

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:  
Henderson Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Stiles (Ezra) House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
14 Clarke Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE Rhode Island, 02840	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Home for the	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	aged	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Newport

STREET AND NUMBER:  
City Hall, Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newport	STATE: Rhode Island, 02840	CODE 44
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**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 44
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970-1971  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence	STATE: Rhode Island, 02903	CODE 44
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1756, the Ezra Stiles House is a large, two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-wide, gambrel-roofed house. Its plan is that of four rooms on each principal floor with central halls, organized around two large interior brick chimneys. Now facing west, the house originally faced its garden to the south, with its gable end to the street. When turned west to face the street it was placed a new new, high, brownstone foundation abutting the sidewalk. Even though the house was turned and remodelled in 1834, it retains its over-all eighteenth-century lines and character.

The windows have their original pegged frames and moulded cornices. Two pedimented dormers which light the garret on the front also remain. The original doorway was replaced with one of Greek Revival design. Set in a panelled recess and protected by a one-story, flat-roofed portico supported by Doric columns and simple pilasters, this doorway is framed by a transom and sidelights of etched glass. The original cornerboards were also replaced with the simple panelled pilasters common to the Greek Revival. A two-story clapboarded kitchen ell with a brick end wall and interior chimney adjoins the house to the rear. Bay windows, each two stories tall, have been extended from the front rooms at either side of the house.

Although the house has retained its cased beams and panelled wainscoting on the interior, many of the mantels and much of the other trim in its rooms dates from after 1834. A graceful, winding staircase in the central hall rises from the ground floor all the way to the third level under the gambrel roof.

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) 1756-1776, 1834

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the records of the Second Congregational Church in Newport, this house was erected as a parsonage in 1756 on land which had been donated by William Ellery and Peter Coggeshall. From the time of its erection, until 1776, the house was occupied by Ezra Stiles, then minister of the congregation. ~~In addition to being a brilliant churchman, Stiles was recognized as probably the most learned man in New England in his time, and he sought information on all manner of subjects. A friend of Benjamin Franklin; Stiles conducted the first experiments with electricity in New England. In the garden of his house on Clarke Street he grew white mulberry trees for experiments with silk-worms, explained in a still-preserved manuscript; he here observed the transit of Venus in the company of Henry Marchant and William Vernon.~~

Stiles was also important as an educator. He had been librarian of the redwood Library since his arrival in Newport; and he helped James Manning found the third college in New England--Rhode Island College (now Brown University). His church's congregation, depleted by the Revolution, was forced to dismiss him in 1776. Stiles became President of Yale College in the following year, but it was not until 1786 that he formally ended his ministry in Newport.

Architecturally, the Ezra Stiles House is most significant as part of an extremely well preserved, one-block-long street of exceptionally fine eighteenth-century buildings which include the Second Congregational Church (1735) and the important Vernon House (c. 1708, enlarged c. 1760), a registered National Landmark. Although the Stiles House was somewhat altered in 1834, when the church sold it to a private individual, it nevertheless retains much of its early character. Its preservation is essential for the protection of the rare architectural quality and historical significance of the street in which it stands.

Stiles lived in a still extant house at 14 Clarke Street when in his

As begin here

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Put at

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1915 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1952), p. 192.

**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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 29 ' 23 " N	71 ° 18 ' 50 " W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: June 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island, 02903      CODE: RI

**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)

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COUNTY Newport	
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Stiles (Ezra) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
14 Clarke Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE  
14

COUNTY:  
Newport

CODE  
005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE OF PHOTO: August, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House,  
90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior seen from the south-west.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Stiles (Ezra) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

