

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

AND/OR COMMON

Warwick Civic Center Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Post 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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple owners - see continuation sheet 1

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Warwick City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

3275 Post Road

CITY, TOWN

Warwick

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Warwick, Rhode Island--Statewide Historical Preservation Report K-W-1(draft)

DATE

1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

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City of Warwick
Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Road
Warwick, R.I. 02886
(owner of City Hall, Fire Station and land)

Kentish Artillery Company
c/o Joseph Olivieri
46 Crest Avenue
Warwick, R.I. 02886
(owner of Armory building)

Apponaug Library Association
c/o Donald Cramer, Chairman
3267 Post Road
Warwick, R.I. 02886
(owner of Library building)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Warwick Civic Center Historic District encompasses four late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century public buildings: Warwick City Hall, the Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library, the Old Fire Station, and the Kentish Artillery Armory. The District is located a short distance east of the crossroads that constitutes the center of Apponaug (founded 1696), a former seaport and mill village whose historic fabric has been severely impaired by twentieth-century commercial-strip development. The Civic Center occupies the southern portion of a large parcel of city-owned land. The northern portion of this parcel contains a ballfield and an extensive asphalt-paved parking lot surrounding the City Hall Annex (first story built ca. 1940, second story added ca. 1955), a large, nondescript structure housing municipal offices and a fire station. Post Road bounds the Civic Center on the south, separating the district from some commercial buildings and the properties of the Warwick Central Baptist Church and Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Church. To the west of the District is a cluster of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial structures, and to the east is Saint Barnabas' Episcopal Church and a small park which separates the Civic Center from a residential area.

The arrangement of buildings and layout of grounds of the Civic Center are not the result of formal planning but have evolved spontaneously over the years. The city hall, library, and armory are arranged in a row along Post Road and are set varying distances from the street, while the fire station is set behind the library and armory on axis with the opening between these buildings. Driveways run back from Post Road on the west side of city hall, between city hall and the library, and between the library and the armory, providing access to parking areas beside and behind the buildings, and a semi-circular drive curves up from the street to the front of city hall. Lawns occupy the areas in front of the three buildings facing the street, with the one in front of the armory raised three or four feet above street level on a terrace with a fieldstone retaining wall. The grounds were originally planted with elm trees, all but one of which have been cut down in recent years. Today the grounds are informally planted with a variety of evergreen and deciduous shrubs and trees. In front of city hall stands a World War I monument, a bronze statue of an infantryman mounted on a boulder with bronze memorial plaques (dedicated 4 July 1919; John G. Hardy, sculptor).

The history and usage of the buildings in the Civic Center Historic District distinguishes them from their surroundings and makes them a distinctive unit within the physical fabric of Apponaug village. The architectural character of these structures also differentiates them from the commercial buildings, dwellings, and churches nearby,

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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proclaiming their public function and identifying them as a group which serves a particular purpose in the life of the community.

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

- 3259 Kentish Artillery Armory (1912; William R. Walker and Son, architects): The Kentish Artillery Armory, built in 1912 on the site of an 1854 armory that had burned, now houses the Warwick Museum. Described at the time of its erection as a building "of a castellated style," the armory is constructed of red brick with granite door and window sills. It is a two-story structure, but the ground at the front is terraced a few feet above street level, so that the second floor is the main floor and the basement is at grade on the west side and to the rear. The building consists of two subsections. The front section is flat-roofed with a battlemented parapet and has two projecting, square corner towers, the western one broader and taller than the eastern one. The western tower has rows of three narrow, arched windows on the front and the west side at main-floor level and a row of identical windows on the west side at basement level. The eastern tower contains a narrow, arched window on the front and the east side at main-floor level. Between the tower is the main entrance, set in an arched opening with several layers of recessed brickwork forming archivolt-like banks around the edge. The original double-leaf door and the arched transom over it have been replaced by a single-leaf door with blind sidelights and transom. The entrance has a broad flight of concrete steps running up to it from the lawn terrace, and over it on the front wall is the inscription "1797 Kentish Artillery 1912" in raised lettering.

The rear section of the building has a very shallow gable roof and wall buttresses supporting projecting roof beams. It is five bays long. Each bay contains a segmental-arch window opening at main-floor level, all of which have been boarded up except the window at the front on the west side. At basement level on the west side there are segmental-arch door openings in each end bay (the rear one is closed off) and segmental-arch windows in the three central bays.

