

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name William Whalley Homestead
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 33 Burchard Avenue n/a not for publication
city, town Little Compton n/a vicinity
state Rhode Island code RI county Bristol code 001 zip code 02837

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<u>3</u>	_____
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
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 the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural
field/animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural
field/animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
 walls WOOD/shingle
STONE
 roof ASPHALT/shingle
 other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Whalley Homestead is a well preserved, early 19th-century farm complex in the town of Little Compton. It consists of a five-bay wide, one-and-one-half story wood shingle farmhouse probably dating from c. 1815-1830, a late 19th-century gable-roofed barn, and a small wood and stone outbuilding and well, all bounded by stone walls and surrounded by fields and woodland. The house faces south and is set with its east end close to Burchard Avenue, a narrow rural lane. The barn stands to the south of the house across a stone walled front yard while the other outbuilding and well are set in a small stone walled yard behind the house. On the west, the land falls away, opening up a picturesque view of walled fields, woodlands, and man-made Watson Reservoir in the distance. A stone retaining wall adjacent to the house on the west helps define a rectangular space which appears to have been treated as a rather large formal garden. The property is distinguished by plantings of some horticultural interest, including a number of large holly trees and several other specimen trees.

The farmhouse, built in a traditional five-room, center-chimney plan, is five bays wide with a central entrance and gable roof. An early one room gable-roofed ell, lower in height than the main house, is attached to the rear at the northwest corner, and to this ell is attached a relatively modern, single car garage. The house is covered in natural wood shingles, except for the garage, which is sided in vertically beaded tongue and groove boarding. The gabled roofs are wood shingles with their ridges capped with painted boards. The brick chimney has been parged with a cement coating. Most of the trim of the house is flat wood boarding, including the narrow corner boards, door and window casings, and the rake boards at the ends of the roof. It appears that an original cornice trim below the overhanging eaves at the front and rear of the house may have been replaced with the square edge molding in place today; only a piece of molded trim above the main entrance remains. These moldings "break out" from the wall surface at the projecting window and door casings. The stone foundation is constructed of fieldstone below grade with larger, roughly finished fieldstone and granite exposed

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nelson, Lee H. "Nail Chronology," technical leaflet published by Association for State and Local History.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Statewide Historical Preservation Report, Town of Little Compton, Dec. 1987 (Draft).

Wilbur, Benjamin F. Little Compton Families. Providence, 1974.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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 2.10 acres

UTM References

A

1	9	3	1	9	0	6	0	4	6	0	1	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lot 8-4, Assessor's Map 26, in the Town of Little Compton.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this property encompass all of the significant elements of the farm complex including the main house, barn, outbuilding and well, as well as adjacent fields to the south and west. The boundaries follow existing stone walls on the north and west.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clifford M. Renshaw, A.I.A.

organization Consultant

street & number 25 Main Street

city or town Wickford

date March 1988

telephone 401-294-6538

state Rhode Island zip code 02852

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1815-1830 (house)

late 18th century (barn)

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Built c. 1815-1830, the William Whalley Homestead is a well-preserved farm complex of a type once characteristic of southeastern Rhode Island. With its house, barn, and outbuilding bounded by stone walls and set within a bucolic landscape of fields and woodlands, the property is a remarkably intact physical remnant of the agricultural economy which supported this area from the 17th century into the early-20th century. In addition, the Whalley farmhouse is a surviving example of a vernacular house type common in Rhode Island from the 18th and early 19th centuries. The one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney, gable-roof house type is one of several common house types in Little Compton. The other two are the one-and-one-half-story gambrel roof houses and the full two-story gable roof houses. The Whalley house remains one of several extant examples. Although it probably dates from the late-19th century, the barn of the complex is also a characteristic type for the area with its rectangular plan, two-story gable roof form and large sliding door opening at the center of the long side.

Settled in the 17th century, the town of Little Compton and adjoining communities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts long depended primarily on agriculture as a mainstay of their economy. With its fertile rolling fields and little industrial development, the area changed little until well into the 20th century. The farm-based economy was responsible for the development of a particularly beautiful and cohesive landscape of stone-walled, rolling fields and farm complexes of traditional wood-shingled structures of which the Whalley Homestead is a characteristic and significantly intact example.

Although the early history of the Homestead is unclear, by 1897 the property was referred to in local deeds as ". . . the homestead farm of William Whalley and his wife Ann Whalley."

See continuation sheet

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above grade. Stone steps protected by a bulkhead with slanting wood doors provides access to this basement at the west end of the south facade.

The windows of the Whalley house are primarily six-over-six, double hung wood sash with pegged, plank frames. There is one narrow, four-over-four window in the rear ell, and a single-plate glass "picture" window which has been installed on the west end of the house, probably to replace an earlier double hung window. The six-panel front entrance door is framed with simple shallowly-fluted pilasters supporting a flat lintel and molded cornice above. Below are natural stone steps. Like the other exterior doors of the house, the raised panels of the main entrance are treated with square edges. The house is constructed of heavy timber, mortise-and-tenon framing with plank walls typical of Rhode Island houses built from the early 17th through the early 19th centuries. In the basement, roughly hewn logs which serve as floor joists remain exposed, as do hand hewn rafters in the attic with inscribed Roman numerals, which served as an aid to erection of the frame during construction of the house.

The interior of the house is organized around a massive central chimney. A narrow entry hall provides access to an enclosed attic stair with a stairway to the basement built into the stone chimney foundation below. At either side of the entry hall is a parlor. The parlor to the east retains much of its early trim and is one of the most historically intact rooms in the house. A large fireplace here is treated with a fairly simple mantel. Flat pilasters with square edge caps support a tall lintel panel and mantel shelf. A low backboard above this shelf rises to a slight central peak, characteristic of vernacular mantels of the late-Federal/Greek Revival period. The doors to this room are six-panel with shallow recessed flat panels, typical in Federal-period interiors. The flat door casings are trimmed with a backband moulding. A segment of chair rail remains in place between the pair of windows on the east wall of this parlor; evidence in the plaster suggests that the chair rail was originally carried around the entire room. Baseboards and corner post casings are simply treated with a single beaded edge.

The parlor to the west of the entry and the keeping room on the north side of the house have received some alterations. The

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Continuation Sheet**

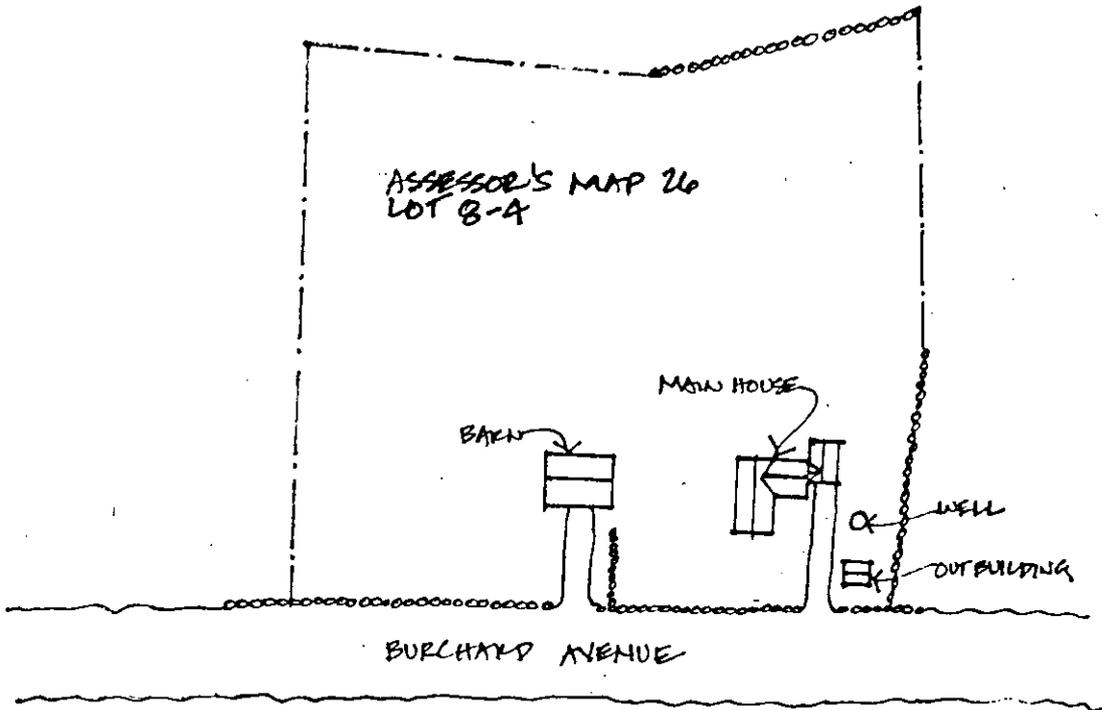
Section number 8 Page 8.2

Public records record that Whalley and his wife were both born in England and were living in the area by 1878. Although the basic form of the farmhouse is characteristic of the late-18th century, the house has been dated to c. 1815-1830 because of interior detailing which seems to suggest the Federal or early-Greek Revival types and because early machine-headed cut nails produced from c. 1815 into the 1830's were used in its construction.

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Section number 7 Page 7.4



SITE PLAN @ 1" = 100'

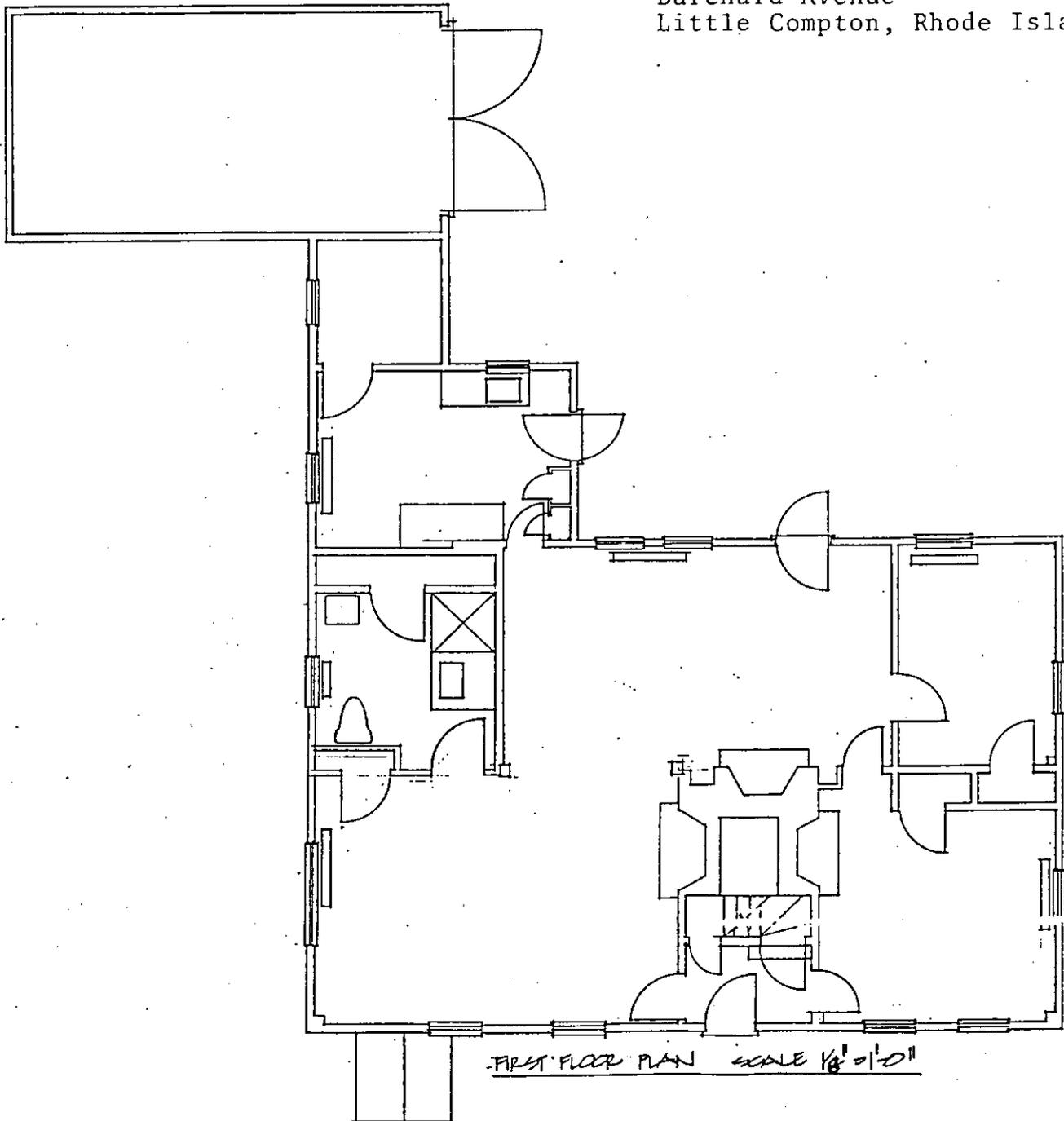
WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
LITTLE COMPTON, RI

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National Park Service

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William Whalley Homestead
Burchard Avenue
Little Compton, Rhode Island



FIRST FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

REMOVED FOR LITTLE COMPTON SURVEY REPORT

19. IX. 89.

WMW



Little Compton; The William Whalley Homestead



WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R.I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSRAW, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH 1985

NEGATIVE FILE AT RI HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION COMMISSION,
150 BENEFIT ST., PROVIDENCE, R.I.

EXTERIOR VIEW OF FARMHOUSE
LOOKING NORTHWEST

PHOTO #2



WILLIAM W HALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R. I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSCHAW, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH 1988

NEGATIVE FILE AT R. I. HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION COMMISSION,
150 BENEFIT ST.,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

EXTERIOR VIEW OF FARMHOUSE
LOOKING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO #3



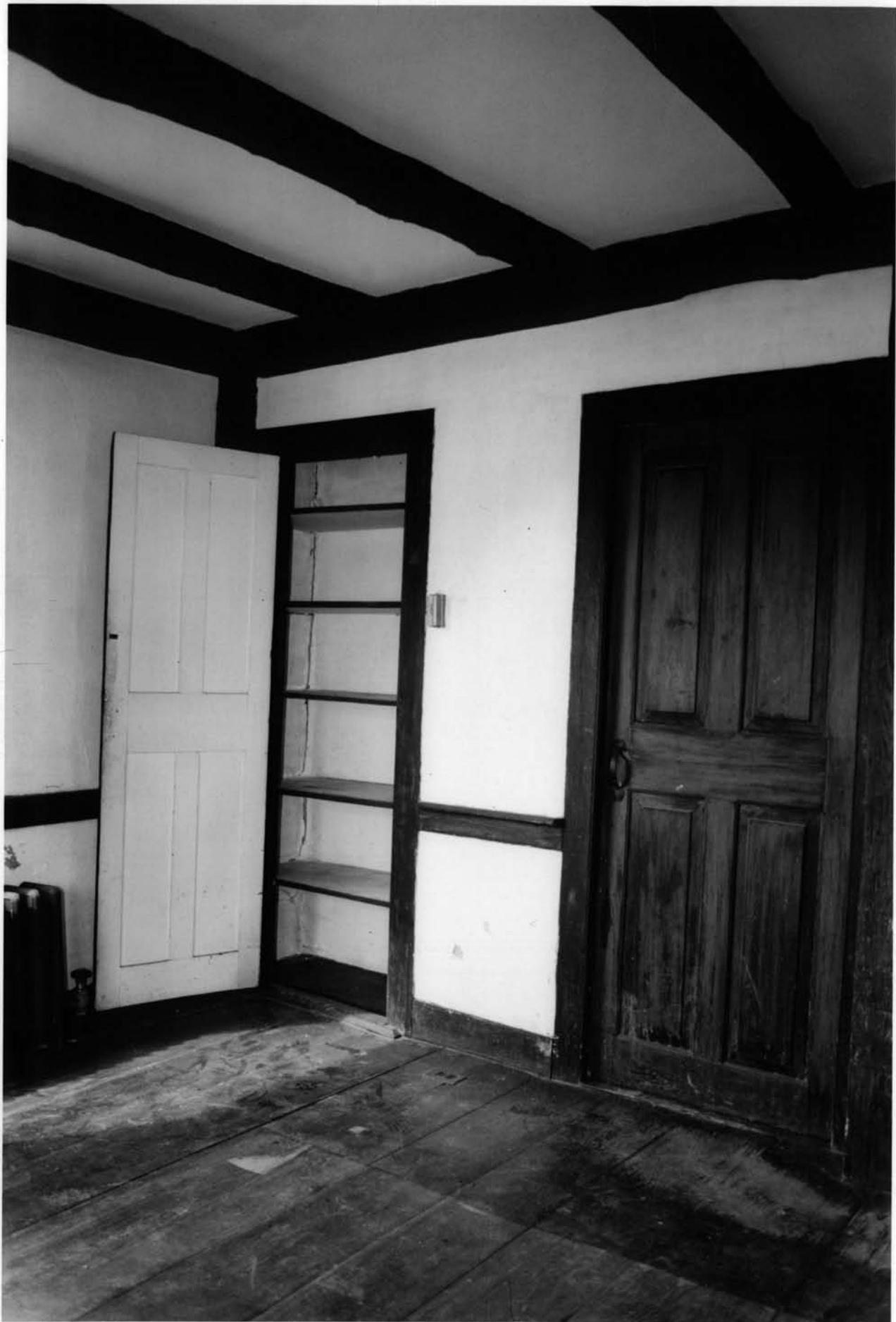
WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R. I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSMAV, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH, 1988

NEGATIVE FILED AT R.I. HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION COMMISSION
150 BENEFIT ST.,
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

INTERIOR VIEW OF SOUTHEAST
PARLOR LOOKING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO #4



WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R. I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSRAW, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH, 1988

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PROVIDENCE, R. I.

INTERIOR VIEW OF SOUTHWEST
PARLOR LOOKING NORTHWEST

PHOTO # 5



WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R. I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSHAW, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH, 1988

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INTERIOR VIEW OF FRONT ENTRY
AND STAIRHALL, LOOKING NORTHEAST

PHOTO #6



WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R.I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSHAW, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH, 1988

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PROVIDENCE R.I.

INTERIOR VIEW OF ATTIC WALL
LOOKING NORTHEAST

PHOTO #7



WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
BURCHARD AVENUE
LITTLE COMPTON, R.I.

CLIFFORD M. RENSRAW, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH 1988

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PROVIDENCE, R. I.

