

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

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: The Brick Market

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Brick Market

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Thames Street and Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN: Newport 1st Congressional District

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Newport CODE: 005

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" 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"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: City of Newport, and Preservation Society of Newport County

STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Newport City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress/Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brick Market, is a three-story brick building with a low hipped roof. The first story is treated as an arcaded basement upon which the upper two stories rest, united by giant Ionic pilasters which surround the entire building between the windows. They are doubled at the corners to create the necessary halt in rhythm at the endges of the building. A modillioned cornice with deep frieze provides a well scaled cap to the composition.

Harrison derived his design from Inigo Jones, Old Somerset House, reproduced in Colin Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus. The proportions of the basement to the upper floors, the rhythm of the arcade and pilasters, the spacing of the windows, and the alternation of triangular and segmental pediments for the second story windows are all clearly derived from Old Sommerset House.

Harrison also made several important adaptations which illustrate his skill as a designer. While the original English design was of stone, construction in America called for brick, calling for a less stately air by changing from Jones' use of the Corinthian order to a simpler Ionic, and omitting from the second story windows the balustrated balconies and scrolls under the pediments, subtle adjustments of weight and scale were successfully achieved. Because of the brick material a rusticated basement was also wisely avoided, replaced by only a beltcourse around the springing of the arches. The greater bulk of the basement story in its slight extension beyond the upper two floors was sufficient to visually support the upper floors of brick. The original broad simplicity of effect is somewhat dissipated today by the small paned windows which close the once opened arcades.

The interior was probably always comparatively plain. After a series of alterations to suit the various uses of the building, it was completely rebuilt in 1928 under the direction of Norman Isham. At this time the yellow paint applied in the nineteenth century was removed from the brick. This necessitated the replacement of the soft brick on the north and east walls of the basement story.

BOUNDARY

Brick Market is bounded on the north by Long Wharf Mall, about 78 feet, on the east by Thames Street, about 38 feet, on the south by urban renewal land, of the City of Newport, about 78 feet, and on the west by Urban renewal land, about 38 feet, which boundary defines Lot k, Plat 24 of the City of Newport.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1761-62**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input 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

The Brick Market, Newport, begun in 1761, was designed by Peter Harrison, one of Americas most prominent and important architects of the eighteenth century. Harrisons design was taken from a plate of Inigo Jones, Old Somerset House, London, published in Colin Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus. The use of giant classic orders superimposed on an arched basement was a frequent Palladian motif in England. Harrison reinterpreted the forms to suit the smaller scale of the building and the brick construction. The formal, academic composition gives the building an imposing presence and dignity which belies its rather small size. The Brick Market, like Harrison's Redwood Library and Kings Chapel, also national historic landmarks, introduce a new awareness of correct classical design and a sophistication in its handling which establishes a base for the classical designs of Thomas Jefferson and the Greek Revival.

HISTORY

In 1760 the proprietors of the Long Wharf deeded waterfront land to Newport for the erection of a market house to meet the growing commercial needs of the city. The lot measured thirty-eight feet by fifty feet. When Harrison requested a lot thirty-three feet by sixty-six feet it was granted.

The standard form for market houses was fairly well accepted, based on function, as two stories resting on an arcaded ground floor. Using an engraving of Old Somerset House by Inigo Jones in Colin Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus, Harrison adapted the European model to the scale of the American town.

Work on the foundations began in September 1762 and was advanced to a stage where it could not be abandoned without great loss. When no money remained the committee roofed the structure at its own expense. None of the upper chambers were finished in August of 1764 when the building committee sought assistance from the Town Meeting.

Two years later no floor had been laid. In 1771 windows, doors and other exterior details were ordered and in December of 1772 the building was finally opened to the public.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

8. Significance second page

All rental and profits from the building went to the Newport town treasury to be used for the purchase of grain to supply a public granary for the town. After the Revolution the upper part of the building housed a printing office and in 1793 was remodeled as a theater. It was used for this purpose until 1799. In 1842 the building was altered to serve as the townhall. The third floor was removed and the second made into one large room with galleries on three sides. The first floor arches were fitted with windows and doors and this section was used for stores. From 1853 to 1900 the old market served as the City Hall for Newport. The third floor was reconstructed and the exterior of the Brick Market was completely restored in 1928 under the supervision of Norman Isham. The Brick Market is now used as a crafts shop.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bridenbaugh, Carl, Peter Harrison, First American Architect, Chapen Hill, N.C., 1949.  
 Downing, Antoinette F., Early Homes of Rhode Island, Richmond Va., 1937.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and Scully, Vincent J. Jr., The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1952, Cambridge, Mass., 1952.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.

