

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Caleb Greene House

AND/OR COMMON

Greene Memorial House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

15 Centerville Road

CITY, TOWN

Warwick

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#2 - Hon. Edward Beard

STATE

Rhode Island

VICINITY OF
CODE 44

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 PRIVATE

 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
- MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER
Institutional

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

American National Red Cross, c/o New England Chapter

STREET & NUMBER

99 Brookline Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

Massachusetts

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Warwick City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

3275 Post Road

CITY, TOWN

Warwick

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rhode Island Statewide Survey - Warwick Survey

DATE

1975-1978

.. FEDERAL STATE .. COUNTY .. LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Caleb Greene House is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, early nineteenth-century timber-framed structure with a four-bay facade and a large brick center chimney. It has a one-story, gable-roofed ell on the east side and a two-story, gable-roofed ell extending from the west end of the north (rear) side. These ells, with their evidences of heavy post-and-beam construction, are very early additions, if not part of the original fabric of the house. A third ell, built in the middle of the twentieth century and used as an auditorium by the present owners, runs off the rear of the east ell and connects the house to a modern three-bay garage. The house, located in Apponaug Village, the governmental center of the City of Warwick, faces south onto Centerville Road (State Route 117) and is set right on the sidewalk, with a tiny landscaped garden in front of the east ell. This garden and two nearby trees give some sense of what the house's original village setting was like, but the character of Apponaug has changed radically over the years and the property is now hemmed in between an early twentieth-century brick factory building on the west and a mid-twentieth-century brick commercial building on the east.

For the most part, the Greene House is a typical dwelling of the post-Revolutionary period, combining features of the Federal style with elements which are holdovers from the Colonial era. The building's chimney and doorway are off-center due to the asymmetrical four-bay arrangement of the facade. The principal ornament of the exterior is the front entrance, which is framed by fluted pilasters supporting a cushion-frieze entablature and a pediment embellished with dentils and modillions, forming a standard Colonial entry treatment which remained popular in this region through the early Federal period. Windows on the end elevations and first floor front have splayed-lintel caps, while those on the second floor front abut the eaves and have the cornice molding mitered out around their frames. Exterior walls of the house and the east wing are sheathed with clapboards, most of which have been put up in the course of repairs made through the years, but in some places the boards are ship-lapped, and may be part of the original wall cover. Exterior walls of the northwest and northeast ells are sheathed with shingles, except for a small room with concrete-block walls which connects the auditorium in the northeast ell to the garage.

The interior of the house has been altered to accommodate public functions; this makes it difficult to reconstruct the original plan. The chimney, however, is so close to the east end of the house it is unlikely that the five-room plan typically found in center-chimney houses was used here. The most provocative feature of the interior is the existence of two large kitchen fireplaces with ovens and wood-storage compartments, one on each floor on the north side of the

(See Cont. Sheet 1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

chimney stack. This factor presumably indicates that the structure was divided into flats to house two different families. This could explain the early character of the east and northwest ells, which were either constructed with the main block or added soon afterward to permit utilization of the house as a two-family residence (a fully excavated basement extends under both the main block and the northwest ell, which may indicate that these sections were built at the same time). One important feature of the original plan, a short, steep closed-string staircase with winders at the bottom and top, exists intact in the small entry hall in front of the chimney stack. A second, enclosed staircase with winders at the top is located in the northwest ell. Cased posts can be seen in most of the rooms of the older sections of the house, while the only visible horizontal timber, located in the northwest ell, is a transverse beam supported by cased posts, one of which has a gunstock profile.

Asphalt-tile flooring, wall-to-wall carpeting, plywood paneling, and dropped acoustic-tile ceilings have been installed throughout the house in this century, but a considerable amount of nineteenth-century interior finish still survives. There are many two- and four-panel doors with strap or H-L hinges, and two rooms on the first floor have horizontal-board wainscoting composed of boards measuring up to eighteen inches wide. Fine Federal-style mantels adorn the fireplaces in the northwest ell, southwest parlor, and the southwest and southeast chambers, and the southwest parlor also has doors and windows with eared architraves and a cornice embellished with dentils (part of this cornice was damaged in a fire and a crudely fashioned replacement has been installed). An apse-like niche in the southeast parlor, set where the fireplace would normally be, is the last notable feature of the interior. It has a semi-elliptical-arched top with decorative keystone, and was designed to accommodate a wood-burning stove.

In spite of numerous changes in the structure and its surroundings, the Greene House still projects a sense of its antiquity to people passing by on the street. When viewed from Centerville Road, the modern northeast ell cannot be seen, and the building appears to be an intact example of an early nineteenth-century Federal dwelling.

