NPS Form 10-900
1024-0018

OMB No.

831

12United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ram Point
Other names/site number: Dr. John Whitridge Williams House
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 77 Watch Hill Rd.
City or town: Westerly State: Rhode Island County: Washington
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** _x_**local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___**A** ___**B** _x_**C** ___**D**

Edward Sanderson 9/30/2015

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

11-24-15
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [x]

Public – Local [ ]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) [x]

District [ ]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	buildings
		sites
4	3	structures
2		objects
12	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use
Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/shingle; STONE; BRICK

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Ram Point is an intact and commodious, early-20th-century summer estate in Westerly, Rhode Island, the design of which is attributed to the noted Baltimore architect Douglas H. Thomas, Jr. The estate, which was built for Dr. John Whitridge Williams of Baltimore, includes a Colonial Revival-style, wood-shingled residence with a number of appurtenances. The approximately 6-acre property occupies a peninsula, also known as Ram Point, which extends into the Pawcatuck River, the boundary between Westerly and Stonington, Connecticut.

Narrative Description

"Ram Point" refers both to a summer estate and to its geographic location. Geographically, Ram Point is a peninsula which juts northward into the lower Pawcatuck River estuary, immediately west of Babcock Cove and to the north of Watch Hill Road. The estate known as Ram Point includes a summer house on the point and its appurtenances: a carriage house, boat house with marine railway, dock, play house, well house, and garden potting shed, all built ca. 1903.[1] A pair

[1] The construction date is based on a letter from the architect, Douglas Thomas, Jr., to Dr. Williams's sister and brother-in-law (Mary Cushing Williams Howard and Dr. William Travis Howard, Jr.) regarding the construction of the Howards' estate, which was located across Babcock Cove from Ram Point. In the letter, which is dated 1903, Thomas compares the construction costs of the two estates, indicating that he was the architect for both and that they were being built concurrently. Morikawa, Susanna, email communication with author, 27 September 2013.

of fieldstone piers marks the entrance to the estate, and the property includes two fieldstone walls, one of which serves as the southern boundary marker. In addition, the property includes four non-contributing resources – a garage, gazebo, detached sauna, and wooden bridge – all constructed after the period of significance (ca. 1903).

At its southern end, near Watch Hill Road, the peninsula is characterized by lowland, which then slopes upward toward the river to a low bluff. The bluff has a rocky shore and is wooded, with large hardwood specimen trees. A path runs along the edge of the bluff, on the peninsula's northern shore, linking the marine railway, boat house, and dock, then heads west to a wooden bridge (non-contributing) that leads to a small island, otherwise inaccessible at high tide.

The main house occupies a prominent site at the northern end of the peninsula, within a grassy clearing near the bluff, taking full advantage of the topography. The house faces northwest and has views of the river to the north, west, and southwest, through the woods that line the bluff and under the tree canopy. To the south and east of the house is lowland occupied by partially cleared lawn and gardens. An asphalt drive leads to the rear of the house. The drive begins at the southwest corner of the property, where two fieldstone piers mark the entrance. It moves north, paralleling the western boundary, and then curves northeast toward the house. The drive is bordered by evenly spaced London plane trees and sycamore maples. A side drive extends off the main drive, and heads east toward the carriage house, which is located at the southern end of the property. A phragmites-filled marsh is located to the east of the carriage house, adjacent to Babcock Cove.

The main house and outbuildings at Ram Point remain largely unchanged from when they were first built, and many of the estate's original landscape features also survive. These include the tree-lined entrance drive and fieldstone piers, the path along the bluff, lawn areas to the south and east of the main house, two fieldstone walls, and a number of specimen trees. Ram Point overall, as well as its individual components, retains a high level of integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The following is a description of Ram Point's principal resources:

Main House, a.k.a. Dr. John Whitridge Williams House, Ram Point House (ca. 1903)
A wood-framed, wood-shingled, Colonial Revival-style summer residence consisting of a 3-bay-by-2-bay, 2-story, gambrel-roofed main block with a 2-story, gambrel-roofed ell extending off the rear. The house faces the Pawcatuck River to the northwest.

Exterior features include a fieldstone foundation, cedar-shingled walls and roof, shallow shed-roofed dormers, and three brick chimneys (two on the main block and one on the ell). A deep porch facing the Pawcatuck River extends across the front of the house, recessed under the roof. The porch is supported by square, shingled columns on fieldstone piers connected by a shingled parapet. The porch wraps around the northeast and southwest elevations. On the northeast elevation, the porch is open at the front and screened-in at the back, where it is topped with a sleeping porch at the second story. On the southwest elevation, the porch, originally open, has been enclosed to form a sunroom and is covered by a hipped roof.

The main entrance to the house is centered on the northwest elevation, beneath the porch. It consists of a raised-panel door with nine-pane glazing, flanked by eight-pane side lights. The windows, which are original, are primarily six-over-six, double hung, wood sash with wavy glass, though there are examples of eight-over-eight and six-over-one sash, as well. A secondary entrance is located on the rear elevation, where the entry drive leads, and provides access to the front hall under the stairs.