**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		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

19.306650.4595510

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzeman, architectural historian, Landmark Review Project, original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1967.

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey DATE: 1/9/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

**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 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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

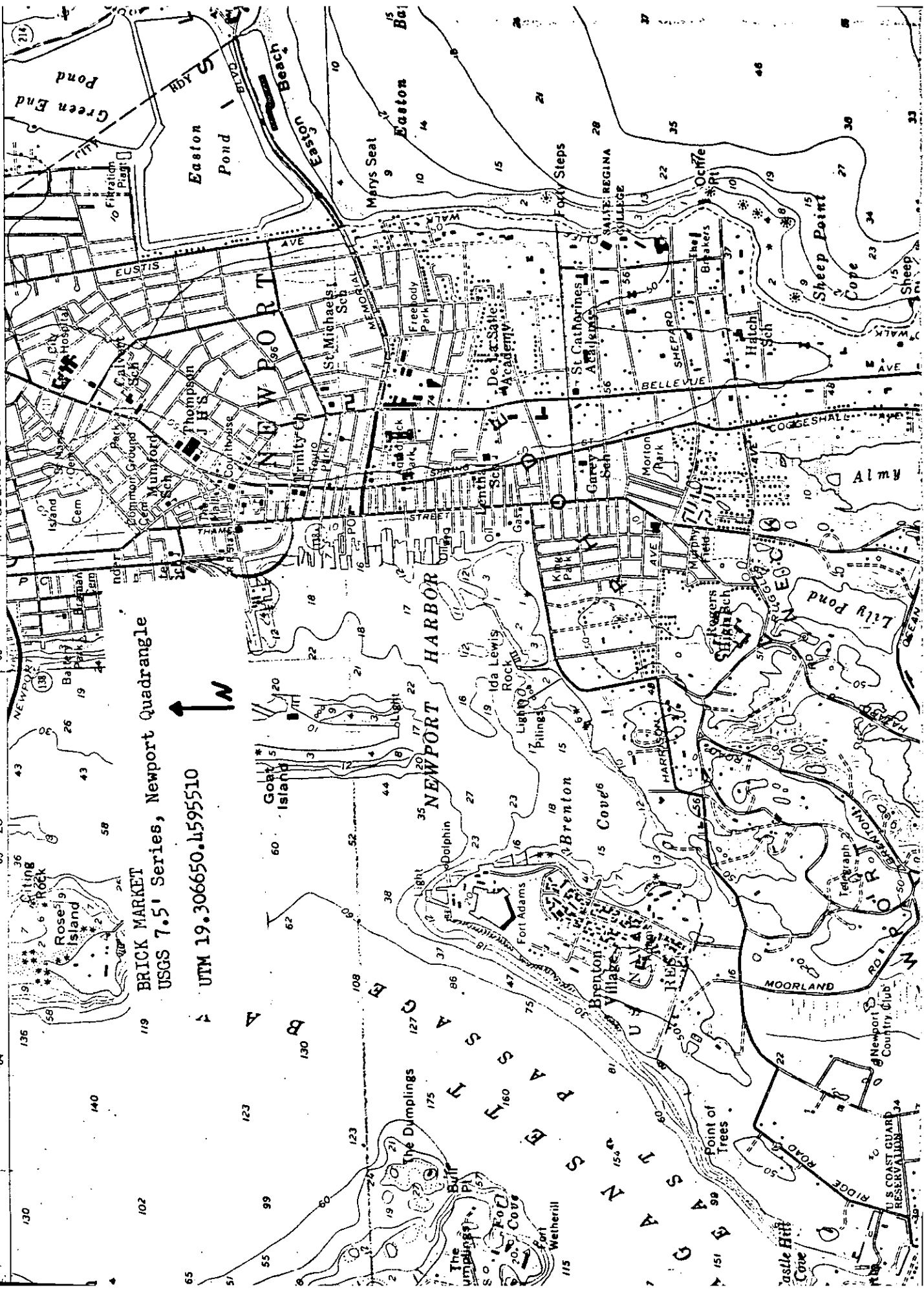
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Landmark 029/1960  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7-1-75

ATTEST: Boundary Certified:  
 Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

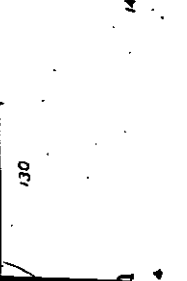
Boundary Affirmed:  
 Keeper of The National Register 7/2/75  
 Director, OALP

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



119 BRICK MARKET  
USGS 7.5' Series, Newport Quadrangle

▲ UTM 19.306650.4595510



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Brick Market

AND/OR HISTORIC: Brick Market

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Thames Street and Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Newport

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

005

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Newport Quadrangle

SCALE:

1:24000

DATE:

1957 photorevised 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

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: Brick Market  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brick Market

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Thames and Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
------------------------	------------	--------------------	-------------

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Patricia Heintzelman  
DATE OF PHOTO: October 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Historic Sites Survey, NPS

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of east end on Washington Square showing new shopping mall on the old wharf area.

