

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Ningret

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Niantic Fort

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Neck Road (southerly end)

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlestown

STATE: Rhode Island, 02813 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 373

CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown STATE: Rhode Island, 02813 CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the head of Fort Neck Pond--an arm of Ninigret Pond on the southern coast of the state--stand the remains of a small earthwork fort which was probably built by Dutch traders in the first half of the seventeenth century. The fort, high on a cliff just above the water's edge, is basically square: approximately 170 feet by 150 feet, with hexagonal bastions approximately 20 feet across at all but the southwest corners. The fort's shape is defined by a continuous low embankment of earth and stone rubble, with a slight trench bordering it along the outer edge. The walls were originally stone but have long since been torn down for building material.

Originally thought to have been an Indian fort, the three-quarters-of-an-acre site was dedicated as a memorial to the Niantic and Narragansett tribes on August 30, 1883, and named "Fort Ninigret" in honor of the great Niantic sachem. The original outlines are now protected by an iron railing, and an engraved boulder marks the center of the fort's location. Since 1883 the site has been maintained as a park by the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD. (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable, and Known) C. 1637

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It is believed that Fort Ninigret was originally a Dutch trading post established in the first half of the seventeenth century. As such, it is evidence of early exploration along Long Island Sound and of early military engineering in America. The Dutch West India Company, formed in 1621, built its first fort in Connecticut in 1633, and the erection of Fort Ninigret must date from soon thereafter. These forts were small in scale and were used as outposts for trading with the Indians.

Tradition suggests that the fort was later held by the Niantic Indians. This tribe had been driven from Connecticut by the Pequots and under their chief, Ninigret, had found refuge among the Narragansetts.

In 1637 the General Court of Connecticut declared war on the belligerent Pequots. Late in May of that year Captain John Mason, with a force of ninety men, sailed into Narragansett Bay. Reinforced by about one hundred Narragansetts, Mason's group marched along the shore, headed for the Pequot fort at Mystic, Connecticut.

Upon reaching Fort Ninigret they were met with open hostility. Many Niantic braves had married Pequot squaws, and tribal sympathies were distinctly against white men. After two days of talk, Mason continued on his way, with neither help nor hindrance from the Niantics. On June 7 he surrounded and destroyed the Pequot fort, thus saving the English settlement in Connecticut.

Because of this legendary connection with the Niantics, the remains of Fort Ninigret were made a memorial to that tribe in 1883.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, Massachusetts, 1937).
 Rider, Sidney S.: The Lands of Rhode Island as They Were Known to Ca-
 nonicus and Miantunnomi (Providence, Rhode Island, 1904).
 Tucker, William F.: Historical Sketch of the Town of Charlestown
 (Westerly, Rhode Island, 1877).

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	0 . .	0 . .		41 ° 22 ' 52 " N	71 ° 38 ' 57 " W	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: April 15, 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

