

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Clement Weaver - Daniel Howland House

other name/site number: Clement Weaver House

## 2. Location

street & number: 125 Howland Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: East Greenwich vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Kent code: 003 zip code: 02818

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Property name Clement Weaver - Daniel Howland House, Kent County, R.I.

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Fred Robert Williamson

Signature of certifying official

28 Sep 1995  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register	___	___
___ See continuation sheet.		
___ determined eligible for the National Register	___	___
___ See continuation sheet.		
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	___	___
___ removed from the National Register	___	___
___ other (explain):	___	___
	___	___
	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>

Property name Clement Weaver - Daniel Howland House, Kent County, R.I.

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Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

___	entered in the National Register	_____	_____
___	See continuation sheet.		
___	determined eligible for the	_____	_____
___	National Register		
___	See continuation sheet.		
___	determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
___	National Register		
___	removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___	other (explain):	_____	_____
		_____	_____
		Signature of Keeper	Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>

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**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

Postmedieval English

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation STONE roof SHINGLE  
walls WOOD/weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1679-C.1750

Significant Dates: 1679

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: undefined

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Clement Weaver - Daniel Howland House, Kent County, R.I.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: 1.5 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>293680</u>	<u>4614660</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Virginia Adams, Historic Consultant

Organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. Date: May, 1987

Street & Number: 210 Lonsdale Avenue Telephone: 401-728-8780

City or Town: Pawtucket State: R.I. ZIP: 02860

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### Description

The Clement Weaver House, originally constructed in 1679, is a story-and-a-half clapboarded and shingled house with a gable roof, a large stone and brick chimney approximately at its center and a single-story ell, with a massive stone end chimney, on the south. The house is in good condition, retaining overall integrity of its seventeenth-century design, materials, workmanship and appearance on its original site. The house faces east and is set back approximately fifty feet from Howland Road in a rural, residential area. Woods behind the house and simple landscaping provide an appropriate immediate setting. A well in front (east) of the southern ell and a non-contributing, twentieth-century, one-story shingled frame garage south of the house and close to the road comprise the other visible structural features on the 1 1/2-acre property.

The main section of the house as it presently appears has an atypical and asymmetrical five-bay facade, and a lopsided five-room, center-chimney plan. Both the facade and the plan are the result of four different phases of construction. The first section of the house was a single great room with a tall half-story garret above; the huge stone and brick chimney, now off-center in the house, originally rose just inside its northern end. Norman Isham, Rhode Island's pioneer architectural historian, studied the house in the 1930s and probably supervised some restoration work. The first addition to the house was a single-story lean-to across the northern side of the chimney. This was very soon lengthened and its roof raised to provide a second garret united with the southern garret under a common roof but reached by a separate straight-run staircase (see plan). The fourth change was the addition of a lean-to across the rear of the house, giving the roofline a saltbox profile and adding three more rooms on the first floor. The final phase of building was the addition of the southern ell, with its own massive stone fireplace. Windows in both the main block and ell are 6/6 or 12/12 double hang sash, with the exception of two restored casements discussed below.

Entry to the main section of the house is through a shallow enclosed porch located in the approximate center of the east facade; a deeper enclosed porch at the south corner provides access to the cellar. The main entrance opens directly into a wide but shallow stair hall. Ahead rise the separate garret staircases, straight runs of seven stairs on the south and eight stairs on the north, which meet at the bottom in an awkward wedge shape. These stairs were originally enclosed by floor-to-ceiling vertical sheathing and a board-and-batten door; but, in a change made sometime after

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1940, the sheathing was cut to less than half its height, simple rails and square newels were added, and the door was removed entirely.

South of the stair hall, entered through a board-and-batten door with a wooden latch and strap hinges, is the main room, 18 by 17 feet, with a huge brick fireplace on its north wall. The firebox measures six feet across the front and is 30 inches deep. Its rear wall is ornamented with a rectangular panel of herringbone brickwork, with a recessed brick panel outlined in headers above it. Treatments appear to be original. The side facings of the firebox, particularly in front, show signs of modern repointing and probably of rebuilding. Antoinette E. Downings's Early Homes of Rhode Island (1937) indicates that at that time this firebox had curving flanks, and was partially filled by a later smaller fireplace.

