

Survey Report

African American Struggle for Civil Rights in Rhode Island: The Twentieth Century

Statewide Survey and National Register Evaluation

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Survey Report African American Struggle for Civil Rights in Rhode Island: The Twentieth Century Phase 2: Statewide Survey and National Register Evaluation

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Submitted to:

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Background and Purpose

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC), in partnership with the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) and the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS), engaged the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) to complete a Statewide Survey and National Register Evaluation of sites relating to the Twentieth-Century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island. This project was Phase 2 of a three-phase project funded by the National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Grant Program; Phase 1 was completed by RIBHS researchers in July 2018. This Survey Report for Phase 2 includes a methodology statement, a historical context statement, a summary of surveyed sites, and a bibliography. A list of the surveyed resources and corresponding maps are provided in the attached appendix.

Methodology Statement

The purpose of this project was to complete an intensive-level survey of extant cultural and architectural resources associated with the African American Civil Rights Movement in twentieth-century Rhode Island. The project goals were to produce RIHPHC Historic Property Data Forms for 75 properties identified in Phase 1 and a narrative report that includes a historical context statement, a map of surveyed properties, and National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligibility recommendations.

The list of properties to be surveyed was derived from the results of Phase 1 and discussion with representatives of the RIHPHC, RIHS, and RIBHS. The Phase 1 products included a comprehensive study of Rhode Island's twentieth-century African American Civil Rights history and a list of approximately 220 associated historic resources, of which 117 are thought to be extant. In September 2018, RIHPHC staff ranked the extant properties according to priority: high, medium, or low. Properties that were clearly associated with a person, organization, or event important to the twentieth-century history of African American Civil Rights in Rhode Island and documented in readily available sources such as newspapers, directories, or other materials were assigned a high or medium priority. Properties with a lack of clearly defined associations with the civil rights movement in the twentieth century or of available historical information were assigned a low priority. The ranking also attempted to select a diversity of geographical locations within the state and of resource types (e.g., residence, civic building, landscape, etc.). Where individuals were

associated with multiple properties, the highest ranking was given to the property with the strongest associations (e.g., longest amount of time or location of most important activities). Project participants met on October 9, 2018, and concurred with the RIHPHC rankings, which resulted in a preliminary list of 82 properties assigned a high or medium priority. The final list of 75 properties to be surveyed was based on Phase 2 research and field survey and determined in consultation with the RIHPHC.

For all the properties on the preliminary survey list, PAL reviewed existing historic documentation, including RIHPHC Historic Property Data Forms, RIHPHC survey publications, the Rhode Island State Register of Historic Places, and the National Register. Approximately one-third of the properties on the list were never previously surveyed. Existing RIHPHC inventory forms for the other properties primarily date from the 1970s, and most do not include information on a property's associations with Rhode Island civil rights history. Almost two-thirds of the properties (47 out of 75) are already listed in the National Register individually or as part of a historic district but generally not for their civil rights associations, and the existing nominations for the most part do not acknowledge that aspect of the properties' history. Fourteen properties are recommended potentially eligible for listing based on the results of this survey project.

Phase 2 research and field survey was conducted between October 2018 and May 2019. General documentary research included a review of materials identified in the Phase 1 study, including the oral histories conducted as part of that work, and other scholarly publications on twentieth-century civil rights activities in Rhode Island and throughout the United States to develop the historical context statement. General and property-specific research was conducted in local, regional, and state library and archive collections including the Providence Public Library Rhode Island Collections and the Rhode Island State Archives. Property-specific research also consisted of keyword searches in digital newspaper archives including the *Providence Journal*, the *Newport Sun*, and the *New York Age* and in other online databases such as the Library of Congress American Folklife Center and Ancestry.com. Limited map and directory research was conducted to determine building construction dates where necessary.

Field survey consisted of recording the physical attributes needed to complete the RIHPHC Historic Property Data Form for each identified property and photographically documenting each property using a high-resolution digital SLR camera in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. A web-based GIS map was used to locate each property in the field and interactively record field data.

The physical attributes of each property were recorded on the front of the RIHPHC Historic Property Data Form. Brief narratives explaining the property's associations with the African American Civil Rights Movement in the twentieth century was provided on the back of the form, along with pertinent bibliographic information. A purpose statement included before the narrative explained the objectives of this survey effort and noted that a surveyed property may also have associations with other historical contexts that were not discussed here.

National Register eligibility recommendations for the resources included in this survey project were based on analysis of the available background information and the visual data collected during field survey against the National Register criteria (36 CFR 60). These criteria are the standards for evaluating the significance of resources as established by the National Park Service, Department of

the Interior. The criteria are designed to guide the evaluation of potential entries for the National Register. The National Register criteria state that “the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

These criteria were applied to each surveyed resource to determine first if the resource has historical significance within the context of the twentieth-century civil rights movement in Rhode Island (included in this survey report) and second if the resource has integrity. Significant civil rights-related properties may not retain integrity because of a combination of factors that include limited financial resources, neglect, and until recently a general lack of attention to underrepresented history. The recommendations in this report take into consideration the fact that for properties with significance under Criteria A or B (as opposed to Criterion C for architecture) integrity of design and materials is often less important than the other aspects of integrity.

Historical Context Statement

The following historical context is drawn from a variety of sources but relies on several in particular. The narrative produced in Phase 1 of this project by the RIBHS served as a starting point for defining the major themes and questions. The general chronological divisions used to organize this discussion are based on those defined in *Civil Rights in America: A Framework for Identifying Significant Sites*, published by the National Park Service National Historic Landmarks Program in 2002 and revised in 2008, which also presented an overview of key national events (NHLP 2008). Thomas Sugrue’s 2008 study of the civil rights movement in the North provided a regional focus within the national framework (Sugrue 2008). Histories of the African American experience in Rhode Island by Irving H. Bartlett and Andrew J. Bell Jr. enabled further refinement of the narrative (Bartlett 1954; Bell 1997). Additional sources were used as needed to supply details on particular cities, towns, and properties. This is not intended to be an exhaustive history of the subject but is a historical context tailored to this specific project.

In his groundbreaking 1944 study of race in the United States, the Swedish sociologist Gunnar Myrdal wrote, “The social paradox in the North is exactly this, that almost everybody is against discrimination in general but, at the same time, almost everybody practices discrimination in his own personal affairs” (quoted in Sugrue 2008:xv). Racial inequality in the North differed from that in the South in that most places did not have explicitly segregated facilities or schools and black voters were not systematically disenfranchised throughout the region. In both the North and South,

however, private behavior, market practices, and public policies created and reinforced racial separation and inequality. The struggle for civil rights in the North thus extended beyond the “battle to strike down legally mandated segregation” to include fights against discrimination in the workplace, for the opening of housing markets, the provision of quality education, access to the consumer marketplace, economic development, and other arenas (Sugrue 2008:xvi). As they formed broad coalitions to tackle these issues, black activists in Rhode Island and throughout the North created “an extraordinary web of organizations” (Sugrue 2008:xxvii). They allied with white unionists, religious activists, and elected officials to influence local, state, and federal policy making. As they did so, they shared their experiences with their Southern counterparts and were inspired by the example of the South. Black newspapers with circulations that spanned several states reported on the civil rights struggle. National organizations such as fraternities, women’s clubs, civil rights organizations, and churches linked black activists. Many of Rhode Island’s civil rights leaders participated in the sit-ins and marches of the 1950s and 1960s. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the national and regional backdrop for each time period, followed by a discussion of the related people, places, and events in Rhode Island.

African American Civil Rights at the End of the Nineteenth Century

The United States entered the twentieth century with African American civil rights facing serious institutional and societal obstacles. Dramatic changes that occurred in the country after the Civil War, many as a direct consequence of the conflict, such as urbanization, industrialization, immigration, expansion of education, settlement of the West, and emergence of women’s professions contributed to a diversified and complicated setting for the equal rights struggle (NHLP 2008:8). In 1883, the US Supreme Court declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875, a Reconstruction-era law that had attempted to provide blacks with equal access to hotels and other public facilities, unconstitutional and asserted that the Fourteenth Amendment forbid states but not citizens from discrimination. In 1896, the same court issued the *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that “separate but equal” facilities satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment equal protection guarantees. Both cases effectively sanctioned the Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation throughout the South and influenced the treatment of African Americans throughout the country. Between the end of Reconstruction and World War I, whites enacted numerous state and local laws and customs to limit black freedoms and lynchings became a common practice in Southern states. While Northern whites did not enshrine the Jim Crow practices into their laws, they did revert to many segregationist customs and traditions that in many cases had the same effects on African Americans (RIBHS 2018).

These setbacks helped to inspire intensified civil rights efforts, particularly with respect to women’s suffrage. Excluded from most white suffrage associations, middle-class African American women led by journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862–1931) mobilized extensive networks of clubs and reform associations on behalf of women’s suffrage, creating an educational and civic infrastructure within the black community by the 1890s (NPS 2008:8). At its annual convention in 1896, held in Washington, DC, the Boston-based National Federation of Afro-American Women merged with the DC-based Colored Women’s League to form the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), which became an umbrella group for hundreds of black women’s clubs and incorporated in 1904 as the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs (NACWC). The group worked on issues of civil rights and injustice such as women’s suffrage, lynching, and Jim Crow laws and

strove “to furnish evidence of the moral, mental and material progress made by people of color through the efforts of our women” (NACW Constitution, quoted in Leslie 2012).

The African American community in Rhode Island confronted equally complex dynamics with respect to civil rights at the turn of the twentieth century. Blacks have historically been present in the state in relatively small numbers compared to other parts of the country. The percentage of blacks as a whole declined throughout the nineteenth century, from a high of 6.3% in 1790 to 2.1% in 1900 (Gibson and Jung 2002). Prior to the Civil War, the black population of the state’s larger cities had begun to increase gradually as African Americans from the rural South started migrating to the urban Northeast, Midwest, and West. Between 1855 and 1865, the number of African Americans in Providence rose from 1,390 to 1,711, with many of the new arrivals born in the South (Grover and Larson 2018). Newport’s seasonal and year-round black residents, many of whom also came from the South, supported three black churches by the 1860s (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:19). After emancipation, the trickle of blacks heading north grew steadily, particularly in heavily industrialized cities. Rhode Island’s black population went from 3,952 in 1860 to 9,092 by 1900 (Irving 1974:9). Providence’s nearly doubled to 3,487 by 1875 and reached 4,045 in 1895, although blacks still represented only 2% of the growing city’s total number of residents in 1900 (Grover and Larson 2018).

Despite their small numbers, black business and church leaders in Newport and Providence had gained some political influence by the second half of the nineteenth century, as evidenced by the desegregation of public schools in both cities by 1866 (Grover and Larson 2018; Youngken 1998:38). Individuals like Newport businessman George T. Downing (1819–1903) and Reverend Mahlon Van Horne (1840–1910), pastor of Newport’s Union Congregational Church from 1868 to 1896, provided strong leadership and disseminated progressive thinking to the larger community. When the federal Supreme Court failed to uphold their rights at the national level, these local black leaders acted quickly to preserve them within the state. Following the 1883 federal decision negating the 1875 Civil Rights Act, Van Horne and Downing led the effort that resulted in the Rhode Island General Assembly passing an 1885 Civil Rights Bill, which asserted that “no person within the jurisdiction of this state shall be debarred from the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of any licensed inns, public conveyances, on land or water, or from any licensed places of public amusement, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.” In 1885, Reverend Van Horne was elected the first African heritage member of the Rhode Island General Assembly and served a two-year term. In 1896, the Rhode Island General Assembly responded to *Plessy v. Ferguson* by passing an Equal Rights Law guaranteeing “that all persons within the jurisdiction of this state shall be entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:7).

Even with these legislative successes, however, African Americans in Rhode Island remained discouraged by numerous unfair policies and strove to increase their presence within the electorate. The preamble written for the Sumner Political Club organized in January 1898 by Downing, Dr. M. Alonzo Van Horne (Reverend Van Horne’s son), Charles Frederick Douglass Fayerweather, Thomas George Williams, and others in Newport demonstrated the climate at the time:

The Sumner Political Club comes into being because a part of the body politic, colored citizens of the city of Newport, state of Rhode Island, are aggrieved. We

suffer under the indignity of the policy so many of our fellow citizens who dominate in numbers cast upon us in the management of public affairs (quoted in RIBHS 2018:8).

Rhode Island women also mobilized and joined the growing national network of black women's clubs. The Sojourner Truth Club formed in Providence in 1894 (Terborg-Penn 1998:88). In 1895, Newport businesswoman Mary H. Dickerson (1830–1914) founded the Women's Newport League, modeled after similar organizations dedicated to the improvement of colored women's lives in other cities. Later that year, Dickerson was elected vice president at the country's first national gathering of colored women, held in Boston, Massachusetts, on July 29–31. In 1896, after attending the convention in Washington, DC, where the NACW formed, she established the NACW's first regional association, initially known as the New England Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and later as the Northeastern (or North Eastern) Federation of Colored Women's Clubs (NFCWC) (Leslie 2012). Building on the strong foundation of social activism in both cities, African Americans in Providence and Newport entered the twentieth century prepared to continue the fight for equal rights.

Rekindling Civil Rights, 1900–1941

The first four decades of the twentieth century were defined by massive social and governmental changes in the United States, fueled by the Progressive Era (1900–1920), World War I (1914–1918), and the Great Depression (1929–1939), all of which exerted tremendous force on the civil rights movement. New organizations and public and private institutions developed to address the challenges that arose nationally and regionally.

National Civil Rights Trajectories

The pace of the Great Migration accelerated rapidly during the Progressive Era, and millions of Southern blacks moved north and west in search of better economic opportunities. At the same time, several important national organizations formed to address issues related to African American civil rights (NHLP 2008:10). Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) led the first nationwide African American civil rights organization, the National Afro-American Council, founded in Rochester, New York, in 1898. In response to Washington's approach favoring conciliation and compromise, the writer, scholar, and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963) and the Boston activist William Monroe Trotter invited carefully selected activists (including educator and 1894 Brown University graduate John Hope, the namesake of the John Hope Settlement House in Providence) to a meeting near Niagara Falls in July 1905 and urged more direct action to achieve black civil rights (Dudley 1996:33). The group formed the Niagara Movement (forerunner to NAACP), named for the meeting location and the "mighty current" of change it hoped to effect, and drafted a list of demands that included an end to segregation in courts and public accommodations. It met each year through 1909, but membership dwindled. After a major race riot in Springfield, Illinois, in August 1908, white civil rights activists held a conference on race relations in New York in early 1909 that laid the foundation for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Du Bois was appointed the new group's director of publications and recommended that the remainder of the Niagara Movement members join the NAACP, which organized to advance justice for African heritage people across the country. In 1911, three black social service agencies in New York City established the National Urban League (NUL, initially called the National League on

Urban Conditions Among Negroes) to provide job training and assistance to the rising tide of African American migrants moving to northern cities (Irving 1974:6). Organizations that had formed in the 1890s—such as the NACWC, which had a nationwide membership of 300,000 by 1918—expanded during the Progressive Era as more groups joined the effort to gain women of all races the right to vote, which culminated in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 (Leslie 2012; NHLP 2008:10).

Organizations like the NAACP, NUL, and NACWC bolstered African Americans as they faced growing restrictions throughout the country in the aftermath of World War I. The overseas conflict had impacted black and white Americans alike, with 350,000 men and women of African American heritage serving in almost every branch of the military. Black women, however, were often prevented from obtaining some wartime jobs at home even as women overall entered the labor force in unprecedented numbers (RIBHS 2018:8). As the war effort contracted, returning African American service members found limited opportunities for employment, housing, education, and public accommodations. Restrictive housing covenants proliferated in the north, racially separate schools became the norm, and community centers run by the YMCA/YWCA were strictly segregated (Sugrue 2008:6–8). Racial tensions and riots consequently increased, and KKK membership reached over 4 million members nationwide, gaining strongholds in most northern cities (RIBHS 2018:10). A race riot in East St. Louis at the beginning of July 1917 motivated the NAACP to organize the first major public protest of racial violence in the United States, a silent protest on July 28 in New York City in which nearly 10,000 blacks marched from 59th and 5th Avenue to 23rd and Madison Square (National Humanities Center 2014). Continued escalations of violence peaked in the summer of 1919, which earned the moniker “The Red Summer.” The NAACP sent a telegram to President Wilson on August 29, 1919, asking “respectfully ... how long the Federal Government under your administration intends to tolerate anarchy in the United States?” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:10).

Civil rights leaders in the 1920s and 1930s began exploring broader legal and political avenues to fight segregation and discrimination, aided in part by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal response to the economic struggles of the Great Depression. The NAACP developed a strategy of systematic litigation to challenge *Plessy v. Ferguson* beginning in the 1920s (Sugrue 2008:19). Charles Hamilton Houston (1895–1950), the academic dean of Howard University’s Law School from 1929 to 1935, created the organization’s legal department and trained lawyers such as Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993). The organization lost its first suit against segregation and discrimination in education in 1933 but persevered in the legal arena, winning the 1935 *Murray v. Pearson* case against the University of Maryland’s law school (Friedman 2008:26–27). NAACP membership doubled between 1935 and 1940 as the scope of its work broadened.

The New Deal opened the door for civil rights activists to join others from across the social justice spectrum and brought the struggle for racial equality to a national audience in the political mainstream (Sugrue 2008:26–30). Blacks in general started shifting their political allegiance away from the Republican “Party of Lincoln” by the 1920s, and President Roosevelt’s appointment of a “Negro Cabinet” of advisers helped push them more in that direction. The New Deal’s public works programs cemented their loyalty to Roosevelt by providing employment opportunities to African Americans (Sugrue 2008:50). The number of black federal workers, particularly in the North, tripled during Roosevelt’s first two terms. Other New Deal programs had mixed effects depending on how states administered them. Housing policies developed under the 1937 Housing Act, for

example, were the most discriminatory, increasing home ownership only for whites and segregating public housing projects that were often sited on marginal land or near segregated neighborhoods. To address nationwide racial issues, in 1939 Roosevelt's Justice Department created the Civil Liberties Unit, which took on some important cases but struggled for funding (Sugrue 2008:51–53).

An expanding black press using the language of rights and democracy espoused by the Roosevelt administration played an important role in strengthening the civil rights movement. By 1940, the United States had 155 black newspapers, 60% of them with circulations that spanned multiple states. The largest and most influential were *The Pittsburgh Courier*, Baltimore's *The Afro-American*, *The Chicago Defender*, New York's *Amsterdam News*, and the *New York Age*. The publications ranged in their political leanings but as a group covered stories of everyday discrimination and grassroots civil rights efforts that were typically ignored in white newspapers throughout the North and South (Sugrue 2008:47–48,54).

Coalition Building in Rhode Island

Civil rights activists in Rhode Island made great strides between 1900 and 1941. The rate of African American population growth in the state slowed in the early twentieth century, but blacks continued to arrive from the South to work in the bustling factories and shipyards of Newport and Providence or as domestic servants in wealthy households. Large numbers of immigrants from Cape Verde, many with West African ancestry, also came between 1900 and 1921, primarily via New Bedford (Bell 1997:4). In 1910, Providence's black population was about 6,000, less than 3% of the city's total, with approximately one-third having migrated north from Maryland or Virginia. By 1936, the number of blacks in Providence had decreased to 4,250, or 1.7% of the city's total population (Hooks 2013:3; Grover and Larson 2018). The percentage of blacks in the state as a whole decreased from 2.1% in 1900 to 1.5%, approximately the same as in the capital city, in 1940 (Gibson and Jung 2002).

In general, African Americans found limited employment opportunities in Rhode Island despite the region's overall economic growth. As in many northern cities, they were systematically excluded from almost all factory jobs in Providence, except as janitors. The 1910 census counted only 36 African Americans out of the 17,000 women employed in Rhode Island textile mills and 3 out of 1,276 male carpenters and machinists. Some exceptions existed, such as the Outlet department store in Providence, the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company chain, and at least one of the city's jewelry manufacturers. Most African American men worked as janitors, barbers, teamsters, delivery drivers for companies and residents, porters in stores and hotels, cooks and waiters for catering companies, laborers on commercial vessels such as the Fall River Line, or stevedores and longshoremen on the wharves and dockside warehouses. Most black women worked as dressmakers, laundresses, housekeepers, and cooks (Hooks 2013:4; Grover and Larson 2018; Bell 1997:6; Youngken 1998:28).

Housing and public accommodations available to blacks were likewise constrained in the early twentieth century. In 1916, the Providence social scientist John Ihlder noted that African Americans "are finding it more and more difficult even to earn a livelihood" and "almost impossible to secure for their families such homes as they desire" (quoted in Grover and Larson 2018:33). The 1885 Civil Rights Act was not enforced throughout the state. Neighborhoods, restaurants, hotels, and recreational facilities in Providence and Newport were primarily segregated. Many theatres sold

blacks balcony tickets only, and black high school students were not welcome at social functions (Daoust 1985:81). The pastor of the Olney Street Baptist Church, Ephraim H. McDonald, found Providence to be more hostile to Negroes than any other city he knew and said it was difficult to find a restaurant that would serve him (Hooks 2013:6). In Providence, the largest numbers of blacks lived in the areas at the foot of Olney Street, between Meeting and Benevolent streets, and southwest of Hoyle Square. A majority of the black householders on College Hill were renters, with homeownership rates among African Americans generally much lower than a century earlier (Hooks 2013:3; Grover and Larson 2018). Black residential neighborhoods in Newport included the areas around William/Levin/Thomas streets; New Town/Kerry Hill/West Broadway; and Brinley/Fillmore/Fir streets (Youngken 1998:24–30).

African American leaders in Rhode Island continued to organize during the Progressive Era. Mary H. Dickerson of Newport, founder of the NFCWC, formed the first state organization of colored women's clubs, the Rhode Island Association of Colored Women's Clubs, on July 21, 1903, from a group of 11 clubs that convened at the Second Freewill Baptist Church in Providence. The group was one of 55 affiliated with the NFCWC in the early 1900s (Leslie 2012). Reverend Byron Gunner, pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Newport, and Reverend John L. Davis, pastor of the Congdon Street Baptist Church in Providence, headed one of the first local branches of the Niagara Movement, formed in 1905 in Providence (Bartlett 1954:65).

The Providence chapter of the NAACP, one of the most influential civil rights organizations in the state and one of the earliest local NAACP chapters, was created largely in response to a disturbing incident that occurred in Newport on July 4, 1913. A riot broke out on Newport Beach after a black man allegedly shot and killed a 14-year-old boy, and the police reserves had to rescue the man from a mob of people that tried to lynch him. A group of black Rhode Islanders, many of whom were African American immigrants from the South who lived on College Hill, met at the Ebenezer Baptist Church on A Street in Providence on August 6 and agreed to “start a statewide movement to fight any discrimination on purely racial grounds against citizens in public places of amusement, entertainment, restaurants, theatres, and by public utilities” (*Rhode Island Examiner*, quoted in Hooks 2013:8). The group appointed a committee that spoke to national NAACP leaders and then held a larger community meeting on November 5, 1913, at the Beneficent Congregational Church. Approximately 600 attendees listened to Dr. Joel Spingarn, the New York branch president, speak about organizing a local chapter in Providence. In January 1914, the chapter met at the Winter Street A.M.E. Zion Church to elect its first slate of officers. Dr. Julius J. Robinson (1873–1924) was chosen as president; Reverend Zachariah Harrison of the Second Freewill Baptist Church as treasurer; and Roberta Dunbar, member and former president of the NFCWC, as secretary. Other members of the first executive committee included John C. Minkins (1869–1959), the first African-heritage editor-in-chief of a white-owned newspaper, the *Providence News-Democrat*, in the country; dentist Dr. Andrew L. Jackson (1885–1956); William Heathman (1872–1968), likely the first black lawyer to appear before the Rhode Island Supreme Court; and realtor William Page Hyde Freeman (1875–1971) (Hooks 2013:8–9; Mather 1915; Smith 1993:161).

Fair and equal access to employment was an important focus for Rhode Island's blacks. Women such as Mary Elizabeth Jackson were leading advocates in Providence, where women experienced employment discrimination firsthand during World War I. In November 1918, at the same time that the Gorham Manufacturing Company was hiring at least 1,000 women for its Phillipsdale plant in

East Providence to increase output of ammunition,¹ the *New York Age* reported that the company refused to hire colored women to work in its plants on Eddy Street in Providence and in Phillipsdale because white women refused to work with them (*The Metal Industry* 1918; *New York Age* 1918). Jackson, a charter member of the Providence NAACP and a statistician at the Rhode Island Labor Department, was appointed as a Special Worker for Colored Girls on the YWCA War Work Council during the war, analyzing employment trends and recommending programs to encourage fair employment of women of color. She wrote an article in the November 1918 issue of the NAACP's *The Crisis* magazine entitled "The Colored Woman in Industry," detailing the prejudice, poor working conditions, and wage inequality black women encountered.

During the war and immediately after, the Providence NAACP and the NFCWC joined the national campaigns protesting racial discrimination and worked in various ways to improve conditions within Rhode Island (Bartlett 1954:65). Members of the Providence NAACP staged the first protest parade in New England designed to protest racial violence and modeled after the national NAACP protest in New York City. On October 14, 1917, over 1,200 African heritage participants from Providence, Newport, Fall River, and New Bedford marched silently down Fountain Street to the grounds of the Rhode Island State House (Bartlett 1954:65–66; Ellis 2001:129). The NFCWC petitioned the federal government repeatedly to intervene in nationwide racial violence issues including lynching and riots. At the group's 1919 annual convention held at the Olney Street Baptist Church in Providence on July 31, the members adopted a resolution in response to the rioting in Chicago and sent it via telegram to President Wilson (*New York Times* 1919). Also in 1919, the Reverend William J. Lucas, pastor of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, organized a Newport NAACP chapter that was formally established on January 12, 1920 (Youngken 1998:47).

Racial tensions in the state continued to increase, however. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) emerged in Rhode Island in the 1920s as a result of anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant, and anti-black fears. As immigration to the United States increased in the post-World War I years, many communities grew alarmed by the waves of new arrivals, particularly of the Catholic faith. Although many Rhode Island residents rebuked the Klan's ideals and wholesale rejected the order and its beliefs, the organization still took hold, especially in rural parts of the state where fear of newcomers appeared greatest (Smith 1999). More than half the Klan members in Rhode Island held skilled or professional jobs, and in some towns large numbers of local government officers belonged to the Klan, making rural Rhode Island seem particularly forbidding to immigrants and blacks. A crowd estimated at 8,000 people gathered for a KKK rally on June 21, 1924, at the Old Home Day Grounds in Foster, where hundreds of new members were initiated. Although the Rhode Island Klan did not appear to partake in lynchings, floggings, or brandings like their Southern brethren, the group still terrorized local communities through arson, cross burnings, racist leafleting, and other activities (Smith 1999). In 1924 and 1926, two suspicious fires at the Watchman Institute, a technical and trade school for black children in Scituate, were believed to have been the work of the Klan, but no one was ever charged (Smith 1999). Klan gatherings were not confined to the rural parts of the state. A group of 200 men met at the Benefit Street Arsenal in Providence on May 17, 1924, and almost 1,000 people attended a public dinner dance hosted by the Klan at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston in January 1925. The Klan appears to have largely disappeared from Rhode

¹ The company had switched from making silver plate and jewelry to producing hand grenades during the war.

Island by the end of the 1920s, due largely to bad publicity and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 (Sullivan 1989:76).

African American political involvement in Rhode Island grew during the 1920s, even though the Providence NAACP branch foundered after its president, Dr. Julius Robinson, died in 1924 and did not revive until the 1930s (Daoust 1985:81–82; Ancestry.com 2000). Prior to the Depression, most blacks in Rhode Island voted Republican, and some received political appointments from elected officials in return for their loyalty. Republican activist William H. Jackson Sr. of Newport was the first black sergeant-at-arms/doorkeeper for the Rhode Island General Assembly (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:10). Providence lawyers William A. Heathman and James M. Stockett Jr. were appointed to the election returns board and Joseph G. LeCount was appointed attorney for the state milk board (Bell 1997:14). To support colored women’s political involvement after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, black suffragist Bertha G. Higgins (1872–1944) of Providence founded the Julia Ward Howe Republican Women’s Club, which helped to influence Stockett’s appointment in January 1926. Nonetheless, turnout was low in most elections through the 1920s and blacks began to be disillusioned with the lack of tangible Republican support for equal rights issues. Some black activists at the Winter Street AME Zion Church in Providence formed the Colored Independent Political Association in 1922 (RIBHS 2018:11). Even LeCount admitted “the only time we heard from the Republican party was at election time” (Daoust 1985:82).

Like African Americans across the country, blacks in Rhode Island shifted to supporting Democrats in the 1930s as they “used the ballot box to demand services and patronage that had been denied them” (Daoust 1985:81). In January 1932, a group of black leaders that included Cape Verdean funeral director John F. Lopez Sr. (1888–1964) met at the Democratic headquarters in Providence and organized a Providence Young Men’s Colored Democratic Unit. At about the same time, Newport carpenter Martin Canavan (ca. 1894–1959) organized the Newport Colored Men’s Democratic Club. In February 1932, Republican Bertha Higgins announced that she would vote Democratic in that year’s election, which brought Democrat Theodore Francis Green (1867–1966) into the governor’s office. As a signal of his appreciation for black campaigning efforts, Green unsuccessfully attempted to appoint Lopez to an advantageous position on the state harbor commission. During his term as governor (1933–1937), Green continued to gain black support through actions such as ordering the state racing commission to remove the “For Colored” and “For Whites” entrance signs at the newly opened Narragansett Park and Race Track in Pawtucket in 1934. More blacks in the state voted for Democrats that year, and again in 1936, when the *Providence Journal* reported, “The New Deal steamroller rolled on and in the end it rolled over the whole Republican state ticket” (quoted in Daoust 1985:86). From 1924 to 1940, Democratic black votes in Providence alone increased from 30% to 60% (Daoust 1985:88). In addition to seeing results on the national level as a result of the New Deal, African Americans in Rhode Island received direct local benefits from their political loyalty. In a 1936 interview with the *Boston Chronicle*, Lopez, who formed the co-ed Providence Colored Democratic Club with Bertha Higgins in 1934, noted:

For the first time in the history of the city, Negroes are holding competent positions in the highway, sewer, public buildings, water, park, and city health departments, while in the state departments the Democratic party has been directly responsible for employment in the Public Works, Health, Supreme and Superior courts and the State House Building. During the past four years lucrative posts have been given to

Negroes in Newport, South County, East Providence and Providence (quoted in Daoust 1985:86).

The growth of the black press and of black fraternal groups contributed to the increased African American political involvement and activism of the New Deal era. Fillmore R. Purnell published the first black paper in Providence (and possibly in Rhode Island), *The Advance*, from 1906 through at least 1941 (N. W. Ayer & Son 1918:894; Ayer Press 1941:860). William D. Wiley (1897–1992), a postal clerk in Rhode Island, wrote a Providence column for the *Boston Chronicle* that grew to take up almost half the space in the paper by the late 1930s. Consequently, in 1938, Wiley started the *Providence Chronicle*, which existed through 1957 (Daoust 1985:82, 86; Bell 1997:111–112). Both papers printed news relevant to the black community and not found in other local publications. A network of black social organizations also provided the African American community with forums for political debate. These groups operated primarily outside of the white community and remained segregated from comparable white fraternal orders, although there were exceptions. By 1930, Newport had ten black Masonic chapters. In Providence, Hiram Lodge No. 3 of the Prince Hall Masons, founded in 1797 as the second-oldest African American Masonic chapter in the country, met at 132 Benefit Street between 1927 and 1938 (Youngken 1998:36–37; Grover and Larson 2018:12).

The establishment of the Providence Urban League (PUL) in 1939 represented a concerted effort to focus on improving economic and social conditions for blacks. African Americans in the state found their job prospects increasingly limited during the Great Depression. A reporter from the *Pittsburgh Courier* found that in 1938 many of Providence’s black leaders saw a need for a “non-partisan, non-sectarian organization, dedicated to improving race relations and to bettering living conditions of Negroes generally” (Rouzeau 1938). In March 1939, the NUL sponsored a Vocational Opportunity Campaign in Providence that was supervised by Julius J. Robinson Jr., the son of the Providence NAACP branch’s first president. On August 18, 1939, a group of 27 blacks and whites met and established the PUL to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of Negroes and to promote interracial understanding and co-operation. The organization’s first board members included news editor William D. Wiley and funeral director Andrew J. Bell Jr. and recruited James N. Williams (1909–1987) from Montclair, New Jersey, to serve as the first executive director. The PUL opened its first permanent offices on Westminster Street in September 1940 (Bartlett 1954:67–68; Irving 1974:12–15). Some prominent blacks such as Lopez and LeCount initially opposed the creation of the PUL because they felt the Providence NAACP could sufficiently address black issues, but LeCount joined the PUL at its start and later encouraged collaboration between the two groups. The founding of the PUL and the simultaneous revival of the Providence NAACP under LeCount’s direction cemented the origins of a “new era of racial political awareness in the city” (Daoust 1985:88).

Birth of the Civil Rights Movement, 1941–1954

The various strands of civil rights activism fomenting in America at the end of the 1930s coalesced into a clearly identifiable social movement with the country’s entrance into World War II in 1941. Major efforts within the movement focused on employment, the public sphere, housing, education, and military service.

Racial tensions hardened in northern cities, as large numbers of black men joined the strictly segregated military and others migrated north for defense jobs (Sugrue 2008:63). In 1941, after the nationally prominent labor activist A. Philip Randolph threatened a massive march on Washington, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) mandating non-discrimination in defense industry hiring. The committee languished without political support, though, and the following year, Randolph organized several mass rallies in New York, Chicago, and St. Louis in protest. Roosevelt issued an executive order in May 1943 aimed at strengthening the FEPC, which opened field offices in 15 cities across the country. With additional resources, the committee was able to conduct investigations and intervene in labor disputes. After the war, however, Congress cut funding to the FEPC, and the group formally dissolved in 1946. Civil rights activists continued the uphill battle to end employment discrimination at the federal level but increasingly focused their energies on northern state legislatures and city halls. Between 1945 and 1964, 29 states outside the South enacted fair employment practices laws, primarily modeled after the one New York State passed in 1945 (Sugrue 2008:71–76, 111, 113, 120–121).

Public accommodations became a major battleground for racial equality in the North, where Jim Crow traditions remained firmly in place in many aspects of day-to-day life. Hotels, bars, restaurants, beaches and pools, amusement parks, bowling alleys, and roller rinks varied in their openness to blacks. Publications like *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, published by New York mailman Victor Green from 1936 to 1966, helped African Americans navigate the unpredictable landscape of segregation in many parts of the country. Although civil rights laws existed in most northern states, exclusion was sometimes backed by legal sanctions and enforced by police officers. Civil rights organizations like the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), formed in Chicago in 1942, used the expanding black press to advocate for integrated public accommodations and mobilize targeted protests against segregated businesses. The NAACP, which grew from 50,000 members nationwide in 1940 to 450,000 by 1946, continued to pursue equality through the courts. Challenges to commercial Jim Crow gradually chipped away at the customs in place in many northern cities. The strategies of protest and litigation used in the North, while later eclipsed by the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and the Southern lunch counter sit-ins of the 1960s, influenced Southern activists through informal networks and publications (Sugrue 2008:131–135, 159).

Limited anti-discrimination progress occurred with respect to housing, education, and military service at the federal level, much of it resulting from the legal work of the NAACP. Headed by Thurgood Marshall, the organization's Legal Defense and Educational Fund mounted multiple challenges to *Plessy v. Ferguson* during and after World War II. Landmark cases such as the 1948 *Shelley v. Kramer* verdict declaring racially restrictive housing covenants unconstitutional and the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision against separate but equal education marked major civil rights advances. Political support also came from the White House, where President Harry S. Truman continued to address issues of race through such initiatives as the President's Committee on Civil Rights. The committee's October 1947 report on segregation and discrimination, *To Secure These Rights*, provided numerous recommendations for government action, including the creation of a permanent FEPC. Truman did not succeed in getting any of the committee's suggested legislative measures through Congress, but his Executive Order 9981, issued on July 26, 1948, abolished segregation in the military. The American Housing Act of 1949, passed on July 15, ultimately had more far-reaching effects on civil rights by propelling the issue of fair housing to the center of the national stage (NHLP 2008:14–15; Sugrue 2008:99–102).

During World War II, civil rights leaders in Rhode Island worked to combat employment discrimination in various ways. Joseph G. LeCount from the Providence NAACP and James Williams from the Providence Urban League served on a commission established and funded by the Rhode Island General Assembly on April 28, 1941, to study “the employment problems of the Negro” (Murray 1997:395–396). The commission attempted to dispel myths surrounding low employment opportunities for blacks (e.g., that they were less educated) and to provide data to support changes. Major findings of the commission’s report issued in May 1943 included lower average wages for blacks and “unfair, discriminatory practices against Negro applicants for positions” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:12). The PUL assisted with the placement of 1,525 black workers in the state in jobs related to the war effort in 1942 and two years later negotiated an agreement with the Nursing School Council at Rhode Island Hospital that allowed African American women to apply to nursing schools in the state. In 1944, members of the Providence NAACP and PUL cooperated to challenge the segregated auxiliary union policy held by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB), specifically as it related to the IBB Local 308 founded at the Walsh-Kaiser shipyard in Providence (Bartlett 1954:68–69). The landmark case, represented by the national NAACP’s Thurgood Marshall, had national repercussions that ultimately ensured African American men’s right to work with equal wages and benefits within labor unions (RIBHS 2018:12). After the war, Rhode Island joined other Northern states in passing legislation to prohibit discrimination in hiring as recommended by the 1943 state commission’s employment conditions report. The Fair Employment Practices Act of April 1, 1949, proscribed certain discriminatory practices and policies within the state and established the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination (Murray 1997:396).

African Americans continued to address Rhode Island’s Jim Crow traditions in the area of public accommodations either by creating their own social institutions and facilities or by mobilizing local organizations to protest exclusionary practices. An example of the first approach was the creation of separate United Service Organization (USO) centers for white and black servicemen in both Providence and Newport during the war. In Providence, African American troops initially used the John Hope Community Association building at 15 Pratt Street as a *de facto* USO club until 1943, when the local USO converted a former police station on Knight Street (now Thomas P. Whitten Way) to a recreational center for servicemen regardless of race or creed. The Army-Navy YMCA/USO Club at 50 Washington Square in Newport allowed access to African American soldiers only one night a week, so the Federal Works Administration constructed a separate USO Club for blacks on West Broadway (now Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard) in 1944. The colored USO clubs in both cities remained social centers for the local black communities after the war (Whitten 2014; Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:15; Youngken 1998:47). Four years later, the owners of the newly opened Lincoln Downs race track in Lincoln (now Twin River Casino) attempted to segregate the employee restrooms. An editorial published in the *Providence Chronicle* prompted the PUL and Providence NAACP to file a formal protest with the state racing commission that resulted in the removal of the black and white restroom signs (Bartlett 1954:70). The parallels at Lincoln Downs to the sequence of events at the Narragansett Race Track 14 years earlier served as stark reminders to the state’s black residents of the need for constant vigilance.

Fair housing issues received attention in Rhode Island during and immediately after World War II, as Providence and Newport embarked on ambitious public housing projects. Both cities had created public housing authorities by 1939, and the first projects were designated primarily to house wartime workers. The Newport Housing Authority (NHA) oversaw two of the three public housing

projects constructed by the Federal Works Administration for defense industry workers in Newport: Tonomy Hill (now Newport Heights), built in 1939, and Park Holm, begun in 1940. When the housing units at Tonomy Hill were made available to African American Navy personnel in 1942, 100 white residents of the complex filed a petition with the mayor expressing their concerns about integrated housing (RIBHS 2018:15). In May 1940, the Providence Housing Authority (PHA) announced plans for two projects, Chad Brown and Roger Williams, both in largely white areas. The agency designated all 312 units of the Chad Brown project for white families and only 30 of the 744 units in Roger Williams for blacks, and the *Providence Chronicle* reported that “decent homes will still be unavailable for a very large group who need them badly” (quoted in Daoust 1993:26). The PHA also planned for a 120-unit all-black project called Codding Court in the West End. However, after evicting 60 black families to demolish 39 buildings for the project in July 1941, the agency indefinitely postponed the project to allow federal funds to be redirected to war-related projects in Newport and North Kingstown. Chad Brown opened in 1942, and Roger Williams was completed in 1943. As late as 1948, blacks occupied only 4% of the units in Roger Williams (in a separate building) and Chad Brown had none. Providence adopted a resolution opposing racial discrimination or segregation in public housing in 1951, the year that Codding Court finally opened. Nonetheless, complaints of discrimination against public housing applicants plagued both the PHA and NHA through the 1950s, prompting the PUL and the NAACP to intervene in several cases (Daoust 1993:26–29).

Modern Civil Rights Movement, 1954–1964

Federal civil rights legislation impacted the North and South in different ways. As the country grappled with the consequences of *Brown v. Board of Education* and its implications for school districts, residential segregation increased in Rhode Island’s urban areas and the pace of the state’s fair housing movement accelerated in response.

On the national level, substantial civil rights gains were made in the decade after *Brown v. Board of Education*. The NAACP’s continuing legal and lobbying work helped obtain the passage of the first civil rights legislation since Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which was signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 9. The act created the United States Commission on Civil Rights, established a civil rights division at the Justice Department, and provided penalties for voting rights violations. Seven years later, Congress passed another sweeping civil rights bill initially proposed by President John F. Kennedy and signed into law by his successor Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 granted the federal government power to enforce civil rights and withhold funds, prohibited discrimination in most public accommodations, and created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (NHLP 2008:17).

The direct impact of *Brown v. Board of Education* was complicated in the North, where school and housing segregation were inextricably linked. Most civil rights activists from the 1930s to the mid-1960s favored integration, and school boycotts across the country typically occurred in small cities and suburbs with black populations or in individual transitional neighborhoods within larger cities. Laws in northern states generally prohibited outright racial segregation, but tracking and other local policies often resulted in separate schools for blacks and whites, with those for black students often deteriorating and underfunded (Sugrue 2008:170–179). Activists also faced the obstacle of the traditional “neighborhood school” situated in racially homogeneous school districts. The combination of private restrictive covenants, real estate practices, and New Deal-Era federal

housing policies created a completely segregated postwar northern housing market defined by rigid color lines (Sugrue 2008:181, 201–202). Following the Supreme Court’s 1954 ruling with respect to segregated schools, northern school districts questioned whether they could be held responsible for the *de facto* school segregation that resulted from housing policies. Blacks throughout the North but particularly in and around New York City led boycotts, demonstrations, and litigation in the late 1950s and early 1960s to draw attention to the fact that northern schools were as segregated as those in the South. Multiple decisions handed down by federal circuit court judges in the early and mid-1960s—such as the January 1961 verdict in a well-publicized case against the school district of New Rochelle, New York—concluded that *de facto* segregation in the North was equivalent to intentional segregation policies in the South (Sugrue 2008:182–199).

School desegregation in many parts of the South resulted in the growth of white resistance to civil rights progress, epitomized by the standoff between the federal and state governments outside a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, in September 1957. Such opposition emboldened many civil rights activists in the region, who saw the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision as “a yardstick of color-blind justice against which Americans could measure their progress toward the ideal of equal opportunity” (quoted in Dudley 1996:17). Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, led by Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968) boycotted the city’s bus service for a year following the December 1, 1955, arrest of Rosa Parks for her refusal to cede her bus seat to a white passenger. In 1957, King and a group of other black clergymen founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which promoted nonviolent civil disobedience amid a growing number of mass demonstrations. Student sit-ins had occurred in some Midwestern cities like St. Louis, Chicago, and Bloomington, Indiana, in the 1950s, but the sit-in movement spread rapidly throughout the South after four college students demanded equal service at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 1, 1960. That year, high school and college students formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to coordinate sit-ins and other types of protests. Beginning in 1961, CORE and SNCC sponsored Freedom Rides to desegregate interstate transportation throughout the South. The rise in prominence of figures like Malcolm X (1925–1965) and Stokely Carmichael (1941–1998), who both questioned the effectiveness of nonviolence, fueled growing divisions among civil rights leaders (NHLP 2008:17; Dudley 1996:16–19; Sugrue 2008:280).

The civil rights movement reached a fever pitch in 1963, a year of inauspicious events that included the assassination of NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers (1925–1963) in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 12; the death of four young girls in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 15; and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22 in Dallas, Texas. In August 1963, 250,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, for the massive protest march known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and listened to King’s “I Have A Dream” speech (NHLP 2008:17; Dudley 1996:18).

Federal housing policies and urban renewal programs substantially impacted black communities in Rhode Island in both intended and unintended ways during the late 1950s and early 1960s, particularly in Providence and Newport. Both cities created redevelopment agencies to administer housing and development programs financed by the 1949 federal Housing Act. The first urban renewal project undertaken by the Providence Redevelopment Agency (PRA) was the Willard Center Redevelopment Project in South Providence, begun in 1954, which included the removal of

commercial and residential buildings occupied by a concentration of African Americans and the construction of the Willard Avenue Shopping Center and Flynn Elementary School (Antonucci 2012:93, 103). The Lippitt Hill project began in 1959 in the African American neighborhood adjacent to College Hill, where 567 houses were removed and 5,000 people displaced (Grover and Larson 2018). By 1965, urban renewal projects in Providence had forced 80% of the city's African American population to move at least once (Antonucci 2012:95). In 1956, the Urban League established a Newport office to focus on urban renewal activities in the city's West Broadway neighborhood, where the Newport Redevelopment Agency oversaw the construction of the Pond Avenue and Coddington Housing Units for the Elderly, completed in the 1960s (RIBHS 2018; Herzan 1977:30).

Federal highway improvement projects also completely altered sections of the state's landscape in ways that disproportionately affected African American residents. For example, in 1954, Providence began razing buildings south of Wickenden Street in the Cape Verdean and Portuguese neighborhood of Fox Point for the replacement of US Route 6 with Interstate 195. The first section of new highway opened in November 1958, and the Cape Verdean presence in the area was greatly diminished by the 1960s (Grover and Larson 2018).

Decent housing was difficult for blacks displaced by urban renewal to find in Rhode Island, as elsewhere in the country. Redlining practices in place since the 1930s, whereby banks and insurance companies declared particular predominantly black neighborhoods too risky for loans and mortgages, and outright discrimination by developers, realtors, and home buyers reduced the black populations of many urban areas. African Americans had limited access to bank mortgages or funding for housing repairs and renovations. The Providence City Plan Commission used federal urban renewal funds to produce *College Hill: A Demonstration Study of Historic Area Renewal*, a project that stimulated interest in preservation of the area's historic building stock and prevented some demolition on the East Side where Brown University had begun to expand its footprint. However, the purchase and restoration of deteriorated and condemned houses along Benefit Street by Beatrice Chace's Burnside Company effectively priced the primarily nonwhite residents out of the neighborhood (Grover and Larson 2018; Rothstein 2017). In 1960, the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination surveyed the families displaced by the Lippitt Hill project and reported that most experienced racial discrimination and a lack of assistance in their relocation attempts (Antonucci 2012:96).