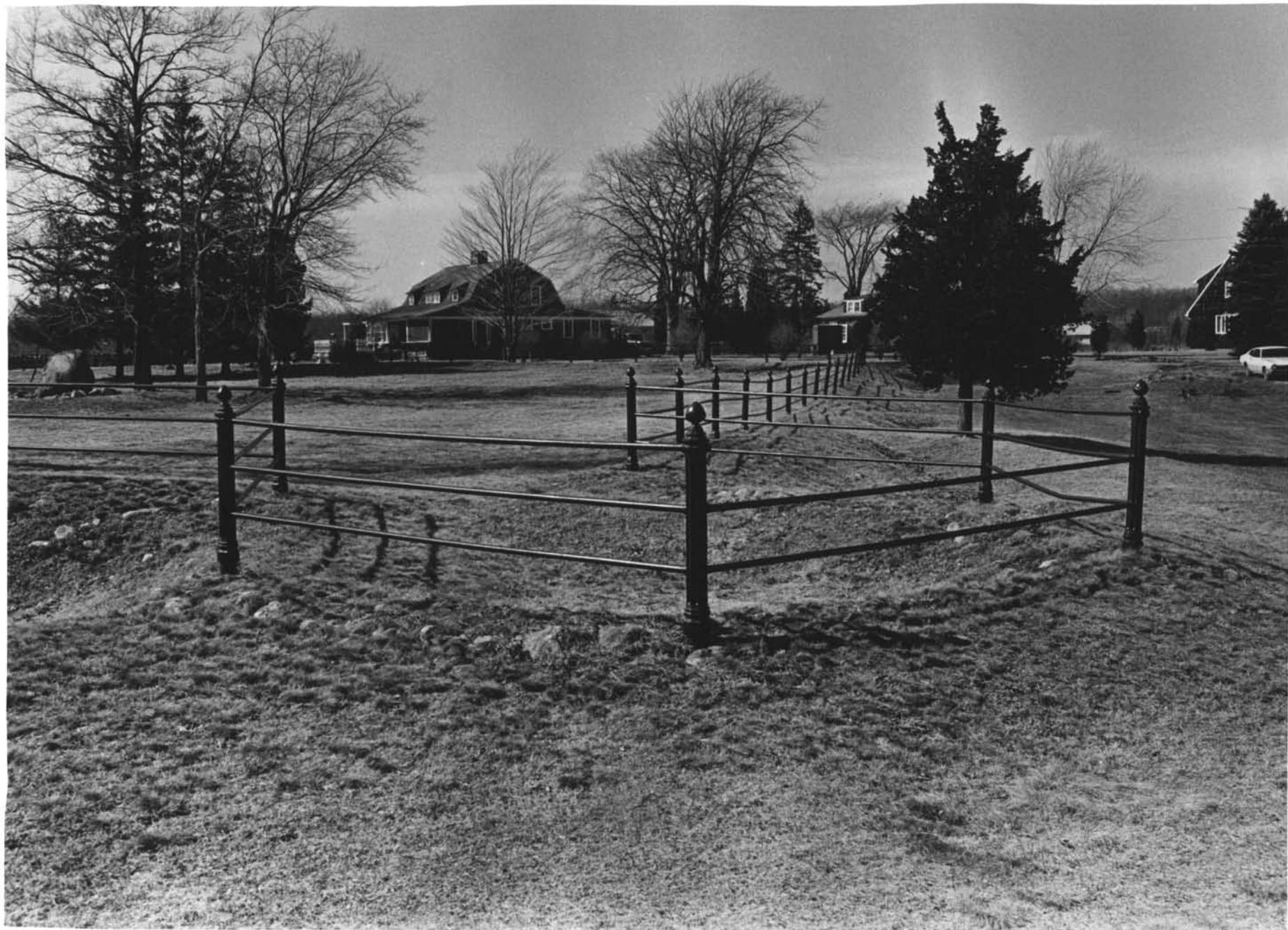
Date _____

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)

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

INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Ninigret			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Fort Neck Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 141	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III			
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. General view of the fort site, looking north-west.			

FORT MUMFORD
MEMORIAL OF
THE NARRACANSETT AND
NANTIC INDIANS
THE UNWAVERING FRIENDS AND
ALLIES OF OUR FATHERS
ERECTED BY THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND
WIGHT R. ADAMS COMRS.
W. P. SHEFFIELD JR.
GEO. CARMICHAEL JR. 1883

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Ninigret

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Fort Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Charlestown

