United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections  

1. Name  

historic Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse  
and/or common The Log Gift and Curtain Shoppe  

2. Location  

street & number 2737 Hartford Avenue  
city, town Johnston  
state Rhode Island  

3. Classification  

<table>
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<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>X occupied</td>
<td>museum</td>
<td>X in process</td>
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<td>unoccupied</td>
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<td>X being considered</td>
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<td>object</td>
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4. Owner of Property  

name Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ursillo  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnston Town Hall  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title Johnston, Rhode Island  
has this property been determined eligible? yes X no  
date 1976, 1982  
depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  

city, town Providence  
state Rhode Island 02903
In the former parlor and kitchen of the Steere house, the windows and their paneled aprons are framed by elaborate architraves with elliptical moldings and bull's-eye corner blocks. The doorways are treated in a similar fashion. The original single-flight stairway, which is also well-preserved, has a rounded rail and columnar newels of a dark wood with a natural finish, and slender square balusters. The riser ends are decorated with bracket-like scrollwork. The baseboard in these rooms and on the stair is capped with a simple cyma recta molding.

The five fireplaces on the first floor have elaborate Colonial Revival mantels with monochrome tile surrounds and hearths, as well as cast-iron fire boxes, which were installed c. 1896 by "Shang" Bailey. The eastern stairway, which is also a single flight, has an ogee-molded rail, massive turned newels and spindle balusters. The other woodwork in the eastern section includes a prominently molded chair rail in the northeast and southeast rooms, more severely molded window frames and plain baseboards, all of which seem to date from 1833.

While the plan of the second floor has been considerably altered in the western section, the layout of the rooms in the eastern half appears to be little changed. The latter rooms also retain their original trim, including chair rails in all four rooms, but all of the fireplaces have been covered up.

The garret, which has plastered walls and ceilings, is divided into one large and two small rooms. There is little evidence of any change in these rooms since the nineteenth century, except for the heating ducts installed in 1976.

The cellar, under the 1833 addition, has rubblestone masonry walls and two chimney supports. It contains the furnace and other utilities.

In the 1976 rehabilitation, a new heating system was installed with metal registers set in the floors and hot-air ducts built onto the walls on the first and second stories. New floors of carpet-covered plywood were also laid at this time, except in the former parlor, kitchen and the hall of the western section where the original wide pine planks survive, and in the northeast and southeast rooms on the first story, where there are hardwood floors from c. 1896.

There is a single-story, gable-roofed rear wing with an internal chimney, attached to and presumably coeval with the 1833 addition. The wing was converted into a separate apartment sometime in the twentieth century.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)
century and it has been adapted for use as storerooms with few changes, except the removal of a side door on the east side.

A large, two-story gable-roofed wing was built onto the western half of the house's north wall in 1976. This wing, which contains a showroom on the first story and a storeroom on the second, has vertical board siding and six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with louvered shutters. New double doorways were made in the rear wall of the house, on the first and second floors, to provide internal access to this wing.

Historic photographs of the house made in the late nineteenth century show the house surrounded by lawn, with a semi-elliptical driveway in front, a side driveway on the east and outbuildings to the north. Since 1976, the lawn on the west has been replaced with a paved parking lot; the semi-elliptical driveway disappeared with the widening of the Hartford Pike and the outbuildings have fallen down or been removed. A strip of grass with a large shade tree still stretches between the east side of the house and the side driveway.
Stephen Randall's son, Henry, sold the business to Frederick "Shang" Bailey in 1896 for a mere $100. Shang Bailey (1842-1913), a native of Burrillville, Rhode Island, was a colorful character who once starred in P.T. Barnum's circus as the "Shanghai Giant" (Bailey was 6'7" tall).

Bailey's steps to revitalize the tavern's sagging business included transforming it into a bordello/gambling house. In addition, he paid corrupt police officials $120.00 a year in order to sell liquor on Sunday. He also installed slot machines and provided entertainment for his patrons. In 1902 a trolley line was laid out along Hartford Pike between Providence and North Scituate, thereby making the roadhouse easily accessible to Providence patrons. Bailey's Roadhouse soon became well-known throughout southeast New England.

However, on February 27, 1905, Bailey experienced a sudden religious conversion. He immediately proceeded to empty his whole stock of liquor into the road, smashed his slot machines with an axe, and permanently closed his tavern. Thereafter, he held Sunday services in the building and became a well-known Christian evangelist. Oral history relates that his wife, Bella, though initially pleased at the change in her husband, soon had cause for regret as he depleted their savings by repaying everyone he had swindled--including the U.S. Government for $2,000 in undeserved disability pension payments.