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: Brick Market  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brick Market

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Thames Street and Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
------------------------	------------	--------------------	-------------

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Patricia Heintzelman  
DATE OF PHOTO: October 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Historic Sites Survey

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of south side of Brick Market



Form 16-817  
(Sept. 1957)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Rhode Island</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>Theme XX, Architecture (Colonial)</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>The Brick Market</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>.2 acres</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Thames Street and Washington Square, Newport, Newport County.</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>City of Newport and Preservation Society of Newport County.</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

In this Late Georgian structure, erected in 1761-62, Peter Harrison introduced into the main stream of architectural practice in the colonies the compositional procedure of giant classic orders superimposed on a range of arch forms. The Brick Market was also the noted architect's last architectural work.

In 1760 the proprietors of the Long Wharf deeded waterfront land to Newport for erection of a market house. Funds for construction were raised by means of a public lottery and Peter Harrison of Newport donated his services as the architect. Work on the three-story brick structure, which was 33 feet wide and 65 feet long, began in 1761 and the building was roofed in 1762, although not all the details were completed until July, 1772.

As usual, Harrison turned to his English architectural books, selecting as a model the large gallery at Somerset House in London, designed by Inigo Jones and John Webb and published by Colen Campbell in Vitruvius Britannicus (London, 1717), Volume I, as plate 16. As applied to the market house, the design was modified for brick rather than stone construction and rustication of the base was omitted. The giant pilasters were also changed from Corinthian to Ionic, and the urns over the cornice omitted. In spite of these alterations, however, the design was unusually close to the original.

The market was built with open arches on the ground floor--seven arches on the long side, three on the short--and the upper stories, whose windows had alternating angular and segmental pediments, were devoted to retail dry goods shops and offices. The exterior design was completely formal, and one of the most academic in the colonies; it is believed to be

(Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See page 2.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, ex. NPS study, HABS, etc.)

**Historic American Building Survey: (1 photo, 1937).**

/4312-15

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED-YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Excellent</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Store</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>Sept. 18, 1967</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i>	15. TITLE <b>Charles W. Snell Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>Nov. 20, 1967</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

Page 2.

STATE Rhode Island	NAME(S) OF SITE The Brick Market
-----------------------	-------------------------------------

7. Continued:

the earliest instance in the English colonies of the favorite academic composition of arched base with an order of giant pilasters above.

All rentals and profits from the building went to the Newport town treasury to be used for the purchase of grain to supply a public granary for the town. After the Revolution the upper part of the building housed a printing office. In 1793 the upper stories were remodeled as a theater and were used for this purpose until 1799. In 1842 the building was altered to serve as the townhall. The third floor was removed and the second made into one large room with galleries on three sides. The first floor arches were fitted with windows and doors and this section was used for stores. From 1853 to 1900 the old market served as the City Hall for Newport. The third floor was reconstructed and the exterior of the Brick Market was completely restored in 1928 under the supervision of Norman M. Isham and two years later the interior was completely rebuilt. Because of the soft condition of the original brick, the north and east walls of the basement floor also had to be replaced. The once-open arcades were left enclosed by small paned windows.

The Brick Market is now utilized as a crafts shop and is open to visitors.

8. References:

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 457-58, figs. 381; Rhode Island, A Guide to the Smallest State (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 217; Antoinette F. Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Va., 1937), 221-224; Carl Bridenbaugh, Peter Harrison, First American Architect (Chapel Hill, 1949); 105-111; James G. VanDerPool, "Historical Development of Architecture in the U.S.A., 1632-1912," (N.P.S. Ms., 1966), 81. Antoinette F. Downing and Vincent J. Scully, Jr., The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1952 (Cambridge, 1952), 77-78.

104

105 20'

106

(PRUDENCE ISLAND)

17°30'

109 560

BRICK MARKET  
 USGS 7.5' Series, Newport Quadrangle  
 UTM 19.306650.4595510

