

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| <b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b> |
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Amos Cooke House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Chopmist Hill Road (R.I. Route 102) -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Scituate VICINITY OF Congr. District 2 Hon. Edward Beard  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Rhode Island 44 Providence 007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                          |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Alfred R. Carpenter  
STREET & NUMBER  
Chopmist Hill Road  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Scituate VICINITY OF Rhode Island

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Scituate Town Hall  
STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
North Scituate Rhode Island

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Not so represented  
DATE -- FEDERAL -- STATE -- COUNTY -- LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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The rough granite masonry of the chimney is left exposed in the overmantel section. Except for its southern wall--which had twelve-over-twelve sash before the tripartite window was installed--this room and the parlor have retained their original appearance, most notably in the hand-hewn beams, girts, and corner posts left exposed, and now painted white. Doors, window and door frames, paneling, fireplaces, floorboards, and iron hardware are also original to the house.

The section across the back has been noticeably altered on the interior. Originally two smaller rooms, the northwest room has been made into a den by the present owners, and although the mantel is original, the firebox and hearth have been recently rebuilt.

The rear hall fireplace (see sketch plan) is set at a diagonal and forms a triangle with that in the den; it retains its original mantel. The rear stairs, off the rear hall, are a later addition. The rear hall and present kitchen were probably once a single large room.

The upper floor follows the plan of the lower with slight variation. Two large bedrooms to the front above the parlor and keeping room are connected by the narrow front hall. There are four smaller rooms to the rear, one converted to a bathroom. There are only two fireplaces, one in each of the front bedrooms; a third fireplace may be concealed behind one of the bathroom walls. The triangular configuration of the first floor chimney is not carried through to the second floor. The ceilings in both the front rooms upstairs are plastered, and all corner posts are cased.

There are five outbuildings, including a barn which has been renovated; an early twentieth-century cabin; a small horse-barn, formerly a shed where sheep were raised; and a large dog house, formerly a chicken coop. In addition, there is a rustic gazebo, built from the remains of a large pine tree on the same site which was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane.

Designed after a guest house in Alaska, the cabin was affectionately named the Gnome House by its previous owners as it was built in reduced scale. The large barn may be original to the house, as the framing is much older than the building's present exterior appearance would suggest: a 1923 photograph of the house not only shows the same barn, unadorned and sheathed with vertical boards, but also another barn directly behind the main house, which has since disappeared. Its foundation is no longer evident. Also shown in the picture is a wooden well structure which sat east of the verandah in front of the house; it too is gone.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Amos Cooke House lies west of Chopmist Hill Road (Route 102) just north of the junction with Route 14. Partially hidden by a row of dense cedar trees planted around 1920 and an old stone wall, the Cooke House is isolated from the road and set apart from neighboring twentieth-century houses. Facing east, the house sits on a knoll about thirty feet from the road; the lawn slopes gently south from the house to a garden enclosed by a stone wall, the continuation of that in front of the house.

The house is a classic two-and-a-half-story, gable-roof, five-bay Federal farmhouse with a large central chimney. The only additions to the crisp, rectangular box are a small ell at the northwest corner and a twentieth-century, flat-roof, deep-cornice verandah running the width of the first story of the southern end of the house: this porch is supported by four square posts, with a broad set of steps descending between the two center posts to the south lawn. The house, which sits on a low fieldstone foundation, is sheathed in wooden clapboard. The only ornament on the facade is the central entrance, rebuilt in a vernacular treatment of the Greek Revival style. Flanking the six-panel front door are two slender sidelights with tall, narrow panes arranged in a grid pattern. The side moldings consist of of straight bars divided into three even strips, the inner one recessed; these intersect at the top on both ends to form flat squares with punched centers. The lintel over the doorway is topped with a low, plain pediment.

The original twelve-over-twelve sash were replaced--probably at the time the doorway was remodeled--with six-over-six sash. Only the windows in the attic retain the original sash: these are twelve over eight. A tripartite and a double window were both installed at the southern end of the house on the first floor when the porch was added.

The interior demonstrates an unusual variation of the five-room, center-chimney plan. The chimney is pentagonal in plan on the first floor, allowing for four fire-boxes, those at the rear of the chimney set on the diagonal. At the basement level the chimney is formed of two giant piers running north-south, the western pier triangular and the eastern rectangular pier flanked by the basement stairs; an open space separates the two piers. This variation occurs seldom in Rhode Island domestic architecture, but notable exemplars include the Caleb Claggett House (ca 1725) in Newport and several late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century dwellings in Bristol.