Above the heavy lintel (8 feet long by 13 inches tall) a plaster cove curves up to meet the chamfered, exposed chimney girt. The exposed summer beam, plates and end girt are also chamfered, with lamb's-tongue stops. Three twelve-over-twelve sliding sash windows--two on the east, cut into the plate, and one on the south--light the room. Built into the southwest corner of the room is a simple, very early corner cupboard with a board-and-batten door. The 1930s restoration of this room included opening the fireplace and rebuilding or repointing its flanks and removing the casings which covered the summer beam, girts, plates, and corner posts; presumably some replastering of walls and ceilings and replacement of flooring, window sash, and doors were involved as well. The floor here and throughout the first floor and staircases are covered with carpeting and are not visible.

The north front room opening off the stairhall, originally the lean-to, is the one on which Norman Isham appears to have focused his attention, for it now has a somber seventeenth-century appearance. It measures 10 by 17 feet, matching the great room in depth but being much narrower in width. Occupying most of its southern wall is the fireplace, with firebox 30 inches deep by 93 1/2 inches wide at the front, spanned by a heavy chamfered lintel. The firebox is built with stone flanks and hearth and stone and brick back wall with a central recessed panel underlined by headers and a segmental-arched bake oven at the right. This room has no summer beam, apparently because its narrowness did not require one; the ceiling joists are evenly spaced approximately 21 inches on center. Exposed plates, girts and all corner posts have lamb's-tongue-stopped chamfers except the southwest post which has a rough gunstock haunch, perhaps a result of cutting the post back when the rear lean-to was added and a door to it was built. Restoration in this room presumably included opening the fireplace as well as removing the plaster from walls and

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ceiling, replacing the vertical feather-edged wall sheathing and board-and-batten door as needed, and installing two casement windows with leaded rectangular panes, for which Isham found evidence in the house. To quote Downing, ". . . these windows give some of the best evidence we have for seventeenth-century casements. The entire restored room presents an excellent picture of a seventeenth-century interior in Rhode Island" (Downing 1937:33).

The back three rooms are simply finished with plastered walls and ceilings and cased plates and posts. The central rear room has a brick fireplace with a simple flat surround, a set of three recessed shelves above, a small cupboard to the upper left, and a closet to the right (probably a much later addition, although appropriately closed by a batten door with wooden handle and strap hinges).

The southern kitchen ell, probably a mid-eighteenth-century addition, is a single room with a small pantry east of the stone chimney mass. The firebox is separated by a foot-wide stone partition into two sections, the eastern one 38 inches deep by 50 inches wide (at the front) and the western one 38 inches by 43 inches. Half of this fireplace had been filled in and was opened c. 1940. The very rough girts, plates, and posts are exposed but the ceiling is plastered (it was a plank ceiling in 1940), the floor is covered with flagstones, and the room is now a modern kitchen.

The garrets are similar to each other--each has a segmental-arched brick fireplace and the pitch of the roof defines the east and west walls--but the southern garret is larger and more finished. The fireplace here has an eighteenth-century surround, mantel, and paneled over mantel and a kind of gypsumboard has been used for a flat ceiling, to fill in between the slanting rafters on the east, and to form a straight wall on the west, where framing (corner post and plate) is exposed which shows the change in the roofline. The north garret is smaller, simpler (no mantel at all), and has a high ceiling formed by the roof itself. In both garrets the wide floorboards are visible and seem to be early if not original.

Although no archaeological investigations have occurred, the area surrounding the Clement Weaver House is likely to contain associated archaeological resources such as outbuilding foundations, discrete and scattered artifact deposits and evidence of landscaping.

NOTE: Both interior and exterior photographs accompany this nomination. One photograph of the main facade taken in 1974 is included for its completeness of image, and the interior photographs were taken in

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1980. The house is, however, essentially unchanged, as a 1995 site visit attests.