Bailey began selling off portions of the property in 1906. After his death, the old tavern was converted for multi-family occupancy and passed through a number of ownerships until 1976, when it was remodeled into a gift shop by the present owners.
8. Significance

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Specific dates: 1799, 1833, ca. 1896
Builder/Architect: 1976

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse is significant to the history of architecture as a fairly well-preserved example of a commercial structure that served the needs of the turnpike traffic in the nineteenth century, and offered social-amusement activities to trolley traffic at the turn of the century. While such transportation related structures were common, they were never very numerous, and increasing development pressure, particularly twentieth-century road improvements, has resulted in the alteration or removal of many. Although the Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse has been altered in 1833, c. 1896, and 1976, it retains significant exterior and interior fabric as well as integrity of setting.

Historical Background

The Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse is located on the north side of heavily travelled Route 6—Hartford Pike in the western end of Johnston. Land records indicate that the present .95 acre property was once part of a 120 acre tract of land sold by Charles Comstock to Samuel Steere in 1798. Shortly afterwards, Steere erected a modest two and one-half-story frame dwelling, that, with subsequent enlargements, exists today. The country road running by the farm house was widened and improved in 1804-05 as the Rhode Island and Connecticut Turnpike.

After Samuel's death in 1826, his son, Hardin, acquired the property. He sold the farm in 1833 to Daniel and Amy Cornell of Glocester, Rhode Island for $4,000. Cornell proceeded to enlarge the house to its present 21-room size and converted it into a tavern. "Cornell's Tavern Stand" became a popular stagecoach stop and rooming house, serving the Turnpike and local traffic. At that time, the Providence and Hartford stages passed three times a day. After Cornell's death in 1847, his heirs sold the business to Henry and Margaret Angell for $4,000.

To purchase the property, Angell received a mortgage from the heirs. He hoped to attract more business by constructing a "bowling saloon" on the property. However, upon failing to pay a $500 promissory note, Angell was legally bound to sell the property at public auction in 1850. The successful bidder, Seril Cornell, sold the property to Stephen Randall the following year.

By the third quarter of the 19th century, the turnpike traffic had considerably diminished due to the establishment of the railroads, and in 1871 the Turnpike was made a free road by an Act of the General Assembly.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)
9. Major Bibliographical References

Republican Herald - February 9, 1850
Providence Journal - July 14, 1901
Collier's Weekly - May 9, 1908

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 95 acres
Quadrangle name: North Scituate, R.I.

UTM References

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Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification:
The boundary for the Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse encompasses adjoining lots 184 and 222 on Johnston Assessor's plat 57. The lots include the resource and its immediate surroundings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

Michael Hebert/Cultural Resource Planner and Richard Greenwood/Architectural Consultant

Wilbur Smith and Associates, Inc. date November, 1983

174 Wickenden Street telephone 401-751-5930

Providence state Rhode Island 02903

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/23/84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
Plan of First Floor, Cornell-Randall-Bailey-Roadhouse. Dotted lines indicate the locations of original features no longer extant - the east wall of the Steere House; or visible - fireplaces and the side entrance to the 1833 wing.

R.E. GREENWOOD, 1983
Plan of Second Floor, Cornell-Randall-Bailey-Roadhouse. Dotted lines indicate the locations of original features no longer extant - the east wall of the Steere House; or visible - fireplaces

NOT TO SCALE
Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse
2737 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Richard Greenwood
Date: 1983
Negative filed at: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, R. I.

View: View of structure from southwest.

PHOTO #1
CORNELL-RANDALL-BAILEY HOMESTEAD
(The Log Gift and Curtain Shoppe)
2737 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Michael Hebert
Date: March, 1984
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: Northwest room, 1st floor, view from northeast showing c. 1896 mantle.
CORNELL-RANDALL-BAILEY HOMESTEAD
(The Log Gift and Curtain Shoppe)
2737 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Michael Hebert
Date: March, 1984
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: 1st floor stairway in early (western) half of structure,
view from southwest

#3
CORNELL-RANDALL-BAILEY HOMESTEAD
(The Log Gift and Curtain Shoppe)
2737 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Michael Hebert
Date: March, 1984
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: 1st floor stairway in later (eastern) half of structure; view from southeast
CORNELL-RANDALL-BAILEY HOMESTEAD
(The Log Gift and Curtain Shoppe)
2737 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Michael Hebert
Date: March, 1984
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: Southeast room, 1st floor, view from southeast showing c. 1896 mantle
Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse
2737 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Richard Greenwood
Date: 1983
Negative filed at: R. I. Historical Preservation Commission

150 Benefit Street
Providence, R. I.

View: View of c. 1833 rear wing and 1976 storage wing from northeast.

PHOTO # 6
Cornell-Randall-Bailey Roadhouse

19 287570 4634120

2735 Hartford Pike
Johnston, R.I.