A small, narrow entrance hall has a simple, triple-run stairway with straight balusters and closed, molded string. The parlor is a relatively simple room lacking a decorative cornice of elaborate window moldings. The simple Federal mantel is the most elegant feature of the room, and it too is spare in detail. Several rows of stepped molding rise from its frieze section to support a simple shelf; these break out into pilaster-like elements at either end.

The keeping room is located to one side of the entrance hall instead of across the rear, a placement commonly associated with houses of the period built in western Rhode Island. The large, cut-stone cooking fireplace with baking oven to the left covers a major portion of the north wall, abutting the southwest chimney post to the left and the door to the cellar to the right. The fireplace is completely devoid of ornament or molding except for the iron brackets which support the shallow mantel shelf.

See continuation sheet 1

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)                |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES 1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Amos Cooke House, because of its change in use over the 160 years of its history, is of significance to architectural and social history. It holds interesting historical associations through its past inhabitants. Further, its landscape elements--the original stone walls, the cedar trees along the road, and its outbuildings--are significant supporting features to this well-preserved house.

A fine example of a rural Rhode Island farmhouse in the vernacular, turn-of-the-nineteenth-century style, it has an unusual variation of the center-chimney plan. As the pentagonal center-chimney arrangement is not widespread in Rhode Island eighteenth- and nineteenth-century dwellings, its use here is particularly interesting in an otherwise simple farmhouse. Further, the house retains a great deal of its original hardware (including rough-cut, black H-L hinges), window and door frames, doors, floorboards, wainscoting, mantelpieces, and fireplaces contributing to the late eighteenth-early nineteenth-century flavor of the house.

Alterations have generally enhanced the architectural quality of the house. The early twentieth-century verandah to the south and the Greek Revival doorway evince changing tastes and uses of the house.

The house has witnessed several changes in ownership throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but its notable residents have been Augustus and Carver Hopkins, Amos Cooke, and the McCrillis family.

The house was constructed in 1812 as a farmhouse by Augustus and Carver Hopkins, members of a prominent Scituate family. The Hopkins brothers were the son of Timothy Hopkins, who had served as a sergeant during the Revolution in the "Army of Observation." The Hopkins brothers were owners of large tracts of land south of the Central Turnpike, on which they built this house and maintained a working farm. A deed from 1827, which refers to this property as "the old farm," involved the purchase of forty-seven additional acres for farming purposes. By the 1830s, the brothers were involved in business in Burrillville, Augustus having founded the Hopkins Machine Works for the manufacture of spindles in 1834. They retained ownership of the property, however, until 1859, when it was purchased by Henry West.

In 1865, the farm was purchased by Amos Cooke. At the time of the transfer, the property comprised a "dwelling house, barn, and other buildings," and covered an estimated 143 acres. Cooke was involved in a lumber business with his brother in Providence before he retired to Scituate to farm.

In the early years of the twentieth century, the property was bought by Mr and Mrs Arthur M. McCrillis of Providence and altered as a summer residence, which they named "Wilbourne." Their love of the property enhanced the architecture and landscape through the addition of the verandah, minor interior alterations, the construction of the Gnome House and gazebo, and the extensive planting of trees, including

See continuation sheet 4

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PAGE 2

the row of cedars in front of the house. In renovating the property, they also contributed to its maintenance and preservation, thus sparing the Amos Cooke House the neglect and deterioration so frequently apparent in isolated rural farmhouses throughout rural Rhode Island.

The growth and changes to the Cooke House and its property, as well as the intact state of an unusual variation on the vernacular early farmhouse, amply chronicle the significance of the property to architectural and social history and merit its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beers, J.H. Rhode Island Genealogy. Chicago, 1908. Volume III.

Hawkins, John W. "Landmark of 1812 Restored as a Summer Residence." Providence Journal-Bulletin, 4 September 1932.

Town of Scituate, Rhode Island. Land Records. Deed Books 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25.

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.84 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 278920 4631740  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Town of Scituate, Rhode Island, Tax Assessor's Plat 47, Lot 30, inclusive.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wendy A. Ketchum, William McKenzie Woodward

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

October 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

### 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*William McKenzie Woodward*

July 10, 1980

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

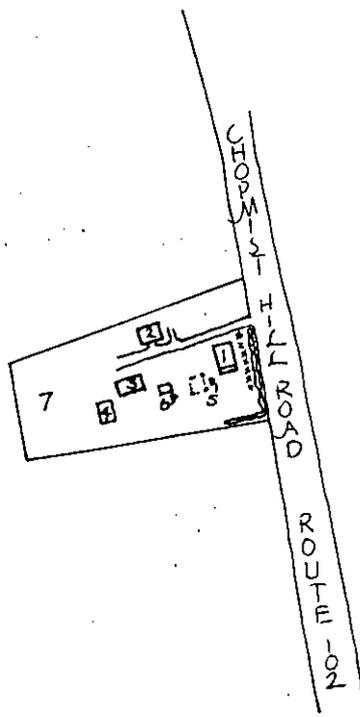
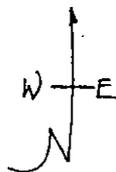
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KEY

- 1 - HOUSE
- 2 - BARN
- 3 - GNOME HOUSE
- 4 - SHEEP SHED, NOW HORSE BARN
- 5 - GAZEBO
- 6 - CHICKEN COOP, NOW DOG HOUSE
- 7 - PADDOCK
- \*\*\* - CEDARS
- - STONE WALL

AMOS COOKE HOUSE  
SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND  
SITE SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

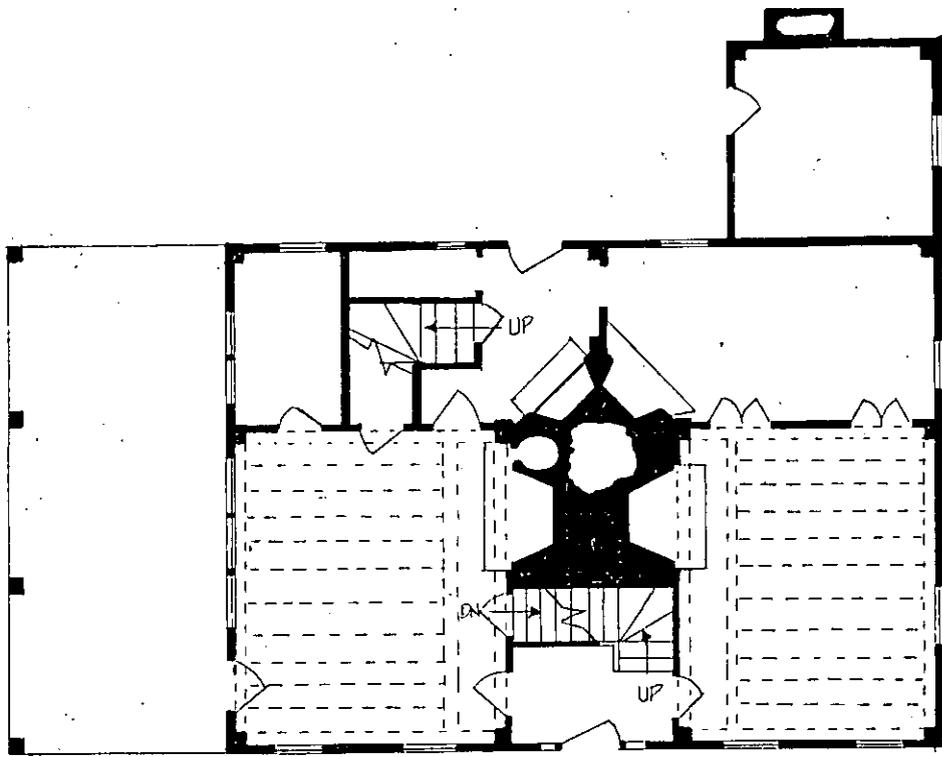
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CONTINUATION SHEET 3

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COOKE HOUSE  
CHOPMIST HILL ROAD  
SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND

SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE



Amos, Cooke, House  
Scituate, Rhode Island

*Providence Co.*

Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: October 1978  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View of main facade, from the southeast.

Photo #1/3

JUL 23 1980



←  
Amos, Cooke, House  
Scituate, Rhode Island

*Providence Co.*

Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: October, 1978  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

Keeping room viewed from the southeast.