The first floor plan consists of a wide central hall with wide flat-arched openings that lead to a parlor in the southwest end of the house and a dining room in the northeast. The interior walls and ceilings are of plaster; floors are wood; and windows and doors have molded wood trim, which has been painted or is finished with a dark stain and varnish. The central hall features a simple, brick, corner fireplace and chimney breast and, on its southeast wall, the main staircase, with cut balusters, rectangular newel posts with pendants and a Colonial Revival-style railing. A tall, round-arched, multi-paned window lights the landing above. The parlor features a corner fireplace with a delicate, Colonial Revival-style, wood surround and mantel. A semi-circular banquette is set into a multi-windowed bay in the western corner of the room. The enclosed sunroom is accessed from the parlor; once part of the open porch, the sunroom still features the original shingled porch supports and exterior, shingled wall. The dining room is dominated by a fireplace and chimney breast constructed of rounded fieldstones on the northeast wall, which rises to the ceiling. The weightiness of this rustic ornament, evocative of the Arts and Crafts movement, is offset by the room's extensive glazing: a set of three windows overlooks the front porch, and the fireplace itself is flanked by a window on one side and a pair of French doors, leading to the porch, on the other. The rear ell extends off the dining room, and includes a butler's pantry, back stairs, and the kitchen. The butler's pantry and kitchen were updated within the last ten years, with modern appliances and some additional cabinetry; however, the renovation style is compatible with the historic character of the house. A large, glass-fronted china cupboard, original to the house, remains in the butler's pantry.

The second floor plan includes a central corridor running the length of the building, northeast to southwest. This corridor is wide enough to be furnished and is accented with a stair landing and two keystone-arches along its length, reminiscent of mid-18th century halls. A large master bedroom is at the southwest end; it features a fireplace with a Colonial Revival-style, wood surround and has an en-suite bathroom. At the opposite end of the corridor is an enclosed sleeping porch. Three large, interconnected bedrooms, some of which have Colonial Revival-style fireplaces, are located along the northwest side of the corridor. The second floor of the ell, accessible from the rear stairs, contains two staff bedrooms and a bathroom. Second-floor finishes are similar to the first floor, with plaster walls and ceilings, painted or stained wood trim at the windows and doors, and wood flooring.

The house retains its original features and finishes to a large extent. These include the molded wood trim on the doorways and windows; hardware, such as knobs, hinges and latches; early electric light fixtures; and plumbing fixtures, including pedestal sinks and claw-foot bathtubs. The only areas of the house that have changed since construction are the kitchen and butler's

pantry, which have been renovated in a compatible style. The heating and plumbing systems have also been updated.

Carriage House (ca. 1903)
A 2-story, wood-framed, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed, Colonial Revival-style service building that faces southwest. The building has shallow, shed-roofed dormers with six-over-six and four-over-four, double-hung, replacement wood sash on both the northeast and southwest slopes of the roof. A large carriage-bay entry with a pair of wood, sliding barn doors is located on the southwest façade, along with a pedestrian entrance which leads to a stairhall. On the rear (northeast) elevation, an overhung door provides access to the former stable area. On the southeast end of the building, an exterior wood stairway and landing provide additional access to the second floor. Constructed as a carriage house, the building originally had an office, a stable area and carriage storage on the first floor, with living quarters on the second floor. The ground-floor spaces were renovated in 2014 and now include a living room in the former carriage storage area and a kitchen and powder room in the former stable and office. The building retains many of its historic features and finishes, including the original sliding barn doors and, on the interior, horizontal board and beadboard walls and ceilings on the first floor.

Boat House (ca. 1903)
A small, 1-story, wood-framed, wood-shingled service building with a wood-shingled, gabled roof with deep eaves. A four-panel wood door is centered in the north elevation and is flanked by windows with six-pane, fixed, wood sash. The building is located on dry land, adjacent to a marine railway and boat launch, and was likely used for the storage of boat equipment such as boat spars, rudders, oars, rigging, and sails. It is large enough to store a canoe or small dinghy.

Dock (ca. 1903)
A wide platform extending north from the shore into the Pawcatuck River and built of stone with a concrete deck. A floating dock fixed with wooden pilings extends from the northern end of the dock.

Marine Railway (ca. 1903)
A short run of steel tracks extending into the water on a slight decline, to the east of the boat house.

Play House (ca. 1903)
A very small, child-scaled, 1-story, wood-framed, wood-shingled structure topped with a wood-shingled, gable roof, located to the southeast of the boat house, near the shore. The building features four-pane, wood-sash windows and a tongue-and-groove, wood door on its north elevation.