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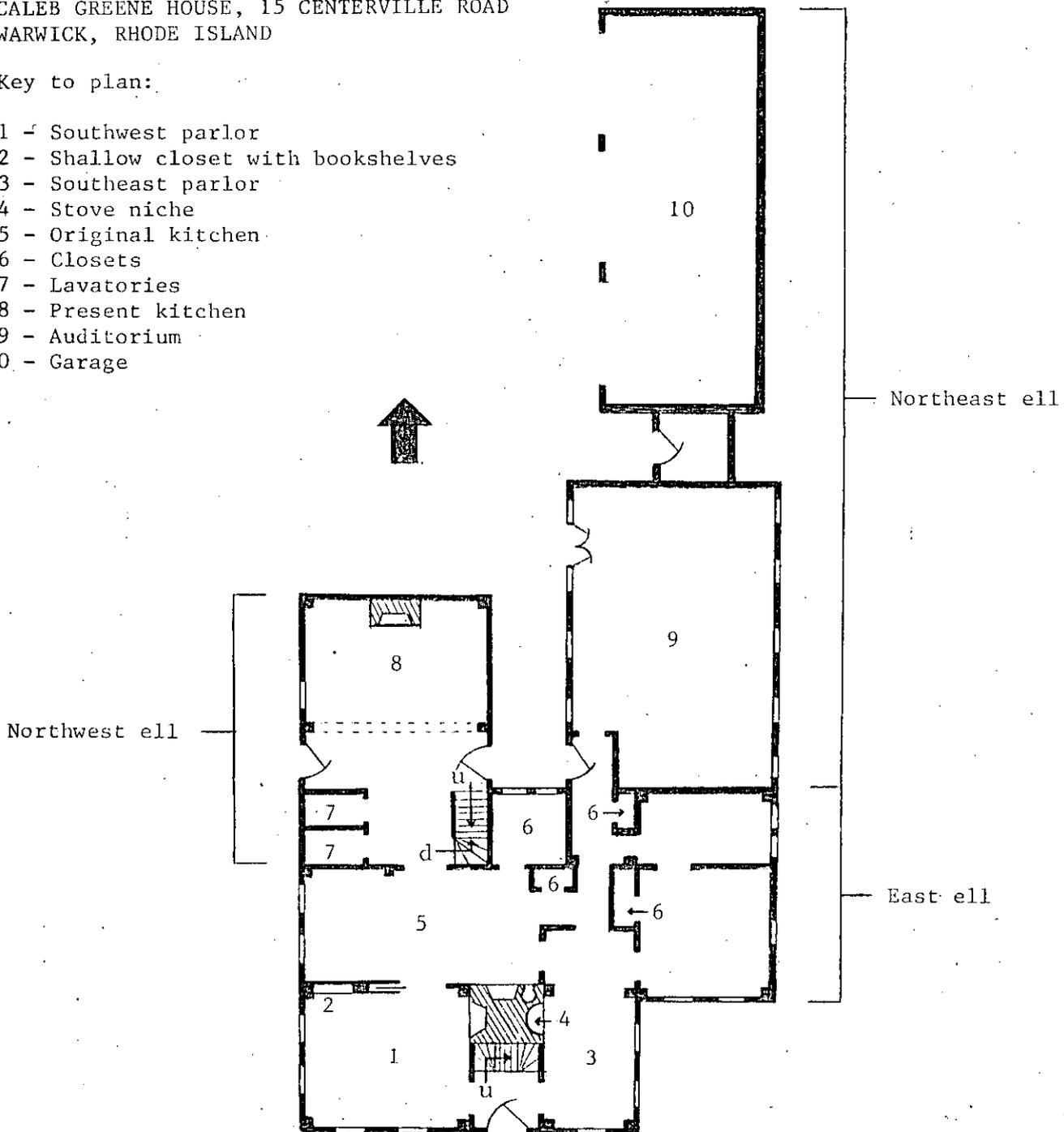
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

CALEB GREENE HOUSE, 15 CENTERVILLE ROAD
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

Key to plan:

- 1 - Southwest parlor
- 2 - Shallow closet with bookshelves
- 3 - Southeast parlor
- 4 - Stove niche
- 5 - Original kitchen
- 6 - Closets
- 7 - Lavatories
- 8 - Present kitchen
- 9 - Auditorium
- 10 - Garage



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Caleb Greene House is a good local example of Federal domestic architecture and is significant for its association with individuals and institutions that have played an important part in the history of Apponaug. The house, built in 1800 for Caleb Greene, a manufacturer who owned large tracts of land and mill property in Apponaug, was originally one of numerous eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings in what was once one of Rhode Island's most quaint and picturesque villages. With the continuing destruction of the historical fabric of the community in this century, however, it has become a relatively rare relic of its period.

