his entry in the 1927 edition of *Who's Who in Colored America* noted, "He is said to be the only man of known Negro extraction who has ever been editor-in-chief of a white daily newspaper in this country."⁴¹

Minkins made numerous changes to the *Providence News-Democrat*, including replacing a cartoon that sometimes featured racist stereotypes with a daily women's feature. He reported on the struggle of Black people against the state Republican party and printed articles about Southern lynchings, escapes from lynch mobs, and other issues pertinent to the Black community (Figure 11). When Minkins started at the *News-Democrat*, no other Providence-based newspapers covered these topics.⁴² This was no doubt in part because Black journalists remained rare, not just in Rhode Island but nationally. Lester Walton (1882-1965), who in 1902 became the first African American to write for a daily St. Louis newspaper, sent an admiring letter to Minkins in 1909, writing:

There was a time when I thought I was the most practical colored newspaper man in the business, having been six years on the local staff of one of the big St. Louis dailies, alternating as court reporter and general assignment man. However, I have changed my high opinion of myself and will turn over all honors to you. It certainly makes me feel proud to learn of a colored man being at the head of a white daily.⁴³

In 1909, the *Providence News-Democrat* was renamed the *Providence Evening News*. In 1911, Brown attempted to sell the newspaper, prompting Minkins to move to the *Providence Evening Tribune* (2 Weybossett Street, Providence; not extant). That same year, Minkins also purchased a small weekly newspaper called the *Rhode Island Examiner*, which had been launched in Providence in 1911 as a publication "devoted to the interests of the Democratic party."⁴⁴ The offices of the *Rhode Island Examiner* were located in a building on College Street, between Benefit and South Main streets, which does not survive. (The block is now occupied by the Providence County Courthouse [1924-33].) Interestingly, the

⁴⁰ Booker T. Washington to John C. Minkins, 2 November 1907, Ms.2014.021, University Archives, John Hay Library, Brown University. Accessed at <https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RPB-ms2014.021&view=scope>.

⁴¹ Joseph J. Boris, ed., *Who's Who in Colored America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Persons of Negro Descent in America* (New York: Who's Who in Colored America Corp., 1927), 140–143.

⁴² Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 422–423. Later in 1906, Fillmore R. Purnell began publishing a Black newspaper called *The Advance* in Providence that added to the race-related press available in the city. N. W. Ayer & Son, *American Newspaper Annual & Directory: A Catalogue of American Newspapers* (Philadelphia, PA: N. W. Ayer & Son, 1918), 894.

⁴³ Lester Walton to John Carter Minkins, 5 November 1909, Box 14, Folder 170, John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections

⁴⁴ *Printing Trade News*, "New Papers Established," December 5, 1911, 37.

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paper's masthead included the College Street address as well as an address for a "Branch Office" at 141 Glenwood Avenue, Pawtucket – the John Carter Minkins House (Figure 12). This suggests that business related to the publication of the *Examiner* was at times conducted from Minkins' residence.

As the paper's owner and editor, Minkins promoted causes important to him in its pages. During its three years of operation, the *Examiner* regularly featured front-page articles about African Americans and relevant issues such as segregation, discrimination, and the disproportionate number of Black youth being sent to jail, among other topics that were rarely covered in mainstream white newspapers.⁴⁵ In 1912, Minkins had the distinction of being the only newspaper reporter to travel with presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson, then-governor of New Jersey, from Providence to Westerly, Rhode Island. Despite Minkins' best efforts, Wilson refused to discuss politics, though he did talk about race. According to Minkins' daughter Beatrice, Wilson questioned why Minkins chose to embrace his Black ancestry when he ostensibly could pass for white, and Minkins replied that he was proud of his African heritage.⁴⁶

Minkins' advocacy for Black causes was perhaps most evident in his work as a reporter and editor, but was not limited to that sphere. He was a frequent lecturer on matters of race, as evidenced by the drafts of speeches and invitations from political clubs and educational organizations saved among his personal papers.⁴⁷ In 1910, Minkins refuted Black stereotypes in a speech at St. Stephen's Church in Providence and gave an address titled "Miscegenation and the Fight for Race Purity" to the Boston Literary and Historical Association. A 1917 lecture was titled "Colorphobia, the Negro and the Nation."⁴⁸ His 1909 speech, "Negro Progress Since Emancipation," delivered at the Union Lyceum in New Bedford, Massachusetts and the Bethel Lyceum in Providence, was published as a small pamphlet.⁴⁹ In a speech written around 1944, Minkins explained that his goal was to bring about "the speedy suppression, if not the annihilation of racial prejudice and intolerance."⁵⁰

To that end, Minkins belonged to the network of organizations that formed at the turn of the twentieth century to promote Black equality and civil rights.⁵¹ In 1913, he helped to form the Providence chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), one of the most influential civil rights organizations in the state and one of the earliest local chapters, and served as chair of the chapter's Executive Committee. As Minkins reported in the *Examiner*, the group intended to "start a statewide movement to fight any discrimination on purely racial grounds against citizens in public places of amusement, entertainment, restaurants, theatres, and by public utilities."⁵² Although the Rhode Island General Assembly had responded to *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896 by passing an Equal Rights Law guaranteeing "full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of any place of public

⁴⁵ MacKay and McPhillips, "The Rhode Island Century;" Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman."

⁴⁶ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 425.

⁴⁷ See, for example, Box 13, Folder 158; Box 14, Folder 162; and Box 16, Folder 203 of the John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections.

⁴⁸ *Providence Daily Journal*, "Tells of Negroes' Progress," January 7, 1910; "Miscegenation and the Fight for Race Purity," Box 16, Folder 203, John Carter Minkins Papers Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections; Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 435.

⁴⁹ John C. Minkins, "Negro Progress Since Emancipation: Address by John C. Minkins Before the Union Lyceum, at New Bedford, Mass. and Bethel Lyceum, Providence" (Providence, RI: Calder Print, [1909]), 21-22.

⁵⁰ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 435.

⁵¹ Thomas J. Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North* (New York: Random House, 2008), xxvii.

⁵² *Rhode Island Examiner*, quoted in Hooks, *The Formation of the NAACP*, 8.

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accommodation, resort or amusement,” many restaurants, hotels, and recreational facilities throughout the state, including community centers run by the YMCA/YWCA, remained largely segregated in the early twentieth century.⁵³ In his role at the NAACP, Minkins worked alongside other members of the Providence chapter’s first executive committee including dentist Dr. Andrew L. Jackson (1885–1956); William Heathman (1872–1968), likely the first Black lawyer to appear before the Rhode Island Supreme Court; and realtor William Page Hyde Freeman (1875–1971).⁵⁴

In 1914, Minkins used his platform at the *Examiner* to pressure the Providence YMCA to allow Black people to use its newly opened facility. The directors of the YMCA had solicited funds from people of all races for a new building but then would not allow Black members to renew their memberships and refused to accept new Black members (Figure 13). After the *Examiner* first reported on the exclusionary practices, the board of the Providence YMCA held a special meeting and ultimately voted to reverse its position. The *Examiner* was the sole Rhode Island newspaper to provide front-page coverage of the story. The *Tribune* did not mention it, and the *Providence Journal* printed only two paragraphs on Page 7 nine days after the *Examiner*’s first article and reported on the final decision on Page 16. The *Examiner* also pointed out the failure of these other papers to report on an October 1914 speech on Black civil rights given by the *New York Evening Post* editor (and founding member of the national NAACP) Oswald Garrison Villard (1872–1949) to a Providence NAACP meeting at the First Baptist Church.⁵⁵ Despite its important role in highlighting issues of significance to Rhode Island’s Black community, the *Examiner* did not prove to be a profitable venture for Minkins and folded at the end of 1914.⁵⁶

For the next fourteen years, Minkins continued to work for the *Providence Evening Tribune*, commuting by bus to the newspaper’s downtown Providence office, and also as a correspondent for other newspapers, writing in his home office/library in the evenings.⁵⁷ His June 1917 article for the *New York World* in response to the question of whether Black men would fight in World War I was republished across the country. Noting that Black soldiers had fought in every American war, including the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Spanish American War, Minkins wrote:

Crowded out of the militia, land and naval; denied the training necessary to officer from West Point or Annapolis ... refused the protection at home of the flag for which so much respect is claimed abroad, barred very largely from the political rights guaranteed him by the constitution of the nation he helped to create and to preserve ... the Negro has remained unswervingly loyal, steadfast in patriotism and absolutely reliable in every national crisis. Give him the same chance in peace you gladly yield him in war and he will demonstrate the same high type of worth in civil life that he has always shown in the battlefield.⁵⁸

⁵³ RIBHS, *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island*, 7; Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty*, 6–8.

⁵⁴ Hooks, *The Formation of the NAACP*, 8–9; Frank Lincoln Mather, ed., *Who’s Who of the Colored Race*, 1915, http://genealogytrails.com/ri/bios_whoswho.html.

⁵⁵ Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: The First African-American Editor for a White Newspaper,” 33–37.

⁵⁶ The John Carter Minkins Papers at the University of Rhode Island include correspondence about delayed rent payments in 1915 for the paper’s offices at 19 College Street in Providence and letters from the US Postmaster in 1916 about the suspension of publication rights after his failure to update the ownership paperwork.

⁵⁷ The *Providence Evening Tribune* merged with the *Providence News* in 1929 and became the *Providence News Tribune*. The paper was renamed the *Star-Tribune* in 1937 and closed the following year after its acquisition by the *Providence Journal* Company. Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: The First African-American Editor for a White Newspaper,” 46, 72.

⁵⁸ John C. Minkins, “Patient and Patriotic: John C. Minkins Shows Our Loyalty and the Nation’s Shortcomings,” *Wisconsin Weekly Blade*, July 5, 1917 (originally printed in the *New York World*).

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Minkins used the pages of the *Tribune* to publicize discriminatory behavior at Brown University, where four of his daughters received degrees from Pembroke College: Imogene graduated in 1918, Rosa in 1920, Carolyn in 1932, and Beatrice in 1936. They were among the first Black women to attend the school and were often the only Black students in their class. Carolyn was not assigned a mentee (or “sister”) in her senior year because there were no Black first-year students. The girls all lived at home while in school, partly to save money but also because Pembroke did not allow Black students to live in the dormitories for most of the period in which the Minkins sisters attended. Imogene was excluded from her junior-senior ball in 1918 because of her race. When the same thing happened to Rosa the following year, Minkins wrote in the *Tribune*: “My daughters were born and reared among socially decent people, and knew by experience no differences based upon race or color, until they came under the refining influence of Brown.” Ultimately, not enjoying the bad publicity, the dean of women at Pembroke relented and extended an invitation to the dance to Rosa.⁵⁹

Minkins’ advocacy continued to gain widespread recognition. In 1920, Minkins addressed the Baptist Ministers of Rhode Island and argued that racism and the lynching of Black people went against Christian teachings; he also noted that these issues were most prevalent in states where Baptist was the dominant religious faith. Racism was “absolutely indefensible,” said Minkins, “since ‘there is no color in brains.’” He noted that he called out the religious division of lynchings to make it clear to Catholics, who predominated in the North, and Protestants, predominant in the South, that they needed to come together to address the welfare of Black people in the United States.⁶⁰

Black voter turnout was low in most Rhode Island elections through the 1920s, and many Black residents began to be disillusioned with the lack of tangible Republican support for equal rights issues. Minkins served as president of the Colored Citizens Republican Association of Rhode Island from 1918 to at least 1927 and tried to advocate for Black voters to stick with the party even as others argued that the Republicans had deserted them. The GOP, which dominated in Rhode Island, was considered nativist and anti-reform, whereas the state’s Democratic organization was viewed as more welcoming and progressive. Minkins was pragmatic, aligning himself with whichever party seemed at the time most likely to advance Black civil rights. In 1924, Democratic governor William S. Flynn appointed him to the Providence committee for National Defense Day, which included demonstrations of patriotism and military preparedness across the country, and he was elected secretary. Minkins campaigned for the Republican senatorial candidate, Felix Hebert, in 1928 but strongly opposed Hebert’s reelection in 1934 on the grounds that he had not kept his promises to Black voters. Minkins wrote speeches for both Democratic and Republican politicians and remained bipartisan in his professional and social networks. On his 60th birthday, in 1929, Minkins was celebrated at a dinner party thrown by his former boss at the Providence *Evening and Sunday Telegram*, Democrat Frank Fitzsimmons. The party took place at Minkins’ home on Glenwood Avenue and was attended by many of the state’s leading political figures from both parties, including Governor Norman Case.⁶¹

It was during this period that the Minkins family expanded their presence on Glenwood Avenue. Rosa L. Minkins’ widowed father, Landon Jessup (1845–1931), had moved from Norfolk, Virginia, to Rhode Island

⁵⁹ Lemons and Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman,” 422–424, 429–430; Katherine Hinds, “To Be Young, Black, and Female at Brown in the ’20s and ’30s: The Minkins Sisters,” *Brown Alumni Monthly* 82 (April 1982), 23–24, 41.

⁶⁰ *New York Age*, “Drawing Religious Lines in the Matter of Lynchings,” November 20, 1920.

⁶¹ Lemons and Lambert, “John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman,” 432–434; *Pawtucket Times*, “Minkins, at 85, Still Whips out ‘Copy’,” November 17, 1954.