Well House (ca. 1903)
A small, 1-story, wood-framed, wood-shingled building located along the entry drive, to the southwest of the main house. Constructed atop a fieldstone foundation, it has a wood-shingled, gable roof and a five-panel, wood door centered on its east elevation.

Garden Potting Shed (ca. 1903)
A small, 1-story, wood-framed, wood-shingled building with a brick foundation and a wood-shingled, asymmetrical gable roof. The building has a five-panel, wood door in its southwest elevation and six-over-six windows in shed-roof dormers facing southeast. The building is located in proximity to a fenced garden area and lawn to the southeast of the main house.

Fieldstone Entry Piers (ca. 1903)
A pair of fieldstone piers, each roughly 4 feet high, flanks the entrance to the drive, at the southwest corner of the property.

Fieldstone Walls (19th century)
Two fieldstone walls, approximately 3 feet high, run across the property from southwest to northeast, roughly paralleling one another. One marks the property's southern boundary. The other is located approximately 100 feet to the southeast of the house. The walls pre-date the construction of the estate, but were retained and contribute to the setting.

Ram Point also includes four non-contributing resources, built after the period of significance (ca. 1903), described below:

Garage (ca. 1950)[2]
A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, wood-framed, wood-shingled, two-car garage with a small apartment on the second floor. The front of the garage, which faces southwest, has two overhead garage doors with bull's eye glass windows.

Wooden Bridge (ca. 1990)
A 4-feet-wide, planked wooden bridge which links a perimeter shoreline path with a tidal island.

Gazebo (ca. 1980)
An octagonal-plan, wood-framed structure with square posts and lattice half-walls under a shingled roof. Located on a promontory overlooking the Pawcatuck River and Babcock Cove.

Sauna (ca. 1970)
A small, Mid-century Modern-style structure which consists of a circular steel and glass enclosure on a wooden deck.

[2] Town of Westerly, Tax Assessor's Files.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Architecture

Period of Significance
ca. 1903

Significant Dates
ca. 1903

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Attributed to Douglas H. Thomas, Jr.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Ram Point is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Built ca. 1903 and attributed to the architect Douglas H. Thomas, Jr., Ram Point is an excellent, intact example of a Colonial Revival-style summer estate, with a main house and several support structures, such as a boat house and dock, which convey the property's use as a seasonal retreat. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Rhode Island shore – including nearby Watch Hill (NR listed 1985) – became popular as a summer resort destination. At summer communities throughout New England, the Queen Anne, Shingle Style and Colonial Revival styles predominated. The main house at Ram Point, with its gambrel roof, symmetrical façade, wood-shingle siding, and ample porches, embodies the Colonial Revival style. The appurtenances, all built at the same time as the main house, are of compatible design and materials. Together, Ram Point's main house and support structures present a well-preserved example of early-20th-century domestic resort architecture in Westerly.

Period of Significance Justification
The period of significance is defined as ca. 1903, when the main house and appurtenances were constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Ram Point was built ca. 1903[3] for a noted Baltimore physician and educator, Dr. John Whitridge Williams (1866-1931), to designs attributed to the Baltimore architect Douglas H. Thomas, Jr. (1872-1915). John Whitridge Williams was educated in medicine at Johns Hopkins University (BA 1886) and the University of Maryland (1888), studied bacteriology and pathology in Vienna and Berlin (1888-89), and studied obstetrics in Leipzig and Prague (1894-95). He joined the newly organized gynecology and obstetrics departments at Johns Hopkins University in 1889, was admitted to the American Gynecological Society in 1892, and was appointed associate professor at Johns Hopkins in 1893. The meteoric rise in his academic career continued in 1899 with his appointment as full professor in obstetrics and as obstetrician-in-charge at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Williams published the textbook *Obstetrics* in 1903; it became the leading text in the field, with 25 editions published in the early- to mid-twentieth century. Williams is known as the founder and leader of academic obstetrics in the United States during this period. He was appointed dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1911, a post he held for 13 years.[4]

Williams built his summer estate at Ram Point at about the time his textbook *Obstetrics* was published, by which point he was an established leader in his field. Until Williams's death in

[3] Morikawa, Op cit.
[4] Review of *John Whitridge Williams: Academic Aspects and Bibliography* by J. Morris Slemons, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, v. 104, no. 4 (1936): 320.

1931, Ram Point provided him and his extended family a place to enjoy idyllic summer retreats from urban life in Baltimore and from the demands of Williams's professional and academic career. As with other summer houses designed during the same period in nearby Watch Hill, Ram Point conveys a relaxed and comfortable life style. The main house exhibits a relatively open floor plan, with first-floor public rooms that flow together and, on the second floor, interconnected bedrooms and multiple bathrooms, anticipating 20th-century modernity in domestic living arrangements. This is cloaked in the simple and lasting good taste of the Colonial Revival style, with a gambrel roof, symmetrical façade, wood-shingle siding, and ample porches.

