

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:  
Lucas-Johnston House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Lucas (Augustus) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
110 Division Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island, 02840      CODE: 11      COUNTY: Newport      CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Jacob Christian Myers and Ruth Kennedy Myers

STREET AND NUMBER:  
110 Division Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
11

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:  
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1711 and 1713 Augustus Lucas purchased lots at the corner of Mary and Division Streets. Downing and Scully state in their book that the house goes back to the first years of the 18th century. Buildings were mentioned when additional, adjoining land was purchased in 1721. This date is too early for the front part of the house; however, the rear staircase was the original front stair of the earlier portion, built to face the east. This section was composed of two rooms flanking the center chimney. Sometime before 1750 the original house was enlarged by adding rooms on the west and changing the entrance to face west.

The house is now square in appearance and has a gable-on-hip roof. There is, on the west, "an Ionic pedimented doorway and a modillion cornice composed of flat blocks which break out around the windows. The main stairway set against the chimney in the central hallway is fitted with ramped railings and handsome spiral balusters. Such balusters had begun to go out of fashion by 1760. The parlors on either side of the chimney on both the upper and lower floors have retained their original mantel-breasts made up of raised paneling. Mantels of this type are composed of one narrow and one wide panel above a fireplace, which in turn is enclosed by the same raised moldings used to frame the panels. They, too, belong to the years before 1760." (The foregoing description and opinions are from the Downing and Scully book.)

The east portion of the house has simple interior trim. The room arrangement of the house is four over four, with front and rear hallways and a central hallway running between the two chimneys. The rear staircase has S-sawn balusters that terminate in the garret where there are four rooms, two with fireplaces. The east chimney has seven fireplaces, two with bake-ovens, one being in the basement. The base of the chimney is 12'6" by 11'. Floorboards throughout measure up to 20" in width. Photographs made during restoration show brick-filled walls. Ceilings on the first floor are 8'9" high and 7'10" on the second. Rooms are spacious, measuring from 14'xby 14' to 16' by 21'.

Under the arches of the west chimney are two hearth supports, indicating widening of the front hallway to accommodate the west staircase. Partitions and fireplaces were moved when alterations were made before 1750.

By 1960 the house had been condemned. The Preservation Society of Newport County purchased the property. In turn, it was purchased by The Reverend Thomas L. Brown and The Reverend Leslie J. A. Lang. Assisted and advised by the Preservation Society, they accomplished restoration over a period of five years. Few alterations took place. Poorly utilized areas

(See Continuation Sheet)

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) 1713-1737

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | <u>Sea captain-merchant</u>                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | <u>Horticulture</u>                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | <u>Attorney General</u>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | <u>Stampmaster</u>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | <u>French officers' headquarters</u>                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | <u>Res. Com. O.H. Perry</u>                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lucas-Johnston House has fine examples of early and mid-eighteenth century architectural detail. Personages associated with it provide continuity between early colonization and the beginning of our nation.

Augustus Lucas, a French huguenot, arrived in Newport aboard his own ship, with family and possessions. It is believed that other ships owned by Lucas accompanied his voyage.

Masons "Annals of Trinity Church" record that Mrs. Marie Lucas died here in 1698. Lucas first rented the estate of Robert Gardner and began his pear-grafting experiments, developing the "Gardner Pear." Grafting experiments continued on a larger scale following Lucas's establishment of his own home at Division and Mary Streets.

In 1704 Lucas married Barsheba Elliot (grand-daughter of Governor Brenton and of John Elliot, apostle to the Indians). As early as 1709 he advertised as a ship chandler; slaves for sale followed in 1711. By 1738 Augustus Lucas, his son Augustus, Jr., and his grandson as well had died--all within a year of each other. This left Augustus Johnston, age eight, as the only surviving male heir.

Barsheba Lucas Johnston, widow and mother of Augustus, in 1741 married Matthew Robinson, a prominent attorney, who became trustee of the estate. Robinson tutored his stepson, and the latter also became a brilliant lawyer. At twenty-eight years of age Johnston became Attorney General of the colony. In the same year, 1758, he married Patience Gould, grand-daughter of Walter Clarke (four times governor of the colony).

