1. NAME: Historic - Warwick Lighthouse
Common - Warwick Light Station

2. LOCATION

1350 Warwick Neck Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island
Kent County

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category - building(s), structure
Ownership - public
Status - occupied
Accessible - yes, restricted
Present Use - government, transportation, other: active lighthouse

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

U. S. Government, Department of Transportation
First U. S. Coast Guard District Headquarters
150 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

First U. S. Coast Guard District Headquarters
150 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Warwick, Rhode Island
Statewide Historical Preservation Report K-W-1
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Historic American Engineering Record
Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites in Rhode Island, 1978

Historic American Engineering Record
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition - good/altered/original site

Warwick Light stands on a 1-1/2-acre site at the southern tip of Warwick Neck, a point of land which divides Greenwich Bay from the western approach to the Providence River. All traffic from the West Passage of Narragansett Bay en route to Providence must pass through the narrow half mile straight separating Warwick Neck from Patience Island to the south. Still an active light, it is one of two lighthouses in Rhode Island that has not been automated. A keeper and his family live on the station grounds.

Although the light was established in 1826, the earliest surviving structure is the 1899 keeper's dwelling. The first light consisted of an 18-foot clapboarded tower which projected through the center of the roof in the middle of a long, one-story, stone keeper's dwelling. The design of the square tower was unusual in that at the top, the four corners had been cut back to form an octagon on which the lantern rested.

Due to the poor condition of the first keeper's quarters, $8,000 was appropriated in 1889 to construct a new dwelling. Built in a subdued Stick Style, this one-and-half-story cottage is still used as a residence for the present keeper. Its steeply pitched cross-gable roof with bracketing and exposed rafter ends beneath the overhanging eaves, extends over a porch at the northwest and southeast corners. The original clapboards have recently been covered over with white aluminum siding.

The original 1826 tower and dwelling were torn down in 1932 after the construction of the present tower. A cylindrical cast-iron structure, 51 feet high and similar to the caisson type towers at Conimicut, Hog Island Shoal, Plum Beach and Sakonnet, it was the last traditional lighthouse to be built in Rhode island. Initially it was located closer to the shore but was moved 50 feet north to its present position in 1939 after its foundation was undermined by the 1938 hurricane. At that time, the tower was placed on an 8-foot high concrete base. A small fog horn rests on a metal bracket just above the concrete base.

The ten-sided cast-iron lantern is of the same type as those used on the towers at Conimicut, Hog Island, and Point Judith. The bottom of the lantern is covered with a band of rectangular iron plates while ten large plates of glass are found above.

Capping the conical roof is a spherical ventilator with a long lightning rod spike. An iron balustrade and an overhanging circular gallery supported by twelve cast-iron brackets surrounds the lantern. The shaft of the tower is painted white while the lantern is black.

The inside of the tower is one large open space, broken only by an iron circular stairway which leads to the lantern. The lantern gallery's iron floor is pierced by seven round heavy glass plates which help to light the shaft of the tower below. The fourth-order light, 51 feet above sea level, has a 2233-candle-power lamp that can be seen for a distance of 12 miles. Its occulting green light flashes every four seconds and the fog horn gives one blast every fifteen seconds.

Also on the site is a small gambrel roof wooden storage shed added probably in the 1960s, and a two-car garage, ca. 1940. The tower, dwelling, shed and garage are all in good condition.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Period: 1800-1899, 1900- Specific Dates: 1899, 1932

Established in 1826, the fifth lighthouse in Rhode Island and the first non-harbor light on Narragansett bay, Warwick Light is significant for its role in the state's maritime economy. Because of the importance of Providence as an early center of trade, a light was needed at Warwick Neck to guide ships through the narrow straight between the Neck and Patience Island en route to the Providence River. The light's significance is enhanced by the fact that it is one of only two in the state manned by a resident keeper.

Three acres of land at the southern tip of Warwick Neck were purchased from the Green family on May 15, 1826, for the construction of a lighthouse. A wooden light tower mounted on the roof of a stone dwelling was completed the following year. The first light remained in operation until 1932, but as early as 1878 the dwelling was reported in the Lighthouse Board's annual report to be in a dilapidated state and in need of replacement. It was not until 1889, however, that a new dwelling was built to take its place. The old one, which remained standing, was placed on a new foundation in 1892 and remodeled into a barn. To the west of the tower was an oil house that no longer survives.