Segregation also persisted in the state's public housing. As a result of various complaints about discriminatory practices, Rhode Island Governor Dennis J. Roberts issued a public policy statement at the 1956 annual Newport NAACP dinner avowing that "tenants will be assigned to public housing projects in Rhode Island on a first-come, first-served basis and totally without regard for race" (quoted in RIBHS 2018:16). Roberts further promised that African Americans still experiencing housing segregation would be given their first choice of housing units in other areas as they became available (RIBHS 2018:16). By this point, however, nonwhite families were already "colonized in miniature ghettos" (quoted in Daoust 1993:29). In 1958, public housing projects in Providence were clearly segregated by race, with Coddington Court 97% nonwhite, Roger Williams 18.1%, and Chad Brown 18.9%. Explicit racial quotas ended after Roberts' declaration, but as federal funding disappeared and the buildings decayed in the 1960s, more whites left the projects while the black populations increased (Daoust 1993:29–30). Tonomy Hill in Newport and Roger

Williams and Chad Brown in Providence developed reputations for crime and poor living conditions.²

In 1958, Providence businessman Irving J. Fain (1906–1970) organized Citizens United for a Fair Housing Law (Citizens United) to campaign for comprehensive legislation that would prohibit discrimination in private and public housing (*Providence Journal* 1958). The group’s diverse membership included leaders from the state’s Democratic and Republican parties, Catholic dioceses, Temple Beth-El, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, the AFL-CIO, and major businesses like the Industrial National Bank and Gilbane Building Company (RIBHS 2018:15). The organization proposed a bill to the General Assembly in 1959, but strong opposition led by Providence attorney Robert B. Dresser culminated in a protest of over 500 people at the State House. Critics of a fair housing law claimed it “would infringe on private property rights, legislate social progress, lower property values, and increase racial tension in the state” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:15). The bill died in committee, although Citizens United regrouped for other attempts to implement a law (Conforti 1986:28; Antonucci 2012:107).

While leading the fair housing fight before the state government, Fain also tackled the problem of residential segregation in other ways. The Lippitt Hill urban renewal project was the first in the state to include plans for the construction of new private housing to replace the cleared buildings. Fain served on the board of directors of Planned Communities Inc., a national umbrella organization based in New York City that promoted interracial housing (Conforti 1986:30). With a group of other investors, Fain submitted a development proposal to the PRA for the Lippitt Hill area. Called University Heights, the proposal approved by the PRA in 1962 was for a racially and economically integrated “superblock” development that included a shopping center and garden apartment complex. Fain intended the project to demonstrate “to Providence and America that people of many backgrounds can live together” (quoted in Conforti 1986:31). Built between 1964 and 1968, University Heights succeeded in its original intent to some degree, with the first tenants representing a cross-section of occupations and including 13% blacks compared to the city’s overall 8% black population. However, limited federal financing for the project forced rents to be higher than initially hoped, and many former residents of the neighborhood could not afford to move into the new apartments (Conforti 1986:31; Ionata and Bailey 1973:9).

Amid local struggles, Rhode Island’s civil rights community continued to engage in national issues in the early 1960s. Prominent black civil rights leaders visited the state, and local leaders participated in national demonstrations. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered two speeches at Brown University in November 1960 (November 9 at Alumnae Hall and November 10 at Sayles Hall), and Malcolm X spoke at Sayles Hall on May 11, 1961. The PUL and Providence NAACP led the planning for two buses of supporters to attend Dr. King’s March on Washington in August 1963 (RIBHS 2018:16).

The Second Revolution, 1964–1976

² Codding Court and Chad Brown remain in use as subsidized housing projects, while Roger Williams was almost completely abandoned by the 1970s after cuts in federal funding and was replaced in the 2000s by the Williams Woods housing development (Rodrigue 1985). Tonomy Hill was fully redeveloped in 2002 and is now called Newport Heights. Park Holm was also rehabilitated starting in 2009.

During the tumultuous era of the late 1960s, the country as a whole struggled to advance a broad civil rights agenda that built on previous successes. The Commission on Civil Rights created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 focused its efforts primarily on affirmative action and federal enforcement efforts. Federally funded community-based initiatives obtained modest equal housing and employment gains for African Americans. Protestors and lobbyists successfully advocated for more legislative protections against discrimination in areas like voting and housing. In August 1965, after King and others led the march from Selma, Alabama, to the state capitol in Montgomery on March 21–25 of that year, Congress passed the landmark Voting Rights Act prohibiting racial discrimination. Voter registration subsequently increased, particularly in the South. In the mid-1960s, the National Committee against Discrimination in Housing (NCDH) launched an aggressive campaign across the country. By 1967, 24 states (including Rhode Island) had passed fair-housing laws. On April 11, 1968—one week after Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination—President Lyndon Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing. Residential segregation persisted, however, due to a lack of enforcement mechanisms in the law (Sugrue 2008:422–423).

The gradual pace of forward movement on larger issues of social and economic equality resulted in mounting frustration among many civil rights activists. The more militant factions became louder in their promotion of black pride, control over black institutions, and self-determination rather than integration. Black radicalism, officially opposed by the NAACP, coalesced around the slogan “black power,” first used by Carmichael in a June 1966 speech he gave as chairman of the SNCC. Inspired by Carmichael’s rhetoric, a group of activists in Oakland, California, founded the Black Panther Party in October 1966 to challenge police brutality in the city. Thurgood Marshall’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967 was a powerful symbol of progress in the fight for equal justice and representation that paved the way for future legal and political pioneers. Beginning in the 1970s, blacks were elected to local and statewide offices in unprecedented numbers, providing powerful platforms for endorsing the further changes needed (NHLP 2008:20–21; Sugrue 2008: xxii, 129).

The Rhode Island General Assembly finally passed a fair housing law in 1965, joining the growing number of states to do so in the 1960s. Citizens United had continued to lead the campaign for such legislation, joined by others who hoped to channel the swell of civil rights progress occurring nationwide. The Rhode Island chapter of CORE, organized in the early 1960s, staged sit-ins at the State House from April 21 to 24, 1964, and on March 25, 1965, over 2,000 residents protesting race-based housing discrimination marched from Providence City Hall to the State House. Governor John Chafee signed the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act on April 12, 1965 (Antonucci 2012:114, 117). By that point however, housing and employment discrimination had pervaded the state, particularly in Providence, where 15,000 of the 25,000 nonwhite persons in Rhode Island resided (RIBHS 2018:16). A 1965 University of Rhode Island survey found that residential segregation in Providence was high compared to other New England cities and maintained that the city was “as segregated as many cities of the Deep South” (quoted in Grover and Larson 2018:44). The Executive Director of the National Urban League, Whitney M. Young, spoke in Rhode Island and reiterated that Providence was “one of the most segregated cities in the nation, having all of the ingredients for a riot” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:16).

The tensions that had been building in Providence erupted in 1967, when a large race riot broke out near the Willard Avenue Shopping Center on Prairie Avenue following Emancipation Day

celebrations in August. Although there were no fatalities or major property losses, the violence made national headlines and resulted in Providence mayor Joseph A. Doorley instituting a curfew in South Providence and prohibiting large gatherings (Antonucci 2012:129–130). Some positive changes subsequently occurred in the city. In November 1967, Providence was selected as one of President Johnson’s 63 Model Cities to receive federal funding for urban renewal plans (Antonucci 2012:123–128). Old and new generations of local civil rights activists combined forces to further address the city’s problems. Providence NAACP president Clifford Monteiro (b. 1938), Rhode Island CORE chairman and pastor of the Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church Reverend Arthur L. Hardge (1927–1983), and others including the current CEO Michael Van Leesten founded a Rhode Island affiliate of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), a national job training program created in 1964 by Reverend Leon H. Sullivan (OIC 2019). As an outcome of a conference hosted by Irving Fain in January 1968, Monteiro, Andrew Bell Jr., and others founded a nonprofit housing renewal corporation in Providence called Citizens United Renewal Enterprises (CURE) to address housing problems in cooperation with neighborhood groups. State policies improved as well. The General Assembly strengthened the state’s fair housing policies in 1968 when they repealed exemptions in the 1965 law (Conforti 1986:29).

A major focus of the civil rights efforts in Rhode Island in the late 1960s was access to equal education for black and white residents. The Providence public school system was “among the first in the Northeast to address the issue of school desegregation directly in terms of a comprehensive plan for the entire city” (Boardman 1971). The issue arose in the early 1960s, when school overcrowding and concerns about facility maintenance led the Providence School Committee to vote for the construction of a new elementary school building to replace two older buildings, the Doyle and Jenkins schools, that were slated for demolition as part of the Lippitt Hill urban renewal project (Antonucci 2012:135; Holden 1974:167). The planned site for the school was in a predominantly black neighborhood, meaning it would likely remain *de facto* segregated unless the city worked to integrate the student population. The Doyle and Jenkins schools were 98 and 88% non-white, respectively, while the other two elementary schools on the city’s East Side were 65 and 32% non-white. The total enrollment in all four schools was 1,612, with about 525 (or 33%) non-white. A group led primarily by white liberal residents organized the East Side Neighborhood Council to pressure the school department to study the area that would be served by the new school and determine how best to integrate it. A study completed by Dr. Sarah T. Curwood, a Rhode Island College professor of sociology, concluded that shifting school district lines to include more white students and move more black students into other school districts would most effectively integrate the Lippitt Hill Elementary School (Holden 1974:169). As part of the planning process, community members and the school department introduced remedial reading programs, extra staff support, and multi-ethnic textbooks, and other non-standard educational initiatives to the student populations of the affected schools. The Lippitt Hill Elementary School (renamed the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School after King’s assassination in April 1968) opened in 1967 as a city-wide magnet school with a 65 percent white and 35 percent black student population (Antonucci 2012:137–8).

The development of the Lippitt Hill school became a focal point of policy discussions on integration across the entire Providence school system and in the surrounding area. An NAACP field representative threatened Providence with a lawsuit if a plan was not initiated to desegregate the entire city (Holden 1974:170). In July 1966, the Negro Leadership Conference—a coalition of the Rhode Island CORE chapter, a civil rights group called the Fearless Fifty led by Freeman

Soares, and the East Side Neighborhood Council—sent a formal complaint to David Seeley, the Director of the Equal Opportunities Program of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, regarding school segregation in Providence (Antonucci 2012:138–9). Following the complaint, the superintendent of schools met with the Negro Leadership Conference to come to an agreement regarding how to desegregate Providence schools, particularly in South Providence where almost 80% of the city’s black population lived (Boardman 1971). The agreement stated that black and white students would be bussed if necessary; all schools would have a hot lunch program; qualified black teachers would be promoted; teachers in the new desegregated schools would receive special training; and a public program would be created to emphasize the necessity of desegregation (Antonucci 2012:140).

A citywide desegregation plan for Providence was adopted in April 1967 (Holden 1974:190–191). The process continued in phases over the next four years, with the last phase—focused on the four senior high schools: Mount Pleasant, Classical, Hope, and Central—began in September 1971 (Holden 1974:259). Providence was one of the earliest cities in the Northeast to desegregate its high schools. Integration in the city was relatively smooth compared to the violent responses to school desegregation in Boston that made national news. Even so, black and white parents mounted opposition to various aspects of the plan and racial disturbances occurred at several schools throughout its implementation. The spring of 1969 was particularly contentious, beginning with a walkout staged by about 150 black students at Hope High School over demands for curriculum changes and the removal of teachers and administrators they viewed as racist. Dissatisfaction with the administration’s response led students there to riot on May 13, and the faculty subsequently refused to come to work for four days. Similar demands were presented by students at Nathanael Greene, Nathan Bishop, and Roger Williams junior high schools; black students at the latter two schools staged walkouts, and Roger Williams was closed for one day. Violence at Central High School in October 1971 resulted in a week-long closure of the school while local leaders met with the staff and state commissioner to resolve the issues (Holden 1974:244–247, 262).

The state Commissioner of Education supported school desegregation in the 1960s and 1970s and channeled state funds to assist with the efforts in Providence, but desegregation policies and standards largely originated at the local level. The first official policy statement on desegregation adopted by the state Board of Education on August 8, 1968, endorsed racial integration and pledged state resources to ensure it but did not include clear criteria for identifying segregation, establish target dates for ending it throughout the state, or provide enforcement mechanisms (Holden 1974:266).

Equality in higher education also rose to the forefront in the state. In 1968, the Afro-American Society at Brown University and Pembroke College, founded by black students the previous spring, asked the administration for changes in staffing, curriculum, and student body composition to more accurately reflect African American history and presence. Dissatisfied with the administration’s response, on December 5, 1968, 62 African American students marched down College Hill to the Congdon Street Baptist Church and remained there for three days. On December 6, white students at Brown expressed their support for the walkout, suggesting that the situation be discussed in all classes and that a walkout be staged if discussions were not held between the African American students and Brown leadership. Following the walkout, the University met many of the student demands, increasing black student enrollment, creating the Afro-American Studies Program, and providing students of color with additional resources.

At other Rhode Island colleges and universities, students and faculty led efforts to increase minority enrollment. Rhode Island College (RIC) was one of the first public higher educational institutions to receive funding in 1966 to establish an Upward Bound program funded under the 1965 Higher Education Act to support economically and educationally disadvantaged youth (RIC 2017). About 40 black and white alumni, students, and faculty of the University of Rhode Island (URI) formed a group called “Citizens to Advance Negro Education” to encourage blacks in South Kingstown to continue their education after high school (Ossei 2014). Reverend Arthur Hardge became the first African American administrator at URI in 1968, when he was appointed director of the school’s Special Programs for Talent Development (SPTD), a recruitment and retention program for students of color and disadvantaged persons (URI 2002).

The Movement Continues, 1976–present

The trends and patterns of the African American civil rights movement that evolved over the first three-fourths of the twentieth century continue to define the movement today. Characterized by strong coalitions of diverse groups targeting specific areas of access of equal rights, the movement has grown to incorporate more voices and has celebrated more successes. Challenges remain in areas such as affordable housing, income gaps, criminal justice, and immigration reform. In Rhode Island as across the country, the civil rights movement “brought America face to face with the gap between its egalitarian ideals and its racial realities—a gap that, many argue, still needs addressing today” (Dudley 1996:19).

Survey Overview

Architectural historian Richard Weyeneth has defined the two-pronged “architecture of segregation” that resulted from racial discrimination in this country, in which some architectural spaces for blacks were created by whites through use restrictions, physical partitions, or the construction of “separate but equal” facilities, and others were created by blacks through the establishment of independent communities and institutions where they felt comfortable living without restrictions (Weyeneth 2005). As a Northern state where implicit rather than explicit segregation defined the African American experience and the civil rights movement played out in a series of small policy and behavioral changes rather than sudden explosive events or milestone redirections, Rhode Island developed a civil rights landscape largely layered on top of buildings and sites with long histories. The identification of extant historic resources in Rhode Island associated with the Twentieth-Century African American Civil Rights Movement often involved looking beneath several layers of well-documented history to uncover less familiar stories and connections. Many buildings and sites in the state are related to multiple significant people or events at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Their associations with the struggle of Rhode Island’s black population to gain equal access to their constitutional rights have often been overlooked or not well understood. Sifting through the complex stories of community organizations, individual leaders, legislative efforts, and policy plans in many instances allowed these associations to rise to the top and introduced new details to existing narratives.

Most of the extant resources identified in this project are in Providence and Newport, which is a logical result of the large concentrations of African Americans living and working in these urban areas throughout the twentieth century. Ten resources in other towns were surveyed: five in East

Providence; two in Cranston; and one each in Pawtucket, Foster, and North Providence. The surveyed resources range in construction date from the Old Friends Meeting House/Newport Community Center built in 1699 to the University Heights Apartment Complex in Providence completed in 1968. They include at least sixteen religious buildings, reflecting the strong connections between church leaders and civil rights activists in the state. One-third of the 75 surveyed resources are residential, including four housing developments associated with urban renewal projects. The rest represent a variety of building types, including three current public schools, six recreational facilities, four civic buildings, and even one industrial resource (the Perry Mill/GE Wiring Devices Plant 2 in Newport). Two sites associated with public gatherings were surveyed: one against racial equality, the Old Home Day Grounds in Foster, and one in celebration of it, Crescent Park in East Providence. The resources encompass places where non-violent resistance occurred (University Hall and Congdon Street Baptist Church in Providence), as well as those where attempts to combat discrimination were characterized by racial violence (Willard Avenue Shopping Center and Hope High School, also in Providence). A major theme associated with most of the surveyed resources is the persistence and determination of both individual African Americans and diverse coalitions of civil rights activists in the state as they struggled to circumvent the obstacles of discrimination they faced on a daily basis.

Beyond the universe of extant resources, the civil rights landscape in Rhode Island also encompasses many places that do not exist in built form. Some related resources have been lost due to time, neglect, or development. In many instances, what used to be there or what wasn't built in the first place can add important layers to the evolving narrative. Examples of places that have been lost include the numerous houses and churches that were demolished as part of urban renewal in Providence's Lippitt Hill and Central-Classical neighborhoods, such as the residence of Andrew J. Bell Jr. and the original Ebenezer Baptist Church; the completely rebuilt Roger Williams public housing project in South Providence; or the signs designating racially separate facilities that were removed from the Narragansett and Lincoln Downs race tracks. Interpretive and educational materials can be used to document these places in conjunction with those that are surveyed.

National Register Recommendations

As noted in the Methodology Statement above, many of the resources surveyed for this project were previously listed in the National Register for associations with areas of significance not related to the African American Civil Rights Movement, such as Architecture, Community Planning, Commerce, or Industry. Updates to the existing National Register documentation for such resources to provide information on their connections to the African American Civil Rights Movement are recommended as the opportunity is available, following the precedent set by the 2018 amendment to the College Hill Historic District documentation to include information on the role of African Americans in the area's historical development (Grover and Larson 2018). Based on the significance of the resource's civil rights associations and/or the number of civil rights-related resources within an existing National Register district, the following priorities for documentation update are recommended:

- Newport Historic District: 12 surveyed properties with civil rights movement associations
- Downtown Providence Historic District: 7 surveyed properties with civil rights movement associations

- Israel Mason House/Bell Funeral Home, 571 Broad Street, Providence: potential significance under Criterion B for the property's associations with Andrew J. Bell Jr. (1907–2000)

The following previously unlisted resources are recommended eligible for listing in the National Register for their associations with people or events related to the Twentieth-Century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island. Additional resources may be determined eligible with further research on the subject.

John F. Lopez Sr. and Florence Lopez House, 10 South Prospect Street, East Providence

The John F. Lopez Sr. and Florence Lopez House, a Queen Anne-style residence built by 1895, is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion B for its association with civil rights activists John F. Lopez Sr. (1888–1964) and his wife Florence Lopez (d. 1964). The Lopezes occupied the property from at least 1935 until their deaths. John Lopez Sr. was the first Cape Verdean funeral director in Providence and became a leader in the Cape Verdean community, helping to organize union locals. He co-founded the Providence Colored Democratic Club in 1934 and was president of the Providence NAACP branch from 1935 to 1945. Florence Lopez served as president of the Rhode Island Association of Colored Women's Clubs and held the position of Organizer of the Federation in 1936. The house retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical associations to the period 1935 to 1964.

Mary and Silas Dickerson House/Women's Newport League, 24–26 Gould Street, Newport

The Mary and Silas Dickerson House/Women's Newport League, a multi-family house built between 1884 and 1891 for the Dickersons, is potentially eligible for listing under Criteria A and B for its associations with prominent Newport black businesswoman and civil rights organizer Mary H. Dickerson (1830–1914). Dickerson owned a successful dress shop and was a founding member of the Women's Newport League (established in 1895), the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC, founded in 1896), and the first regional Federation of Colored Women's Clubs (also founded in 1896). The NACWC and its affiliated clubs, including the Women's Newport League, focused their efforts on a wide variety of social causes such as childcare; wage equity; voter registration; anti-lynching; and housing, education, and healthcare reform. The building is also potentially eligible under Criterion A for its ongoing association with the Women's Newport League, which has used the building as a meeting hall and offices since 1965. The house is the only known extant building associated with Dickerson or the Women's Newport League and retains sufficient integrity to convey these associations.

John Carter Minkins House, 345 Glenwood Avenue, Pawtucket

The two-story, ca. 1900, Colonial Revival-style residence at 345 Glenwood Avenue in Pawtucket is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion B for its associations with journalist and civil rights activist John Carter Minkins (1869–1959). Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Minkins moved to Rhode Island in the 1890s and worked as a reporter and editor for various newspapers in Providence and Pawtucket. He became editor-in-chief of the *Providence News-Democrat* in 1906 and is alleged to have been the first African American editor in the country at a white-owned newspaper. Minkins purchased the *Rhode Island Examiner* in 1911 and featured articles on segregation and

discrimination in the weekly publication. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2013. Minkins and his family appear to have been the original occupants of the house on Glenwood Avenue, where he lived for over 50 years during the most productive years of his professional career. The house retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical associations.

Lippitt Hill Elementary/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, 35 Camp Street, Providence

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School built in 1967 at 35 Camp Street in Providence is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion A for its associations with school desegregation in Rhode Island and under Criterion C for its non-standard architectural design based on community input. As the first intentionally planned, integrated school in the state, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School served as a catalyst for integration across the entire Providence school system and in the surrounding area. Community involvement in the entire integration process—beginning with the decision to replace two primarily black schools in the Lippitt Hill urban renewal project area with an integrated school that better reflected the overall population of the East Side—created models for redistricting plans, educational paradigms, and building designs that subsequently influenced school desegregation plans for other areas of Providence. The school remains fully integrated and appears to retain sufficient integrity to its original construction. Further research into the evolution of the architectural plans for the building and any subsequent alterations would be recommended to support its eligibility under Criterion C.

Charles D. Woodward/Philip F. Addison Jr. House, 131 Camp Street, Providence

The two-story, ca. 1920, Colonial Revival-style house at 131 Camp Street in Providence is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion B for its associations with Philip F. Addison Jr. (1916–2006), the first black City Councilor in Providence. In 1969, Addison successfully ran against three other contenders for the Democratic nomination to fill a vacancy on the City Council and went on to defeat the white Republican candidate Ann D. Ury. He was elected Deputy Majority Leader of the Council in 1975 and became Majority Leader in 1979. Along with serving on the City Council, Addison worked as the city’s Director of Recreation and volunteered as a community worker for the Urban League’s “New Thrust Program,” which was intended to facilitate communication between residents and federal and municipal organizations. He lived at 131 Camp Street from 1969 until his death in 2006, and the house remains in his family. The building retains sufficient integrity to the period during which Addison became the first black member of the City Council.

Triggs Memorial Golf Course, 1533 Chalkstone Avenue, Providence

The approximately 50-acre, municipally owned, public golf course at 1533 Chalkstone Avenue built in 1932 is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion C for its landscape design by the prominent golf course architect Donald Ross (1872–1948) and possibly under Criterion A for its associations with the history of recreational golf in Rhode Island. Further research would be recommended to establish the integrity of the landscape and support its eligibility under both criteria. National Register documentation for the golf course would include its role in the mid-twentieth-century integration of golf in the state.

Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church, 75 Chester Avenue, Providence

The one-story, Mid-Century Modern, A-frame church built in 1965 for the Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion C as an intact example of a rare architectural type in Providence. The building appears to retain its original design and materials. Further research into its design and construction would be recommended to support its eligibility under Criterion C. The church is the only extant building associated with the Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church, which was an active participant in the twentieth-century struggle for African American civil rights. National Register documentation for the building would include its associations with that church and its civil rights work, particularly after 1965. The property would meet Criteria Consideration A for religious properties that derive their primary significance from historical or architectural associations.

Swedish Workingmen's Association Hall, 59 Chestnut Street, Providence

The three-story commercial block constructed at 59 Chestnut Street in 1926 for the Swedish Workingmen's Association is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion A for its associations with the labor movement and civil rights. The building was used as a meeting hall in the 1930s and 1940s for various labor organizations including the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB) Local 308. Founded in 1942 as an interracial union, Local 308 was forced by the national IBB to place black members in an auxiliary union with no voting rights. The segregation of Local 308 resulted in a legal challenge led by NAACP lawyer and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993) with local assistance from Providence lawyer Joseph G. LeCount (1887–1981). Judge Alexander L. Churchill (1872–1948) presided over the trial that began in Providence in January 1944. On January 13, 1944, Churchill granted a temporary injunction against the IBB, ruling that “the by-laws and constitution of the so-called ‘auxiliary,’ in so far as they discriminate between members of the colored race, Negroes, and persons of all other races ... are illegal and void” (quoted in Marshall 1944). The Chestnut Street building is the only known extant property associated with the significant IBB Local 308 case and retains sufficient integrity to convey its associations with the union. It is just outside the boundary of the Downtown Providence Historic District, which could be expanded to include this important resource.

St. Martin de Porres Center, 160 Cranston Street, Providence

The St. Martin de Porres Center, built ca. 1965 by the Archdiocese of Providence for the community service organization, is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion A for its associations with the civil rights work of the Center and its founder Father Anthony I. Robinson (1918–1987). Robinson led the Providence branch of the Catholic Interracial Council in 1951, which helped black families find housing among other activities, and established the St. Martin de Porres Center in 1954 to serve Providence's disproportionately black poor population. The original building used by the Center was demolished in 1965 as part of the Central-Classical Redevelopment Plan. The St. Martin de Porres Center is one of the oldest senior centers in Rhode Island and the first in New England to serve a minority population. The long, low, brick building with a flat roof is a relatively intact example of a typical mid-twentieth-century institutional building that may also be eligible under Criterion C for its architecture. The property would meet Criteria Consideration A for religious properties that derive their primary significance from historical or architectural associations.

Irving J. Fain House, 400 Laurel Avenue, Providence

The one-story Mid-Century Modern residence at 400 Laurel Avenue, built ca. 1955, is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion B for its associations with Providence businessman and leading fair housing advocate Irving J. Fain (1906–1970) and under Criterion C for its architectural design. Fain led the effort to enact comprehensive fair housing legislation in Rhode Island in the 1950s and 1960s and supported many other civil rights activities within and outside the state. His University Heights development in Providence, a garden apartment complex and adjacent shopping center constructed between 1964 and 1968 in the predominantly African American Lippitt Hill urban renewal area, was the first racially and economically integrated private housing project in the country (see 99 Roger Williams Green). The house he had built on Laurel Avenue and lived in until his death in 1970 is an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern residential architecture in Providence. Further research into the design of the building, including the architect, would be recommended to support its eligibility under Criterion C.

Rochambeau Gospel Chapel/Bethel AME Church, 30 Rochambeau Avenue, Providence

The one-story, Colonial Revival-style church at 30 Rochambeau Avenue, built between 1937 and 1941 for the Rochambeau Gospel Chapel and acquired by the Bethel AME Church in 1961, is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion C as an intact example of its type. The building retains several character-defining features of the Colonial Revival style, including the oculus window in the gable peak and the arched door surround with multi-light transom. Further research into the design and construction of the building would be recommended to support its eligibility under Criterion C. The church is the only extant building associated with the Bethel AME congregation, which participated actively in the twentieth-century civil rights movement in Rhode Island. National Register documentation for the building would include its associations with that church and its civil rights work, particularly after 1961. Additional research might identify other connections with the civil rights movement. The property would meet Criteria Consideration A for religious properties that derive their primary significance from historical or architectural associations.

University Heights Apartment Complex, 99 Roger Williams Green, Providence

The University Heights apartment complex built between 1964 and 1968 in the Lippitt Hill neighborhood of Providence is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion A for its associations with the fair housing movement in Rhode Island, under Criterion B for its associations with developer and leading fair housing advocate Irving Fain (1906–1970, see 400 Laurel Avenue), and under Criterion C for its architectural design. The Lippitt Hill urban renewal project begun in 1959 was the first in the state to include plans for the construction of new racially and economically integrated private housing to replace the cleared buildings, which were predominantly occupied by African Americans. Providence businessman Fain, who was heading an effort to get comprehensive fair housing legislation passed by the General Assembly, submitted the chosen development proposal for a garden apartment complex and adjacent shopping center that relied partially on federal financing. The completed project consisting of 24 two- and three-story apartment buildings arranged around central courtyards was the first of its kind in the country, according to a 1968 report submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (Conforti 1986:31). The

site plan by architect Victor Gruen and the building designs by Maryland firm Collins & Kronstadt were integral components of the project.

Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church, 148 Wadsworth Street, Providence

The Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church, built in 1964 for the merged congregations of the Winter Street AME Zion Church and Wadsworth Street AME Church in Providence, is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion A for its associations with the civil rights activities of parishioners and congregation leaders, particularly Bertha Higgins (see 50 Woodman Street) and Reverend Arthur L. Hardge; under Criterion B for its association with the civil rights work of Reverend Hardge; and under Criterion C as an example of a modular, mid-twentieth-century church built by Creative Buildings, Inc. Higgins (1874–1944) organized the Colored Independent Political Association in 1932 at the Winter Street AME Church, which hosted a meeting of New England NAACP members in 1939. Hardge (1927–1983), pastor of the church during the 1963 merger, participated in Freedom Rides in the South and served as the chairman of the Providence Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He was also the executive secretary of the Rhode Island Commission on Discrimination. Further research into the design and construction of the building would be recommended to support its eligibility under Criterion C. The property would meet Criteria Consideration A for religious properties that derive their primary significance from historical or architectural associations.

Bertha G. and Dr. William Higgins House, 50 Woodman Street, Providence

The two-story, ca. 1930, Colonial Revival-style house at 50 Woodman Street in Providence is potentially eligible for listing under Criterion B for its associations with civil rights activist Bertha G. Higgins (1874–1944). Higgins was active in several causes in Rhode Island including women's suffrage and worked to improve the social, political, and economic conditions of African Americans in the state during the Jim Crow era. In the early twentieth century, she founded the Julia Ward Howe Republican Women's Club, which supported Republican candidates; lobbied for African American causes with Republican politicians; and recruited African American women into the Republican party. By 1932, after frustrations with a lack of action on the part of Republicans, Higgins shifted her allegiances and those of her women's club to the Democratic party. In the 1940s, she served on the Commission on the Employment Problem of the Negro and the Providence Urban League in the 1940s. Higgins resided from ca. 1930 to ca. 1940 at 50 Woodman Street, which retains sufficient integrity to that period.

Future Survey Recommendations

It is recommended that further efforts be made to research and document resources in Rhode Island associated with the African American Civil Rights Movement as more information on the subject is revealed. Suggestions for continuing to add to the public knowledge base include: conducting further newspaper/periodical research; recording additional oral histories; investigating additional court cases; studying the histories of civil rights activism at more local universities; and encouraging the exchange of information through talks, roundtables, and other forums. For example, informal conversations are likely to reveal additional places where members of African American communities have gathered to further the civil rights cause. The exhibits and educational materials being developed as part of Phase 3 of this project are also likely to result in more

suggestions for future survey. Although the densest populations of African Americans were concentrated in the state's largest cities of Providence and Newport, targeted local study of other urban communities and beyond is recommended to identify potential sites of interest. For instance, Woonsocket's branch of the NAACP was founded in 1962 and continues to play an active role in the community.

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APPENDIX: LIST OF SURVEYED RESOURCES AND SURVEY MAPS

* NR Status: NR-I = Individually National Register listed; NHL-I = Individual National Historic Landmark; NRHD = National Register Historic District; RIHPHC eligible = determined eligible by RIHPHC; PAL eligible = recommended eligible by PAL as part of this survey

+ Property was not on preliminary survey list but was added by PAL as a result of fieldwork and research

NAME	STREET #	STREET ADDRESS	TOWN	NR Status*
Cranston Jewish Center	330	Park Avenue	Cranston	
Rhodes on the Pawtuxet	60	Rhodes Place	Cranston	NR-I, Pawtuxet Village NRHD
Crescent Park and Carousel	700	Bullocks Point Avenue	East Providence	NHL-I
George S. and Selma Lima House	64	Charles Street	East Providence	
Peter J. Coelho House	155	Leonard Avenue	East Providence	
East Providence High School	2000	Pawtucket Avenue	East Providence	RIHPHC eligible
John F. Lopez Sr. and Florence Lopez House	10	South Prospect Street	East Providence	PAL eligible
Foster Town Hall and Old Home Day Grounds	181	Howard Hill Road	Foster	Foster Center NRHD
Cardines Field ⁺	20	America's Cup Avenue	Newport	Newport NRHD
Nellie Brown's Golden Age Rest Home ⁺	21-23	Brinley Street	Newport	Kay-Catherine-Old Beach NRHD
Philip Rider Boarding House/Glover Hotel ⁺	26	Brinley Street	Newport	Kay-Catherine-Old Beach NRHD (NC)
Newport City Hall	43	Broadway	Newport	Kay-Catherine-Old Beach NRHD
Union Congregational Church	49	Division Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
West Broadway USO-YMCA/MLK Center	20	Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard	Newport	Newport NRHD



NAME	STREET #	STREET ADDRESS	TOWN	NR Status*
Hyman Rosoff Building/Stone Mill Lodge ⁺	32	Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard	Newport	Newport NRHD
Newport Welfare Department/Potter School	12	Elm Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
Louis and Sarah Walker/Eleanor Walker Keys House	65	Friendship Street	Newport	
John Spelman/Martin Canavan House	5	Gladding Court	Newport	Newport NRHD
Mary and Silas Dickerson House/Women's Newport League	24-26	Gould Street	Newport	PAL eligible
Tonomy Hill Public Housing/Newport Heights	120	Hillside Avenue	Newport	
Constant Tabor/Rev. Mahlon & Dr. Alonzo Van Horne/James and Margaret Suggs House	47	John Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
Weedon House/Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland House ⁺	84-86	John Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
Louis and Sarah Walker/William H. Jackson House	98	Kay Street	Newport	
Old Friends Meeting House/Newport Community Center	30	Marlborough Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
Park Holm Public Housing	1	Park Holm	Newport	
Nancy Eldridge/Charles Frederick Douglass Fayerweather House	14	Pearl Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
Dr. Henry Jackson House/Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	79	Thames Street	Newport	Newport NRHD
Perry Mill/GE Wiring Devices Plant 2	337	Thames Street	Newport	NR-I, Southern Thames NRHD
Army and Navy YMCA	50	Washington Square	Newport	NR-I, Newport NRHD
Ambassador Inn Nightclub	1874	Mineral Spring Avenue	North Providence	



NAME	STREET #	STREET ADDRESS	TOWN	NR Status*
John Carter Minkins House	345	Glenwood Avenue	Pawtucket	PAL eligible
RI Women's Club/Churchill House, Brown University	155	Angell Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Central Congregational Church	296	Angell Street	Providence	Stimson Avenue NRHD
James N. Williams/Frederick C. Williamson Sr. House	212-214	Bellevue Avenue	Providence	
Israel Mason House/Bell Funeral Home	571	Broad Street	Providence	NR-I
Temple Beth-El, Broad Street Synagogue	688	Broad Street	Providence	NR-I
Lippitt Hill Elementary/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School	35	Camp Street	Providence	PAL eligible
Charles D. Woodward/Philip F. Addison Jr. House	131	Camp Street	Providence	PAL eligible
Chad Brown Public Housing	260	Chad Brown Street	Providence	
Triggs Memorial Golf Course ⁺	1533	Chalkstone Avenue	Providence	PAL eligible
Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church	75	Chester Avenue	Providence	PAL eligible
Citizens United Renewal Enterprise (CURE)/Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) Office	33	Chestnut Street	Providence	NR-I
Swedish Workingmen's Association Hall	59	Chestnut Street	Providence	PAL eligible
Congdon Street Baptist Church	17	Congdon Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
St. Martin de Porres Center	160	Cranston Street	Providence	PAL eligible
Odd Fellows Hall ⁺	316	Cranston Street	Providence	

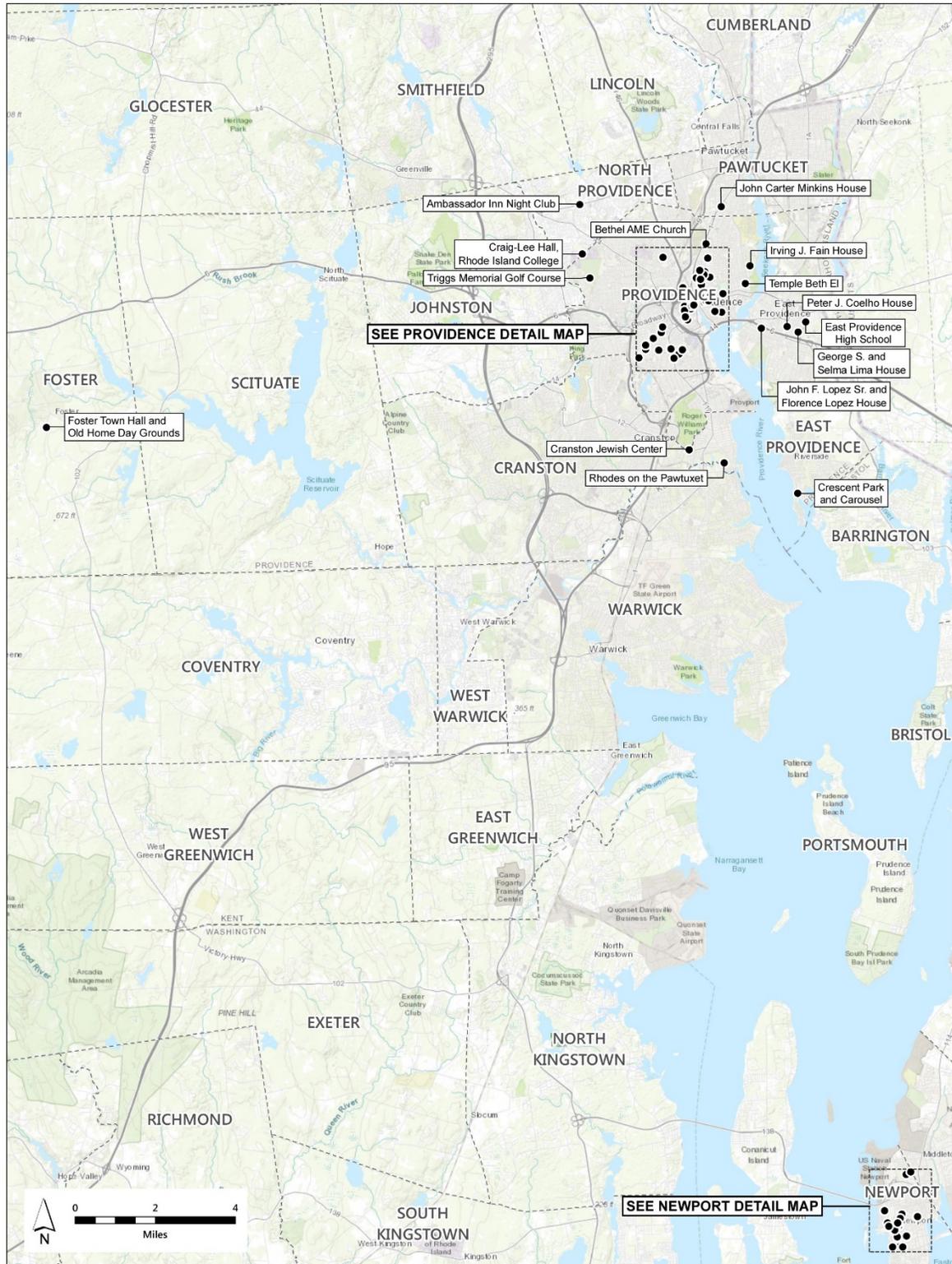


NAME	STREET #	STREET ADDRESS	TOWN	NR Status*
Cranston Street Baptist Church/Ebenezer Baptist Church	475	Cranston Street	Providence	Broadway-Armory NRHD
Providence City Hall	25	Dorrance Street	Providence	NR-I, Downtown Providence NRHD
Case-Mead Building/Joseph G. LeCount Law Office	68-76	Dorrance Street	Providence	Downtown Providence NRHD
Aldrich Estate Building/RI ACLU Office	51-55	Eddy Street	Providence	Downtown Providence NRHD
Hope High School	324	Hope Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Franklin White/Horace and Naomi Craig House	86	John Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Irving J. Fain House ⁺	400	Laurel Avenue	Providence	PAL eligible
Mathewson Street Methodist Church/Citizens United Office	128-134	Mathewson Street	Providence	Downtown Providence NRHD
Mrs. M. A. Greene Tourist Home/William Page Hyde Freeman House	58	Meeting Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Craig-Lee Hall, Rhode Island College	600	Mount Pleasant Avenue	Providence	RIHPHC eligible
First Baptist Meeting House/First Baptist Church	75	North Main Street	Providence	NHL-I, College Hill NRHD
Daniel Y. Stickney/Dr. Carl R. Gross House	49-51	Olney Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Olney Street Baptist Church	100	Olney Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Temple Beth-El	68-70	Orchard Avenue	Providence	Wayland NRHD
South Providence Neighborhood Center/Urban League of Rhode Island	246	Prairie Avenue	Providence	
Albert G. Angell House/John Hope Community Association	15	Pratt Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD

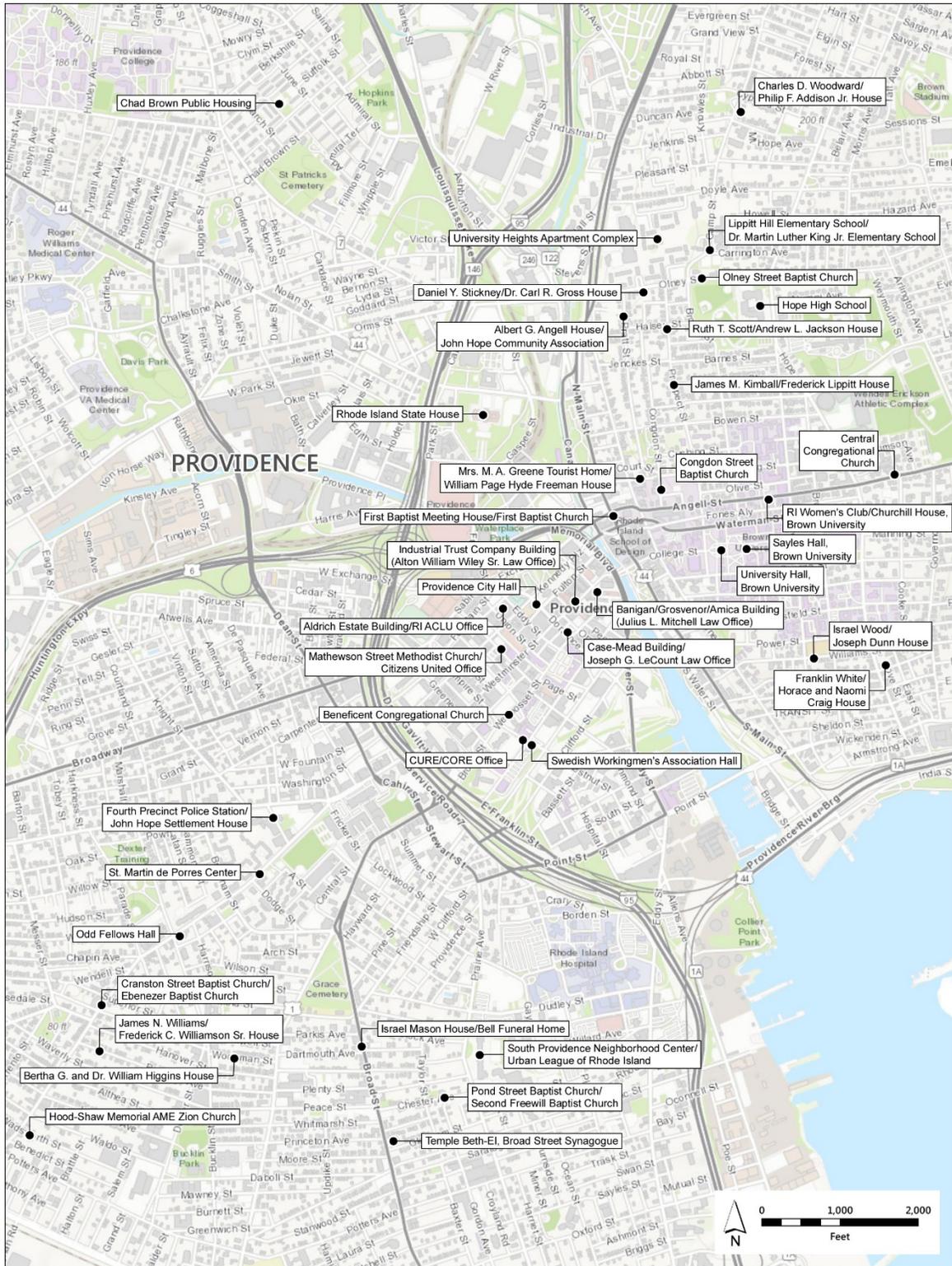


NAME	STREET #	STREET ADDRESS	TOWN	NR Status*
University Hall, Brown University	1	Prospect Street	Providence	NHL-I, College Hill NRHD
James M. Kimball/Frederick Lippitt House	108	Prospect Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Ruth T. Scott/Andrew L. Jackson House	150	Prospect Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Bethel AME Church	30	Rochambeau Avenue	Providence	PAL eligible
University Heights Apartment Complex	99	Roger Williams Green	Providence	PAL eligible
Rhode Island State House	90	Smith Street	Providence	NR-I
Fourth Precinct Police Station/John Hope Settlement House	7	Thomas P. Whitten Way	Providence	
Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church	148	Wadsworth Street	Providence	PAL eligible
Sayles Hall, Brown University	81	Waterman Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Industrial Trust Company Building (Alton William Wiley Sr. Law Office)	111	Westminster Street	Providence	Downtown Providence NRHD
Banigan/Grosvenor/Amica Building (Julius L. Mitchell Law Office)	10	Weybosset Street	Providence	Downtown Providence NRHD
Beneficent Congregational Church	300	Weybosset Street	Providence	NR-I, Downtown Providence NRHD
Israel Wood/Joseph Dunn House	125	Williams Street	Providence	College Hill NRHD
Bertha G. and Dr. William Higgins House	50	Woodman Street	Providence	PAL eligible

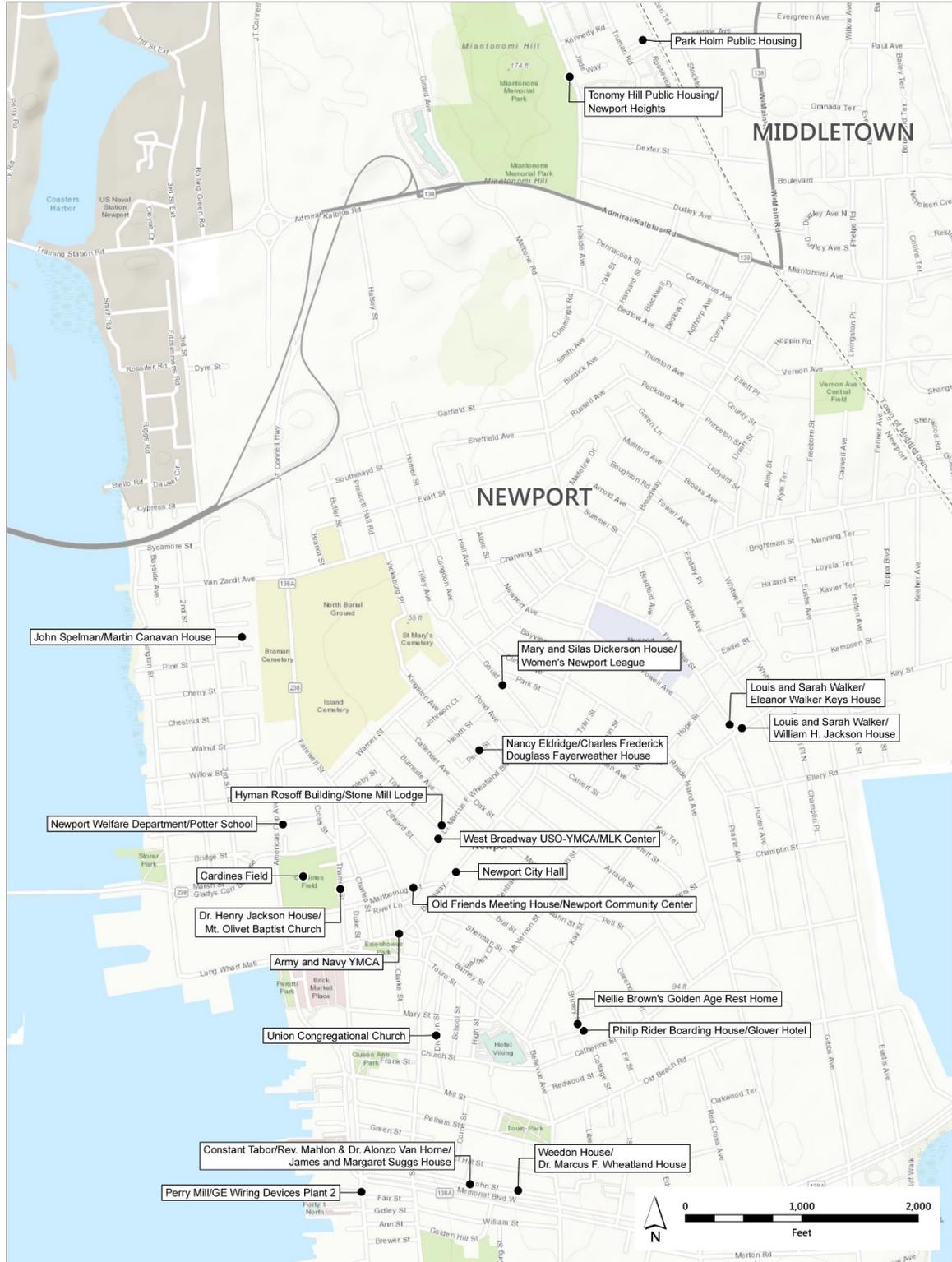
Overview Map



Providence Detail Map



Newport Detail Map





**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Cranston VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 330 Park Avenue PLAT/LOT 4/150

NAME(s) Cranston Jewish Center

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 35 ft LOT SIZE 52,272 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Flat, gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Brick, Stucco

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Casement, Horizontally sliding



Photo ID CRNS_ParkAve330_SE



Photo ID CRNS_ParkAve330_W

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1952	Newspaper	Sidney Markoff	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Twentieth Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Cranston Jewish Center (Temple Beth Torah) was constructed at 330 Park Street in 1952 and designed by civil engineer and congregation member Sidney Markoff (1909–2000). Prior to the construction of the building, the congregation, which formed in 1942 as the Cranston Jewish Community Club, met in the function room of Lindy’s Diner on Reservoir Avenue, then the American Legion Hall, both in Cranston (Foster and Horvitz 2000:298). Markoff designed a building that could fulfill the congregation’s myriad needs, including classrooms and a small kitchen in the basement (Foster and Horvitz 2000:300). The congregation initially hired a student rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a part-time cantor (Foster and Horvitz 2000:300).

