

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Whitehorne (Samuel) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
111, Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island, 02840      CODE: 111      COUNTY: Newport      CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	To be a house
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	museum

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Newport Reservation Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
111, Pelham Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE:  
111

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE:  
111

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1st Street and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:  
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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) c. 1800-1810

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>House museum to display Newport decorative arts</u>	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<del>Decorative</del>		Social/Humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>			_____	

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

This building's high significance is as an example of the large merchants' houses built in the XVIII and XIX Centuries on Thames Street, facing their owners' commercial properties on the waterfront and afloat in the harbour. It reflects similar houses in other seaports of this period, particularly Providence and Salem. It is one of the best surviving examples of this type in Newport; as such, it is also important to the historical character of the Thames Street-waterfront neighbourhood generally.

The house was built for Samuel Whitehorne, a prosperous Newport merchant who, often in partnership with his brother John, engaged in a variety of business undertakings, including a distillery, a merchant ship, an iron foundry and machine shop, and a bank. The Whitehorne brothers, nevertheless, went bankrupt in 1843, and the house was sold at auction in 1844 (by which time Samuel Whitehorne had died).

In the mid-XIX-Century the residence was remodelled to allow commercial uses on the ground floor; and in the mid-XX-Century it further deteriorated through use of the upper floors as slum tenements. It is now under restoration by the Newport Restoration Foundation. Plans are that it will be opened to the public as a house museum, furnished from Miss Doris Duke's collection of Newport furniture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Whitehorne house is a large brick mansion of 1810-1811, a typical merchant's house of that period. The house is 46 feet square, three storeys high above a stone foundation; it has a low-pitched hip roof surmounted by a plain, handsome mid-XIX-Century cupola (which, however, would have to be eliminated should the most complete of restorations take place, but will otherwise be retained). Interior partitions and the roof are of frame construction. In keeping with the period of this dwelling, its brick walls are given a very clean treatment without projecting belt-courses or pilasters, and window and door openings are capped by simple brick arches. Slight variation and adornment are provided by the fanlight and sidelights of the main doorway, round-headed windows at second-floor front and rear and a bull's-eye one in the centre of the third-floor front. Later store-fronts on the ground floor have been removed, and studies are under way for the restoration of a semicircular entrance porch. The roof has a lightly-scaled but richly ornamented modillion cornice.

The formal, symmetrical five-bay facade reflects the most usual internal plan of the federal period. The main floors have each a central hall (that on the first floor divided in two midway of its length by a semi-elliptical arch) flanked by the principal rooms--two on each side. However, the large dimensions of this house allowed the introduction of smaller, subsidiary rooms along the rear as well. On the main floor, the kitchen alone survives fairly intact, the other rooms having deteriorated considerably under later commercial and slum uses. Though fireplaces were removed, much of the other decorative detail--or evidence of or for it--survives, allowing current restoration work to be undertaken with a high level of authenticity. The main stairway in the central hall was relocated; but, again, ample evidence under study will allow reliable restoration. Flimsy later partitioning on the second and third floors has been easily removed, and restoration work will be less probelmatical there. The interior detail--particularly in the main rooms and central hall of the first floor, and on the stairways--is typically inventive and varied, generally light and attenuated in scale, often incorporating reeded motifs, all in accord with the federal style.

The house is placed close to the sidewalks on a corner site and originally faced its builder's varied waterfront enterprises, across Thames Street. A formal garden to the rear of the house has been lost to workshops, garages and parking.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1915, 2nd ed. (New York, 1967), pp. 9, 108, 112, 113, 333.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 28 ' 51 " N	71 ° 18 ' 54 " W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Osmond Overby, Project Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Historic American Buildings Survey--Newport Project

DATE: September, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
90, Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island, 02840