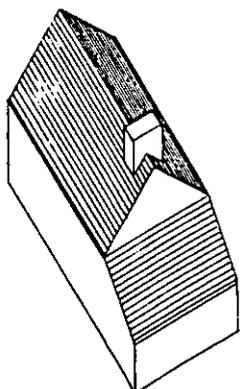
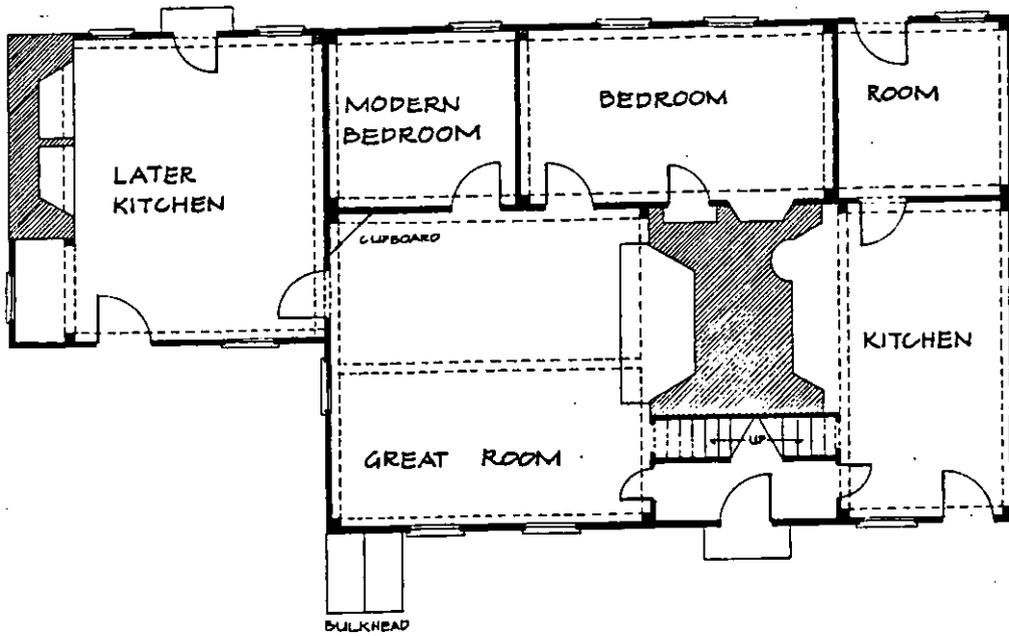
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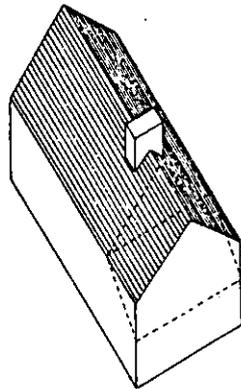
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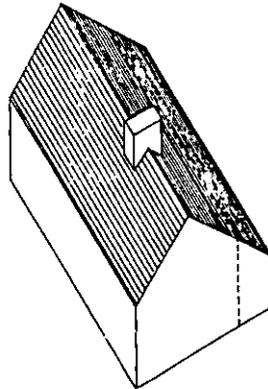
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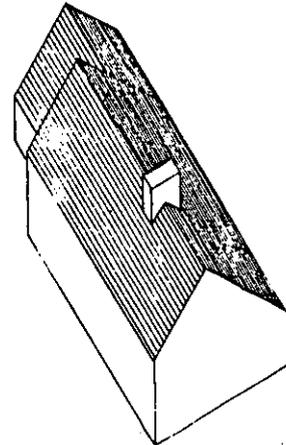
