

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Market House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Market Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rhode Island School of Design

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 College Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1956 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

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8. 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) 1775, 1797, 1833

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After many years of consideration, the General Assembly of the Rhode Island colony approved a petition in 1771 for a lottery to raise funds necessary for the erection of the first public market house in Providence. Completed in 1775, the Market House was fitted with stalls which were sold at auction in 1776. This building standing in the center of the city was the scene of much activity during the Revolutionary War. At the suggestion of the Continental Congress, a Committee of Inspection was formed and met here on March 1, 1775, to organize the burning of three hundred pounds of British-taxed tea. Held on adjoining Market Square the next day, the "tea-party" showed the colony's resistance to unjust taxation. During the stay of French soldiers in the city in the subsequent war, the upper floors of the Market House served as their barracks.

St. John's Lodge of Masons installed Rhode Island's first Masonic Hall in the newly-completed third story in 1797. In 1802, Thomas Webb Smith organized St. John's Encampment (now Commandery) Number One, the oldest organization of the Knights Templar in America, in this hall.

The Market House was used as the seat of city government from Providence's incorporation as a city until 1880, when it was leased to the Providence Board of Trade. In 1948 the city deeded the building to the Rhode Island School of Design.

The Market House is also, and not least, of architectural significance. Its architect, Joseph Brown, was the leading architect of Providence in the eighteenth century; he also designed University Hall at Brown University (1770), the First Baptist Meeting House (1775) and the John Brown House on Power Street (1786). James C. Bucklin, an architect of the Arcade (1828) and Manning Hall at Brown University (1834), designed the small wing at the east end in 1833. The building is simple and straightforward in design, well-proportioned, and has been sympathetically restored on the exterior. It has never, since 1775, been empty of use or uses important to its community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 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

The Market House was built in 1773-1775, chiefly from the designs of Joseph Brown, the most important Providence architect of the eighteenth century. Stephen Hopkins, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, collaborated on the design, and Zephaniah Andrews was the master mason. The three-story brick structure--rectangular in plan, three bays wide and seven bays long-- is capped by a gable roof and has two tall brick chimneys on the interior of each side wall. The structure is decorated with an unusual brick cornice imitative of modillions and dentils. A balustrade of closed panels above solid spaces alternating with sections of turned balusters above the window openings crowns the eaves along both sides and returns against the gables.

The first story, projected slightly beneath a torus molding, is pierced by a continuous arcade of large round arches on all sides but the eastern end. Tied visually by a stone course from which they spring, the arches--originally open--are now glazed, excepting the central one on the south side, which accommodates a double door.

The upper stories are separated by a brick string course. A large bull's-eye window in the east gable, surrounded by a wooden molding and four decorative keystones, lights the garret; a clock, similarly decorated, is in the west gable.

Originally only two stories in height, surmounted by a low gable roof and finished with an eaves balustrade, the building has been greatly altered since its erection. The third story was added in 1797 to provide a hall for the St. John's Lodge of Masons. Built with an open arcade on pavement level for use as a city market-place, the first story was later raised several feet to provide a basement below. At that time the arcade was glazed and offices were installed on the first floor, while open bulkhead entrances (since closed) allowed market activities to be continued in the new basement. In 1833 James C. Bucklin, Providence architect, designed the shallow, two-story wing on the east end to provide an entrance and stairway to the Masonic Hall. Also of brick, this wing is simple in design, with undecorated brick piers supporting an entablature and with a solid parapet rimming its flat roof. The central section of this addition, which projects several feet, now accommodates the remodelled main entrance to the building.

Reconstruction and modernization of the building was begun in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration under the sponsorship of the local Public Buildings Department, but work was halted in 1939 in response to pleas by the American Institute of Architects for a more authentic restoration. Plans were redrawn by B. G. V. Zetterstrom, architect, and the exterior--restored to its 1833 appearance--was completed in 1940. This building was given by the city to the Rhode Island School of Design in 1948, and final rehabilitation was completed by John Hutchins Cady. The interior has been completely remodelled to accommodate classrooms and studios of the school.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F.: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 271, 275.
 Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, 1957), pp. 48, 68, 134, 150, 269, 270, 276, 283.

