

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Dorrance (Captain George) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Jencks Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Foster

STATE: Rhode Island, 02825      CODE: RI      COUNTY: Providence      CODE: 007

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transient <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Peter Backes Flint

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Jencks Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Foster

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
RI

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Foster Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Foster Center Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Foster

STATE:  
Rhode Island

**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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 Captain George Dorrance house in Foster is an extremely well preserved five-bay-wide, two-and-one-half story, gable roof house with a rear lean-to. While the house is now of a five-room, symmetrical plan, it was originally of only two rooms on each story, these on either side of the massive, central, "Connecticut" stone chimney.\* It dates from the early XVIII Century (c. 1720). A three-room lean-to was added at the rear of the first story, as is indicated by the slight difference in floor levels; and the detail in these rooms suggests a date c. 1750. Exterior covering is of large, hand-split wooden shingles. Windows are 12-over-12 double-hung sash except on the ell, where they are 8-over-12. The doorway is unadorned, and the original plank door has been replaced.

On the first story, the keeping-room and the stairway reflect the early construction date of the house. The unchamfered cornerposts and girts, and the joists and floorboards of the chamber above are exposed in the keeping-room, as is the summer-beam, which is chamfered. A bake-oven is recessed into the back wall of the large, ten-foot-wide fireplace in this room,\*\* and there is evidence that there were originally two ovens. The triple-run stairway is outstanding. It abuts an exposed chimney wall of beautifully pointed and matched stone; and there is no evidence that this wall was ever plastered. The newels are square, with ball-shaped caps; the turned balusters are of refined proportion; and the stairs are encased by a panelled string course.

Opposite the keeping-room, the more sophisticated detail of the parlour suggests that it was remodelled in the middle of the XVIII Century, perhaps at the time the rear lean-to was added. Here, girts, cornerposts and the summer-beam are <sup>encased</sup> ~~panelled~~, and the ceiling is plastered. The fireplace, originally of large dimensions, was rebuilt with finished stone to the smaller size seen today, with plain mouldings and large, simple, wooden panelling above. Interior detail in the dining-room is even more simple, with only a narrow wooden moulding distinguishing the fireplace. This fireplace is also built of finished stone, though the rear wall and hearth are brick. The small dimensions of this fireplace suggest that this lean-to room must never have served as the kitchen, as was usually the case with houses of similar plan.

The second floor consists of two bedrooms above the two original rooms of the first story. Gunstock cornerposts are exposed in both rooms, as are the beams and floorboards of the attic. While the original feather-edge vertical sheathing along the fireplace wall of the chamber above the keeping-room has recently been restored, the sophisticated, simple panelling along the fireplace wall of the other chamber is perfectly preserved and has never been painted. The other walls of these rooms are plastered.

(See Continuation Sheet)

\*Typical also of Rhode Island's South County.  
 \*\*The mantel tree was replaced during a recent restoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

Much of the hardware and several of the panelled doors throughout the house are original. Both the interior and the exterior of this house appear today almost exactly as they must have appeared when the lean-to was added in the middle of the XVIII Century.

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) 1720, c. 1750

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <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 Captain George Dorrance house is an exceptionally fine example of the early XVIII-Century "saltbox" house, ~~and its plan is somewhat unusual.~~ It is one of the best preserved early houses in Rhode Island. This dwelling makes evident the change in architectural taste from the early XVIII Century to the middle part of that century in the contrast shown between the primitive detail of the keeping-room and the later, more sophisticated panelling and detail in the parlour and lean-to. The stairway which abuts the exposed stone chimney is outstanding. Except for some minor--yet skillfully-handled--restoration work, this house fully retains its early character.

Of equal significance is the fact the the Dorrance house is still part of an untouched rural environment. The house, with adjacent pond, stream, and later farm outbuildings, still maintains its original relationship with its setting. This rare quality is essential for the full appreciation of early rural architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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° 44' 12" N	71° 47' 12" W	
NE	° ' " "	° ' " "				
SE	° ' " "	° ' " "				
SW	° ' " "	° ' " "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres, but otherwise not

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Clifford Renshaw, III, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission**      DATE: **March 9, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State House, 90 Smith Street**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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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		Providence
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Dorrance (Captain George) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Jencks Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Foster			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 02825	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Richard Benjamin			
DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Providence Journal-Bulletin 75 Fountain Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. keeping-room			



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STREET AND NUMBER: Jencks Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Foster			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Rhode Island	02825	Providence	007
	44		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Richard Benjamin			
DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Providence Journal-Bulletin 75 Fountain Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
parlour			



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COMMON: Dorrance, (Captain George) House  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Jencks Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Foster

STATE: Rhode Island, 02825	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Richard Benjamin

