

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Towers

AND/OR HISTORIC:
the Towers (or tower entrance) of the Narragansett Casino

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ocean Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Narragansett

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: COUNTY: Washington CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Town of Narragansett

STREET AND NUMBER:
66 Rodman Street

CITY OR TOWN: Narragansett STATE: Rhode Island CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
1693 Kingstown Road

CITY OR TOWN: West Kingston STATE: Rhode Island CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .166 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Technical paper #2. A report on the Historic points of interest, Louis C. David, Jr. R. I. Statewide Comprehensive Transportation and Land use *

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: R. I. Statewide Comprehensive Transportation and Land Use Planning Program Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: R. I. CODE:

* planning program

STATE:
COUNTY:
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As it existed, but the north tower roof has been removed. Present plans call for exterior restoration of that tower as well as other original exterior details. Interior to be replanned to serve as the Town Hall.

The Towers are the stone remnant of the Narragansett Casino (1883-1885), an extensive, mostly wooden, building which burned in 1900 and which was one of McKim, Mead, and White's most picturesque compositions. The Towers provided one of the entrances to a complex of dining, card, and guest rooms, and a bridge across the coastal highway to the sea shore.

In essence the Towers are two three-storey blocks in coursed rock-faced granite, with semicircular ends; between these "pylons," a parallel pair of tremendous segmental arches, spanning the highway, carried a single great open room, which is the entire third storey. Above this, a steep pavilion roof makes, with the semi-conical terminations of the roofs of the flanking pylons, a handsome skyline. The seaward pylon is about fifty feet from the rocky shore; attached to the landward pylon on its inland side is a low square wing -- originally supporting a tall wooden stair tower -- which since the fire of 1900 has been simply roofed as a low buttress-like form. The lower flight of the original stair is still entered from the pavement alongside the highway, but its second and third flights have been rebuilt after two fires. The first landing is an open square with a semicircular room on each of two sides; the second landing opens directly to the great room, dumbbell-shaped in plan, over the arches. This room was originally open to the weather in summer; it terminated at the sea end in a wooden balcony, the corbels for whose timbers are still in the outer walls. The openings are now glazed with wooden casements. After a fire in the 1960's the pavilion roof was rebuilt but without the cupola. The seaward pylon has not suffered from fire but has no stylistic character internally. The whole building is a superbly rugged and disciplined sculptural mass, a landmark containing usable space. The fire marshal now permits occupancy for not more than seventy-five people. Fireproof remodeling is indicated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1883-1885

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Narragansett Casino, a slightly more flamboyant competitor to the Casino designed for Newport by the same architects, served a large fashionable public during the generation whose bearers of old money, makers of new money, and makers of political decisions for the nation were all likely to be together in summer on the shores of Narragansett Bay. Of this period, after the destruction of the rest of the Casino, its successor the second Casino, and many large wooden hotels, the Towers are the chief and almost the only architectural monument. In size and seafront location they form the trademark and the monument of the town, and they are the necessary nucleus of all visual considerations in town planning. The geographic and climatic advantages of Narragansett have persisted even though the old conjunction of rail head and Bay ferry vanished years ago. At the northern end of a procession of splendid beaches leading to Point Judith, the town and the Towers (now happily town property) present an opportunity. The significance of the Towers as symbol of social history is real enough, but as a great piece of public sculpture indelibly associated with a coastal landscape they have a visual significance which is perhaps more important; and as a focus for community development they have an important future. It has been suggested that fireproof revision of the interior include a Guastavino vault as soffit to the arched span; McKim Mead & White used Guastavino often from the early 1880's and might very probably have used such a vault if a fire-proof structure had been contemplated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scully, V. J. Jr. The Shingle Style
 (New Haven & London, Yale U. Press 1955) 132-134
 Sheldon, G. W. Artistic Country Seats: types of Amer. Villas and
 cottage arch w instances of houses Vol. 1, 5-7
 N.Y. 1886-7
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr. Rhode Island Architecture (Providence,
 R. I., Rhode Island Museum Press, 1939), p. 58, pl. 64.
 Smith, Eugenia B. Rhode Island Resort Architecture by McKim, Mead & White
 (unpub. thesis at Newport Historical Society, Newport, R. I.), pp. 74-76.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N.41° 24' 55"	W.71° 27' 27"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Winslow Ames, Architectural Historian, Social Historian

ORGANIZATION: Member Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: Aug. 1, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 24 Meeting Street