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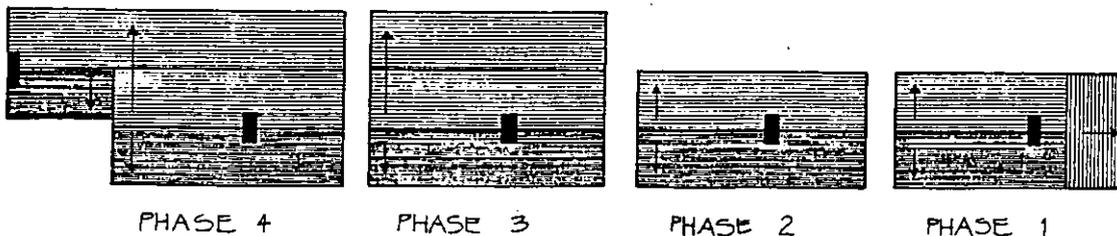
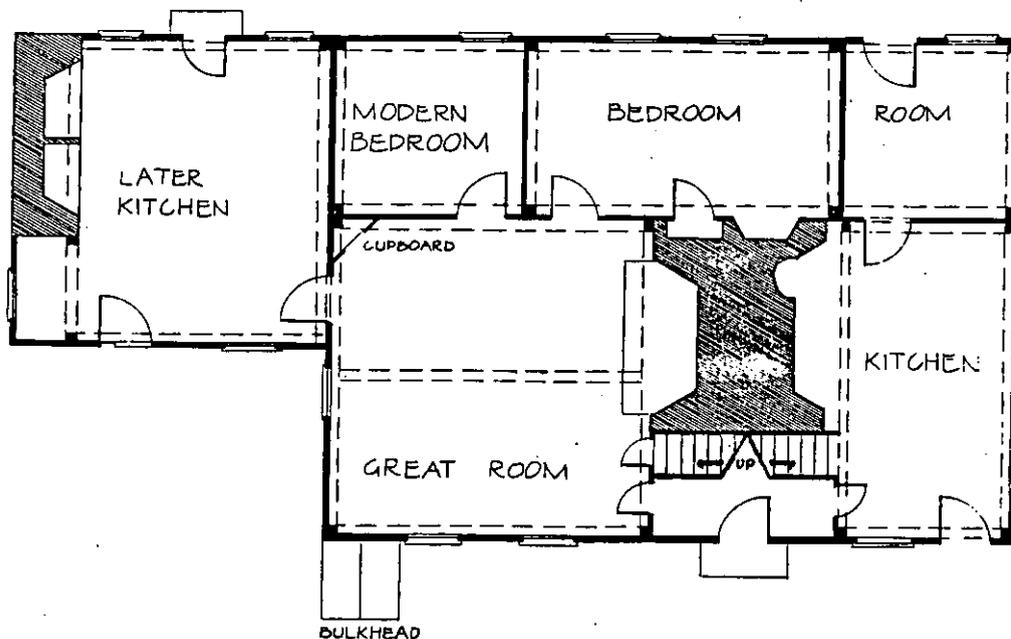
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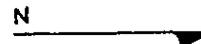
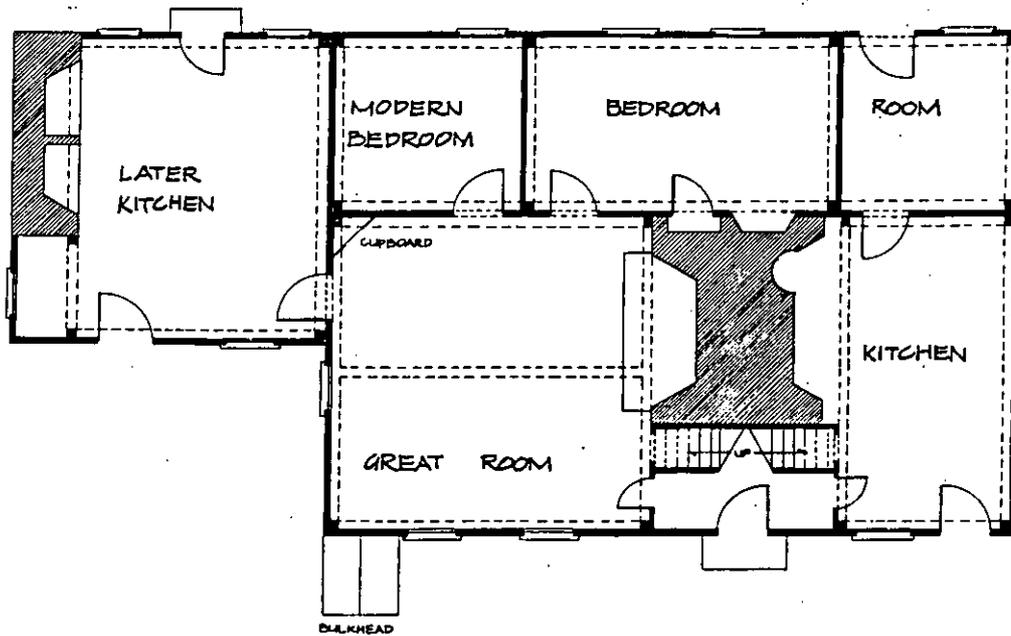
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### Significance