Downing and Scully list Johnston as a member of the Brick Market's building committee. His personal property was so great that the town of Johnston, Rhode Island, was named in his honor. In 1765 Augustus Johnston accepted the office of Stampmaster. Before he even received

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

(warming and dressing closets beside chimneys) were converted to baths, closets and a passageway on the upper floor. A side doorway to the south was replaced by a window for a bath. Kitchen areas were kept to a minimum.

Present owners have made no alterations. A garden has been planted on the south. Objectives are the maintenance and preservation of a very worthy, loved house.

8. Significance.

his official papers his great personal popularity vanished: he was hanged in effigy on the Parade, suffered many insults, and his house was visited by the Stamp Riot mob. Many of his valuable personal possessions, which his friends had tried in vain to save, were lost. Johnston had taken refuge aboard H. M. S. Cygnet nearby. When his friends promised the mob that he would resign the next morning, the rioters spared his house. The following year Johnston became Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Courts of North and South Carolina, spending a part of each year there. He died suddenly in Newport in 1778, and his family evacuated with the British in 1779.

A "List of Quarters Occupied ... 1780-81" by French forces in Newport (Newport Historical Society) lists Marquis de Laval, Colonel, and De Gambs, Major, as quartered in the Lucas-Johnston House. Miss Franklin records a letter from Robinson concerning furniture lent to Baron de Viomesnil and Count de Viomesnil.

It is noted that in the post-Revolutionary era Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry lived here. Perry's place of residence is recorded during his last two assignments in Newport, leading to the conclusion that his occupancy occurred following his marriage (1811) and during the years of his greatest renown (1813-1814).

Aside from the interesting, important descent and occupancy above recorded, the Lucas-Johnston House is architecturally significant, architecturally handsome and in fine condition as an independent structure itself. Yet it is not altogether independent, as it forms a valuable part of a neighborhood context or fabric, being within a city block of the Vernon House, Trinity Church and Touro Synagogue, as well as next-door to the old Trinity School House property.

9. Major Bibliographical References.

Richardson, George H.: Scrap Book 999 (at Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island).

**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. 83, 148-149.

Franklin, Susan B.: Division Street (in Newport Historical Society Bulletin, No. 104, Newport, R. I., 1948), pp. 14-20.

Fox, Frank B.: Two Huguenot Families (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1949), pp. 93, 96, 100, 110.

Morgan, Edmund S., and Morgan, Helen M.: The Stamp Act Crisis (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1953), pp. 145-147.

(See Continuation Sheet)

**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	°	'	"	°	'	"	40°	29'	17"N	70°	08'	46"W
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Ruth Kennedy Myers

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: November, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
40 Division Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Rhode Island CODE: RI

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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: Lucas-Johnston House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lucas (Augustus) House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 40, Division Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Jack Boucher, for Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: September, 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. West (entrance) façade.			



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STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
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DATE OF PHOTO: September, 1969			
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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior seen from south-west			



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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Main entrance doorway on west front.			



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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Stairway in rear (east) vestibule or hallway, first floor.			

KODAK SAFETY FILM

11



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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STREET AND NUMBER:  
40, Division Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

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44

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jack Boucher, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: September, 1969

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Stairway in main (west) entrance hall, first floor.



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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Dining-room (south-west room) first floor.



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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Kitchen (or keeping-room) fireplace.			



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Fireplace wall in south-west bedroom, second floor.