CODE: 44

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

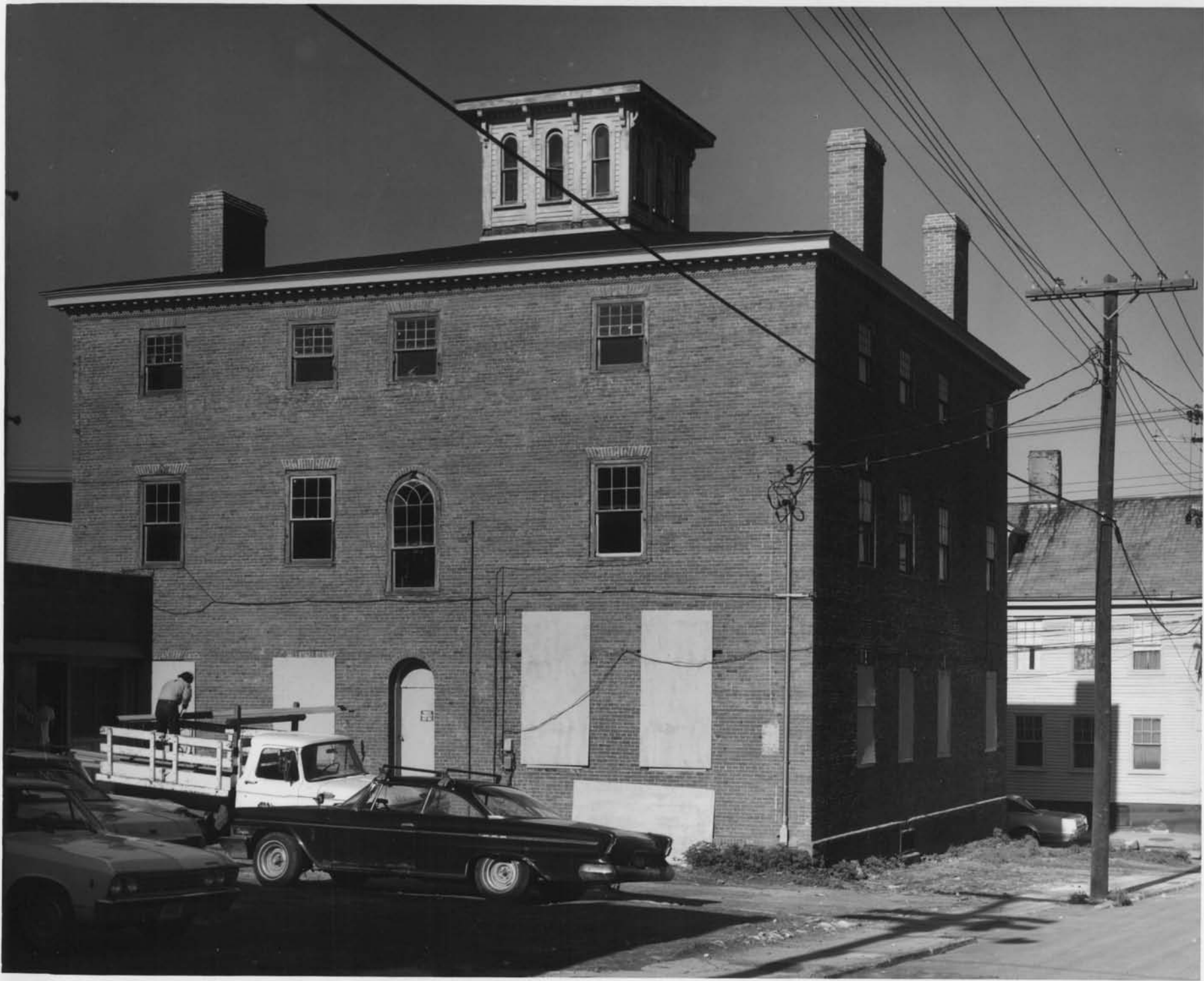
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Whitehorne (Samuel) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
411, Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E.,  
Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior seen from north-east, showing rear (east) elevation.



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Whitehorne (Samuel) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 414, Thames Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Detail of main (west) entrance.			





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Interior of mid-XIX-Century cupola added to original house.



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Whitehorne (Samuel) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 444, Thames Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.			
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Attic framing.			



