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

**STATE:** Rhode Island  
**COUNTY:** Newport  
**ENTRY NUMBER**  
**DATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON:</th>
<th>AND/OR HISTORIC:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Churchyard Cemetery</td>
<td>Artillery Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LOCATION:**
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** North Road and Narragansett Avenue
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Jamestown
- **STATE:** Rhode Island, 02835

**CLASSIFICATION**
- **CATEGORY (Check One):**
  - District  
  - Site  
  - Building  
  - Structure  
  - Object
- **OWNERSHIP:**
  - Public  
  - Private  
  - Both
- **PUBLIC ACQUISITION:**
  - In Process  
  - Being Considered  
  - Preservtion work in progress
- **STATUS:**
  - Occupied  
  - Unoccupied
- **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
  - Yes: Restricted  
  - Unrestricted

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
- Agricultural  
- Commercial  
- Educational  
- Entertainment  
- Industrial  
- Military  
- Private Residence  
- Religious  
- Museum  
- Scientific  
- Other (Specify): Cemetery

**OWNER OF PROPERTY:**
- **OWNER'S NAME:** Town of Jamestown  
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 71 Narragansett Avenue  
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Jamestown  
- **STATE:** Rhode Island, 02835

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**
- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** Town Clerk  
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 71 Narragansett Avenue  
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Jamestown  
- **STATE:** Rhode Island, 02835

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:**
- **TITLE OF SURVEY:** Not so represented  
- **DATE OF SURVEY:**  
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**  
- **STREET AND NUMBER:**  
- **CITY OR TOWN:**  
- **STATE:**  
- **CODE:**
**DESCRIPTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Deteriorated</th>
<th>Ruins</th>
<th>Unexposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Check One)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONDITION**

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

**Altered**

- Yes
- No

**Moved**

- Yes
- No

**Original Site**

- Yes
- No

**Describe the Present and Original (if known) Physical Appearance**

The churchyard cemetery and one-time artillery park of Jamestown is located at the corner of two primary roads near the island's southern end. It is enclosed by a stone wall with some serpentine portions and with jagged rocks set along its top. The yard is about two feet above street level, and there are a few steps up to it at the gate that opens on North Road. The lot now measures about 100 feet by 150 feet (much less in space than originally) and is lined along the street sides with tall and leafy trees, while coniferous trees grow randomly inside the yard. The ground slopes up gently to a plateau in the north-east corner, the most distant from the streets.

Headstones stand sparsely all around the yard, but in the north-east corner are the oldest of them. Mostly having curved tops, these display typical Colonial carved or incised designs of mourning or resurrection motifs. They bear epitaphs, of which a typical one reads: "In memory of Capt Benedict Remington died November 22nd 1714 in ye 31st year of his age." Many of these monuments now exist as little more than very weather-worn pieces of stone stuck in the ground.

The yard is to-day overgrown with thick grass, and weeds, berry-bushes, fallen branches are scattered about—contributing to the extremely picturesque character of this site in the centre of a small island town.
This open space importantly located in the centre of town, has always been a community facility, for the original survey of Jamestown Island in 1656 set aside a sizeable piece of acreage (larger than it is to-day) for an "Artillery Garden, a place for burial of ye dead ... and for other public uses." It is quite evident that the second proposed use was fulfilled, and the space was undoubtedly much used for its first-named purpose of military practice originally, inasmuch as the threat of attack by nearby Indian tribes was a long-lasting and very real one.

Fifty or seventy-five years after 1656, this threat was not great, and from 1731-1745 a part of the town's land was let to John Martin—who lived nearby—for farming and grazing, except that "the Town shall have the liberty of burying there their dead." At a later date Martin took another lease on the plot and promised in 1759 to fence it in.

So, for part of the XVIII Century, the Artillery Park served placid agricultural, pastoral and burial purposes until the real flaring of colonial rebellion in 1775, when the local militia probably marched and practiced on it again.

Much aware of Jamestown's strategic importance, dominating the Narragansett Bay passages, the British landed an occupying force on the island in December, 1775. These marines and soldiers marched across Jamestown from east to west, burning almost all buildings along their route. Recording the event in his diary, the illustrious Rev. Ezra Stiles of Newport reported:

"At the Cross Rodes [i.e., Narragansett Avenue and North Road: the Artillery Park] there was a Skirmish our people killed one Officer of Marines and wounded 7 or 8. Not one Colonist was killed or hurt in the Skirmish. The Kings forces fired on Mr. Jno. Martin at 80 standing at his Door and wounded him badly ..."

(See Continuation Sheet.)
8. Significance.

During their subsequent occupation of Jamestown, the British found the old Artillery Park and cemetery area a convenient point from which their guns could be moved to earthworks on either side of the island, effectively controlling the east and west water-passages. It is said that such usage at that time was also promoted by the thought that the gravesites of American rebels would also be noticeably desecrated.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES 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></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES 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>41° 29' 47.03 N</td>
<td>71° 22' 28.89 W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: About 1/3 acre

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: B. Christopher Bene, Surveyor-Researcher
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: May 30, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 80-465), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☑ Local ☐

NAME ____________________________
TITLE ____________________________

DATES ___________ ____________ ____________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 ____________________________
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map*

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<tr>
<th>3. MAP REFERENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCALE: 1:24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE: 1957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Property boundaries where required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. North arrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. NAME
   COMMON: Churchyard Cemetery
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Artillery Park

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: North Road and Narragansett Avenue
   CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown
   STATE: Rhode Island
   CODE COUNTY: Newport

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene
   DATE OF PHOTO: 1971
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   View towards east.