11 Clarke Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Newport

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

114

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

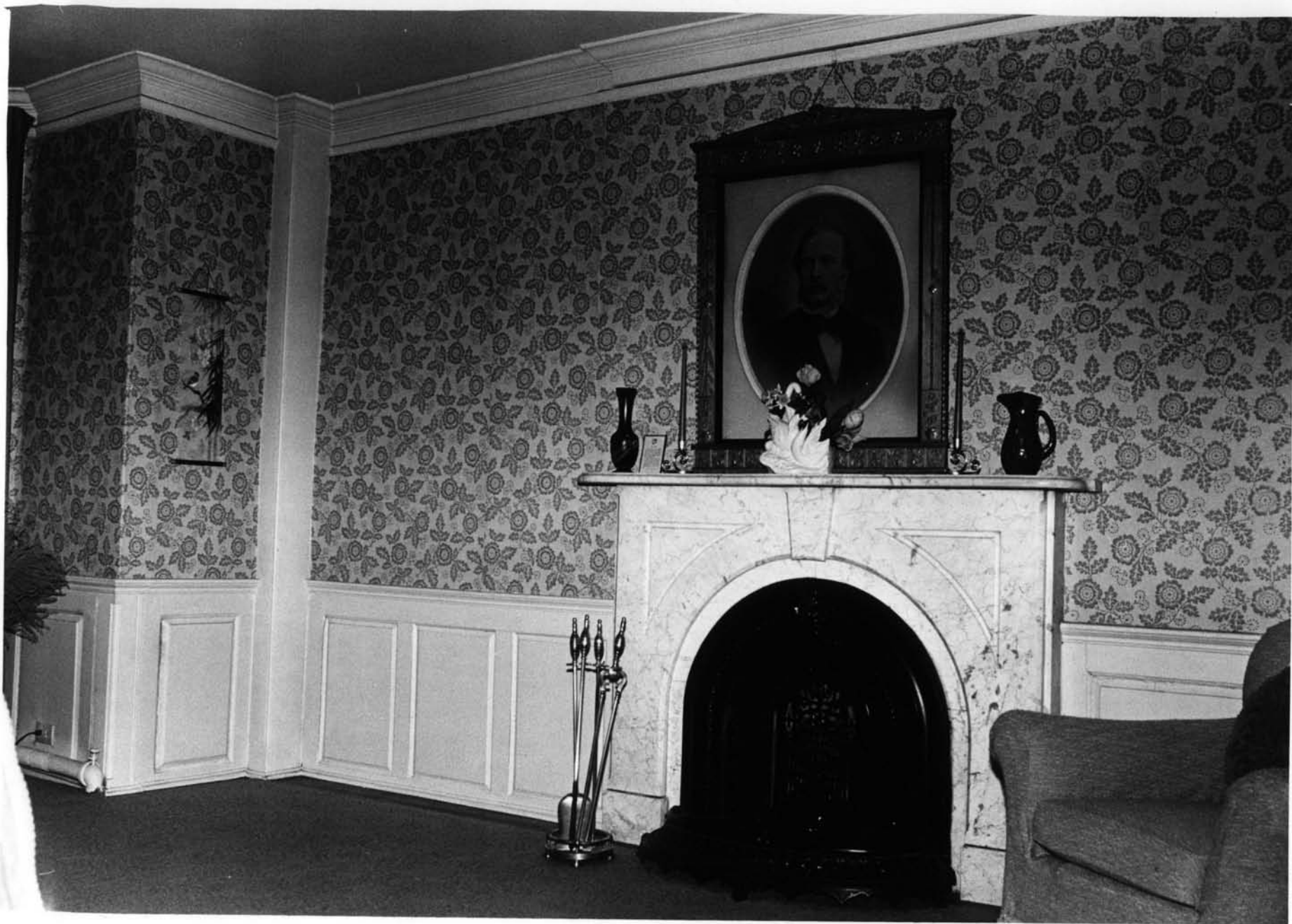
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,  
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Main stairway, seen at first-floor level.





