

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arad Wood House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 407 Pontiac Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Cranston

n/a vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI

county Providence

code 007

zip code 02910

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Erected c. 1858, the Arad Wood House is a two-and-a-half-story frame house, two bays wide, with a steep end gable roof facing the street. Surmounted by an octagonal belvedere, the house is sheathed with clapboards and set on a handsome dressed stone foundation. The house is three bays deep, with a two story ell four bays deep.

The principal entrance is through a Tuscan portico with a heavily bracketed entablature. In addition to quoins, brackets are the primary ornamentation of the structure. Deep ones run under the eaves of the house, with more modest ones on the belvedere and the window lintels and hoods of the principal facade.

On the principal facade the first- and second-story windows are identical--narrow-two-over-two sash flanking slightly wider two-over-two. This subtle tripartite arrangement is reflected in the location of the brackets above and below which continue the line of the muntins. There is a small Palladian attic window in the gable.

The east facade of the house includes a bracketed cross gable with an attic oculus. The first- and second-story windows in the first bay of the west facade are blind.

The Arad Wood House retains the side-hall floor plan typical of Rhode Island Greek Revival dwellings. The over-sized front door with side-lights and transom opens into the hall, off of which stand the parlor, sitting room, and dining room. An elegant cantilevered, dark wood staircase, decorated with foliate carvings on the stringers, dominates the hall. Handsome deep plaster cornices delineate the ceiling; a chandelier hangs from an ornate plaster medallion. The parlor and dining room have identical flat, black marble mantels, with ornate cast-iron inserts. The same mantels are in the front rooms of the second floor, but with open cast-iron coal grates. The rear ell was probably used as the kitchen and servants' wing; it displays

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7.2

simpler woodwork and plain wooden mantels.

While the house has not been in residential use for many years, it is set back further from the street than the adjacent buildings from the early 20th century. This siting, together with the size and distinctive architecture of the house, distinguish it from the remainder of its environment. An 1890 bird's-eye view indicates a large carriage house and barn; no evidence of these structures remains. The exterior changes have been few. The entrance portico is now partially enclosed by a window on each side to form a windbreak. The simple spindle side porch on the rear ell, shown in an 1875 photograph, was enclosed, probably c. 1890; the window enframements very closely resemble those of the body of the house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8.2

visually confirm the Arad Wood House's stature as a community landmark.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c. 1858

Significant Dates
c. 1858

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Arad Wood House is one of Cranston's best examples of the Italianate style and a good example of the vernacular tradition of adapting architectural styles in Rhode Island. Originally built for an N. Thornton, it is one of the few remaining structures that pre-dates the 1869 construction of a nearby railroad round house, which precipitated the development of the village of Auburn.

Originally a farmhouse, the Arad Wood House is an especially elaborate one for its time and place. Much of the ornament--the brackets, quoins, belvedere--is clearly Italianate, yet the floor plan and massing of the house remain largely Greek Revival. Undoubtedly designed by a country builder, the design of the building has a certain dynamism. The quoins almost play the role of pilasters, the brackets of the portico correspond to the place of a frieze, while the horizontality of the windows so natural on a sprawling asymmetrical Italianate villa are tightly constrained by the form of the Greek Revival outline.

The house was passed down in the Thornton family until the 1890's when it was owned by Arad Wood, one of the wealthiest men in Cranston. His farm included hundreds of acres and stretched from the house to the site of the present City Hall. In the early twentieth century the building became the home of the Cranston Red Cross and was for many years known as the Red Cross Building.

Repaired and restored by the current owners, the elegant rooms provide a backdrop for the insurance business that is transacted there as well as a convincing sense of how the house originally looked. Its location, set back from the street, its landscaping, with numerous mature trees screening it from surrounding buildings, and its fine state of restoration,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Cranston, Rhode Island, Statewide Historic Preservation Report, P-C-1," Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1980.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	9
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2	9	7	3	5	0
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4	6	2	7	4	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Arad Wood House is the line surrounding Cranston Assessor's Plat 9/5, lot 138.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the resource and its immediate setting.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vivian Lasky