The present tower was built in 1932 nearer to the shoreline than its present location. Shortly after its construction the original tower and the dwelling/barn, as well as the oil house, were torn down. At the time of the present light's construction, a small 6-by-8-foot brick fog signal building was built along the sea wall to the south of the tower.

Prior to the completion of the new tower, two keepers were needed at the station to tend the kerosene lamp of the first light. After 1932, only a single keeper was kept on as the new light was outfitted with an easier-to-operate electric lamp.

Erosion of the shoreline to the south of the light has been a continual problem at the station. In 1869 a large portion of the bank was washed away by a gale; in 1896, 250 feet of fencing was moved back from shore to prevent further undermining, and in 1924 a concrete retaining wall was installed. The present tower had to be moved 50 feet to the north of its original location in 1939 because its foundation had been undermined by the 1938 hurricane. The hurricane also destroyed the fog signal building, necessitating the placement of a new horn on the new base of the tower.

In 1958, a 1-1/4-acre lot to the west of the light was divided from the original parcel and sold for the construction of a private residence.

The station is one of only two in the state that has not been automated and the keeper and his family live on the grounds in the 1889 dwelling. However, this lighthouse, along with the other manned lights in the First Coast Guard District (those between Point Judith and Eastport, Maine), is scheduled to be automated by 1990.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: 1.6 acres
Quadrangle name: East Greenwich, RI
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000
UTM References: A 19 301970 4615320

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property occupies all of lot #1, Warwick City Accessor's plat #385. This boundary encompasses the entire resource and its immediate setting.

Level of Significance:
FPO Certification:

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Common - Warwick Light Station

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Level of Significance:
SHPO ~~FPO~~ Certification:

Thomas C. Williamson

Significance: The period of significance dates from 1899, when the lighthouse keeper's dwelling was constructed, to 1938-1939.

Criteria Consideration B: The Warwick Lighthouse is a moved building. In 1939 the light was moved 50 feet north of its original location--the 1938 hurricane, a significant event in the history of Narragansett Bay shipping, had undermined its foundation. On its new site, the light is similarly oriented to the keeper's dwelling and to the shore. Its setting remains unchanged, and its architectural importance as the last light in Rhode Island built in a traditional form is unaffected by the move.

Level of Significance: State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018
8/25/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ **Page** _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lighthouses of Rhode Island TR
State Bristol County and others, RI

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
Cover	Substantive Review Accept	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88
1. Bristol Ferry Lighthouse	Substantive Review ✓	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88 Attest Beth L. Savage 2/25/88
2. Conanicut Island Lighthouse	✓ Substantive Review	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88 Attest Beth L. Savage 2/25/88
3. Dutch Island Lighthouse	✓ Substantive Review	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88 Attest Beth L. Savage 2/25/88
4. Ida Lewis Rock Lighthouse	✓	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88 Attest Beth L. Savage 2/25/88
5. Nayatt Point Lighthouse	✓ Substantive Review	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88 Attest Beth L. Savage 2/25/88
6. Poplar Point Lighthouse	✓	for Keeper Patrick Andrus 2/25/88 Attest Beth L. Savage 2/25/88
7. Hog Island Shoal Lighthouse	Entered in the National Register	by Keeper Helen Byers 3/30/88 Attest _____
8. Conimicut Lighthouse	Entered in the National Register	by Keeper Helen Byers 3/30/88 Attest _____
9. Warwick Lighthouse	Entered in the National Register	by Keeper Helen Byers 3/30/88 Attest _____
10. Castle Hill Lighthouse	Entered in the National Register	by Keeper Helen Byers 3/30/88 Attest _____

88000268

WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Warwick Lighthouse (Lighthouses of Rhode Island TR)
Kent County
RHODE ISLAND

Working No. MAR 1 1988
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-17-88
Date Due: 3/30/88 – 4/15/88
Action: ✓ ACCEPT 3-30-88
___ RETURN
___ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the National Register

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition
☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one
☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one
☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

☐ Maps
☐ Photographs
☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

GPO 918-450

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



WARWICK LIGHTHOUSE
1350 Warwick Neck Avenue
Warwick, RI

Photographer: Eugene Wick York
Date: October 1984
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

View: Light and keeper's dwelling, south side.