In September 1957, Dr. Saul Leeman (1916–2017) was installed as the first non-student rabbi of the Cranston Jewish Center. Leeman was ordained in 1943 after graduating with a master’s degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1955, he returned to the seminary to earn a doctorate in Bible Studies. Prior to leading the Cranston congregation, he helped found and led the congregation of the Israel Community Center of Levittown on Long Island, New York (*Cranston Herald* 1957). In March 1965, Leeman traveled to Selma, Alabama, to participate in the Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights, joining two other rabbis from Rhode Island, Rabbi William Braude of Temple Beth-El on Orchard Street in Providence, and Rabbi Nathan N. Rosen, the director of the B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation at Brown University. All three rabbis commented on the fear they felt of Southern whites and how welcomed they were by the African American community. In a *Boston Herald* interview, Rabbi Leeman reflected on the national significance of the march as a repudiation of segregationist policies (Antler 2002:563–564).

Rabbi Leeman led the Cranston congregation until at least 1974 and continued working toward social justice and equality for people of all faiths and colors in Cranston and across Rhode Island. He served two terms as president of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis and taught at Providence College and Brown University, among other activities. Rabbi Leeman later moved to Medford, Massachusetts, to lead the congregation at Temple Shalom. When Rabbi Leeman died in 2017, he was the Rabbi Emeritus of that congregation (Zeckel 2017).

In 1984, the Cranston Jewish Center (Temple Beth Torah) congregation merged with Temple Beth Israel of Providence to become Temple Torat Yisrael and continued to use the Park Avenue building for services (*Johnston Sunrise* 2009). In 2012, the congregation moved to a new synagogue in East Greenwich and sold the Cranston Jewish Center to the Praise Tabernacle, which continues to use the building.

Bibliography:

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2002 “Rhode Island Jewish and Catholic Press Coverage of Civil Rights, 1954–1965.” *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, Vol. 13, No. 4, p. 548–570.

Cranston Herald

1952 “Cornerstone Laying.” 24 April, p. 10.

1957 “New Rabbi of Cranston Takes Office Tomorrow.” 19 September, p. 1.

Dreier, Peter

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2000 “We Settled in the Suburbs: Founding Four Synagogues.” *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, Vol 13, No. 2, p. 297–317.

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Zeckel, Rick

2017 “A Life of Inconspicuous Service.” Electronic document, <http://viewsfromtheroadsmiddle.com/a-life-of-inconspicuous-service/>, accessed January 2019.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Cranston VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 60 Rhodes Place PLAT/LOT 1/300

NAME(s) Rhodes on the Pawtuxet

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Indiv, Dist C

NR DISTRICT Pawtuxet Village Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Music Facility/
Auditorium/Clubhouse HISTORIC Music Facility/
Auditorium/Clubhouse

SITING: SETBACK 200 ft LOT SIZE 220,414 sq ft

STORIES 2.5 ROOF(s) Flat, Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Stucco, Vinyl

FOUNDATION Not Visible OTHER _____

WINDOWS Casement, horizontally sliding; Fixed



Photo ID CRNS_RhodesPl60_SW



Photo ID CRNS_RhodesPl60_SE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Mod	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Gazebo	U-C	1	(5)		
(3) Landscape	S-C	1	(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Gazebo construction	ca. 1880	NR		
Ballroom construction	1915	NR	John F. O'Malley and Henry F. Lewis	Architects

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Jan. 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet was built in 1915 after a fire destroyed the original canoe club and ballroom on the site. The building hosted dances, concerts, political dinners, and other events, including the Shrine Circus from the 1920s until about 1945, when the circus moved to the Narragansett Race Track in Pawtucket (not extant) (Lynch 1978). It remains in use as a venue for all types of public and private events.

Two events in particular, one in 1925 and the other in 1943, connect Rhodes on the Pawtuxet to the entrenched forms of racism faced by civil rights activists in the state during the twentieth century. In January 1925, the Ku Klux Klan in Rhode Island held its first public dinner dance at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. The Providence County Klanton and its associated women's auxiliary sponsored the dance, which was attended by nearly 1,000 people (Smith 1978:40). In October 1943, local police canceled a scheduled concert by the renowned black band leader Count Basie (1904–1984) on account of concerns about race riots. Southern white sailors stationed in Narragansett Bay had raised objections about blacks and whites dancing together at the concert, and the police chose to support the sailors' objections rather than defend the rights of all Basie's fans (Kersten 2006:92–93).

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet was listed in the National Register in 1973 as a contributing resource in the Pawtuxet Village Historic District and listed individually in 1978.

Bibliography:

Kersten, Andrew

2006 *Labor's Home Front: The American Federation of Labor During World War II*. New York University Press, New York.

Lynch, Ancelin V.

1978 *National Register Nomination – Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS 78000007.

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1978 "The Ku Klux Klan in Rhode Island." *Rhode Island History*. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 35–46.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN East Providence **VILLAGE** Riverside

ADDRESS 700 Bullocks Point Ave **PLAT/LOT** 413/13/001

NAME(s) Crescent Park and Crescent Park Carousel

PROPERTY TYPE Bld Site **OWNERSHIP** Loc

STATUS NHL NR Indiv C

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Recreation **HISTORIC** Recreation

SITING: SETBACK _____ **ft** **LOT SIZE** 3.51 **acres**

STORIES 1 **ROOF(s)** Conical

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt **WALL** Wood

FOUNDATION Stone **OTHER** _____

WINDOWS 6-, 8-, and 11-light wood



Photo ID EAPR_BullocksPointAve_700_E



Photo ID EAPR_BullocksPointAve_700_S

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	Min	Maj

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Carousel	B-C	1	(4) Gazebo	St-NC	1
(2) Clam Shack	B-NC	1	(5) Former amusement park site	Si-C	1
(3) Bathhouse	B-NC	2	(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Crescent Park opens	1886	ArtInRuins	Charles Boyden	Owner/Operator
Carousel construction	1895	Sign	Charles I. D. Looff	Designer
Crescent Park closes	1977	ArtInRuins		
Crescent Park sold/demo	1979	ArtInRuins		
Concession Stand built	2004	Assessor	City of East Providence	Owner
Carousel restored	2018	Website	City of East Providence	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ **STYLE(s)** _____

SURVEYOR PAL **DATE** Nov. 2018 **REVIEWER** _____ **DATE** _____
Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography Form version 200702rev161101

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Crescent Park in East Providence opened in 1886 under the ownership of Charles Boyden. Boyden hired famed wood carver Charles I. D. Looff to build the Crescent Park Carousel, which opened in 1895. The park changed ownership in 1901, and the new owners, the Hope Land Company, had Looff add other rides to the nascent amusement park, including a tunnel of love and rollercoaster. Looff's son, Charles Looff, took ownership of the park in 1920 and expanded it, adding a roller rink and the Alhambra Ballroom. Other rides were added through the mid-twentieth century. In 1969, the Alhambra Ballroom burned down. Through the remainder of the mid-twentieth century, attendance dwindled and the park began to fall into disrepair. The park closed in 1977, and pieces of it were auctioned off in March 1979. The buildings and structures that didn't sell, including the carousel, were slated for demolition, but local residents rallied to save the carousel, which remains in operation today following a 2018 restoration (ArtInRuins.com 2019; CrescentParkCarousel.org 2019).

Crescent Park's association with the civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its use for Emancipation Day festivities. Rhode Island's Emancipation Day celebrations began in August 1854 at Roger Williams Park and initially celebrated only the emancipation of Caribbean blacks (Stokes 2018). In the United States, Emancipation Day is recognized on a variety of dates, depending on when various states and territories learned of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, which took place on January 1, 1863. Celebrations were often held on January 1 and on August 1, the date of the emancipation of blacks in the West Indies, but the January celebrations appeared to have died out by the 1880s (Greenwood 2009:176). The shift to a preference for August celebrations in New England may have been influenced in part by the harsh winters (Greenwood 2009:176). Celebrations sponsored by the Grand United Order of Colored Odd Fellows began in 1882 and were initially held at Crescent Park's rival amusement park across Narragansett Bay, Rocky Point (*Providence Daily Journal* 1890). In the late 1920s, the Otha Boon Lodge 931 of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World took over organizing Emancipation Day celebrations at Rocky Point, promoting the event and receiving a percentage of the day's ticket sales in exchange. Several years into the arrangement, the Lodge learned that park management was closing the swimming pool during the Emancipation Day celebrations so black visitors were unable to use it. Park management refused to change the policy despite protestations from the Lodge, prompting the Elks to move the celebrations to a rival amusement park across the bay – Crescent Park (Bell Jr. 1997).

Former Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer Fred Williamson was interviewed by Rhode Island state folklorist Michael Bell about his memories of Emancipation Day celebrations at Crescent Park (quahog.org 2015). According to Williamson, the events provided an opportunity for older folks to gather and reminisce about the old days while children played at the amusement park. People came from across the region, including Worcester, Boston, and Springfield, to take part in the celebrations. Families packed a picnic lunch or ate at the Shore Dining Hall, which served clam cakes, clam chowder, and other seaside favorites. In the evening, the Alhambra Ballroom hosted a dance played by one of the leading black bands in New England that lasted until around one in the morning (quahog.org 2015).

At the 1951 Emancipation Day celebrations, noted newspaper editor John Carter Minkins, then 82 years old, addressed nearly 15,000 people about uplifting the African American race (Lemons and Lambert 2003:437). Emancipation Day celebrations were held at Crescent Park through at least the 1960s (Conrad 2012). Later celebrations in Rhode Island were held at Roger Williams Park and Waterplace Park in Providence and continue to the present day.

The Crescent Park Carousel was listed in the National Register in 1976 and became a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

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Stokes, Keith, and Theresa Guzman Stokes

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN East Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 64 Charles Street PLAT/LOT 406/12/024/00

NAME(s) George S. and Selma Lima House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 35 ft LOT SIZE 13,504 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Vinyl



Photo ID EAPR_CharlesSt64_E



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj
Configuration	Maj	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	ca. 1960	Maps Book	George S. Lima	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Center Entry STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The George S. and Selma Lima House was built ca. 1960 for local civil rights activist George S. Lima Sr. and his wife Selma. The Limas lived at the house from at least 1963 through the 1990s. George Lima Sr. (1919–2011) was the son of Cape Verdean immigrants. During World War II, he served with the Tuskegee Airmen as the unit's photography officer. In 1945, Lima joined 60 black officers in a protest against segregation at a white officers' club on an Indiana air base. After the war, he obtained a degree in sociology from Brown University, where he helped found the first chapter of the national African American fraternity Omega Psi Phi. The Urban League assisted Lima in his job search after graduation but was only able to find him a position as a shipping clerk in a Providence department store (Pina 2014; Elliott 2007).

After graduation, Lima became active in national, state, and local civil rights activities. By 1959, he was the head of the Rhode Island Catholic Interracial Council (Stokes 2019). Lima became the first full-time black officer in the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, a union organization for civil servants, and served as the union's regional director in 1962 (R. L. Polk & Co. 1962; Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame 2019). That same year, as president of the Providence branch of the NAACP, he supported the need for a black legislator to be elected for fair housing legislation to be passed (Hackett 1962). Lima participated in the 1963 March on Washington, among other civil rights marches, and organized sit-ins for fair housing at the Rhode Island State House (*Providence Journal* 2006; Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame 2019).

Lima was elected to the Rhode Island state legislature in 1985 and served two terms as the representative for District 83, helping to pass a law requiring that a percentage of state contracts be awarded to minority-owned businesses (*Providence Journal* 1985; Polichetti 1985; Elliott 2007). Later in life, he directed Action Programs for Rhode Island, which oversaw the state foster grandparent program, a retired senior volunteer program, and VISTA's (AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America) elderly services (Polichetti 1985). In 2014, Lima's son Robert M. Lima Sr. lobbied to have the Hull Street Playground in East Providence renamed the George S. Lima Sr. Memorial Park (Pina 2014).

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Stokes, Keith

2019 Personal communication with authors.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN East Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 155 Leonard Avenue PLAT/LOT 306/20/011/00

NAME(s) Peter J. Coelho House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 7,841 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Hip, Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Vinyl



Photo ID EAPR_LeonardAve_155_SW



Photo ID EAPR_LeonardAve_155_S

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Maj	Maj	Mod
Configuration	None	None	None	Mod

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	Early 20 th c	Field survey		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Bungalow STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Jan. 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Cape Verdean immigrant Joseph Coelho, his first-generation Cape Verdean-American wife Jennie, and their nine children lived in the early twentieth-century house at 155 Leonard Avenue from at least 1920 (U.S. Census 1920). Their son Peter J. Coelho (1921–1997) was born in East Providence and spent his life in the city, residing for much if not all of that time at 155 Leonard Avenue. The house remains in the Coelho family, owned by Peter’s granddaughter.

Peter J. Coelho served in the Army Air Force in World War II as an administrator for the group of African American military pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. In 1951, he joined other Cape Verdean residents of East Providence, primarily members of the Cape Verdean Women’s American Progressive Club (incorporated in 1944), working to build a community center. The club expanded to include men and changed its name to the Cape Verdean Progressive Center. Coelho was elected the organization’s first male president and held the office from 1951 to 1960. As Building Committee Chairman, he oversaw the club’s construction of a community building at 329 Grosvenor Street in 1952 (RIHPHC 2019; *Providence Journal* 1997; Cape Verdean Progressive Center 2019).

In 1967, Coelho became the first Cape Verdean elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly, where he served until 1978. He was instrumental in the 1973 formation of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (Rhode Island Housing), a quasi-public agency created to subsidize affordable housing within the state. Coelho was appointed commissioner for the agency by Governor Philip W. Noel and served as vice chairman from 1973 to 1981. He also served as the executive director of the Rhode Island Housing Investment Fund from 1972 to 1977 (*Providence Journal* 1997). Coelho was posthumously inducted into the state’s Cape Verdean Hall of Fame in 2006 (RIHPHC 2019).

Bibliography:

Cape Verdean Progressive Center

2019 “History of the CV Club.” Electronic document, <https://capeverdeanpc.wordpress.com/history-of-the-cv-club/>, accessed April 2019.

Providence Journal

1997 “Peter J. Coelho, of E. Prov., 76.” 6 September, p. A-08.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC)

2019 “Cape Verdean Hall of Fame 2006.” Electronic document, http://www.preservation.ri.gov/heritage/subcommittees_folder/capeverdean/cv_museum_hall-of-fame/cvfame_2006/cvfame_2006-coelho.php, accessed April 2019.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1920 *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920* (T625, 2076 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN East Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 2000 Pawtucket Avenue PLAT/LOT 406/06/005/00

NAME(s) East Providence High School; East Providence Senior High School

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT School HISTORIC School

SITING: SETBACK 30 ft LOT SIZE 1,228,392 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel, Rolled Rubber WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Aluminum



Photo ID EAPR_PawtucketAve2000_NE



Photo ID EAPR_PawtucketAve2000_N

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) School	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Tennis Court	U-C	1	(5)		
(3) Athletic Fields	U-C		(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1952	News article		
New wing constructed	1999	School Report		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Jan. 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

East Providence High School (EPHS) was built in 1952 and expanded with a new wing and cafeteria addition in 1999. It replaced an earlier high school on Broadway that later became a junior high.

The high school is notable in the context of the Civil Rights movement for its associations with Dr. Isadore “Izzy” Ramos (b. 1937), after whom the gymnasium in the building was named in 2014. Ramos, the son of a Cape Verdean immigrant and a first-generation Cape Verdean American, graduated from EPHS and earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Southern Illinois University and his doctorate from the University of Connecticut. In 1966, Ramos was hired as a physical education teacher at EPHS, the first teacher of color at the school (Thomas and Kenny 1998). In May 1969, black students protested over the lack of black teachers and black cheerleaders, staging a sit-in until the principal of the school, George T. Burke, agreed to meet with them to discuss their demands (*Providence Journal* 1969). After the sit-in, Ramos was made the Dean of Students in part to serve as a liaison between the faculty and students. His title was later changed to Vice Principal, although the position essentially remained the same. In 1979, Ramos became Assistant Superintendent for the East Providence School Department, a job he held until his retirement in 2000 (Thomas and Kenny 1998; Pina 2015).

In addition to his education career, Ramos chaired the Rhode Island Minority Caucus during Jimmy Carter’s 1976 presidential campaign and served on the State Democratic Executive Committee (Thomas and Kenny 1998). In 2002, he was elected to the first of two terms on the East Providence City Council. In 2006, his fellow council members appointed him mayor of the city, making him the first Cape Verdean mayor in the United States. Ramos received the 2015 Living the Dream Award from Rhode Island’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, and Governor Gina Raimondo nominated Ramos to the state Board of Elections in 2016 (Pina 2015; Rodericks 2016).

Bibliography:

Krinjak, John

2018 “East Providence unveils new high school plan.” Electronic document, <https://www.abc6.com/story/39117578/east-providence-unveils-new-high-school-plan>, accessed April 2019.

Pina, Alisha A.

2015 “More of America’s Story: R.I. Living the Dream Award Recipient Sees Progress in New History Textbook.” *Providence Journal*, 18 January.

Providence Journal

1969 “E. Providence Pupils Stage Two Protests.” 16 May, p. 21.

Rodericks, Bob

2016 “Dr. Isadore Ramos appointed by Governor Raimondo to RI Board of Elections.” Electronic document, <http://reportertoday.com/stories/dr-isadore-ramos-appointed-by-governor-raimondo-to-ri-board-of-elections.15485?>, accessed April 2019.

Thomas, Will, and Cayce Kenny

1998 Oral History with Dr. Isadore Ramos for “The Whole World Was Watching.” Electronic document, <https://cds.library.brown.edu/projects/1968/narrators/transcripts/I.RAMOS.trans.html>, accessed April 2019.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN East Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 10 South Prospect Street PLAT/LOT 106/19/004/00

NAME(s) John F. Lopez Sr. and Florence Lopez House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 15 ft LOT SIZE 4,792 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS Vinyl



Photo ID EAPR_SouthProspectSt_10_NW



Photo ID EAPR_SouthProspectSt_10_S
W

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Maj	Mod	Mod
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	By 1895	Maps		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Queen Anne

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Jan. 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 10 South Prospect Street was built by 1895 on land platted out in 1870 after the landowner, Tristram Burges, died and the property passed to his heirs (Everts and Richards 1895; EPCC 1998).

The house was the home of civil rights activists John F. Lopez Sr. (1888–1964) and Florence Lopez (d. 1964) from at least 1935 until their deaths in 1964. John Lopez Sr. was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the couple lived at 11 John Street in Providence by 1932. John, the first Cape Verdean funeral director in Providence, owned the Lopez Funeral Chapel at 445 South Main Street (no longer extant) in that city from 1925 to 1955. He became a leader in the Cape Verdean community of the Fox Point neighborhood of Providence and helped to organize the International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1329, which was the first New England union to have predominantly Cape Verdean members (Grover and Larson 2018). In 1934, he helped found the Providence Colored Democratic Club and was elected State Director of the Colored Democratic Clubs and Units of Rhode Island (*Providence Journal* 1934). The following year, in his capacity as State Director, John addressed the Newport Women’s chapter of the Colored Democratic Club (*Newport Mercury* 1935). He was president of the Providence branch of the NAACP from 1935 to 1945 and at one time served as secretary of the New England Regional NAACP (*Providence Journal* 1964). In 1939, Florence was elected president of the Rhode Island Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, which met at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Providence. Prior to that, she was elected to the position of Organizer of the Federation in 1936 (*Newport Mercury* 1936, 1939). In 1948, John was appointed to the Rhode Island Fair Employment Practices Commission (Grover and Larson 2018). By 1957, he was the coordinator of the New England branches of the NAACP, overseeing elections and was a speaker at conferences (*Newport Daily News* 1957). John was a member of the Rhode Island State Commission Against Discrimination from its establishment in 1949 until his death and sat on the board of directors for the John Hope Settlement House and the Democratic State Committee (*Providence Journal* 1964).

Bibliography:

East Providence City Clerk (EPCC)

1998 Book 1324/Page 205 Domingos R. Lopes to Domingos R. Lopes and Natalie Lopes

Everts and Richards

1895 *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, RI*. Everts and Richards, Philadelphia, PA.

Grover, Kathryn, and Neil Larson

2018 *National Register of Historic Places – College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation), Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island*. On file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Newport Daily News

1957 “Newport NAACP Branch Renames Oliver Burton.” 26 November, p. 6.

Newport Mercury

1935 “Lopez Addresses Colored Democrats.” 22 March, p. 3.

1936 “Colored Women’s Clubs Meet at Shiloh Baptist.” 16 October, p. 5.

1939 “Newporters Attend Colored Clubs’ Session.” 20 October, p. 7.

Providence Journal

1934 “Lopez Will Fill Post.” 4 September, p. 20.

1964 “John F. Lopez: Anti-Discrimination Board Member, Civic Leader Dies.” 22 October, p. 43.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Foster VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 181 Howard Hill Road PLAT/LOT 20/5

NAME(s) Foster Town Hall and Old Home Day Grounds

PROPERTY TYPE Bldg, Site OWNERSHIP _____ Loc _____

STATUS _____ NR _____ District _____ C _____

NR DISTRICT Foster Center Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT City Hall, Museum HISTORIC Religious Facility, City Hall

SITING: SETBACK 160 ft LOT SIZE 827,640 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Side-Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 12/12 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID FOST_HowardHillRd_181_NW



Photo ID FOST_HowardHillRd_181_N

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Landscape	S-C	1	(4) Garage	B-NC	4
(2) Foster Town Hall	B-C	1	(5) Barn	B-NC	1
(3) New Town House	B-NC	1	(6) Fire Department	B-NC	1

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1796	NR	Second Baptist Church	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Center entry STYLE(s) Federal

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Foster Town Hall in Foster Centre was built as a meeting house for the Second Baptist Church in 1796. In 1801, the congregation agreed to allow Town Meeting to be held in the building. The Church deeded the building to the Town in 1822, provided the Church was still allowed to meet in the building (Lynch 1974). The extensive grounds around the building are known as the Old Home Days Grounds, so called because they were (and remain) the site of Foster Old Home Days celebrations. The building is currently occupied by the Foster Preservation Society.

Foster's association with the twentieth-century Civil Rights movement in Rhode Island is one of the more unpleasant connections of the era. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) emerged in Rhode Island in the 1920s as a result of anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant, and anti-black fears. As immigration to the United States increased in the post-World War I years, many Protestant communities grew alarmed by the waves of new arrivals, particularly of the Catholic faith. Although many Rhode Island residents rebuked the Klan's ideals and wholesale rejected the order and its beliefs, the organization still took hold, especially in rural parts of the state where fear of newcomers and minorities, especially immigrants, appeared greatest (Smith 1999). More than half the Klan members in Rhode Island held skilled or professional jobs, and in some towns large numbers of local government officers belonged to the Klan, making many towns in Rhode Island seem particularly forbidding to immigrants and blacks.

On June 21, 1924, 8,000 Klan members met on the Old Home Day Grounds in Foster for a massive rally. Klansmen from across Rhode Island and New England came to the meeting, which opened with a traditional New England clam chowder supper. Games for children, running races, and a baseball game were organized (Smith 1999). Speakers from Connecticut and Pennsylvania were present along with Alabama senator Tom Heflin. After dinner, several hundred new members were initiated in the light of a burning cross (Smith 1978:38; Sullivan 1989:75). Another field day and initiation ceremony was held at Foster Centre on July 26, likely at the same location as the earlier meeting, with another 8,000 purported attendants (Smith 1978:38). Other Klan activities in Rhode Island included a meeting of 200 men on May 17, 1924, at the Benefit Street Arsenal in Providence and a public dinner dance attended by nearly 1,000 people at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston.

Although the Rhode Island Klan did not appear to partake in lynchings, floggings, or brandings like their Southern brethren, the group still terrorized local communities through arson, cross burnings, racist leafleting, and other activities (Smith 1999). In 1924 and 1926, two suspicious fires at the Watchman Institute, a technical and trade school for black children in neighboring Scituate, were believed to have been the work of the Klan, but no one was ever charged (Smith 1999). The Klan appears to have largely disappeared from Rhode Island by the end of the 1920s, due largely to bad publicity and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 (Sullivan 1989:76).

The Foster Town Hall and Old Home Day Grounds were listed in the National Register in 1974 as part of the Foster Center Historic District.

Bibliography:

Lynch, Ancelin V.

1974 *National Register Nomination – Foster Center Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 74000050.

Smith, Norman W.

1978 "The Ku Klux Klan in Rhode Island." *Rhode Island History*, Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 35–46.

Smith, Robert L.

1999 "In the 1920s, the Klan ruled the countryside." *Providence Journal*, 26 April.

Sullivan, Joseph W.

1989 "Rhode Island's Invisible Empire: A Demographic Glimpse into the Ku Klux Klan." *Rhode Island History*, Vol. 47, No. 2, p. 74–82.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 20 America's Cup Avenue PLAT/LOT 17/140

NAME(s) Cardines Field

PROPERTY TYPE Str OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Recreation HISTORIC Recreation

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 118,919 sq ft

STORIES N/A ROOF(s) Shed

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Stone and wood

FOUNDATION N/A OTHER _____

WINDOWS N/A



Photo ID NEWP_AmericasCupAve_20_E



Photo ID NEWP_AmericasCupAve_20_N

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	None	Min	Min
Configuration	Min	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Dugouts	St-C	2	(4)		
(2) Grandstands	St-C	4	(5)		
(3) Backstop	St-C	1	(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1908	NR	New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad	Owner
City of Newport purchases the field	1936	Website	City of Newport	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Cardines Field is associated with the twentieth century Civil Rights movement in Rhode Island for its association with the Sunset League, which was integrated in 1920, and also as host to black traveling teams from across the United States.

Newport's first black baseball team was established in 1879. Called the Newports, the team competed against Providence teams at Emancipation Day celebrations at Roger Williams Park and Rocky Point. In 1884, the Newports defeated the Live Oaks, an all-white team, at the Polo Lot (west of Morton Park, not extant) in Newport by a score of 12 to 5 (Cvornyek 2016:1–2). By the late 1800s, the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad had cleared a portion of “the Basin,” a former watering pond for steam locomotives, to make room for a baseball diamond, initially consisting only of a backstop and the field. A six-team league, consisting of teams from the railroad company, hotels, and various other companies in Newport, was established but disbanded before 1919 due to concerns about broken windows in the homes surrounding the field. The George S. Donnelley Sunset League, the oldest established amateur baseball league in the United States, formed in 1919 at Cardines Field and remains active today. The league, initially comprising only white teams, was so named because games ended when the sun set and it became too dark to play. The City of Newport leased the field from the railroad from 1925 to 1936, when it purchased the field and made renovations including the construction of dugouts and bleachers (Newport Gulls 2019).

Marcus Wheatland Jr. (1899–1947) integrated the Sunset League in 1920, and his father, Dr. Marcus Wheatland Sr., called games as one of the league's first umpires (Cvornyek 2016:1). The first fully integrated team in the Sunset League was the 1921 Orioles (Cvornyek 2016:4). The Pontiacs of the Sunset League was an all-white team until 1934, when Harold Riley and Herbert Wosencroft integrated it after their original team, the Union Athletic Club, lost its affiliation with the Sunset League (Cvornyek 2016:10).

Professional Negro League teams also played in Newport. The first black traveling team in Newport was the Cuban Giants, founded in 1895. The Giants initially played at Freebody Park, then at Wellington Park in 1908, and finally at Cardines Field in 1940. During World War II, the Sunset League hosted teams comprising soldiers and sailors stationed in Newport as well as native Newporters. In 1950, Hall of Fame pitcher Leroy “Satchel” Paige played at Cardines Field with the traveling Philadelphia Stars in a game against a team of Sunset League all-stars (Cvornyek 2016:11). In the post-war years, traveling Negro League teams continued to play at Cardines Field, competing against white all-star teams and drawing large crowds, especially black baseball fans who enjoyed the opportunity to watch professional black baseball players (Cvornyek 2016:15). The league remains in use by the Sunset League.

Cardines Field was listed in the National Register in 1968 as part of the Newport Historic District.

Bibliography:

Newport Gulls

2019 “Cardines Field.” Electronic document,

<http://newportgulls.pointstreaksites.com/view/newportgulls/cardines-field>, accessed April 2019.

Cvornyek, Robert

2016 “Touching Base: Race, Sport, and Community in Newport.” *Newport History*. Vol. 85: Iss. 273, Article 3. Electronic document, <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol85/iss273/3>, accessed April 2016.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 21 & 23 Brinley Street PLAT/LOT 25/029

NAME(s) Nellie Brown's Golden Age Rest Home

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Kay St-Catherine St-Old Beach Rd Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Hotel HISTORIC Single and Multiple Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 12,632 sq ft

STORIES 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 ROOF(s) Mansard

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt Shingle WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Parged OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1/1 triple-hung wood sash; 1/1, 2/2 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID NEWP_BrinleySt_21-23_NW



Photo ID NEWP_BrinleySt_21-23_SW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	2	(4)		
(2) Garage	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1855ca/ 1865ca	NR		
Buildings connected	1965ca		Nellie Brown	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Second Empire

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The two Second Empire houses at 21 and 23 Brinley Street were constructed ca. 1855 and 1865 and were single- and multiple-family homes, primarily occupied by white families through the mid-twentieth century. By 1905, Olga Anthony ran a boarding house at the property (Sampson & Murdock Co. 1905).

The building's association with the civil rights movement stems from its later twentieth-century use as one of only two black-owned rest homes in Newport (Youngken 1998:45). In 1957, Nellie Brown, a black widow from Maryland who lived nearby on Fillmore Street, purchased 21 Brinley Street and turned the first story into the Golden Age Rest Home (U.S. Census 1940; CNRPR 193/483; Eastern Publishing 1960 Co.). In 1963, she purchased 23 Brinley Street and subsequently connected the two buildings to expand the rest home (CNRPR 208/405).

Nellie Brown (b. 1880) was born in Maryland and moved to Rhode Island by 1930, when she is listed in the federal census as a cook at St. George's School in nearby Middletown (U.S. Census 1930). The Golden Age Rest Home opened at 21 Brinley Street in November 1957. An announcement published in the *Newport Daily News* stated that the house had been used as a boarding house in 1903 and that Brown purchased it specifically to open an old age rest home. The building was described as having eight large bedrooms, two bathrooms, two living rooms, two porches, central heat, and "delicious food daily" (*Newport Daily News* 1957). Brown likely opened the business to address the dearth of nursing home facilities for Newport's black community in the mid-twentieth century. The only other black-owned rest home in the city at the time was Pilgrim's Rest at 84 Williams Street (now a commercial property), operated by Elizabeth Canavan (see 5 Gladding Court) from ca. 1956 (Youngken 1998:45). In 1966, the City of Newport granted Brown's request for permission to increase the number of beds at her rest home from 19 to 30 (*Newport Daily News* 1966). The rest home was popular with the black community in Newport and remained in operation until at least 1981, when Brown sold both parcels, subsequently combined into one lot, to George and Christina van Duinwyk (Youngken 1998:60; CNRPR 1981).

21 and 23 Brinley Street were listed in the National Register as part of the Kay Street-Catherine Street-Old Beach Road Historic District in 1973 (updated 2018). The building is used currently as a boutique hotel.

Bibliography:

City of Newport Real Property Records (CNRPR)

1957 Book 193/Page 483 Elsie Gavitt to Nellie Brown
1963 Book 208/Page 405 George and Cecelia Leary to Nellie Brown
1981 Book 302/Page 247 Nellie Brown to George and Christina van Duinwyk

Eastern Publishing Co.

1960 *City Directory of Newport, 1959–1960*. Eastern Publishing Co., Newport, RI.

Newport Daily News

1957 "Announcement." 25 November, p. 3.
1966 "Navy Captains Get Permits; Six Zoning Appeals Granted." 26 April, p. 9.

Sampson & Murdock Co.

1905 *Newport Directory*. Sampson & Murdock Co., Providence, RI.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1930 *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930* (T626, 2,667 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

1940 *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940* (T627, 4,643 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

Warburton, Elizabeth, Joanna M. Doherty, and Wm. McKenzie Woodward

2018 *National Register Nomination – Kay Street-Catherine Street-Old Beach Road Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS#100002193.

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 26 Brinley Street PLAT/LOT 25/038

NAME(s) Philip Rider Boarding House/Glover Hotel

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist NC

NR DISTRICT Kay St-Catherine St-Old Beach Road Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Multiple dwelling, hotel

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE _____ sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingles WALL Wood shingles

FOUNDATION Parged OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_BrinleySt_26_NE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Maj	Min	Min
Configuration	None	Min	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good X Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1865ca	NR		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The building at 26 Brinley Street was constructed ca. 1865 and used as a boarding house by Philip Rider (ca. 1818–1906) by 1870 (Warburton et al. 2018; Youngken 1998:60). Rider also owned the Aquidneck House hotel at 26 Pelham Street; it is possible that the boarding house on Brinley Street provided housing for Rider's black workers (Boyd 1874). By the early twentieth century, the building was owned by Thomas Glover. Glover, an influential businessman in Newport, formed the black-owned Rhode Island Loan and Investment Company with Amstead Hurley, David B. Allen, Marcus C. Andrews, James Johnson, and Lindsay Walker (Youngken 1998:60).

By 1913, Thomas Glover and his wife Susan operated the building as a lodging house that eventually became the Glover Hotel, listed in the 1938 *Green Book*. The *Green Book*, published yearly from 1936 to 1964, was a travel guide published by Victor Green that identified hotels, restaurants, service stations, and other establishments across the United States, Canada, and Mexico that were friendly to black motorists (du Lac 2010). In early 1939, Glover lost the property through foreclosure. Custis and Ethel Ames, who had resided at the property since 1938, acquired it and continued to list it as a hotel in the *Green Book* until 1940, after which time it no longer appeared (Zipf 2016). The Ames' owned the building and used it as a multiple-family residence until Custis Ames sold it in 1969 (Zipf 2016). The building has been converted into condominiums.

The building is associated with the civil rights movement in Rhode Island through the Ames family. Ethel Ames served as president of the Women's Newport League and hosted meetings of the organization at 26 Brinley Street after 1940 (*Newport Mercury* 1947, 1949). In 1950, she represented the RI Federation of Colored Women's Clubs at the northeastern convention in Philadelphia, PA, then served as a delegate to the national convention in Atlantic City, NJ, shortly thereafter (*Newport Daily News* 1950). The Ames' son Edmond was the executive director of the New Bedford Human Relations Commission in 1975 (*Newport Mercury* 1975).

The Philip Rider Boarding House/Glover Hotel is located within the boundaries of the Kay Street-Catherine Street-Old Beach Road National Register Historic District (listed 1973, updated 2018) but is designated non-contributing.

Bibliography:

Boyd, Andrew

1874 *Boyd's Newport City Directory*. A. J. Ward, Newport, RI.

du Lac, J. Freedom

2010 "Guidebook that aided black travelers during segregation reveals vastly different D.C." Electronic document, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/11/AR2010091105358.html?noredirect=on>, accessed April 2019.

Newport Daily News

1950 "Local News Briefs." 25 July, p. 4.

Newport Mercury

1947 "Women's League Hears Chest Drive Director." 27 June, p. 1.

1949 "Local Briefs." 2 December, p. 4.

1975 "Newporter potentate of Shriners." 26 September, p. 5.

Warburton, Elizabeth, Joanna M. Doherty, and Wm. McKenzie Woodward

2018 *National Register Nomination – Kay Street-Catherine Street-Old Beach Road Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS#100002193.

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Zipf, Catherine W.

2016 “Rhode Island: The Legacy of the Green Book in a Slave Trading Center.” Exhibit poster, courtesy of the author.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 43 Broadway PLAT/LOT 21/136

NAME(s) Newport City Hall

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Kay Street–Catherine Street–Old Beach Road Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT City Hall HISTORIC City Hall

SITING: SETBACK 40 ft LOT SIZE 23,958 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Stone, Concrete

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Wood



Photo ID NEWP_Broadway_43_E



Photo ID NEWP_Broadway_43_SE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Mod	Min	Mod
Configuration	Maj	Mod	Min	Mod

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1898–1900	NR	J. D. Johnston	Architect/Builder
Building Altered	1925–1927	NR	William Cornell Appleton	Architect
Building Altered (ADA)	Ca. 2016	K. Stokes		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Newport City Hall was constructed in 1898–1900 by architect/builder J. D. Johnston. Initially constructed in the Second Empire style, the building was modeled after the Philadelphia City Hall built in 1871. In 1925, a fire destroyed the interior and roof of the Newport City Hall. Boston architect William Cornell Appleton, at the time overseeing the construction of the Newport County Courthouse nearby on Washington Square, was engaged to reconstruct the building. Appleton's Colonial Revival-style design added a fourth story, a new roof, a reconfigured tower, and alterations to the windows within the existing openings (Warburton et al. 2018:31). Ca. 2016, a new elevator shaft was constructed on the east elevation (Stokes 2019).

The building's connection to the African American civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its associations with Paul Gaines (b. 1932), who became Newport's first black mayor and the first black mayor in Rhode Island in 1980 (Buteau 2018). Gaines became engaged with local civic issues in the 1950s, when he joined family, neighbors, and friends in lobbying against the redevelopment of the Kerry Hill neighborhood as part of the West Broadway urban renewal project. After serving in the United States Army, Gaines taught and coached basketball for the Newport public school system for ten years, prior to teaching at Bridgewater State College (Sherman 2013:70). Gaines began his career at Bridgewater State in 1968, working as the director of minority relations by 1981. While at Bridgewater State, Gaines was first elected to the Newport School Committee, where he served from 1969 to 1971 (Asci 1981). In the early 1970s, he ran for mayor of Newport and won the majority of the votes. However, Gaines was not chosen to hold the office at that time primarily due to concerns about his lack of availability during the day (since he worked "off-island") for the necessary mayoral duties (Milham 2018). Undeterred, Gaines served as the first black member on the Newport City Council from 1977 to 1983, and the council selected Gaines to hold the office of mayor in 1980 (Sherman 2013:70; Smith 2012:n.p.). In recent years, Gaines and his wife Jo Eva lobbied for the creation of Patriot's Park in Portsmouth to honor the only black regiment that fought in the American Revolution and for the construction of the new consolidated Pell Elementary School in Newport (Sherman 2013:71).

Newport City Hall was listed in the National Register as part of the Kay Street-Catherine Street-Old Beach Road Historic District (listed 1973, updated 2018).

Bibliography:

Asci, Sue

1981 "Administrator Named Mayor of Newport." *The Bridgewater State College Comment*, 24 September, p. 1.

Buteau, Walt

2018 "Soldiers gave their lives for chance at freedom." Electronic document, https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/east-bay/soldiers-gave-their-lives-for-chance-at-freedom_20180327075907889/1082503862, accessed April 2019.

Milham, Beth

2018 "What goes around, comes around." Letter to the Editor, *Providence Journal*, 22 November.

Sherman, Annie

2013 *Legendary Locals of Newport*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC.

Smith, Jessie Carney

2012 *Black Firsts: 4,000 Ground-Breaking and Pioneering Historical Events*. Visible Ink Press, Detroit, MI.

Stokes, Keith

2019 Personal communication with authors, March 18.

Warburton, Elizabeth, Joanna M. Doherty, and Wm. McKenzie Woodward

2018 *National Register Nomination – Kay Street-Catherine Street-Old Beach Road Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS 100002193.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 49 Division Street PLAT/LOT 24/144

NAME(s) Union Congregational Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single-Family Dwelling HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 3485 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Board and Batten

FOUNDATION Rubblestone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Wood-frame diamond, round, 5/2



Photo ID NEWP_DivisionSt_49_NW



Photo ID NEWP_DivisionSt_49_SW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	Mod

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Church	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1871	RIHPHC		
Sold to private owner	1965	Deed	Union Congregational Church	Seller

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Church STYLE(s) Gothic Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Union Colored Congregational Church in Newport, the oldest black church in the city, grew out of an organization founded in 1780 as the “Union Society of Free Africans and other Free Colored People of Newport.” The Free African Union Society, open only to free people of color, is the oldest African organization in America. The group created committees to ensure children were properly educated, trades were learned, and records were kept of births, marriages, and deaths of free blacks and the manumission of formerly enslaved blacks. In 1824, the society formally organized as the Union Congregational Church at a meeting of an ecclesiastical council in a building on Church Street. The nascent church purchased a parcel of land at the corner of Church and Division streets but never built on it, instead purchasing the Fourth Baptist Church, known as the “Saltbox,” at 49 Division Street in 1835. The new congregation had the church raised and a basement added to provide space for classrooms. In 1871, under the leadership of Reverend Mahlon Van Horne (1840–1910), the Saltbox was demolished and the current church building erected (*Newport Mercury* 1934).

The Union Congregational Church was frequently the site of meetings held by various civil rights and social justice groups. In 1853, George T. Downing led a public meeting held at the church to vote on a series of resolutions to petition the Rhode Island General Assembly to end segregation in state public schools (*The Anglo-African* 1863). Examples of meetings and speeches given at the church related to the twentieth-century civil rights movement are detailed below.

In February 1929, the Union Congregational Church hosted Reverend Dwight F. Mowery of the Channing Memorial Church, who spoke about “interracial problems.” Mowery stated his belief that interracial conflicts would not be legislated out of existence but would instead be resolved through a Christian attitude toward different races (*Newport Mercury* 1929a). In June of that same year, an informal conference of black New England Congregationalists was held at the church. Alfred Bliss of Boston, the secretary of the organization, repeated some of Mowery’s earlier message in exhortations about the church needing to bind people together. Other speakers noted that the Federal Council of Churches was attempting to help solve interracial problems and white churches stood ready to help but black people should lead the way (*Newport Mercury* 1929b).

In April 1931, the Women’s League Newport met at the church. Florence V. Lopez, the president of the State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs, addressed the meeting and explained the origin and purpose of the Federation. Other discussions at the meeting concerned the work of the Progressive Centre of Providence and other efforts around the state. Joseph S. Connell, the pastor of the Union Congregational Church, also spoke to the women, stressing that “no race can rise higher than its womanhood” (quoted in *Newport Mercury* 1931).

In April 1948, the Union Congregational Church voted to merge with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches to form the United Church of Christ; despite the merger, newspaper articles continue to refer to the church as the Union Congregational Church (*Newport Mercury* 1948). In 1951, the church hosted the annual tea of the Newport branch of the NAACP. The featured speaker at that meeting was Charles M. Day, the executive secretary of the Rhode Island Fair Employment Practices Commission (*Newport Daily News* 1951). In December 1952, Reverend Edward E. Johnson, the pastor of the Union Congregational Church, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Newport branch of the NAACP held at the Shiloh Baptist Church at 25 School Street (extant) (*Newport Mercury* 1952). In 1953, the Women’s League Newport hosted the executive board of the Rhode Island Association of Colored Women at the Union Congregational Church (*Newport Daily News* 1953).

In 1965, the Union Congregational Church sold the property to a private owner; the building has been converted into a residence and remains in private hands (CNRPR 213/387). Congregants joined the Spring Street Church at 30 Spring Street following the sale of the church building. Church furnishings, including benches and chairs, went to the United Congregational Church in Newport (*Newport Daily News* 1965).

The Union Congregational Church was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

The Anglo-African

1863 "George Thomas Downing, Esq." 11 April, p. 1. Stokes Family Collection, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Newport, RI.

City of Newport Real Property Records (CNRPR)

1965 Book 213/Page 387 Union Congregational Church to Richard Banks.

Newport Mercury

1929a "Address Interesting." 22 February, p. 6.

1929b "Conference Opened." 28 June, p. 8.

1931 "Women's Newport League Holds Meeting." 24 April, p. 6.

1934 "Union Congregational Church." 21 December, p. 4.

1948 "Union Congregational Favors Church Merger." 9 April, p. 7.

1952 15 December, p. 4.

Newport Daily News

1951 "Local News Briefs." 4 April, p. 4.

1953 "Women's League Plans Benefit Rummage Sale." 26 August, p. 2.

1965 "'Church of the Patriots' Prepares A Historical Exhibit." 17 April, p. 2.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard PLAT/LOT 17/302

NAME(s) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center; West Broadway USO-YMCA; USO Club

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District



Photo ID NEWP_DrMarcusWheatlandBlvd_20_N

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Social, Meeting Hall, School HISTORIC Social, Meeting Hall

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 20,909 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable, Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Clapboard/Hardie Board

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____



Photo ID NEWP_DrMarcusWheatlandBlvd_20_W

WINDOWS Vinyl

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Mod	Mod	Mod
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good X Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1944	NR	Federal Works Administration	Builder
USO ends services	1946	NR		
Building renovated	1963	Newspaper		
MLK Center occupies building	1968	Newspaper	Newport Community Center (now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center)	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center was constructed in 1944 by the Federal Works Administration as a USO Club, or recreation center, for black soldiers and sailors stationed in Newport during World War II. Military service members of color were not permitted to use the Army-Navy YMCA/USO Club at 50 Washington Square, at least in part because of segregation in the military. First organized for military and naval personnel in 1903, the Army-Navy YMCA in Newport originally occupied two floors of a building on Thames Street before it constructed the Washington Square building in 1911. During World War II, the YMCA joined the United Services Organization (USO), which was founded in 1941. Prior to the construction of the colored USO Club on West Broadway (the street was renamed in 1994 in honor of Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland; see 84 John Street, Newport), black soldiers and sailors used an upper floor of the Odd Fellows Hall on Caleb Earle Street (not extant) for recreational activities (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:15).

The USO ended its operations in 1946. In 1948, the USO Club on West Broadway was formally transferred to the Navy due to the efforts of Rear Admiral Thomas R. Cooley, who understood the club's importance to the sailors stationed in Newport and fought for it to remain open (*Newport Mercury* 1948; *Newport Daily News* 1950). The building fell under the oversight of the Army-Navy YMCA and was known as the West Broadway USO-YMCA. Despite the end of formal military segregation in 1948, two YMCAs remained in use in Newport. White soldiers and sailors were welcomed at the West Broadway USO-YMCA, but it is unknown if blacks were immediately permitted at the Washington Square facility (*Newport Daily News* 1959).

In addition to recreational activities, the West Broadway USO-YMCA hosted speeches from prominent Rhode Island civil rights activists. The USO hosted meetings of the Newport branch of the NAACP, including those in 1945 and 1946 when Martin Canavan of 5 Gladding Court was elected to his third and fourth terms as president of the branch (*Newport Mercury* 1945, 1946b). In 1946, the USO hosted a back-to-school rally with James N. Williams, the executive secretary of the Providence Urban League, as the guest speaker (*Newport Mercury* 1946a). In February 1947, a program celebrating the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass was held at the building with Dr. Michael F. Walsh, the state director of education, speaking on Lincoln and Reverend W. Marvin Gibson of Worcester, Massachusetts, speaking primarily about Frederick Douglass (*Newport Mercury* 1947). One week later, Edith Sestrom, a teacher at Rogers High School in Newport, spoke on "Brotherhood" in honor of National Brotherhood Week, stressing the difference between brotherhood and tolerance (*Newport Mercury* 1947b). In late January 1950, Williams again spoke at the USO-YMCA, describing the operations and objectives of the Providence Urban League and providing examples of cases where the organization helped to end discrimination against individuals looking for employment or gave other forms of assistance to minorities (*Newport Mercury* 1950).

In 1960, the Navy YMCA committee voted to close the West Broadway USO-YMCA because of a decline in use (*Newport Daily News* 1960). The federal General Services Administration sold the building in 1963 to a private owner, who renovated it for private use (*Newport Mercury* 1963). In 1968, the Newport Community Center, founded in 1922, moved from its original location in the Old Friends Meeting House on the corner of Marlborough and Farewell streets (see 30 Marlborough Street) to the former USO building. That same year, the center was renamed after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK Center 2019). In 1969, the Newport Urban League moved its offices to the MLK Center. The MLK Center continues to occupy the building and provides urgent food services, educational programming for children from preschool through fourth grade, and adult programming for the surrounding area (MLK Center 2019).

Much of Newport's downtown area was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1968, and the first full National Register of Historic Places documentation completed for the district in 1992 defined the period of significance as 1639 to 1942. At that time, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center was considered a non-

contributing resource within the district because it was built after the end of the period of significance. In 2007, RIHPHC staff updated the National Register documentation to revise the district boundary and extend the period of significance to 1944 to include the construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center, designating the building a contributing resource within the district (Adams 1992; RIHPHC 2007).

Bibliography:

Adams, Virginia

1992 *National Register Nomination – Newport National Historic Landmark District*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS 68000001.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center (MLK Center)

2019 “History.” Electronic document, <https://www.mlkcenter.org/history-annual-reports>, accessed March 2019.

Fitch, Virginia A.

1988 *National Register Nomination – Army and Navy YMCA*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS 88003073.

Gaines, Kevin, and Beth Parkhurst

1992 *African-Americans in Newport, 1660–1960*. Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Newport Daily News

1950 “Admiral Cooley Leaving.” 11 October, p. 10.

1959 “YMCA Forum Supper Hears Psychiatrist.” 19 January, p. 3.

1960 “Navy Y’s West Broadway Branch to Close; Diminishing Use Cited.” 1 June, p. 1.

Newport Mercury

1945 “Colored Group Names Martin Canavan Again.” 21 December, p. 3.

1946a “Colored Group Meets.” 23 August, p. 5.

1946b “Canavan Again Heads Colored Organization.” 22 November, p. 6.

1947a “Speakers Extoll Lives of Lincoln, Douglass.” 21 February, p. 5.

1947b “Local Briefs.” 28 February, p. 8.

1948 “West Broadway USO Put in Navy Custody.” 23 January, p. 2.

1950 “Urban League Aide is Guest at Vespers.” 3 February, p. 8.

1963 “Ex-USO Renovated.” 25 October, p. 6.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC)

2007 *National Historic Landmark Nomination – Newport Historic District (Updated Documentation and Boundary Revision)*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS 68000001.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 32 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard PLAT/LOT 17/279

NAME(s) Hyman Rosoff Building/Stone Mill Lodge

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District



Photo ID NEWP_DrMarcusWheatlandBlvd_32_N

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Meeting Hall HISTORIC Specialty Store

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 3,049 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and gravel WALL Wood shingle, vinyl

FOUNDATION Not visible OTHER _____



Photo ID NEWP_Dr.MarcusWheatland Blvd_32_W

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash and casement

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Mod	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	Mod	Min	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1907-1921	NR	Hyman Rosoff	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Hyman Rosoff Building was constructed between 1907 and 1921 for Russian Jewish immigrant Hyman Rosoff, who lived and worked nearby at 158 Broadway where he had a fruit and produce store by 1915 (Ancestry.com 2013). Until the Stone Mill Lodge, a black Masonic Lodge, acquired the building as its first dedicated meeting space in 1966, storefronts were on the first story and apartments were above. The building is the only known extant building associated with the Stone Mill Lodge, which participated in the twentieth-century civil rights movement by organizing community meetings.

Black fraternal organizations were organized in Newport beginning in 1873 with the charter of the Masonic Boyer Lodge Number 8. An Odd Fellows lodge and Canonchet Lodge Number 2439 were active by 1885, and women's auxiliary organizations, the Masonic Heroines of Jericho Number 3 and the Odd Fellows' Household of Ruth 501, were founded by 1890. By 1895, three more fraternal organizations existed: the Salem Royal Arch Chapter Number 6; the B. F. Gardner Commandery Number 6; and a second Masonic lodge, the Stone Mill Lodge. The establishment of these fraternal organizations spurred the development of black-owned businesses in the city due to their ability to provide insurance and loans to potential business owners (Armstead 1999:91).

From its founding in the 1890s through at least 1925, the Stone Mill Lodge held its meetings in the Gas Company building at 175–183 Thames Street (not extant) on the first and third Mondays of each month (Sampson, Murdock, & Co. 1896, 1925). Dr. M. Alonzo Van Horne (1871–1932), a prominent dentist in Newport (see 47 John Street) and one of the founders of the Newport branch of the NAACP established in 1920, was a leader in the Stone Mill Lodge in the early twentieth century (*Newport Mercury* 1932). From at least 1930 through 1950, the lodge met at the Masonic Hall at 109 John Street (not extant) (Sampson & Murdock Co. 1930). By 1960, the members were meeting in the Odd Fellows Hall at 21 Caleb Earle Street (not extant) (Eastern Publishing Co. 1960). By 1966, the Lodge had moved into its own quarters in the Hyman Rosoff Building, where they continue to hold Lodge meetings and events (*Newport Daily News* 1968).

The Hyman Rosoff Building was listed in the National Register in 1968 as part of the Newport Historic District.

Bibliography:

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2013 *Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865–1935*. Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., Provo, UT.

Armstead, Myra Beth Young

1999 *Lord, Please Don't Take Me in August: African Americans in Newport and Saratoga Springs, 1870–1930*. University of Illinois Press, Chicago, IL.

Eastern Publishing Co.

1960 *City Directory of Newport 1959–1960*. Eastern Publishing Co., Newport, RI.

Newport Daily News

1968 "Past Masters Honored." 9 December, p. 3.

Sampson, Murdock, & Co. (also Sampson & Murdock Co.)

1896 *The Newport Directory*. Sampson, Murdock, & Co., Providence, RI.

1925 *The Newport Directory*. Sampson & Murdock Co., Providence, RI.

1930 *The Newport Directory*. Sampson & Murdock Co., Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 12 Elm Street PLAT/LOT 17/029/03

NAME(s) Newport Welfare Department/Potter School

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC School, Government Office

SITING: SETBACK 30 ft LOT SIZE 18,704 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Brick, Stone

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_ElmSt_12_SW



Photo ID NEWP_ElmSt_12_SE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Mod	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1881	NR/date stone Newspaper	Trustees of Long Wharf William E. Crandall	Owners Architect
Addition built	1931-1935	Newspaper	Monahan & Meikle Public Works Administration	Architects Developer
Conversion to Welfare Department offices	1963	Newspaper	Trustees of Long Wharf	Owners
Conversion to condos	2003	Assessor	Northeast Collaborative Architects (NCA)	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Potter School was built in 1881 by the Trustees of Long Wharf, a private philanthropic entity formed in 1796 by merchants and philanthropic residents of Newport for educational purposes (Newport Public School Committee 1883:136). The school was named after Simeon Potter, who gave his estate to the Trustees of Long Wharf in 1795 to “support, forever, free school for the advantage of poor children of every denomination” (quoted in *Newport Mercury* 1935). The building, designed by architect William E. Crandall and built by Perry G. Case & Co., initially consisted of four classrooms (*Newport Mercury* 1935). In 1931, the Trustees of Long Wharf requested permission from the school department to expand the building with the construction of a two-story addition that contained an auditorium and gym (including a stage and two dressing rooms) on the first story and two classrooms, a girls’ bathroom, and a teachers’ room on the second story (*Newport Mercury* 1931). The renovated building opened in 1935 (*Newport Mercury* 1935). In 1963, the School Committee and the Trustees of Long Wharf approved the conversion of the building for use as the Newport Welfare Office. An architect (name unknown) was hired to make alterations including new partition walls, paint, and bathrooms (*Newport Mercury* 1963). The building remained in use as the Newport Welfare Office until about 1975, when a new building for the Newport Housing Authority, which included space for the Welfare Office, was built in Tonomy Hill (*Newport Mercury* 1974). In 2003, it was converted into condominiums.

The building’s associations with the African American civil rights movement in Rhode Island are related to events that occurred in September 1968. Approximately 15 Newport welfare recipients and members of the Fair Welfare Organization began demonstrations at the Welfare Office on Monday, September 23, in protest of unfair welfare practices (*Newport Daily News* 1968b,c). The demonstrators wanted larger food and clothing allowances and felt that the welfare standards were in general too low. With respect to the clothing allowance that provided roughly one-third of the cost of a new coat each year, they stated that no one could save for three years for a new coat. Regarding the \$4 that welfare provided for a pair of shoes per child per year, they noted that \$4 shoes wouldn’t hold up and weren’t worth buying (*Newport Daily News* 1968b). Other complaints included the refusal of opticians to fill prescriptions for welfare recipients (*Newport Daily News* 1968b). Many of the protesters had also submitted requests for replacement items such as small furnishings and home appliances that were denied despite appearing to follow guidelines (*Newport Daily News* 1968c). On the first day of the protest, the demonstrators refused to leave the building when the police arrived, and some were carried out by police officers. On subsequent days, the group dispersed upon police arrival (*Newport Daily News* 1968d). Protesters included employees of the New Visions poverty program financed by the Office of Economic Opportunity and predominantly black residents on welfare. Not all welfare recipients agreed with the protesters, however; some argued that the protests would make things harder for all receiving benefits (*Newport Daily News* 1968e). Newspaper coverage of the protests ended on Friday, September 27. Because the welfare guidelines were set by the state and federal government and not the city, it is unlikely that the demonstrations resulted in many changes to the Newport office’s policies (*Newport Daily News* 1968c).

The Potter School was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

Newport Daily News

- 1968a “Welfare Recipients Demand Increase.” 23 September, p. 1.
- 1986b “Welfare Protesters Carried From City Offices by Police.” 24 September, p. 1–2.
- 1968c “Welfare Protest Explained.” 25 September, p. 1–2.
- 1968d “New Visions Gives Backing To Welfare Sit-In Protests.” 27 September, p. 1.
- 1968e “Mother of 4 gets \$222 A Month, Thinks Welfare Aid ‘Wonderful’.” 27 September, p. 1.

Newport Mercury

- 1931 "Plans for Addition to Potter School." 10 April, p. 1.
1935 "Potter School Open for Public Inspection." 6 September, p. 8.
1963 "Welfare Center Will Open in Potter School Monday." 28 June, p. 1.
1974 "Housing Authority's new center." 29 March, p.3.

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- 1883 *Annual Public School Department of the City of Newport, Rhode Island.* Mercury Publishing Company, Newport, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 65 Friendship Street PLAT/LOT _____

NAME(s) Louis and Sarah Walker House/Eleanor Walker Keys House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Multiple Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 2,178 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_FriendshipSt_65_W



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Maj	Maj	Maj	Mod
Configuration	Mod	Min	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Garage (Shared)	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1907-1921	Maps	Louis and Sarah Walker	Owners
Shared Garage Built	1921-1950	Maps	Louis and Sarah Walker	Owners

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Side Hall STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 65 Friendship Street was built by Louis and Sarah Walker between 1907 and 1921 (Richards 1907; Sanborn 1921). The Walkers also owned the houses at 63 Friendship Street (where Louis had previously lived with his Virginia-born parents and his siblings) and 98 Kay Street, just around the corner (U.S. Census 1910). In 1925, Louis and Sarah lived at 98 Kay Street (originally designated 100 Kay Street) with their son Louis Jr., daughters Sarah and Eleanor, and Louis' brother Edwin (Ancestry.com 2013). Their other houses were partially occupied by family members and may also have been used as rental properties.

Beginning in 1945, or possibly earlier, Louis and Sarah lived in the house at 65 Friendship Street with their daughter, Eleanor Walker Keys (1922–2012), and her husband John (*Newport Mercury* 1945; Eastern Publishing Co. 1950; CNRPR 2250/27). Eleanor and John purchased the house from Eleanor's parents in 1958 and continued to live there until 2012, when Eleanor sold it to the current owner (CNRPR 195/173). John Keys worked as a mechanic at the City Garage. Eleanor worked as a draftsman at the Naval Central Torpedo Office on Goat Island in Newport until 1946, then at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center until her retirement in 1986. In 1963, she was awarded \$15 for suggesting that working conditions could be improved by the installation of pull-down utility shelves (*Newport Daily News* 1963).

Eleanor was involved in various civil rights organizations in Newport, including the NAACP and the Women's League Newport. In 1960, she was a chairperson for the local NAACP branch and by 1970 headed the branch (*Newport Daily News* 1960; *Newport Mercury* 1970). Eleanor was active in promoting the understanding of black history in Newport, delivering presentations about black historical figures to Newport classrooms. She also belonged to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the Newport Historical Society. Eleanor received numerous awards for her civic work, including the City of Newport "Medal of Honor" Award, the *Newport Daily News* Community Service Award, and the 1978 George T. Downing Award (Memorial Funeral Home 2012).

Bibliography:

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1958 Book 195/Page 173 Louis and Sarah Walker to John and Eleanor Keys

2012 Book 2250/Page 27 Eleanor Keys to Daniel Foley

Eastern Publishing Co.

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L. J. Richards & Co.

1901 *Atlas of the City of Newport and towns of Middletown and Portsmouth, RI*. L.J. Richards & Co., Springfield, MA.

Newport Daily News

1960 "NAACP Chapter Starts Member Drive." 19 May, p. 3.

1963 "CTO Employee Awarded \$150." 20 February, p. 2.

Newport Mercury

1945 "Local Briefs." 17 August, p. 7.

1970 "NAACP Membership Will Cost More In '70." 2 January, p. 10.

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1910 *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (T624, 1,178 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 5 Gladding Court PLAT/LOT 12/007

NAME(s) John Spelman House/Martin Canavan House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Single Family

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 3,049 sq ft

STORIES 1.5 ROOF(s) End Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Clapboards

FOUNDATION Parged OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/1 double-hung wood



Photo ID NEWP_GladdingCt_5_NE



Photo ID NEWP_GladdingCt_5_SE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1870-1876	NR	John Spelman	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Side Hall STYLE(s) Italianate

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 5 Gladding Court was constructed between 1870 and 1876 for John Spelman. In 1900, Gladding Court was fully inhabited by white families, but by 1930, black families lived on the odd side of the street, and by 1940, the entire court had become a black enclave (U.S. Census 1930, 1940).

The John Spelman house is associated with the civil rights movement as the home of Martin Canavan in the mid-twentieth century. Canavan (ca. 1894–1959) was born in Pennsylvania and by 1920 lived with cousins at Milhorn Court in Newport and worked as a laborer for a construction company (U.S. Census 1920). By the 1930s, he was living at 5 Gladding Court. In the early 1930s, Canavan organized the Newport Colored Men's Democratic Club, which was an outspoken critic of the lack of Republican Party patronage support for blacks. The club may have influenced the creation of the Providence Colored Democratic Club, formed shortly after the Newport club (RIBHS 2018:12). In 1933, Canavan was elected historian for the American Legion Newport Post (*Newport Mercury* 1933). In 1935, he was appointed custodian for the county courthouse but resigned after one year to take a job at the Naval Training Station (*Newport Mercury* 1935, 1936). Canavan served as the president of the Newport NAACP branch for eight years, choosing not to run for reelection in 1951 (*Newport Daily News* 1951). Canavan and his wife, Elizabeth, lived at 5 Gladding Court until 1956, when they moved to 90 Williams Street, adjacent to the rest home at 88 Williams Street (Pilgrim's Rest, now a commercial property) run by Elizabeth (Youngken 1998; Eastern Publishing Co. 1956, 1957).

The John Spelman House was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

Eastern Publishing Co.

1956, *City Directory of Newport*. Eastern Publishing Co., Newport, RI.

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Newport Mercury

1933 "American Legion Nominates Officers." 15 September, p. 3.

1935 "Custodians Named for State Buildings." 3 May, p. 5.

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1930 *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930* (T626, 2,667 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

1940 *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940* (T627, 4,643 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 24-26 Gould St PLAT/LOT 14/136

NAME(s) Mary and Silas Dickerson House/Women's Newport League

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Multiple Family

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 3,920 sq ft

STORIES 2.5 ROOF(s) End Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 2/2 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_GouldSt_24-26_W



Photo ID NEWP_GouldSt_24-26_SW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Maj	Maj	Mod
Configuration	None	Min	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1884-1891	Maps	Mary H. Dickerson	Owner
First floor converted	1965	Newspaper	Women's Newport League	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Side Hall STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Mary and Silas Dickerson House at 24–26 Gould Street was constructed between 1884 and 1891 on the southwest side of Gould Street (Sanborn 1891). The two-story, wood-frame building was owned by Mary Dickerson from its construction until her death in 1914 and is the only known extant building associated with her or with the Women’s Newport League that she co-founded in 1895 (CNRPR 102/34).

Mary Huntington Dickerson (1830–1914) came to Newport from New Haven, Connecticut, about 1865 and by 1872 had established a “fashionable dressmaking establishment” at 5 Travers Block (not extant) that catered to summer visitors and prominent Newport residents who held her in high regard (*New York Age* 1914). By 1880, she was married to Silas Dickerson (1820–1898) and the couple lived on Levin Street with Silas’ son Frederick from his first marriage (U.S. Census 1880). Active in the women’s club movement of the late nineteenth century, Mary was one of the founding members of the Women’s Newport League, organized in 1895; the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs (NACWC), organized in 1896; the first regional NACWC association, the Northeastern Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs, organized in 1896; and the Rhode Island Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, established in 1903 (1696 Heritage Group 2015; Leslie 2012). By 1910, Mary was a widow and lived with a companion, seamstress Margaret Kinloch, at 36 Newport Avenue (not extant) (U.S. Census 1910). Newspaper listings indicate that Dickerson used the Gould Street house as a rental property, engaging a broker to rent the property out (*Newport Mercury* 1902). According to her obituary, published in the prominent black newspaper *New York Age*, Dickerson “was considered one of the brightest businesswomen in Newport, her name standing out conspicuously as one sound in judgement and wise in council ... Her advocacy of social uplift, an equal standard of morals for men and women and vital need of economy and thrift as the stepping stones of the race were her favorite themes of advice to young people” (*New York Age* 1914).

In contrast with the white women’s club movement that began in the mid-1800s as a vehicle for social, cultural, and educational events and gatherings for middle-class women, the black women’s clubs, which began in the 1890s, were focused on social and political reform. In July 1896, Mary Dickerson attended the convention in Washington, DC, that resulted in the formation of the NACWC through the merger of the Boston-based National Federation of Afro-American Women and the DC-based Colored Women’s League, both founded in 1895 (Williams 2001:392). Dickerson subsequently organized the Northeastern Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs (NFCWC) as an affiliate of the NACWC representing clubs in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states (*Boston Globe* 1969). The 165 clubs within the NACWC included 55 clubs from the Northeastern Federation and 40 from the Southern Federation (Washington 1903). The NFCWC was incorporated in 1927 in Albany, New York, and encompasses the Rhode Island Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, established in July 1903; the Pennsylvania State Federation of Negro Women’s Clubs, established in November 1903; the Empire State Federation of Women’s Clubs, established in 1908; the Massachusetts State Union of Women’s Clubs, established in 1914; the New Jersey State Federation of Women’s Clubs, established in 1915; the Washington DC and Vicinity Federation of Women’s Clubs, established in 1924; and the Connecticut State Association of Women’s Clubs, established in 1933. Mary Dickerson was the first president of the NFCWC, which continues to focus on fostering and encouraging the work of women’s clubs in the northeastern United States, as pertains to the “lifting of humanity, raising standards of true womanhood, and fostering higher education among women and youth” (NFWC 2019). Affiliated clubs, such as the Women’s Newport League, focused their efforts throughout the twentieth century on a wide variety of social and civil rights causes, including childcare; wage equity; voter registration; anti-lynching; and housing, education, and health care reform (DeColonizing Our History 2019).

After Mary Dickerson died, Mary Annie Townsend purchased the two-family house on Gould Street and appears to have initially rented it out as the Dickersons had, since she lived at 15 Bridge Street in 1918 with several of her children (Sampson & Murdock Co. 1918). The Gould Street property remained in the Townsend family until 1947, and Townsend resided in one of the building’s apartments for at least part of her tenure as owner. The

Women's Newport League acquired the house in 1947 and used it as a rental property until at least 1965 (CNRPR 164/78; U.S. Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940; *Newport Daily News* 1965). In 1965, the League petitioned the City for permission to convert the first story of the building into a meeting hall. The League continues to own the building; the organization uses one of the units for their offices and rents the second unit to low-income tenants in conjunction with the Newport Housing Authority (Johnson 2019).

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1696 Heritage Group

2015 "Mary Dickerson." Electronic document, <http://www.gildedageincolor.com/?p=112>, accessed April 2019.

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1969 "Women's Group Opens Convention." 17 July, p. 39.

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1915 Book 102/Page 34 Margaret A. Kinloch and Albert K. Sherman (Trustees of Mary Dickerson) to Mary Annie Townsend.

DeColonizing Our History

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS Hillside Avenue PLAT/LOT 05/106, 126

NAME(s) Tonomy Hill Public Housing/Newport Heights

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Multiple Family

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 385,942 sq ft

STORIES 1-3 ROOF(s) Gable, Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Wood shingle, Hardie Board

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_HillsideAve_120_NW



Photo ID NEWP_HillsideAve_120_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj
Configuration	Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Buildings	B-C	100	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1939	Newspaper	M. Spinelli and Sons Housing Authority, City of Newport	Contractor Owner
Redevelopment	2002-2006	Newspaper	Trinity Financial of Boston	Developer/ Property Manager

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Neo-Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Tonomy Hill, now called Newport Heights, is a public housing development that originally consisted of 498 housing units in 135 barracks-style buildings constructed in 1939. The complex was fully redeveloped beginning in 2002, and all 135 of the original residential buildings were demolished and replaced by approximately 100 buildings with 49 market-rate apartments and 250 subsidized apartments (Trinity 2019). The current buildings are Colonial-style townhouses and single-family and duplex houses designed to mimic the architecture on the surrounding residential streets and make it difficult to identify them as public housing (Lambert 2014). Portions of the surrounding public housing property were developed in the early twenty-first century by the Community College of Rhode Island and a charter school called The Met School (Lambert 2014). The original community center at Tonomy Hill, built in 1939, is the only building that remains from the original development. Now called the Florence Gray Community Center, it houses the Boys and Girls Club of Newport and a MakerSpace among other community resources.

The original Tonomy Hill was built by the Boston contracting firm M. Spinelli and Sons to house civilian defense workers during World War II. It was one of three public housing projects constructed in Newport in the 1940s: nearby Park Holm and Tonomy Hill were both managed by the Newport Housing Authority (NHA) and The Anchorage was managed by the US Navy in Middletown (*Newport Mercury* 1941). In 1942, the housing units at Tonomy Hill were made available to African American Navy personnel, which led 100 white residents of the complex to sign a petition submitted to Mayor Herbert E. McCauley stating their concerns about black and white children playing together, a perceived difference in the standard of living and health and sanitary conditions, and potential issues around social affairs and morale (RIBHS 2018:15). In June 1953, NAACP civil rights lawyer Constance Motley alleged that the Newport Housing Authority was discriminating against black housing applicants. Among other examples, she cited a case where an applicant was told that one application would work for nearby Park Holm and Tonomy Hill, but the applicant was assigned Tonomy Hill. The allegations were refuted by William J. Donovan, executive secretary of the NHA, who stated that either only units at Tonomy Hill were available or that the black applicants in question were in the US Navy and therefore eligible for housing only at Tonomy Hill (*Newport Daily News* 1953).

As a result of the petition in Newport and other discriminatory housing practices occurring in the state, Rhode Island Governor Dennis J. Roberts issued a public policy statement at the 1956 annual Newport NAACP dinner avowing that “tenants will be assigned to public housing projects in Rhode Island on a first-come, first-served basis and totally without regard for race” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:16). Roberts further promised that African Americans still experiencing housing segregation would be given their first choice of housing units in other areas as they became available (RIBHS 2018:16).

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2014 “Annapolis and Newport: Sister Cities, but not in public housing.” *Capital Gazette*, 4 December. Electronic document, <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/annapolis/ph-ac-cn-housing-newport-20141204-story.html>, accessed January 2019.

Newport Daily News

1953 “Discrimination Charges Refuted.” 12 June, p. 3.

Newport Mercury

1941 “Flag Raising Marks Park-Holm Completion.” 5 September, p. 2.

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2019 “About Newport Heights.” Electronic document, <https://trinitymanagementllc.net/property/newport-heights/>, accessed April 2019.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 47 John Street PLAT/LOT 28/068

NAME(s) Constant Tabor/Rev. Mahlon & Dr. Alonzo Van Horne/James and Margaret Suggs House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single Family HISTORIC Single Family

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 7,841 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gambrel

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Wood shingle WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 12/12 double-hung wood



Photo ID NEWP_JohnSt_47_SE



Photo ID NEWP_JohnSt_47_SW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	Min	Min	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1750ca.	NR		
Moved	1803	Book	Constant Tabor	Owner
Restored	1970-1971	Website	Newport Restoration Foundation	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE 3/4 Cape STYLE(s) Georgian

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Constant Tabor House was constructed ca. 1750 for Constant Tabor, the president of the Newport National Bank and one of the Trustees of Long Wharf (Bayles 1888:482, 539). The building may have been moved to its current location on the south side of John Street in 1803 for Tabor, who bequeathed it to the Six Principles Baptist Church (Youngken 1998:65).

In 1894, the Six Principles Baptist Church sold the house to Reverend Mahlon Van Horne (1840–1910), pastor of the Union Congregational Church (see 49 Division Street). Van Horne was the first black to serve on the Newport School Committee (1873–1892) and the first black elected to the Rhode Island state legislature (1885–1887) (Youngken 1998:65). He served as pastor of the Union Congregational Church until 1896, when President William McKinley appointed him US Consul to St. Thomas in the Caribbean, a position he held from 1897 to 1908 (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:8). Reverend Van Horne died in Antigua in 1910 (Youngken 1998:65). The house on John Street passed to Van Horne's son, Dr. M. Alonzo Van Horne (1871–1932), a prominent dentist in Newport. Dr. Van Horne lived and had his dental practice at 47 John Street following his graduation from Howard University in 1896, but by 1905 he was living and practicing elsewhere in the city, primarily on Broadway (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:11; Sampson, Murdock, & Co. 1900, 1905). By 1920, Van Horne's office was on Division Street, where he practiced until his death in 1932. Dr. Van Horne belonged to the Stone Mill Lodge, a black Masonic Lodge, and numerous other fraternal organizations in Newport and Rhode Island. He served on the board of trustees for the Union Congregational Church and was one of the founders of the Newport branch of the NAACP (*Newport Mercury* 1932).

By 1920, the house at 47 John Street was home to Samuel Ross (1853–1952), who was born into slavery in Virginia in 1853 and came to Newport in 1878, where he worked in a stone quarry and then at St. George's School in Middletown (*Newport Mercury* 1952). From about 1938 to 1943, Ross rented part of the building to James and Margaret Suggs, both of whom were active in the civil rights movement in Newport during that time (Eastern Publishing Co. 1938, 1943). James Suggs was the president of the Douglass Republican Club in 1936 and that same year was appointed to be a delegate to the national Republican convention. He also served as president of the Newport NAACP (*Newport Mercury* 1936 a, b; *Newport Daily News* 1967). Margaret Suggs was active in the Newport NAACP and the Northeastern Federation of Women's Clubs (*Newport Mercury* 1940, 1944). By 1945, Margaret was living at 10 School Street and James may have been overseas with the U.S. Navy; neither is listed in the 1946 Newport directory (Eastern Publishing Co. 1945, 1946). After Ross's death in 1952, the property at 47 John Street passed to his widowed daughter-in-law, Cassandra Ross. The Newport Restoration Foundation purchased the house in 1969, restored it in 1970–1971, and maintains it as a private residence (NRF 2018).

The Constant Tabor House was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

Bayles, Richard M., ed.

1888 *History of Newport County, Rhode Island, 1638–1887*. L. E. Preston & Co., New York, NY.

Eastern Publishing Co.

1938– *City Directory of Newport*. Eastern Publishing Co., Newport, RI.

1945

Gaines, Kevin, and Beth Parkhurst

1992 *African-Americans in Newport, 1660–1960*. Report to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Newport Daily News

1967 "NAACP Unit Installs Five At Meeting." 9 March, p. 19.

Newport Mercury

1932 "Sudden Death of Dr. M.A. Van Horne." 5 February, p. 3.

1936a "Suggs Elected Head of Douglass Club." 31 January, p. 2.

1936b "Local Briefs." 10 April, p. 5.

1940 "Federation Elects Officers, Has Banquet." 9 August, p. 6.

1944 "Newport Branch NAAP[sic] Marks Anniversary." 22 December, p. 6.

1952 "Samuel Ross, 98, Dies; Was St. George's Employee." 15 February, p. 3.

Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF)

2018 "Constant Tabor House." Electronic document, <http://www.newportrestoration.org/property/47-john-street/>, accessed April 2019.

Sampson, Murdock, & Co.

1900, *The Newport Directory*. Sampson, Murdock, & Co., Providence, RI.

1905

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 84-86 John Street PLAT/LOT 28/045

NAME(s) Weedon House/Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Multiple Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 6,534 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Dropboard, clapboard

FOUNDATION Ashlar granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood



Photo ID NEWP_JohnSt_84-86_NE



Photo ID NEWP_JohnSt_84-86_NW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1825-1850	NR		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Double House STYLE(s) Greek Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Weedon House on the north side of John Street was built between 1825 and 1850 as a double house and remains in use as a multiple-family dwelling.

The building's connection to the African American civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its early twentieth-century associations with Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland (1868–1934). Wheatland was born in 1868 in Barbados and left the island at the age of 16 by working as a cabin boy on an English ship. He arrived in the United States in 1886 and earned his M.D. at Howard University in Washington, DC. Possibly drawn by connections to George Downing and Dr. M. Alonzo Van Horne, Wheatland came to Newport in 1894 (U.S. Census 1900). He was the first known black physician to live and practice in Newport and pioneered the diagnostic use of X-rays in the city (1696 Heritage Group 2015). The first known black radiologist, Dr. Wheatland became a charter member of the New England Roentgen Ray Society in 1896 and was a member of the American Electrotherapeutic Association (Mansfield 2019:266).

Prior to living at the house at 84 John Street, Wheatland, his wife Cordelia, and their son Marcus Jr. lived at 23 Thomas Street and 76 John Street (Sampson, Murdock, & Co 1895; U.S. Census 1900). In 1903, Wheatland purchased the Weedon House from Theodore Peckham and lived and practiced medicine in the building until his death in 1934 (CNRPR 82/239; Youngken 1998:66). Dr. Wheatland served on the Newport School Committee in 1903 and on the Howard University Board of Trustees from 1910 to 1934 (*Newport Daily News* 1903; Logan 1969:135; Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:10). He was also one of the first umpires for the oldest established amateur baseball league in the United States, the Sunset League that formed in 1919 at Newport's Cardines Field (see 20 America's Cup Avenue). In 1920, Wheatland's son Marcus Jr. integrated the league (Cvornyek 2016:1).

In 1935, Wheatland's heirs—his son, Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Jr.; daughter, Dr. Helen Burrell; and Helen's husband, Lewis Lloyd Burrell—sold the house at 84 John Street, including all of his medical equipment, to Mrs. Frances E. Butler, the wife of Dr. Maurice J. Butler, who moved his medical practice there from 10 Bull Street (*Newport Mercury* 1935). At that time, Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Jr. was a physician in Camden, New Jersey. Dr. Helen Wheatland Burrell (1902–1960) was a professor of French and Spanish at Howard University and later the University of Buffalo (Brooks-Bertram and Nevergold 2005:82).

The Weedon House was listed in the National Register in 1968 as part of the Newport Historic District.

Bibliography:

1696 Heritage Group

2015 "Dr. Marcus Wheatland." Electronic document, <http://www.gildedageincolor.com/?p=121>, accessed April 2019.

Brooks-Bertram, Peggy, and Barbara Seals Nevergold

2005 *Uncrowned Queens, Volume 3: African American Women Community Builders of Western New York*. Uncrowned Queens Publishing, Buffalo, NY.

City of Newport Real Property Records (CNRPR)

1903 Book 82/Page 239 Theodore Peckham to Marcus F. Wheatland

Cvornyek, Robert

2016 "Touching Base: Race, Sport, and Community in Newport." *Newport History*. Vol. 85: Iss. 273, Article 3. Electronic document, <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol85/iss273/3>, accessed April 2016.

Gaines, Kevin, and Beth Parkhurst

1992 *African-Americans in Newport, 1660–1960*. Report to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Logan, Rayford W.

1969 *Howard University: the First Hundred Years, 1867–1967*. NYU Press, New York, NY.

Mansfield, Carl M.

2019 “African American Radiation Oncologists.” In *A History of the Radiological Sciences: Oncology*. Electronic document, https://www.arrs.org/publications/HRS/oncology/RCI_O_c10.pdf, accessed April 2019.

Newport Daily News

1903 “The Republican Ticket.” 12 October, p. 8.

Newport Mercury

1935 “Wheatland Property Sold to Mrs. Butler.” 22 March, p. 2.

Sampson, Murdock & Co

1895 *Newport Directory*. Sampson, Murdock, & Co., Providence, RI.

United States Bureau of the Census

1900 *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900* (T623, 1,854 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 98 Kay Street PLAT/LOT 11/240

NAME(s) Louis and Sarah Walker House/William H. Jackson House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Multiple Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 4,356 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Wood Clapboard

FOUNDATION Concrete Block OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_KaySt_98_NW



Photo ID NEWP_KaySt_98_N

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Maj	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Garage (Shared)	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1913-1921	Maps and deeds	Louis and Sarah Walker	Owner
Shared Garage Built	1921-1950	Maps	Louis and Sarah Walker	Owners

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Louis and Sarah Walker House was constructed between 1913 and 1921 as a multiple-family house (CNRPR 98/494; Sanborn 1921). Originally designated 100 Kay Street, it is now designated 98 Kay Street by the City of Newport.

The house is the last remaining residence of William H. Jackson (1863–1944), who in 1900 was appointed sergeant-at-arms for the Rhode Island General Assembly, which met at the Colony House in Newport (Youngken 1998:53). After the Assembly moved to the new Capitol building on Smith Street in Providence in 1904, Jackson was not permitted to resume his duties immediately but did so in 1909 (*Newport Mercury* 1932). By 1927, Jackson lived in the house at 98 Kay Street with his daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Louis Walker, who owned the property; the Walkers' son Louis Jr.; their three daughters Sarah, Eleanor, and Bessie; and Louis' niece Evelyn Perry. Louis worked as a taxi driver, and Jackson's occupation was listed as doorkeeper for the Rhode Island State House. Two other black households also lived in the building in 1930: Theodore Belcher from Virginia, who worked as a private-school janitor and lived with his wife Marie from Georgia; and Ellen Campbell, a garage bookkeeper, and her daughter Ellen (U.S. Census 1930).

Jackson served as one of Newport's delegates at the Rhode Island First District convention on October 16, 1930, where he wrote a policy plank urging Congress to enact anti-lynching laws (*Newport Mercury* 1930). In 1932, he was appointed sergeant-at-arms for the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois (*Newport Mercury* 1932). Jackson died in 1944 at his son's house at 154 Prospect Hill Street (not extant) (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:10).

Bibliography:

City of Newport Real Property Records (CNRPR)

1913 Book 98/Page 494 Lindsay R. Walker to Louis Walker

Gaines, Kevin, and Beth Parkhurst

1992 *African-Americans in Newport, 1660–1960*. Report to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Newport Mercury

1930 "Urges Enactment of Anti-Lynching Law." 17 October, p. 2.

1932 "Is Appointed One of Sergeant-At-Arms." 10 June, p. 2.

Sanborn Map Company (Sanborn)

1921 *Atlas of Newport, Jamestown, Middletown, & Portsmouth*. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1930 *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930* (T626, 2,667 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 30 Marlborough Street PLAT/LOT 17/317

NAME(s) Old Friends Meeting House/Newport Community Center

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Museum HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 25 ft LOT SIZE 53,143 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Side Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Wood Shingle WALL Wood Shingle

FOUNDATION Rubblestone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID NEWP_MarlboroughSt_30_N



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	Min	Min	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1699	NR	Society of Friends	Owners
Upper balcony removed	1820s	Book	Society of Friends	Owners
Building restored	1970s	Website	Orin M. Bullock	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Federal

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Old Friends Meeting House was constructed in 1699 as a meeting house for the Newport Society of Friends. The Society of Friends used the building until 1905, when Newport's black community began using it as a recreation and meeting center (Newport Historical Society 2019). In 1922, the Community Center Association acquired the building from the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends for use as a recreational center by residents of the integrated Kerry Hill neighborhood (Gaines and Parkhurst 1992:15). The Newport Community Center provided indoor and outdoor recreation space, including an enclosed playground, for neighborhood children and had a gym, theater, and meeting rooms (*Newport Mercury* 1947).

In 1943, the Federal Works Administration (FWA) formally condemned the building to facilitate its conversion into a recreation center for black soldiers and sailors stationed in Newport during World War II. According to local newspaper articles, the Newport mayor addressed residents' concerns that the building would be demolished with assurances that its historic integrity would be retained (*Newport Mercury* 1943a). However, significant opposition to changing the historic building and excessive renovation and repair costs led the FWA to change its plans to instead provide black service members with a brand new recreation center (*Newport Mercury* 1943b). The agency constructed the USO Club on West Broadway (now the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center; see 20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard) for that purpose in 1944. The Newport Community Center remained at the Old Friends Meeting House through 1968, when it moved to the former USO Club building, which had closed in 1960.

Sydney and Catharine Wright purchased the Old Friends Meeting House from the Community Center Association in 1967. In 1971, Catharine, by then a widow, gave the building to the Newport Historical Society (CNRPR 219/246, 232/113). The building was restored in the 1970s under the guidance of architect Orin M. Bullock and is now maintained as a historic museum and event space (Newport Historical Society 2019).

The Old Friends Meeting House was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

City of Newport Real Property Records (CNRPR)

- 1922 Book 112/Page 145 Overseers of the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends to Community Center Association
- 1967 Book 219/Page 246 Community Center Association to Sydney and Catharine Wright
- 1971 Book 232/Page 113 Catharine Wright to Newport Historical Society

Gaines, Kevin, and Beth Parkhurst

- 1992 *African-Americans in Newport, 1660–1960*. Report to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Newport Historical Society

- 2019 "Great Friends Meeting House." Electronic document, <https://newporthistory.org/properties/great-friends-meeting-house/>, accessed April 2019.

Newport Mercury

- 1943a "City to Preserve Old Meeting House." 6 August, p. 1.
- 1943b "Meeting House Project Turned Down." 8 October, p. 5.
- 1947 "Community Center Aided By Chest Funds." 18 July, p. 7.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS Park Holm PLAT/LOT 05/003

NAME(s) Park Holm

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Multiple Family

SITING: SETBACK Varies ft LOT SIZE 518,800 sq ft

STORIES 1-2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Hardie Board

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP_ParkHolm_SE



Photo ID NEWP_ParkHolm_N

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Maj	Maj	Mod
Configuration	None	Min	Mod	Maj

INTEGRITY Excellent Good X Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	70	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1940	Newspaper	Wigham and Van Allen Housing Authority, City of Newport	Architects Owner
Building replacements	2015	Newspaper	Housing Authority, City of Newport	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Modern Neo-Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Park Holm is a public housing development on Hillside Avenue, east of Miantonomi Park. Construction of the development by the Federal Works Administration began in 1940 to provide affordable housing for servicemen stationed in Newport and their families (Flynn 2015). Many of the 96 buildings constructed were one-story, Ranch-style duplexes along a grid of streets named for United States presidents. In 2009, the City of Newport began a large-scale renovation project of the development, consisting of a combination of gut rehabilitation and wholesale demolition and replacement of buildings. The entire complex now encompasses 262 housing units in 70 buildings, of which approximately one-third are the original one-story buildings. The approximately 46 replacement buildings are generally two stories tall and clad with modern Hardie Board siding.

Park Holm opened with a flag-raising ceremony on September 5, 1941 (*Newport Mercury* 1941). The housing project was managed by the Newport Housing Authority (NHA), which processed applications for housing and oversaw the complex. In June 1953, Constance Motley, a civil rights lawyer with the NAACP, alleged discrimination at the Newport Housing Authority regarding resident applications for Park Holm and Tonomy Hill (now Newport Heights), a nearby public housing development. Among other concerns, Motley claimed that some applicants were told that the same application would work for both Park Holm and Tonomy Hill but were assigned to Tonomy Hill, which by that time already had a bad reputation due to the quality of the housing units and concerns about crime. William J. Donovan, the executive secretary of the NHA, refuted Motley's claims, stating that either only units at Tonomy Hill were available or that the black applicants in question were in the US Navy and therefore eligible for housing only at Tonomy Hill (*Newport Daily News* 1953).

As a result of various complaints about discriminatory housing, Rhode Island Governor Dennis J. Roberts issued a public policy statement at the 1956 annual Newport NAACP dinner avowing that "tenants will be assigned to public housing projects in Rhode Island on a first-come, first-served basis and totally without regard for race" (quoted in RIBHS 2018:16). Roberts further promised that African Americans still experiencing housing segregation would be given their first choice of housing units in other areas as they became available (RIBHS 2018:16).

Bibliography:

Flynn, Sean

2015 "Park Holm renovation project hits milestone." *Newport Daily News*.

Newport Daily News

1953 "Discrimination Charges Refuted." 12 June, p. 3.

Newport Mercury

1941 "Flag Raising Marks Park-Holm Completion." 5 September, p. 2.

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS)

2018 *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th Century Rhode Island*. Typed manuscript, on file Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 14 Pearl Street PLAT/LOT 14/209

NAME(s) Nancy Eldridge House/Charles Frederick Douglass Fayerweather House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 1,742 sq ft

STORIES 1.5 ROOF(s) Mansard

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Wood shingle

FOUNDATION Rubblestone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Wood



Photo ID NEWP_PearlSt_14_NW

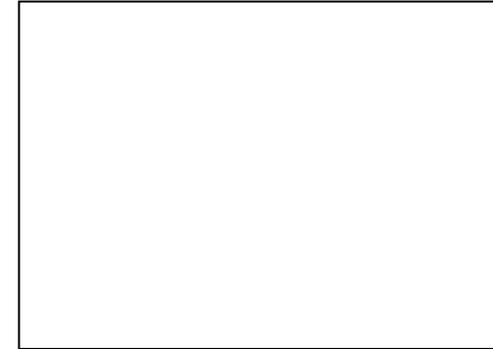


Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	Before 1850	NR	Nancy Eldridge	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Center Entry STYLE(s) Second Empire

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Nancy Eldridge House was constructed by 1850 for Nancy Eldridge, a black woman born in Rhode Island ca. 1817. In 1870, she lived with two other black women from Rhode Island, Ann E. Perry and Dianna Weeden (U.S. Census 1870). Early maps and directories indicate that the house was on Spruce Street and/or Spruce Court, but the street name was changed to Pearl Street between 1903 and 1910 (Sanborn 1903; U.S. Census 1910).

The building's connection to the African American civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its associations with Charles Frederick Douglass Fayerweather (1846–1914). By 1880, Fayerweather, a successful blacksmith, was living at the property with his wife Anna and their three children, Florence, Charles, and Alberta. That same year, he was chosen to attend the National Negro Business League Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, and gave the opening address as a delegate from Newport (Youngken 1998:52).

In the late nineteenth century, Fayerweather, George T. Downing, Thomas G. Williams, and others organized the Sumner Political Club to support political awareness and voting rights of men of color in Newport and across the state (RIBHS 2018:9). The organization may have been formed after a speech given by Downing at Slade Hall in Providence in October 1885 in which he laid out many of the policies of the Democratic and Republican parties and stated that the Republicans put the party before the needs and rights of black men while the Democrats were newly embracing black voters (*Boston Globe* 1885). Named after the abolitionist hero Charles Sumner, the club stated in its preamble that “The Sumner Political Club comes into being because a part of the body politic, colored citizens of the city of Newport, state of Rhode Island, are aggrieved. We suffer under the indignity of the policy so many of our fellow citizens who dominate in numbers, cast upon us in the management of public affairs. We are made to feel that we are regarded with less common respect. We are peaceful, law-abiding, industrious, tax-paying citizens” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:9).

Fayerweather was also prominent in fraternal circles and was elected District Grand Master of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows at a meeting in Providence in 1899. After his death in 1914, his wife went to New York to live with their daughters (*Newport Mercury* 1899, 1929). The building remains in use as a residence but has been converted into a two-family home.

The Nancy Eldridge House was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

Boston Globe

1885 “Enfranchisement.” 9 October, p. 8.

Newport Mercury

1899 “Notes.” 7 October, p. 8.

1929 “Death of Mrs. Fayerweather.” 15 October, p. 1.

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS)

2018 *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th Century Rhode Island*. Typed manuscript, on file at Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Sanborn Map Company (Sanborn)

1903 *Insurance Maps of Newport, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1880 *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880* (T9, 1,454 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

1910 *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (T624, 1,178 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

Youngken, Richard C.

1998 *African Americans in Newport*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Black Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 79 Thames Street PLAT/LOT 17/141

NAME(s) Dr. Henry Jackson House/Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Mixed HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 7,124 sq ft

STORIES 2 1/2 ROOF(s) End Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Wood clapboard

FOUNDATION Parged stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 and 4/4 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID NEWP_ThamesSt_79_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1840ca.	NR	Henry Jackson	Owner
Interior alterations	1897ca.	Newspaper	Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	Owner
Brick addition built	1933	Book	Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	Owner
Church merger	1974	Newspaper	Community Baptist Church	

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Greek Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The building at 79 Thames Street was constructed as a residence for Dr. Henry Jackson (1798–1863), a Baptist minister at the Central Baptist Church in Newport from 1847 until 1862 (Field 1872). The building's connection to the African American civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its associations with the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, which purchased the property in 1897 for use as a house of worship.

The Mt. Olivet Baptist Church was organized in 1894 when a group of Baptists split off from the Shiloh Baptist Church of Newport. Joseph Murphy, a Providence evangelist, had been sent to Newport by his minister, J. O. Johnson, to fill in for the pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, Henry N. Jeter, while he took a leave of absence. When Jeter returned, a rift occurred among some of the church members, and the faction that followed Murphy formed the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (Jeter 1901). The nascent congregation originally met at Deacon J. J. Tabo's house at 25 Edgar Street (*Newport Daily News* 1914). When the trustees of the church acquired the house at 79 Thames Street, they announced their intentions to remove partition walls in the lower story and install seats and a pulpit (*Newport Daily News* 1897).

William James Lucas, the pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church from 1917 to 1923, was the first president of the Newport NAACP, founded in 1919 (Flynn 2012). The organization held numerous meetings at the church, and other members of the church clergy held leadership roles, such as Reverend Latta Thomas who served as president in the mid-1960s (*Newport Daily News* 1964). In 1974, the Shiloh Baptist Church and Mt. Olivet Baptist Church merged to form the Community Baptist Church. The merged congregation initially held services in the Mt. Olivet building but in the late 1970s decided to sell the property to fund the construction of a new church building on Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Boulevard (Johnson 2014). The Thames Street building is now in use as commercial condominiums.

The Dr. Henry Jackson House/Mt. Olivet Baptist Church was listed in the National Register as part of the Newport Historic District in 1968.

Bibliography:

Field, Samuel W.

1872 *A memorial of Rev. Henry Jackson, D.D., late pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Newport, RI.* Gould and Lincoln, Boston, MA.

Flynn, Sean

2012 "A peek into the past." Electronic document, <https://www.newportri.com/article/20120206/ENTERTAINMENT/302069988>, accessed April 2019.

Jeter, Henry N.

1901 *Pastor Henry N. Jeter's 25 Years Experience with the Shiloh Baptist Church and her history.* Remington Printing Co., Providence, RI.

Johnson, James A.

2014 "Community Baptist Turns 40." Electronic document, <https://www.newportri.com/12b5763a-6dc9-58e2-8ba2-c087602f4d61.html>, accessed April 2019.

Newport Daily News

1897 "A New Home for the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church." 15 April, p. 8.

1914 "Mortgage to be Burned." 8 October, p. 5.

1964 "Methodists Discuss Rights." 21 April, p. 10.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 337 Thames Street PLAT/LOT 27/266

NAME(s) Perry Mill/GE Wiring Devices Plant 2

PROPERTY TYPE Bld Str Obj Site OWNERSHIP Priv Loc St Fed

STATUS NHL NR DOE CDOE Elig -- Indiv Dist -- C NC

NR DISTRICT Southern Thames Historic District

USES & TYPES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Commercial HISTORIC Manufacturing
 CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC _____
 COMPLEX YES NO

PLAN Rectangular STRUCTURE Masonry
 BAYS 4x19 WINDOWS 15/15 and 12/12 wood replacement
 STORIES 4 1/2 ROOF(S) End gable, clerestory monitor

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Granite Ashlar
 FOUNDATION Granite TRIM Granite OTHER _____
 INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed
 ADDITIONS None One Multiple -- Small Large -- Historic Non-Historic



Photo ID NEWP_ThamesSt_337_NW

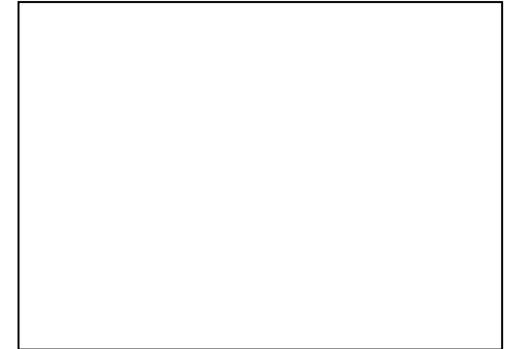


Photo ID [Click here to enter text.](#)

ALTERATIONS:	ENTRANCE	WINDOWS	SURFACE	OVERALL
Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod <input type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod <input type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input type="checkbox"/> Mod <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod <input type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None
Configuration	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input type="checkbox"/> Mod <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maj <input type="checkbox"/> Mod <input type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input type="checkbox"/> Mod <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Maj <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mod <input type="checkbox"/> Min <input type="checkbox"/> None

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1835	NR	Alexander McGregor	Mason
Alteration	1940ca.	NR		
Renovation/Restoration	1982-1983	NR	Melvin F. Hill III/The Newport Collective	Developer/Architects

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE(S): If more than one list & number in order of importance

Greek Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Perry Mill was constructed in 1835 by Scottish stonemason Alexander McGregor as part of a larger mill-building campaign along Thames Street intended to bolster Newport's economy in the 1830s and 1840s. From 1835 to about 1850, the mill produced a lightweight wool fabric called Delaine, then shifted to printed cotton through the end of the nineteenth century, when the building was purchased by William P. Sheffield. Following the mill's closure, the building was converted for public use, including a skating rink and a bowling alley. The roof monitor was removed by World War II, when the building housed workers at the Goat Island torpedo station. General Electric then occupied it from 1947 until the late 1970s. Local developer Melvin F. Hill III rehabilitated the building in the early 1980s, converting it into a mixed-use property with condominiums and shops. The gable roof, clerestory monitor, and bell tower were replaced as part of the rehabilitation (Zipf et al. 2008:114–115, 166).

The Perry Mill's associations with the civil rights movement in Rhode Island date to the period when General Electric occupied the building. Although many black women held jobs during World War II, few employment opportunities existed for them after the war. In 1950, Ruth Barclay Stokes (b. 1923) became the first, and initially only, black woman to work at the General Electric factory in Newport. Family history indicates that she was hired due to her familiarity with the plant's managers. Stokes, who was an active member of the Newport branch of the NAACP, worked at the plant until her retirement in 1982 (Stokes 2019; *Newport Mercury* 1976).

The Perry Mill was listed individually in the National Register in 1972 and as a contributing resource in the Southern Thames Historic District in 2008.



1959 photograph of Governor Del Sesto (right) visiting workers at the GE Wiring Devices plant. Ruth Barclay Stokes is just to the left of the microphone (image courtesy Keith Stokes).

Bibliography:

Newport Mercury

1976 "NAACP to commemorate birth of freedom fighter." 16 January, p. 5.

Stokes, Keith

2019 Personal communications with author, various dates.

Zipf, Catherine W., Wm. McKenzie Woodward, and Pamela Kennedy

2008 *National Register Nomination – Southern Thames Historic District*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS 08000314.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Newport VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 50 Washington Square PLAT/LOT 17/191

NAME(s) Army and Navy YMCA

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Indiv Dist C

NR DISTRICT Newport Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Commercial/Recreation

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 13,939 sq ft

STORIES 5 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Not visible WALL Limestone, brick, terra cotta

FOUNDATION Ashlar granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood replacement sash



Photo ID NEWP_WashingtonSq_50_NE



Photo ID NEWP_WashingtonSq_50_N
W

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____ Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1911	NR	Louis E. Jallade	Architect
Renovation	1938-1939	NR		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Beaux-Arts

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Army and Navy YMCA at 50 Washington Square was constructed in 1911 for the use of soldiers and sailors stationed in or passing through Newport (Fitch 1988). Only white military personnel were welcomed at the facility, leading eventually to the construction in 1944 of the West Broadway USO-YMCA (see 20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard) for the use of black military personnel. Despite the end of formal military segregation in 1948, two YMCAs remained in use in Newport. White soldiers and sailors were welcomed at the West Broadway USO-YMCA, but it is unknown if blacks were immediately permitted at the Washington Square facility (*Newport Daily News* 1959). The YMCA closed after the Navy reduced the number of people stationed in Newport in 1973 (Fitch 1988). The building is now used for low income housing and office space.

The Newport branch of the Urban League held its meetings at the Army and Navy YMCA from its establishment in 1956 through 1969. The branch was founded with the stated purpose of “improving the working and living conditions of non-white citizens” (quoted in RIBHS 2018:16) and a specific focus on urban renewal activities taking place in the adjacent West Broadway neighborhood (RIBHS 2018:16). It was one of only two Urban League offices in Rhode Island, the other being in Providence, where the organization was founded in the state in 1939 (Smith 1977). In 1969, the Newport branch moved its meetings to an office it opened in the former West Broadway USO-YMCA, now the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center (*Newport Daily News* 1966, 1969).

The Army and Navy YMCA was listed in the National Register as a contributing building in the Newport Historic District in 1968, and was individually listed in 1988.

Bibliography:

Fitch, Virginia A.

1988 *National Register Nomination – Army and Navy YMCA, 50 Washington Square*. Newport County, Rhode Island, NRIS 88003073.

Newport Daily News

1966 “League Urges Non-Whites to Seek Navy Base Jobs.” 16 September, p. 2.

1969 “Urban League Opens Office.” 20 November, p. 2.

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS)

2018 *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th Century Rhode Island*. Typed manuscript, on file Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Smith, Matthew J.

1977 *Inventory to the Urban League of Rhode Island Collection*. Typed manuscript, on file at Providence College Special and Archival Collections, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN North Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 1874 Mineral Spring Avenue PLAT/LOT 18-391

NAME(s) Ambassador Inn Nightclub

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____



Photo ID NOPR_MineralSpringAve_1874_SE

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Restaurant HISTORIC Restaurant/Inn

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 62,725 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Rolled rubber WALL Concrete

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Storefront, casement



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	Min	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	By 1935	RI Census	David Overton	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Ambassador Inn restaurant and nightclub was extant by 1935 and was owned by David Overton (1903–1958), a former woolen mill worker who became a prominent innkeeper and club owner by 1935 (U.S. Census 1920, 1940; Ancestry.com 2013; *Daily Boston Globe* 1958).

The Ambassador Inn Nightclub’s connection to the civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from a lawsuit filed in Providence Superior Court in November 1949. In the suit, a black couple, Samuel and Betty Jackson, claimed they were denied entry to the nightclub on the basis of their race. Betty Jackson stated further that she was pregnant at the time, which she felt may have contributed to their being barred from entry. The refusal of the club to allow the Jacksons entry denied them the “full and equal enjoyment” of the facility, which was in violation of state laws applicable to licensed buildings (*Providence Journal* 1949). The outcome of the lawsuit is unknown.

Bibliography:

Ancestry.com

2013 *Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865–1935*. Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., Provo, UT.

Daily Boston Globe

1949 “Couple Charges Discrimination, Sues for \$13,000.” 11 November, p. 9.

1958 “David Overton.” 18 May, p. 47.

Providence Journal

1949 “Negro Couple Here Sues Night Club.” 11 November, p. 19.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1920 *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920* (T625, 2076 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

1940 *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940* (T627, 4,643 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Pawtucket VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 345 Glenwood Avenue PLAT/LOT 63/0761

NAME(s) John Carter Minkins House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 7,666 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gambrel

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingles WALL Vinyl siding

FOUNDATION _____ OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash



Photo ID PAWT_GlenwoodAve_345_N



Photo ID PAWT_GlenwoodAve_345_N
b

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Mod	Mod	Mod
Configuration	Min	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Garage	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1900ca	Maps/ US Census	John Carter Minkins	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The John Carter Minkins House was likely constructed ca. 1900 for newspaper journalist and editor John Carter Minkins (1869–1959), the first black editor-in-chief at a white-owned newspaper in the country. The house does not appear on the 1895 Everts & Richards map of Pawtucket but does appear on the 1902 Sanborn map as 141 Glenwood Avenue. Minkins, his wife Rosa, and two daughters Imogene and Rosa were listed at 141 Glenwood Avenue in the 1900 federal census as the only family of color recorded in their neighborhood. Other residents of the area were engaged in a variety of occupations including bookkeeper, surveyor, pharmacist, carpenter, and silversmith (Everts & Richards 1895; Sanborn 1902; U.S. Census 1900). Minkins lived at the house until his death in 1959.

John Carter Minkins was born in Norfolk, Virginia. His mother, Georgiana Minkins, died when he was young, and he never met his father, a white man from Connecticut named William H. Carter. After his mother's death, John was raised by his grandmother and an uncle (Lemons and Lambert 2003:414). After graduating from the Norfolk Mission School (now Norfolk State University) in 1888, he took a job at the city's white-owned *Evening Telegram* and was assigned to report on the black community in Norfolk. That same year, he began his public speaking career with a Memorial Day speech at the Soldiers' Home in Hampton, Virginia. The *Evening Telegram* folded quickly, and Minkins took charge of the *Tidewater Republican*, a four-page weekly newspaper covering the 1889 gubernatorial election in Virginia (Lemons and Lambert 2003:414). Minkins' early newspaper forays helped him gain visibility, as did other public speaking engagements such as an Emancipation Day speech he gave at the St. John AME church in Norfolk on January 1, 1890 (Lemons and Lambert 2003:416).

By 1891, Minkins and his family had moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where he began a job as a reporter at the *Providence News*. In 1892, Minkins was the only reporter of color covering the sensational Lizzie Borden murder trial in nearby Fall River, Massachusetts, and cemented his place in the newspaper industry (MacKay and McPhillips 1999). While living in Providence, he also worked as a correspondent for Hearst newspapers and wrote articles for the *New York Herald*, *New York Press*, and Joseph Pulitzer's *World*. By 1900, Minkins and his family had moved to Pawtucket, where he worked at the *Pawtucket Times* as a copy editor and desk writer. After Samuel P. Colt, Nelson Aldrich, and Marsden Perry purchased the newspaper in 1904, Minkins refused to work for them because of their involvement in crushing a 1902 streetcar strike in Providence. He became a news and Sunday editor for the Providence *Evening and Sunday Telegram* but subsequently left that paper and others after the same trio of men acquired them (Lemons and Lambert 2003:420–421).

In July 1906, Minkins became editor-in-chief of the *Providence News-Democrat* (formerly the *Providence News*), the first time in the country that an African American took the helm at a white-owned daily publication (Lemons and Lambert 2003:413). He made numerous changes to the newspaper, including replacing a cartoon that occasionally featured racist stereotypes with a daily women's feature; reported on the struggle of blacks against the state Republican Party; and printed articles about Southern lynchings, escapes from lynch mobs, and other items of interest to the black community. Minkins' paper was the only Providence-based newspaper to cover any of these racial topics (Lemons and Lambert 2003:422).

Minkins left the *News-Democrat* (later *Providence Evening News*) in 1911, moving to the *Providence Evening Tribune*, and purchased a small weekly newspaper, the *Rhode Island Examiner*. The *Examiner* featured articles about segregation, discrimination, and the disproportionate number of black youths being sent to jail, among other topics. In 1914, Minkins used the *Examiner* to pressure the Providence YMCA (160 Broad Street) to allow blacks to use the facility and to call out discriminatory behavior at Brown University in the early twentieth century, including the exclusion of his daughters, both Pembroke College students, from their respective junior balls on the basis of their race (Lemons and Lambert 2003:422–424, 429–430).

Minkins represented Rhode Island during National Freedom Day in 1946, which celebrated the ratification of the 13th amendment outlawing slavery, and in 1951 gave the address at the Emancipation Day festivities held at Crescent Park in East Providence (see 700 Bullock's Point Road) (Lemons and Lambert 2003:437–438). He stayed active in newspapers and promoted black causes until his death on October 29, 1959. Minkins was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2013 (RIHHF 2018).

Bibliography:

Everts & Richards

1895 *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, Rhode Island*. Everts & Richards, Philadelphia, PA.

Lemons, J. Stanley, and Diane Lambert

2003 "John Carter Minkins: Pioneering African-American Newspaperman." *New England Quarterly*, Vol. 76, No. 3, p. 413–438.

MacKay, Scott, and Jody McPhillips

1999 "The Rhode Island Century: 1930–1940." *Providence Journal*, 23 May, p. A-21.

Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame (RIHHF)

2018 "John Carter Minkins." Electronic document, http://www.riheritagehalloffame.com/inductees_detail.cfm?iid=706, accessed April 2019.

Sanborn Map Company (Sanborn)

1902 *Insurance Maps of Pawtucket, including Central Falls and Valley Falls, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1900 *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900* (T623, 1,854 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 155 Angell Street PLAT/LOT 12/167

NAME(s) Rhode Island Women's Club/Churchill House, Brown University

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT College HISTORIC Clubhouse

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 13,939 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS 12/12, 9/9, 4/4 double-hung wood sash, 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash, casement



Photo ID PROV_AngellSt_155_S



Photo ID PROV_AngellSt_155_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1907	NR	Thornton and Thornton Rhode Island Women's Club	Architects Owner
Building acquired by Brown University	1970	Book	Brown University	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Center Entry STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Churchill House at Brown University, designed by the Providence architectural firm of Thornton and Thornton, was built for the Rhode Island Women's Club in 1907 and named after the club's founder, Elizabeth Kittredge Churchill. The group was founded in 1876 and incorporated in 1906 to provide lectures, concerts, and courses for the education and entertainment of women in Rhode Island (Grzyb and DeSimone 2014:n.p.; RISFWC 1920:56). By 1923, Pembroke College, Brown University's women's college, used the building for tea dances and other events (*Pembroke Record* 1924). The Katherine Gibbs secretarial school occupied Churchill House in the mid-twentieth century, and Brown University acquired it in 1970.

The building's associations with the civil rights movement in Rhode Island stem from its use by the African American community at Brown University, which was a direct result of the December 1968 student walkout. In 1968, the Afro-American Society, founded by black students the previous spring, asked the administration for changes in staffing, curriculum, and student body composition to more accurately reflect African American history and presence. The requested changes included the creation of an African American studies major, an African American admissions officer for Pembroke College, and representation of African American students and faculty at Brown equal to the percentage of African Americans in the United States population, which at that time was 11%. Dissatisfied with the administration's response, 62 black students marched down College Hill to the Congdon Street Baptist Church (see 17 Congdon Street) and remained there for three days. Following the walkout, the University met many of the student demands, increasing black student enrollment, creating the Afro-American Studies Program, and providing students of color with additional resources. In 1972, the Afro-American Society changed its name to the Organization of United African Peoples (OUAP) and moved into Churchill House, along with the Afro-American Studies Program, and Graduate Minority Association (Mitchell 1993a, 1993b). The Afro-American Studies Program became the Department of Africana Studies in 2001 and is still located in Churchill House. The OUAP is now the Black Student Union and serves as an umbrella organization for black student groups on campus.

Additional outgrowths of the 1968 student protests included the Third World Transition Program (TWTP) and the Rites and Reason Theatre. The University organized the Third World Transition Program (TWTP) to help students of color adjust to college life and ensure they had the necessary academic skills for classes (Mitchell 1993b). The Third World Center opened in the basement of Churchill House in 1976, moved to Partridge Hall (68 Brown Street) in 1987, and was renamed the Brown Center for Students of Color in 2014 (BCSC 2019). Professor George Houston Bass (1938–1990) founded the Rites and Reason Theatre, one of the oldest continuously performing black theaters in the country, in 1970. The theater moved to its permanent home in Churchill House in 1973 and became part of the Afro-American Studies Program in 1975. It is still located in Churchill House (Brown 250 2019).

Churchill House was listed in the National Register in 1970 as part of the College Hill Historic District.

Bibliography:

Brown Center for Students of Color (BCSC)

2019 "TWC History at Brown." Electronic document, <https://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/students-of-color/history>, accessed April 2019.

Imagine Brown 250 (Brown 250)

2019 "Churchill House." Electronic document, <https://250.brown.edu/churchill-house.html>, accessed April 2019.

Grzyb, Frank L., and Russell J. DeSimone

2014 *Remarkable Women of Rhode Island*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC.

Mitchell, Martha

1993a "Churchill House." In *Encyclopedia Brunoniana*, electronic document,

https://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/Databases/Encyclopedia/search.php?serial=C0410, accessed April 2019.

1993b "African Americans." In *Encyclopedia Brunoniana*, electronic document,

https://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/Databases/Encyclopedia/search.php?serial=A0080, accessed April 2019.

Pembroke Record

1924 "Seniors to Give Tea Dance to Juniors at Churchill." 24 April, p. 1.

Rhode Island State Federation of Women's Clubs (RISFWC)

1920 *Yearbook 1919–1920*. RISFWC, Providence RI.



Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 296 Angell St PLAT/LOT 11/127

NAME(s) Central Congregational Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist _____ C _____

NR DISTRICT Stimson Avenue Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 43,560 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Cross-gable, dome

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Copper, rolled rubber WALL Brick, stone

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS Stained glass, leaded multi-pane



Photo ID PROV_AngellSt296_NE



Photo ID PROV_AngellSt296_SW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	Min	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____ Destroyed _____

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1891-1893	NR Nomination	Carrère and Hastings	Architects
Belfry cupolas replaced after storm damage	1930s	NR Nomination	Central Congregational Church	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Renaissance Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Central Congregational Church in Providence, established in 1852, constructed the current church building at 296 Angell Street in 1891–1893. Designed by the New York architectural firm of Carrère and Hastings, the building was sited at the geographic center of the parish, which was active in civic and social work from its beginnings. During the Civil War, church members worked with the US Sanitary Commission, to provide medical supplies and nursing care for wounded soldiers. In the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, the church engaged with immigrant groups arriving in Providence, forming a Portuguese Mission Church and participating in refugee resettlement projects (Chaney 2019). The church's primary associations with the African American civil rights movement stem from activities undertaken by the Church and its congregation in the 1960s under the leadership of Reverend Raymond E. Gibson, a white pastor who served the congregation from 1961 to 1988. Prior to coming to Providence, Gibson (1924–2005) participated in settlement house activities in New York's Lower East Side as a college student and served on the executive committee and as chairman of church relations for the Berkshire County (MA) NAACP (*Pittsfield Berkshire Eagle* 1961). The Central Congregational Church has additional ties to the civil rights movement through the work of white pastor Lawrence L. Durgin (1918–1981), who led the congregation from 1952 to 1961 (Chaney 2019).

The Central Congregational Church played a role in many civil rights activities in Providence and beyond. In 1962, Reverend Gibson was appointed Chairman of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, which was charged with investigating situations where people were denied the right to vote or equal protection under the law in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (Gibson 1992:98). Gibson chaired the committee for 14 years. Under his leadership, the committee questioned the wisdom of wholesale slum clearance that did not consider the relocation of displaced residents. The Rhode Island committee was particularly concerned with the Lippitt Hill and Randall Square redevelopment projects.

In 1963, the church's Social Action Committee supported parent groups working to prepare parents and students who would be enrolled in the new racially integrated Lippitt Elementary School (now Martin Luther King Jr. School, see 35 Camp Street) (Gibson 1992:91). In January 1964, the church's Board of Deacons held a preliminary discussion of the "Call for Commitment to Racial Justice," a document produced by the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ. The board took the proposal and used it to make a set of church guidelines that began with a simple but powerful statement: "Our church welcomes all persons, regardless of race or color" (Gibson 1992:92). The guidelines included provisions for boycotting companies that had discriminatory hiring or business practices and refusing to patronize or sponsor activities at public places that discriminated on the basis of race or ethnicity (Gibson 1992:92).

In March 1965, Reverend Gibson and congregation member John R. Kenower each led delegation groups from Rhode Island to participate in the March from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama. Two other church members, Barbara Cornwell and Francis Fontes, participated in the march (Gibson 1992:94). Some members of the congregation disagreed with Gibson's participation in the march and cut financial support to the church in response, while others increased their support to make up for the lost pledges (Gibson 1992:87).

Reverend Lawrence L. Durgin was born in New Jersey and raised in Japan, where his father was the secretary of the YMCA. Durgin graduated from Dartmouth College in 1940 and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in 1944. In addition to his time at the Central Congregational Church in Providence, his career as a Congregationalist minister included presiding over the First Congregational Church in Norwich, New York; Orient Congregational Church in Orient Point, Long Island; and Broadway Church of Christ in New York City. Durgin was an activist in many urban and social issues, including penal reform and efforts by the United Farm Workers to get collective bargaining rights. Durgin was also a founder of the Clinton Housing Association, which worked to improve housing and living conditions on the West Side of

Manhattan, and organized the former Association for Christian Mission, founded in 1968 to combat poverty and other social problems in New York City.

While at the Central Congregational Church, Durgin was a trustee of Tougaloo Southern Christian College, a predominantly African American, coeducational, liberal arts college in Jackson, Mississippi; he served on the board for 25 years and became the school's vice president for development in June 1980. Tougaloo was formed in 1954 from the merger of Tougaloo University, founded in 1871, and Southern Christian Institute, founded in 1877. In the spring of 1964, Brown University and Tougaloo formed a partnership whereby Brown would assist Tougaloo by acquiring private funding through grants and private donors to financially support the school and help improve its academic standards. Durgin was instrumental in the formation of the partnership between Brown and Tougaloo, working with Brown's chaplain Charlie Baldwin and Providence businessman Irving J. Fain (1906–1970, see 400 Laurel Avenue), also a Tougaloo trustee, to attempt to save the Mississippi school from closure when its charter was threatened with revocation by white supremacists in the Mississippi State Legislature. At the forefront of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, Tougaloo College students and faculty staged the first sit-ins in Mississippi and welcomed Medgar Evers, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Fannie Lou Hamer to campus, making the college a political target. The cooperative agreement formed between Brown and Tougaloo brought financial support to the school that included bridging programs for Tougaloo students such as two guaranteed places for Tougaloo graduates at Brown's Alpert Medical School, faculty exchanges, and student exchanges allowing Brown and Tougaloo students to spend a semester at the other college. As a result of the Brown–Tougaloo program, Tougaloo's curriculum improved and more of its students were admitted to graduate school. The student exchange program was terminated in 1970 when the rise of the Black Power Movement led to Tougaloo no longer welcoming white students but resumed in 1980. The partnership was reaffirmed in 2014 with the signing of a formal proclamation by Brown president Christina Paxson and Tougaloo president Beverly Hogan.

The Central Congregational Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 as a contributing resource in the Stimson Avenue Historic District.

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Pittsfield Berkshire Eagle

1961 "Rev. Raymond Gibson Named Pastor of Providence Church." 6 June, p.1, 11.

Providence Journal

1960 "Pastor Resigns for N.Y. Pulpit." 3 October, p. 12.

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1981 "Rev. Lawrence L. Durgin, 63, Ex-Broadway Church Pastor." *New York Times*, 13 August, p. D21.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 212-214 Bellevue Ave PLAT/LOT 31/332

NAME(s) James N. Williams House/Frederick C. Williamson Sr. House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____



Photo ID PROV_BellevueAve212-214_SW

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Multiple Family

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 3,920 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) End-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Granite block OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl replacement



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	Mod	Min
Configuration	Min	None	Mod	Min

INTEGRITY _____ Excellent _____ Good X Fair _____ Poor _____ Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1923 ca.	Maps, Book		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) No Style

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 212–214 Bellevue Avenue is a two-family house constructed ca. 1923. The building was built on the same lot as 216 Bellevue Avenue. The 1930 census records Wallace and Rose Bradic, the property owners, and their tenants, Lewis and Elizabeth Hardy and Dixon and Bessie Brown, as the only African American residents on the street. This trend likely continued into the 1940s, as Wallace and Rose Bradic still resided at 212 Bellevue Avenue in 1940. However, the 1940 census taker recorded all of the families on the even side of Bellevue Avenue, including the Bradics, as white. In the mid-twentieth century, two important figures in the Rhode Island Civil Rights Movement, James N. Williams and Frederick C. Williamson Sr., lived at 212–214 Bellevue Avenue.

James N. Williams (1909–1987), the first Executive Director of the Providence Urban League (founded 1939), resided at the property from ca. 1941 to 1945. By 1946, he and his wife Nellie lived at 8 Dwight Street in Providence. Prior to 1940, Williams was the executive secretary of the Washington Street YMCA in Montclair, New Jersey. In 1941, Rhode Island Governor J. Howard McGrath appointed Williams to a 13-member commission that studied employment problems experienced by African Americans in the state. Other members of the committee included John F. Lopez Sr., president of the Providence NAACP; Alice Hunt, president of the Consumers' League; Joseph LeCount, president of the New England Conference for the Advancement of Colored People; Bertha G. Higgins, Providence resident and civil rights activist; Brown professor Clarence Glick; and AFL representative Edwin Brown. Williams led the Providence Urban League for more than 20 years, in addition to serving on the executive committees of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) and the anti-poverty agency Progress for Providence. Williams also gave frequent speeches on civil rights, particularly housing discrimination, throughout the state. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 1978 for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and his other civic endeavors.

Frederick C. Williamson Sr. (1915–2010) began his career in the Providence jewelry business then worked for the US Navy as a civilian employee at Quonset Point Naval Air Station for 27 years. While at Quonset, he served on the Quonset-Davisville Community Relations Committee and chaired the Rhode Island Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. He was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1954. Until 1960, Fred and his wife Dorothy lived in the Lippitt Hill neighborhood of Providence. By 1960, they lived at 212–214 Bellevue Avenue. That same year, he was elected vice president of the Providence Urban League. In 1963, Williamson helped create the anti-discrimination Providence Human Relations Committee, belonged to the Providence NAACP, and participated in the March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have A Dream” speech. He was also a director for Progress for Providence, Inc. Sometime after 1965, Frederick and Dorothy moved into University Heights, the integrated housing complex built between 1964 and 1968 in the Lippitt Hill neighborhood. Among the first residents of the complex, Fred lived there for most of the rest of his life. In 1968, Rhode Island Governor Frank Licht appointed him director of the new Rhode Island Department of Community Affairs, and the following year Williamson was appointed the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), a position he held until his death in 2010. As SHPO, Williamson challenged the need for urban renewal land clearing projects, referring to them instead as “urban removal projects” and arguing that they removed many buildings that did not need to be torn down. He also advocated for the preservation of frequently overlooked building types, such as triple-deckers, in addition to the mansions and houses of governors or generals. He asserted the significance of houses where immigrants lived, waystations on the Underground Railroad, or buildings associated with other events not necessarily recorded in history textbooks. Williamson was also one of the founders of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, incorporated in 1975, and served as president of the organization. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 1981 for his contributions to civil rights and historic preservation.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 571 Broad Street PLAT/LOT 44/348

NAME(s) Israel B. Mason House/Bell Funeral Home

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Indiv C

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Mortuary HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 20,909 sq ft

STORIES 2 1/2 ROOF(s) Cross-Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingles WALL Brick and slate

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung replacement sash



Photo ID PROV_BroadSt_571_NW



Photo ID PROV_BroadSt_571_N

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Carriage House/Garage	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1888	Book	Stone, Carpenter & Wilson Israel Mason	Architects Owner
Conversion to funeral home	1916	Book		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Queen Anne

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 571 Broad Street was built in 1888 for Israel B. Mason, a successful Providence meat packer. When construction on the present house began in 1887, Mason's original Second Empire-style house on the lot was moved across the street to 12 Dartmouth Street (not extant). The current house was converted into a funeral home after Mason's death in 1916 (Woodward and Sanderson 1986:151).

The building's connection to the civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its associations with Andrew J. Bell Jr. (1907–2000), who ran a funeral home business at the property from the late 1930s to his retirement in 1974. Bell was born in Providence to Andrew J. and Beatrice Bell. A graduate of Classical High School, he went on to study Business Administration at Bryant College and graduated from the New England Institute of Mortuary Science in Boston. In 1932, Bell established a funeral home in a storefront on Westminster Street in Providence and became a prominent member of the city's black business community. Just five years later, in 1937, he moved his business to 571 Broad Street. In 1939, he and other business leaders established the Providence Urban League. As urban renewal projects began in the late 1950s, Bell worked to integrate the Coddington Court housing development, which the Providence Housing Authority had designated as being for blacks only (RIHMF 2019). He was also involved in the development of the University Heights apartment complex (see 99 Roger Williams Green) as a mixed-income, integrated community. He continued to fight for fair housing, speaking on a panel at the 1961 Rhode Island Congregational Conference that addressed the necessity of fair housing legislation. Bell, who was the industrial relations secretary for the Urban League of Rhode Island and whose house at 155 Cranston Street in Providence was slated for demolition as part of the Classical-Central redevelopment project, stated that he and his wife had been looking for a new house for six months and were still unable to find housing (*Providence Journal* 1961). In 1968, he helped found the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), which continues to provide job training, particularly in construction trades, for people of color. Bell earned two honorary doctorates (including one from the University of Rhode Island) during his lifetime; received numerous awards; and wrote a book about his experiences, *An Assessment of Life in Rhode Island as an African American in the Era from 1918 to 1993*, published in 1997. He was posthumously inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2007 (RIHMF 2019).

The Israel B. Mason House was listed individually in the National Register in 1977. The building is the only known extant building associated with Andrew J. Bell Jr. It remains in use as the Bell Funeral Home, although it is no longer owned by the Bell family.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 688 Broad Street/105 Glenham Street PLAT/LOT 45/668

NAME(s) Temple Beth-El, Broad Street Synagogue

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Ind C

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Vacant/Not in Use HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 30 ft LOT SIZE 17,860 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable, Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Brick, concrete block

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER Copper trim

WINDOWS Wood 1/1 double-hung, fixed, and awning sash



Photo ID PROV_BroadSt688_NE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Synagogue	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Temple School	B-C	1	(5)		
(3) Iron Fence	St-C	1	(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1910-1911	NR	Banning & Thornton	Architects
Building renovated	1955	Website	Ira Rakatansky	Architect
Temple School built	1958	NR	Harry Marshak	Architect
Iron fence built	1988	Website		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Classical Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The former synagogue at 688 Broad Street was built in 1910–1911 for the Congregation Sons of Israel and David, organized in 1854 as an Orthodox congregation and affiliated with Reform Judaism in 1877 (Temple Beth-El 2019). The building was designed by the Providence architecture firm of Banning & Thornton and named Temple Beth-El. The congregation occupied the building until 1954, when it moved to a new Temple Beth-El constructed at 68–70 Orchard Avenue on Providence’s East Side. A group of smaller Jewish congregations acquired the Broad Street Synagogue and used it until 2006, after which time the building began to fall into disrepair. Local residents began efforts to save the building in 2011 and founded the Friends of Broad Street Synagogue in 2014 to turn it into a community center (Broad Street Synagogue 2019). The project never got underway, however, and the building remains vacant (PPS 2018).

The Broad Street Synagogue is connected with Rhode Island’s civil rights movement through Rabbi Nathan Stern (1878–1945), leader of Temple Beth-El’s congregation from 1910 to 1915. Stern, a founding member of the Providence NAACP, was also a professor of history and biblical literature at Brown University (Olitzky and Raphael 1996:324; Goldowsky 2011:508). In 1913, he gave the invocation at a November 5 community meeting held at Providence’s Beneficent Congregational Church for the purpose of gathering support for a local NAACP branch. Stern was among the group of local activists who met again in January 1914 at the Winter Street A.M.E. Zion Church to organize the Providence chapter and elect the first slate of officers (Hooks 2013:8–9). Rabbi Stern left Providence in 1915 for New York City, where he served on the social justice and international peace committees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and helped found the Institute for Youth Leadership of New York in 1931 (*New York Times* 1945).

In 1932, Rabbi William G. Braude (1907–1988) became leader of the Temple Beth-El congregation, a position he held until 1972. Throughout his entire rabbinical career, Braude was involved in social justice causes, particularly in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, after the congregation had moved to its new building (see 68–70 Orchard Street) (Antler 2002:256–254).

The Broad Street Synagogue was listed individually in the National Register in 1988.

Bibliography:

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 35 Camp Street PLAT/LOT 9/13

NAME(s) Lippitt Hill Elementary/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT School HISTORIC School

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 120,661 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Fixed and casement metal sash



Photo ID PROV_CampSt_35_SE



Photo ID PROV_CampSt_35_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) School	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Field House	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1967	Book	Providence School Department	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Twentieth Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, originally called Lippitt Hill Elementary School, was built on the East Side of Providence and opened in 1967 as a planned, integrated educational community. The school was renamed after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 (Reynolds 2012:179). Prior to the school's opening, many schools in Providence were *de facto* segregated due to their proximity to population centers for white and black residents (Antonucci 2012:134). Providence residents began to advocate for integrated schools across the city in the 1960s, mirroring a nationwide movement toward school desegregation (Antonucci 2012:134).

In the early 1960s, school overcrowding and concerns about facility maintenance led the City of Providence school committee to vote for the construction of a new school building to replace two older buildings, the Doyle and Jenkins schools, that were slated for demolition as part of the Lippitt Hill Urban Renewal project (Antonucci 2012:135; Holden 1974:167). The planned site for the school was in a predominantly black neighborhood, meaning it would likely remain *de facto* segregated unless the City worked to integrate the student population. The school department hired Dr. Sarah T. Curwood, a Rhode Island College professor of sociology, to study the area that would be served by the school and determine how best to integrate it. Dr. Curwood's study concluded that shifting school district lines to include more white students and move more black students into other school districts would most effectively integrate the Lippitt Hill School. Curwood cautioned that district lines would need to be monitored and shifted as necessary to keep the population integrated (Holden 1974:169). Remedial reading programs, extra staff support, and multi-ethnic textbooks, among other programs, were introduced in the Doyle and Jenkins schools before the new school was built (Holden 1974:171).

Parents in Providence also agitated for integration across the entire school system. An NAACP field representative threatened the city with a lawsuit if a plan was not initiated to desegregate the entire city (Holden 1974:170). In July 1966, the Negro Leadership Conference—a coalition of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a civil rights group called the Fearless Fifty led by Freeman Soares, and the East Side Neighborhood Council—sent a formal complaint to David Seeley, the Director of the Equal Opportunities Program of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, regarding school segregation in Providence (Antonucci 2012:138–9). Following the complaint, the superintendent of schools, Charles O'Connor, met with the Negro Leadership Conference to come to an agreement regarding how to desegregate Providence schools. The agreement stated that black and white students would be bussed if necessary; all schools would have a hot lunch program; qualified black teachers would be promoted; teachers in the new desegregated schools would receive special training; and a public program would be created to emphasize the necessity of desegregation (Antonucci 2012:140).

Lippitt Hill Elementary School opened as a city-wide magnet school in 1967 with a 65 percent white and 35 percent black student population (Antonucci 2012:137–8). In March 1968, an East Side parents group organized under the name Concerned East Side Negro Parents Committee held a meeting at the Lippitt Hill school to gain support for demands presented by the group to the school superintendent. The demands included a course in minority history for all East Side schools, a committee of black parents to interview prospective guidance counselors, and the appointment of a resource person for black history and minority problems in the East Side schools (Holden 1974:227). The Lippitt Hill Elementary School was a model for school integration, leading the way for integrated schools across Providence and Rhode Island. The school remains fully integrated, with the majority of students coming from black, Hispanic, or white families (RIDE 2019).

Bibliography:

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1974 *The Bus Stops Here: A Study of School Desegregation in Three Cities*. Agathon Press, Inc., New York, NY.

Reynolds, John

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 131 Camp Street PLAT/LOT 6/102

NAME(s) Charles D. Woodward/Philip F. Addison Jr. House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single dwelling HISTORIC Single dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 30 ft LOT SIZE 7,405 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt Shingle WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/1 double-hung, wood and vinyl sash



Photo ID PROV_CampSt131_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	Ca. 1920	Map	Charles D. Woodward	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Four Square STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE May 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 131 Camp Street was constructed ca. 1920, likely for Providence watchmaker Charles D. Woodward, who resided at the property in 1920 with his wife Ella and son Charles. It is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the residence of Philip F. Addison Jr. (1916–2006) in 1969, when he became the first black city councilor elected in Providence.

Philip F. Addison Jr. was born in Providence in 1916 to Philip and Florence Addison. Philip Sr. was a railroad station porter, and Florence worked in a department store. After serving in World War II, Philip Jr. became involved in community activities, including founding and serving as president of the East Side Neighborhood Council and working as the assistant director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. In the early 1960s, Addison lived at 84½ Doyle Street with his wife Harriet and worked as a clerk at the Plantations Bank of Rhode Island (Polk 1964). By 1969, the Addisons had moved to 131 Camp Street, where Philip lived for the rest of his life (*Providence Journal* 1969a).

In the fall of 1969, Philip Addison ran for City Council to fill the vacancy left by Sanford H. Gorodetsky's resignation to become a municipal judge. Addison ran against three other contenders in the Democratic primary: black civil rights activist Robert L. Bailey and two white challengers, Harvey Millman and Dr. Mary C. Mulvey (*Providence Journal* 1969a,b). After securing the Democratic ticket, he ran against and defeated Republican Ann D. Ury in the November election (*Providence Journal* 1969c). Addison was subsequently named as a community worker for the Urban League's "New Thrust Program," which was intended to facilitate communication between residents and federal and municipal organizations such as Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Association, and the school department (*Providence Journal* 1969d).

Addison was elected Deputy Majority Leader of the Providence City Council in 1975 and became Majority Leader in 1979. In 1984, he retired as the Director of Recreation for the City of Providence. He died in 2006 (*Providence Journal* 2006). The Providence Assessors database indicates that the house at 131 Camp Street remains in the Addison family.

Bibliography:

Providence Journal

1969a "Third Ward Primary Unprecedented." 19 October, p. 1.

1969b "Addison is Winner in Council Primary." 21 October, p. 1.

1969c "Voters Elect First Negro Councilman." 11 November, p. 27.

1969d "Gets Liaison Post to Help Blacks." 20 December, p. 15.

2006 "Philip F. Addison." 25 June.

R. L. Polk & Co. (Polk)

1964 *Polk's Providence City Directory*. R. L. Polk & Co., Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 260 Chad Brown Street PLAT/LOT 70/367

NAME(s) Chad Brown Public Housing

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Multiple Family

SITING: SETBACK 35 ft LOT SIZE 564,538 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID PROV_ChadBrownSt263_NE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Mod	Mod	Mod
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Buildings	B-C	20	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1941-1942	Book	Housing Authority of City of Providence Maximillian Untersee	Builder Supervising Architect
Building rehabilitation	1977	Book	City of Providence	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Chad Brown Housing Project, begun in 1941 in the North End area of Providence, was the first public housing project and one of seven similar projects built in the city, including Roger Williams at 198 Thurbers Avenue (no longer extant) in Lower South Providence, also designed by Maximillian Untersee, and Codding Court at 144 Dodge Street in the West End (Woodward and Sanderson 1986:161; Daoust 1993:27).