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

11

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

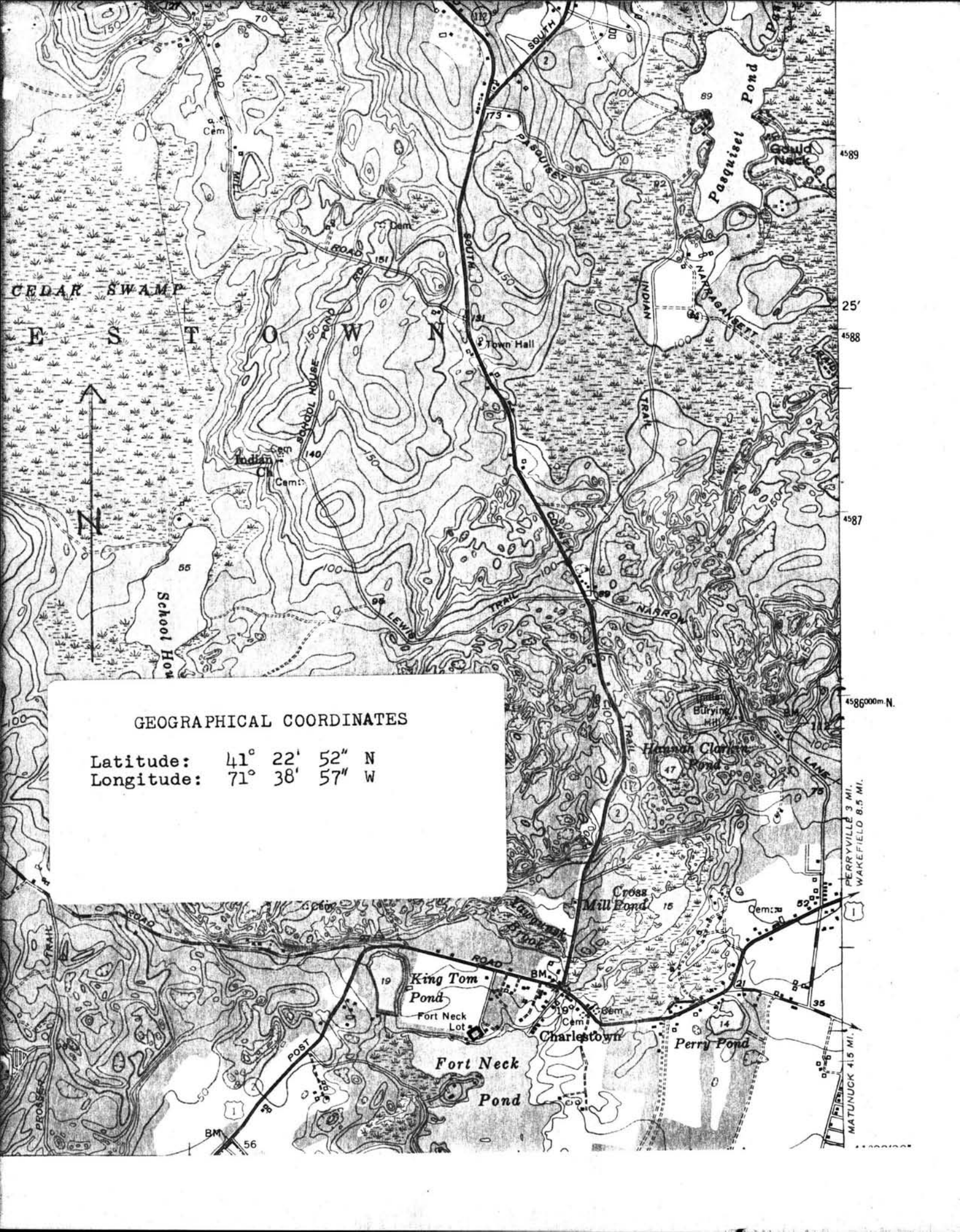
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Stone tablet in fort site.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 22' 52" N
 Longitude: 71° 38' 57" W

4589
 25'
 4588
 4587
 4586000m N.
 PERRYVILLE 3 MI.
 WAKEFIELD 8.5 MI.
 MATUNUCK 4.5 MI.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Ninigret			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Fort Neck Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Charlestown			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Rhode Island	RI	Washington	009
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 21,000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			