JUL 23 1980

Photo #2/3



Amos, Cooke, House  
Scituate, Rhode Island

*Providence Co.*

Photographer: Warren Jagger

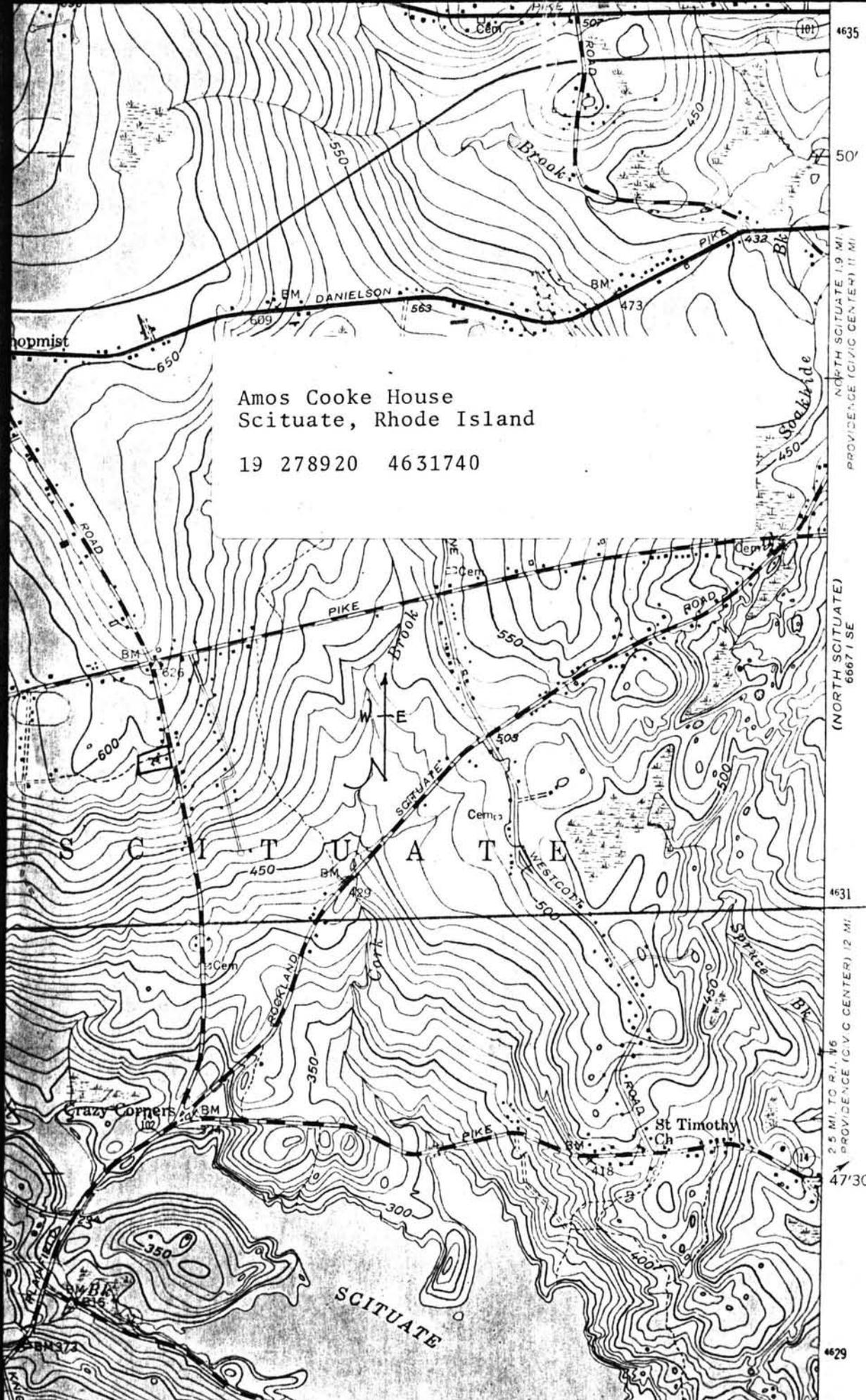
Date: October, 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View of the barn from the south.

JUL 23 1980

Photo #3/3



Amos Cooke House  
Scituate, Rhode Island

19 278920 4631740

4635  
50'  
NORTH SCITUATE 1.9 MI  
PROVIDENCE (C.V.G CENTER) 11 MI  
66671 SE  
(NORTH SCITUATE)  
4631  
2.5 MI. TO R.I. #6  
PROVIDENCE (C.V.G CENTER) 12 MI  
47'30"  
4629