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to live with the Minkins family by 1922 and remained there until his death.⁶² In 1929, Rosa and Landon purchased the neighboring house at 329 Glenwood Avenue (Lot 85) and its associated garage on Lot 86, subject to a \$4,528 mortgage, via a series of real estate transactions.⁶³ (The house at 329 Glenwood still stands, but is outside the boundary of this nomination. The garage is no longer extant.) Black homeownership was unusual at the time, due to discrimination by developers and realtors as well as redlining practices: banks and insurance companies declared particular predominantly Black neighborhoods too risky to issue mortgages or loans for housing repairs. Landon Jessup may have helped arrange and finance the purchase of 329 Glenwood Avenue as a secondary source of income for his daughter's family. Bartholomew Griffin, a white waiter, rented the house with his wife and eight children in 1930. After Jessup's death in 1931, the deed to the property was transferred to John and Rosa Minkins, and the Minkins family continued to rent out the house for over 20 years. James Black, a white machinist, and his family rented it by 1940 and remained there through 1950.⁶⁴

John Minkins nominally retired when the Providence Journal Company acquired and closed the *Tribune* in 1938, but he remained active in the newspaper profession and continued to use his platform to advocate for equal rights. He provided a weekly column to the *Boston Globe*, which he had been doing since 1906 (his 5 October 1952 article was titled, "Columbus Had a Negro Pilot on His First Voyage to the New World")⁶⁵, and he became a regular contributor to the *Rhode Island Free Press* (office location unknown), a Democratic weekly published from 1940 to 1946. Minkins' weekly essay focused on notable figures he had met throughout his newspaper career. Minkins also contributed a monthly column to the *Washington Eagle*, which was the official publication of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOE), a national organization for Black Elks clubs.⁶⁶ Minkins had been elected state president of the IBPOE in 1935 and served as district deputy and president of the organization's New England Association from 1940 to 1955. The growth of Black fraternal groups like the IBPOE in the 1930s and 1940s contributed to increased Black political involvement and activism and provided the Black community with forums for political debate. These groups generally operated apart from the white community and remained segregated from comparable white fraternal orders, although there were exceptions.⁶⁷ An April 1945 article in the *Providence Evening Bulletin* quoted Minkins' announcement on behalf of Dr. J. Finley Wilson, the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, that a group of Elks and Grand Temple (the women's auxiliary of the Elks) members were planning to go to San Francisco to protest the United Nations Conference on International Organization (also called the San Francisco Conference) on behalf of underprivileged Black people. Minkins stated that the Elks wanted to know about "segregation, jim-crowism, lynching, disenfranchisement, economic discrimination, inadequate school facilities, and lower pay for [Black] public school teachers."⁶⁸

⁶² *The Pawtucket and Central Falls Rhode Island Directory*, 1922 (Pawtucket Public Library Digital Archives, <https://pawtucket.advantage-preservation.com>); RI Census, 1925 (Ancestry.com, 2013).

⁶³ Records of Land Evidence, City Clerk's Office, Pawtucket City Hall, Book 299, Pages 412 and 416; Book 301, Pages 62–63.

⁶⁴ Records of Land Evidence, City Clerk's Office, Pawtucket City Hall, Book 315, Pages 35–36; US Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*; US Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940* (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940); US Census, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950*.

⁶⁵ John C. Minkins, "Columbus Had a Negro Pilot on His First Voyage to the New World," *Boston Globe*, 5 October 1952, 72.

⁶⁶ "Mr. and Mrs. John C. Minkins Hold Golden Anniversary Celebration." The Elks did not allow Black members until 1972.

⁶⁷ Youngken, *African Americans in Newport*, 36–37; Grover and Larson, *College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)*, 12.

⁶⁸ *Evening Bulletin*, "May Picket Conference," April 23, 1945.

John Carter Minkins House

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On December 23, 1945, Rosa L. Minkins died at home after a brief illness. The Acting Mayor of Pawtucket Lawrence A. McCarthy and State Senator Ambrose P. McCoy, among many other city officials, attended her funeral at the Church of the Advent on December 27. The following year, John conveyed the 329 Glenwood Avenue property to his five daughters, two of whom (Imogene and Carolyn) had married by that time. After serving as an officer in the Women's Army Air Corps during World War II, Carolyn Minkins moved to San Francisco, California, with her husband, Silas Stanley (1909–1983). The 1950 federal census records John Minkins living in the house at 345 Glenwood Avenue with daughters Rosa, Georgiana, and Beatrice, as well as Imogene and her husband, Navy Lieutenant Russell A. Clark (1903–1987). The house next door at 329 Glenwood Avenue still had tenants, but Imogene and her husband had moved into it by 1955. The extant garage was likely built about that time.⁶⁹ Located between 345 and 329 Glenwood Avenue, and with two bays, the garage may have been shared by the two households. Other evidence – remnants of a paved path running along the east property line, and the presence of a lilac bush that arches over that eastern border – also suggest that the two properties were, to some extent, used in common.

Minkins continued to write and give speeches on Black issues through the 1940s and 1950s. He represented Rhode Island in Philadelphia during National Freedom Day in 1946, which celebrated the ratification of the 13th amendment outlawing slavery, and in 1951 gave the address at the Emancipation Day festivities held at Crescent Park in the city of East Providence.⁷⁰ Minkins' speech on uplifting the Black race in the United States was heard by an estimated 15,000 people from across the country who came to Crescent Park for the celebration. His speech discussed advancements made by Black people in civil liberties, medicine, health programs, and education. At the time, the 81-year-old Minkins was reportedly the oldest Black newspaper reporter in the country.⁷¹ When Minkins traveled to Portsmouth, Virginia, for an impromptu gathering of Norfolk Mission College alumni in 1956, newspaper coverage lauded him as "Sage Minkins" and listed his accomplishments and affiliations, including his association with the Elks, for which he was the Past Grand Exalted Ruler, and his newspaper publishing history. The articles noted that he was believed to have held more editorial positions at white-owned newspapers than any other Black man.⁷²

The *Pawtucket Times*, where Minkins had worked from 1900-1904, ran a profile of him in 1954. According to the article, he kept a rigorous schedule:

At 85, John Carter Minkins, one of Rhode Island's oldest newspapermen, still keeps a sharp eye on the news and his hands close to the typewriter keyboard. And if you're up and around his home at 345 Glenwood avenue [sic] at 3 or 4 a.m. you may well hear him pounding out a story, or notes for a story, or ideas for a letter to the editor. Later in the day, if you peek in his library window, you may see him reading Latin or philosophy or dipping into a book of English literature.

⁶⁹ *Providence Journal*, "Rosa L. Minkins Dies in 75th Year," December 24, 1945, 16; *Providence Journal*, "City Officials Go to Minkins' Rites," December 28, 1945, 2; Records of Land Evidence, City Clerk's Office, Pawtucket City Hall, Book 396, Page 96; US Census, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950*; R. L. Polk Co., *Polk's Pawtucket and Central Falls Directory* (Boston, MA: R. L. Polk Co., 1950–1952, 1955).

⁷⁰ Lemons and Lambert, "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman," 437–438.

⁷¹ *Providence Journal*, "Emancipation Day Marked by 15,000," August 2, 1951. The article incorrectly states that Minkins was 84 years old at the time.

⁷² Lee F. Rodgers, "Colored News Notes," *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch and Portsmouth Star*, February 2, 1956.