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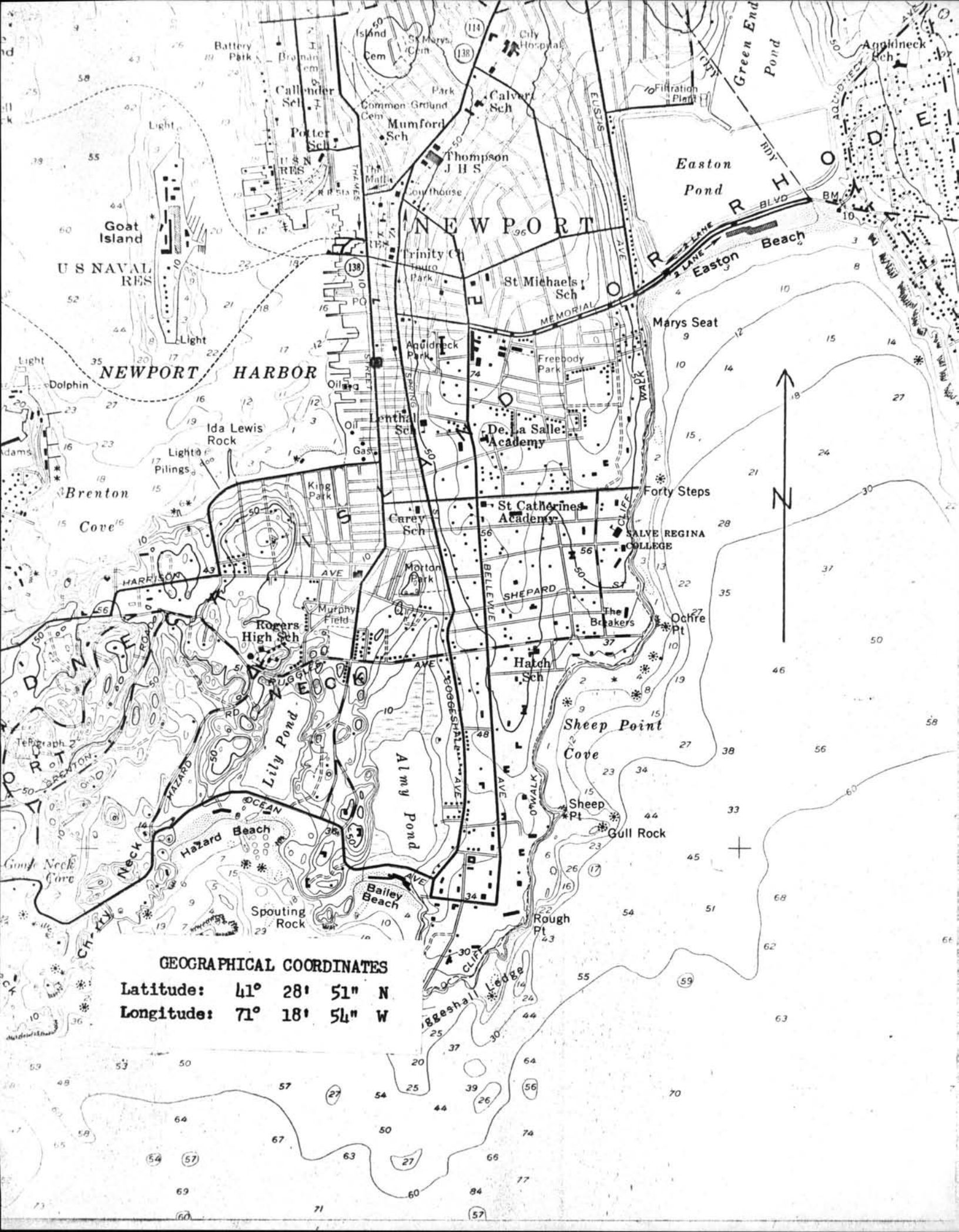
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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Closet in south-east bedroom, third floor, showing marks of original shelving.			



**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES**

Latitude: 41° 28' 51" N

Longitude: 71° 18' 54" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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STREET AND NUMBER:

1111, Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Newport

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

005

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 12,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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





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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 411, Thames Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Central hall on first floor, looking towards main (west) entrance.			



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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

North-west bedroom on second floor, showing fireplace, window and cornice trim.



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DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View towards kitchen fireplace on first floor, showing fragments of dining-room arch.			