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On the interior, the main floor of the rear section is taken up by one large room which was originally the drill hall but which is now used for museum exhibits. Walls in this room are exposed brick. The front section contains a room in the western tower, now used as an office; a central hallway; and a staircase in the eastern tower.

On the basement level, a hallway connects the foot of the staircase to the entrance in the west wall. Opening off this hallway are a kitchen in the base of the west tower and two rooms arranged en suite along the west side of the building. Behind these two rooms is the boiler room. A long, narrow room running the length of the east side of the building was originally used for shooting practice but is now used for storage. Interior treatment is very plain, with plastered walls and simple architrave door and window trim.

- 3265 Former Fire Station (ca. 1890): The old fire station, erected about 1890 and subsequently much altered, now houses offices of social service agencies and the municipal employees' credit union. It is a two-story, wood-frame structure topped by a hip roof with an off-center, projecting front gable. A one-story, shed-roofed addition extends across the rear. Exterior wall surfaces are sheathed with clapboard and the face of the front gable is covered with cut shingles. Different types of windows are arranged in a different manner on each elevation. The original configuration of openings has obviously been changed, for there is no longer any evidence of a doorway for the fire apparatus. The building originally had a square turret rising from the southeast corner of the roof, but this has been removed. The interior has been drastically altered and now contains seven rooms on the first floor (a furnace room and six offices) and one large office on the second floor. Interior finish is an amalgam of old and new materials, including matchboard wainscoting, plywood paneling, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings.

- 3267 Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library (1924-1925; Hoppin, Field and Peirce, architects): The Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library, built to serve as headquarters of the Apponaug Free

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Library Association, now houses the Apponaug Branch of the Warwick Public Library. It is an extremely simple classicistic building of yellow brick with concrete and painted metal trim, set on a yellow-brick foundation topped by a concrete beltcourse. The structure is composed of two contiguous rectangular blocks, each two stories high. The monumentally treated front section, slightly wider and taller than the rear section, has a flat roof with a projecting skylight hidden by a stepped parapet. It is three bays wide and one bay deep. The bays are articulated by two-story pilasters with simple concrete capitals. The side bays and end bays of the facade each contain one six-over-six double-hung window on the first floor. Over these at second-floor level are raised wall panels instead of windows. The central bay of the facade is recessed and contains the main entrance. It was originally fitted with a pair of Tuscan columns in antis, but these were removed several years ago. The original doors have been replaced by a modern aluminum and glass door with a sidelight to one side and a narrow transom. The doorway, however, is still surmounted by a triangular pediment and entablature supported by scrolled consoles with honeysuckle ornament carved on the sides. The entablature above the pilasters comprises a concrete architrave and a brick frieze. The frieze contains the inscription "Henry Warner Budlong Memorial" in raised lettering.

The rear section of the building is covered by a very shallow, almost flat gable roof and is five bays long. Each bay contains one six-over-six double-hung window on the first and second floor. The space between the first- and second-floor windows in each bay are filled with recessed wooden panels, forming a link which emphasizes the verticality of the bay.

On the interior, the front section contains two rooms on the first floor flanking the entrance, one an office and one a children's reading room. The entire second floor of the front section is taken up by a room lit by the skylight. This room is divided in two by a partition and is used for storage and for special collections. The rear section contains a two-story central longitudinal space with a gallery at the second-floor level. Stacks run off at right angles from the main floor and gallery. Access to the gallery and second-floor front room is

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by a staircase at the rear wall behind the librarian's check-out desk. Interior decoration is very simple, with plastered walls and molded wooden door and window architraves.

- 3275 Warwick City Hall (1893-1894; William R. Walker and Son, architects): Warwick City Hall, originally built to serve as Warwick Town Hall, is an impressive Colonial Revival edifice. It is a three-story structure with a high basement story and is cubical in form, with projecting end bays on the front flanking a six-story, square clock tower rising from the center of the facade. The tower is fronted by an impressive tetrastyle Ionic portico with colossal columns and a broad flight of steps leading up to it. The portico projects beyond the end bays and shelters the main entrance. A classical cornice with dentil frieze runs around the building, breaking across the front of the clock tower and terminating over small scrolled consoles. The main block is covered by a shallow mansard roof with hip roofs extending forward over the projecting bays. Five chimneys, two on each side and one at the rear, rise from the main block; all are backed by gable-roofed, dormer-like projections. Walls are of brick, with granite window sills and lintels and granite quoins and beltcourse framing the basement.