The design of Ram Point is attributed to Baltimore architect Douglas H. Thomas, Jr. (1872-1915), a cousin of Dr. Williams.[5] Thomas also designed a summer home for Williams's sister, Mary Cushing Williams Howard, and her husband, Dr. William Travis Howard, Jr., around the same time.[6] The Howard estate, called Metacomet, is located directly across Babcock Cove from Ram Point. Local knowledge attributes the same architect to both houses, and this is substantiated by a 1903 letter, located in the archives of the Friends Library at Swarthmore College, from Thomas to the Howards regarding comparative construction costs of their cottage to Ram Point.[7] The commission of two summer estates would have been important to Thomas' early career.

Douglas H. Thomas, Jr. was educated at Johns Hopkins University, MIT, and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, fitting into the wave of young, well-educated American architects who received a Parisian experience in the arts after training at developing programs in the United States. Other young architects of a similar educational mold were designing summer houses at nearby Watch Hill, including Albert Winslow Cobb, Horace Southwick Frazer, Edward Foot Hinkle, Grosvenor Atterbury, John Almy Tompkins II, Evarts Tracy, and John Russell Pope.[8] Ram Point and Metacomet are the only known houses by Thomas in the area.

Based in Baltimore, Thomas formed a partnership in 1900 with J. Harleston Parker of Boston, creating the firm Parker & Thomas, with offices in both cities. The partnership was expanded with the addition of Arthur Wallace Rice in 1907.[9] Parker & Thomas, and, later, Parker, Thomas & Rice, were prolific early 20th century designers of significant commercial, institutional, and residential buildings in the Boston and Baltimore regions, including seaside and country houses

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[5] Clayton Colman Hall, ed., *Baltimore: Its History and Its People, Volume II: Biography* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1912): 275 et.seq.

[6] Dr. Howard and Dr. Williams were close colleagues. Both received medical degrees from the University of Maryland in the 1880s, and Howard was a graduate student in pathology at Johns Hopkins University during Williams's early teaching career there. Howard joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1919 and remained there until his retirement in 1941. See Finding Aid, Niles Friends World College Collected Papers, Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore, PA and Biography of William T. Howard, Jr., The William T. Howard, Jr. Collection, The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD.

[7] Morikawa. Op cit.

[8] Richard C. Youngken with Chaplin B. Barnes, *Watch Hill Style* (Westerly: The Watch Hill Conservancy, 2009).

[9] "Notes on the Work of Parker, Thomas & Rice of Boston and Baltimore," *The Architectural Record*, v. 34, no. 2 (August 1913): 97-184.

on Boston's North Shore and on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.[10] The firm was especially known for its Beaux Arts and Colonial Revival-style buildings.

Although Thomas and Parker may have collaborated on projects, it seems that Thomas was primarily responsible for the firm's work in the Baltimore area and Parker focused on projects in greater Boston. In Baltimore, Thomas designed the Hotel Belvedere, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad office building, the Maryland and Casualty Company building, the Savings Bank of Baltimore, the Metropolitan Savings Bank, and the offices of the North German Lloyd Steamship line. Thomas is credited with a number of projects at educational institutions, including the plan for the Homewood campus of the Johns Hopkins University; the Academic Building (also known as Gilman Hall) at Johns Hopkins; and the Gilman School, a private, college preparatory school in Baltimore. He also designed buildings for the Jamestown, Virginia Exposition. The firm's commercial and institutional buildings in the Boston area include the Boston Tennis and Racquet Club, Fenway Studios, the Commonwealth Trust Company building, and the R.H. Stearns Co. building, all in Boston, as well as the U.S. Post Office Building in Marblehead.[11]

Summer home and country house commissions undertaken by Thomas included Holly Beach Farm on the Chesapeake near Annapolis.[12] In addition, the firm of Parker & Thomas designed houses for Frederick Ayer in Prides Crossing, Massachusetts; L.Z. Leiter in Beverly Farms, Massachusetts; C.L.F. Robinson in Hartford, Connecticut; F. Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts; and E.S. Williams in Nahant, Massachusetts.[13] The latter resembles Ram Point in terms of its symmetry and massing, although it was executed in stuccoed masonry with a hipped roof.[14] Thomas' work and that of his associates was published in *The Architectural Record* (1913) as a feature article and in architectural design books of the period, including Aymar Embury II's *One Hundred County Houses* (1909) and the *Boston Architectural Club Yearbook* (1912). Unfortunately, Douglas Thomas, Jr's architectural career was cut short when he died in a car accident in 1915.[15]

At Ram Point, Thomas created a commodious estate for John Whitridge Williams and his family, which took full advantage of its site. Buildings were sited with attention to the property's natural features and topography, as well as in consideration of their use. The main house is situated on the property's high point, near bluffs overlooking the river, while the carriage house is tucked at

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[10] Ibid.

[11] Ibid. See also: Carolyn Pitts, ed., *National Historic Landmark Nomination Form for Fenway Studios, Boston, MA,* 1998 and Baltimore Architecture Foundation, Biography of Douglas H. Thomas, at http://baltimorearchiture.org/biographies/douglas-h-thomas/

[12] Photographs of Holly Beach Farm, Thomas Warren Sears Photograph Collection, Archives of American Gardens, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, at http://siris-archives.si.edu

[13] "Notes on the Work of Parker, Thomas & Rice of Boston and Baltimore," *The Architectural Record*, v. 34, no. 2 (August 1913): 97-184.

[14] Aymar Embury II, *One Hundred Country Houses: Modern American Examples* (New York: Century Company, 1914).

[15] Douglas Hamilton Thomas, Jr. Death Notice, *The Johns Hopkins Alumni Magazine*, v. 4, no. 3 (March 1916): 263-264.

the southern end of the peninsula, at some distance from the house. The boat house, marine railway, dock, and play house are clustered near the water, in the northeast corner of the property. Lowlands to the southeast of the house were cleared for gardens. The entry drive, curved and flanked by London plane trees and sycamore maples, provides access to the rear of the main house but does not disrupt the front façade.

The estate's orientation toward the water is evident in the design of the main house, whose front door faces the Pawcatuck River. The principal rooms, including the parlor, dining room, and second-story bedrooms, all enjoy views of the water. The path running along the northern edge of the property, along the bluff, likewise provides proximity to the river and links several structures that support water-based recreational activities: a dock, a marine railway for hauling and storing small boats, and a boat house for storing equipment. Williams family members enjoyed boating, taking advantage of the site's location on a protected cove in the Pawcatuck River estuary, within a short distance of Little Narragansett Bay, Fishers Island Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean. Boating became an increasingly popular outdoor activity in the early 20th century. Growing numbers participated in small sailboat fleet racing and, with advances in outboard motor technology, motor-boating. The establishment of the nearby Watch Hill Yacht Club in 1913 played a supporting role for this activity. Fleets of small sailboats raced on Little Narragansett Bay and Fishers Island Sound during Williams's use of Ram Point. Williams's brother-in-law, William Travis Howard, Jr., was the commodore of the Watch Hill Yacht Club from 1917-1919.[16]

John Whitridge Williams died in 1931, and his heirs sold Ram Point to Marjorie Buffum Taylor in 1934. Under her ownership, the garage (ca. 1950), sauna (ca. 1970) and gazebo (ca. 1980) were constructed. The property was sold to the present owners, Cynthia and Thomas Sculco, in 1982.[17] The Sculcos have maintained Ram Point's main house and its appurtenances, as well as its overall setting, to reflect the ca. 1903 design by Douglas H. Thomas, Jr.

[16] Chaplin B. Barnes, *Watch Hill through Time* (Westerly, RI: The Watch Hill Conservancy, 2007).
[17] Town of Westerly, Rhode Island, Land Evidence Records.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barnes, Chaplin B. *Watch Hill through Time*. Westerly, RI: The Watch Hill Conservancy, 2007.

Boston Architectural Club Year Book. Boston: Boston Architectural Club, 1912.

Embury, Aymar II. *One Hundred Country Houses: Modern American Examples*. New York: Century Company, 1914.

Hall, Clayton Colman, ed. *Baltimore: Its History and Its People, Volume II: Biography.* New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1912.

Review of *John Whitridge Williams: Academic Aspects and Bibliography*, by J. Morris Slemons. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, v. 104, no. 4 (1936): 320.

Morikawa, Susanna, Associate Archivist, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA. Email communication with author, 27 September 2013.

"Notes on the Work of Parker, Thomas & Rice of Boston and Baltimore." *The Architectural Record*, v. 34, no. 2 (August 1913): 97-184.

Pitts, Carolyn, ed. *National Historic Landmark Nomination Form for Fenway Studios, Boston, MA.* On file, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 1998.

Douglas Hamilton Thomas, Jr. Death Notice. *The Johns Hopkins Alumni Magazine*, v. 4, no. 3 (March 1916): 263-264.

Town of Westerly, Rhode Island. Land Evidence Records. Tax Assessor's Files. On file, Westerly Town Hall, Westerly, RI.

Youngken, Richard C. with Chaplin B. Barnes. *Watch Hill Style*. Westerly, RI: The Watch Hill Conservancy, 2009.