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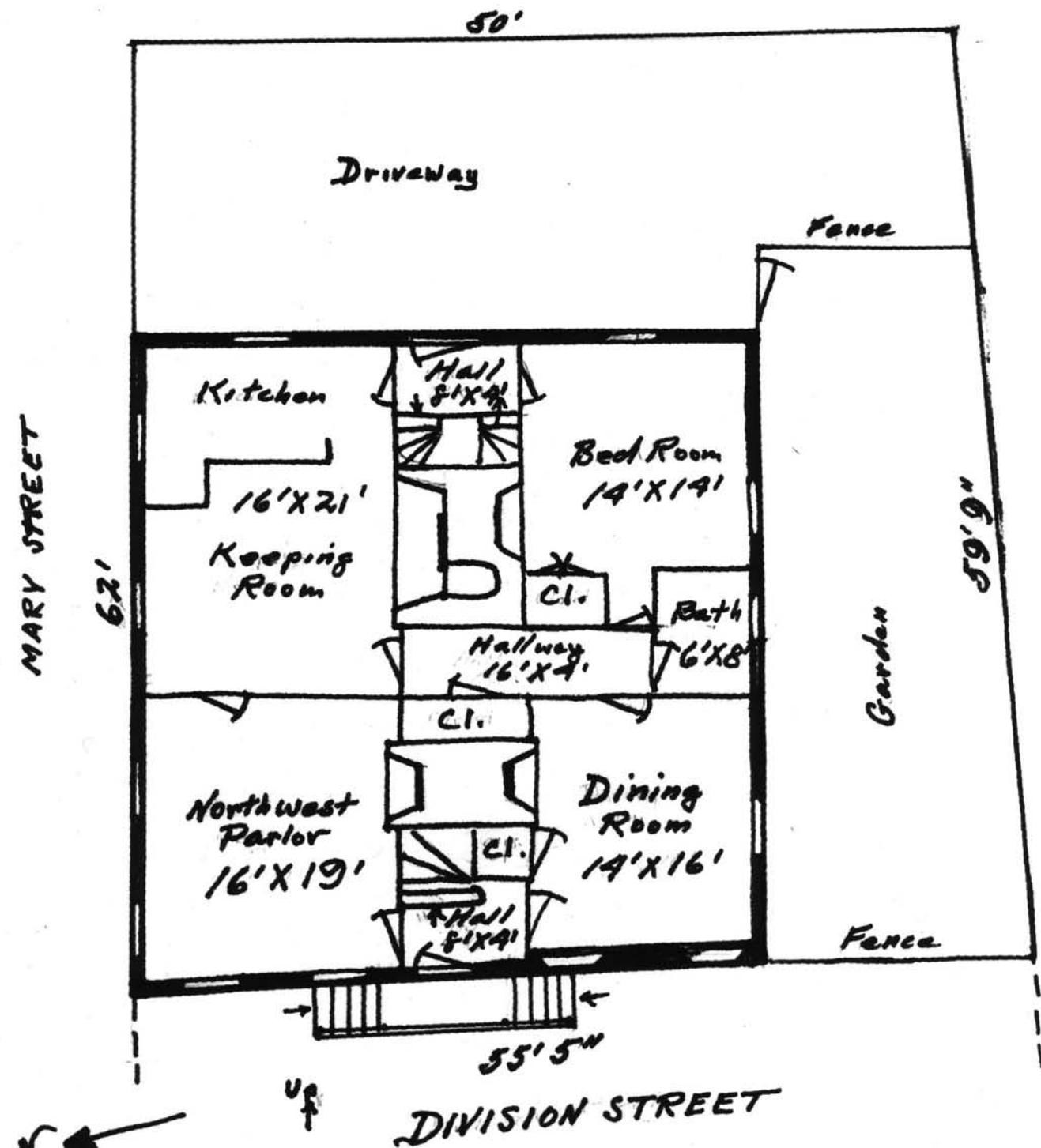
4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of main entrance on west front.

THE LUCAS-JOHNSTON HOUSE  
 40 DIVISION STREET, NEWPORT, R.I.  
 PLAT and FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1