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

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

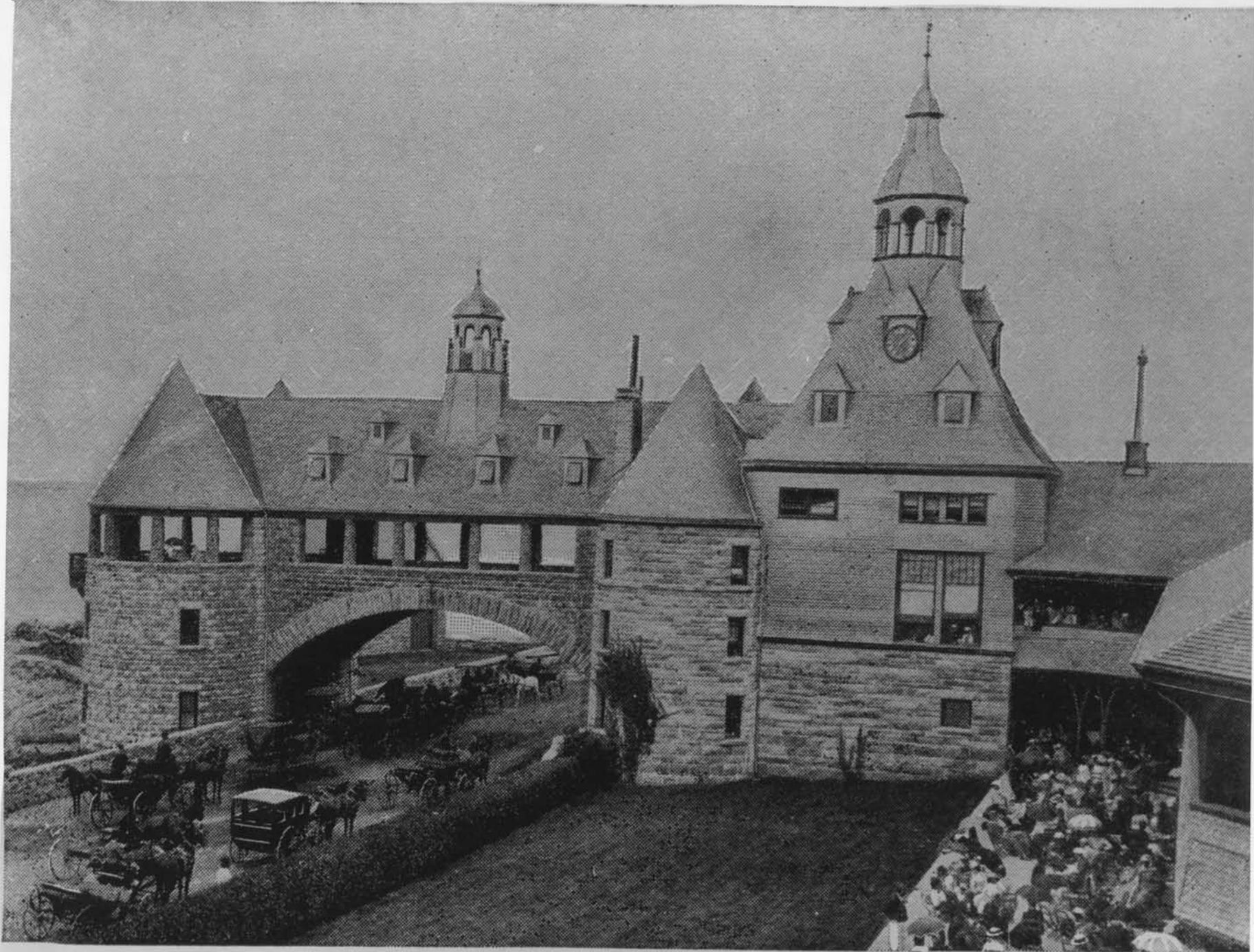
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



A VIEW OF CASINO.

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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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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AND/OR HISTORIC: The Towers (or tower entrance) of the Narragansett Casino			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Ocean Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Narragansett			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Washington	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: not known			
DATE OF PHOTO: copy negative, 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. arch and towers seen from the north, showing original roof and cupola at juncture with casino pavilions at right; from Narragansett Pier, R. I., Illustrated, Narragansett, R. I., Hotel Men's Association, 1891.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Ocean Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Narragansett
STATE: Rhode Island CODE COUNTY: Washington CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: not known
DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1950-1955
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
arch and towers seen from the south

LIGHT HOUSE

STATION.



R.

THE CASINO.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

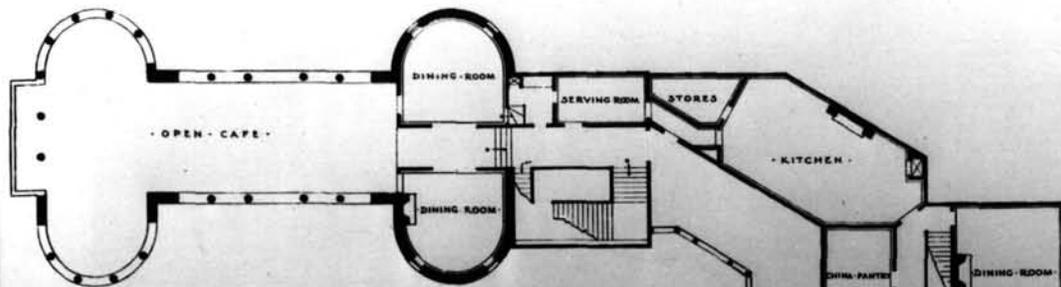
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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COUNTY Washington	
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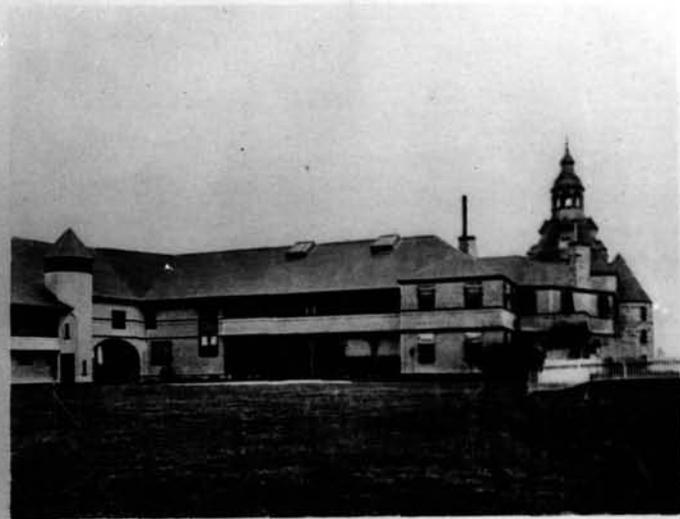
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PHOTO CREDIT: not known			
DATE OF PHOTO: copy negative, 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. general view of arch and towers, casino building from north-east; from <u>Souvenir of Narragansett Pier</u> , Boston, Mass., J. F. Murphy, c. 1890.			



VIEW FROM THE SOUTH

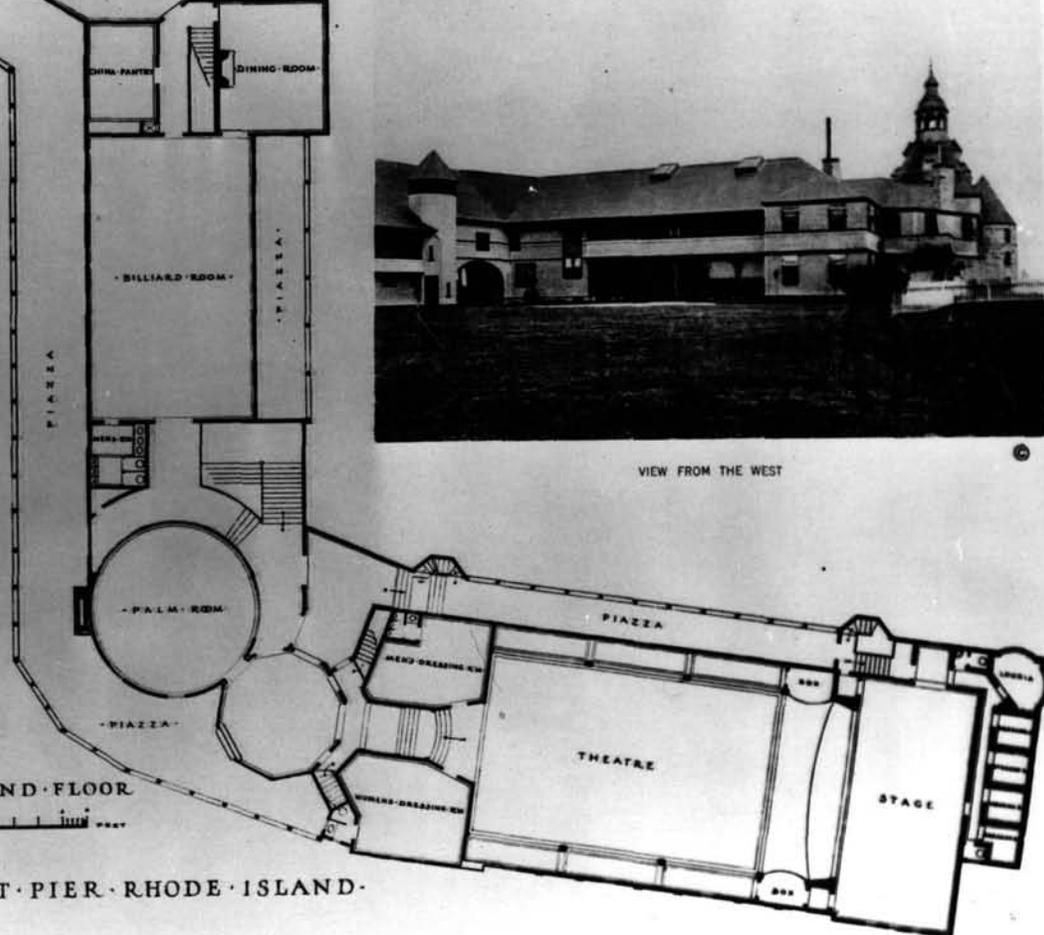
©



VIEW FROM THE WEST

©

PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR



CASINO AT NARRAGANSETT PIER, RHODE ISLAND

1894

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

Rhode Island	
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CITY OR TOWN: Narragansett			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Washington	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: A Monograph of the Works of McKim, Mead & White ... N. Y.. (1915)			
DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1885			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Richard B. Harrington, 23, James Street, Providence, R. I.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. plan and views of towers and casino building as originally completed			



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF NARRAGANSETT PIER, R. I.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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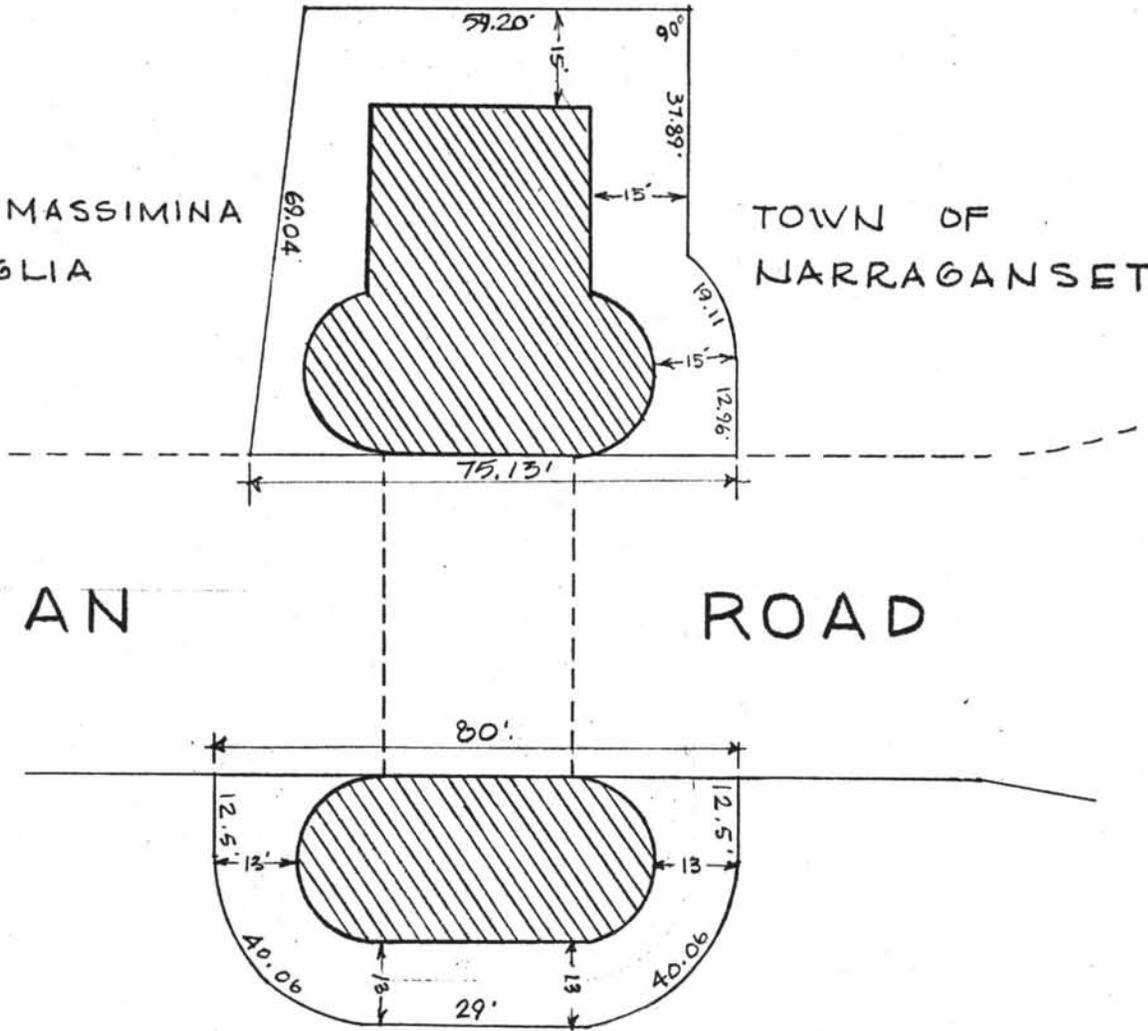
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PHOTO CREDIT: not known			
DATE OF PHOTO: copy negative, 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. bird's-eye view of Narragansett Pier, R. I., from the north-east, showing Casino at lower right centre; from <u>Narragansett Pier, R. I., Illustrated, Narragansett, R. I., Hotel Men's Association, 1891.</u>			

GAETANO & MASSIMINA
VENTRIGLIA

TOWN OF
NARRAGANSETT

OCEAN

ROAD



PLAN OF
TOWERS PROPERTY
NARRAGANSETT, R.I.

Latitude: $41^{\circ} 24' 55''$ North
Longitude: $71^{\circ} 27' 27''$ West

COMPILED FROM PLAN BY T.G. HAZARD JR.

MARCH, 1965. A.J. EASTERBROOKS, C.E.

SCALE: 1" = 30'

MAGNETIC

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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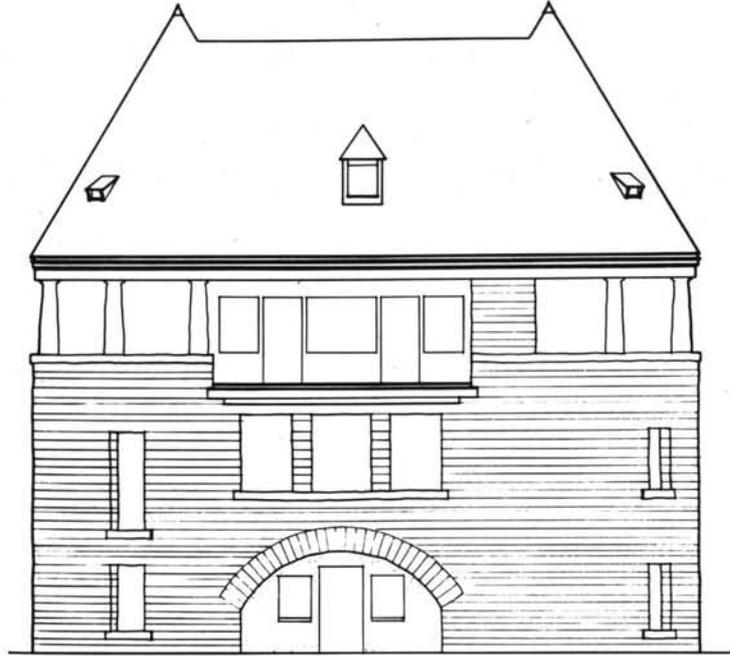
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STREET AND NUMBER: Ocean Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Narragansett			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Washington	CODE
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society, Narragansett, R. I.			
SCALE: 1" = 30'			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

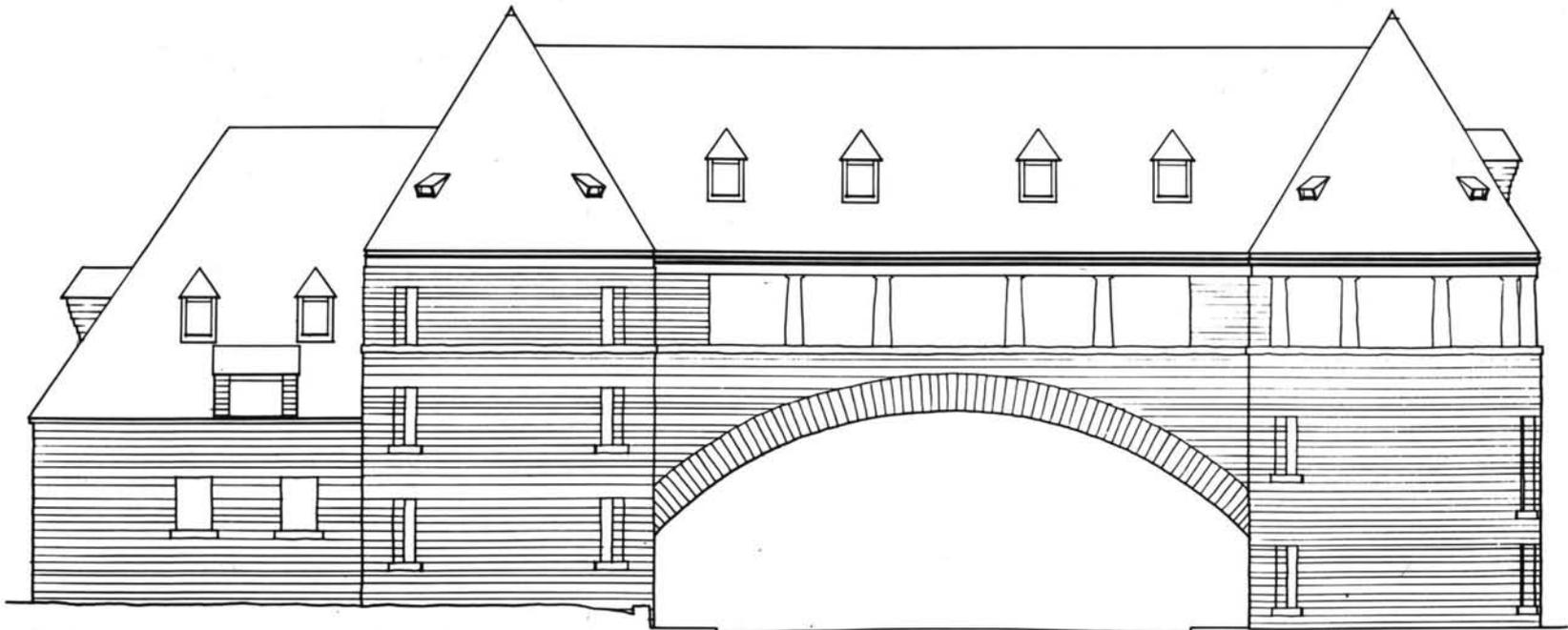
existing elevations



WEST



EAST



SOUTH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Rhode Island

Washington

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: not known

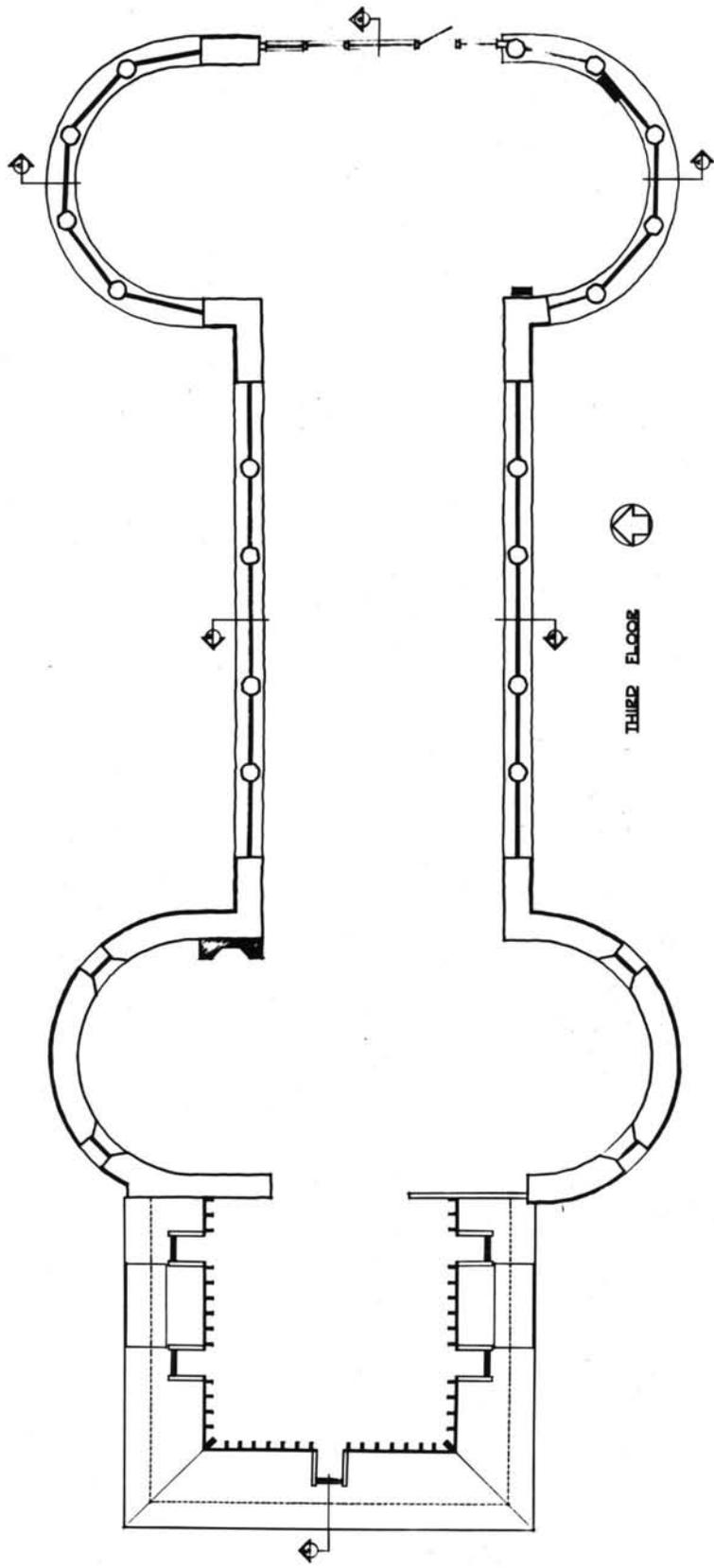
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society,
Narragansett, Rhode Island

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

existing elevations, drawn by William Warner, A. I. A.,
Providence, R. I.



THIRD FLOOR

existing floor plan

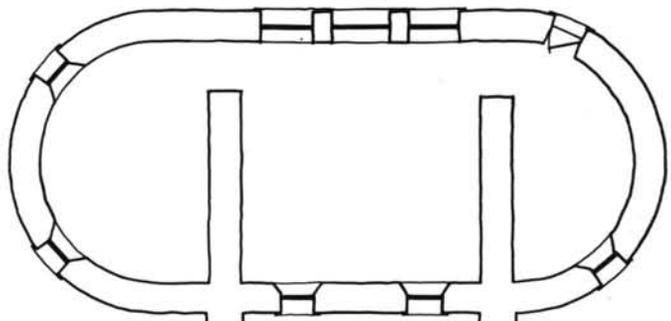
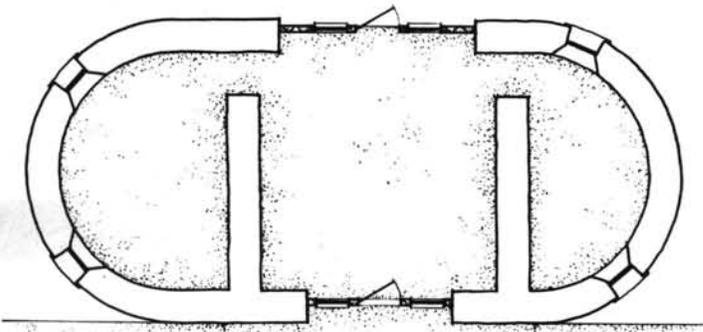
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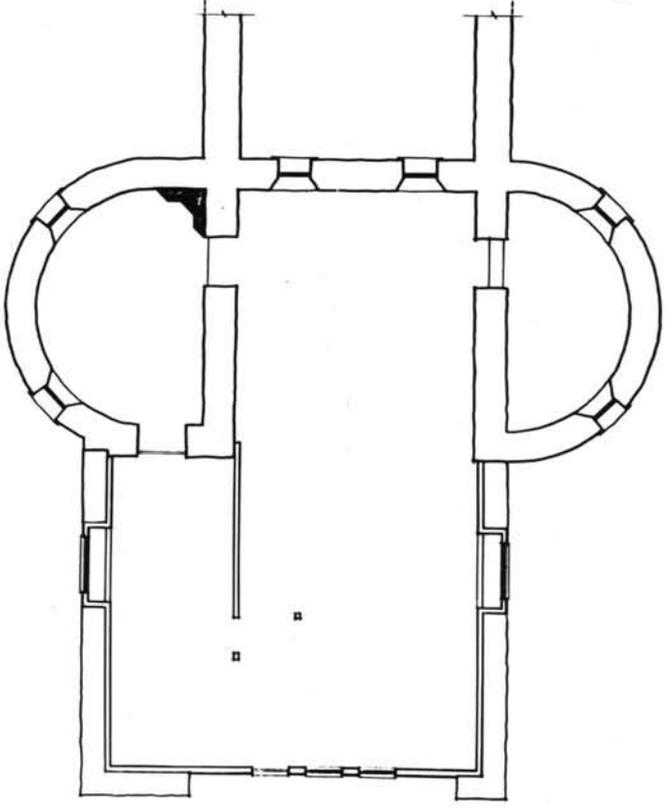
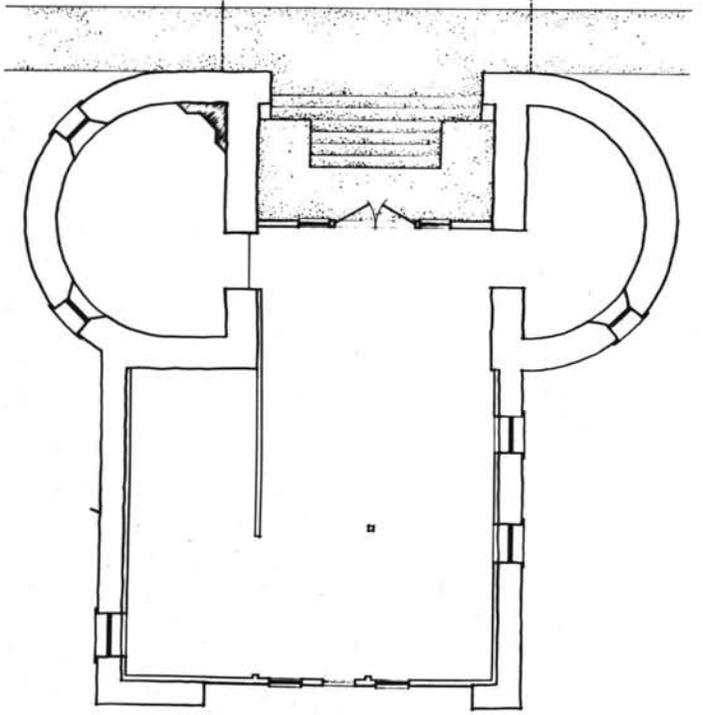
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DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
existing plan, drawn by William Warner, A. I. A., Providence, R. I.			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR



existing floor plans

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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PHOTO CREDIT: not known

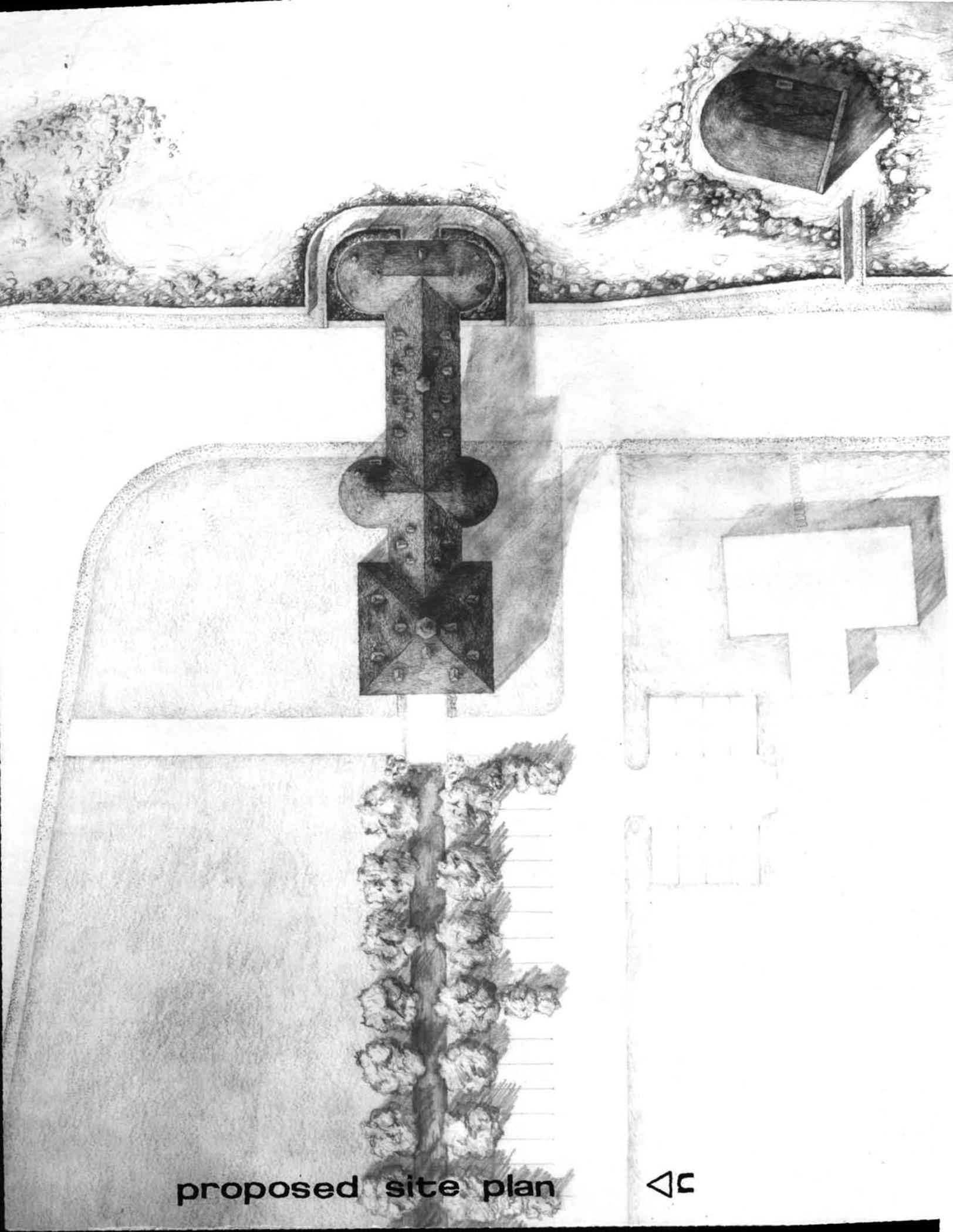
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

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existing plans, drawn by William Warner, A. I. A.,
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proposed site plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

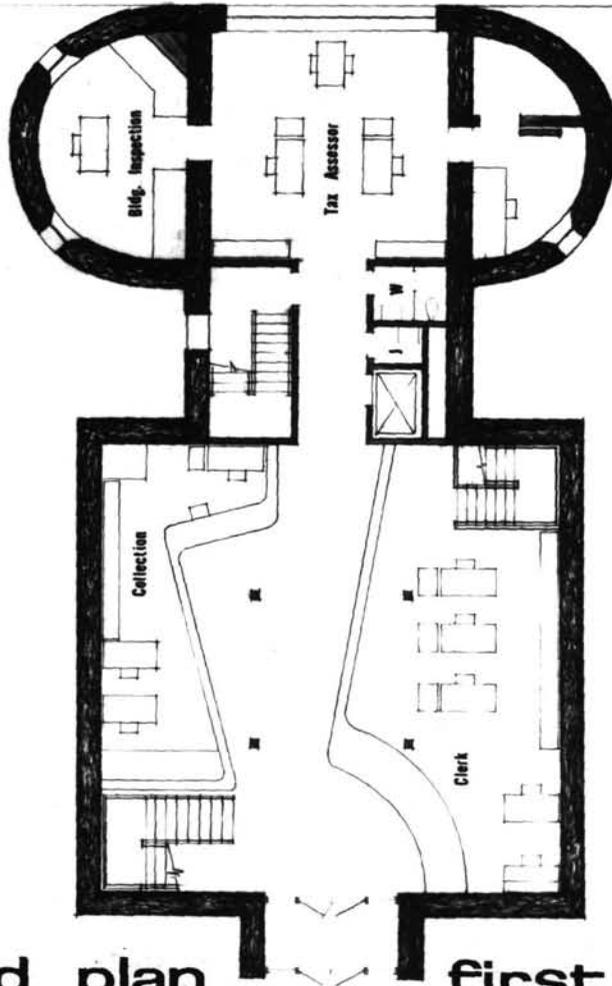
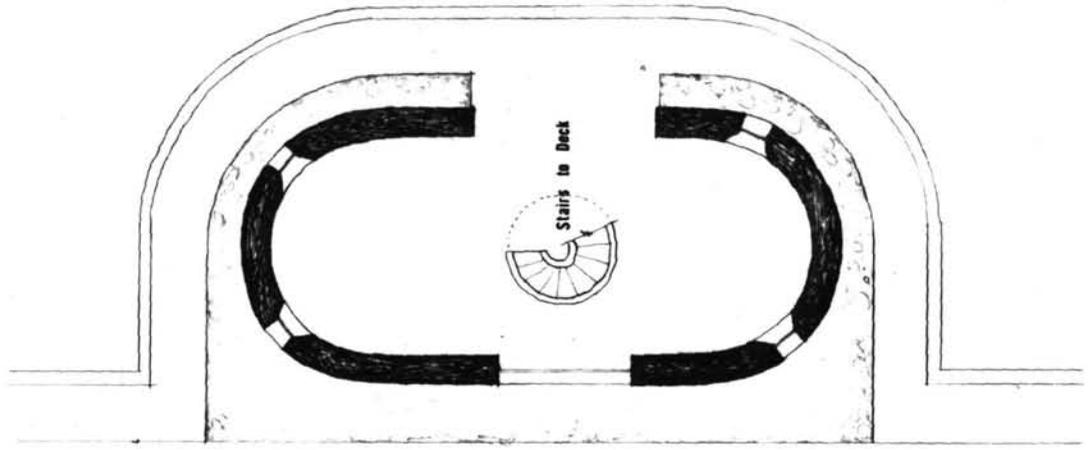
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PHOTO CREDIT: not known			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society, Narragansett, Rhode Island			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. proposed site plan, by William Warren, A. I. A., Providence, R. I.			



proposed plan

first floor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

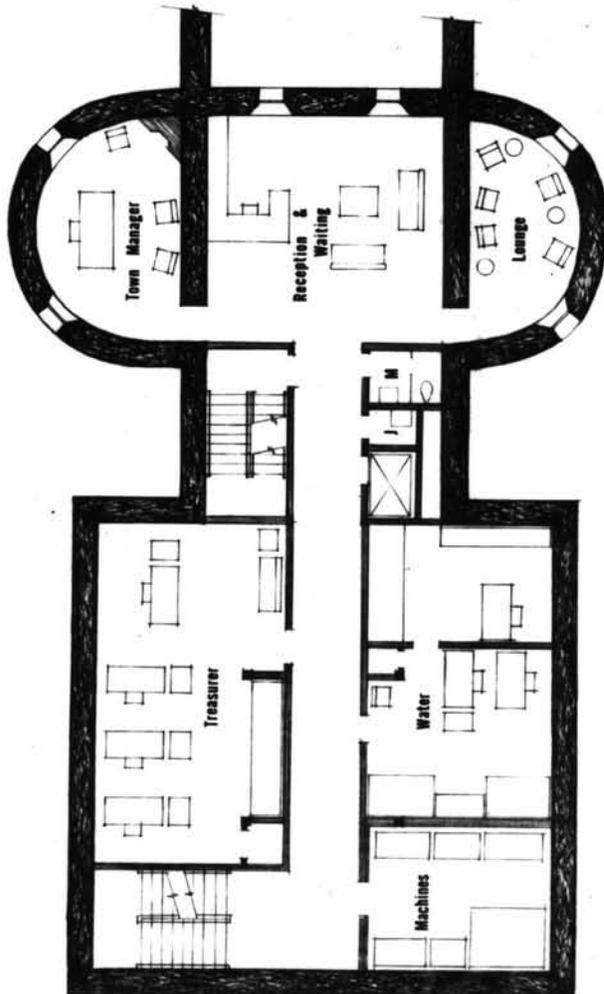
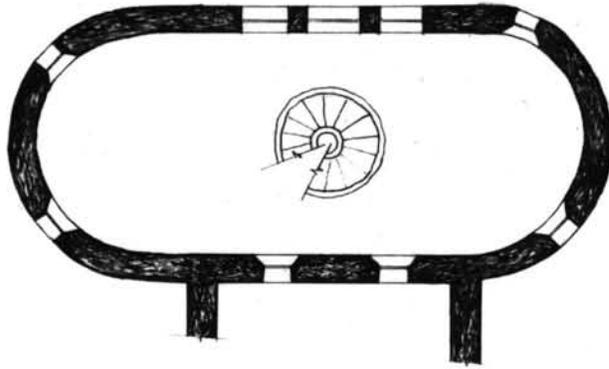
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PHOTO CREDIT: not known			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society, Narragansett, Rhode Island			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. proposed plan: first floor, by William Warner, A. I. A, Providence, R. I.			



proposed plan: second floor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

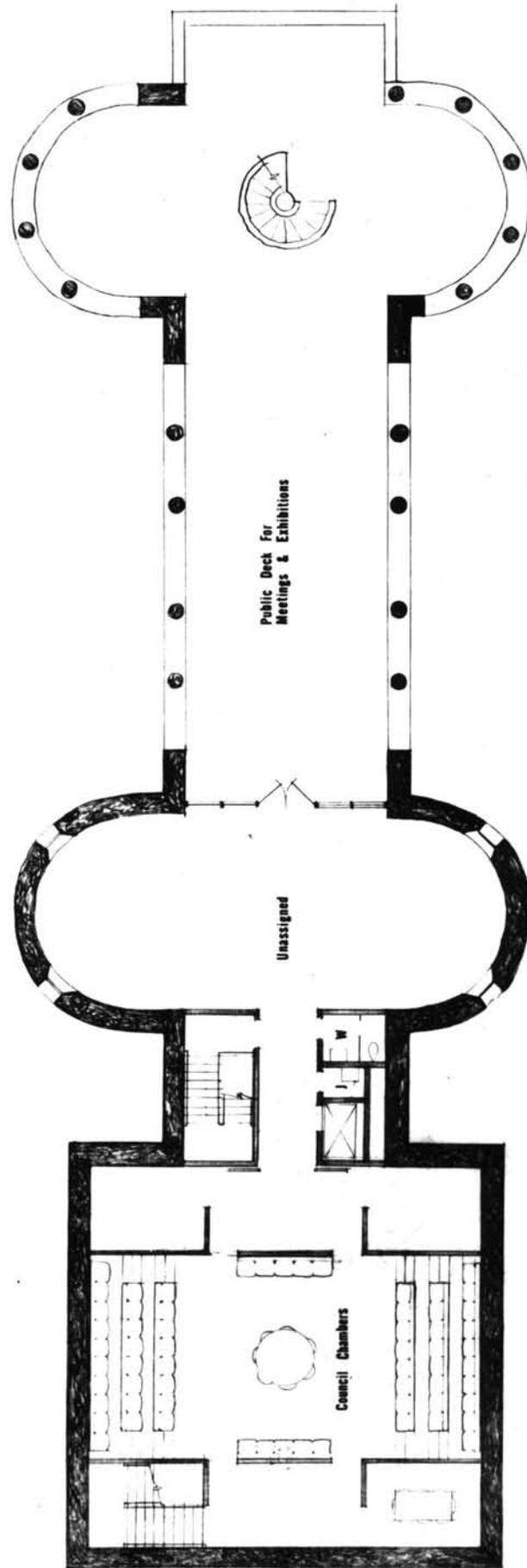
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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society, Narragansett, Rhode Island			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. proposed plan: second floor, by William Warner, A. I. A., Providence, R. I.			



proposed plan: third floor

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: The Towers

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Towers (or tower entrance) of the Narragansett Casino

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Ocean Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Narragansett

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: not known

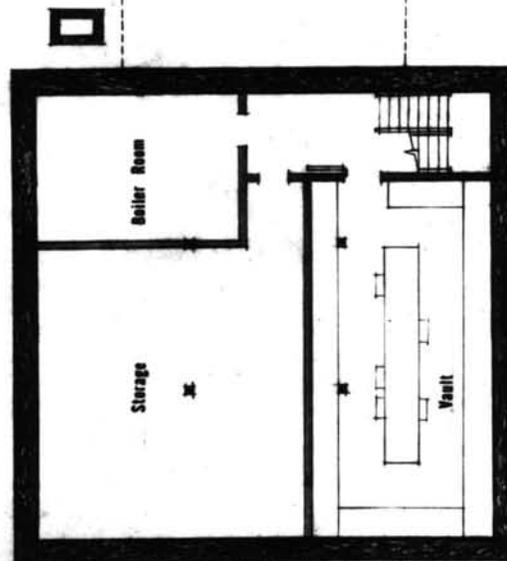
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society,
Narragansett, Rhode Island

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

proposed plan: third floor, by William Warner, A. I. A.,
Providence, R. I.



proposed plan: basement

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
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Narragansett

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Washington	CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: not known
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Narragansett Preservation and Improvement Society,
Narragansett, Rhode Island

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
proposed plan: basement, by William Warner, A. I. A.,
Providence, R. I.