Online Resources

The William T. Howard, Jr. Collection. Biography of William T. Howard, Jr. The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD. www.medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/papers/howard_wt.html

Niles Friends World College Collected Papers. Finding Aid. Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore, PA. www.swarthmore.edu/library

Baltimore Architecture Foundation. Biography of Douglas H. Thomas. http://baltimorearchitecture.org/biographies/douglas-h-thomas/

Photographs of Holly Beach Farm, Annapolis, MD. Thomas Warren Sears Photograph Collection, Archives of American Gardens, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. Available at http://siris-archives.si.edu

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.27 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.337238 Longitude: -71.830009
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property encompasses 6.27 acres on the peninsula known as Ram Point, and corresponds with Westerly Assessor's Map 137, Lot 26.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property contain the two lots (since joined) that were purchased by Dr. John Whitridge Williams to create the estate ca. 1903.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Richard C. Youngken, Principal
organization: Youngken Associates
street & number: P.O. Box 326
city or town: Peace Dale state: RI zip code: 02883
e-mail: youngken.associates@yahoo.com
telephone: 401-789-6237
date: September, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ram Point, 77 Watch Hill Road
City or Vicinity: Westerly
County: Washington County State: Rhode Island
Photographer: Richard C. Youngken
Date Photographed: October 2013

Photo 1 of 16: Entry drive flanked by trees, looking north, with well house on right.

Photo 2 of 16: Main house, principal (northwest) façade, looking east.

Photo 3 of 16: Main house, rear entry court, looking northwest.

Photo 4 of 16: Main house, stair hall fire place and river side entry door, looking west.

Photo 5 of 16: Main house, stair hall, looking northeast.

Photo 6 of 16: Main house, parlor, looking north.

Photo 7 of 16: Main house parlor, looking southwest.

Photo 8 of 16: Main house, sunroom in enclosed porch on southwest elevation, looking northwest.

Photo 9 of 16: Main house, dining room, looking northeast.

Photo 10 of 16: Main house, second floor hall, looking northeast.

Photo 11 of 16: Main house, second floor servants' stair hall, looking southeast.

Photo 12 of 16: Carriage house, Westerly RI, looking northeast.

Photo 13 of 16: Boat house, looking northwest.

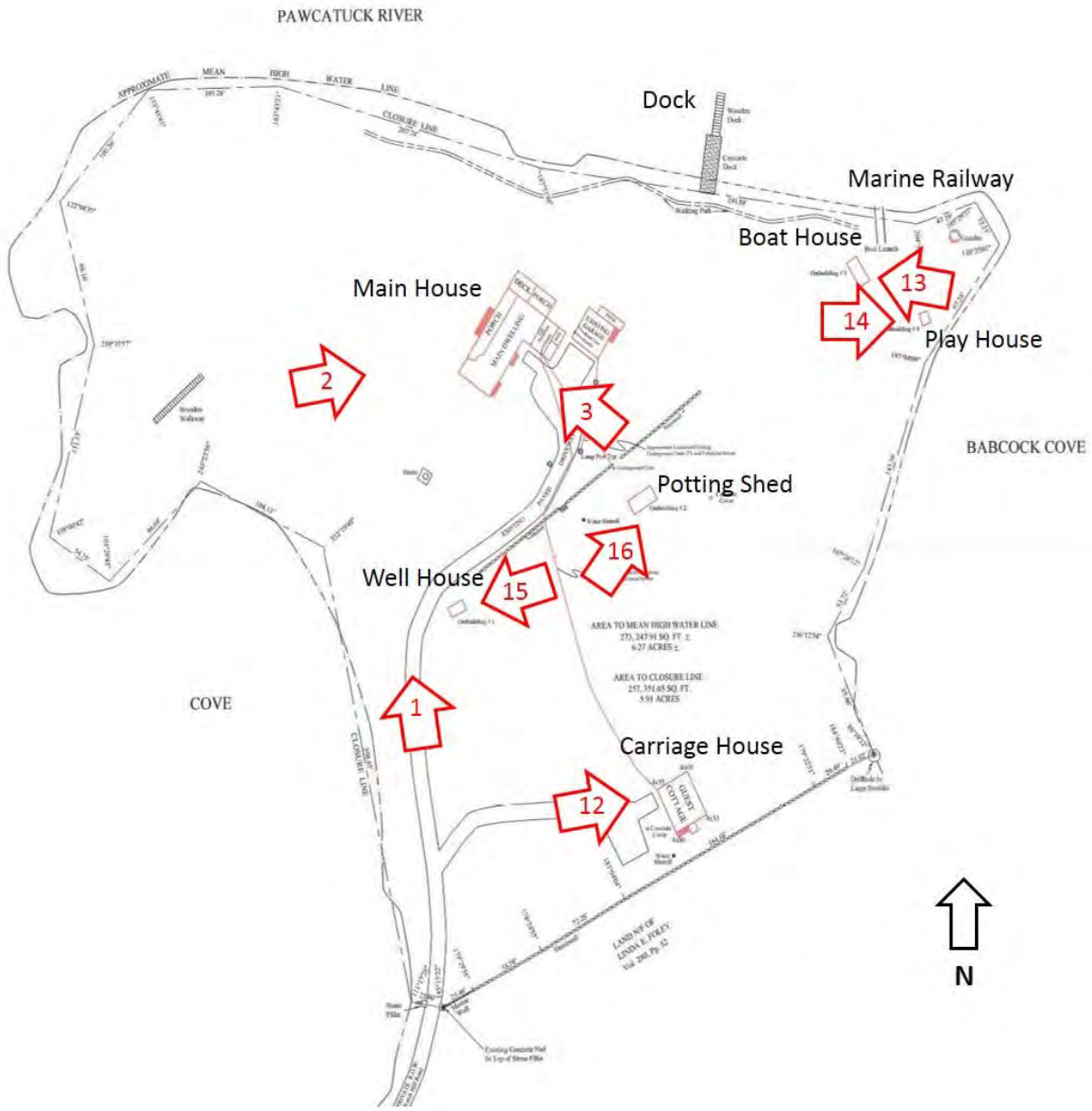
Photo 14 of 16: Play House, looking east.