Continued on  
 Page 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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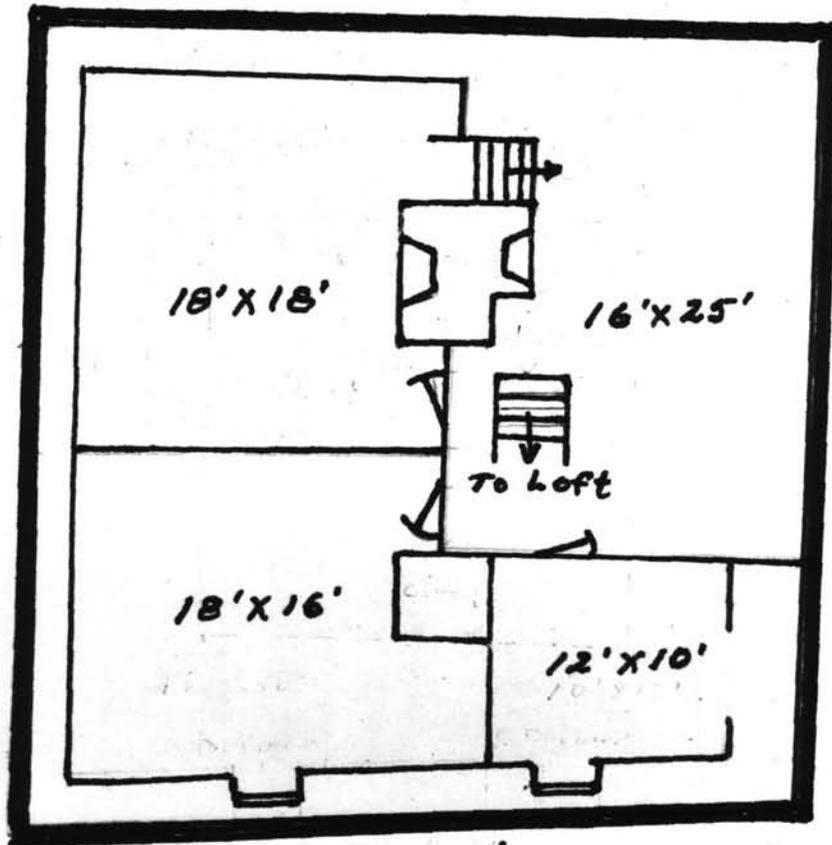
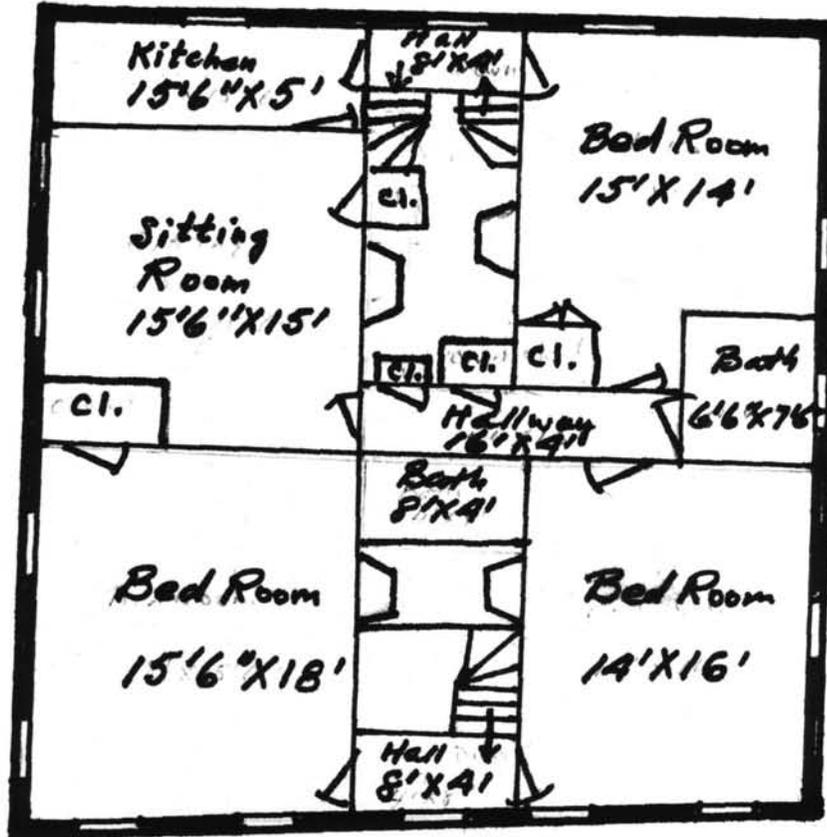
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Lucas (Augustus) House			
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STREET AND NUMBER: 40, Division Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 14	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Myers			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Myers, 40, Division Street, Newport, Rhode Island, 02840			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Plan of site and of first floor of house.			