In the 1930s, the City of Providence began a slum clearance program that resulted in the demolition of approximately 600 substandard residential buildings with few replacements constructed. The black community was hit hardest by the clearance programs; almost 20% of Providence's 1,856 non-white households lived in houses in need of repair, and half of them lacked proper bathroom facilities (Daoust 1993:25–26). In November 1939, local leaders of the black community formed the Joint Committee on Housing for Negroes to lobby for a new housing project in Providence's West End, home to the majority of the city's blacks. In May 1940, the Providence Housing Authority (PHA) announced two federally funded housing projects, both in white neighborhoods: Chad Brown and Roger Williams (Daoust 1993:26).

Federal public housing requirements stipulated that the projects be integrated, but the PHA designated all 198 units in the 20 buildings at Chad Brown to be entirely white and only 30 of the planned 744 units at Roger Williams to be set aside for black applicants. A planned black-only project, Codding Court, was postponed in the lead-up to World War II due to cost overruns of the Chad Brown and Roger Williams projects. Construction of Codding Court was to hinge on the city being declared a defense area, which would infuse federal funds for housing construction for war workers. However, the defense designation resulted in the construction of building projects in Newport (Tonomy Hill and Park Holm) and Narragansett, and Codding Court was not completed until 1951 (Daoust 1993:26–27). The Providence Urban League approached the United States Housing Authority for assistance in acquiring housing for the black community. The Housing Authority suggested that, in light of the fact that 16% of the applicants for housing in Providence were black but only 2.8% of units were allocated for them, the Urban League should press the PHA for an additional 120 units for black families at Roger Williams or to allow all the units to be open to all war workers, regardless of race (Daoust 1993:26–28).

The Providence City Council adopted a resolution that banned racial discrimination or segregation in public housing in 1951, but the ban had little effect until 1957 when Rhode Island Governor Dennis J. Roberts announced that segregation in any of the state's housing projects would not be tolerated (Daoust 1993:29). Despite the prevailing belief that better housing would help with economic mobility, this was not the case. By the late 1950s, the projects in Providence deteriorated to the point that only the most desperate lived in them, and as white families moved out, the public housing population became predominantly black (Daoust 1993:30).

Rehabilitation of the Chad Brown project begun by the City of Providence in 1977 included the demolition of 8 of the original 28 buildings and refurbishing of the rest (Woodward and Sanderson 1986:161). The remodeled apartments had new bathrooms, kitchens, doors, and other improvements, some of which were undertaken by tenants trained to work in a variety of capacities. Residents also assisted with planning for tenant programs and amenities including daycare facilities, recreational activities, and health programs (Campbell 2007:244). However, the PHA was inundated with complaints from tenants of the newly renovated units, ranging from peeling paint and faulty connections in kitchens and bathrooms to possible criminal activity by PHA staff and contractors (Campbell 2007:262). Following involvement by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the rehabilitation campaign was improved to the greater satisfaction of the tenants, whose planting of flower gardens and assistance with property maintenance seemed to indicate a sense of pride in their residences (Campbell 2007:274).

In the early 1980s, the PHA was again accused of racially segregating the city's family developments. Chad Brown tenant Joan Martinez alleged that racial segregation persisted in the projects, and the projects most in

need of maintenance were those occupied by primarily non-white families. At the end of 1982, 99% of the combined tenants at Chad Brown and the adjacent Admiral Terrace, Roger Williams, and Coddington Court were non-white, as compared to 73% at Manton Heights and 47% at Hartford Park. The four largest high-rises for elderly residents were approximately 3% non-white (Campbell 2007:306–307).

In 1984, in the face of efforts by HUD and other federal agencies to reduce subsidies for public housing, PHA director Eugene Capoccia proposed selling 24 units of housing at Chad Brown to tenants, but this plan was not enacted (Campbell 2007:323). Another round of funding was secured in 1988 to complete the modernization of apartments at Chad Brown (Campbell 2007:363). In the summer of 1989, Chad Brown and Admiral Terrace tenants joined with city officials to celebrate the completion of the \$17 million modernization effort, which resulted in an expanded community center, a police substation, reduced housing density, refurbished apartments, and newly landscaped lawns (Campbell 2007:379). Some of the shared green space initially present at Chad Brown was lost as a result of the redevelopment.

Despite physical improvements to the housing units, Chad Brown and other housing projects in Providence, as elsewhere, continued to have reputations as the locations of numerous types of crime. While some housing areas were known for various drugs such as heroin, marijuana, and crack cocaine, Chad Brown was a frequent final destination for stolen cars (Campbell 2007:394). As recently as 2018, the *Providence Journal* reported on gang activity in the area of Chad Brown, including drive-by shootings and drug trafficking (Mulvaney 2018). The remaining 20 original buildings constructed at Chad Brown remain in use as subsidized housing.

Bibliography:

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Daoust, Norma Lasalle

1993 “Housing the Poor: The Early Years of Public Housing in Providence.” *Rhode Island History* 51, 1 (February 1993):23–32.

Mulvaney, Katie

2018 “Feds charge 6 alleged Chad Brown gang associated with running criminal enterprise.” *Providence Journal*, 29 October 2018.

Woodward, William McKenzie, and Edward Sanderson

1986 *Providence: A Citywide Survey*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY LANDSCAPE DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 1533 Chalkstone Avenue PLAT/LOT 129/1, 231

NAME(s) Triggs Memorial Golf Course

PROPERTY TYPE Site OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Outdoor recreation HISTORIC Outdoor recreation

SITING: HOUSE SETBACK 30 ft LOT SIZE 50 acres sq ft

DATE 1932 DESIGNER Donald Ross



Photo ID PROV_ChalkstoneAve1533_N



Photo ID Google Maps 2019

ALTERATIONS	Structural Components	Vegetative Components	Spatial Organization	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	Mod	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

LANDSCAPE COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Material	Condition	Component Type	Material	Condition
(1) Golf Course (greens, bunkers)	Grass, sand	Good	(4) Tennis Courts and Track	Grass	Poor
(2) Restaurant	Concrete Block	Good	(5) Driving Range	Grass	Good
(3) Clubhouse	Wood frame	Good	(6) Cart Paths	Asphalt	Good

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1932	Website	Donald Ross	Architect
Clubhouse rebuilt	1962	Website	City of Providence	Owner
Course restored	1990s	Website	FCG Associates	Operators

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE May 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Triggs Memorial Golf Course (Triggs) was designed in the early 1930s by famed golf course architect Donald Ross (1872–1948), a Scottish immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1899. Ross designed 397 golf courses in the United States between 1899 and his death in 1948 (Golf Advisor 2019). He was responsible for 11 golf courses in Rhode Island, constructed primarily between 1911 and 1930. Triggs is one of two public courses, and the only municipally owned course, by Ross in the state (Donald Ross Society 2018). The course was constructed in 1932 on a portion of the 140-acre Obadiah Brown farm and is adjacent to Rhode Island College, which also occupies part of the former farm. Triggs is associated with the civil rights movement as a result of efforts to integrate golf in the mid-twentieth century.

In 1961, the Professional Golfers Association of America (PGA) removed its ‘whites only’ clause, thus allowing all players to participate in professional golf tournaments regardless of race (PGA 2019). In April 1962, Providence mayor Walter Reynolds dedicated a new city-owned clubhouse at Triggs, built to replace the clubhouse that had burned down in 1960. In October of that same year, a black golfers’ association, Fairway Opportunity for Racial Equality (FORE), claimed that the 25-year-old Triggs Memorial Golf Club, whose home course was Triggs Memorial Golf Course, prohibited black golfers from joining the club, thus barring them from competing in state golf tournaments (Frusher 1974:58–59; *Newport Daily News* 1963). As the owner of the course, the City of Providence had to sanction all clubs using it as a home course. If Mayor Reynolds allowed the Triggs Memorial Golf Club to continue using Triggs as its home course after being presented with FORE’s evidence, he would be seen as tacitly approving of segregation. He proposed that the club, which included several prominent Providence residents as members, admit a black city employee. When the club refused to acquiesce, the mayor ordered the City Park Commissioner to remove the club from the course (Frusher 1974:59).

In 1963, the Triggs Memorial Golf Club was asked to sponsor the 1964 New England Public Links Association annual tournament. As a sponsor, the club would need a course affiliation, so its members approached Mayor Reynolds and asked him to reconsider his 1962 decision (Frusher 1974:59). The mayor recognized that holding the tournament in Providence would bring tourists and golfers to the city and, thus, boost the short-term economy, while at the same time potentially alienating black residents. He ultimately decided to allow the tournament to be held at the Triggs course without the involvement of the Triggs Memorial Golf Club (Frusher 1974:60).

Also in 1963, Providence attorney Alton W. Wiley (see 111 Westminster Street) represented FORE in requesting that RIGA allow black golfers to participate in a state tournament held at the Agawam Hunt golf course in East Providence. Because the black golfers who applied to compete in the tournament were not members of RIGA-recognized golf clubs, RIGA would not recognize their handicaps (*Newport Daily News* 1963a). FORE members, stating that RIGA was *de facto* segregated, picketed the final round of the tournament (*Newport Daily News* 1963b).

Bibliography:

Donald Ross Society

2018 *Directory of Golf Courses Designed by Donald J. Ross, Golf Course Architect*. Electronic document, https://rossociety.org/resources/Documents/Ross_Course_List_Feb_2018_final_.pdf, accessed May 2019.

Frusher, Richard Albert

1974 “*The Conscience of the City*”: *Providence, Politics, and the Providence Human Relations Commission, 1963–1968*. Ph.D. dissertation, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

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2019 “Donald Ross.” Electronic document, <https://www.golfadvisor.com/architects/874-donald-ross/>, accessed May 2019.

Newport Daily News

1963a “Negro Golf Group May Demonstrate At State Amateur.” 9 July, p. 11.

1963b “Golf Clubs to Talk on Integration.” 15 July, p. 1.

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2019 “Timeline of African-American achievements in golf.” Electronic document, <https://www.pga.com/timeline-african-american-achievements-in-golf>, accessed May 2019.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 75 Chester Avenue PLAT/LOT 45/469

NAME(s) Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 35 ft LOT SIZE 24,829 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) A-frame, Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Brick, concrete block

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Leaded multi-light, stained glass, awning



Photo ID PROV_ChesterAve75_NW



Photo ID PROV_ChesterAve75_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1965	Date Stone		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Twentieth Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The church at 75 Chester Avenue was built in 1965 for the Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church, after the congregation's original church at the corner of Pond and Angel streets in Providence's West End was slated for demolition as part of the Central-Classical Redevelopment Project. It is the only extant building associated with the Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church, which was an active participant in the twentieth-century struggle for African American civil rights, and remains in use by the congregation to the present (SFWBC 2019).

The Pond Street Baptist Church/Second Freewill Baptist Church was organized in 1819 as the African Union Meeting House and School House Society. In 1830, 26 men and 5 women separated from the society and organized the Abyssinian Baptist Church. In 1833, the church became a member of the Free-Will Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and was known as the Abyssinian Free-Will Baptist Church (SFWBC 2019). The congregation met in several halls on Meeting and Chapel streets until 1841, when it built the Pond Street Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Luke Waldron. In 1842, the Rhode Island General Assembly granted the church a charter under the name Second Freewill Baptist Church (SFWBC 2019).

Members of the congregation were involved in the civil rights movement beginning in the early twentieth century. Mary E. Jackson (1867–1923), a founding member of the Providence NAACP established in late 1913, worked as a civil service employee. She examined employment trends during World War I and made recommendations for programs that would encourage fair employment practices for black women (Stokes 2019).

In the late 1930s, Walter Wynn, a recent graduate of Andover-Newton School of Theology (Andover-Newton Seminary), became pastor of the church. Reverend Wynn was one of the founders of the Providence Urban League in 1940 (Bell Jr. 1997:21). Reverend Samuel DeWitt Proctor, pastor from 1945 to 1955, was very involved with the community, especially the younger members, and inspired many high-school dropouts to return to school. In 1955, Dr. Virgil A. Wood became pastor of the church. During his three-year tenure, the church sent money to Montgomery, Alabama, in support of the civil rights movement (Vaughn and Davis 2006:154).

In 1963, the congregation was informed that their property was slated for demolition as part of the Central-Classical Redevelopment project. South Providence was identified as an area in need by the congregation, which subsequently purchased a parcel of land on Chester Avenue, and the new church was dedicated in 1965 (SFWBC 2019). Over the next several years, both the church congregation and the surrounding community adjusted to each other (SFWBC 2019). The church would be led by several pastors who each had short tenures until 1980, when Rev. Dr. Virgil Wood took over leadership of the church.

Rev. Dr. Virgil Wood, who served the congregation as pastor from 1980–2005 was initially active in the civil rights movement in Lynchburg, Virginia, then later at the Blue Hill Christian Center in Roxbury, Massachusetts, from 1963 to 1970. He served on the executive board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and brought Rosa Parks to Rhode Island to speak at area churches and schools in the mid-1980s (Meeks 2007).

Bibliography:

Bell, Andrew J. Jr.

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Meeks, Flori

2007 “Civil rights leader inspires Baptist minister.” *Houston Chronicle*, 6 September.

Second Free-Will Baptist Church (SFWBC)

2019 “The Church History.” Electronic document,
www.sfwbc.org/site/spage.asp?sec_id=18001599&cpage_id=180077575, accessed May 2019.

Stokes, Keith W.

2019 “Rhode Island Women of Color During the Great War.” Electronic document,
smallstatebighistory.com/rhode-island-women-of-color-druing-the-great-war, accessed May 2019.

Vaughn, Wally G., and Mattie Campbell Davis, editors

2006 *The Selma Campaign 1963–1965: The Decisive Battle of the Civil Rights Movement*. The Majority Press Inc., Dover, MA.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 33 Chestnut Street PLAT/LOT 24/607

NAME(s) Daniel Arnold House; Arnold-Palmer House; CURE/CORE Offices

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Indiv

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Professional HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 109,771 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Hip with monitor

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood



Photo ID PROV_ChestnutSt33_E



Photo ID PROV_ChestnutSt33_W

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1826	NR	John Holden Greene	Architect
Moved	1967	NR	Beneficent Congregational Church	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Federal

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The building at 33 Chestnut Street was constructed in 1826 as a residence for Providence merchant Daniel Arnold at 577 Westminister Street, near the intersection with Weybosset Street (now Cathedral Square). When the neighborhood was cleared for the Weybosset Hill urban renewal project in 1967, the Arnold House was purchased by Beneficent Congregational Church and moved to its current location on church property (Renshaw 1972; Woodward and Sanderson 1986:163). The Beneficent Congregational Church (see 300 Weybosset Street) has a long history of advocating for disadvantaged groups and fighting for social justice and was involved with the local nonprofit housing renewal corporation Citizens United Renewal Enterprises (CURE) and the Rhode Island chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The building's connection to the civil rights movement in Rhode Island stems from its use in the late 1960s and early 1970s as offices for both CURE and CORE.

According to a 1969 list of places to contact for urban racial problems, CURE had its offices at 33 Chestnut Street (Warwick School Department 1969:17). The organization was founded in May 1968 by local activists Clifford Monteiro (b. 1938), Andrew Bell Jr. (1907–2000), and others to address housing discrimination problems in Providence in cooperation with neighborhood groups (Conforti 1986:29). CURE worked to provide housing for low- and moderate-income families by renting and selling housing units and overseeing the construction and renovation of properties across Providence (*Newport Daily News* 1974). The organization's board of trustees comprised people from all economic levels including industrialists to low-income individuals on welfare. Its executive committee had authority to work independently, and an advisory committee was funded by the New England Regional Commission (*Newport Daily News* 1969a). At a meeting in Newport in January 1969, CURE executive director Robert Gershkoff gave a talk to the Newport County Council of Community Services, explaining how CURE worked. Gershkoff stated that CURE's mission was to provide professional and financial assistance to individuals, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups to help them take advantage of Federal Housing Authority (FHA) housing and rehabilitation programs. CURE worked outside Providence as well, collaborating with Operation Clapboard in Newport to repair and rent a historic house to three low-income families (*Newport Daily News* 1969b). In the fall of 1969, the Beneficent Congregational Church gave CURE \$50,000 to help low-income families meet housing costs that were not paid for by federal funding or other financial sources. At the time of the gift, Rev. E. King Hempel was a minister at the church and chairman of the board of directors of CURE. Hempel encouraged all local congregations to make donations to help provide housing to low-income families. He stated that CURE was chosen because the organization sought additional funding to augment donations and other income sources to help the largest number of people for the longest possible time (*Newport Daily News* 1969c). CURE existed through September 1976, but it is not known if the offices remained at 33 Chestnut Street through that date (RI Department of State 2019).

The Rhode Island CORE chapter was organized in the early 1960s to assist in the campaign for fair housing legislation at the state level. Reverend Arthur L. Hardge (1927–1983), pastor of the Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church in Providence (see 148 Wadsworth Street), was the organization's first chair; Clifford Monteiro took over that role by March 1965 (Arneson 1965). Hardge was particularly vocal about housing inequality, suggesting in 1964 that Rhode Island mount a new advertising campaign when he stated, "If Rhode Island is content with perpetuating its ghettos and slums and ignoring the needs of its non-white community, it should be proud enough of the situation to exploit it" (quoted in *Newport Daily News* 1964). Volunteers with the CORE chapter, including Brown graduate students, documented cases of racial housing discrimination and minimum housing violations to present to legislators (Silvert 2011; BDH 1965). They also staged sit-ins at the State House during legislative sessions and held rallies to build support for a fair housing law (Antonucci 2012:113–114; Salganik 1965). In March 1965, after the killing of Boston minister Rev. James J. Reeb in Selma, Alabama, a small contingent of Providence CORE members traveled to Newport for Reeb's memorial service (*Newport Daily News* 1965). After the passage of the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act on April 12, 1965, the CORE chapter turned its attention to the issue of fair education, forming coalitions with other civil rights groups

to lobby for school desegregation throughout Providence and the rest of the state (Antonucci 2012:138–9). No documentation of a permanent office location for the Rhode Island CORE chapter has been located, but the group’s small membership likely met at various locations during its early years. After Monteiro established the office for CURE at 33 Chestnut Street, it appears that he also ran the CORE office out of the same location (Stokes 2018).

The Daniel Arnold/Arnold-Palmer House was listed individually in the National Register in 1972. The building is currently listed by the Providence Assessor as a mixed-use commercial building and has been occupied in recent years by professional offices, although it appears to be vacant at present.

Bibliography:

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1965 “Housing Code Inspection: R. I. CORE in Action.” 29 March, p. 1.

Conforti, Joseph

1985 “Irving Fain and the Fair Housing Movement in Rhode Island, 1958–1970.” *Rhode Island History* 45, 1 (1985):23–37.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 59 Chestnut Street PLAT/LOT 24/670

NAME(s) Swedish Workingmen's Association Hall

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Civic/Commercial HISTORIC Civic

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 9147 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Flat with copper dome

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Granite block OTHER _____

WINDOWS 9-light fixed, storefront



Photo ID PROV_ChestnutSt_59_S



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Mod

INTEGRITY _____ Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____ Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1926	Sanborn	Swedish Workingmen's Association	Owner
Addition	2012 ca.		Johnson & Wales	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Classical Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Constructed in 1926 for the Swedish Workingmen's Association of the City of Providence, the building at 59 Chestnut Street (now owned by Johnson & Wales University and named Johnson Hall) was used as a meeting hall in the 1930s and 1940s by various labor organizations, including the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB) Local 308. Founded at the Walsh-Kaiser Shipyard in Providence in September 1942, Local 308 was interracial from the outset, admitting African Americans into the regular union rather than requiring them to join a segregated auxiliary union as all other IBB locals did. The Providence local union members had English, Irish, Italian, French-Canadian, and African origins. Their leaders included Italian-American president, Americo "Joe" Petrini; French-Canadian-American vice president, Caesar Archambault; and Irish-American business agent, John Maguire. In September 1943, the national IBB leaders instructed Petrini to segregate the local union and create an auxiliary, but the local members overwhelmingly voted to remain integrated. IBB officers continued to exert pressure on the Providence union, disqualifying ballots cast by African American members in a December 14, 1943, local leadership election that resulted in Petrini's loss to Archambault, who promised to force African American members into an auxiliary with no voting privileges.

Following the local election, Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993), the future U.S. Supreme Court Justice who at the time was a civil rights lawyer for the NAACP, met in Providence with members of the IBB, the Providence NAACP, the Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC), and other interested parties and agreed to represent African American shipyard workers in a legal challenge to the local union's discriminatory practices. In response to formal complaints filed by the NAACP, the FEPC had ruled on December 9, 1943, that the IBB discontinue "the discriminatory policies and practices found to be in conflict with and in violation of Executive Order 9346," the fair employment executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 27, 1943 (quoted in Marshall 1944). Marshall was also leading a legal team working on a case in California, where Joseph James, a civil rights activist and shipyard worker in San Francisco, had sued the IBB and his employer, the Marinship Corporation, for attempting to dismiss African American workers who refused to join the auxiliary union there. In Providence on December 17, 1943, Judge Charles A. Walsh issued a temporary restraining order against the IBB on behalf of four African American complainants—Gerald R. Hill, Allan Bonay, Carleton H. Blunt, and George Schmoke—to prevent the national union from destroying or manipulating ballots cast in the local union election. At a subsequent IBB Local 308 meeting at the Swedish Workingmen's Association Hall, members voted to affirm a motion put forward by African American member John J. Norton instructing the IBB to count all votes. The IBB remained unmoved, however, and Marshall moved forward with the case of *Gerald R. Hill v. International Brotherhood of Boilermakers et al.*, which called for a permanent injunction against the IBB on the basis that the auxiliary system was illegal by state law, against public policy, and unconstitutional. Providence lawyer and NAACP member Joseph G. LeCount (see 68–76 Dorrance Street) joined Marshall on the local IBB's legal team.

Judge Alexander L. Churchill (1872–1948) presided over the trial that began in Providence in January 1944. On January 13, 1944, Churchill granted a temporary injunction against the IBB, ruling that the local IBB election and "the by-laws and constitution of the so-called 'auxiliary,' in so far as they discriminate between members of the colored race, Negroes, and persons of all other races ... are illegal and void" (quoted in Marshall 1944). A ruling was never issued on the permanent injunction trial in Providence, however. Both sides rested in June 1944, after the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of Joseph James and ordered the IBB to abolish the auxiliary system. With the end of World War II, the Walsh-Kaiser Shipyard closed by October 1945 and the IBB Local 308 dissolved in October 1946. Writing about the Providence case for the NAACP's magazine *The Crisis* in March 1944, Marshall called Churchill's interim decision "epoch-making," as it was the first involving the legal status of auxiliary unions (Marshall 1944).

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 17 Congdon Street PLAT/LOT 10/9

NAME(s) Congdon Street Baptist Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist _____ C _____

NR DISTRICT College Hill National Historic Landmark District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Church HISTORIC Church

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 3,049 sq ft

STORIES 1 to 2 ROOF(s) End-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Clapboard, brick

FOUNDATION Granite block OTHER _____

WINDOWS 9/9, 6/6, 4/4 arched double-hung wood sash; 9/6/3 triple-hung wood sash; leaded stained glass



Photo ID PROV_CongdonSt17_NE

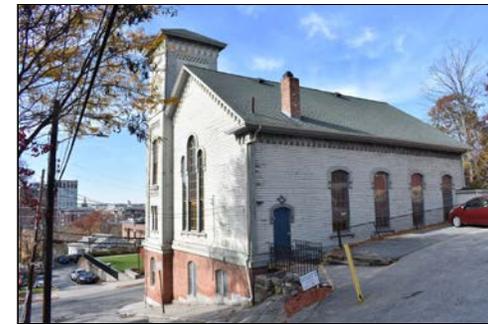


Photo ID PROV_CongdonSt17_NW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1874-1875	NR	Charles F. Wilcox	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Romanesque

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Congdon Street Baptist Church, which grew out of the African Union Meeting in Providence, was built in 1874–1875 based on plans by Providence architect Charles F. Wilcox (1845–1905). The church is the oldest and most significant surviving post-Civil War-era African American institution on College Hill, and the congregation is the oldest black congregation in Rhode Island.

The Congdon Street Baptist Church began with the establishment of the African Union Meeting and Schoolhouse followed by the organization of the church proper in 1819. It initially included several Baptist groups (the AME, AME Zion, Free Will Baptist, Missionary Baptist, and Calvinists), but by 1840 all but the Calvinists had splintered off into their own denominations. The original church building on Meeting Street was torn down by hostile white neighbors in 1863–1870. In 1871, the church exchanged parcels of land with George Hale, whose property bordered the original church parcel, and constructed the extant building on Congdon Street (Congdon Street Baptist Church 2018).

Reverend John L. Davis, pastor of the Congdon Street Baptist Church, and Reverend Byron Gunner, pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Newport, headed one of the first local branches of the Niagara Movement, formed in 1905 in Providence (Bartlett 1954:65). The Niagara Movement (1905–1909) was a civil rights group organized by William Monroe Trotter and W.E.B. DuBois primarily in response to their being denied admittance to hotels in Buffalo, New York. The organization takes its name from its initial meeting place at Niagara Falls in Ontario, Canada. Considered the precursor to the NAACP, the Niagara Movement unequivocally demanded equal rights for blacks, including economic and educational opportunities and enfranchisement for black men and women (Black Past 2019).

Members of the Congdon Street Baptist Church, like those of many churches of all denominations in the 1950s and 1960s, participated in Civil Rights marches in Providence and with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the South. In 1966, the church began an outreach program to African American students at nearby Brown University and Pembroke College to create a safe space for them in the neighborhood.

On December 5, 1968, 62 African American students from Brown and Pembroke staged a walkout, marching down College Hill to the Congdon Street Baptist Church, where they were fed and housed by the congregation for three days. The walkout was in response to the lack of action on the part of Brown leadership regarding requests made by the student Afro-American Society in early 1968 and echoed in November by Pembroke students, asking for changes in staffing, curriculum, and student body composition to more accurately reflect African American history and presence. Specifically, the society requested the creation of an African American studies major, an African American admissions officer for Pembroke College, and representation of African American students and faculty at Brown equal to the percentage of African Americans in the United States population, which at that time was 11%. Other requests included the waiving of admissions fees for African American students, more scholarship money, financial compensation for African American students who helped recruit other African American students, and no required admissions interview for African American students unless there were serious concerns about that student's qualifications. Additional Pembroke-specific demands included the establishment of a transitional year/Upward Bound program, a booklet about Pembroke life and a set of lecture slides created by African American students, and the review of late applications until the 11% quota was reached.

The students remained at the Congdon Street church while they waited for Brown president Ray L. Heffner to respond to their demands. On December 6, white students at Brown expressed their support for the walkout, suggesting that the situation be discussed in all classes and that a walkout be staged if discussions were not held between the African American students and Brown leadership. Heffner's proposal, which the students ultimately accepted, promised to solicit applicants from all socio-economic levels and to significantly increase African

American enrollment through active recruitment policies. On December 7, the Pembroke students returned to campus after their demand for an 11% quota was met. On the evening of December 8, the Brown students returned to campus, cautiously satisfied that university leadership had agreed to their demands. Members of the Congdon Street Baptist Church remained connected to the Brown and Pembroke students after the walkout, opening their homes to students from both campuses.

On December 5, 2018, the 50th anniversary of the 1968 walkout, black students at Brown University again staged a walkout and march to the Congdon Street Baptist Church. Students in 2018 were protesting many of the same issues as those in 1968, including lagging black enrollment numbers. Once again, they requested that the minimum enrollment of black students proportionally match the black population of the country, with an emphasis on admitting descendants of slaves and students from Providence. The 2018 demands also included a commitment to increased transparency, the disarming of campus police, and the creation of a student- and alumni-led Diversity and Inclusion Accountability Caucus (List 2018).

The Congdon Street Baptist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 as a contributing building in the College Hill National Historic Landmark District.

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1968a “Quota is Established: Brown Accedes to Negroes.” 6 December, p. 12.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 160 Cranston Street PLAT/LOT 30/60

NAME(s) St. Martin de Porres Center

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Civic HISTORIC Civic

SITING: SETBACK 40 ft LOT SIZE 33,541 sq ft

STORIES 1 to 2 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Casement



Photo ID PROV_CranstonSt160_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	ca.1965	Maps	Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Twentieth Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The building at 160 Cranston Street was constructed ca. 1965 to house the St. Martin de Porres Center, a community service organization established in 1954 by Father Anthony I. Robinson (1918–1987), an assistant pastor at the predominantly black Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in the West End of Providence (Diocese of Providence 2015:25). The center, named for the first black person canonized by the Catholic Church, was initially located at 135 Cranston Street, which was demolished as part of the Central-Classical Redevelopment Plan (Polk 1964; Bell Jr. 1997:46). Father Robinson worked primarily with the poor and needy and was known for giving the coat off his back, even in the depths of winter, to someone he felt needed it more than he did (Bell Jr. 1997:45–46; Assumption BVM 2017). The St. Martin de Porres Center catered to the needs of the poor in Providence, who were disproportionately black.

Father Anthony Ignatius Robinson was born in Fermanagh, Ireland, on February 6, 1918. He immigrated to the United States in 1923 with his older brother and two sisters, joining their parents and four other siblings. His father ran a variety store, and the family lived at 114 Garfield Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island (U.S. Census 1930). He attended seminary at the Sulpician Seminary on Michigan Avenue in Washington, D.C., now the Theological College at the Catholic University of America (Ancestry.com 2011).

Father Robinson was appointed by Bishop Russell J. McVinney to be the moderator of the Providence branch of the Catholic Interracial Council in 1951, prior to which he had headed an apostolate that served the needs of the city's blacks. Bishop McVinney supported the founding of the St. Martin de Porres Center in 1954 as the focal point of Father Robinson's work (Diocese of Providence 2015:25). One main project undertaken by the Catholic Interracial Council at the St. Martin de Porres Center was assisting black families to find housing. The council met at the center on Saturdays and worked on tasks such as compiling federal housing information to be distributed to soon-to-be displaced residents and calling to inquire about housing availabilities listed in newspapers (Diocese of Providence 1959:25–26).

In 1965, in response to the slated demolition of the original St. Martin de Porres Center, Bishop McVinney provided funding for the construction of the current building (Diocese of Providence 2015:25). In 1971, the Golden Age Club, a senior services program started at the John Hope Settlement House, relocated to the St. Martin de Porres Center (Bell Jr. 1997:47). Today, the St. Martin de Porres Center is one of the oldest senior centers in Rhode Island and the first in New England to serve a primarily minority population (Clem 2019). It provides hot lunches on weekdays and provides assistance with home health care, Social Security, Medicaid, food stamps, subsidized housing, and other services (Diocese of Providence 2019).

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 316 Cranston Street PLAT/LOT 31/49

NAME(s) Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOOF) Hall

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Specialty store, multiple dwelling HISTORIC Business, meeting hall, multiple dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 9,583 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER Wood trim

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash, plate-glass metal-framed storefront



Photo ID PROV_CranstonSt316_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	ca. 1937	Maps	Independent Order of Odd Fellows	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Classical Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE May 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The mixed-use commercial and residential building at 316 Cranston Street was home to six Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOOF) lodges by the mid-1930s. The GUOOF were similar to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF or Odd Fellows) but has ties to a different organization in England and began in the United States in 1843 with the Philomathean Lodge No. 646 in New York City (GUOA 2019; Skocpol et al. 2006:35–36). The IOOF lodges were segregated, with a whites-only clause in their bylaws until 1971. Unlike the IOOF, the GUOOF admitted both blacks and whites, although it was a predominantly black order (GUOA 2019).

Prior to 1937, each of the black lodges in Providence met at 165 Canal Street or 98 Weybosset Street (neither remain extant) (Bayles 1891:667–669). In 1937, all six black lodges in the city met at 316 Cranston Street, which is the only extant building associated with the GUOOF lodges (Sampson & Murdock Co. 1937). In 1940, four black lodges met there (Polk 1940). By 1943, two lodges (one for men and one for women) were listed at this address, and by 1945 no lodges were listed in city directories (Polk 1943, 1945). The dwindling and disappearance of the GUOOF in Providence in the post-Depression years was not unusual, as many black fraternal societies experienced significant membership declines from the mid-1920s through the aftermath of the Great Depression (Fahey 2001:252–253).

The GUOOF lodges in Providence participated in the twentieth-century civil rights movement by organizing community meetings and providing social insurance benefits (Skocpol et al. 2006:35–37). In January 1914, they hosted the first meeting of the recently formed Providence NAACP. Accounts indicate that only 23 people attended the meeting because of frigid temperatures and gale force winds, and only the president, Dr. Julius J. Robinson, was elected. The following week, Robinson was confirmed as president and the rest of the officers were elected at a meeting in the basement hall of the Winter Street AME Zion Church (not extant) (Hooks 2013:10–11).

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 475 Cranston Street PLAT/LOT 36/97

NAME(s) Cranston Street Baptist Church/Ebenezer Baptist Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Broadway-Armory Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 20,473 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Granite ashlar, brownstone, brick

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Stained glass, 1/1 double-hung vinyl replacement sash



Photo ID PROV_CranstonSt475_W



Photo ID PROV_CranstonSt475_NW

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Church	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Parish House	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1893	NR	Jennings, Arthur Bates	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Richardsonian Romanesque

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The church at 475 Cranston Street was constructed in 1893 for the Cranston Street Baptist Church, organized in 1869, to replace an earlier church on the same site. Retired missionary Reverend Moses H. Bixby had established a church in this location because it was, in his opinion, “destitute of religious privileges” (quoted in Woodward and Sanderson 1986:168). In 1969, the church became the home of its current occupant, the Ebenezer Baptist Church, which had organized in 1880 as a spinoff of the Congdon Street Baptist Church (CSBC 2019). The Cranston Street church is the only extant building associated with the Ebenezer Baptist Church, which was an active participant in the twentieth-century struggle for African American civil rights. The congregation’s primary connections to the civil rights movement are through Reverend Jacob H. Wiley (1878–1926), pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church by 1909, and the formation of the Providence chapter of the NAACP in 1913.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church congregation originally met in a small building on A Street, then in a church at 135 Dodge Street (not extant, replaced with the Bannister Center in 1974). The original location of the Ebenezer Baptist Church on A Street was in a predominantly black neighborhood, largely occupied by Southern blacks who had migrated north in search of jobs and educational opportunities (Hooks 2013:3).

In 1896, Reverend Wiley, a native of Henderson, North Carolina, chaired a meeting at 14 Kendall Street in Boston that was held under the auspices of the Independent Club of Colored Voters of Ward 18. The club was organized by black voters who left the Republican party because they believed that the party was treating blacks poorly. Reverend Wiley, referred to as the “original colored ‘silver’ clergyman in New England” in a *Boston Daily Globe* article covering the meeting, stated, “We mean to advance: we mean to go up higher, and to reach that point we are going to push aside all obstacles. We are going to stand in our places in this great battle of the working classes for the right” (quoted in *Boston Daily Globe* 1896). From 1905 to ca. 1909, Reverend Wiley led the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Newport, Rhode Island. In 1912, he traveled to Chicago to attend the Republican National Convention, to “look after some planks in the platform in the interest of the Race” (*Pittsburgh Courier* 1912). Wiley and his companion, Reverend Elbert W. Moore of the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, believed it was necessary for the press and the clergy to work together to uplift blacks (*Pittsburgh Courier* 1912).

Under Reverend Wiley’s leadership, the Ebenezer Baptist Church on A Street was a primary meeting location for the organizers of the Providence NAACP (Hooks 2013:7). On August 6, 1913, a group of black Providence residents met at the church to discuss recent race-related disturbances in the state, including a riot and attempted lynching in Newport earlier in the summer. Following a lengthy discussion, the attendees agreed to “start a statewide movement to fight any discrimination on purely racial grounds against citizens in public places of amusement, entertainment, restaurants, theatres, and by public utilities” (quoted in Hooks 2013:8). At the meeting, Reverend Wiley was appointed to a committee of eight men tasked with investigating ways to fight discrimination, including a potential constitutional provision. After speaking to national NAACP leaders, the committee invited the president of the New York NAACP branch to speak to a mass community meeting held on November 5, 1913, at Beneficent Church in Providence. Reverend Wiley was among those who met in January 1914 at the Winter Street A.M.E. Zion Church (not extant) to organize a Providence NAACP chapter and elect the first slate of officers (Hooks 2013:8–9).

By the mid-twentieth century, the Ebenezer Baptist Church congregation was one of the largest black congregations in Providence (Bell Jr. 1997:22–23). In 1971, Sallye Davis spoke at the church to raise funds for the legal defense of her daughter, the noted political activist Angela Davis (b. 1944). Mrs. Davis said, “If Angela gets out [of jail] tomorrow, I would carry on the fight. We can’t be content until all of us are free” (quoted in Polites 2019).

The Ebenezer Baptist Church was listed in the National Register as part of the Broadway-Armory Historic District in 1974.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 25 Dorrance Street PLAT/LOT 20/38

NAME(s) Providence City Hall

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS NR Indiv Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT City Hall HISTORIC City Hall

SITING: SETBACK 40 ft LOT SIZE 32,234 sq ft

STORIES 5 ROOF(s) Mansard

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Granite

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS _____



Photo ID PROV_DorranceSt25_SW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) City Hall	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1874-1878	NR	Samuel F. J. Thayer	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Second Empire

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Providence City Hall was built between 1874 and 1878 to house the municipal offices for Providence and continues in that use today. Boston architect Samuel F. J. Thayer designed the building to resemble the 1866 Boston City Hall (Hauck and Harrington 1971; Woodward 1983).

The building's primary association with the twentieth-century civil rights movement comes from its location at various times for the offices of the Providence Human Relations Commission (PHRC), established by the City Council in 1963 to promote interracial relations. Providence was one of over 100 municipalities that formed such a commission following President John F. Kennedy's June 9, 1963, address to the U. S. Conference of Mayors in Honolulu, Hawaii. Within the context of several mass demonstrations that had occurred across the country that year (most notably, the violent one in Birmingham, Alabama), Kennedy proposed several ideas for community leaders to improve race relations in their cities, including the establishment of a biracial committee that would identify and ease local tensions. Providence Mayor Walter Reynolds created the PHRC later that month, and the City Council passed an ordinance establishing the PHRC as an agency of the city government on September 24, 1963. Former Governor Dennis J. Roberts headed the 13-member commission, appointed by the mayor and composed of representatives from the city's religious, racial, and ethnic groups. The PHRC was tasked with meeting monthly to "foster mutual understanding and respect" among these groups (Frusher 1974:53–55, 57, 66).

The commission's first executive director, James R. Warrick, a black retired lieutenant colonel who worked with the Urban League, started in November 1963 (*Providence Journal* 1963a). In 1964, the PHRC office was listed at 87 Weybosset Street (the Swarts Building, not extant). Sometime later, possibly in the 1980s or 1990s, the office had moved to 151 Weybosset Street (not extant). The commission has been at Providence City Hall since at least 2015 and has held public hearings there since its creation. Warrick left in 1965 for a position with the national office of the Urban League. His successors included Reverend Herbert O. Edwards, a Baptist minister from Maryland who held the position from 1966 to 1967, and Charles H. Durant, director of the Stamford (CT) Human Rights Commission and later assistant superintendent in the Providence school system, who headed the PHRC from 1968 to 1969 (Frusher 1974).

The PHRC became involved with nearly every facet of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The commission conducted public hearings at Providence City Hall on issues such as inadequate enforcement of the city's minimum housing code and allegations of discrimination by the Providence Housing Authority (*Providence Journal* 1963b; Frusher 1974:117). Members met with Governor John Chafee's Task Force on Civil Rights in July 1964 to develop an equal employment opportunity program in the state (Frusher 1974:92). In 1966–1967, the PHRC met weekly with Mayor Doorley to discuss desegregation in the city's public schools (Antonucci 2012:148). In 1969, the commission was called in to investigate several instances of racial violence, including riots at Hope High School in the spring and an October 10, 1969, riot outside the Rhode Island Auditorium on North Main Street (not extant) after a Sly & the Family Stone concert (Antonucci 2012:133). The PHRC also looked into complaints related to discriminatory police procedures.

In 1979, the City of Providence passed a comprehensive anti-discrimination ordinance on January 22 that gave the PHRC more enforcement powers. The commission's executive director at the time, Ray Rickman, described the ordinance as "one of the toughest in America" (Rickman 1979). Since then, the PHRC's mandate has expanded to "ensure equal opportunities for all Providence residents in housing, education, employment, credit, and public accommodations by combating discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, age, or country of ancestral origin" (PHRC 2019).

The Providence City Hall was listed individually in the National Register in 1975 and is a contributing resource in the Downtown Providence Historic District listed in 1983.

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Hauck, Alice H. R., and Richard B. Harrington

1971 *National Register Nomination – Providence City Hall*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 75000001.

Providence Human Relations Commission

2019 Website, <http://www.providenceri.gov/hr-commission/>, accessed April 2019.

Providence Journal

1963a “Director Suggests Guideline for Human Relations Unit.” 26 October, p. 19.

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Rickman, Ray

1979 “Promising new chapter in anti-discrimination.” *Providence Journal*, 30 August, p. 27.

Woodward, William McKenzie

1983 *National Register Nomination – Downtown Providence Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 84001967.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 68-76 Dorrance Street PLAT/LOT 20/136

NAME(s) Case-Mead Building/Joseph G. LeCount Law Office

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Mixed HISTORIC Mixed

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 5,227 sq ft

STORIES 5 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Stucco

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Casement, 1/1double-hung metal sash



Photo ID PROV_DorranceSt_68-76_N



Photo ID PROV_DorranceSt_68-76_E

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	Min	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1859	NR		
Building remodeled	1906	NR		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Italianate

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Case-Mead Building was originally constructed as a four-story building in 1859. The fourth floor was initially occupied by an infantry hall, and in the late nineteenth century the building hosted an infamous Turkish Parlor. In 1906, the building was completely renovated and a fifth floor was added, which resulted in the current unusual fenestration pattern. The first story is currently occupied by stores and restaurants, and the upper stories were converted from offices into microloft, studio, and one-bedroom apartments (Paolino 2019; Woodward 1983).

The Case-Mead Building's association with the civil rights movement stems from the occupation of an office at 76 Dorrance Street by lawyer Joseph G. "J. G." LeCount (1887–1981) from 1950 to 1969. LeCount was born in Washington, D.C., and came to East Providence, Rhode Island, to live with relatives when he was two years old. His family later moved to the racially mixed West Elmwood section of Providence. As a high school student, he was one of the founders of the Marathon Club, an organization that sponsored athletic teams and later took up complex social and political issues to prove that black youth had ambition, could be respectable, and were involved in civic issues. The Marathon Club supported the activities of the NAACP, secured a pardon for a black man, and worked to reinstitute an all-black militia company in Rhode Island (LeCount 1976). Upon earning his law degree at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C., LeCount returned to Providence where he became further involved in civil rights (Bell Jr. 1997:106–107). In 1914, LeCount and his new wife settled in an East Side neighborhood referred to as Sugar Hill, in reference to an upscale black neighborhood in Harlem, New York. He was an active member of the Providence NAACP branch, serving as its president from 1935 to 1939, then as the chairman of the organization's legal redress committee (Bell Jr. 1997:107).

In the 1940s, LeCount worked with Thurgood Marshall, a member of the NAACP National Legal Defense Team, in the prosecution of a discrimination case involving members of the Providence International Brotherhood of Boilermakers working at the Walsh-Kaiser Shipyard who were being forced into a segregated auxiliary union (see 59 Chestnut Street) (APA 1981:26). In 1949, the NAACP assigned LeCount, along with J. Clifford Clarkson of Springfield, Massachusetts, to assist in the defense of Ralph Jennings, a black man from Rochester, New Hampshire, who was accused of murdering a white children's nurse from Newark, New Jersey (*Portsmouth Herald* 1949). LeCount later became an expert in family law and laws relating to the rights of children (APA 1981:26).

LeCount was initially opposed to the establishment of the Urban League in Providence, believing that the NAACP could accomplish everything the Urban League was trying to do (Bell Jr. 1997:107). Despite this, he was a member of the Urban League from its founding, although he was not very active within the organization (LeCount 1976). He later changed his stance and led the Providence NAACP in working with the local branch of the Urban League to address issues in the black community. He also enjoined the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut NAACP branches to band together and became the first president of the New England Regional Conference of the NAACP (APA 1981:26). In 1963, LeCount became the legal adviser to the statewide NAACP Housing Committee, which worked toward the passage of a fair housing bill in Rhode Island (*Newport Daily News* 1963). LeCount was elected Grand Master Mason in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Rhode Island and belonged to other fraternal organizations (Bell Jr. 1997:109). In the early 1980s, the Rhode Island Bar Association gave him a special award in recognition of 63 years as a practicing attorney and the University of Rhode Island awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws (APA 1981:26). In 1989, the Providence NAACP created the Joseph G. LeCount Award for community service and leadership and gave it to social worker Cleophas N. Clark, the former program director of the John Hope Settlement House (see 7 Thomas P. Whitten Way) (*Boston Globe* 1989).

The Case-Mead Building was listed in the National Register as part of the Downtown Providence Historic District in 1983.

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1997 *An Assessment of Life in Rhode Island as an African American in the Era from 1918 to 1993*. Vantage Press, New York, NY.

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LeCount, Joseph

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Newport Daily News

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Paolino Properties

2019 "76 Dorrance Street." Electronic document, <https://paolinoproperties.com/properties/76-dorrance-street/>, accessed April 2019.

Portsmouth Herald

1949 "Trooper Denies Beating Jennings With Blackjack." 23 June, p. 1.

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1983 *National Register Nomination – Downtown Providence Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 84001967.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 51-55 Eddy Street PLAT/LOT 20/37

NAME(s) Aldrich Estate Building/RI ACLU Office

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Commercial HISTORIC Commercial

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 3,920 sq ft

STORIES 6 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Brick, cast-iron

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER Wrought-iron fire escapes

WINDOWS 1/1 and plate-glass wood sash



Photo ID PROV_EddySt51-55_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Commercial block	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1908	NR	Anson N. Aldrich Estate	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Commercial Italianate

SURVEYOR PAL DATE May 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The commercial building at 51–55 Eddy Street was constructed in 1908 by the estate of Anson N. Aldrich and replaced a hotel on the site (Woodward 1983). The building is currently occupied by a nonprofit organization that provides home rehabilitation services to veterans. It is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the location of the first permanent office of the Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which was located at 55 Eddy Street from September 1973 to March 1979 (Stanzler 1998:134).

The national ACLU was founded in 1920, and the current Rhode Island affiliate was organized in 1959. Several earlier local affiliates existed in the 1920s and 1930s but were largely inactive. In the 1940s and 1950s, local ACLU members served as state correspondents to the national organization. In 1950, the national ACLU requested that the *Providence Journal* conduct a survey on civil liberties in Providence, which concluded that the city was “on dangerous ground” in the areas of censorship and racial discrimination (quoted in Stanzler 1998:8). James N. Rhea, an African American reporter for the newspaper, described in detail the difficulties blacks faced in securing decent employment and housing. Local ACLU members, including Providence Urban League director James N. Williams, fair housing advocate Irving J. Fain, and attorney Milton Stanzler met at the Brown University Faculty Club to formally organize a Rhode Island affiliate (Stanzler 1998:7–10, 17).

The Rhode Island ACLU backed the campaign to pass comprehensive fair housing legislation in the General Assembly, which finally succeeded in 1965. Board members Irving Fain and Richard Zacks worked on writing the version of the law that was signed by Governor John Chafee on April 12 (Stanzler 1998:65). Other local ACLU members involved with the effort included James Williams, George Lima, and Reverend Arthur Hardge. The group also supported amendments that strengthened the enforcement of the legislation in 1968. In 1965, Rhode Island ACLU member Malcolm Farmer III (b. ca. 1940) joined a group of almost 200 volunteer lawyers who traveled south to provide blacks with legal counsel. Farmer worked in Jackson, Mississippi, for almost two years and reported back to the Rhode Island affiliate on his experiences (Stanzler 1998:67). In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Rhode Island ACLU was involved in cooperative efforts to desegregate Providence’s public schools (Stanzler 1998:25).

From its founding in 1959 until 1965, the Rhode Island ACLU affiliate operated on a shoestring budget with no staff or office. With increasing activity, the group’s membership grew from about 150–175 to a peak of about 1,700 in 1974. In 1965, it hired Natalie Robinson as a part-time executive secretary, who worked out of her house. The first full-time executive director, Jacqueline Awerman, started in early 1972, and the following year the organization opened its first “real office” at 55 Eddy Street, where it operated until the spring of 1979. It moved offices within downtown Providence several times over the subsequent years and is now located at 128 Dorrance Street. The current executive director, Steven Brown, started in that position in 1980 (Stanzler 1998:131–135).

The Aldrich Estate Building was listed in the National Register as part of the Downtown Providence Historic District in 1983.

Bibliography:

Stanzler, Milton

1998 *Eternally Vigilant: The Rhode Island ACLU Story*. Professional Press, Providence, RI.

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1983 *National Register Nomination – Downtown Providence Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 84001967.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 324 Hope Street PLAT/LOT 9/215

NAME(s) Hope High School

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Loc

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT School HISTORIC School

SITING: SETBACK 80 ft LOT SIZE 806,296 sq ft

STORIES 4 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Brick, limestone

FOUNDATION Limestone OTHER Wood and clapboard cupolas

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung aluminum sash



Photo ID PROV_HopeSt324_SW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent X Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) High School	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Fieldhouse	B-NC	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1938	NR	Providence School Department Office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings	Owner Architect
Fieldhouse built	1999	Assessor		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Georgian Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Hope High School was built by the Providence School Department in 1938 on the filled-in site of the Hope Reservoir as a replacement for an earlier high school at 331 Hope Street (not extant). The building remains in use as a public high school. The high school's civil rights movement associations relate to the desegregation of public schools in Providence in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The Providence School Department adopted a citywide desegregation plan in April 1967, making it “among the first in the Northeast” to do so (Holden 1974:190–191; Boardman 1971). The process had begun in the early 1960s with planning for the construction of the Lippitt Hill Elementary School (later renamed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School) at 35 Camp Street, which opened in the fall of 1967. It continued in phases over the next four years, with the last phase—focused on the four senior high schools: Mount Pleasant, Classical, Hope, and Central—began in September 1971 (Holden 1974:259). Integration in Providence was relatively smooth compared to the violent responses to school desegregation in Boston that made national news. Even so, black and white parents mounted opposition to various aspects of the plan and racial disturbances occurred at several schools throughout its implementation.

Desegregation of the elementary schools that fed into Hope High School resulted in an increase in the high school's black student population to 22% by the middle of the spring of 1969, when about 150 of those black students staged a walkout over demands for curriculum changes and the removal of teachers and administrators they viewed as racist. Dissatisfaction with the administration's response led students to riot on May 13, and the faculty subsequently refused to come to work for four days. The school finally reopened on May 19, but the student allegations of racism remained an open issue. Black students at Nathanael Greene, Nathan Bishop, and Roger Williams junior high schools made similar demands. In response, the school department added courses in African American history to the curriculums at several junior high and high schools for the fall of 1969 and planned human relations workshops for faculty and administrators (Holden 1974:244–247, 262; Antonucci 2012:161).

Additional problems occurred at Hope High School in the fall of 1972, after the integration plan was put in place at the school, and the US Department of Justice was called in to investigate (US Commission on Civil Rights 1977:18). The consensus by the late 1970s was that school desegregation in Providence had resulted in many improvements but problems still existed. Issues of concern included underrepresentation of minority teachers in the school system; a tendency toward resegregation, or racial isolation, within the classrooms; difficulties in maintaining the mandated racial balance as populations and enrollments shifted; and a disproportionate number of black students bused to schools outside their neighborhoods (US Commission on Civil Rights 1977:20–24). Many of these issues remain relevant today at Hope High School, which has a current enrollment of approximately 1,000 students and is over 90% non-white. The largest group represented at the school is Hispanic at 67%, with blacks comprising about 18% of the student population (RIDE 2019).

Hope High School was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill National Historic Landmark District in 1970.

Bibliography:

Antonucci, Carl

2012 *Machine Politics and Urban Renewal in Providence, Rhode Island: The Era of Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., 1965–74*. Ph.D. dissertation, Providence College, Providence, RI.

Holden, Anna

1974 *The Bus Stops Here: A Study of School Desegregation in Three Cities*. Agathon Press, Inc., New York.

Sanderson, Edward F. and Keith N. Morgan

1976 *National Register Nomination – College Hill Historic District*. On file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence.

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)

2019 “October Enrollment Report, 2018–2019 School Year.” Electronic document, <http://www.eride.ri.gov/reports/reports.asp>, accessed April 2019.

US Commission on Civil Rights

1977 *School Desegregation in Providence, Rhode Island*. US Commission on Civil Rights, Washington, DC.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 86 John Street PLAT/LOT 17/5

NAME(s) Franklin White/Horace and Naomi Craig House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR NHL Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single dwelling HISTORIC Single dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 1,742 sq ft

STORIES 1½ ROOF(s) Side-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Wood shingle

FOUNDATION Parged OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/1 double-hung wood sash, 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash



Photo ID PROV_JohnSt86_NE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Mod	Min	None	Min
Configuration	Mod	Min	None	Mod

INTEGRITY Excellent Good X Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1845	NR	Franklin White	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE May 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 86 John Street was constructed in 1845 for carriagemaker Franklin White. It is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the residence of black civil rights activists Horace and Eleanor Naomi Craig from at least 1956 through the end of their lives. The Providence Assessors database indicates that the house remains in the Craig family.

Horace Craig (1921–2010) was the son of Roscoe J. and Edith Craig, who lived at 15 Dove Street in Providence (U.S. Census 1930). Horace served in World War II, during which time he met and married Eleanor Naomi Jennings (1917–2012). Jennings, who went by Naomi and worked as a social services counselor, was the daughter of John and Lucy Jennings, both of whom moved north from Virginia and lived at 142 Wadsworth Street in Providence in 1930 (U.S. Census 1930). Horace and Naomi resided with Horace's parents at 15 Dove Street in 1948, when he became one of the first black police officers on the Providence Police Department force (*Providence Journal* 2010).

By 1956, the couple lived at 86 John Street. After her marriage, Naomi worked as a senior clerk for the Rhode Island tax division. Horace was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the detective division in 1960 and became a lieutenant in 1969 (Bell Jr. 1997:67–68). The couple became active in the civil rights movement. Both Horace and Naomi were members of the Urban League and traveled to Washington, D.C., in 1963 for the March for Jobs and Freedom (RI General Assembly 2012). The Craigs were also active in the NAACP, and Horace was involved with the Rhode Island Cape Verdean Association (*Providence Journal* 2010).

Horace retired from the Providence Police Department as a Detective Lieutenant in 1970 and worked for Brown University as its Director of Rental Facilities until 1985 (*Providence Journal* 2010). After her retirement from the state, Naomi earned degrees from Roger Williams College, Barrington College, and Rhode Island College. In 1995, at age 78, she was ordained as a Baptist minister and became pastor of the Sheldon Street Church in Fox Point (RI General Assembly 2012).

The Franklin White House was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill Historic District in 1976 (updated 2018).

Bibliography:

Bell, Andrew J. Jr.

1997 *An Assessment of Life in Rhode Island as an African American in the Era From 1918 to 1993*. Vantage Press, New York.

Providence Journal

2010 "Horace Craig." 8 July.

Rhode Island General Assembly (RI General Assembly)

2012 "House Resolution Expressing Sincere Condolences on the Passing of the Reverend Naomi Jennings Craig." Electronic document, <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText12/HouseText12/H7476.pdf>, accessed May 2019.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1930 *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930* (T626, 2,667 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 400 Laurel Avenue PLAT/LOT 40/328

NAME(s) Irving J. Fain House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single dwelling HISTORIC Single dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 27,878 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel/Rolled Rubber WALL Vertical board

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Glass block, metal-framed fixed sash



Photo ID PROV_LaurelAve400_NE

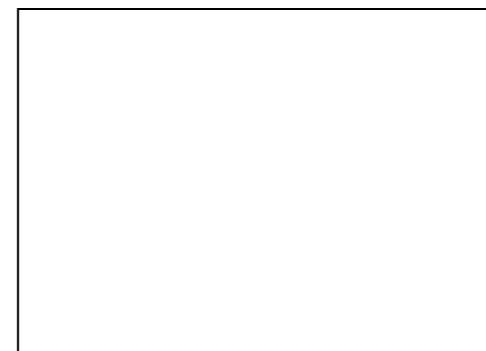


Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1955	Maps	Irving J. Fain	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE May 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 400 Laurel Avenue was built ca. 1955 for Providence businessman Irving J. Fain (1906–1970), a prominent white civil rights activist and philanthropist who lived at the property until his death. Born in Providence to Jewish immigrants, Fain graduated from Harvard University in 1927 and started working with his brother-in-law, who had started a tire retreading shop in downtown Providence in 1924. The family-owned company grew into the Apex Tire and Rubber Company and operated department stores in Pawtucket and Warwick, Rhode Island. Fain also became involved with successful industrial enterprises in Seekonk and Attleboro, Massachusetts. After serving overseas in World War II, he returned to Providence and focused his resources on social activism in a variety of areas. He served as president of the Temple Beth-El congregation and the Urban League of Rhode Island (*New York Times* 1970).

Fain's most significant contributions to the civil rights movement in Rhode Island were related to fair housing. In 1958, he organized Citizens United for a Fair Housing Law (Citizens United) to campaign for comprehensive legislation that would prohibit discrimination in private and public housing (*Providence Journal* 1958). He recruited a diverse membership for the group that included leaders from the state's Democratic and Republican parties, Catholic dioceses, Temple Beth-El, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, the AFL-CIO, and major businesses like the Industrial National Bank and Gilbane Building Company (RIBHS 2018:15). The organization proposed a bipartisan bill to the General Assembly in 1959, but a strong opposition group rallied over 500 people in March to protest it at the State House, and an amended version died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Critics of a fair housing law claimed it "would infringe on private property rights, legislate social progress, lower property values, and increase racial tension in the state" (quoted in RIBHS 2018:15). Citizens United regrouped and finally succeeded in getting the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act passed on April 12, 1965 (Conforti 1986:28; Antonucci 2012:107, 114, 117).

While leading the fair housing fight before the state government, Fain also tackled the problem of residential segregation in other ways. As a member of the board of directors of Planned Communities Inc., a national umbrella organization based in New York City that promoted interracial housing, he was exposed to various ideas for implementing integrated housing (Conforti 1986:30). In 1962, the Providence Redevelopment Authority (PRA) approved a development proposal submitted by Fain and a group of other investors for a racially and economically integrated "superblock" development to replace buildings cleared in the Lippitt Hill urban renewal area. Called University Heights (see 99 Roger Williams Green), the development included a shopping center and garden apartment complex. Fain intended the project to demonstrate "to Providence and America that people of many backgrounds can live together" (quoted in Conforti 1986:31). Built between 1964 and 1968, University Heights succeeded in its original intent to some degree, with the first tenants representing a cross-section of occupations and including 13% blacks compared to the city's overall 8% black population. However, limited federal financing for the project forced rents to be higher than initially hoped, and many former residents of the neighborhood could not afford to move into the new apartments (Conforti 1986:31; Ionata and Bailey 1973:9).

In addition to University Heights, Fain explored various other solutions for the complex issues related to desegregation of the city's neighborhoods. In August 1964, he invested in the Micah Corporation, a local private nonprofit led by several members of Rhode Island's Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights. The corporation bought and renovated 16 houses in racially mixed neighborhoods, primarily in South Providence (Gibson 1992:100–104). In 1965, Fain started the Hepzibah Realty Company as another experiment in fair housing based on "affirmative integration." Hepzibah purchased and rehabilitated multi-family housing in stable white neighborhoods in and around Providence but reserved one apartment in each building for a black family. By mid-1968, 95 white families and 35 black families occupied the company's 50 houses, including one on Grotto Avenue near Fain's own house (Conforti 1986:31–33). In January 1968, Fain hosted a conference to continue the conversation on affordable integrated housing and subsequently provided seed money for several local black activists to found the nonprofit housing renewal corporation called Citizens United Renewal Enterprises (CURE, see 33 Chestnut Street). CURE, which took over some of the properties owned by the Micah Corporation after that organization folded, existed through 1976 (Conforti 1986:29; RI Department of State 2019).

Fain supported other aspects of the civil rights movement as well. He was a founding contributor to the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), an employment training program for minorities founded in 1967 as an affiliate of the national organization (OICRI 2019; Van Leesten 2018). His work also extended beyond Rhode Island. Fain underwrote travel by Rhode Island civil rights workers to the American South and served as a trustee of Tougaloo Southern Christian College, a predominantly African American, coeducational, liberal arts college in Jackson, Mississippi. He worked with Charlie Baldwin, chaplain at Brown University, and fellow Tougaloo trustee Lawrence L. Durgin, former pastor of

Providence's Central Congregational Church (see 296 Angell Street), to form a partnership between Brown and Tougaloo in the spring of 1964. Under the cooperative agreement formed between the two schools, Brown would assist Tougaloo by acquiring private funding through grants and private donors to financially support the school and help improve its academic standards. The financial support provided by the partnership included bridging programs for Tougaloo students such as two guaranteed places for Tougaloo graduates at Brown's Alpert Medical School, faculty exchanges, and student exchanges allowing Brown and Tougaloo students to spend a semester at the other college. Tougaloo's curriculum improved as a result of the program and more of its students were admitted to graduate school. The current Brown and Tougaloo presidents reaffirmed the partnership in 2014.

Bibliography:

Antonucci, Carl

2012 *Machine Politics and Urban Renewal in Providence, Rhode Island: The Era of Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., 1965–74*. Ph.D. dissertation, Providence College, Providence, RI.

Conforti, Joseph

1985 "Irving Fain and the Fair Housing Movement in Rhode Island, 1958–1970." *Rhode Island History* 45, 1 (1985):23–37.

Gibson, Rev. Raymond E.

1992 *Ministry Recalled: The Central Years, 1961–1988*. Monadnock Publishers, Hillsboro, NC.

Ionata, Dante and Merrill R. Bailey

1973 "Renewal Pioneering at Lippitt Hill." *The Providence Journal*, 6 March, pp. 1 and 9.

New York Times

1970 "Irving Jay Fain, Rights Leader, 64." 23 August, p. 70.

OIC of Rhode Island

2019 "Our History." Electronic document, <http://oicrhodeisland.org/history-2/>, accessed July 2019.

Providence Journal

1958 "Group to Seek Anti-Bias Law in R.I. Housing." 4 October, p. 11.

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS)

2018 *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island: A Narrative Summary of People, Places & Events*. Typed manuscript, on file Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Rhode Island Department of State

2019 Historic Corporate Catalog. Electronic database, <http://business.sos.ri.gov/CorpWeb/CardSearch/CardSearch.aspx>, accessed April 2019.

Van Leesten, Mike

2018 Oral history interview with Keith N. Stokes.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 128-134 Mathewson Street PLAT/LOT 25/349

NAME(s) Mathewson Street Methodist Church/Citizens United Office

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 7,405 sq ft

STORIES 4 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Stone

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS Leaded-glass lancet, arched 1/1 double-hung and fixed wood



Photo ID PROV_MathewsonSt128-134_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1895	NR	Cutting, Carleton & Cutting	Architects
Alterations	1951	NR	Arland A.Dirlam	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Late Gothic Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Mathewson Street Methodist Church was designed by the architectural firm of Cutting, Carleton & Cutting and built in 1895 to replace an 1851 church on the site (Woodward 1983). The building continues to serve as a Methodist church. Its association with the Civil Rights movement stems from its use in the 1960s as an office and base of operations for Citizens United for a Fair Housing Law, or Citizens United. The organization, founded in 1958 and led by Providence businessman Irving J. Fain (1906–1970), sought to pass legislation that would prohibit discrimination in public and private housing on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin (*Providence Journal* 1958b). The group's diverse membership included leaders from the state's Democratic and Republican parties, Catholic dioceses, Temple Beth-El, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, the AFL-CIO, and major businesses like the Industrial National Bank and Gilbane Building Company (RIBHS 2018:15).

Citizens United approached members of both the Democratic and Republican parties and asked them to support the group's proposed housing legislation. Similar laws were already in effect in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington (*Providence Journal* 1958a). The organization proposed a bill to the General Assembly in 1959, but strong opposition led by Providence attorney Robert B. Dresser culminated in a protest of over 500 people at the State House. Critics of a fair housing law claimed it "would infringe on private property rights, legislate social progress, lower property values, and increase racial tension in the state" (quoted in RIBHS 2018:15). The bill died in committee, although Citizens United regrouped for other attempts to implement a law, eventually succeeding with the passage of the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act on April 12, 1965 (Conforti 1986:28; Antonucci 2012:107).

The Mathewson Street Methodist Church was listed in the National Register as part of the Downtown Providence Historic District in 1983.

Bibliography:

Antonucci, Carl

2012 *Machine Politics and Urban Renewal in Providence, Rhode Island: The Era of Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., 1965–74*. Ph.D. dissertation, Providence College, Providence, RI.

Conforti, Joseph

1985 "Irving Fain and the Fair Housing Movement in Rhode Island, 1958–1970." *Rhode Island History* 45, 1 (1985):23–37.

Providence Journal

1958a "Group to Seek Anti-Bias Law in RI Housing." 4 October, p. 11.

1958b "Citizens' Group Drafts Bill to Outlaw Bias in Housing." 29 November, p. 7.

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS)

2018 *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island: A Narrative Summary of People, Places & Events*. Typed manuscript, on file Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Woodward, William McKenzie

1983 *National Register Nomination – Downtown Providence Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS 84001967.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 58 Meeting Street PLAT/LOT 10/8

NAME(s) Mrs. M. A. Greene Tourist Home/William Page Hyde Freeman House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 5,663 sq ft

STORIES 2 1/2 ROOF(s) Side-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS 2/2, 1/1 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID PROV_MeetingSt58_NE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	Min	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	before 1857	NR		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Center entry STYLE(s) Italianate

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 58 Meeting Street was built before 1857. It is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement in Rhode Island as the residence of local African American activist William Page Hyde Freeman (1875–1971) from 1925 to the late 1950s. In the 1940s, Frank and Martha Greene operated a boarding house at this address, and Freeman was one of their boarders (Grover and Larson 2018). The *Green Book*, a travel guide for blacks published yearly from 1936 to 1964 by Victor Green, listed the property as the Mrs. M. A. Green Tourist Home from 1939 to 1948 (du Lac 2010).

Freeman, a realtor and former glass cutter, helped found the Providence NAACP in 1913 and served as its president for several years (Grover and Larson 2018; Bell Jr. 1997:113). In the late 1920s, he and other African American leaders organized the Crispus Attucks Association, the state's first recreation center and social service agency for African Americans that later became the John Hope Settlement House at 7 Thomas P. Whitten Way in Providence. Freeman later served as vice president of the Urban League of Rhode Island and participated in numerous programs created to support and advance the progress of the black community. For several years, he sponsored luncheons on the nineteenth-century abolitionist Frederick Douglass' birthday, February 12, intended to foster relationships between the black and white communities (Bell Jr. 1997:113).

The house at 58 Meeting Street was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill National Historic Landmark District in 1970.

Bibliography:

Bell, Andrew J. Jr.

1997 *An Assessment of Life in Rhode Island as an African American in the Era From 1918 to 1993*. Vantage Press, New York, NY.

du Lac, J. Freedom

2010 "Guidebook that aided black travelers during segregation reveals vastly different D.C." Electronic document, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/11/AR2010091105358.html?noredirect=on>, accessed April 2019.

Grover, Kathryn, and Neil Larson

2018 *National Register Nomination – College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 70000019.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue PLAT/LOT _____

NAME(s) Craig-Lee Hall, Rhode Island College

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP St

STATUS Elig Dist C

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT College HISTORIC College

SITING: SETBACK 570 ft LOT SIZE 180 acres sq ft

STORIES 3 to 6 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar and Gravel WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Casement



Photo ID PROV_MtPleasantAve600_SE



Photo ID PROV_MtPleasantAve600_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	Min	Min

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1958	Book	Howe, Prout and Ekman E. Turgeon Construction Company	Architects Builders
West addition	1971	Book	Lamborghini and Pipka	Architects

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) International

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Craig-Lee Hall at Rhode Island College (RIC) was built in 1958 and expanded in 1971. One of the first six buildings constructed for the new college campus, the building was named for Dr. Clara Elizabeth Craig and Dr. Mary M. Lee (Warburton 2012). The building is related to the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the home of RIC's Upward Bound program from its beginnings in the 1960s until 2017, when the program moved across campus to Building 6.

The national Upward Bound program, created in 1965 and funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, was created in response to the civil rights movement to provide support for low-income students and students whose parents were not college graduates as they prepared to enter college (RIC 2017). The program's stated goal was to increase enrollment and graduation rates for secondary and post-secondary education (U.S. DOE 2018).

In 1966, RIC became one of the first public higher education institutions in the country to receive federal funding to establish an Upward Bound program.¹ The first year of the program, 50 high school students from Rhode Island and Massachusetts participated in a six-week summer enrichment program that included daily classes in subjects such as computer science, drama, and social psychology; informal activities tailored to the students' interest; and trips to Old Sturbridge Village and the Newport Jazz Festival. The students lived on campus for the duration of the program, staying in Weber Residence Hall, and the program's offices were in Craig-Lee Hall (*Providence Journal* 1966b). In the winter, Upward Bound staff provided academic help and support to the program participants while they were attending their home high schools (*Providence Journal* 1966a).

Dr. Kenneth Walker (1930–2019), a professor of education at RIC from 1970 to 1993 and director of urban education, served as the assistant director of Upward Bound from 1967 to 1969. While at RIC, Walker also directed the Teacher Corps, which was a joint project between RIC and the Pawtucket School Department to raise the quality of education for low-income students (History Makers 2019).

In 1988, the actress Viola Davis and her sister Deloris Davis, both graduates of Upward Bound and RIC, established the Upward Bound Scholarship Endowment Fund in support of the RIC program. Actress Meryl Streep donated \$2,500 to the scholarship fund in May 2009 and another \$10,000 in 2012 (GoLocalProv 2012). The RIC program continues to receive federal funding and has expanded from 52 to 150 student participants each year (RIC 2017). It targets students from six area high schools: Central, Hope, and Mt. Pleasant High Schools in Providence; Central Falls High School; East Providence High School; and Shea High School in Pawtucket. Rhode Island participants in the program have a 100% high school graduation rate, a 98.6% college enrollment rate, and a college graduation rate of 76.5% (Langevin 2012).

Bibliography:

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2012 "Meryl Streep Donates Another \$10,000 to Second RI Charity." Electronic document, <https://www.golocalprov.com/lifestyle/new-meryl-streep-donates-another-10000-to-second-ri-charity/>, accessed May 2019.

¹ The University of Rhode Island (URI) also proposed an Upward Bound program slated to begin in the summer of 1967 with 60 students living on campus and working with developmentally disabled students at the Dr. Joseph H. Ladd School. It is unclear if the URI program was implemented (*Providence Journal* 1966a).

History Makers

2019 “Kenneth Walker.” Electronic document, <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/kenneth-walker-39>, accessed May 2019.

Langevin, Jim

2012 “RIC to Receive \$622k to Help High School Students Prepare for College.” Electronic document, <https://langevin.house.gov/press-release/ric-receive-622k-help-high-school-students-prepare-college>, accessed May 2019.

Providence Journal

1966a “Motivation Programs for Students Favored by Warwick Agency.” 16 March, p. 2.

1966b “50 to Attend RIC Project.” 26 June, p. 112.

Rhode Island College (RIC)

2017 “History.” Electronic document, http://www.ric.edu/upward_bound/Pages/History.aspx, accessed May 2019.

United States Department of Education (U.S. DOE)

2018 “Programs: Upward Bound Program.” Electronic document, <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioupbound/index.html>, accessed May 2019.

Warburton, Elizabeth D.

2012 *A History of Named Places and Architectural Development: Rhode Island College, 1958–2012*. Rhode Island College Digital Initiatives Press, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 75 North Main Street (59 North Main) PLAT/LOT 12/78

NAME(s) First Baptist Meeting House/First Baptist Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Indiv Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 100 ft LOT SIZE 43,560 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) End gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER Wood trim

WINDOWS 15/15 double-hung wood sash with multi-paned fanlights, central Palladian



Photo ID PROV_NorthMainSt75_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Meeting House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1774-1775	NR	The Charitable Baptist Society Joseph Brown	Owner Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Georgian

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The First Baptist Meeting House in Providence was constructed in 1774–1775 as the first house of worship for the country’s oldest Baptist congregation, founded by Roger Williams in 1638, and remains in use as such. The building, designed by Joseph Brown (1733–1785), was the site of many important meetings connected to the twentieth-century civil rights movement.

The Providence branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), formally established at the beginning of 1914, arranged several events at the church in its early years. On October 27, 1914, Oswald Garrison Villard (1872–1949), the white editor of the *New York Evening Post* and a founding member of the national NAACP, spoke on “The New Abolition” before a “large audience composed mainly of colored people” (*Providence Journal* 1914). On November 19, 1916, the church hosted one of four meetings held in Providence to observe the NAACP’s “Brotherhood Day.” Brown University alumnus and national NAACP founding member John Hope (1868–1936), President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, spoke at that event (*Providence Journal* 1916).

In February 1918, the national NAACP held its Ninth Annual Convention at the First Baptist Meeting House. The organization’s founding president, Moorfield Storey (1845–1929), gave the keynote speech (Hooks 2013:11; Bond et al. 2009:437). Storey was also scheduled to speak at the church on May 3, 1918, when the NAACP’s annual Spingarn medal was presented to William Stanley Braithwaite (1878–1962), an African American writer and anthologist from Cambridge, Massachusetts (*Providence Journal* 1918).

Throughout the twentieth century, the First Baptist congregation worked closely with other local congregations to address social justice concerns through the Rhode Island Interchurch Council (or Commission) for Social Action. On February 11–12, 1940, the organization sponsored an interracial conference in Providence on the theme “A Study of the Negro in Rhode Island: His Contributions and Needs.” As part of the conference, the First Baptist Church hosted a vesper service on February 11 that included a speech by the nationally prominent labor and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph (1889–1979) on “The World Crisis Among the Darker Races.” Randolph was the founding president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first predominantly African American labor union. Reverend Arthur E. Wilson, the pastor of Beneficent Congregational Church and president of the Interchurch Council, led the vesper service. Reverend Arthur W. Cleaves, the pastor of the First Baptist Meeting House from 1922 to 1940, joined the leaders of other local churches in conducting a devotional service (*Providence Journal* 1940a, 1940b). In March 1965, pastor Reverend Dr. Homer L. Trickett traveled to Alabama as part of the Rhode Island delegation to participate in the march from Selma to Montgomery (Gibson 1992:94).

The First Baptist Meeting House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and listed as a contributing resource in the 1976 College Hill National Historic Landmark District.

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2009 *NAACP: Celebrating a Century, 100 Years in Pictures*. Gibbs Smith, Layton, UT.

Gibson, Rev. Raymond E.
1992 *Ministry Recalled: The Central Years, 1961–1988*. Monadnock Publishers, Hillsboro, NC.

Hooks, Edward K.
2013 *The Formation of the NAACP, Providence Branch*. Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Providence Journal

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1916 "Industrial Opening for Negro Urged." 20 November, p. 13.

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Snell, Charles, and Patricia Heintzelman

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 49-51 Olney Street PLAT/LOT 9/133

NAME(s) Daniel Y. Stickney House/Dr. Carl R. Gross House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple dwelling HISTORIC Multiple dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 4,356 sq ft

STORIES 2½ ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Wood clapboard

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID PROV_OlneySt49-51_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1853	NR	Daniel Y. Stickney	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Center Entry STYLE(s) Greek Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The two-family house at 49–51 Olney Street was constructed for Daniel Y. Stickney (b. ca. 1814), a wagon maker from New Hampshire, who lived with his wife Elvira, daughters Georgiana and Ida, and a boarder, Abel H. Wesson. In 1850, the second household residing at this address consisted of Lyman S. Parr, his wife Elvira, and Francis Bushnell (U.S. Census 1850).

The property is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the office and residence of Dr. Carl Gross (1888–1971), a black physician who occupied the property from 1916 to 1942. Dr. Gross lived at 49 Olney Street with his parents, William and Lena Gross, and siblings and kept his practice at 51 Olney Street until 1942, when he moved to 102 Olney Street (not extant) (Grover and Larson 2018).

Dr. Gross graduated from the Howard University School of Medicine in 1913 and immediately returned to Providence. He joined the Providence Medical Association in 1917 and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1917 to 1919 (Grover and Larson 2018). Despite his membership in the Providence Medical Association, Dr. Gross was denied jobs in various Rhode Island hospitals in the 1930s due to his race (Grover and Larson 2018). In 1935, he was elected to the executive committee of the Providence NAACP (NAACP 1935). In 1942, Dr. Gross resigned from the district draft board of medical examiners as a protest against being sent only black draftees (Grover and Larson 2018). That same year, Gross was elected vice president of the John Hope Community Center Association (see 7 Thomas P. Whitten Way), a social welfare agency that provided social services and recreation opportunities for Providence’s black community (*Providence Journal* 1942).

The property was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill National Historic Landmark District in 1970.

Bibliography:

Grover, Kathryn, and Neil Larson

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1942 “John Hope Association Launches Drive for \$5000 Fund Today.” 20 August, p. 15.

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1850 *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850* (M432, 1,009 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 100 Olney Street PLAT/LOT 9/525

NAME(s) Olney Street Baptist Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 30 ft LOT SIZE 53,143 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Wood and vinyl; fixed, awning, and sliding sash



Photo ID PROV_OlneySt100_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Church	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1962-1963	NR	Johnson & Haynes	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Twentieth Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The current Olney Street Baptist Church was constructed in 1962–1963 as the second church building for the congregation, which incorporated in 1901. The early congregation consisted primarily of more than 100 African American members who withdrew from the Congdon Street Baptist Church. They initially met in the homes of members and in Gaspee Hall on South Main Street. The congregation purchased the former Olney Street Congregational Church on lower Olney Street in late 1901 and met there until 1961, when the building was demolished as part of the Lippitt Hill Redevelopment Project. Not wanting to leave the neighborhood, the congregation purchased a large lot at the corner of Olney and Camp streets from the Providence Redevelopment Authority for the construction of the current building (Gross 1971; Grover and Larson 2018). In addition to its associations with urban renewal in Providence and the related relocation of many members of its congregation, the Olney Street Baptist Church was an active participant in other aspects of the struggle for African American civil rights in Rhode Island.

In August 1962, the church's African American pastor Reverend Percy A. Carter Jr. (1929–1996) wrote an article in the *Providence Journal* calling attention to race relations in Providence in light of the recent non-violent protests led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Albany, Georgia. Carter countered the assumption that things must, by definition, be better “Up North” in Rhode Island than in the South. He noted that the slums were not as far removed from the state capital as some might have believed. Carter discussed in particular an event that occurred in Providence on August 2, 1962, in which 57 blacks were “rounded up in a raid-like fashion” in the Blackstone Cafe at 228 Plain Street (no longer extant). According to an article he read in the weekly black newspaper the *New England Sun*:

Police using their trained dogs, surrounded the café, and herded the occupants into waiting patrol wagons. After allegedly spending two hours in the city jail, during which time they were subjected to questioning establishing their identity, these citizens were reportedly released with no explanation as to the reasons for their detention. Many of them, including some pregnant women, were said to have been forced to walk to their South Providence homes because of lack of transportation (quoted in Carter 1962).

Carter noted that this incident was not covered in local news media. He ended his article with a call for more significant actions than protest, such as better use of all forms of media; a refusal to accept “patronage” appointments of little significance; a concerted effort to examine the voting records of political candidates; deliberate and vocal support of politicians whose positions align with civil rights goals; and a coordinated effort between agencies, groups, and organizations that are pursuing the same ideals (Carter 1962).

In 1964, the Olney Street church hosted non-violent resistance classes, sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and taught by Rev. Arthur L. Hardge of the A.M.E. Zion Church; Hardge was also chairman of the Providence CORE (Porter 1964).

In 1969, Reverend Paul F. Thompson (1933–2008), pastor of the Olney Street Baptist Church and a member of the Providence Human Relations Commission (PHRC), protested the treatment of blacks by police while attempting to quell a riot outside the Rhode Island Auditorium on North Main Street (not extant) after a Sly and the Family Stone concert. The PHRC reported that out of 150 people involved in the riot, 13 police and 25 black teenagers were injured. Thompson stated that while some white teens were also beaten, they were not arrested, and that the police acted with excessive force (Antonucci 2012:133).

The Olney Street Baptist Church is a contributing resource in the College Hill National Register Historic District (listed in 1970, updated in 2018).

Bibliography:

Antonucci, Carl

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Carter, Percy A. Jr.

1962 “How Far Away is Albany, Ga?” *Providence Journal*, 19 August, p. 102.

Gross, Dr. Carl R.

1971 “Manuscript E.” Electronic document,

https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=crgross_papers, accessed May 2019.

Grover, Kathryn and Neil Larson

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Porter, G. Bruce

1964 “C.O.R.E. to Begin Classes.” *Providence Journal*, 20 January, p.9.

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1962 “200 Witness Baptist Church Ground-Breaking Ceremony.” 25 June, p. 25.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 68-70 Orchard Avenue PLAT/LOT 39/236

NAME(s) Temple Beth-El

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Wayland Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 50 ft LOT SIZE 88,427 sq ft

STORIES 1 and 2 ROOF(s) Flat, vault, dome

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Buff brick and limestone

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER Reinforced concrete structure

WINDOWS Multi-paned aluminum, plate glass



Photo ID PROV_OrchardAve68-70_NW



Photo ID PROV_OrchardAve68-70_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Synagogue	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1951-1955	NR	Percival Goodman	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Mid-Twentieth Century Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Temple Beth-El at 68–70 Orchard Avenue was built between 1951 and 1955 for the Congregation Sons of Israel and David, organized in 1854 as an Orthodox congregation and affiliated with Reform Judaism in 1877 (Temple Beth-El 2019). The congregation had worshiped at the Broad Street Synagogue in South Providence (see 688 Broad Street) prior to moving to the East Side. It remains at the Orchard Avenue building, which was designed by New York architect Percival Goodman. The synagogue was featured in a 1956 issue of *Progressive Architecture*, which described the building components, including a two-story classroom and office wing, a social hall, and a landscaped social garden (*Progressive Architecture* 1956).

The current Temple Beth-El is connected with Rhode Island's civil rights movement through Rabbi William G. Braude (1907–1988), leader of the congregation from 1932 to 1974. Throughout his entire rabbinical career, Braude was involved in social justice causes. In March 1965, Braude, along with his colleagues Dr. Saul Leeman from Cranston (see Cranston Jewish Center, 330 Park Ave, Cranston) and Rabbi Nathan N. Rosen from Brown University's B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, traveled to Alabama to participate in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery (Antler 2002:563–564). During the march, Braude and Leeman wore yarmulkes, or kippot, to identify themselves as rabbis (Jewish Women's Archive 2019). Jews and non-Jews approached them and other rabbis to express appreciation for their participation, and many of the non-Jewish marchers began wearing kippot in solidarity. The marchers called the head coverings "freedom caps," in contrast to segregationists who referred to them as "Yankee Yarmulkes" (Blumberg 2015; Jewish Women's Archive 2019).

In his Rosh Hashanah sermon later that year, Braude spoke of the march and contrasted the kippot-wearers with the demands German SS troops and Russian Cossacks made during World War II for Jews to remove their hats. He also recalled an incident from November 1938, when the Temple Beth-El congregation had invited European refugees to participate in a special service commemorating the lives and property lost during *Kristallnacht* that year. Braude had never forgotten how some members of the congregation were offended when the refugees covered their heads according to their customs when it was counter to Reform Jewish practice (Blumberg 2015; Olitzky and Judson 2002:164). He announced during the 1965 sermon that he had decided to cover his head during worship to "atone for the hurt afflicted on the refugees who innocently came as our guests ... and identify with many Jewish brothers throughout the world" (quoted in Blumberg 2015).

Braude retired in 1974, and his successor, Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman, also participated in civil rights causes, serving on the Providence Human Relations Commission (RIHHF 2012; Temple Beth-El 2019).

Temple Beth-El was listed in the National Register as part of the Wayland Historic District in 2005.

Bibliography:

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2015 "A Reform rabbi learns about the yarmulke in Selma: A memory, a footnote to history." Electronic document, <http://www.jewishrhody.com/stories/a-reform-rabbi-learns-about-the-yarmulke-in-selma-a-memory-a-footnote-to-history,1957?>, accessed May 2019.

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2019 "Timeline." Electronic document, <https://broadstreetsynagogue.com/timeline/>, accessed April 2019.

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Longiaru, Christine, and Virginia H. Adams, with Mary Kate Harrington and Robert O. Jones
2005 *National Register Nomination – Wayland Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS 02001399.

Olitzky, Kerry M, and Daniel Judson

2002 *The Rituals & Practices of Jewish Life*. Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT.

Progressive Architecture

1956 Temple Beth-El. *Progressive Architecture* 37(10), pp. 116–119.

Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame (RIHFF)

2012 "Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman." Electronic document, http://www.riheritagehalloffame.com/inductees_detail.cfm?crit=det&iid=686, accessed May 2019.

Temple Beth-El

2019 "Our History." Electronic document, <https://temple-beth-el.org/about-us/our-history/>, accessed April 2019.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 246 Prairie Avenue PLAT/LOT 45/911

NAME(s) South Providence Neighborhood Center/Urban League of Rhode Island

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Civic HISTORIC Civic

SITING: SETBACK 125 ft LOT SIZE 202,118 sq ft

STORIES 1 to 2 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Brick, concrete block

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Aluminum fixed, awning, and multi-pane sash



Photo ID PROV_PrairieAve246_NE



Photo ID PROV_PrairieAve246_E

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	Min	Min
Configuration	None	Min	Min	Mod

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Community Center	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1976	RIHPHC	Providence Redevelopment Authority	Owner
Expansion	2010	Newspaper	Urban League of Rhode Island	2010

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) _____

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The building at 246 Prairie Avenue was constructed in 1976 as the South Providence Neighborhood Center, on the former site of the 1956 Willard Shopping Center (Vollmert 1978:44–47). Both buildings on the site were constructed as part of federally funded urban renewal projects. The building currently houses the Urban League of Rhode Island offices, a police substation, and a homeless shelter.

The Willard Center Redevelopment Project in South Providence, begun in 1954, was the first urban renewal project undertaken by the Providence Redevelopment Agency (PRA). It included the removal of 18 acres of commercial and residential buildings occupied largely by African Americans and the construction of the Willard Shopping Center and Flynn Elementary School (Antonucci 2012:93, 103). Many of the businesses demolished for the project moved into the new 23-store shopping center (Figure 1), which was designed by Providence architect Ira Rakatansky and “attained national recognition as the first small businessman’s shopping center” (Vollmert 1978:47; NARGUS 1960:221).

In the late 1960s, the Willard Shopping Center was the site of several civil rights-related events. On March 11, 1965, the Rhode Island CORE chapter held a rally in the center’s parking lot to build support for a fair housing law. The chapter had invited the national CORE director, James Farmer (1920–1999), to speak at several events in the city as the campaign for fair housing legislation intensified in the General Assembly. Farmer addressed audiences in Brown University’s Sayles Hall and Rhode Island College’s Roberts Hall, then spoke to crowds of late-afternoon shoppers gathered in front of the shopping center. He asked them to “put an end to slums with the vote” and claimed “Negroes can have power if they stick together” (Salganik 1965). A crowd of at least 500 attended a Southside freedom rally at the shopping center on Emancipation Day (August 1) in 1966 (Brown University 2009). The following year, increasing racial tensions in Providence erupted outside the shopping center when a large race riot broke out following Emancipation Day celebrations in August 1967. Although there were no fatalities or major property losses, the violence made national headlines and resulted in Providence mayor Joseph A. Doorley instituting a curfew in South Providence and prohibiting large gatherings (Antonucci 2012:129–130).

Following the 1967 riots, the Willard Shopping Center deteriorated as many businesses left. By the mid-1970s, the building was largely abandoned. Using federal funding allocated as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s Model Cities program, the PRA demolished the shopping center and constructed the current building in 1976 to house the South Providence Neighborhood Center (Figure 2; Vollmert 1978:49). One of the center’s early tenants was the Providence Urban League (PUL), established in August 1939 as a “black-oriented social agency” (Irving 1974:44). The PUL offices were located at 433 Westminster Street in downtown Providence through the early 1960s, when the building was demolished as part of the Weybosset Hill urban renewal project (Bartlett 1954:67–68; Irving 1974:12–15). The organization, now known as the Urban League of Rhode Island, acquired the building from the city in 1990 (Pina 2013).

Bibliography:

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1954 *From Slave to Citizen: The Story of the Negro in Rhode Island*. Urban League of Rhode Island, Providence, RI.

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Pina, Alisha A.

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Salganik, M. William

1965 “CORE’s James Farmer: At R.I.C. and Rally.” *Brown Daily Herald*, 12 March, p. 1.

Vollmert, Leslie J.

1978 *South Providence, Providence. Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-P-2*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, RI.

Historic Images



Figure 1. Willard Shopping Center ca. 1963 (Vollmert 1978:47).



Figure 2. Aerial view of South Providence looking north from Willard Avenue, showing South Providence Neighborhood Center ca. 1981 (Vollmert 1978:48).



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 15 Pratt Street PLAT/LOT 24/670

NAME(s) Albert G. Angell House/John Hope Community Association

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist _____ C _____

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Family HISTORIC Domestic

SITING: SETBACK 5 ft LOT SIZE 7840 sq ft

STORIES 2½ ROOF(s) Mansard

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Clapboard

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6, 4/4, 4/2 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID PROV_PrattSt15_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Maj Mod Min xNone			
Configuration	Maj Mod Min xNone			

INTEGRITY X Excellent _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____ Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1849–1852	Date plaque	Angell, Albert G.	Owner
Purchase by John Hope Community Assn.	1939	Book	John Hope Community Association	Owner/Occupant
Building declared unsafe and vacated	1946	National Register	John Hope Community Association	Owner
Building renovated into townhouses	Late 20 th / early 21 st c	Survey		

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Second Empire

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 15 Pratt Street was the original location of the John Hope Community Association (Association), which occupied the building from 1939 to 1946. The building was constructed in 1849–1852 for Albert G. Angell (1825–1884), who worked for the American Screw Company in Providence. By the early twentieth century, the building had been split into two apartments. In the 1930s and 1940s, the neighborhood surrounding the building was a mix of Russian and Polish Jewish immigrants and first-generation Americans, native New Englanders, and African Americans.

The John Hope Community Association, initially named the Crispus Attucks Association, was established in the late 1920s by a group of public-spirited African American leaders in Providence as the state's first recreation center and social service agency for African Americans. The Association's original mission was to meet the social and recreational needs of people of color without prohibiting any service to other individuals or groups. After its initial meeting in 1930, the Association held few meetings until May 12, 1937, when it convened at the Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence and reorganized as the John Hope Community Association, named after Brown University alumnus John Hope (1868–1936). Hope was the first African American president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and one of the founders of the NAACP. He had a lifelong commitment to public and private education for African Americans, as well as housing, health care, job opportunities, and civil rights. The name change was inspired by Henry D. Sharpe Sr., a former Brown classmate of Hope's and, at that time, the Chancellor of Brown University and president of Brown and Sharpe Manufacturing Company.

In September 1939, the John Hope Community Association purchased the house at 15 Pratt Street on the East Side of Providence. The building was renovated and programs were offered in conjunction with the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) until 1942. After the WPA ended its activities, the Association lacked sufficient funds or staff for programming. The board of trustees undertook an emergency fundraising effort that allowed the Association to hire a director, Enid Moore Brown, who, along with her successor Thelma Wynn, oversaw further community fundraising projects for the organization.

During World War II, the Association building became a de facto USO center for African American troops stationed in Providence. Although the national USO prohibited racial discrimination, separate USO centers for white and African American servicemen were frequently constructed to comply with either local ordinances or requests from African Americans who did not feel welcome in integrated centers. The recreational programs held at the Pratt Street building prompted the Providence USO to create an official center in the former Fourth Precinct police station on Knight Street (now 7 Thomas P. Whitten Way).¹ The Knight Street USO ended its programming by 1946, and its former director, Paris V. Sterrett, became the director of the John Hope Community Association. Sterrett leased the Knight Street building from the City of Providence for use as a new center for the Association. In addition to providing the Association with larger, more flexible spaces for programming, the move also brought it closer to a larger number of African American families living on the West Side of the city. The Association purchased the Knight Street building from the City in 1950 and continues to occupy it as the renamed John Hope Settlement House. By 1948, the 15 Pratt Street building was occupied by the Church of God in Christ and two residential tenants. It is currently in use as a multiple-family residence.

The building was listed in the National Register in 1976 as a contributing building in the College Hill Historic District (updated 2018).

¹ Previous documentation indicates that the 15 Pratt Street building was deemed unsafe, thus prompting the move to the current building, but no evidence to support this assertion has been found (see Grover and Larson 2018).

Bibliography:

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Pina, Alisha A.

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Whitten, Thomas P.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 1 Prospect Street PLAT/LOT 12/249

NAME(s) University Hall, Brown University

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL (Indiv) NR (Dist) Indiv Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT College HISTORIC College

SITING: SETBACK 150 ft LOT SIZE 13.84 acres sq ft

STORIES 4 ROOF(s) Gable and hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Stone OTHER _____

WINDOWS 12/12, 9/9, and 8/8 double-hung wood sash, 6-light oculus



Photo ID PROV_ProspectSt01_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	Min	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1770	NR	Robert Smith	Architect
Renovations	1939	Book	Perry, Shaw & Hepburn	Architects

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Georgian

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

University Hall was built in 1770 as the College Edifice for Brown University, founded in 1764. Patrons of the university, many of whom earned their money through the slave trade, donated slave labor for the building's construction. As the only building on the campus until 1823, it housed dormitory rooms, lecture and recitation rooms, a chapel, a library, and a dining hall. The building was renamed University Hall when the second building, Hope College, was completed in 1823. University Hall currently houses the office of Brown's president and other administrators.

On April 24, 1975, representatives of a coalition of Asian, black, and Latino students at Brown initiated a takeover of University Hall to call attention to the administration's lack of response to minority demands first underscored in the 1968 student walkout (see 17 Congdon Street). The group, called the Third World Coalition, organized in response to threats of budget cuts and aimed "to impress upon the university that we feel our demands are reasonable and necessary to the continued viability of the minority community" (quoted in Young, Salganik, and Winslow 1975). Most members of the group belonged to the Organization of United African Peoples (OUAP), founded in 1968 as the Afro-American Society and renamed in 1972. The coalition also included members of the Latin American Students Organization (founded in 1974) and the Asian American Student Association (founded in 1970). The takeover began at about 8:00 am with about 40 students occupying University Hall after alerting staff in the building, most of whom left. Another group of about 125 black students set up a picket line around the building, and white students joined the picketers by mid-morning. The students inside the building remained there overnight (Young, Salganik, and Winslow 1975; BCSC 2019).

University administrators met with student leaders during the takeover to negotiate a response to the student demands, which included accelerated recruitment of black students and faculty members, increased financial aid for minority students, improvements to the Afro-American Studies Program created in 1968, and increased recruitment of Latin American students (Young, Salganik, and Winslow 1975). Later that year, the Transitional Summer Program, established as a result of the 1968 walkout to help students of color adjust to college life and ensure they had the necessary academic skills for classes, was expanded and renamed the Third World Transition Program (TWTP). The following year, the Third World Center opened in the basement of Churchill House (155 Angell Street) (BCSC 2019).

University Hall was designated an individual National Historic Landmark in 1962 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the College Hill Historic District in 1976 (Rhinehart 2014:69–73).

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 108 Prospect Street PLAT/LOT 10/72

NAME(s) James M. Kimball/Frederick Lippitt House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 35 ft LOT SIZE 28,314 sq ft

STORIES 2½ ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood, multi-light bay



Photo ID PROV_ProspectSt108_SW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	Min	Min	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent X Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Stable	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1873	NR	Alpheus Morse	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Italianate

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 108 Prospect Street was constructed in 1873 for James M. Kimball, a cotton manufacturer and president of the Second National Bank in Providence, using designs by Providence architect Alpheus Morse (Woodward and Sanderson 1986:218). The house is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the residence of white lawyer Frederick Lippitt (1917–2005) from the 1950s until his death in 2005 (Avery 2005).

Lippitt, a descendant of one of Rhode Island's early settlers, received his law degree from Yale University in 1946, after serving in the US Army during World War II. He passed the Rhode Island bar and worked for the Providence firm of Edwards and Angell until his retirement in 1984. In 1960, Lippitt was elected as a Republican to the Rhode Island General Assembly, where he helped to secure the passage of the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act in 1965 after a seven-year fight (*New York Times* 2005; Antonucci 2012:109). Lippitt continued to advocate for civil rights during his subsequent terms in the General Assembly through 1983. He ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Providence three times between 1984 and 1990. From 1985 to 1989, he implemented pro-minority policies as director of the state Department of Administration. Lippitt also served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations, including Rhode Island Hospital and the Providence Plan.

Frederick and his sister Mary Ann, with whom he lived at 108 Prospect Street, made many bequests to organizations such as the Rhode Island Foundation, Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence, and the Providence Public Library. When he died in 2005, he endowed two department chairs at Brown University, where he had received an honorary doctorate in 1977 and been elected a lifetime member of the Board of Fellows in 1979. After Mary Ann's death in 2006, the Prospect Street house was transferred to the university as directed in Frederick's will, which stipulated that it remain a single-family residence for 30 years before it can be converted to apartments (RIHMF 2006; Avery 2005).

The James Kimball House was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill National Historic Landmark District in 1970.

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New York Times

2005 "Lippitt, Frederick." 17 May, p. D8.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 150 Prospect Street PLAT/LOT 9/200

NAME(s) Ruth T. Scott House/Andrew L. Jackson House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple dwelling HISTORIC Multiple dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 4,792 sq ft

STORIES 2½ ROOF(s) End-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Wood clapboard

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID PROV_ProspectSt150_SW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1867	NR	Ruth T. Scott	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Side Hall STYLE(s) Italianate

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Ruth T. Scott House was constructed in 1867 for Ruth Scott (b. ca. 1795), the wife of butcher Asa Scott (b. ca. 1790) (U.S. Census 1850). Ruth was widowed by 1865 and by 1870 lived at 150 Prospect Street with her son Edwin, a doctor; her son Walcott, a jewelry maker, and his wife and three children; and Eben and Anna Burlingame and their son (U.S. Census 1870).

The property is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the home of dentist Andrew L. Jackson (1885–1949), one of the founders of the Providence NAACP, in the 1930s and 1940s. Jackson's residences when the NAACP was established in the early twentieth century, including 206 Meeting Street and 27 Camp Street, are not extant; thus, 150 Prospect Street is the only known extant building associated with his civil rights work (Ancestry.com 2005; Sampson & Murdock 1920).

In January 1914, Jackson was elected to the executive committee of the Providence NAACP chapter at the group's organizational meeting at the Winter Street A.M.E. Zion Church (not extant). The organization was established after a mass community meeting held on November 5, 1913, at Beneficent Church in Providence in response to race-related disturbances in the state, including a riot and attempted lynching in Newport earlier that summer (Hooks 2013:8–9, 11).

In 1935, Governor William H. Vanderbilt appointed Dr. Jackson to the Rhode Island Tercentenary Committee at the request of the Providence NAACP, which was concerned about a lack of black representation on the committee (Gross 1971). When the Providence Urban League, a black-oriented social service agency, was organized in 1940, Jackson, by then a respected church and community leader, was elected as one of the organization's first vice presidents (Urban League 1940:280). He died in 1949 after a long illness (Granger 1949).

The Scott House was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill National Historic Landmark District in 1970.

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1949 "Betty Granger's Conversation Piece About Smart People." *New York Age*, 11 June, p. 10.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 30 Rochambeau Avenue PLAT/LOT 73/453

NAME(s) Rochambeau Gospel Chapel/Bethel AME Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 4,792 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) End gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Brick OTHER Wood trim

WINDOWS Fixed diamond-pane and 6/6 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID PROV_RochambeauAve30_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Church	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1937-1941	Maps, Directories	Rochambeau Gospel Chapel	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The church at 30 Rochambeau Avenue was constructed between 1937 and 1941 as the Rochambeau Gospel Chapel (Hopkins 1937; Ancestry.com 2011; Sanborn 1951). The building's known associations with the civil rights movement in Rhode Island relate to its current occupant, the Bethel AME Church, which purchased it in 1961. The Bethel AME Church began in Rhode Island in 1795 with the African Freeman's Society, which originally met in the homes of members and at a Quaker meeting house on North Main Street. By 1866, the congregation constructed its first church at 193 Meeting Street (no longer extant) (Brown University 1995). The building on Rochambeau Avenue is the only extant building associated with the Bethel AME Church, which was an active participant in the twentieth-century struggle for African American civil rights.

Reverend Christopher Hubert Yearwood (1878–1913), pastor of the Bethel AME Church from March 1912 to October 1913, was among the group of African Americans in Providence who initiated the formation of a local NAACP branch in the summer of 1913 (Hooks 2013:13). Yearwood died shortly before the Providence branch was formally established in January 1914 (Yale University 1915:710). In the 1920s, the Bethel AME Church was popular in the local black community due to its proximity to Brown University and its social programming that drew residents and college students alike. The church held Sunday afternoon forums and served as a general meeting place (Bell Jr. 1997:18). From 1945 to 1948, Richard Allen Hildebrand (1916–2011) presided over the church and was involved in the civil rights movement. He later led several AME churches in New York City, where he was also president of the local NAACP chapter and in 1964 was profiled in the *New York Times* as a major black leader working for social change (Murphy, Melton, and Ward 2011:350).

On October 28, 1995, the Bethel AME congregation marched in a parade from the current church building along Camp, Olney, and Hope streets to the church's Meeting Street site, now within Brown University's campus, where a plaque was installed. The original church site is part of the Rhode Island Afro-American Heritage Trail, a collaborative project undertaken by the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (Brown University 1995).

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 99 Roger Williams Green PLAT/LOT 9/611/8LAW

NAME(s) University Heights Apartment Complex

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Multiple Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 35 ft LOT SIZE 843,322 sq ft

STORIES 2-3 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Brick, Concrete

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Aluminum and vinyl; fixed, casement, and awning sash



Photo ID PROV_RogerWilliamsGrn99_NW



Photo ID PROV_RogerWilliamsGrn99_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	24	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1964-1968		Victor Gruen Associates Collins & Kronstadt University Heights, Inc. Irving J. Fain	Site design Architects Developer President of UH, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The University Heights Apartment Complex was constructed on Lippitt Hill in Providence between 1964 and 1968 as part of the larger Lippitt Hill urban renewal project. At the time of its construction, the complex consisted of 349 apartments across 25 acres and an adjacent shopping center on North Main Street. The complex was built near the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School (1967) at 35 Camp Street and Olney Street Baptist Church (1962–1963) at 100 Olney Street.

Lippitt Hill was the first urban renewal project in the city to take place in a predominantly black neighborhood and the first in the state to include plans for the construction of new private housing to replace the cleared buildings (Ionata and Bailey 1973:1). Initial stages of the project included the demolition of about 400 buildings including 700 residential units; St. Hedwig's Catholic Church, which served the Polish community; the Howell Street Synagogue; the Episcopal Church of the Saviour; and the original Olney Street Baptist Church. About 1,600 residents were displaced (Ionata and Bailey 1973:9). The Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination documented discrimination and other issues faced by displaced black families. These issues included intentional housing segregation, resulting in only two neighborhoods available to black residents; the use of separate housing listings for black and white residents by the city's family relocation service; and higher rents charged for black tenants than whites. The Commission's findings concluded that if the experience of the Lippitt Hill residents was typical in the city, urban renewal would be a failure (Ionata and Bailey 1973:9).

Providence businessman Irving J. Fain (1906–1970) served on the board of directors of Planned Communities Inc., a national umbrella organization based in New York City that promoted interracial housing (Conforti 1986:30). With a group of other investors, Fain submitted a development proposal to the Providence Redevelopment Authority (PRA) for the Lippitt Hill area. Called University Heights, the proposal approved by the PRA in 1962 was for a racially and economically integrated "superblock" development that included a shopping center and garden apartment complex. Fain intended the project to demonstrate "to Providence and America that people of many backgrounds can live together" (quoted in Conforti 1986:31). The apartments were arranged around central courtyards for socializing, and low-to-moderate rent apartments were mixed in the same building as larger, luxury apartments. Noted architect Victor Gruen (1903–1980) provided the site plan for the development, and the Maryland architectural firm of Collins & Kronstadt designed the apartment buildings (*Providence Journal* 1966; Lincoln 1966).

Built between 1964 and 1968, University Heights succeeded in its original intent to some degree, with the first tenants representing a cross-section of occupations and including 13% blacks compared to the city's overall 8% black population. However, limited federal financing for the project forced rents to be higher than initially hoped, and many former residents of the neighborhood could not afford to move into the new apartments (Conforti 1986:31; Ionata and Bailey 1973:9). The residential complex remains much as it was originally built and continues to serve mixed-income tenants in a variety of apartment types (Figure 1). The bridge that originally connected the apartments to the adjacent shopping center was removed when the commercial complex was rebuilt ca. 2000 (Figure 2).

Bibliography:

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Lincoln, John Ware

1966 “Balconies and Courtyards on Lippitt Hill.” *The Providence Sunday Journal*, 26 June, p. N41.

Providence Journal

1966 “\$5.5-Million Mortgage Set for Lippitt Hill.” 27 October, pp. 1 and 13.

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2019 Aerial Photos & Topo Maps for Rhode Island. Electronically accessible,

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=1dcafa7631154874bf78b408351afb9e>, accessed April 2019.

Figure 1. 1965 photograph of first completed residential units at University Heights (Providence Redevelopment Agency Annual Report 1965).



Figure 2. 1972 aerial photograph of University Heights (RI GIS 2019).





**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 90 Smith Street PLAT/LOT 4/231

NAME(s) Rhode Island State House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP St

STATUS NR Indiv

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Capitol HISTORIC Capitol

SITING: SETBACK 500 ft LOT SIZE 719,754 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Dome

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Marble WALL Marble, brick

FOUNDATION Marble OTHER _____

WINDOWS _____



Photo ID PROV_SmithSt90_NW

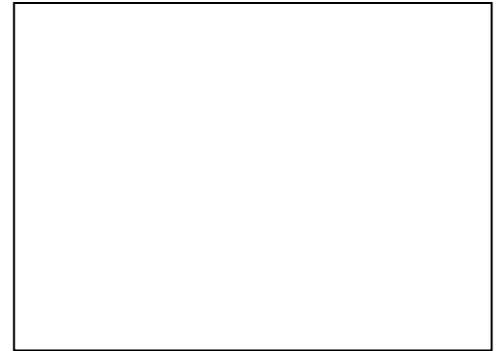


Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) State House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1895-1904	Book	McKim, Mead & White	Architects

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Beaux Arts

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Rhode Island State House was constructed between 1895 and 1904 to serve as the seat of Rhode Island's state government and continues in that function. The prominent architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White received the commission to design the building from a national competition held in 1891 (Woodward and Sanderson 1986:222). The design, with a self-supporting marble dome flanked by low saucer domes and an expansive balustraded marble terrace, influenced many state capitols built in the 1890s and early 1900s.

The State House was the site of many notable civil rights activities in the twentieth century, including the passage of important legislation related to fair employment and fair housing, among other issues.

On April 28, 1941, the Rhode Island General Assembly established and funded a commission to study "the employment problems of the Negro" (Murray 1997:395–396). Major findings of the commission's report issued in May 1943 included lower average wages for blacks and "unfair, discriminatory practices against Negro applicants for positions" (quoted in RIBHS 2018:12). After World War II, Rhode Island joined other Northern states in passing legislation to prohibit discrimination in hiring as recommended by the 1943 state commission's employment conditions report. The Fair Employment Practices Act of April 1, 1949, proscribed certain discriminatory practices and policies within the state and established the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination (Murray 1997:396). The commission, composed of five commissioners with four staff in 1951, was headquartered in the State House through at least 1964 (Polk 1964:904).

Citizens United for a Fair Housing Law (Citizens United), a group organized in 1958 to campaign for comprehensive fair housing legislation in Rhode Island, proposed a bill to the General Assembly in January 1959. Although the bill had bipartisan support, a strong opposition group rallied over 500 people in March to protest it at the State House, and an amended version died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Critics of a fair housing law claimed it "would infringe on private property rights, legislate social progress, lower property values, and increase racial tension in the state" (quoted in RIBHS 2018:15). Citizens United regrouped, and fair housing bills were presented in every legislative session from 1959 to 1964. Some passed the Senate, but none made it out of the House Judiciary Committee (Conforti 1986:28; Antonucci 2012:105–107). Following the defeat of a proposed bill in April 1964, 45 members of the Rhode Island chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) dressed in mourning clothes and attended the General Assembly session on April 14. CORE then staged a series of sit-ins at the State House from April 21 to April 24, where singing by the group's members and their supporters ultimately caused the House to adjourn on April 24 (Antonucci 2012:113–114). On March 25, 1965, as the General Assembly once again considered various fair housing bills, over 2,000 residents protesting race-based housing discrimination marched from Providence City Hall to the State House. One week later, lobbying efforts by Democratic party leaders succeeded in getting a bill through the House, and the Senate followed suit. Governor John Chafee signed the Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act on April 12, 1965 (Antonucci 2012:114, 117).

The Rhode Island State House was listed individually in the National Register in 1970.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 7 Thomas P. Whitten Way PLAT/LOT 29/538

NAME(s) John Hope Settlement House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Civic HISTORIC Civic

SITING: SETBACK 120 ft LOT SIZE 162,914 sq ft

STORIES 3 ROOF(s) Composite

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Granite Block OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung metal sash



Photo ID PROV_ThomasPWhittenWay_7_SE



Photo ID PROV_ThomasPWhittenWay_7_N
E

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	(4)			
(2)		(5)			
(3)		(6)			

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1875 ca.	Book	Providence Police Department	Occupant
USO officially opens	1944	Newspaper	Knight Street USO Center	Occupant
USO closes	1946	Book	Knight Street USO Center	Occupant
Building expanded, renovated	1951-1965	Book	John Hope Settlement House	Owner/Occupant

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) No style

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The building at 7 Thomas P. Whitten Way (formerly known as 374 Knight Street) was constructed ca. 1875 to replace an earlier police station on the site that had burned down after being hit by lightning. In 1930, facing financial difficulties caused by the Great Depression, the Providence Police Department merged several precincts. The Fourth Precinct, located at the Knight Street station, merged with the precinct that occupied a station on Potters Avenue, and all operations moved to the Potters Avenue building. Ca. 1943, during World War II, the local United Service Organization (USO) converted the Knight Street building into a recreational center for servicemen regardless of race or creed. Although the national USO prohibited racial discrimination, separate USO centers for white and African American servicemen were frequently constructed to comply with either local ordinances or requests from African Americans who did not feel welcome in integrated centers. The USO center in Newport, Rhode Island, was partially segregated, allowing access to African American soldiers only one night a week. In Providence, African American troops had begun using the first John Hope Community Association building on Pratt Street (see below) as a de facto USO. When the integrated Knight Street USO officially opened in 1944, more than 2,500 people participated in the dedication event.

After the end of World War II, the John Hope Community Association purchased the Knight Street building for use as a community center. A group of public-spirited African American leaders in Providence had established the Association, initially named the Crispus Attucks Association, in the late 1920s as the state's first recreation center and social service agency for African Americans. The Association's original mission was to meet the social and recreational needs of people of color without prohibiting any service to other individuals or groups. After its initial meeting in 1930, the Association held few meetings until May 12, 1937, when it convened at the Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence and reorganized as the John Hope Community Association, named after Brown University alumnus John Hope (1868–1936). Hope was the first African American president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and one of the founders of the NAACP. He had a lifelong commitment to public and private education for African Americans, as well as housing, health care, job opportunities, and civil rights. The name change was inspired by Henry D. Sharpe Sr., a former Brown classmate of Hope's and, at that time, the Chancellor of Brown University and president of Brown and Sharpe Manufacturing Company.

In September 1939, the John Hope Community Association purchased its first building, an 18-room 3-story house at 15 Pratt Street on the East Side of Providence. The building was renovated and programs were offered in conjunction with the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) until 1942. After the WPA ended its activities, the Association lacked sufficient funds or staff for programming. The board of trustees undertook an emergency fundraising effort that allowed the Association to hire a director, Enid Moore Brown, who, along with her successor Thelma Wynn, oversaw further community fundraising projects for the organization.

As described above, the Association's recreational programs for African American soldiers at the Pratt Street building had prompted the Providence USO to create an official center in the former police station on Knight Street in 1943. The Knight Street USO ended its programming by 1946, and its former director, Paris V. Sterrett, became the director of the John Hope Community Association. Sterrett leased the Knight Street building from the City of Providence for use as a new center for the Association. In addition to providing the Association with larger, more flexible spaces for programming, the move also brought it closer to a larger number of African American families living on the West Side of the city. The Association purchased the building from the City in 1950.

In 1951, the Association acquired a vacant lot behind the Knight Street building to create a playground area that was expanded in 1956 with the purchase of an adjacent lot. In recognition of the support given to the Association by Governor John Chafee's family, the playground was named for the governor's uncle Zechariah Chafee (1885–1957), also a civil rights advocate. The playground was subsequently leased to the City of Providence, which took over operation and maintenance responsibilities to alleviate financial constraints on the Association.

In 1956, the Association constructed a gymnasium addition to the building. In 1958, the organization was renamed the John Hope Settlement House (its current name). In 1965, the Settlement House undertook a full renovation of the building, and a daycare center addition was constructed as part of the Central-Classical Redevelopment Plan, an urban renewal project in the surrounding neighborhood. The expanded building currently occupies more than 25,000 square feet and houses a child care center, classrooms, computer lab, multi-purpose rooms, teaching kitchen, and youth lounge.

Bibliography:

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Mann, Henry

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Pina, Alisha A.

2013 "John Hope Center at Crossroads." *Providence Journal*, 8 June, p. 1.

Providence Journal

1947 "Knight St. USO Center." 16 January, p. 13.

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1957 "John Hope House Gym Dedicated." 22 January, p. 22.

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Whitten, Thomas P.

2014 *John Hope Settlement House, 1929–2005*. Rose Hall Media Company, Providence, RI.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 148 Wadsworth Street PLAT/LOT 43/620,621,622

NAME(s) Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 7,840 sq ft

STORIES 1 ROOF(s) Cross-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Rolled asphalt WALL Brick

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS Casement



Photo ID PROV_WadsworthSt148_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1964	Date stone	Creative Buildings, Inc.	Architect/Builder

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Modern

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church was designed and built of modular construction by Creative Buildings, Inc., of Urbana, Illinois, in 1964 to replace an earlier AME Church at 148 Wadsworth Street. The Wadsworth Street and Winter Street AME Zion congregations merged in 1963. The Winter Street AME Church was located in the Central-Classical High School area of Providence and was demolished as part of urban renewal land clearing to accommodate the expanded high school complex. Both churches served African American residents of the historically lower-income and immigrant neighborhoods in the West End of Providence near the industrial center of Olneyville.

In 1932, Bertha Higgins (1874–1944) helped organize the Colored Independent Political Association at the Winter Street AME church. African Americans, particularly women, across the country became disillusioned with the Republican party and party politics altogether after African American women were excluded from the Nineteenth Amendment that gave white women the right to vote in 1920. Higgins drafted a resolution explaining the reasons for leaving the Republican party, stating: “We proclaim our independence as citizens and resolve to act with any party no matter what its name, in seeking better conditions for our people through the instrumentality of better laws and a liberalized constitution of our state.” The Winter Street church also hosted the general meeting of the first annual regional conference of New England branches of the NAACP in 1939, with music provided by the Ebenezer Young People’s Choir and the Wadsworth Street church choir. The business session for the conference was held at the Odd Fellows’ Hall in Providence.

Reverend Arthur L. Hardge (1927–1983) oversaw the 1963 merger of the Winter Street and Wadsworth Street congregations. Hardge was active in the civil rights movement at the national, state, and local levels, participating in Freedom Rides in the South and serving as chairman of the Providence Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which taught non-violent resistance. In 1963, he served as the executive secretary of the Rhode Island Commission on Discrimination (Gross 1971). He presided over the Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion congregation for approximately five years before becoming the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Rhode Island. In 1968, Rev. Hardge became the first black to head a state department in Rhode Island, when he was named the director for the Rhode Island State Department of Community Affairs by Governor John Chafee (Gross 1971).

Following the merger of the churches, the new congregation continued to be active in civil rights activities. In 1964, Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood, chairman of the national board of directors for the NAACP, spoke at the church (*Providence Journal* 1964).

Creative Buildings, Inc., was founded by architects John Eberhard and Roy Murphy in 1953. The company’s church extension branch worked with small congregations that needed to build classroom wings, social spaces, or an entire new church building on small budgets. By 1955, the company had developed an \$18,000 A-frame chapel kit that included everything from roof trusses and windows to hymn boards and flower bowls (Price 2013:113). Local contractors assembled the churches after the parts were delivered. The firm constructed 110 church buildings from Maine to North Dakota (Price 2013:113).

Bibliography:

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Porter, G. Bruce

1964 "C.O.R.E. to Begin Classes." 20 January, p. 9.

Price, Jay M.

2013 *Temples for a Modern God: Religious Architecture in Postwar America*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Providence Journal

1963 "Cornerstone Moving This Month; Two A.M.E. Zion Groups Merge." 5 October, p. 12.

1964 "A.M.E. Zion Bishop, NAACP Leader, to speak here." 21 November, p.16.

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Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 81 Waterman Street PLAT/LOT 12/249

NAME(s) Sayles Hall, Brown University

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist _____ C _____

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT College HISTORIC College

SITING: SETBACK n/a ft LOT SIZE 13.84 acres

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Hip

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Slate WALL Granite and brownstone

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS 4/4, 2/2 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID PROV_WatermanSt_81_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____ Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1878-1881	Website	Alpheus C. Morse	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Richardsonian Romanesque

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

Brown University's Sayles Hall was built in 1878–1881 at the behest of William F. Sayles as a memorial to his son William Clark Sayles, a Brown student who died in 1874, just two years into his studies at Brown. The building was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by Providence architect Alpheus C. Morse (1818–1893) and is used for classes, recitals, concerts, and parties.

Leading civil rights leaders gave three speeches, and planned a fourth, at Sayles Hall in the 1960s: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in 1960 and 1967, and Malcolm X spoke in 1961 and planned to speak in 1965 but was assassinated just nine days prior to the event.

In November 1960, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968) gave two speeches at Brown University, one at Alumnae Hall on November 9 and the other at Sayles Hall on November 10. On November 9, King was hosted by the University Christian Association and discussed “The Future of Integration.” On November 10, he addressed a sophomore convocation on “Facing the Challenge of the New Age.” When asked by a student at the Alumnae Hall event what Northern white people could do to help the Civil Rights cause, King asked that they be aware of and attempt to address racial problems at home, elect officials who were supportive of the Civil Rights movement, and support Southern organizations working toward integration.

In May 1961, Malcolm X (1925–1965) spoke at Sayles Hall to a crowd of 1,000 students, local residents, and members of the Nation of Islam at the invitation of the *Brown Daily Herald*. The event was originally planned as a debate between Malcolm X and Herbert Wright of the NAACP, but Wright was forced to withdraw after NAACP leadership forbade any staff members from appearing on a platform with a Black Muslim. At the conclusion of Malcolm X's speech, in which he outlined the Nation of Islam's platform regarding Civil Rights and integration, he answered questions from audience members. The speech was followed by a discussion with Ralph A. Allen, field supervisor of the Rhode Island Commission Against Discrimination, who spoke as a private citizen, not as a representative of his organization. Allen noted that discrimination and segregation were still rampant in the United States, but that progress toward equal rights was being made. He exhorted the students in the audience to concern themselves with the future instead of looking backward at past injustices. At the end of the evening's program, Malcolm X continued his discussion on campus at the Faunce Hall lounge with students and members of the Nation of Islam who had driven down from Boston to see him speak.

A second oration at Brown by Malcolm X was scheduled for March 2, 1965. He was slated to speak to sophomore students of Brown and Pembroke colleges as part of a three-part lecture series, “The Negro Revolution,” hosted by the University. Malcolm X was assassinated on February 21, 1965, at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. In the wake of the assassination, James Shabazz (later called Abdullah H. Abdur-Razzaq), a close associate of Malcolm X, was invited to speak in his place. It is unknown if Shabazz spoke at Brown or if Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, the series' scheduled third speaker, gave his lecture instead. The assassination of Malcolm X generated little coverage in the *Brown Daily Herald*, and no mention of the replacement for his scheduled speech is made in the issues following his death.

In April 1967, Dr. King gave another speech at Sayles Hall, “America's Chief Moral Dilemma,” to an audience of 600. King's oratory at Brown focused largely on the Vietnam War and his support for the conscientious dissent of Cassius Clay (now Muhammad Ali). He called on “‘men of good will’ to be creative dissenters” (quoted in Blake 1967). Later that day, King spoke at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Further Civil Rights activities took place at Brown in the 1960s, most significantly a walkout by African American students in 1968. The students marched down College Hill to the Congdon Street Baptist Church to

protest the low number of African American students accepted to Brown and Pembroke colleges and the lack of support for students of color enrolled at Brown.

Sayles Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 as part of the College Hill Historic District (updated 2018).

Bibliography:

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1967 "Presidency Rumor Denied: King Urges Peace Drive." 24 April, p. 5.

Grover, Kathryn, and Neil Larson

2018 *National Register of Historic Places – College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)*, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island. On file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Lenz, Betsy

1960 "Dr. Martin Luther King Emphasizes Non-Violence." 15 November, p. 2, 4.

Mitchell, Martha

1993 "Sayles Hall," in *Encyclopedia Brunoniana*, electronic document, http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/Databases/Encyclopedia/search.php?serial=S0050, accessed November 2018.

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1960 "Venturesome Convocation Fellow Speaks; Dr. King Discusses 'Future of Integration.'" 8 November, p. 1.

Providence Journal

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Sanderson, Edward F., and Keith N. Morgan

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 111 Westminster Street PLAT/LOT 20/14

NAME(s) Industrial Trust Company Building

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Vacant/Not in Use HISTORIC Business

SITING: SETBACK 5 ft LOT SIZE 27,878 sq ft

STORIES 31 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Granite

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS Aluminum fixed and awning sash, double-height multi-paned sash on first story



Photo ID PROV_WestminsterSt111_NW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Min	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Skyscraper	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1928	NR	Industrial Trust Company Walker & Gillette	Owner Architects

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Art Deco

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The commercial building at 111 Westminster Street (also listed as 55 Kennedy Plaza) was constructed in 1928 as the headquarters for the Industrial Trust Company, later Fleet Financial Group. The building, the only 1920s skyscraper in the city, remained the bank's headquarters through 1995 and was subsequently occupied by offices for Bank of America. It has been vacant since 2013 (Woodward 1983).

The Industrial Trust Building is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the location of the law office of Alton W. Wiley Sr. (b. 1929), a prominent civil rights lawyer active in the Providence NAACP. Wiley grew up in Scituate, Rhode Island, and graduated from the University of Rhode Island (URI) with a business degree in 1951. After earning his law degree from Boston University in 1956, he worked for the Votolato firm in Providence, then became a partner in the firm of Kiernan, Connors, Kenyon & Wiley. Wiley was appointed assistant US Attorney in 1963 and served until 1967. On June 4, 1980, he became the first African American judge appointed to the Rhode Island District Court. Eleven years later, on June 28, 1991, he became the first African American appointed to the state's Superior Court. Wiley also served as vice president of student affairs at URI from 1969 until ca. 1970 (Anonymous 2005; Bell 1997:112; Dimmick 2015; URI 2007).

City directories indicate that Kiernan, Connors, Kenyon & Wiley had offices in the Industrial Trust Building from at least 1960 to 1964. During that period, Wiley served as chairman of the Providence NAACP's legal redress committee. He testified about his own experiences with housing segregation before the General Assembly committee considering fair housing legislation in the early 1960s (Rhea 1961). In August 1962, Wiley and other civil rights leaders met with the Providence Public Safety Commissioner regarding an incident that had occurred earlier that month at the Blackstone Cafe at 228 Plain Street (no longer extant). City police had rounded up 57 black patrons of the cafe "in a raid-like fashion" and detained them for several hours with no explanation. Once released, the citizens had to walk back to their South Providence homes due to a lack of transportation (Carter 1962). As a result of the meeting, the Commissioner agreed to let Wiley make unannounced visits to the police station to observe procedures involving blacks (*Providence Journal* 1962).

In February 1971, Wiley joined attorneys for Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., the NAACP, and the Rhode Island ACLU in bringing a suit against Providence police and city officials, including the Mayor Joseph Doorley. He told newspaper reporters that the group filed the suit, which alleged police misconduct and brutality toward black citizens, on behalf of six individuals "to prevent the deprivation of rights secured by the U.S. Constitution and the federal civil rights laws." The suit also stated that many black residents did not lodge formal complaints about mistreatment by the police because of fears of recrimination and the lack of response to previous complaints (*Providence Journal* 1971).

In 2007, a new residence hall on the URI campus was named in honor of Wiley and two of his siblings, including his late brother George (1931–1973), who was a prominent civil rights activist at the national level (URI 2007).

The Industrial Trust Building was listed in the National Register in 1983 as part of the Downtown Providence Historic District.

Bibliography:

Anonymous

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Carter, Percy A. Jr.

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Dimmick, Robb

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Rhea, James N.

1961 "Worse off than in the South?" *Providence Journal*, 22 October, p. 15.

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2007 "URI Dedicates 3 New Residence Halls." 22 August. Electronic document, <https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-dedicates-3-new-residence-halls/>, accessed May 2019.

Woodward, William McKenzie

1983 *National Register Nomination – Downtown Providence Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 84001967.



Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 10 Weybosset Street PLAT/LOT 20/70

NAME(s) Banigan Building; Grosvenor Building; Amica Building

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Business HISTORIC Business

SITING: SETBACK 0 ft LOT SIZE 21,344 sq ft

STORIES 10 ROOF(s) Flat

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Tar & Gravel WALL Granite

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER Copper cornice

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung aluminum sash



Photo ID PROV_Weybosset10_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Commercial building	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	1896	NR	Joseph Banigan Winslow & Wetherell Norcross Brothers	Owner Architects Builders

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Renaissance

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The commercial building at 10 Weybosset Street was constructed in 1896 for Joseph Banigan, a founder of the U.S. Rubber Company, and was the first tall, fireproof, steel-frame building in Providence. The Rhode Island-based Amica insurance company made the building its headquarters in 1954. It remains in use as a commercial office building (Woodward 1983).

The Banigan Building is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement as the location of the law office of Julius L. Mitchell (1866–1925), one of the founders of the Providence NAACP. Mitchell was born in Georgetown, South Carolina, and moved to Newport, Rhode Island, by 1905. By 1908, he and his wife Martha were renting an apartment at 13 Arnold Street in Providence. The couple moved several times in Providence over the next few years and lived at 101 Forest Street in 1913. Mitchell was a prominent lawyer in Rhode Island who often argued cases involving racial discrimination (Grover and Larson 2018). City directories indicate that he maintained law offices in both Newport, at 4 Washington Square, and Providence, in the Banigan Building, through 1910 and only the Providence office through 1914. In 1912, Mitchell was a delegate to Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Progressive party convention and later that year dined with Roosevelt at the Hotel Narragansett in Providence (Grover and Larson 2018).

On August 6, 1913, the Mitchells joined a group of other African American migrants from the South at Ebenezer Baptist Church on A Street in Providence to discuss recent race-related disturbances in the state, including a riot and attempted lynching in Newport earlier in the summer. At the meeting, Julius Mitchell was appointed to a committee of eight men tasked with investigating ways to fight discrimination, including a potential constitutional provision. After speaking to national NAACP leaders Mary Ovington, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, and William English Walling, the committee invited the president of the New York NAACP branch to speak to a mass community meeting held on November 5, 1913, at Beneficent Church in Providence. Mitchell was among those who met in January 1914 at the Winter Street A.M.E. Zion Church to organize a Providence NAACP chapter and elect the first slate of officers (Hooks 2013:8–9).

The Mitchells did not remain in Providence very long after the foundation of the local NAACP branch. During World War I, the couple moved to Brooklyn, where Julius worked as an attorney in the Public Defender's office until his death in 1925 (Hooks 2013:6).

The Banigan Building was listed in the National Register as part of the Downtown Providence Historic District in 1983.

Bibliography:

Grover, Kathryn and Neil Larson

2018 *College Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)*. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. On file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Hooks, Edward K.

2013 *The Formation of the NAACP, Providence Branch*. Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI.

Woodward, William McKenzie

1983 *National Register Nomination – Downtown Providence Historic District*. Providence County, Rhode Island, NRIS# 84001967.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 300 Weybosset Street PLAT/LOT 24/658

NAME(s) Beneficent Congregational Church

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NR Ind Dist C

NR DISTRICT Downtown Providence Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Religious Facility HISTORIC Religious Facility

SITING: SETBACK 20 ft LOT SIZE 18,731 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Dome, end-gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Copper, asphalt shingle WALL Brick, concrete

FOUNDATION Granite OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung and 6/6/6 triple-hung wood sash; fixed and awning metal-frame sash



Photo ID PROV_WeybossetSt300_S



Photo ID PROV_WeybossetSt300_NE

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	None	None	None
Configuration	None	None	None	None

INTEGRITY X Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) Church	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1809	Book	Barnard Eddy and John Newman	Architect-builders
Alterations	1836		James Bucklin	Architect

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Greek Revival Federal

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The Beneficent Congregational Church in Providence was built in the Federal style in 1809 by architect-builders Barnard Eddy and John Newman and remodeled in the Greek Revival style in 1836 to designs by architect James Bucklin. The congregation established its first church on the site in 1746, when a group of dissidents from the First Congregational Society on College Hill established the New Light Meeting House, initiating development on the west side of the Providence River (Woodward and Sanderson 1986:244).

The church has a long history of advocating for disadvantaged groups and fighting for social justice. Its associations with the twentieth-century civil rights movement in Rhode Island include its role in the 1913 organization of the Providence branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its involvement in the 1960s and 1970s with the local nonprofit housing renewal corporation Citizens United Renewal Enterprises (CURE) and the Rhode Island chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

In August 1913, after a race riot and attempted lynching in Newport the previous month, a group of black Rhode Islanders, many of whom were African American immigrants from the South who lived on College Hill, agreed to “start a statewide movement to fight any discrimination on purely racial grounds against citizens in public places of amusement, entertainment, restaurants, theatres, and by public utilities” (*Rhode Island Examiner*, quoted in Hooks 2013:8). The group appointed a committee that spoke to national NAACP leaders and then held a large community meeting at Beneficent Congregational Church on November 5, 1913. Approximately 600 attendees came to hear Dr. Joel Spingarn, the New York NAACP branch president, speak about organizing a local chapter in Providence. Reverend Asbury E. Krom (1869–1949), pastor of the church from 1901 to 1932, welcomed the audience to the church, which was “honored by such a meeting for justice and humanity without regard to race or creed” (*Rhode Island Examiner*, quoted in Hooks 2013:9). Rabbi Nathan Stern of Temple Beth-El in Providence gave the invocation, followed by observations from John C. Minkins, owner and editor of the *Rhode Island Examiner*. Spingarn gave the crowd examples of the NAACP’s successful fights against segregation ordinances and other injustices in communities across the country and exhorted them to “add your flame to those that are already on the altar of liberty and justice” (*Evening Bulletin*, quoted in Hooks 2013:10). Reverend Zechariah Harrison of the Second Freewill Baptist Church in Providence gave the benediction. The Providence NAACP branch was formally established at the beginning of 1914 and became one of the most influential civil rights groups in the state.

The Beneficent Congregational Church remained an active participant in numerous social issues under the leadership of Krom’s successors, Reverend Arthur Edward Wilson (1902–1996), senior pastor from 1933 to 1967, and Reverend A. Ralph Barlow Jr. (b. ca. 1935), senior pastor from 1970 to 1997. In its various ministries, it has emphasized coalition and community building. In 1968, the church joined other local activists in the establishment of CURE to address housing problems in cooperation with neighborhood groups and provided the organization with office space at 33 Chestnut Street, in an 1826 building the church had relocated to save from demolition as part of the Weybosset Hill urban renewal project. In a 2018 essay for the *Providence Journal*, Reverend Barlow described a particularly dramatic event that occurred in the tumultuous summer of 1969, when:

Fifteen young black men walked into the service, asking to be heard. The minister, knowing the troubled state of the country at that time, invited one of them to speak. “We demand \$200,000 of the Christian White Church as reparations to the black people of this country” he said from the pulpit. “We will be back in a week to hear your response” (Barlow 2018).

Barlow explained that the church’s board met with the group of black men and subsequently worked with them to address their concerns through community advocacy groups like CURE and others.

The Beneficent Congregational Church was listed individually in the National Register in 1972 and as a contributing resource in the Downtown Providence National Register Historic District in 1983.

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**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 125 Williams Street PLAT/LOT 16/210

NAME(s) Israel Wood House/Joseph Dunn House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS NHL NR Dist C

NR DISTRICT College Hill Historic District

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single dwelling HISTORIC Single dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 15 ft LOT SIZE 3,485 sq ft

STORIES 1½ ROOF(s) End gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Wood clapboard

FOUNDATION Parged OTHER _____

WINDOWS 6/6 double-hung wood sash



Photo ID Prov_WilliamsSt125_SW



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	None	Min
Configuration	None	Min	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	ca. 1838	NR	Israel Wood	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Greek Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE Nov. 2018 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 125 Williams Street was constructed ca. 1838 for Israel Wood. It is associated with the twentieth-century civil rights movement in Rhode Island as the residence of Joseph Dunn (b. ca. 1876), one of the founders of the Providence NAACP, from about 1910 until about 1916 (U.S. Census 1910; Sampson & Murdock Co. 1915; Hooks 2013:7).

Dunn, an upholsterer and minister from Louisiana, was the treasurer of the Colored Gainer Club, organized by black Democrats in 1911 to support the mayoral candidacy of Providence Alderman Joseph H. Gainer (*Providence Journal* 1911). He was also a proponent of black and women's suffrage and spoke at the Annual Conference of the New England Suffrage League held in Providence in October 1913. Dunn was present at several gatherings during the summer and fall of 1913, when a group of African Americans from the South who lived on College Hill determined to organize a local branch of the NAACP. He was one of eight men in the group tasked with investigating ways to fight discrimination, including a potential constitutional provision, and attended the mass community meeting held on November 5, 1913, at Beneficent Church to engage support for the Providence NAACP chapter. Dunn was also among those who met in January 1914 at the Winter Street A.M.E. Zion Church to formally establish the chapter and elect the first slate of officers. He does not appear in Providence directories or the federal census after about 1916 (Hooks 2013:7–9).

The Israel Wood House was listed in the National Register as part of the College Hill National Historic Landmark District in 1970.

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1911 "Colored Democrats Organize." 23 October, p. 13.

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1915 *The Providence House Directory and Family Address Book*. Sampson & Murdock Co., Providence, RI.

United States Bureau of the Census

1910 *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (T624, 1,178 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

**DATABASE
ID#** _____

TOWN Providence VILLAGE _____

ADDRESS 50 Woodman Street PLAT/LOT 44/604

NAME(s) Bertha G. and Dr. William Higgins House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS _____

NR DISTRICT _____

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Single Dwelling HISTORIC Single Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 3,049 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gambrel

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt shingle WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER _____

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash



Photo ID PROV_WoodmanSt50_SE



Photo ID _____

ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	None	Min	Min	Min
Configuration	None	None	None	Min

INTEGRITY Excellent Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2)			(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original construction	ca. 1930	Census, Maps	Bertha G. and Dr. William Higgins	Owner

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE _____ STYLE(s) Colonial Revival

SURVEYOR PAL DATE April 2019 REVIEWER _____ DATE _____

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

History:

The house at 50 Woodman Street was constructed ca. 1930, likely for Bertha G. and Dr. William Higgins (U.S. Census 1930; G. M. Hopkins Co. 1937). Bertha G. Higgins (1872–1944) was born in Danville, Virginia, to Horace and Barbara Stone Dillard. In 1887, she married Walker C. Thomas, a black waiter, and the couple lived in Jersey City, New Jersey. Thomas died in 1897, and the following year Bertha married Dr. William H. Higgins, a black physician. The couple lived in Manhattan while Dr. Higgins completed his medical residency and Bertha worked as a seamstress. The Higginses moved to Providence in 1903 and by 1915 lived at 570 Cranston Street (no longer extant, replaced with a new building) (Miller 2018:1). After marrying William, Bertha gave up her dressmaking business and focused on homemaking and community service (Terborg-Penn 1998:103). By 1930, William and Bertha owned the house at 50 Woodman Street and lived there with their daughter Prudence. They also owned the adjacent vacant lot at 46–48 Woodman Street, where they built a two-family house in 1935 that may have been occupied by Prudence and/or used as a rental property (U.S. Census 1930; Hopkins 1937).

After moving to Rhode Island, Mrs. Higgins became active in several organizations addressing significant causes of the era. These included the Rhode Island Union of Colored Women's Clubs, which worked to improve the social, political, and economic conditions of blacks during the Jim Crow era; and the Colored Women's Civic and Political League of Rhode Island. The League comprised professional women and women married to professional men who were supportive of their wives' political work (Terborg-Penn 1998:103). She also became involved with women's suffrage and in 1913 led a debate on "Why the Rhode Island Union should endorse the Suffrage movement" at the 11th Conference of the Rhode Island Union of Colored Women's Clubs meeting (Miller 2018:1). Dr. Higgins supported his wife's efforts and spoke at a Colored Women's Club meeting in 1914 on the topic "Why We Need Woman's Vote" (Miller 2018:1). Mrs. Higgins was also the president of the Women's League of the Douglas Republican Association and incorporated the Rhode Island League of Women Voters (Lieberman 1997).

Before 1916, Bertha Higgins founded the Julia Ward Howe Republican Women's Club, named for the famous author, reformer, and suffragist (Terborg-Penn 1998:103–104). The club's mission was to support Republican candidates, lobby for black causes with Republican politicians, and recruit black women into the Republican party. In recognition of her efforts to get him elected, President Warren G. Harding wrote Bertha a personal letter of thanks and included two tickets to his 1921 inauguration for her and Dr. Higgins (Miller 2018:3). After women won the right to vote in presidential elections in 1917 and full suffrage in 1920 with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, Higgins shifted her attention to encouraging blacks in Rhode Island, especially women, to register to vote and to vote for the Republican party (Miller 2018:3). Throughout the 1920s, Higgins campaigned for Republican politicians and lobbied for causes such as the Dyer Anti-Lynching bill, introduced in 1918 and passed in 1922 (Miller 2018:4; Lieberman 1997). Frustrated by a lack of action on the part of the Republicans, Higgins formed new relationships with the Democratic party by the late 1920s. In 1932, she and the newly renamed Julia Ward Howe Democratic Women's Club supported Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt for president (Miller 2018:4).

Bertha withdrew from public life after Dr. Higgins' suspected suicide in 1938 and by 1940 had moved with her daughter next door to 48 Woodman Street (Miller 2018:4; U.S. Census 1940). In the 1940s, she returned to activism, joining the recently established Providence Urban League. Rhode Island Governor J. Howard McGrath appointed her to the Commission on the Employment Problem of the Negro, which focused on racial discrimination in education and employment in Rhode Island (Miller 2018:4). After Bertha's death in 1944, her daughter, Prudence Higgins Irving, continued the family tradition of public service. She was a member of the Commission on the Employment Problem of the Negro and became the first black social worker in the Rhode Island Department of Public Welfare (Miller 2018:5; Lieberman 1997).

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