Openings at the basement level have segmental-arch tops; most of these contain windows but a few have doors, the basement being almost a full story above grade. The projecting front bays each have two windows at the first-, second-, and third-floor levels. Those on the first and second floors are double-hung, two-over-two sash, with the second-floor ones shorter than the others; those on the third floor are short horizontal bands with four lights. The window rhythm in these bays is complex. The window pairs in each bay are separated by brick pilasters but are tied together by continuous granite sills and lintels. Those at the second- and third-floor levels are treated as one unit, with the sills beneath the second-story windows and the lintels over the third-story windows. The spaces between the second- and third-floor windows are filled with wood panels containing a large, recessed central panel surrounded by smaller, recessed border panels. All the windows in each bay are grouped within a molded terra-cotta architrave.

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The portico's cast-iron Ionic columns, standing on high brick pedestals, support a classical entablature with modillion cornice. The frieze of the entablature contains the inscription "1642 Warwick City Hall 1931" in raised lettering (these dates refer to the original town settlement and the year of the town's incorporation as a city). The entablature was originally surmounted by a balustrade which has been removed and stored inside the building. The portico shelters an overscaled, two-story doorway comprising a large door opening (now infilled with double-leaf aluminum and glass doors beneath a transom) flanked by sidelights and topped by a huge elliptical fanlight. To the left of the doorway is a small, one-over-one double-hung window; to the right is a bronze plaque with the building date and the names of the town council members, the architects, and the contractor.

Above the portico, at the base of the tower, is a two-story window arrangement breaking up through the cornice of the building. The grouping consists of two very tall, narrow, two-over-two, double-hung windows with square transoms. Continuous granite sills and lintels tie the windows and transoms horizontally, and the whole composition is set within a molded, architrave-like terra-cotta band similar to those in the projecting bays. Over this unit is a rectangular terra-cotta plaque with the legend "Town of Warwick 1893" on a ground of intertwined foliage.

Above the plaque, a granite beltcourse runs around the clock tower, which from this point rises freestanding over the roof of the main block. Above the beltcourse, the wall surface is incised with narrow vertical grooves. Shallow, square projections at the center of each side of the tower contain circular clock faces surrounded by heavy moldings and triangular patches of foliate ornament filling the spandrels. The projections are supported by rows of corbels and are surmounted by bands embellished with garlands and swags. Above this a classical cornice with dentil frieze surrounds the tower, marking the transition from tower to belfry. A classical balustrade runs around the top of the tower, its four sections terminating at corner plinths, each of which supports three urns. An octagonal belfry rises behind the balustrade. Eight Tuscan columns define the corners of the octagon. The shorter, oblique sides are infilled with paneled walls. The long sides contain Palladian arches that open into the bell chamber, now screened off to prevent birds from nesting inside. The corner

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columns support an entablature with a classical modillion cornice surmounted by a balustrade with eight corner pedestals and urns. Above this, a ribbed, ogee-curve octagonal dome with weathervane caps the belfry.

The west side of city hall is divided into seven bays and the east side into six. At the first floor level, each bay contains a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows. Above this, the five bays toward the rear of the building on each side contain large, two-story, six-over-six double-hung windows with arched tops. In the remaining bays, two on the west and one on the east, smaller windows and recessed wall surfaces are arranged to replicate the form of the large windows in the other bays.

Paired, double-hung windows are disposed across the back of the building in irregular fashion, and a grade-level door is located at the east end of the rear. A one-story, brick block on a high basement is attached to the main block by a short, narrow corridor. Added in the 1930s, it houses a large vault for the city archives.

The front entrance of city hall opens into the stair hall. Two half-turn staircases with handrails supported by spiral balusters run up to the second floor from the rear corners of the hall. Between these staircases, a doorway opens into a central corridor running the length of the building. Offices are located on both sides of the corridor, and a rear stair hall is located in the northeast corner of the main block. The stair halls and corridor have beaded matchboard wainscoting with plastered wall surfaces above. The office interiors have all been extensively altered.