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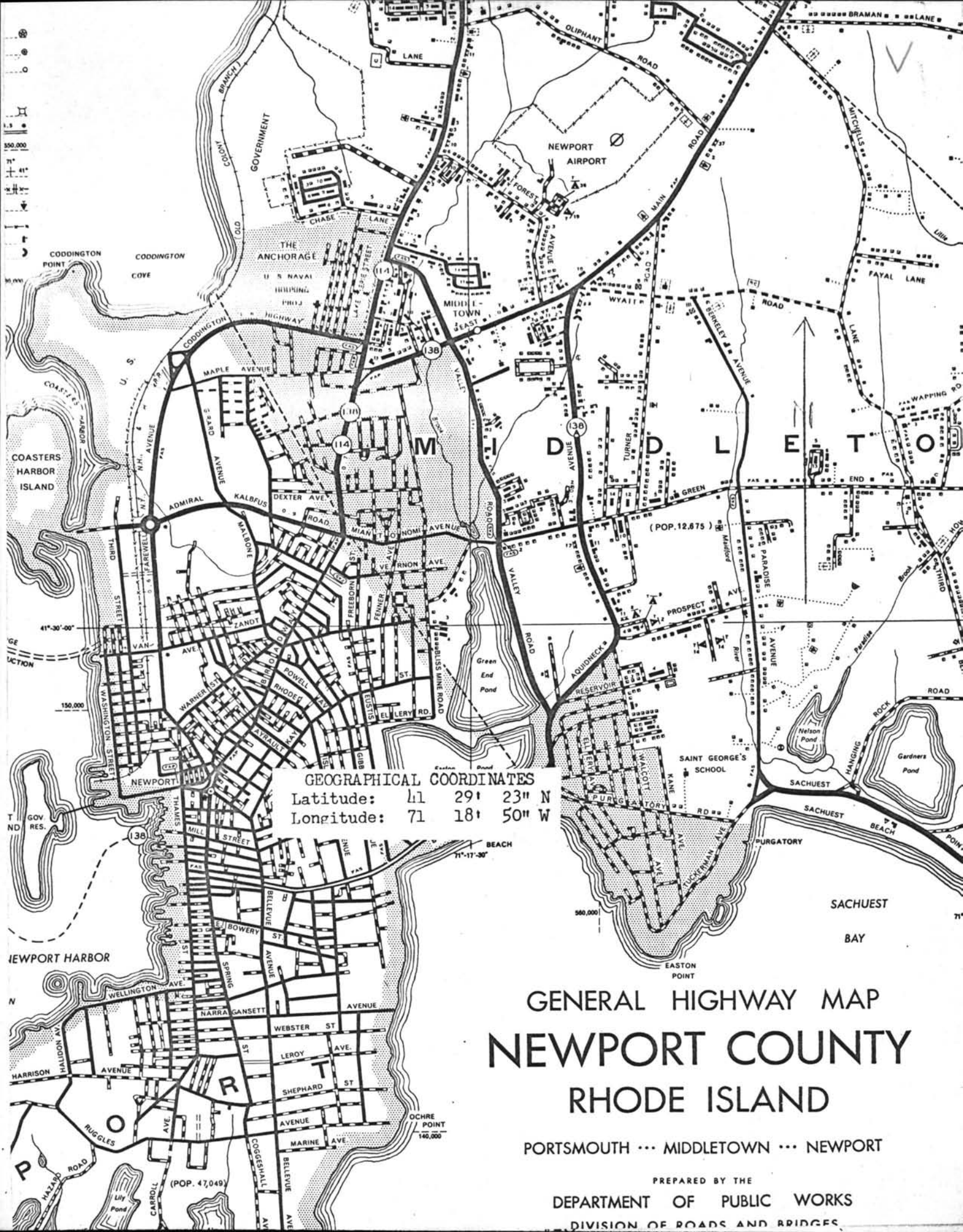
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Portion of north-west parlor, showing eighteenth-century woodwork,  
nineteenth-century marble mantel.



**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES**

Latitude: 41 29' 23" N

Longitude: 71 18' 50" W

**GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP  
NEWPORT COUNTY  
RHODE ISLAND**

PORTSMOUTH ... MIDDLETOWN ... NEWPORT

PREPARED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DIVISION OF ROADS AND BRIDGES

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
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1. NAME

COMMON: Henderson Home  
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STREET AND NUMBER:  
114 Clarke Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE

114

COUNTY:  
Newport

CODE

005

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Rhode Island. Department of Public Works: General Highway Map,  
Newport County ...

SCALE: 4 inches: 1 mile

DATE: 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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