DETAIL VIEW OF WOOD
LATCH AT ATTIC CLOSET

PHOTO #8



William Whalley Homestead
Burchard Avenue
Little Compton, Rhode Island

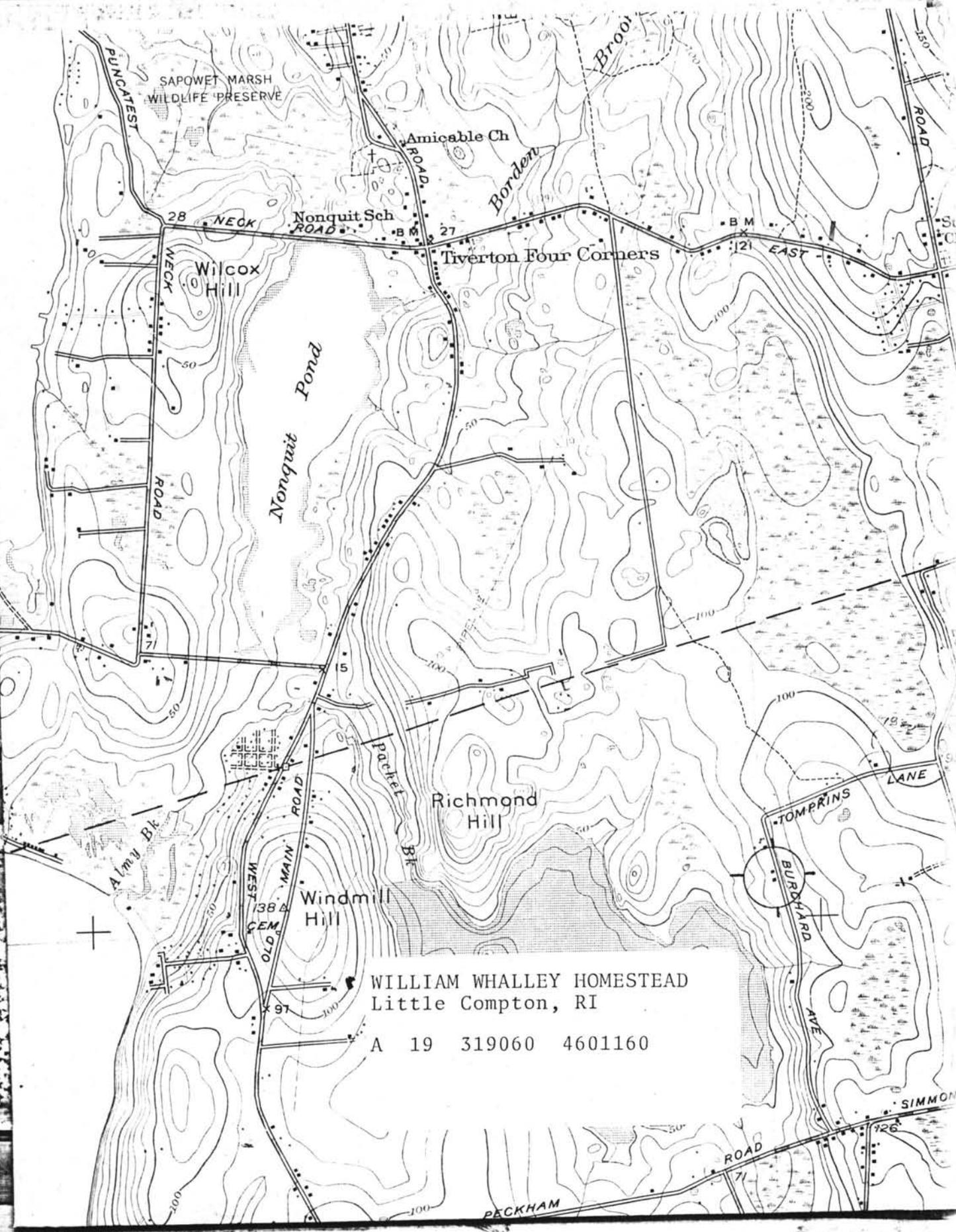
Photographer: Clifford M. Renshaw

Date: March, 1948

Neg. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: Shed, looking northeast.

Photo #9



WILLIAM WHALLEY HOMESTEAD
Little Compton, RI

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