



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Via email: [Kathleen.a.atwood@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kathleen.a.atwood@usace.army.mil)

Kathleen Atwood, Staff Archaeologist  
Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Re: Coastal Storm Damage Reduction  
Charlestown, Narragansett, South Kingstown and Westerly, Rhode Island

Dear Ms. Atwood:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the documentation submitted for the above-referenced project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) is addressing the vulnerability of buildings in Rhode Island's coastal communities to storm damage and is proposing to elevate the first floor of approximately 350 buildings in four coastal towns: Charlestown, Narragansett, South Kingstown and Westerly.

The Army Corps provided the RIHPHC with spreadsheets listing all properties that would be affected. The RIHPHC has enclosed annotated spreadsheets, noting if there would be "no historic properties affected" or if an individual project would have an effect on a resource listed in or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A summary of the RIHPHC's comments for each town follows below.

Charlestown

No historic properties will be affected.

Narragansett

While none of the identified buildings are presently listed in the National Register, 29 buildings in the former fishing community of Jerusalem will be affected. These buildings are located on Arbeth Avenue, Champlin Avenue, MacAlder Street, and Succotash Road. Preliminary background research indicates that Jerusalem was initially settled at the turn of the twentieth century possibly by fishermen from Nova Scotia. The community's growth was spurred by several large-scale projects, including construction of the breachway and stone breakwater, and the establishment of state piers in both Jerusalem and Galilee.

Due to Jerusalem's potential significance, an architectural survey should be conducted to evaluate its National Register eligibility. The architectural survey should consist of the following:

- completion of RIHPHC survey forms for each building more than 50 years of age in the potential historic district
- an architectural overview of the potential district that summarizes the era, style, materials and methods of construction of buildings in the potential historic district

- development of a historic context that traces the social, ethnic and physical development of the community
- background research of primary and secondary sources that includes, but is not limited to, review of state and federal census records, town directories, land evidence records, plat maps, and the *Narragansett Times*
- consultation with the Narragansett Historical Society to identify relevant historical material
- inclusion of historic maps and images, as appropriate
- discussion of how the hurricanes of 1938 and 1954 affected the potential historic district
- National Register of Historic Places evaluation with a cogent justification for eligibility/ineligibility

#### South Kingstown

No. 392A Card's Pond Road is located in the Browning's Beach Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Known as Mares Nest, 392A Card's Pond Road was built *circa* 1905 as a stable for the other houses at Browning's Beach. According to the National Register nomination prepared in 1997, the stable was "recently" converted to a residence. The building consists of a frame, single-story, gable-roof wing connected to a frame, 2-1/2 story saltbox wing. The alterations undertaken that converted the stable to a residence have diminished the building's integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is the RIHPHC's conclusion that 392A Card's Pond Road should be considered a non-contributing resource of the Browning's Beach Historic District. Elevating 392A Card's Pond Road will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

#### Westerly

The Weekapuag Inn (25 Spray Rock Rd) is individually listed in the National Register. It is the RIHPHC's understanding that, due to the building's large size, no coastal damage reduction alternatives are being pursued. The RIHPHC should be notified if plans change at a later date.

The RIHPHC looks forward to continuing Section 106 consultation on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Modica, Senior Project Review Coordinator of this office at [glenn.modica@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:glenn.modica@preservation.ri.gov) or 401-222-2671.

Very truly yours,



*for* Edward F. Sanderson  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure