

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received OCT 24 1980

date entered

NOV 28 1980

Continuation sheet 37

Item number 7

Page 38

NAME: Bridgham Farm

LOCATION: 120, 148, 150, and 160 Pleasant Street

OWNERS: Martha Appleton Greig
 Box 4733
 East Providence, R.I. 02916

Samuel W. Bridgham
 Unit I-285
 North Farm
 Bristol, R.I. 02809

E.W. Sterling Graham, Jr., and Claire Ellis
 150 Pleasant Street
 East Providence, R.I. 02916

DESCRIPTION:

Bridgham Farm is located off Pleasant Street on the western shore of Turner Reservoir, in a twentieth-century suburban residential neighborhood just north of the Rumford Historic District. It comprises farm dwellings surrounded by sheds, barns, garages, and a late nineteenth-century windmill, all set on a 46.6-acre tract of grassy fields and woodland bounded by dry-laid stone walls. Occupied by the Hyde Family in the 1760s, the property was acquired by Joseph Bridgham in 1781 and has been owned since then by Bridgham's descendants.

The focus of the complex is the Hyde-Bridgham House (120 Pleasant Street), a typical two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, gable-roofed, timber-frame dwelling with a stone foundation, clapboard-sheathed walls, and a massive central chimney of brick. Set into the chimney is a stone inscribed "E Hyde June 10 1767," referring to the original owner of the house, the Reverend Ephraim Hyde, pastor of the Congregational (now Newman Congregational) Church, and the date of the house's construction. A number of additions have been made to the main block of the house: a vestibule sheltering the main entrance; a rear (east) wing built one story high in 1854 and raised to two stories in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century; a wing on the north side, originally one story high and used as a public library, erected in 1865 and later raised to two stories; and an addition filling the "L" between the rear and north wings. This structure originally served as the farmhouse but was used by Joseph Bridgham's descendants as a country house. The other buildings on the property were successively built to house the tenant who farmed the Bridgham's land.

2 South of the Hyde-Bridgham House is the Bridgham Farm house (148 Pleasant Street). The farmhouse is a typical, very plain dwelling in the nineteenth-century vernacular style derived from Greek Revival models and commonly used

(See Continuation Sheet #38).

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for farmhouses and mill houses. It was built in 1880-1881 as a residence for the Bridgham's tenant farmer after the original tenant house next door was occupied by one of the Bridghams. The farmhouse is a one-and-one-half-story, side-hall-plan, wood-frame, gable-roofed cottage with an ell on the south side. It has a stone foundation and clapboard wall cover.

3 The Bridgham Tenant House (150 Pleasant Street) stands south of the Bridgham Farmhouse. Originally constructed to serve as a tenant farmer's residence, it was taken over and enlarged by Doctor Joseph Bridgham for use as his own residence. The older portion of the house, built in 1866, is a simple one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, wood-frame, gable-roofed, Greek Revival vernacular dwelling with a central entrance, a pair of small brick central chimneys, and two shed-roofed front dormers. The rear addition, built in 1882, was designed by Doctor Bridgham, who had worked briefly in the office of Richard Morris Hunt. It is a two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame, mansard-roofed block in a simplified version of the Stick Style, with shed-roofed dormers and a tall brick chimney. The building's foundation is of stone and exterior wall surfaces are covered with clapboards.

4 South of the Tenant House is the former First Baptist Church Parsonage (160 Pleasant Street). Built in 1831, it housed the ministers of the Baptist Church until 1889, when the Bridghams acquired the property and annexed it to their adjacent holdings. The parsonage is a two-and-one-half-story, timber-frame, side-hall-plan, gable-roofed dwelling with a stone foundation, clapboard wall cover, and extensive later additions to the rear. The facade (west side) has been substantially altered by the installation of a picture window in place of the original ground-floor windows. The original entrance with sidelights is intact, however. Its four thin, paneled pilasters are topped by consoles with guttae and recessed panels filled with a single vertical row of semicircular "fish scales." Between these consoles and below a straight, molded cornice are carved floral bosses and wreaths attached to a broad, flat frieze. This doorway is perhaps the finest extant piece of Federal wood work in East Providence.

(See Continuation Sheet #39).

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DATES: 1767, 1831, 1880-1881, 1882

SIGNIFICANCE:

Bridgham Farm's chief significance lies in its evocation of East Providence's agrarian past. The farm's buildings and their surroundings constitute the only surviving property in the city that gives a sense of the community's eighteenth- and nineteenth-century rural landscape. In addition, the farm is significant for its association with one of East Providence's most distinguished families. Its most famous owner was Samuel W. Bridgham (1774-1840), a prominent Rhode Island lawyer and politician who served as a state representative and attorney general and, from 1832 to 1840, as the first Mayor of Providence under the city charter.

Architecturally, the Hyde-Bridgham House is a fine example of mid-eighteenth-century domestic architecture with well executed later additions; the Bridgham Farmhouse and Tenant House are well preserved, representative examples of nineteenth-century vernacular architecture; and the First Baptist Church Parsonage is notable for its intricately detailed front entrance.

ACREAGE: about 46.6 acres

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Assessor's Plat 31, Lots 6,7,8,9,18,19,23,50,265, and 272

UTM:

A) 19: 305620: 4634390
 B) 19: 305170: 4634400
 C) 19: 305140: 4634020
 D) 19: 305500: 4633670

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

(See Continuation Sheet #40).

Property East Providence Multiple Resource Area

DUE
12/24/80

State RI, Providence Working Number 10.24/89/2604

TECHNICAL need level significance and SHPO date

CONTROL

Photos 51
Maps 3/11

This multiple resource area, consisting of two historic districts and fifteen individual properties, traces the architectural and civic growth of the town of E. Providence (and its parent communities) from the 17th through the 20th centuries. Aspects of the town's colonial settling, growth into an agricultural

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrew
11/28/80

community, industrialization, and the beginnings of its modern urban setting are traced in these properties. This is a good mul. res. nomination and includes all necessary components for an architectural and historic resources nomination.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Just all except Roger Williams Spring

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 28 1980



East Providence Multiple Resource Area/30/51

Bridgham Farm
East Providence, R.I.

OCT 24 1980

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: January 1980

NOV 28 1980

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

General view of Hyde-Bridgham House facing
northeast.

Photo #30.



East Providence Multiple Resource Area 31/51

Bridgham Farm
East Providence, R.I.

OCT 24 1980

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: January 1980

NOV 28 1980

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

General view of Bridgham Farmhouse facing
northeast.

Photo #31.



East Providence Multiple Resource Area/32/51

Bridgham Farm
East Providence, R.I.

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: January 1980

OCT 24 1980
NOV 28 1980

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

General view of Bridgham Tenant House facing
southeast.

Photo #32.



East Providence Multiple Resource Area/33/51

Bridgham Farm
East Providence, R.I.

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: January 1980

OCT 24 1980

NOV 28 1980

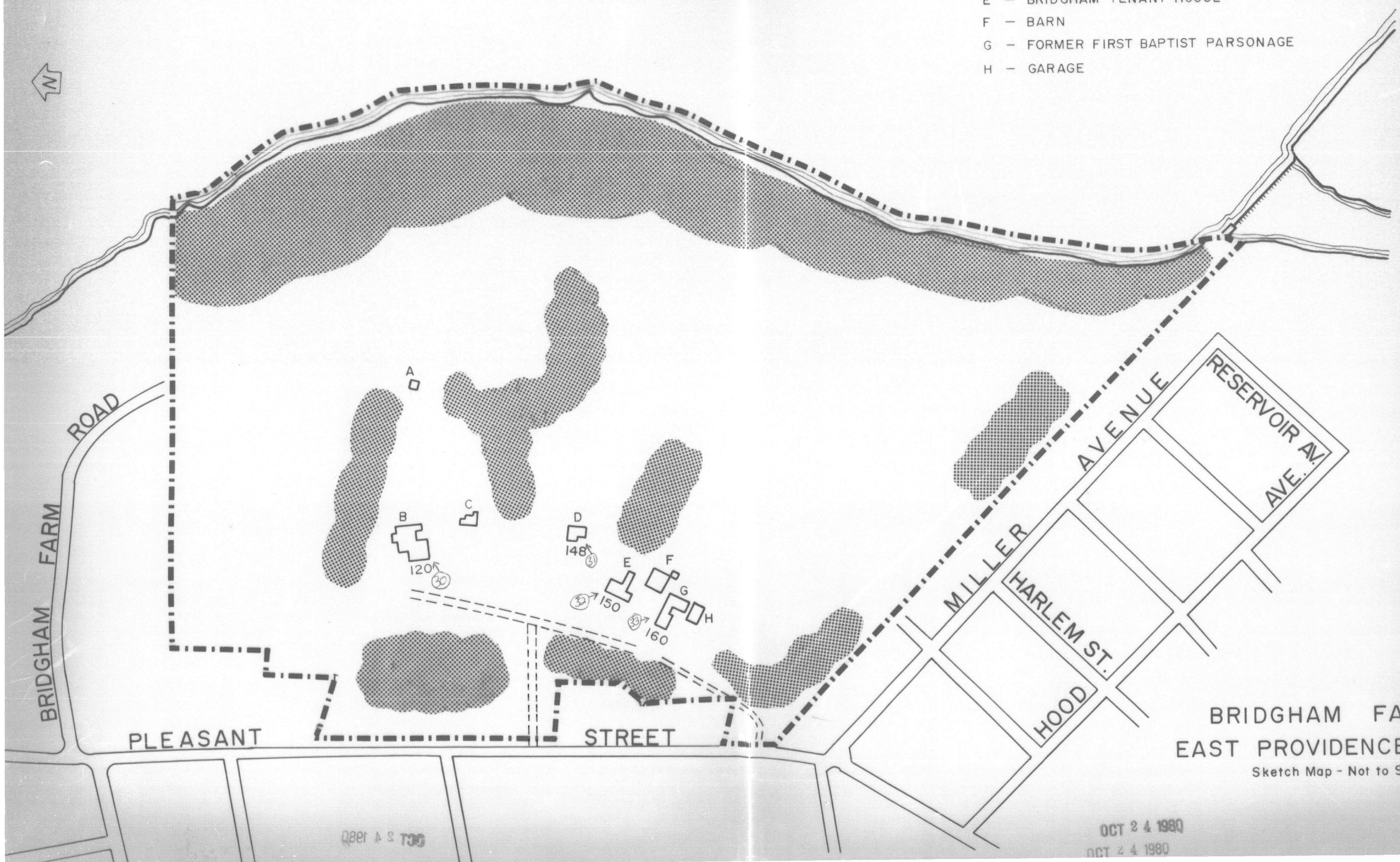
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, R.I.

General view of former First Baptist Church
Parsonage facing southeast.

Photo #33.

TURNER RESERVOIR

- A - WINDMILL (RUINS)
- B - HYDE-BRIDGHAM HOUSE
- C - CARRIAGE HOUSE
- D - BRIDGHAM FARMHOUSE
- E - BRIDGHAM TENANT HOUSE
- F - BARN
- G - FORMER FIRST BAPTIST PARSONAGE
- H - GARAGE



BRIDGHAM FARM
EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I.
Sketch Map - Not to Scale

OCT 24 1980
OCT 24 1980

OCT 24 1980

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000747

DATE 2/10/81
TIME OF CALL 11:00 AM PM

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)
Ancelin Lynch

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)
R.I SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.
congressional on Bridgham Farm House - East Providence
Multi Resource Area

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION
SHPO sent letter to Dr. Bridgham on May 14, 1980
informing him that property was under consideration
& meeting would be June 17.

began inventory 4 years ago.

photographs of Bridgham Farm House were
taken on private property in January 1980

Richard Longstreth & Elizabeth Warren
did survey.