# Second Floor Plan

2



Garret

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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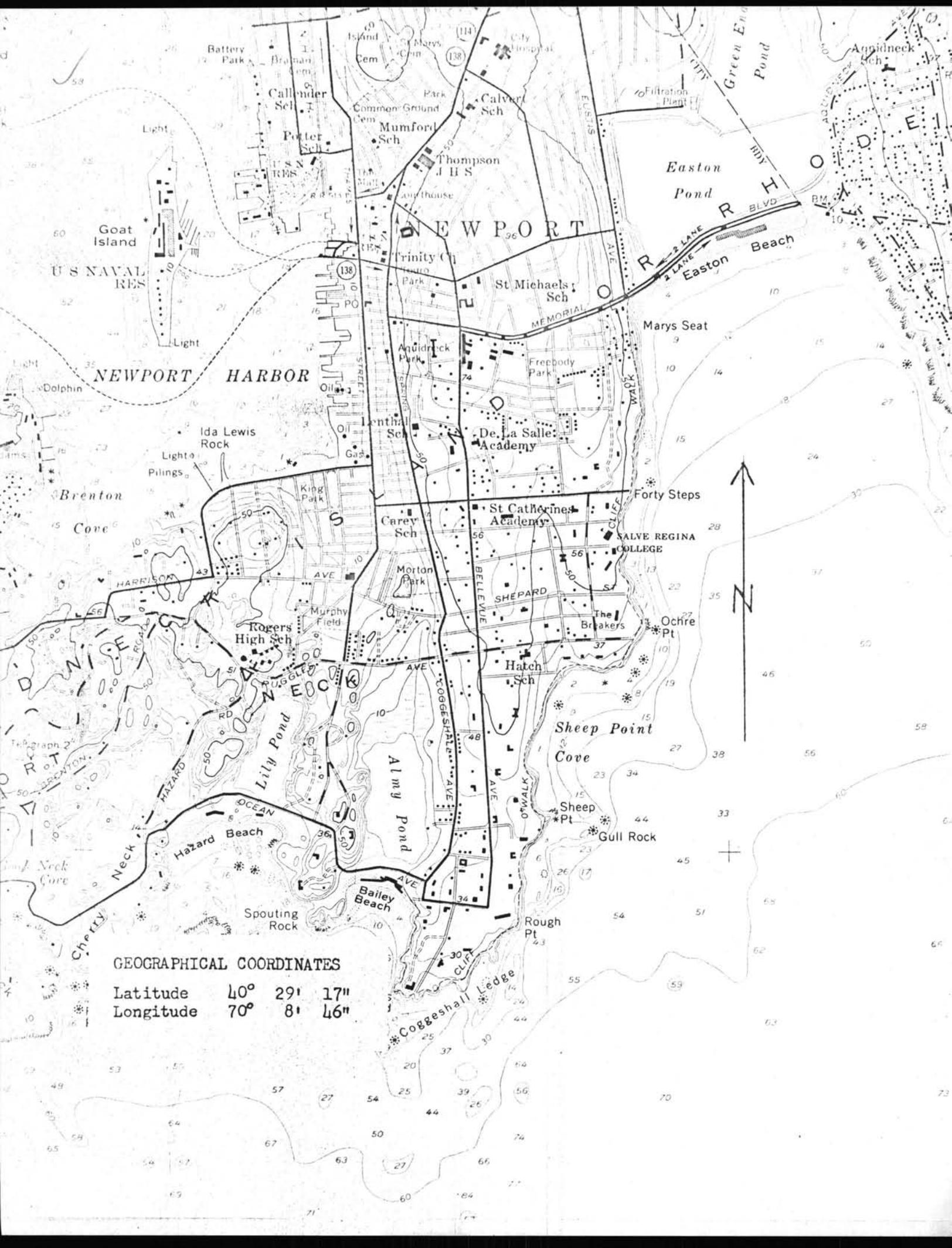
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DATE OF PHOTO: 1970  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Myers, 40, Division Street,  
Newport, Rhode Island, 02840

4. IDENTIFICATION  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
Plans of second and third (garret) floors.



**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES**

Latitude  $40^{\circ} 29' 17''$   
 Longitude  $70^{\circ} 8' 46''$

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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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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PHOTO CREDIT: Jack Boucher, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: September, 1969

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Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View towards east in third floor (garret) showing roof construction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS