

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Church (Benjamin) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Benjamin Church Home for the Aged

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
101 1/2 Hope Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bristol

STATE: Rhode Island, 02809 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Bristol CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Formerly a home</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<u>for the aged</u>	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bristol Housing Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:
101 1/2 Hope Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bristol

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02809

CODE:
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bristol Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
10 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bristol

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02809

CODE:
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE:
44

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Church House is a fine, unaltered example of the Colonial Revival style of American architecture and was built in 1908-1909 from designs by the architectural firm of Howe and Church; it remains upon its original site. The front, or main, portion of the house measures 48 feet by 30 feet (excluding its entrance porch) and faces west, somewhat set back from Hope Street. An original ell on the easterly (rear) side of the building measures 18 feet wide by 24 feet deep, thus giving the house a "T" shape. The entire structure is a full two stories in height and is surmounted by a hipped roof pierced by four pedimented dormers and three internal brick chimneys.

Typical of Colonial Revival building, the west elevation is a symmetrical one of five bays--the main entrance at the center of the first floor and provided with leaded sidelights and a semi-elliptical leaded fanlight. The front windows (having six-over-one sashes typical of the XX Century but indeed not of the Colonial period) all have louvred exterior shutters. Set within the hipped roof at the front are two dormers, the sides of which are shingled; excepting these dormers, all of the exterior facing is of narrow wooden clapboards. The front and side windows in the first story of the main portion of the building are surmounted by splayed wooden lintels with raised center "keystones;" the side windows are, however, paired, and all around the house window openings diminish in height from first-floor to dormer level. A one-story porch runs across the entire front face of the building; its half-hipped roof is supported by six Doric columns which frame each window bay, and above each column is a triglyph in the porch's wooden frieze. A simple wooden rail runs around this porch and down its front and end steps, where the square newel posts are capped by small wooden urns. The corners of the main part of the structure exhibit wooden quoins. The foundation of the house is of stone (though the supporting piers of the porch are brick) and due to sloping land reaches a full story in height at the rear of the building, where there is a doorway at ground level. In the rear internal (southeast) corner of the building is another smaller porch, similar to that at the front, covered by a quarter-hipped roof. From the rear roof-slope of the main part of the building protrude two dormers, one on either side of the ell's roof. The third chimney of the house serves the ell and rises through the roof of the latter.

Displaying again its Colonial Revival features, the house has a central hall from front to back; this contains against its north wall a narrow stair, with turned balusters and newel, which rises to the third floor. At either side of this hall on the first floor are the twin front reception rooms--each measuring 14 feet by 19 feet with 9-foot ceilings and having dark-stained wooden mantels with Ionic columns (woodwork all throughout this house is dark-stained). To the rear of the south front room is the former dining-room, connected by a pantry to the kitchen in the ell. Also on the first floor are the back stairs, a rear entry, a second pantry, a lavatory, as well as two small rooms to the rear of the north front room.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1908-1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Important to its environment</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benjamin Church House was originally erected, from funds left in a trust, as a home for the elderly and was used continuously for this purpose until it was abandoned in 1966; since that time it has been vacant. To the rear of this building are now new housing units for the aged which were financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. These new elements do not significantly detract from the setting of the house.

This building is important because it forms a neighborhood link. Along Hope Street to the north and south are many fine old Bristol residences, all in good to excellent condition. Examples are the John Reynolds house, a "saltbox" of 1698 ff, presently being restored; a gambrel-roofed dwelling of 1779 directly across the street from the Benjamin Church house; and the Levi DeWolf farmhouse of 1793, built by one of a famous Bristol family. Should the Church House be removed, an important element in the neighborhood would be lost and a large gap created which would most certainly diminish the visual pleasure now experienced as one travels along Hope Street. Nearby Dimond and Sunnyside Avenues, running off Hope Street, are short streets with several older houses along them. The ends of these streets overlook Bristol Harbor to the southwest from a point above it. To the northwest of this area is Colt State Park, fronting on Narragansett Bay.

The Church house is also architecturally significant being a fine example of the Colonial Revival style of the early part of this century. It is a product of the Providence firm of Howe and Church, who were knowledgeable, tasteful and skillful exponents of this style--one partner, Wallis Howe, who practiced over an extremely long span of time, being from a distinguished old Bristol family. It is a very pure example of this revival style, exhibits pleasing proportions, and is in basically unaltered condition both externally and internally. Coupled with its siting, its stone foundation, landscaping, and neighborhood, the former Home for the Aged is truly an asset to its environment. It is to be hoped that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be able to use this structure in conjunction with its new and adjacent housing for the elderly--perhaps as administrative offices or additional residence units.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Bristol	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

At second-floor level the central hall extends into the ell; but before that is bisected by a lateral hallway running across the width of the main part of the house. In each "quadrant" thus formed are two rooms formerly used as bedrooms by the elderly persons in residence, and there are other bedrooms etc. in the ell. The third floor contains four additional bedrooms, each having one of the dormer windows; attic space on this level over the rear ell has been used for storage.

Alterations to this building since it was built 62 years ago have been minor and inconspicuous, consisting mainly of alterations to windows and dormers to provide egress to necessary fire-escapes. The front porch is probably original to the 1908-1909 design, but if it was in fact added, this was probably done before 1920. Any internal alterations have been quite minor in nature, and it appears that all partitions are as originally placed. A clapboarded outbuilding, with gable-on-hip roof, was torn down in 1969 when newer housing for the elderly was built. This stood to the southeast of the Church House and probably dated from the construction of the house or shortly thereafter.

