1. NAME

COMMON: Greene-Bowen House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fones Greene House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 698 Suttonwoods Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Warwick
STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Kent
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2: Robert O. Tiernan

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

FACE"OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Unoccupied residence

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Edward S. Bowen
STREET AND NUMBER: 698 Suttonwoods Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Warwick
STATE: Rhode Island

5. LOCATION OR LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Warwick City Hall
STREET AND NUMBER: 3275 Post Road
CITY OR TOWN: Warwick
STATE: Rhode Island

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: H.A.B.S. & H.A.B.S.I. (RI-270) (see continuation sheet #1)
DATE OF SURVEY: 1957, 1958
- Federal
- State
- County
- Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: Independence Avenue & First Street, S.E.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D. C.
The progenitor of the Greenes of Warwick was John Greene, "surgeon." In 1637 he left Salem to join Roger Williams and became one of the original settlers of Providence. Five years later, Greene was among the twelve men who, under the aegis of their disputatious leader, Samuel Gorton, bought a tract of land known as the Shawomet Purchase from the Narragansett sachem, Miantonomi. Gorton and his followers removed to their new-bought lands and styled their settlement Warwick.

The Greenes prospered in Warwick. They became prominent in local, state and national affairs. The family produced three Rhode Island governors, and a United States Senator. General Nathanael Greene is renowned for his exploits during the Revolution. Of the early Greene houses in Warwick, only the Fones Greene house stands essentially as built.

In 1687 John Greene's grandson, Captain James Greene, erected a house in Warwick at Nassauket, now familiar as Buttonwoods Point. Captain Greene died in 1711, leaving his "housing and farm" to his son, Fones. It is doubtful that the existing house on Buttonwoods Avenue is the one built by James Green in 1687, however, for judging by its architecture, it could not date before 1700. Fones Greene's will of 1758 refers to his "Mansion house," and distinguishes between it and the "old house" on the property. For some time a depression 30' northeast of the existing building has been pointed out as the site of this earlier dwelling. Thus, the early eighteenth century house still standing at Nassauket is a dwelling built by Fones Greene soon after he inherited the Buttonwoods farm.

Six generations of the Greene family lived in Fones Greene's "Mansion house." It was sold in 1900 and has belonged to members of the Bowen family since then. The Bowens have not occupied the old house as a residence, preferring to live in the cottage nearby. It has never had central heating, running water or modern plumbing. The last "improvement" made to the house was the installation of stoves on the first floor in the mid-nineteenth century, and they have been gone since 1900.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Downing, Antoinette F.; Early Homes of Rhode Island; Garrett & Massie; Richmond, Virginia; 1937; pp. 19, 33, 35, 45-53. Isham, Norman M. & Brown, Albert F.; Early Rhode Island Houses; Preston & Rounds; Providence; 1895; passim.
Warwick Town & City Records; City Hall, Warwick.

10. 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>41° 41' 31&quot;</td>
<td>71° 25' 25&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>41° 41' 27&quot;</td>
<td>71° 25' 11&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>41° 41' 25&quot;</td>
<td>71° 25' 14&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>41° 41' 25&quot;</td>
<td>71° 25' 28&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15.268

11. FORM PREPARED BY
NAME AND TITLE:
David W. Chase, Survey Director
ORGANIZATION:
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
52 Power Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Providence
STATE:
Rhode Island
CODE:
44

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 ☑ State ☐ Local ☐

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Date APR 1 1974

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

______________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:
______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

© U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1
The core of the Fones Greene House in Warwick is a two story block, 27x27', built c.1715. Appended to this are one story mid-eighteenth century additions. The house faces south. Behind it and down a brush covered bank is a brook feeding into Buttonwoods Cove. The brick chimney stack nearly fills the west side of the original section of the house. The brickwork, laid up in flemish bond, is painted the same bone white as the rest of the clapboard exterior.

Abutting the west end of the house is a one story lean-to, unfinished within, 10x27'. This addition has preserved a section of early, but not original, ship-lapped clapboards on the exterior wall of the original part of the house. They show evidence of oxblood red paint under white wash, and are affixed with rose head nails to horizontal planking which now sheaths the old house.

A second lean-to addition, 6' wide and fully finished, was built across the back of the building. When the additions were constructed in the mid-eighteenth century, the pitch of the gable roof was lowered. These alterations created the dwelling's classic "salt box" profile.

The existing fenestration and window sash is not original. The windows with 6/6 double hung sash on the south elevation replaced much smaller windows (the casing of one, 17x37", remains in the first floor southeast closet). A fire which damaged portions of the northwest corner of the building some twenty years ago obliterated the remains of a two-section casement window at the second story level in the rear of the house. This has been recorded in a photograph published in 1937. Other changes resulted from the fire, including boarding and clapboarding over a northwest entrance and window.

