

1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Whitmarsh (Colonel Micah) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Reynolds (John) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
29 1/2 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
East Greenwich

STATE: Rhode Island, 02818	CODE: 114	COUNTY: Kent	CODE: 003
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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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted. <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
East Greenwich Preservation Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
29 1/2 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
East Greenwich

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02818

CODE:
114

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
111 Peirce Street

CITY OR TOWN:
East Greenwich

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02818

CODE:
114

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Rhode Island Statewide Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sate House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE:
114

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 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

The house acquired in 1773 by Micah Whitmarsh was built between 1767 and 1771 by John Reynolds. It is a two-and-one-half-storey brick (three rows of stretchers between each two of headers) building; it is timber-framed above a rubble and mortar basement and carries a high gambrel roof without--apparently from the beginning--any dormers. There are four slightly irregularly-spaced bays across the entrance (west) front and three across the rear of the house. The gable ends have two widely-spaced windows on each floor, including the garret. There are two externally flush chimneys, one centred at each end of the house, which rise through the peaks of the gables; internally, the chimneys are triangular in form, resting on massive stone bases in the cellar. As the house is of central-hall, four-room plan, all fireplace openings necessarily become corner ones.

Externally, the house presents a solid, robust body, its front now sitting immediately upon the sidewalk although the slope of the lot makes foundations evident at sides and rear. It has apparently always been practically devoid of architectural adornment, encircled only by a brick belt-course (a small part of this removed during alterations) and carrying the most modest of eaves and gable cornices. There was no trim to the windows, and one cannot know if there was originally any embellishment to the main entrance, since this was transformed to one of provincial Greek Revival style during the latter years of Whitmarsh ownership (1830's-1840's), when a number of minor "modern improvements" in trim took place.

The brickwork, particularly around windows--many of which were evidently shortened and widened to 6-over-6 sash size (though 9-over-9 survives at the rear)--has undergone sporadic and patchy repair: now it is difficult to tell how all windows were originally contained--whether under flat arches, segmental relieving arches, or with the brickwork simply carried straight across. (Segmental arches seem to be the best guess.) The house remains in original form and size, excepting the few mentioned modifications and excepting a small, square, one-storey wooden addition at the south-east rear corner (This, being needed space, will probably be retained).

With the exclusion of this extension, the house internally retains its original plan (two or three recent flimsy hallway partitions easily removable). A central, but slightly off-centre, hallway runs from front to back on each floor. The staircase up from the first floor does not carry its original railing. During improvements all but one first-floor room had matched hardwood substituted for the original wide-board flooring. Two rooms on this floor retain (probably original) vertical sheathing to dado height, and one keeps its original flat window trim. Downstairs, however, simple moulded trim typical of the Greek Revival style

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

has been introduced, as have four-panelled doors and cramped but hopefully classical corner mantels.

The second-floor's chambers retain to a greater degree their original floors, two-panelled doors, mantels, overmantels, panelling and other woodwork, as well as original hardware. Its plan duplicates that of the floor below and is duplicated above in the third or garret storey, which contains four rooms, each lighted by one gable window. On this top floor doors are of board-and-batten construction; such doors are also on storage cupboards at either end of the stair-hall (probably brought up when down-stairs doors were replaced), but the cupboards themselves do not appear to be original to the house.

The Whitmarsh house, with few changes in ownership, remained in continuous residential occupation until 1966. Since then acquired by the East Greenwich Preservation Society, it contains--without alteration--offices and small retail shops whose rental payments temporarily maintain the property until guided restoration of the structure and its sympathetic adaptation to the Society's uses can be undertaken.

8. 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)

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/Phi-
losophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Local history;</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>future house-</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian | <u>museum and edu-</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>cational use</u> |
| <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

After two hundred years this house remains a prominent and well-known feature ("The Brick House") of East Greenwich's Main Street, and certainly in earlier times the strong and sizable structure must have been a notable landmark to stage travellers on the Post Road. It will have future importance as part of East Greenwich's architectural legacy and as a cultural facility when it is restored and houses the exhibitions and activities of the local preservation society.

Significance attaches too to its long possession (1773-1845) by the Whitmarsh family. Micah Whitmarsh was important in his town, being a charter member of the still-existing Kentish Guards, a militia body in which he rose to colonel. During the Revolutionary War he was also a member of Varnum's Brigade, which was present throughout the hard winter at Valley Forge and which played a vital rôle in the Battle of Rhode Island.