8. Significance.

In conclusion, it is this surveyor's hope that the future Warren and Bristol historic districts will be more or less continuous along the length of Ferry and Hope Streets in Bristol and Main Street in Warren. Hope Street is still a very attractive thoroughfare, in sharp contrast to the tasteless development which has occurred along Metacom Avenue, Bristol's other main north-south avenue, in the past twenty years. It is because of the environmental and architectural importance of this house and its significance in the greater context of the Bristol-Warren historic districts that it is thought to be worthy of National Register status and protection.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 41' 07" N	71° 16' 45" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6.434 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Lombard John Pozzi, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **March, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island, 02903** CODE: **44**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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1. NAME			
COMMON: Church (Benjamin) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin Church Home for the Aged			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 101 1/2 Hope Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Bristol			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Lombard John Pozzi			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior seen from the south-west.			

BENJAMIN CHURCH HOME
FOR AGED MEN

1014



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin Church Home for the Aged			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1014 Hope Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Bristol			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Lombard John Pozzi			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Detail of entrance and porch on west elevation.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

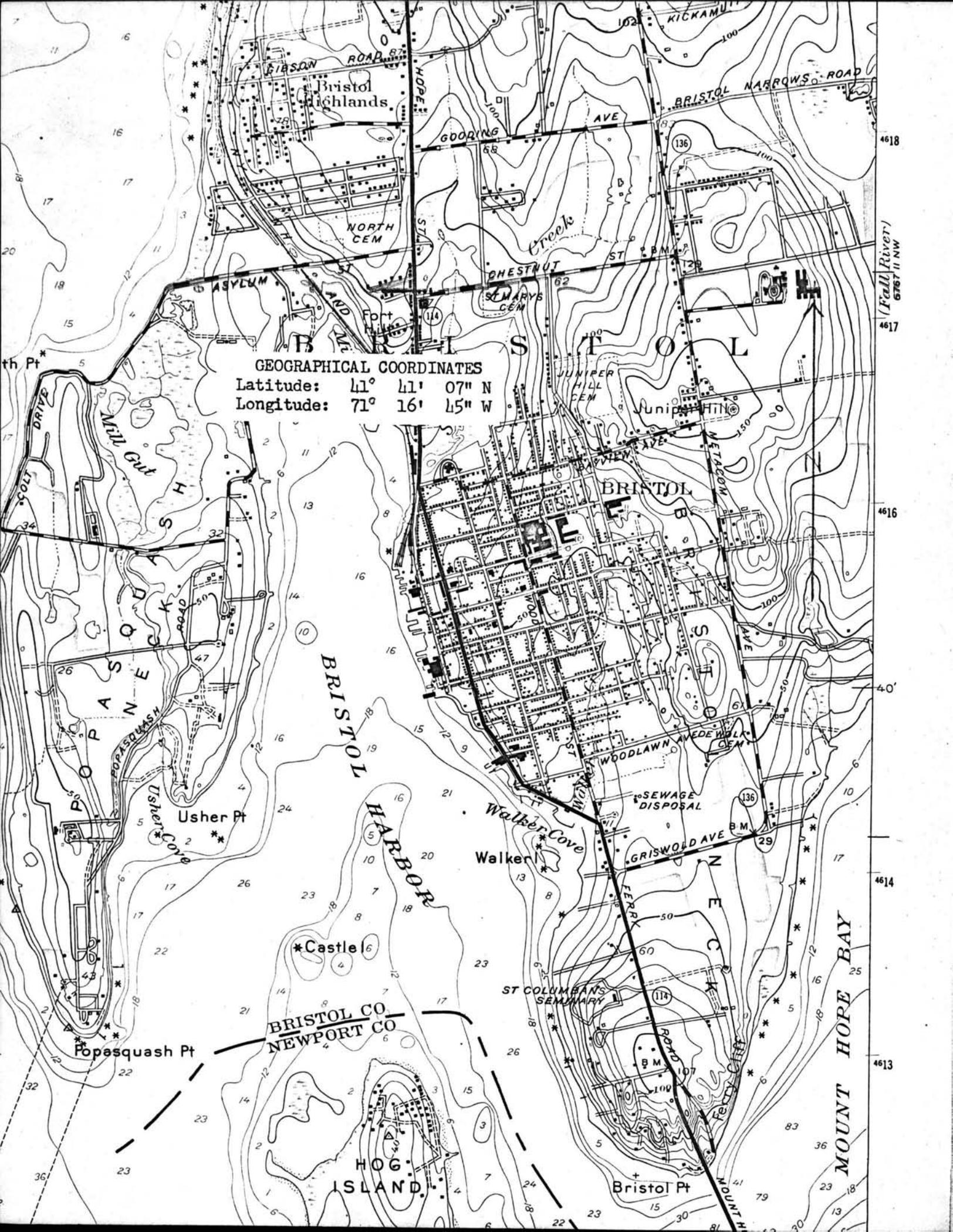
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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior seen from the south-east.			



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 41' 07" N
Longitude: 71° 16' 45" W

4618

(Fall River)
6767 11 NW
4617

4616

40'

4614

4613

MOUNT HOPE BAY

BRISTOL CO
NEWPORT CO

HOG ISLAND

Bristol Pt

ROCKY CLIFF

ST COLUMBANS SEMINARY

*Castle

Usher Cove

Walker Cove

GRISWOLD AVE

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

WOODLAWN AVE WOLF CEM

BRISTOL

Juniper Hill

CHESTNUT ST

GOORING AVE

BRISTOL HARBOR

Mill Gut

SCOTT DRIVE

Bristol Highlands

KICKAMUT

BRISTOL NARROWS ROAD

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Church (Benjamin) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin Church Home for the Aged			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1014 Hope Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Bristol			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 001
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1955			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			