The oldest part of the house is of heavy post and beam construction. The frame is oak, its elements measuring as much as 3.5x12" in section. Members are framed into each other with mortise and tenon joints held firm with wood pegs. The exterior walls of the house are studded and, at least on the first floor level, the interstices between the studs are filled with brick nogging. Horizontal sheathing boards are nailed to the studs in the oldest part of the house and the clapboards are nailed to the boarding. The interior face of these exterior walls have been covered with lath and plastered. The exterior walls in the north lean-to addition are made of vertical planks fastened to sill and plate. Clapboards are nailed to the exterior and plastered lath to the interior surface.

The first floor is divided into a "Great Room" at the front of the house and a smaller back room -- both with large fireplaces -- an entry in the southwest corner beside the chimney, and a stairhall in the northwest corner (see floor plan, continuation sheet 2). The chimney stack measures 6x21', the entry 6x6'. The remainder of the original 27' square is divided into three structural bays 9' wide and 21' across.

See continuation sheet 1
4. Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Bowen
   40 Fatima Road
   Warwick, Rhode Island  Code: 44

6. Rhode Island State Inventory
   1970, 1974  -- State
   Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
   52 Power Street
   Providence, Rhode Island  Code: 44

7. Description cont.

Some partitions are plastered, others are fashioned from vertical sheathing with beveled and beaded edges. The ceilings are plastered. The framing members, left exposed on the interior, are chamfered and finished with lamb's tongue terminals. In some rooms wood clothes pegs have been doweled into the framing members. The Great Room, two structural bays wide, has an exposed summer beam running from chimney girt to end girt.

The chimney tree of both the Great Room and back room fireplaces are elaborated with complex cyma — moulded chamfering. Above each chimney tree a plastered cove rises to the chimney girt. A hole has been cut in each cove to take a stove pipe. The Great Room fireplace is 9' wide and 3' deep. The back room fireplace was altered in the mid-eighteenth century to accommodate a beehive oven and smaller fireplace. This alteration is now only partially intact. The paneled mantel piece has been removed in recent years; the oven is in ruin. A central brick panel in the back of this fireplace is laid up in herring bone pattern. The rear corners of this fireplace are square, while the rear corners of the Great Room fireplace are rounded.

The Great Room was originally 20x17½'. A small bedroom and a closet 5' wide now occupy the east end of the room. The back room, originally 9x12', was enlarged to 16x12' when the rear lean-to was built. This addition also provided a 6x7' room in the northeast corner of the house, and a closet and a second entrance in the northwest corner. Above the board and batten doors leading from the closet and entry to the back room are pierced-work frets sawn to baluster form.

The stairs are unusually ample. Rising in three runs from the first to the second floor, they have a solid vertical plank balustrade finished with a plain rail and posts with disk-like circular finials. The stone cellar stairs descend below this staircase and it is in this cellarway that the brick-filled studding of the original exterior walls can be seen.

See continuation sheet 2
The second story of the house has been divided into five rooms. A garret (badly fire damaged) extends over the north lean-to addition. The room over the Great Room has a mid-eighteenth century fireplace and mantel built into the larger early eighteenth century opening. Again, the framing is exposed, and here the posts are flared to carry the chimney girt and plates. Both plastered and vertical board partitions are found on the second floor. The attic is unfinished.

The Greene House is preserved in its mid-eighteenth century state. Unfortunately, it is in weakened condition. The north addition is separating from the older portion of the house; the north wall is badly rotted-out; loose nogging has caused sections of the south wall clapboard to bulge and fall off.

The area included in this nomination, recorded as lots 5 and 310, plat 370, contains 15.266 acres. Three other buildings stand on the property: A recently built house, a barn and a one and a half story cottage. The latter two date from the late nineteenth century.
The Greene's operated their farm on Buttonwoods Point for more than two hundred years. They grew wheat, rye, oats and corn. By 1711 an orchard was producing fruit, and apple trees may still be found on the property. Cattle, numbering between ten and fifteen head, produced milk for cheese and meat. The Greenes kept pigs and their sheep provided wool from which yarn was fashioned. Flax raised on the farm was spun into linen thread.

The Fones Greene House was the focal point of the farm. More than just a residence, it served as workroom and storehouse. Here cheese was made -- the chief "cash crop" of the farm -- and spinning done. Meat, cider, and later, potatoes, were stored in the cellar; wool, flax, feathers and leather in the attic.

As an exemplar of early Rhode Island architecture, the Fones Greene House has few equals. Indeed, it has been famous as an architectural relic since the nineteenth century. For many years it was maintained as a quasi house museum.

The dwelling illustrates the third and final phase in the evolution of what Norman Isham defined as the characteristic Rhode Island house, built between 1640 and 1725. Isham defined the archetypal house of the first phase (c.1640-1675) as a one-and-a-half-story structure of heavy frame construction with a single room on each floor. One end of the building was nearly filled with a stone chimney. Beside the chimney was a small entry containing a steep flight of stairs leading to the upper room. In the second phase (1676-c.1700), this basic configuration was expanded to contain at least two rooms on the first floor with stone fireplaces set side by side. The massive chimneys of houses built in these first two phases gave them the descriptive title, "Stone-Enders." They were peculiar to Rhode Island.

In the third stage of its development (1700-c.1725), the Rhode Island "Stone-Ender" grew once again, increasing to two full stories in height, the plan expanded to include at least two rooms on each floor. In this period brick became the characteristic material from which to construct the end chimney. The Fones Greene House possesses all the earmarks of the third phase. Among dwellings Isham discussed as examples of this period, only this house survives.

Though built in the eighteenth century, the Fones Greene House -- with its chamfered oak frame, immense chimney stack and cavernous fireplaces -- harks back to a medieval building tradition. It was a tradition fast disappearing when the house was built. But the rural agrarian life style lived by generations of Green occupants, rooted as it was in the equally antique lifeways of English yeoman farmers, persisted on the Buttonwoods farm almost into the twentieth century.
1. NAME

COMMON: James-Fones Greene House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fones Greene House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Warwick

STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: D. W. Chase

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: R. I. Historical Preservation Commission

52 Power Street, Providence, R. I. 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

General view of house from the southwest
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

**1. NAME**

COMMON: James-Fones Greene House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fones Greene House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Warwick
STATE: Rhode Island

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1957

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**  
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRY NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON: James-Pones Greene House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC: Pones Greene House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER: 696 Buttonwoods Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Warwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE: Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY: Kent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: D. W. Chase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT: R. I. Historical Preservation Commission 52 Power Street, Providence, R. I. 02906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC: Detail, cellarway beneath staircase, showing plastered brick nogging between studs of east exterior wall, earliest section of house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FORM NO. 10-300

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE
Rhode Island

COUNTY
Kent

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - ATTACH TO OR ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH)

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

NAME:

COMMON:
James-Fones Greene House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fones Greene House

LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
698 Buttonwoods Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Warwick

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE
44

COUNTY:
Kent

CODE
003

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:
D. W. Chase

DATE OF PHOTO:
March 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
R. I. Historical Preservation Commission
52 Power Street, Providence, R. I. 02906

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Great Room Fireplace
Common: James-Fones Greene House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fones Greene House

LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
698 Buttonwoods Avenue
CITY OR TOWN:
Warwick
STATE:
Rhode Island
CODE: 44
COUNTY:
Kent
CODE: 003

PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: D. W. Chase
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT: R. I. Historical Preservation Commission
52 Power Street, Providence, R. I. 02906

IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Fireplace, second floor "chamber" above the Great Room
1. NAME
   COMMON: James-Fones Greene House
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Fones Greene House

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 698 Buttonwoods Avenue
   CITY OR TOWN: Warwick
   STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: D. W. Chase
   DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
                   52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Closet door, northwest corner of north addition
   batten door, strap hinges, pierced-work fret above door
GREENE-BOWEN HOUSE RESTORATION
44-75-00161-00
Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographer: Russell Wright
Date of Photograph: 1975
Negative: Warwick Historical Society

West elevation of Greene-Bowen House.
**Form No. O-300**

**UNIVERSAL STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**RAHODE ISLAND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

### 1. **NAME**

**COMMON:** James-Pones Greene House  
**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Fones Greene House

### 2. **LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 698 Buttonwoods Avenue  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Warwick  
**STATE:** Rhode Island  
**CODE:** 44  
**COUNTY:** Kent  
**CODE:** 003

### 3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** D. W. Chase  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 1974  
**NEGATIVE FILED AT:** R. I. Historical Preservation Commission  
**ADDRESS:** 52 Power Street, Providence, R. I. 02906

### 4. **IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:**  
General view of the house from the northwest  
the late-nineteenth century cottage on the property  
is visible in the background

---

**U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1**
GREENE-BOWEN HOUSE RESTORATION
44-75-00161-00
Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographer: Russell Wright
Date of Photograph: 1975
Negative: Warwick Historical Society

Front or south elevation of Greene-Bowen House.