On the second floor, the main staircases terminate in a hall lit by the fanlight over the front entrance. Offices open off the sides of this hall, and two more staircases in the rear corners of the hall run up to the third floor. Between the staircases is a doorway that originally opened into a large, two-story town-meeting hall. A dropped ceiling has since been installed and the space subdivided into offices around the perimeter, linked by a corridor. In the center is a small chamber for city council meetings. Giant carved brackets supporting what was the gallery of the original meeting hall are still visible on the second floor, in the corridor in front of the council chamber.

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

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The staircases from the second to the third floor have three runs, with half landings near the bottom and quarter landings near the top. They terminate on the third floor at a small hall that opens into the gallery of the meeting hall, still intact and now used for attic storage. The rest of the space, above the suspended ceiling of the new second-floor office and council chamber, is unused. The arched tops of the two-story windows are visible here, and the original ceiling of the meeting hall, divided by beams into small border sections surrounding a larger central section with an ornamental central medallion.

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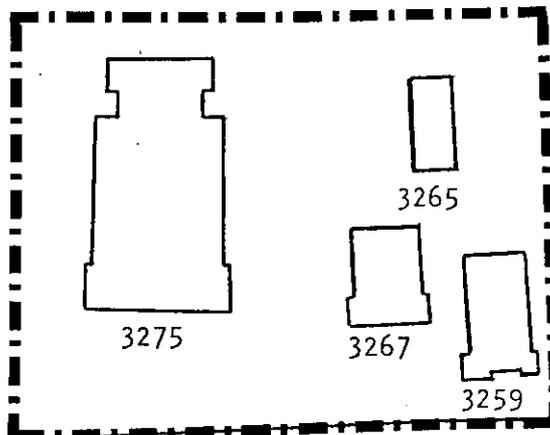
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WARWICK CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
WARWICK, R.I.

- 3259 - Kentish Artillery Armory
- 3265 - Former Fire Station
- 3267 - Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library
- 3275 - Warwick City Hall



POST

ROAD

MUSIC LANE

COLONIAL AVENUE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES	ca. 1890, 1893, 1912, 1924-1925	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William K. Walker & Son, Hoppin, Field & Peirce
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The buildings that constitute the Warwick Civic Center are significant as physical manifestations of the city's civic identity. They represent the growth and evolution of public and quasi-public institutions that have served and continue to serve the needs of local residents. In addition, one of the buildings, Warwick City Hall, is an important visual landmark by a prominent Rhode Island architectural firm, and is a particularly fine example of its building type, style, and period.

Warwick's government has changed over the years, and provisions for accommodating public bodies and agencies have had to change as a result. First settled by English colonists in 1643, Warwick was one of the four independent Narragansett Bay settlements that were consolidated under a parliamentary charter in 1644 to form the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Warwick received a municipal charter from the colony's General Assembly in 1647, at which time the freemen of the town first organized as a body politic. Warwick was primarily an agricultural community through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and its socioeconomic structure placed few demands on local government. Most of the town's affairs could be easily handled at occasional meetings of the freemen, while a few officials were appointed by their peers to attend to certain duties that had to be administered on a daily basis. The most important officeholder was the town clerk, who was responsible for keeping all sorts of records, from minutes of town meetings to registers of deeds and listings of brands and earmarks used to identify cattle. There was no need at this time for a structure to house the limited functions of government. Town records were kept at the clerk's residence, and town meetings were held at various places, usually local taverns. Population was centered in the eastern end of town, and the original settlement, Warwick Village (now Old Warwick), served as the seat of government.

In 1794 the second cotton spinning mill in Rhode Island was constructed on the banks of the Pawtuxet River in Warwick, initiating a process destined to alter the character--and ultimately the political administration--of the community. Other factories were soon built in Warwick, which quickly became one of the chief industrial areas in the state. The ensuing growth was phenomenal. Between 1820 and 1830 the

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population of the town increased 51 per cent, a rate surpassed only during the decade between 1950 and 1960. Most of the development was concentrated in the Pawtuxet Valley in what was then the west end of Warwick (the area was set off as the separate town of West Warwick in 1913). By the fourth decade of the nineteenth century, Warwick had grown to a point where better and more convenient governmental facilities were needed.