The Clement Weaver House is architecturally significant for its age, rarity, and essential seventeenth-century integrity. The house is also important as the house of one of East Greenwich's first settlers, reflecting the town's early scattered agricultural settlement pattern.

Prior to King Philip's War (1675-76), the East Greenwich area and lands to the south known as the Narragansett Country were occupied by Narragansett Indians and thus largely inaccessible to colonists for settlement. With the defeat of the Indians, and in response to claims on the territory made by Connecticut, the Rhode Island General Assembly founded the town of East Greenwich in 1677. Clement Weaver was one of the original 48 grantees and settlers and, in 1679, constructed (or had constructed) a small house on 117 1/4 acres of land given to him in recognition of his service during the war. Clement Weaver (d. 1691) married Rachel Andrew in 1677; they eventually had seven children, which may explain at least the first two additions to the house made during Weaver's occupation.

The house stayed in the Weaver family until 1748 when Joseph Weaver, yeoman, of East Greenwich, sold it and 104 acres of land with all appurtenances to Daniel Howland, yeoman, of Portsmouth for 3,000 pounds. The farm passed to Thomas Howland, presumably Daniel's son, and from the estate of Thomas Howland to John Greene of Warwick; the farm at this time included only about 50 acres, with a dwelling and other buildings, and brought \$2,500. John Greene sold the property to his daughter Abigail Susan, wife of Daniel Howland, executor of Thomas Howland's estate, for "love" and the sum of \$100 the same day he purchased it, December 11, 1845. By the time of the next transfer of ownership in 1868 from Abigail and Daniel Howland to Peleg G. Kenyon of Cincinnati, Ohio, and John R. Kenyon of Warwick, Rhode Island for \$5,000, several lots had been added to the farm, bringing it back to about 100 acres. Peleg Kenyon subsequently sold his half to Thomas E. Kenyon of East Greenwich for \$2,500 in 1876. In 1930, Katherine S. Howland purchased the whole 100-acre farm with dwelling and other buildings and improvements from various Kenyon heirs for the sum of \$10.00. Photographs of the house at this time show it as a vacant, weather-worn shell of a house with window-glass missing and shingles mouldering, a picturesque "colonial ruin," which partly explains the low price. Katherine Howland, widow of Daniel Howland, sold the same parcel to G. Ellsworth Gale, Jr., of Warwick in 1940, after which time, in subsequent transfers, the landholding associated with the house was reduced to its present size. It appears that Norman M. Isham and his associate, Edwin E.

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Cull, set to work on the house sometime in 1937, presumably for owner Ellsworth Gale.

Norman Morrison Isham (1864-1943) was an architect practicing in Providence, Rhode Island where he taught architecture at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design, serving as head of RISD's Architecture Department from 1912 until 1920 and again from 1923 until 1933. Isham was the first serious student of Rhode Island's (and southern New England's) "first period" houses and public buildings. In such books as Early Rhode Island Houses (with Albert F. Brown, Providence 1895) and Early Connecticut Houses (with Brown, Providence 1900), he carefully studied and sketched building techniques and forms used by seventeenth- and eighteenth-century housewrights. In his studies, where he advocated preparation of "accurate measured drawings" and collection of "scientific data," Isham not only laid the groundwork for all subsequent research on early New England houses, but he also documented many period houses which have since vanished from the landscape.

Isham directed or consulted on numerous restoration projects in Rhode Island, several of which involved archaeological excavations as a method of collecting scientific data, and much of our current understanding of Rhode Island's early architecture has been informed by Isham's work in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, the location of records of Isham's analysis and restoration decisions for many of these projects, including the Clement Weaver House, is presently unknown. Isham is known to have visited other early houses in East Greenwich, and his notebooks contain pencil sketches and measurement of plans and details, but there seems to be no record of any specific restoration recommendations.