East Greenwich happily has other--though none too many--well protected and well maintained historical buildings and dwellings; the Whitmarsh house deserves to take an outstanding place among these, soon.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Colonel Micah Whitmarsh House (East Greenwich, R. I., East Greenwich Preservation Society, c. 1969), 1 p.
 Colonel Micah Whitmarsh (East Greenwich, R. I., East Greenwich Preservation Society, c. 1969), 1 p.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		49°	39'	32" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		71°	27'	03" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **December 26, 1970**

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: Kent	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Whitmarsh (Colonel Micah) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Reynolds (John) House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 29 1/2 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: East Greenwich			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44	COUNTY: Kent	CODE: 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: East Greenwich Preservation Society			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: East Greenwich Preservation Society, 29 1/2 Main Street, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 02818			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Exterior from the south-west.			

BUILT 1767
The Brick House
Wm. H. Col. Maud. B. Howard
1700th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.
East Branch, D.C. 20002



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

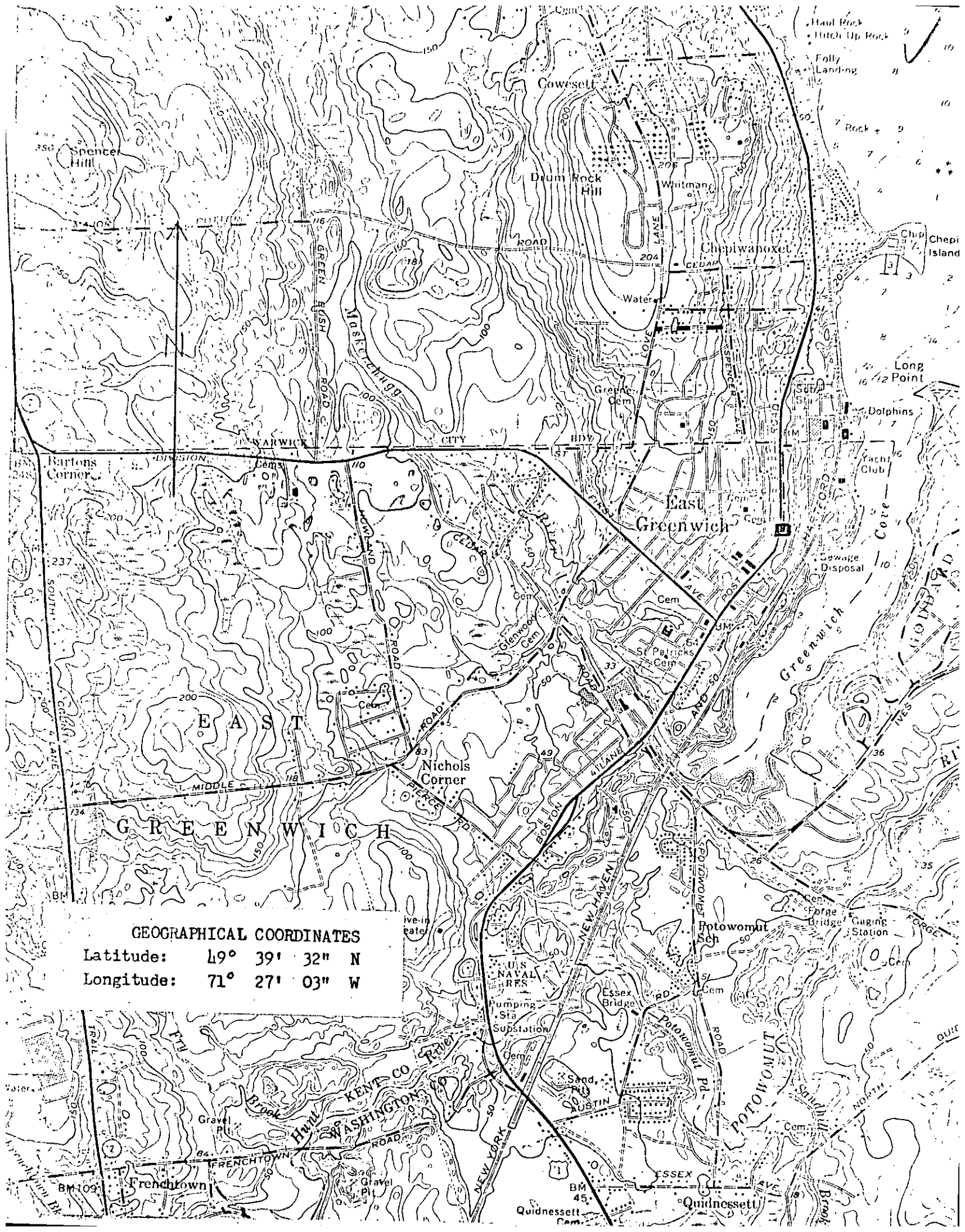
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 003
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DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: East Greenwich Preservation Society, 29 1/2 Main Street, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, 02818			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Main entrance as altered in Greek Revival style.			



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 49° 39' 32" N

Longitude: 71° 27' 03" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Kent	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Whitmarsh (Colonel Micah) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Reynolds (John) House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 29½ Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: East Greenwich			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 12,000			
DATE: 1957			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			