In 1834-1835 a Town House and a separate Town Clerk's Office were constructed next to each other on the north side of Post Road east of the Greenwich-Pontiac Road in Apponaug, a site more centrally located than the former administrative center, Old Warwick. These were the first buildings erected in Warwick to house governmental functions. The Town House, a large Greek Revival structure, was simply a meeting hall and was used only a few times a year for the town meetings which all qualified voters were expected to attend. Daily affairs were conducted in the Town Clerk's Office, a smaller structure set east of and closer to the road than the Town House. Little attention was paid to the appearance of the town buildings in the early years, but in 1849 the town clerk was authorized to have five elms planted across the front of the Town House lot. This was the first attempt to improve the town property and give it a more dignified character.

Between 1840 and 1890, Warwick's population increased from 6,726 to 17,761, and by the latter date the town ranked third in Rhode Island in the value of manufactured products. With physical and economic growth, government became more complex as new municipal departments were created to serve the public's needs. By the last decade of the nineteenth century, the town buildings of the 1830s could not adequately accommodate the operations of local government.

In 1893 the Town Clerk's Office was demolished and the Town House was sold and cut into sections that were moved to other lots in Apponaug. Construction of a new Town Hall was begun that year and completed in 1894 at a cost of \$75,000. The design of the building, by William R. Walker and Son of Providence, clearly and emphatically expressed the political organization and administration of the town and the status of local government. Offices for town departments were located on the first floor, where they would be readily accessible to the public for everyday business, while the upper two floors were taken up by a huge assembly hall for town meetings. The architectural treatment of the

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Fuller, Oliver P., History of Warwick, Rhode Island
(Providence: 1875) p. 154.

Providence Journal, 17 August 1912, p. 2.

Providence Journal, 26 April 1925, p. 5.

Providence Journal, (Pawtuxet Valley/Warwick edition)
11 July 1943, p. 11

Providence Magazine: The Board of Trade Journal, volume
May 1914, p. 387.

Rhode Island Historical Society, Scrapbook 7 (unpublished)
p. 131.

Specifications for the construction of the Henry Warner
Budlong Memorial (unpublished; on file at Budlong
Memorial) 1924.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Field, Edward State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the Turn of the Century: A History (3 volumes, Boston and Syracuse: 1902) vol. 2, p. 624.

(See Continuation Sheet #12)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 1.4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	29,541,0	4,61,90,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern portion of lot 61 in assessor's plat 245, containing the Warwick City Hall, Budlong Library, Old Fire Station, and Kentish Artillery Armory, measuring approximately 63,900 square feet.

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., Senior Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

March 1980

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 14, 1980

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

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building was intended to be a reflection of the important purpose for which the edifice had been erected and as an exhibition of civic pride. With its prominent clock tower and well executed decorative detailing, Warwick Town Hall ranks as one of the finest Late Victorian municipal buildings in the state.

From the mid-nineteenth century on, provisions were made by the town for other institutions that attended to matters of public safety or welfare. In 1854 permission was granted to the Kentish Artillery to erect an armory on the eastern end of the Town House lot. The Kentish Artillery, chartered in 1797, was not a government agency, but its purpose was beneficial to the public interest and the town deemed it proper to furnish a site for the organization's facilities. By 1870, another structure had also been built on the Town House lot to house firefighting apparatus manned by volunteers. At the time fire protection was not an official responsibility of the government, but again it was in the interests of the public for the town to assist in maintaining a fire brigade. One last institution to be aided by the town was the village library. First organized in 1867, it was re-organized as a free library in 1885. The library was a benefit to local residents, and when the Town Hall was completed in 1894, space within the new building was set aside for the library's use.

In spite of subsequent changes these institutions are all represented in some manner in the Warwick Civic Center today. Fire protection has now become a responsibility of local government, and though operations have been transferred to other facilities, the old fire station of ca. 1890 near the Town (now City) Hall recalls early municipal efforts to support village firefighters. The library, now part of a citywide, government-supported library system, is housed in a building erected in 1924-1925 (Hoppin, Field and Peirce, architects) for the private Apponaug Free Library Association by benefactor Henry Warner Budlong. The present Kentish Artillery Armory (1912; William R. Walker and Son, architect) replaced the 1854 armory which burned in 1911. It no longer houses the militia unit but serves instead as headquarters of the Warwick Museum, a private organization devoted to public education. Thus the tradition of municipal support for private, public-service institutions continues.