CC. Ancelin Lynch

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL	TITLE	OFFICE
HARRISON	ARCH HIST	NR

HARRISON 2/20

Shul
2-20

Nelson for Rogers
2/24/81

From
2/26/81

436

FEB 27 1981

Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

Thank you for your inquiry of January 26, 1981, on behalf of Dr. Samuel W. Bridgham, concerning the listing of the Bridgham Farm, Providence County, Rhode Island, in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bridgham Farm is included in the East Providence Multiple Resource Area, which was listed in the National Register on November 28, 1980.

Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer, is responsible for conducting an inventory of all historic resources in the State and nominating to the National Register those properties which appear to qualify. Mr. Williamson is also responsible for notifying property owners that their property is being considered for listing in the National Register. We have been informed by Mr. Williamson's staff that on May 14, 1980, a letter was sent to Dr. Bridgham informing him that his property was under consideration and that a State review board meeting would be held on June 17, 1980.

The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service encourages that State Historic Preservation Officers to work closely with both local governmental officials and property owners. The Rhode Island State staff and their consultants have been conducting an inventory in the East Providence area for the past four years. They have worked closely with the citizens of the community and have publicized their work. The Rhode Island State historic preservation office has advised us that the State does not request permission for photographing from property owners unless interior photographs are needed for purposes of documentation. The State office welcomes any suggestions for revising this policy in a reasonable manner so that individuals, such as Dr. Bridgham, are informed of the State's need for photographic documentation. For further information on this matter, a member of your staff may wish to contact Mr. Williamson. His address is Director, Rhode Island Department of Community Affairs, 150 Washington Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, (401-277-2850).

The National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (copy enclosed) require that the private owner or owners of nominated property, or a majority of the private owners of properties within a historic district, shall be given the opportunity to concur in, or object to, the nomination of the property or district to the National Register. If the owner or owners of any privately owned property,

Honorable Claiborne Pell

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or a majority of the owners of properties within a historic district, object to such inclusion, such property shall not be included in the National Register. This law should assure Dr. Bridgham that an individual's rights will be considered in the historic preservation planning process.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Ritsch
Acting Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, SHPO, Rhode Island

Ms. Ancelin Lynch
Rhode Island Department of Community Affairs
150 Washington Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

bcc: Director's Reading File
Associate Director for Cultural Programs
FHR-Mace
FHR-CL
CL
POR - 9426

FHR: S Harrison:lw:343-6401:2/13/81

REWRITTEN:FHR: S Harrison:sh:343-6401:2/20/81

B13

SAMUEL W. BRIDGHAM, M.D.

285 NORTH FARM DRIVE

January 16, 1981

BRISTOL, R.I. 02809

Senator Claiborne M. Pell
Room 325
Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

With reference to the article in the East Bay Providence Journal of January 15th., " The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of Interior has placed on the National Register of Historic Places a number of houses, etc.- it has been announced by Sen. Claiborne Pell " (a copy is attached.

I was appalled to see that my property, known as the " Bridgham Farm " was listed and to learn that photographs has been taken without my permission or even extending me the courtesy of asking me before it was done. Furthermore, as you can see, the name was incorrectly spelled.

Don't you think it is time to introduce legislation to continue the guarantee of an individual's rights under the Constitution from invasion by Bureaucrats before the United States becomes the same as Communist Russia?

Very truly yours.

Samuel W. Bridgham, M.D.

Historic places in E. Providence

EAST PROVIDENCE — The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of Interior has placed on the National Register of Historic Places a number of houses, cemeteries and other buildings in the city, it was announced by Sen. Claiborne Pell.

The places were nominated by the state Historic Preservation Commission and placed on the national register after consideration by the federal agency.

The sites are: the Rumford Chemical works and Mill Houses in the historic district at North Broadway; Newman and Greenwood Avenues; the Bicknell-Armington Lightning-Splitter House; the Boston and Providence Railroad Bridge over the Ten Mile River; the Brigham Farm; Carpenter, Lakeside and Spring Vale, Littleneck and Newman Cemeteries; the Daggett-Nathaniel House; the Dennis James House; the District 6 School House; the Newman Congregational Church; the Odd Fellows Hall; the Squantum Association; St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and the Whitcomb Farm.