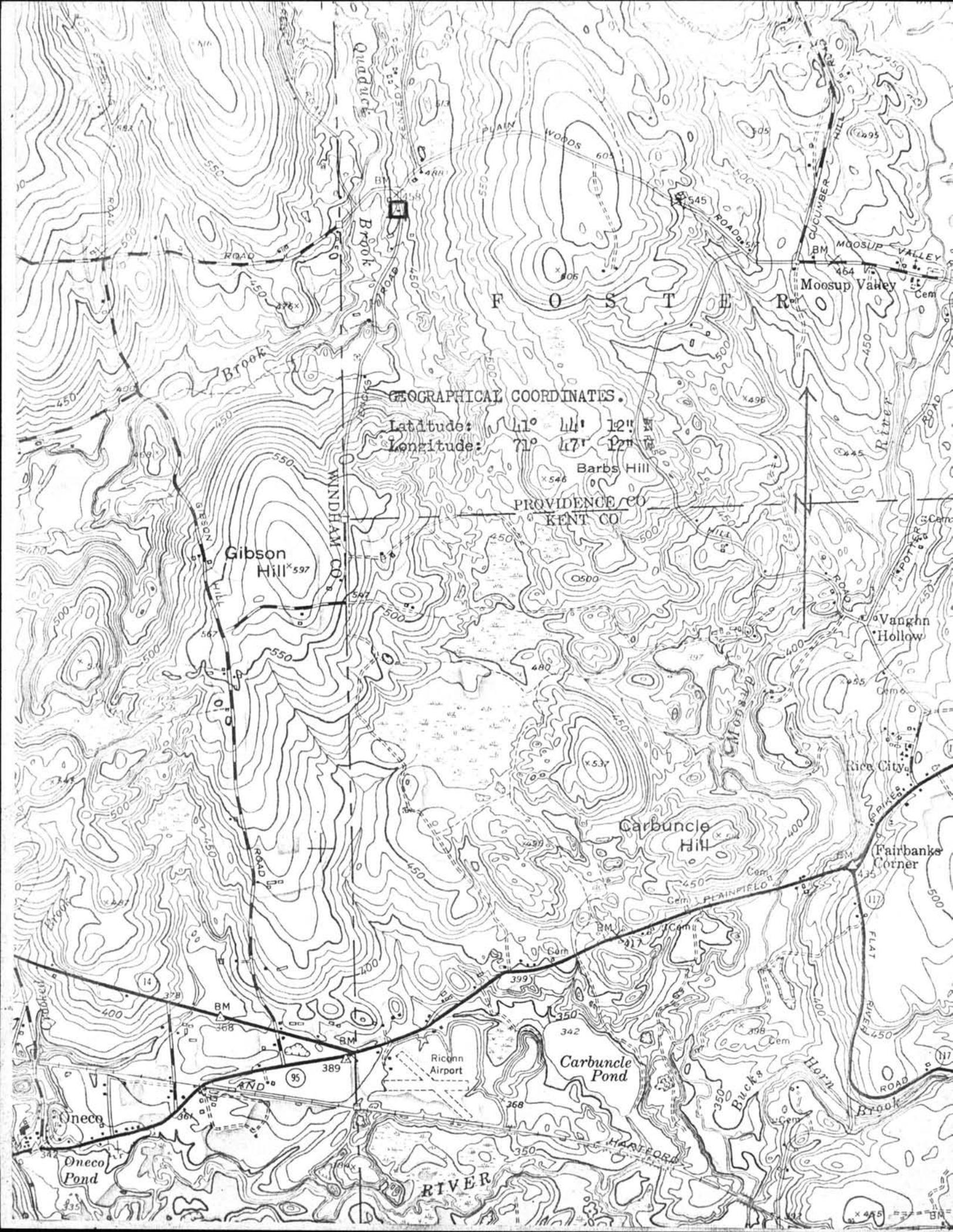
DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Providence Journal-Bulletin  
75 Fountain Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

exterior from the south-west



**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES.**

Latitude:  $41^{\circ} 41' 12''$  N  
Longitude:  $71^{\circ} 47' 12''$  W

PROVIDENCE CO  
KENT CO

Gibson Hill 597

Carbuncle Hill

Carbuncle Pond

FOSTE RIVER

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

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	
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Foster

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE  
44

COUNTY:  
Providence

CODE  
007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 21,000

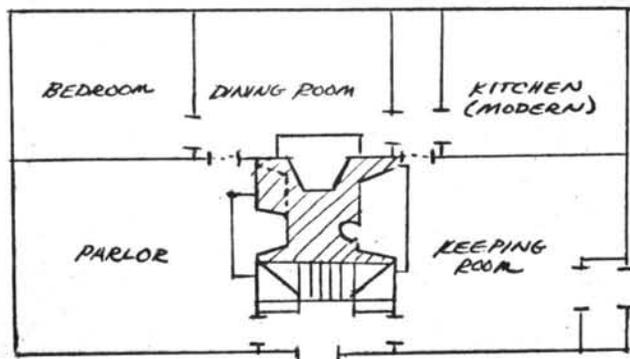
DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

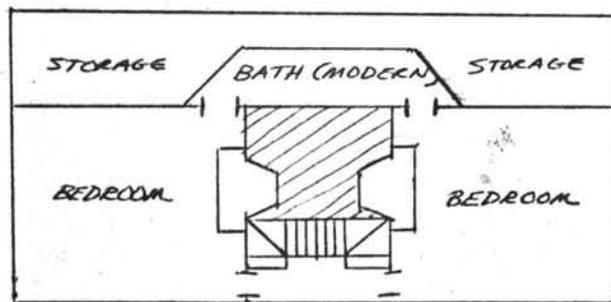
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

# CAPTAIN GEORGE DORRANCE HOUSE FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

PLAN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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STREET AND NUMBER: Jencks Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Foster			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: William Gerold			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: No negative			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Sketch-plans (not to scale) of first and second floors.			