The site of the Greene House, Apponaug, was first settled about 1696. It was one of the principal villages in the Town of Warwick, which was in turn one of the four original townships within the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. With its swift-moving streams and sheltered cove, Apponaug was perfectly suited to commercial and industrial development, and in the eighteenth century sawmills, gristmills, and fulling mills were erected along the brooks here, and wharves and shipyards were built around the harbor. After Samuel Slater's successful experiment in cotton spinning at Pawtucket, R. I. in the 1790s, the water privileges at Apponaug were also used to power textile mills, and the village became an important manufacturing center. Mercantile activities continued, with local vessels involved in the West Indies trade as well as coastal shipping, and the village was also a major stop on the Post Road, the primary highway and coach route at the time between Boston and New York.

This prosperity led to the construction of many elegant Colonial and Federal residences in Apponaug. Today, fewer than ten of these houses are standing, half of them in deteriorated condition. The Caleb Greene House is one of the better preserved of the survivors, and provides an important link with the village's rich and colorful past.

Among the varied historical associations of the Caleb Greene House, perhaps the most notable is the fact that it was the birthplace and boyhood home of Caleb's son, General George Sears Greene. Greene, born

(See Cont. Sheet 3)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

here 6 May 1801, was admitted to West Point in 1819 and graduated second in his class in 1823. In 1836, after thirteen years of service at West Point and in the Army, he left the military and became a civil engineer in New York. He was engineer-in-charge of the enlargement of the New York City water works, oversaw the construction of the Croton Aqueduct, and drew plans for the new reservoir in Central Park.

In 1862, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Greene was commissioned a colonel and was later promoted to brigadier-general. He served the Union cause with distinction, and earned his greatest fame for his heroic defense of Culp Hill at the Battle of Gettysburg. In that action, Greene commanded a brigade of 1300 men which repulsed four charges and a flank attack by a Confederate force numbering between 8000 and 10,000 troops. In a message to General Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, General Henry W. Slocum wrote "...the failure of the enemy to gain entire possession of our works was due entirely to the skill of General Greene and the valor of his troops...."

Though General Greene lived outside of Rhode Island most of his life, he always maintained his ties to his birthplace. A devout Episcopalian, he gave the local Episcopal parish, Saint Barnabas', free use of the family's Apponaug homestead. After his death in Morristown, N.J., on 28 January 1899, his body was returned to Warwick to be buried in the family cemetery about nine hundred feet north-northeast of his father's house (this cemetery is not within the bounds of the house lot and is not included in this nomination). Greene's choice of final resting place indicates his strong feeling for his boyhood home, and the Greene House is therefore notable for being the property most closely associated with this valiant military figure.

The historical significance of the Greene House, however, extends beyond its tie to a famous personage to include its role in the religious and social history of Apponaug. After Sears Greene's death, his son, General Francis Vinton Greene, refurbished the house and donated it to the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island for use as a guild hall by Saint Barnabas' Church. When the original church edifice housing the congregation burned down in 1911, services were held in the Greene House. A new church was finally built by the parish between 1921 and 1926.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

3

In the 1950s, the Greene House came into the possession of its present owners, the American Red Cross. This organization provides social and humanitarian programs for the citizens of Warwick and nearby towns. It continues the tradition of service to the community which Francis Vinton Greene hoped to foster when he donated the house for public religious and social purposes seventy-nine years ago.

The Greene House's link to important local institutions and to a figure prominent in the annals of American military history, together with its role as an architectural relic evoking a sense of Apponaug's past, make it a landmark worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

5

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Bartlett, John Russell, Memoirs of Rhode Island Officers who were Engaged in the Service of their Country During the Great Rebellion of the South (Providence: S. S. Rider and Brother, 1867), pp. 139-145.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Article on the Caleb Greene House in the Providence Journal,
27 August 1899, p. 9.

Article on the history of Saint Barnabas' Church of Apponaug
in the Providence Journal, 9 May 1942, p. 5.

(see cont. sheet #5)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	2	9	5	2	2	0	4	6	1	9	0	4	0
ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

B

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

C

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

D

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is coextensive with lot 230 in
plat 246, as designated in the records of the Tax Assessor
of the City of Warwick

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert O. Jones, Jr., Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Pres. Comm.