Warwick Civic Center Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

Robert O. Jones, photographer
March 1980

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

View facing northwest along Post Road, showing
Warwick City Hall (center) and Kentish
Artillery Armory (right)

Photo number 1



Warwick Civic Center Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

Robert O. Jones, photographer

March 1980

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

View facing northeast along Post Road, showing
Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library (left)
and Kentish Artillery Armory (right)

Photo number 2



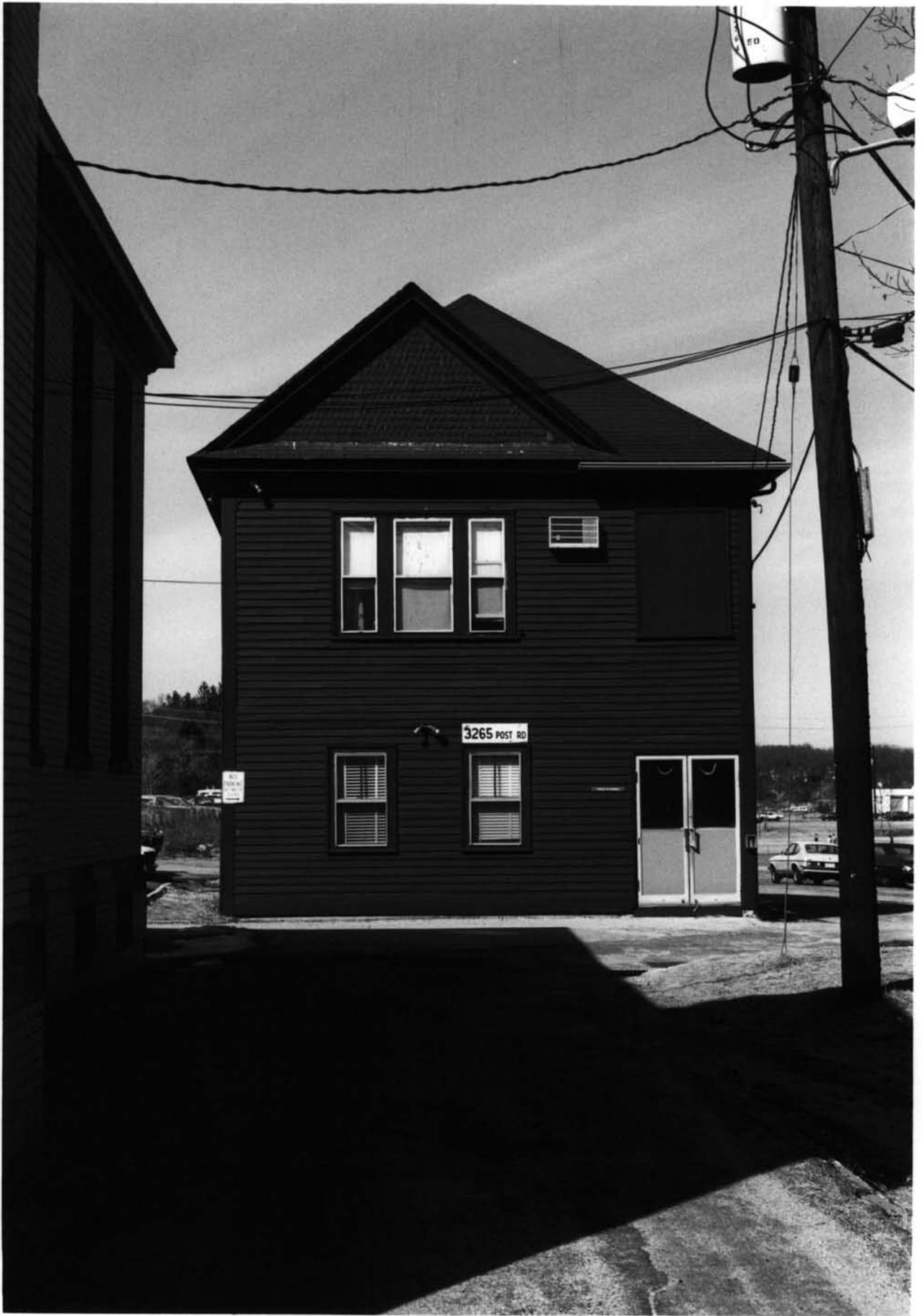
Kentish Artillery Armory
Warwick Civic Center Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

Robert O. Jones, photographer
March 1980

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

View of Armory facing northeast

Photo number 3



Former Fire Station
Warwick Civic Center, Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