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° 49' 33" N	71° 24' 31" 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 21, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State House, 90 Smith Street

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

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

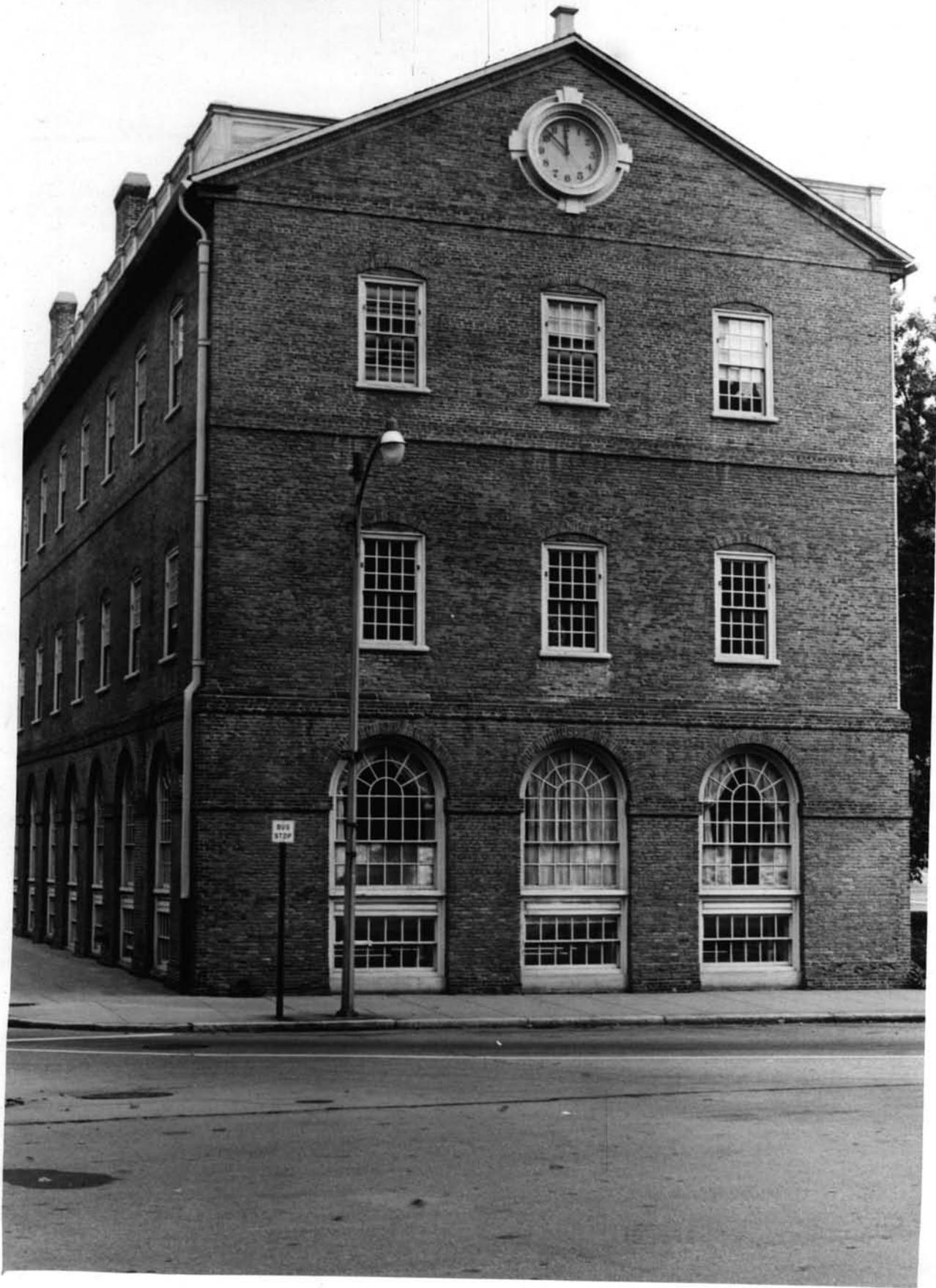
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 49' 33" N
Longitude: 71° 24' 31" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Market House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Market Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE:

1: 24,000

DATE:

1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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