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence,

STATE

Rhode Island

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 29, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Caleb Greene House, 15 Centerville Road

Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographed by Robert O. Jones, Jr., September 1978

Negative filed at Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission, 150th Benefit Street,
Providence, Rhode Island

View of the exterior from the southeast

Photo #1



Caleb Greene House, 15 Centerville Road

Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographed by Robert O. Jones, Jr., September 1978

Negative filed at Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit Street,
Providence, Rhode Island

Close-up view of the fireplace in the southwest
parlor

Photo #2



Caleb Greene House, 15 Centerville Road

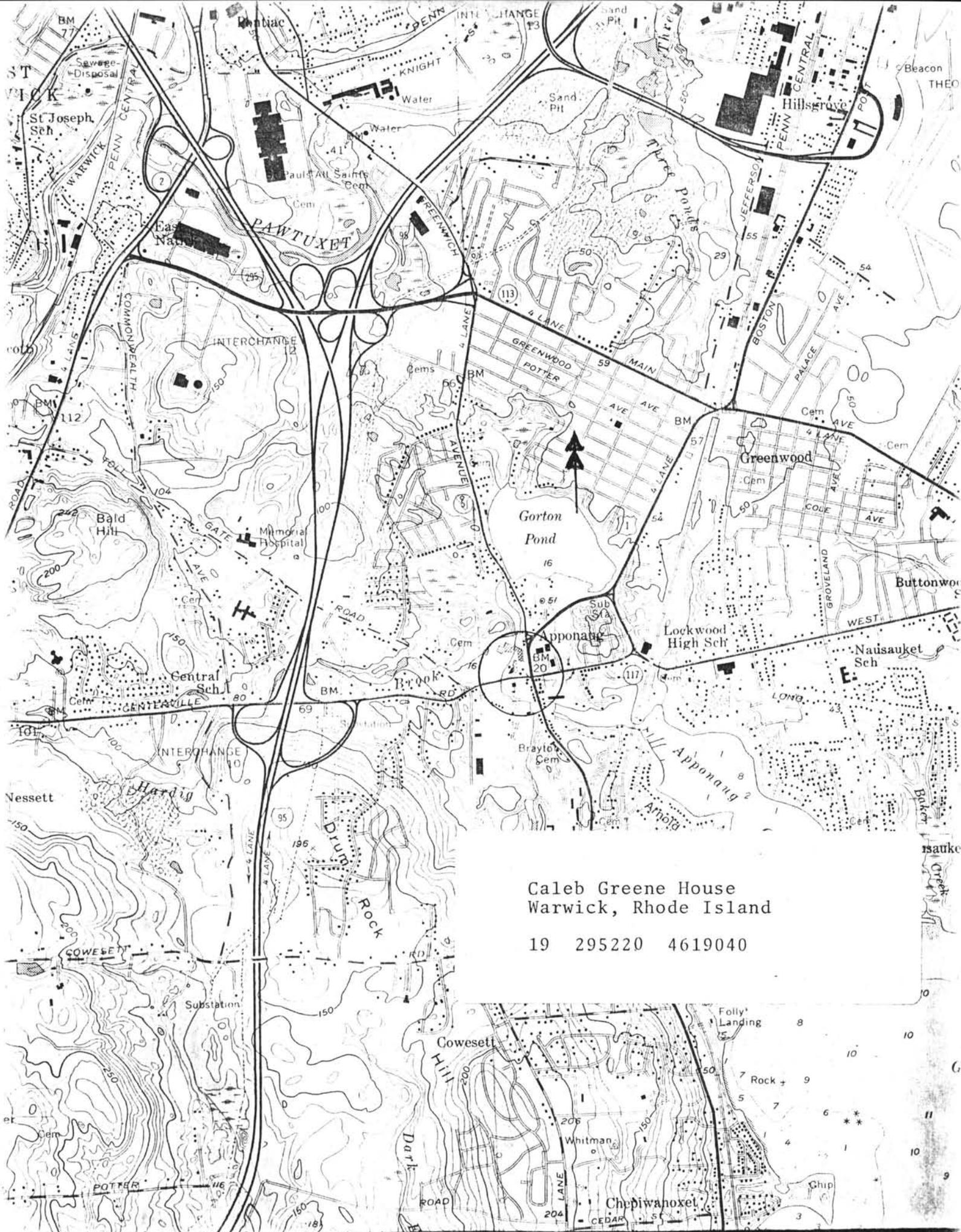
Warwick, Rhode Island

Photographed by Robert O. Jones, Jr., September 1978

Negative filed at Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit Street,
Providence, Rhode Island

Close-up view of the fireplace in the original
kitchen on the first floor

Photo #3



Caleb Greene House
Warwick, Rhode Island

19 295220 4619040