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

**STATUS**
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- In progress

**CATEGORY**
- District
- Site
- Building
- Structure
- Object

**OWNERSHIP**
- Public
- Private
- Both

**STATUS**
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- In Process
- Being Considered

**ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**
- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

**PRESENT USE**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**LOCATION**
- Narrow Lane
- Charlestown
- Rhode Island, 02813

**CLASSIFICATION**

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
- Town Clerk
- Providence
- Box 372
- Charlestown
- Providence
- Box 372

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
- Federal
- State
- County
- Local

**OWNERS NAME:**
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**PROPERTY ADDRESS:**
State House, 90 Smith Street

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**
- ENTRY NUMBER
- DATE

**FORM 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**STATE:**
Rhode Island

**COUNTY:**
Washington

**FEDERAL ACQUISITION:**

**PRIVATE:**

**IN PROCESS:**

**BOTH:**

**BEING CONSIDERED:**

**Comments:**
Indian tradition records that this site was the Royal Burial Ground of the combined tribes of the Narragansett and Niantic Indians, a burial place of privilege for the Indian sachems, or chiefs, and their families. As such, it is one of the few remaining traces of a once-large and powerful Indian nation in New England, and it is historically linked to the nearby remains of the former Narragansett reservation.

Before it was protected as a park, the site was subject to abuse by the local citizenry. Without consent, a group of nine local persons opened one of the graves in May, 1869, in order to ascertain how the Indians buried their dead and to collect relics. Covered with large, flat stones, the tomb was found to contain a log coffin. Two logs had been split to serve as top, bottom, and sides, and were bound together by iron chains. A brass kettle was found at one end, and an iron kettle at the other, along with numerous other relics. Legal action was brought against the men by members of the tribe, but the accused were exonerated. A published history of the area in 1887 states that much of what was found was sent to Brown University, although the whereabouts of these artifacts is no longer known there. The same history claims that there was a subsequent exploration by a Dr. Parsons of Providence who found fewer relics, even though he opened quite a number of graves.
In a small clearing at the top of a wooded hill, the ancient burial ground of the Narrangansett Indians is now maintained as part of a twenty-acre park by the State of Rhode Island. Though this site once commanded a magnificent view of the sea and the countryside, it is now surrounded by dense growth. In a clearing, a 20' by 100' rectangular, grassy plot rises several inches above the surrounding ground level and is surrounded by an iron post-and-rail fence. This fence and a marble tablet in the center of the plot were erected in 1878 by order of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Although virtually all traces of the original mounds are now gone, the Burial Ground was described in the nineteenth century as one row of mounds raised above the next. In 1878 the mound was recorded to be thirty feet by one hundred feet and three feet high. The site was completely wooded until the great gale of 1869, which levelled many of the trees. Since that time the site has been kept cleared.

Seven small stones, placed on end in the enclosed plot, are possibly head and foot stones of recent graves. An addendum to the Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Master Book, which records the graves of war veterans, lists the recent burial of George Alexander Hazard, World War I veteran. The family name "Hazard" is found among local residents of Indian descent.


### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defining the Center Point of a Property of Less Than Ten Acres**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** 0.11 acre

**List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries**

**State:**

- **Code:**
- **County:**
- **Code:**

**State:**

- **Code:**
- **County:**
- **Code:**

**State:**

- **Code:**
- **County:**
- **Code:**

**State:**

- **Code:**
- **County:**
- **Code:**

**Name and Title:** Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

**Organization:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**Street and Number:** State House, 90 Smith Street

**City or Town:** Providence

**State:** Rhode Island

**Code:** 02903

### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**Name and Title:** Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

**Organization:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**Street and Number:** State House, 90 Smith Street

**City or Town:** Providence

**State:** Rhode Island

**Code:** 02903

### 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [x]
- State [x]
- Local [ ]

**Title:** State Liaison Officer

**Date:** April 28, 1971

**I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.**

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date**

**ATTEST:**

**Keeper of The National Register**

**Date**
**NAME**

COMMON: Indian Burial Ground

**LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Narrow Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown

**STATE**:

Rhode Island

**COUNTY**:

Washington

**CODE**

63

**CODE**

009

**PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

**IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Railed portion of the burial ground, looking south-west.
This Tablet is erected and this spot of ground enclosed by the state of Rhode Island, to mark the place which Indian tradition identifies as the Royal Burial Ground of the Narragansett Tribe, and in recognition of the kindness and hospitality of this once powerful Nation to the founders of this State.

Done by order of the General Assembly at the meeting held at Providence, August 7, 1878 under the direction of George N. Pole and Michael H. Fairchild.

S. L. H. B. C. Committee.
STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

1. NAME:
COMMON: Indian Burial Ground
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Narrow Lane
CITY OR TOWN: Charlestown
STATE: Rhode Island
CODE: 44
COUNTY: Washington
CODE: 009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Stone tablet in the center of the burial ground.