Photo #33



WARWICK LIGHTHOUSE
1350 Warwick Neck Avenue
Warwick, RI

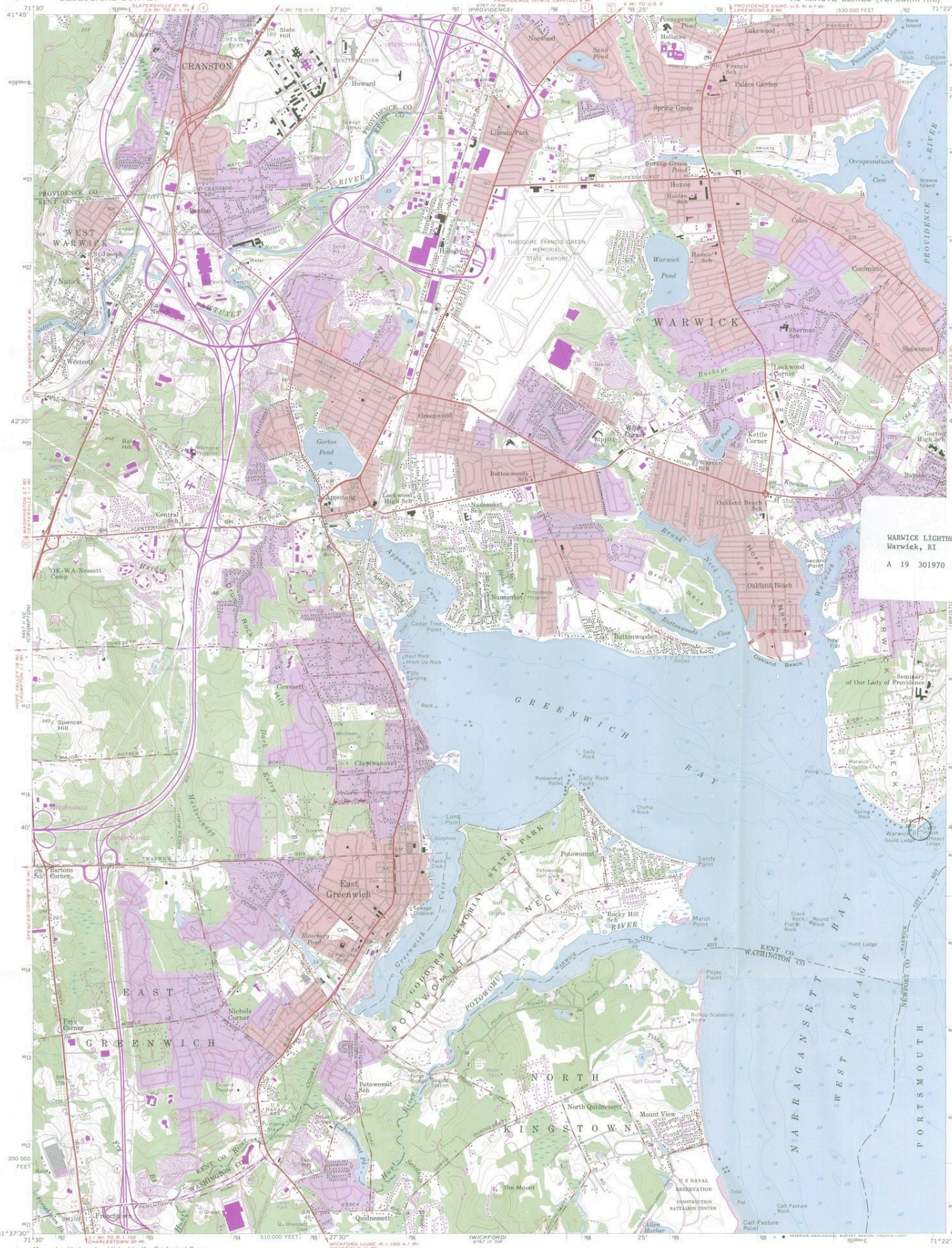
Photographer: Eugene Wick York
Date: October 1984
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

View: Light, detail of lantern

Photo #34

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EAST GREENWICH QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by planetable surveys 1942
Culture revised by Keish plotter from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1957

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 278 (1954)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route — State Route
Interstate Route

EAST GREENWICH, R. I.
N4137.5—W7122.5/7.5

1957
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975
AMS 6767 III NW—SERIES V815