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At the time, Minkins was still producing a monthly column for the *Washington Eagle* of the IBPOE.⁷³ The *Pawtucket Times* returned to interview Minkins five years later, calling him “A champion of causes all his life, he still takes to the stump at 90. Last week he spoke before a women’s group in Providence. A Negro newspaper, the *Washington Eagle*, prints his articles which he types out on a typewriter in his book-filled study.”⁷⁴ In the 1954 article, Minkins reflected on his career, “In 63 years of journalism, I ran the gamut, everything from penny ad solicitor and space reporter up to editor-in-chief.”⁷⁵ In the 1959 piece, he offered that the key to longevity was “keeping busy – reading and reflecting. You can’t let atrophy set in... You can’t ever retire. If you do, you dry up and blow away.”⁷⁶ That spring, the Rhode Island General Assembly adopted “a resolution of good wishes to John Carter Minkins...on reaching his 90th birthday.”⁷⁷

John Carter Minkins died on October 29, 1959, at Roger Williams General Hospital (now Roger Williams Medical Center) in Providence after a short illness and was buried next to his wife in the North Burial Ground in Providence. The Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, Harry Curvin, attended the funeral at the Church of the Advent on November 2, 1959. Minkins’ lengthy obituary, published in the *Providence Journal* with a photograph, provided a brief biography before an extensive list of his accomplishments and associations.⁷⁸ Newspapers around the country, including the *Atlanta Constitution* and *Jackson (Mississippi) Advocate* also ran notices of his death. The obituary in the *Boston Globe* referred to Minkins as “dean of Rhode Island newspaper men.”⁷⁹

Before his death, Minkins had transferred his house at 345 Glenwood Avenue and possessions to his daughters. Rosa, Beatrice, and Georgiana continued to live at 345 Glenwood Avenue until their respective deaths.⁸⁰ Rosa J. Minkins had become the first Black teacher and librarian at Pawtucket’s West Senior High School in 1940 and remained in that job until 1969. Georgiana Minkins worked at the Sawyer Belt Hook Company in Pawtucket, and Beatrice Minkins worked for the Rhode Island State Labor Bureau. Imogene and Russell Clark operated a tourist camp in New Hampshire for several years after Russell’s retirement from the Navy but resided at 329 Glenwood Avenue until their deaths in 1979 and 1983, respectively. Carolyn returned to Pawtucket in 1996 after her husband’s death and lived there until her death in 2006, when Beatrice Minkins sold the house at 329 Glenwood Avenue. The 345 Glenwood house and adjacent garage remained in the Minkins family until 2014, when Beatrice died at 100 years of age.⁸¹

John Carter Minkins’ trailblazing career in journalism and contributions to the fight for equality have been recognized in scholarly work, including Diane Lambert’s 1995 honors thesis at Rhode Island College and her article, written with Stanley Lemons, “John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman,” published in *New England Quarterly* in 2003. Collections pertaining to

⁷³ *Pawtucket Times*, “Minkins, at 85, Still Whips out ‘Copy’,” November 17, 1954.

⁷⁴ *Pawtucket Times*, “John Minkins -- A Crusader at 90.” 29 January 1959.

⁷⁵ *Pawtucket Times*, “Minkins, at 85, Still Whips out ‘Copy’,” November 17, 1954.

⁷⁶ *Pawtucket Times*, “John Minkins -- A Crusader at 90.” 29 January 1959.

⁷⁷ *Pawtucket Times*, “Minkins Honored on 90th Birthday.” 18 April 1959.

⁷⁸ *Providence Journal*, “John C. Minkins, 90, Dies, Veteran Negro Newsman,” October 30, 1959; *Providence Journal*, “John C. Minkins,” November 3, 1959.

⁷⁹ *Atlanta Constitution*, “Newsman, 90, Dies,” October 30, 1959; *Boston Globe*, “John C. Minkins, 90, Veteran Newsman,” October 30, 1959; *Jackson (Mississippi) Advocate*, “Veteran Newsman John Minkins Dead,” December 19, 1959.

⁸⁰ Georgiana married Richard E. Williamson in San Francisco, California, in 1961, but her obituary says she was a lifelong resident of Pawtucket. *Providence Journal*, “Mrs. G. F. Williamson,” July 11, 1965.

⁸¹ “John C. Minkins, 90, Dies, Veteran Negro Newsman”; *Providence Journal*, “Minkins, Beatrice Carter,” January 9, 2014, sec. A; Records of Land Evidence, City Clerk’s Office, Pawtucket City Hall, Book 2707, Page 338; Book 3775, Page 297.

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Minkins' life and work are housed at Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society. Minkins was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2013 and featured prominently in a 2022 exhibit about the African American Press in Rhode Island. In 2024, the City of Pawtucket, where Minkins lived for nearly sixty years, established the John Carter Minkins Community Leader Award to honor his legacy.⁸²

The John Carter Minkins House is the best representation of Minkins' significant contributions to history in the areas of Communications, Social History: Civil Rights, and Ethnic Heritage: Black, over the period of his long career in Rhode Island. First of all, most other places associated with Minkins' significance in Rhode Island do not survive, as shown in the table below.

Location	Dates Associated with Minkins	Extant?
Residence 125 Cushing St., Providence	1891-1894	No
<i>New England Torchlight</i> offices 7 College St., Providence	1891	No
<i>Providence News</i> offices 7 Weybosset St., Providence	1891-1892	No
<i>Evening and Sunday Telegram</i> offices 2 Weybosset St., Providence	1892-1899; 1904-1906	No
Residence 136 Cushing St., Providence	1894-1900	No
<i>Pawtucket Times</i> offices 23 Exchange St., Pawtucket	1900-1904	Yes; built 1895; listed in National Register
<i>Providence News-Democrat</i> offices 105-109 Mathewson St./120-128 Washington St., Providence	1906-1911	Yes; built 1896, altered/expanded 1930s; listed in National Register
<i>Providence Evening Tribune</i> offices 2 Weybosset St., Providence 4 Weybosset St., Providence 50 Weybosset St./11 Pine St., Providence	1911-1938	No
<i>Rhode Island Examiner</i> offices College St.between South Main St. and Benefit St., Providence	1911-1914	No
<i>Rhode Island Free Press</i> offices Pawtucket; exact location unknown	1940-1946	unknown

Secondly, of the two of Minkins' workplaces that are extant, neither alone conveys the full breadth of his career and activism. Finally, his home at 345 Glenwood Avenue in Pawtucket not only served as a residence, but also contained Minkins' home office/library, where he worked for decades as a correspondent for newspapers across the country.

⁸² City of Pawtucket, "City of Pawtucket hosts the Second Annual Black History Month Impact Awards;" Stages of Freedom, "Black Ink on White Paper: The African American Press in Rhode Island, 1857 to 2018" exhibit; *The Valley Breeze*, "Three Honored with Black Impact Awards," March 6, 2024.

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Diane Lambert Collection on John Carter Minkins, MSS-0023, Special Collections, James P. Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.

John Carter Minkins Papers, Mss. Gr. 226, University of Rhode Island, University Archives and Special Collections, South Kingstown, RI.

John Carter Minkins and Joseph LeCount Papers, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society Archives, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.

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Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.18

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 41.860115

Longitude: -71.395955

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary for the John Carter Minkins House conforms to the City of Pawtucket Assessor's parcel 63/0761.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary corresponds to the property that contains the house where John Carter Minkins resided from 1900 until his death in 1959, and the associated, ca. 1955 garage. The garage stands on land that was originally part of the parcel to the east of the Minkins House but came under Minkins family ownership in 1929.

John Carter Minkins House
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura Kline, Sr. Architectural Historian; Gretchen Pineo, Sr. Architectural Historian; Kathryn Whitehill, Assoc. Architectural Historian
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date: February 2025

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street & number: 150 Benefit Street
city or town: Providence state: Rhode Island zip code: 02903
e-mail: joanna.doherty@preservation.ri.gov
telephone: (401) 222-4136
date: February 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

John Carter Minkins House

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Photo Log

Name of Property: John Carter Minkins House
City or Vicinity: Pawtucket
County: Providence
State: Rhode Island
Photographers: Joanna Doherty, RIHPHC (Photos 1, 9, 14, 16, 17, 19)
Gretchen Pineo, PAL (Photos 2-8, 10-13, 15, 18, 20-23)
Dates Photographed: January 2024 (Photos 1-3, 5, 6, 9-22)
June 2024 (Photos 4, 7, 8, 23)
Location of Original Digital Files: Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage
Commission, 150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903
Number of Photographs: 23

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1: View looking southeast on Glenwood Avenue, with John Carter Minkins House in foreground on left.
- Photo 2: John Carter Minkins House and Garage, looking northwest.
- Photo 3: John Carter Minkins House, looking northeast; primary entry on west elevation.
- Photo 4: Walkway, rear of John Carter Minkins House, looking south toward house.
- Photo 5: John Carter Minkins House, rear elevation, looking southwest.
- Photo 6: John Carter Minkins House, rear elevation and entry porch, looking southeast.
- Photo 7: Entry porch, looking north.
- Photo 8: Principal entrance, west elevation looking northeast.
- Photo 9: Detail of west dormer over principal entrance, looking northeast.
- Photo 10: Secondary entrance, east elevation looking northwest.
- Photo 11: Front entrance/stair hall, looking west from rear entry hall through doorway with multi-light pocket door.
- Photo 12: Entrance/stair hall and staircase, looking northwest.
- Photo 13: Staircase to second story, looking northwest.
- Photo 14: Detail of stringer ornamentation at first floor.

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- Photo 15: Southeast living room, looking south.
- Photo 16: View looking into dining room from southeast living room, looking northwest.
- Photo 17: Dining room, looking southwest.
- Photo 18: Northwest living room, looking northwest.
- Photo 19: Kitchen, looking southeast.
- Photo 20: Second-story landing, looking northwest.
- Photo 21: Northwest bedroom, looking northwest.
- Photo 22: Louvered wood shutters (stored upside down) with carved "M".
- Photo 23: Garage, looking north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

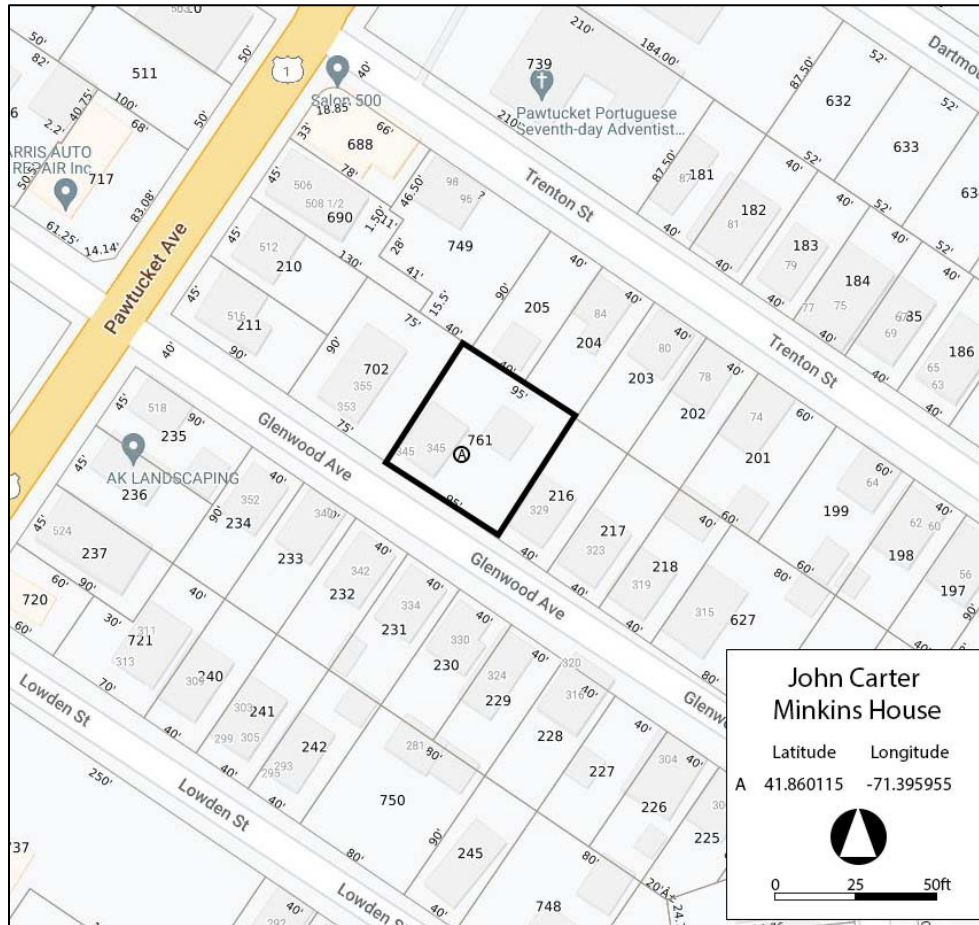
John Carter Minkins House

Name of Property

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Maps



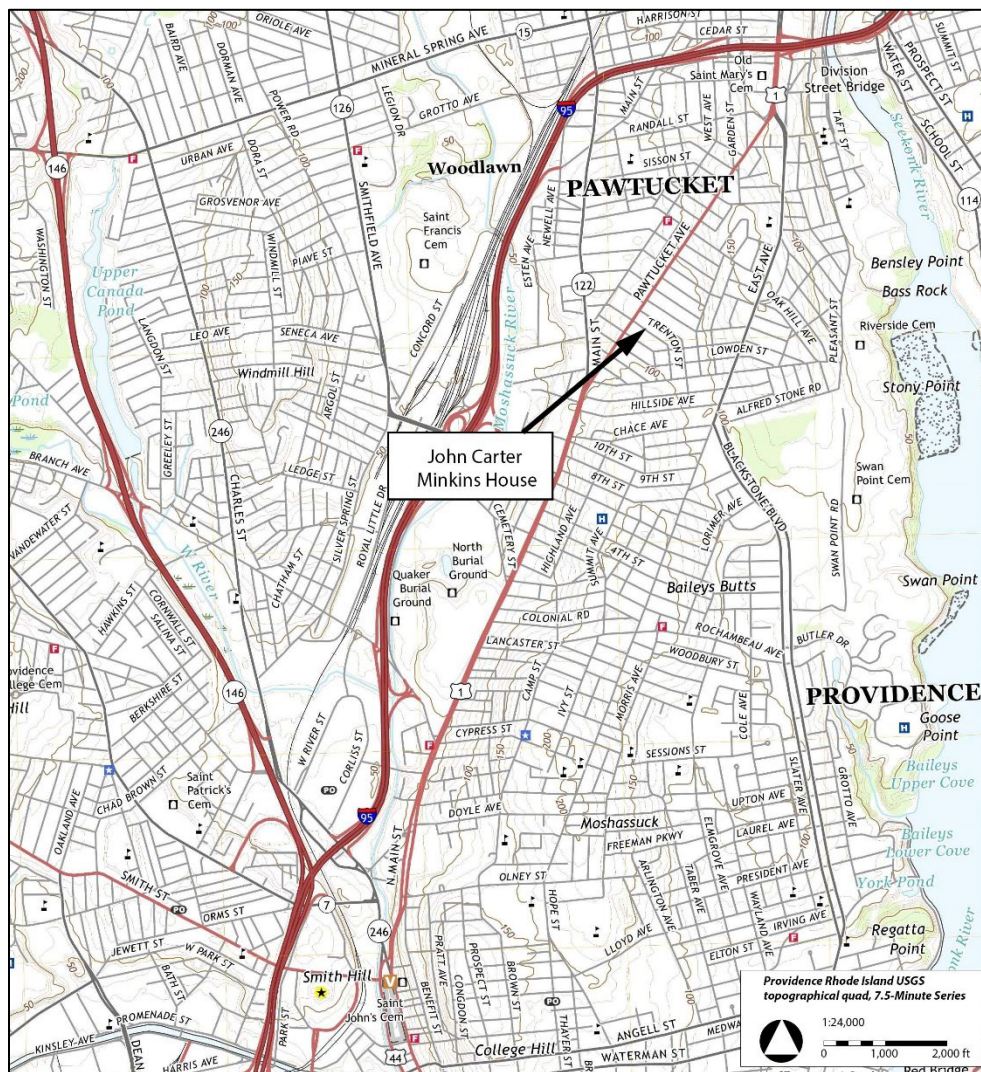
John Carter Minkins House Assessor/Coordinate Map.

John Carter Minkins House

Name of Property

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John Carter Minkins House USGS Map.

John Carter Minkins House
Name of Property

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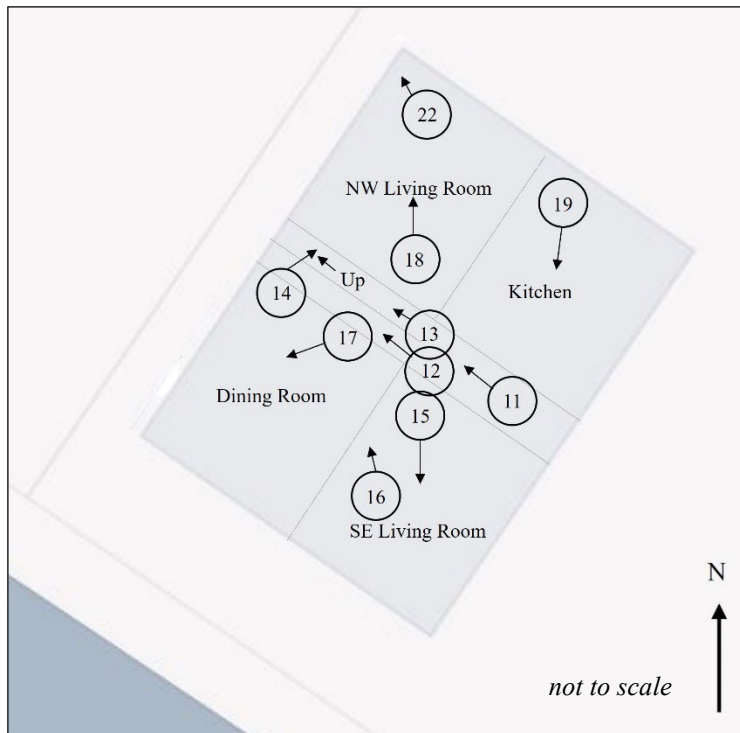
John Carter Minkins House Exterior Photo Key.

John Carter Minkins House

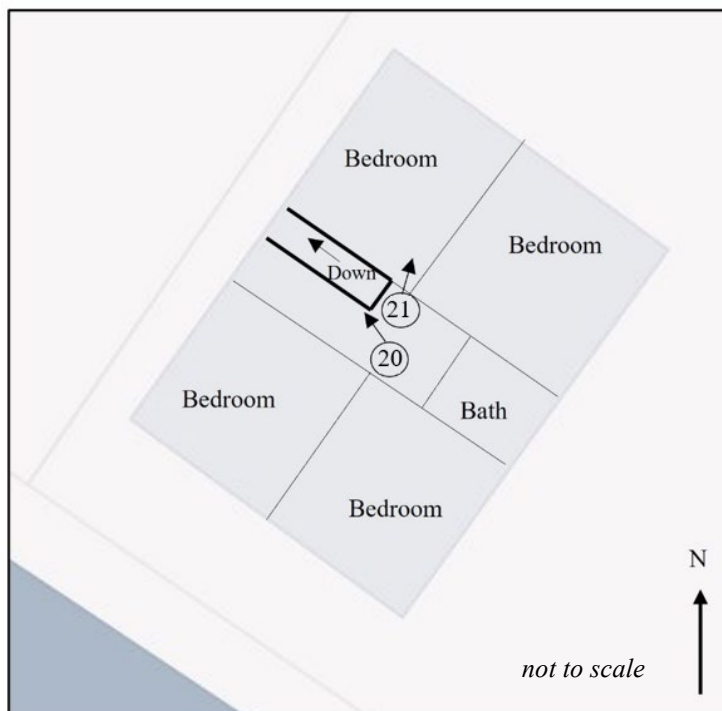
Name of Property

Providence Co., RI

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John Carter Minkins House Interior Photo Key, First Floor (11–19) and Basement (22).
 Note that Minkins' home office/library was located in either the room labeled Dining Room or the room labeled SE Living Room.



John Carter Minkins House Interior Photo Key, Second Floor.

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Figures



Figure 1. John Carter Minkins, date unknown (Diane Lambert Collection, Rhode Island College)

John Carter Minkins House
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Figure 2. John Carter Minkins, date unknown
(John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)



Figure 3. Drawing of John Carter Minkins, 1909
(John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)

John Carter Minkins House

Name of Property

Providence Co., RI

County and State

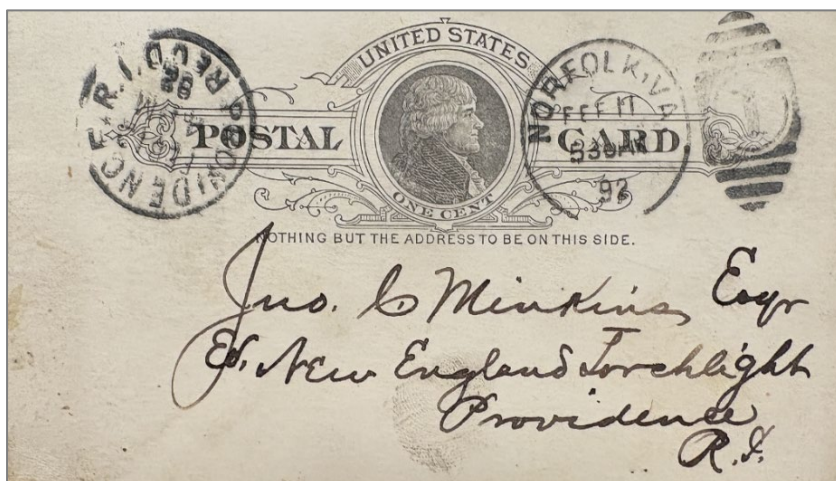


Figure 5. Envelope addressed to Jno. C. Minkins, Esq., Ed[itor] New England Torchlight, postmarked 11 February 1892 (John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)

Figure 4. Masthead of the *Tidewater Republican*, 9 November 1889 (John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)

John Carter Minkins House
Name of Property

Providence Co., RI
County and State

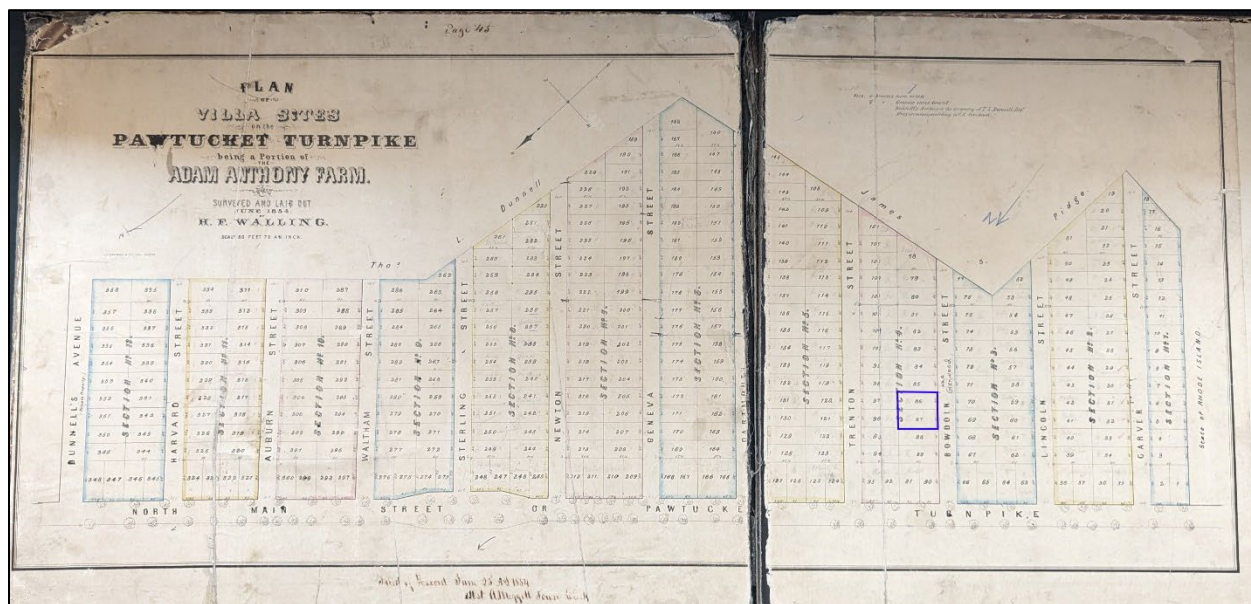


Figure 6. Plan of Villa Sites on the Pawtucket Turnpike being a Portion of the Adam Anthony Farm with blue square added to indicate present-day Minkins House lots. Note that present-day Greenwood Avenue was called Bowdoin Street on this plan (Walling 1854).



Figure 7. Map of undeveloped Anthony Farm plat with blue square at future location of Minkins House (Beers 1870)

John Carter Minkins House

Name of Property

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Figure 8. Map of early development of Anthony Farm plat with blue square around present-day Minkins House lot (Hopkins 1880).

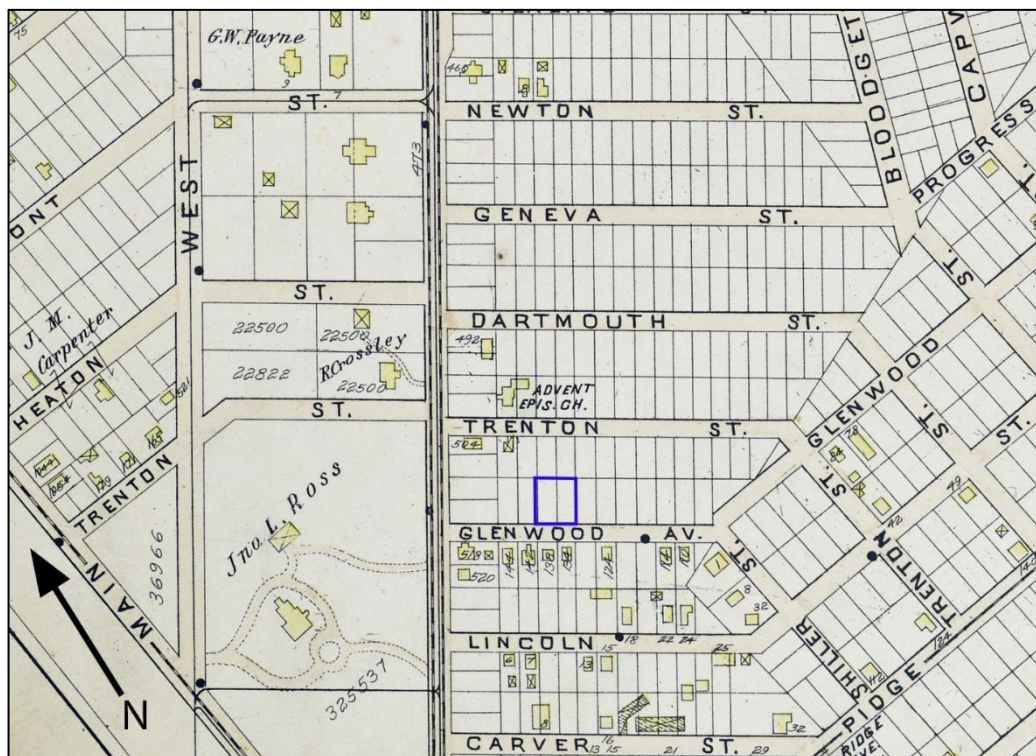


Figure 9. Map of Glenwood Avenue with development on south side of street and blue square around present-day Minkins House lot (Everts & Richards 1895)

John Carter Minkins House
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Figure 10. Map of Glenwood Avenue showing present-day Minkins House lot, with newly built Minkins House and, to the east, an outbuilding (not extant) on adjacent lot that would later come under Minkins family ownership. The Minkins family worshipped at the Advent Episcopal Church on Trenton Street, to the north (Sanborn Map Company 1902).

John Carter Minkins House
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News-Democrat, 24 July 1906



News-Democrat, 15 August 1908

Figure 11. Examples of articles published in the Providence *News-Democrat* while Minkins was editor-in-chief (John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)

John Carter Minkins House
Name of Property

Providence Co., RI
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Figure 12. Front page and masthead of *The Rhode Island Examiner*, 30 October 1914. Note that the masthead lists Minkins' home on Glenwood Avenue as a "branch office" for the newspaper. (John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)

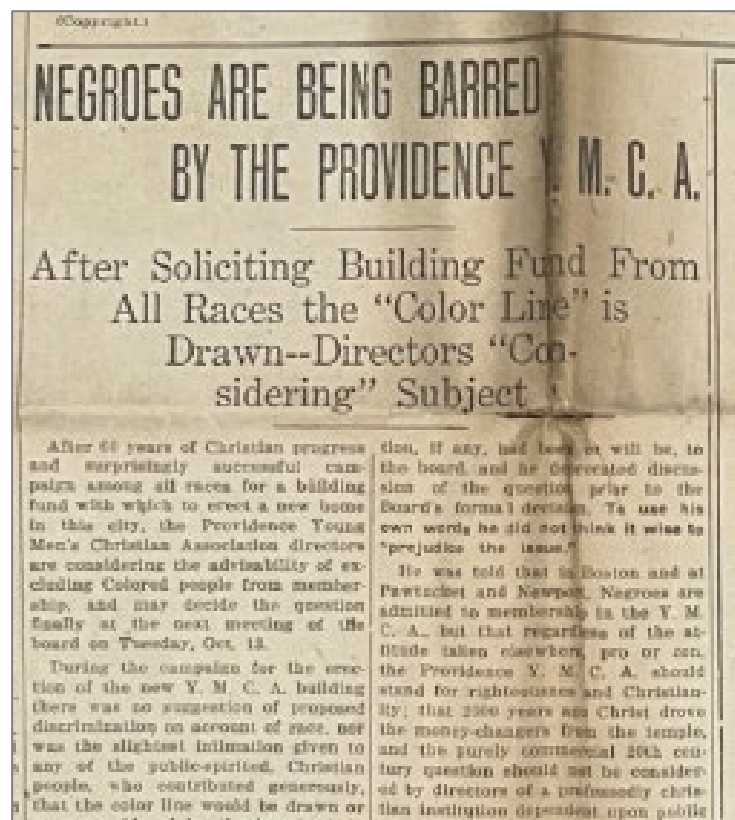


Figure 13. Article from *The Rhode Island Examiner*, 9 October 1914
(John Carter Minkins Papers, URI Archives)



Photo 1: View looking southeast on Glenwood Avenue, with John Carter Minkins House in foreground on left.



Photo 2: John Carter Minkins House and Garage, looking northwest.



Photo 3: John Carter Minkins House, looking northeast; primary entry on west elevation.



Photo 4: Walkway, rear of John Carter Minkins House, looking south toward house.



Photo 5: John Carter Minkins House, rear elevation, looking southwest.



Photo 6: John Carter Minkins House, rear elevation and entry porch, looking southeast.



Photo 7: Entry porch, looking north.



Photo 8: Principal entrance, west elevation looking northeast.



Photo 9: Detail of west dormer over principal entrance, looking northeast.



Photo 10: Secondary entrance, east elevation looking northwest.



Photo 11: Front entrance/stair hall, looking west from rear entry hall through doorway with multi-light pocket door.



Photo 12: Entrance/stair hall and staircase, looking northwest.



Photo 13: Staircase to second story, looking northwest.



Photo 14: Detail of stringer ornamentation at first floor.



Photo 15: Southeast living room, looking south.



Photo 16: View looking into dining room from southeast living room, looking northwest.

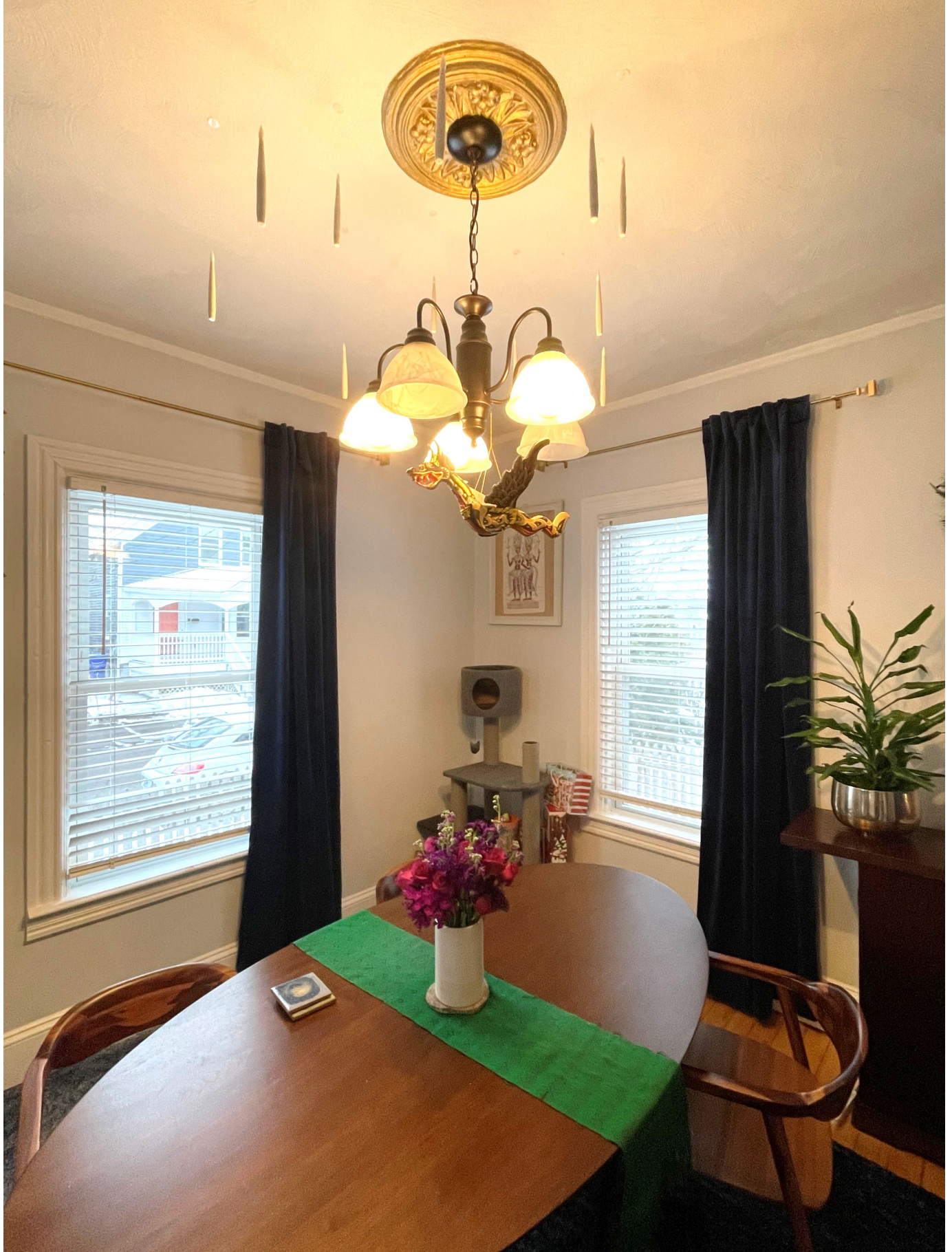


Photo 17: Dining room, looking southwest.



Photo 18: Northwest living room, looking northwest.



Photo 19: Kitchen, looking southeast.



Photo 20: Second-story landing, looking northwest.



Photo 21: Northwest bedroom, looking northwest.



Photo 22: Louvered wood shutters (stored upside down) with carved “M”.



Photo 23: Garage, looking north.