Photo 15 of 16: Well House, looking west.

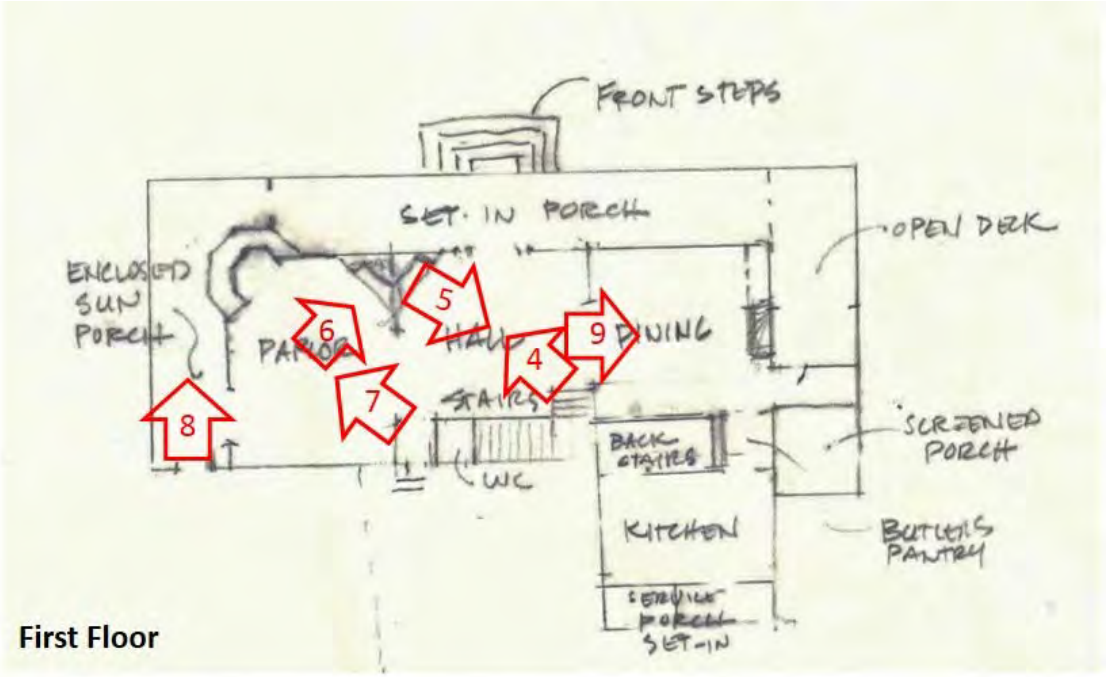
Photo 16 of 16: Garden potting shed, looking north.

Westerly GIS Map, showing the boundaries of the Ram Point property (Assessor's Map 137, Lot 26).

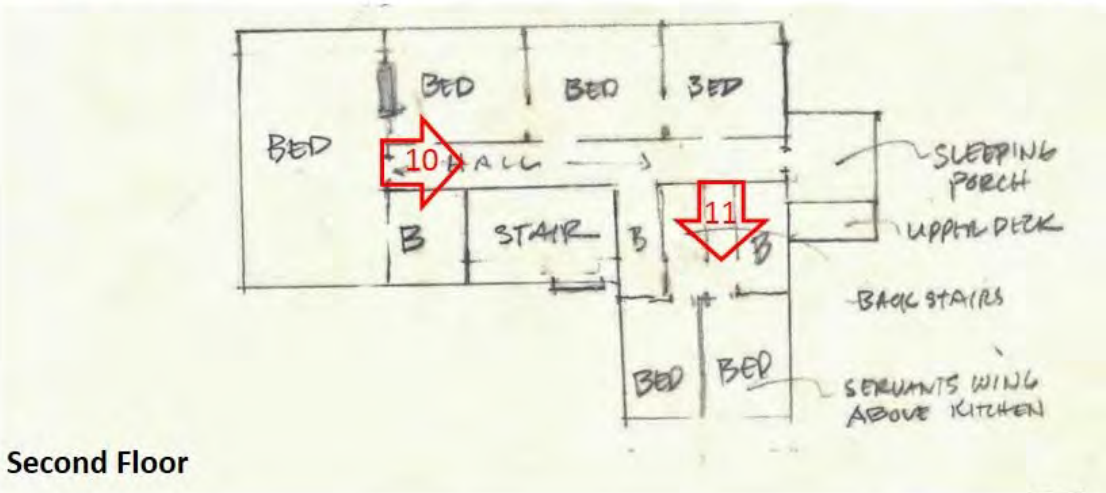
Ram Point – Site Plan Keyed to Photos



Ram Point Main House – First and Second Floor Plans Keyed to Photos

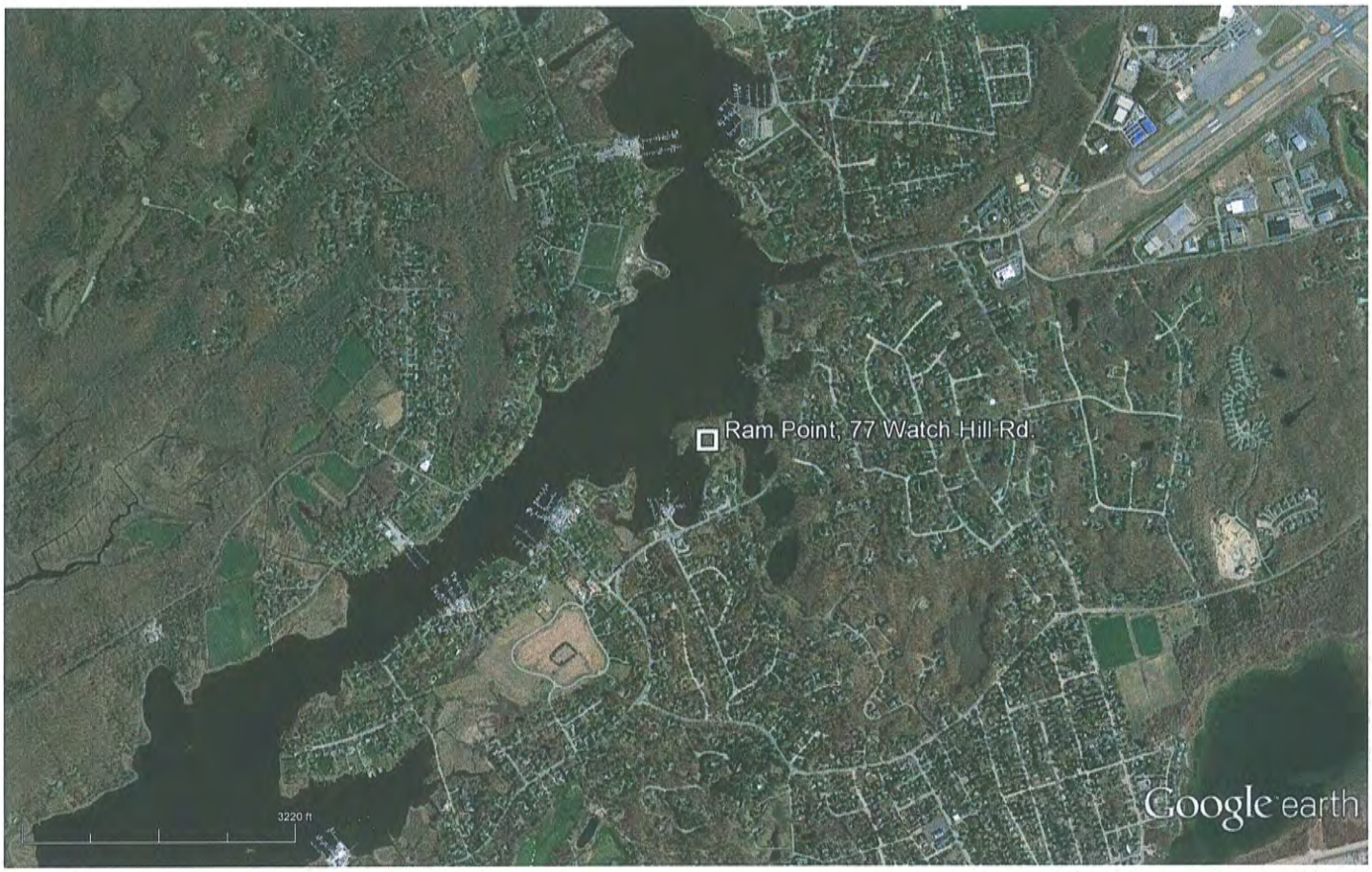


First Floor



Second Floor

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Google earth

miles 1
km 2

Ram Point
77 Watch Hill Road
Westerly, Washington County, Rhode Island

Coordinates: 41.337238°, -71.830009°

Google earth

feet 600
meters 100

Ram Point
77 Watch Hill Road
Westerly, Washington County, Rhode Island

Coordinates: 41.337238°, -71.830009°

In Best Dress
I Look Much
Better Dead!