

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Miantonomi Memorial Park and World War I Memorial Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Miantonomi, Tomony or Wanomitonomo Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Between Hillside and Girard Avenues. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: COUNTY: Newport CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Memorial <input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
City of Newport

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: R. I. CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall, Broadway

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: R. I. CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 32 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Miantonomi Memorial Park comprises 32 acres around Miantomoni Hill north of Newport.

The tall memorial tower on the top of the Hill was dedicated in 1929 to the fifty six men of Newport who died in the service of their country or in the service of an ally in World War I. Built of rough field stone after designs by William Mitchell Kendall then senior partner in the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, it is based upon the numerous circular watchtowers or beacons of fieldstone which are to be found along the coasts of the Old World. Around the base of Newport's tower, however, is an arcaded terrace inspired by Newport's Old Stone Mill, called America's most controversial structure. This tower is also crowned with a lantern reminiscent of the Pharos, the lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt.

The tower rises 78 feet six inches above the 150-foot hill. The height to the parapet of the first terrace is 16 feet, nine inches, and the height to the parapet of the second terrace, 58 feet, nine inches. A circular staircase rises almost to this level. From this point, a short, narrow stairway gives access to the terrace, which provides a splendid view of countryside and ocean.

The cost of the tower was \$37,600. In addition, the commission has been responsible for the landscaping, and the construction of boundary walls and picnic facilities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape and		Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The site was part of Acquidneck, purchased by the Committee of Antinomian leaders (after conferring with the local Sachem Wonnumentonomey) from the Chief Sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi by deed dated March 24, 1637/8. This hill was the seat of power of Miantonomi and its Indian name variously Wonnumentonomey, Miantonomi or Tomany, has been kept.

The colonial settlers used the hill for a lookout, for public executions, and for beacons. By 1667 a beacon had been established on "Wonomitonomo" Hill which, when fired, was the "directory to the rest of the beacons to be forthwith fired through out the whole colony." In 1776 another beacon was erected here "to give the country an alarm in case of invasion" and Colonel Israel Putnam built fortifications at this time. After the fall of the Island of Rhode Island to the British, fortifications, including the forts on Tomony Hill were strengthened. Remains of the powder magazine and other works used as part of the British lines of defense are still visible. The French later used the works as part of their inner lines. In 1796 the Secretary of War reported to the Congress that a citadel for the protection of the inhabitants had been erected on Tomony Hill.

After the war, the entire area about Miantonomi Hill reverted to farm land and remained as such until 1921. During this time at least two observation towers were built here, one having blown down.

In 1921 the City of Newport purchased the site for a park. The development and operation of which were entrusted to the Miantonomi Memorial Park Commission. In 1923 a bronze plaque was installed dedicating the park as a memorial to the "Great War" and in 1929 the present memorial tower was dedicated.

Thus the site has historic importance from the Colonial, Revolutionary War, and World War I periods.

President James Monroe, on an inspection tour of military and naval installations, visited Miantonomi Hill in 1817.

The memorial park and the tower, dedicated in 1929, had among official attendants, Rear Adm. William S. Sims, USN; Gen. James Parker, USA (ret), Congressional Medal of Honor winner, and Mrs. Maude Howe Elliott (Pulitzer Prize winner) and daughter of Julia Ward Howe. In August of 1927 Admiral Sims and Gen. John Pershing, USA, visited the hill and it was here the famous World War I were photographed together for the first time.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

No major reference, but there has been an extensive file of source materials compiled by James G. Edward
 Newport Daily News
 140 Thames Street
 Newport, R.I.
 Date: 1954, 1955, 1969.
 Copies of all this material are on file: State Historical Preservation Commission, Office, State Wide Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Program, State House, Providence, Rhode Island.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	41 ° 30 ' 42 "	71 ° 18 ' 44 "	0	.	.	
NE	41 ° 30 ' 45 "	71 ° 18 ' 39 "	0	.	.	
SE	41 ° 30 ' 29 "	71 ° 18 ' 33 "	0	.	.	
SW	41 ° 30 ' 26 "	71 ° 18 ' 42 "	0	.	.	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: R. I. State Historical Preservation Commission DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: 24 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: R. I. CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

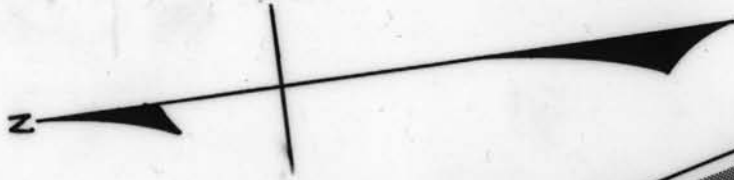
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



CITY OF NEWPORT
16,300 sq ft
52

HILL SIDE AVENUE

CITY OF NEWPORT

12

1,017,597 sq ft.

CITY OF NEWPORT

HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF CITY OF NEWPORT
472,000 sq ft.

MIANTONOMI HILL
AND TOWER

CITY OF NEWPORT

270,397 sq ft.

32,900 sq ft.
P-4
L-50

COWIE STREET

SUNSET HILL

P-4
L-10

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CITY OF NEWPORT
383,764 sq ft. PLAT-4 LOT 1

GIRARD AVENUE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
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COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Miantonomi, Tomony or Wanomitonomo Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Between Hillside and Girard Avenue. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE

COUNTY: Newport

CODE

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: 1968 Newport tax plat

SCALE: 1:100

DATE: 1968

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Between Hillside and Girard Avenue. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Newport	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: John Hopf			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 10 Red Cross Terrace, Newport, Rhode Island			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Memorial Tower and most of park is shown from air in photo originally ordered in effort to save historic Sunset Hill (in middle red circle) which was companion to Miantonomi Hill in Revolutionary War defenses. State of Rhode Island plans to cut highway through Sunset Hill.			



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CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Newport	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: James Edward			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1965			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 54 Gibbs Avenue, Newport, R. I.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View looking westward from meadow			