The "colonial ruin" must have proven to be quite a challenge. HABS photographs, from 1931 though 1940, and other contemporaneous accounts, give some idea of the work involved. On the exterior, the house received a new wood shingle roof and framing repairs where necessary; the north entry portico was rebuilt; double hung window sash were repaired or replaced with casement windows where evidence existed; and existing shingle siding appears to have been replaced by clapboards, as indicated by (1) photographs from the period, (2) a note on Isham's sketch plan, "old clapboards under this roof on main house," in the south ell addition, and (3) the clapboards themselves which are in relatively good condition and of an early form, fastened with rosehead nails.

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On the interior, the north room was restored bringing it back to its original dark, sheathed, minimally-lit form; the great room was also restored, including uncovering of the framing and opening and rebuilding of part of the fireplace; and elsewhere selected restoration occurred where appropriate.

It is largely as a result of Isham's restoration work that the Clement Weaver House is clearly read as a seventeenth century house today. Relatively few houses were constructed during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; of the perhaps two dozen serving Rhode Island houses constructed before 1700, fewer still have escaped extensive alteration, both during the colonial period and later. The Clement Weaver House reached its essential form by about 1700; subsequent modifications to the rear of the house and addition of the south ell appear to have occurred prior to 1750. With the removal of most later eighteenth- and nineteenth-century changes, the house reveals design elements typical of seventeenth century architecture: such as its massive chimney, period framing, square or horizontal casement windows, and in addition contains distinctive design variants, notable the unusual double staircase. The Clement Weaver House thus stands as an important record of the past as the oldest house in East Greenwich and one of only a few seventeenth-century houses remaining in Rhode Island.

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### Major Bibliographical References

Downing, Antoinette F., Early Homes of Rhode Island, Garrett & Massie, Inc., Richmond, Va., 1937.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Rhode Island Architecture, M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, MA, 1939.

Isham, Norman M. and Albert F. Brown, Early Rhode Island Houses, Providence, 1895.

Lynch, Ancelin, "Clement Weaver House, Draft National Register Nomination," unpublished manuscript, on file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

National Cyclopedia of American Biography, James T. White and Co., New York, 1958, vol 42.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission Statewide Report K-EG-1, East Greenwich Rhode Island, Providence, 1974.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, The Rhode Island Historic Preservation Plan, Providence, 1986.

Startup, Hetty, "The Clement Weaver House," unpublished manuscript on file, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1987.

Town of East Greenwich, unpublished land records and probate books, East Greenwich, Town House.

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### Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated property encompasses Town Lot 77, Plat 10 and is 61,687 square feet, or approximately 1.5 acres, in size.

The boundary includes the entire town lot which now accompanies the property and which provides an appropriate immediate setting. Other land historically associated with the property is not precisely known and has been largely subdivided.

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Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, RI

Photo: James Gibbs, 1974

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation  
Commission

View west of main facade and ell. #1



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, RI

Photo: Virginia A. Fitch, 1987  
Negative: R.I. Historical Preserva-  
tion Commission  
View west of main facade.

#2



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, R.I.

Photo: Virginia A. Fitch, 1987

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation  
Commission

View southeast of north (end) and west  
(rear) elevations.

#3



Clement Weaver House

125 Howland Road

East Greenwich, RI

Photo: Virginia A. Fitch, 1987

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation  
Commission

Detail view west of restored casement  
window on main (east) facade.

#4



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: November, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View north in Great Room, entry and  
stair hall at far right. Note  
chamfered summer, plaster cove  
above lintel.

Photo #5



Cement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: November, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View south southwest in original  
lean to converted to kitchen early on.

Photo #6i



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: November, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View southeast in lean-to, later  
kitchen, showing door to stair hall,  
leaded window installed during  
restoration by Norman Isham.

Photo #7



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: November, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View east northeast in rear  
first-floor bedroom.

Photo #8



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: November, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View north in south garret chamber  
above Great Room. Note corner post  
at left, stairs at right.

Photo #11



1 Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: November, 1980

Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View south in later kitchen ell. Lintel  
measures  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, fireboxes  
are 38 inches deep by 50 inches and 43  
inches wide, respectively.

Photo #9



Clement Weaver House  
125 Howland Road  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: November, 1980  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission

View west at foot of double staircase  
to garret chambers. Sheathing has been  
cut from its original floor-to-ailing  
configuration.

Photo #10