organization Consultant

street & number 18 Savoy Street

city or town Providence

date _____

telephone 401-272-6692

state Rhode Island zip code 02906



Brad Wood House
407 Pontiac Ave
Cranston, RI

Photog.: Vivien Lasky
Date: June, 1987
Negative: RIHPC

View: Exterior, southeast corner, showing
east facade & south elevation

Photo # 1



Arad Wood House
407 Pontiac Ave
Cranston, RI

Photog: Vivien Lasky
Date: June 1987
Negative: RFHPC

View: Exterior, west rear elevation

Photo # 2



Arad Wood House
407 Pontiac Ave
Cranston, RI

Photog: Vivian Lasky

Date: June, 1987

Negative: RI HPC

View: Interior, main stair

Photo #3

#3



Arad Wood House
407 Pontiac Ave
Cranston, RI

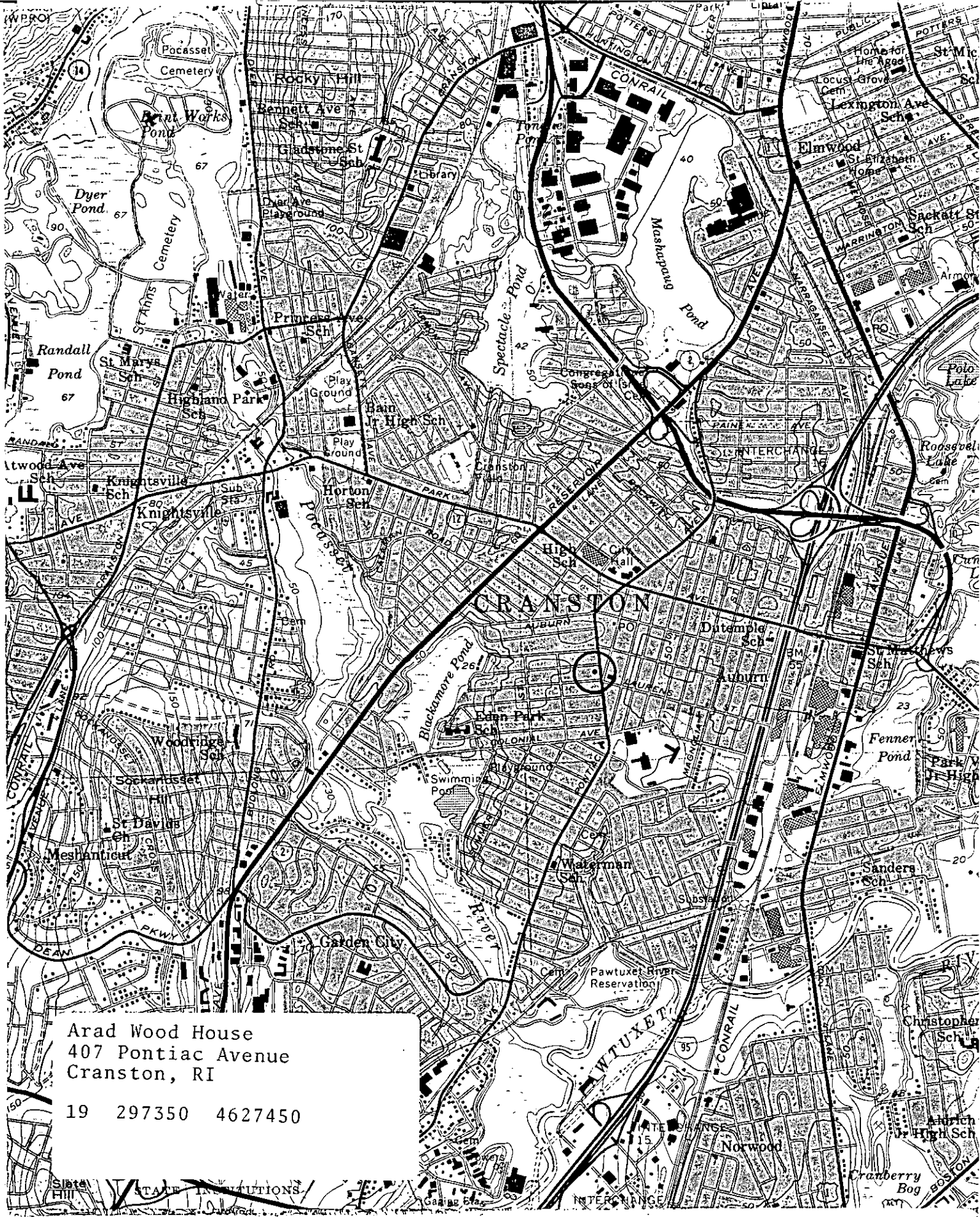
Photog: Vivien Lasky

Date: June, 1987

Negative: RIHPC

View: Interior, parlor mantel

Photo #4



Arad Wood House
407 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI

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STATE INSTITUTIONS

INTERCHANGE