Robert O. Jones, photographer
March 1980

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

View of Fire Station facade facing north, with east
side of Budlong Memorial Library on the left

Photo number 4



Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library
Warwick Civic Center Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

Robert O. Jones, photographer
March 1980

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

View of Library facing northeast

Photo number 5



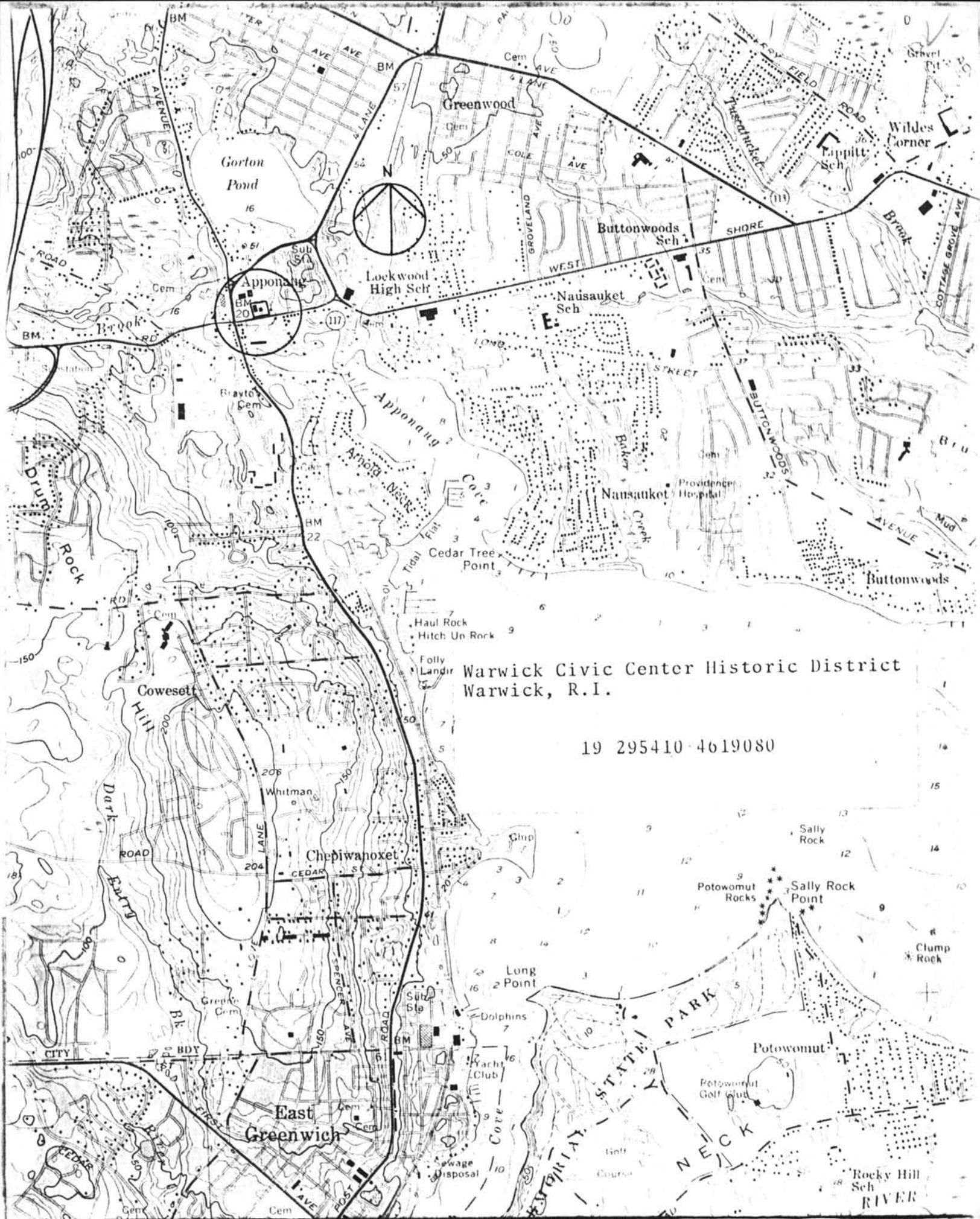
Warwick City Hall
Warwick Civic Center Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

Robert O. Jones, photographer
March 1980

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

View of City Hall facade facing northwest

Photo number 6



Warwick Civic Center Historic District
Warwick, R.I.

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