

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

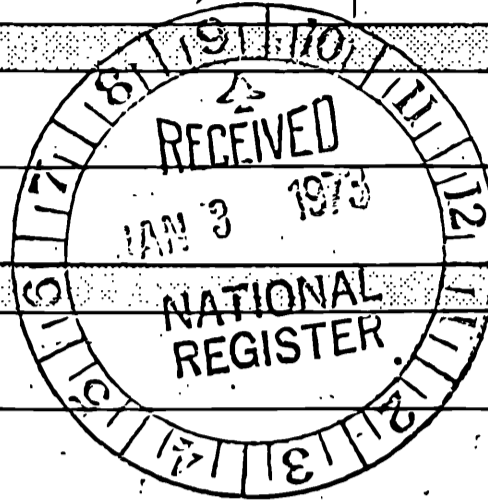
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Tillinghast (John) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Mill Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE COUNTY: CODE
44 Newport 005

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 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	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"/> 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Anli Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Mill Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Newport City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959
 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:

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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	<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

Built in 1760 on a site facing south on Touro Park and the Old Stone Mill, the John Tillinghast house--though altered--is a conspicuous local example of the late Colonial residence and of the increasing use of academic forms for the decoration of luxurious dwellings in that period. It is a timber-framed, two-and-one-half-storey structure upon a stone basement and is covered with beaded clapboarding. From the decked hipped roof arise two internal chimneys which appear to have been rebuilt. Old photographs show the main doorway with a plain flat enframingent consisting of pilasters supporting a segmental pediment rather than the elaborate, triangularly-pedimented Corinthian porch (obviously a product of the Colonial Revival) with iron railings which now heavily protrudes to shelter the doorway. The moulded wooden eaves cornice originally had only supporting modillions and a dentil course below, but a plain frieze band, interrupted by each upper window opening, appears to be an insertion of the Greek Revival period, when surely the panelled Tuscan corner pilasters were also applied to the house. Windows, now containing two-over-two sash, are in early-type protruding frames having simple architraves resting upon moulded sills; those of the lower floor have a capping cornice as well. Dormers, with rather heavy triangular pediments which appear to be co-eval with the added porch, project from the roof, three of them in the south front, and--except for their heavy cappings--would be a part of the house's original design.

Besides the applications of trim mentioned above, the house has also undergone extensive enlargement. Most prominent are a north-east extension topped by a glazed observatory, a two-and-one-half-storey rear ell (approximately doubling the interior space) running north, and a glazed porch attached to the west side. Other outside additions on the property include a frontal retaining-wall of stone, a carriage house, a swimming pool and, along the north side, a brick wall with arches now closed by boarding.

Internally, the main and original portion of the house displays a typical XVIII-Century four-room, central-hall plan, with two interior chimneys each serving two hearths on each floor. The front door opens to the main hall--now partitioned in front to form a vestibule--whose northern half contains the main stairway. This hall is now completely panelled with dark wood and floored in tile, both dating from the late XIX Century; but the original broad, semi-elliptical archway with a heavy keystone still divides its length in two. The wide staircase rises in U-shape in two runs and a landing to the second floor. It retains its original ramped rail upon twisted balusters and its "caged" newel, but the underside of the upper run has modern panelling to match the walls and also, in fact, the ceiling of the hall. On the landing there is the original round-headed window enframingent with a keystone in its arch and a window-seat filling the bottom; it does not now, however, contain moveable double-hung sash but is entirely filled by ornamental XIX-Century glazing of very small panes of bevelled or cut glass.

(See Continuation Sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

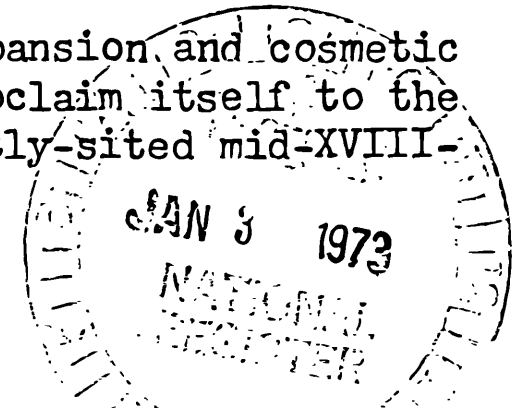
STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

An apartment has been made of each half of the first floor, and the second floor forms one large apartment extending into the ell. The first floor of the ell provides a fourth apartment. Wall and fireplace trim on the first floor is all of late XIX- or early XX-Century application, with rich panelling and carving of varnished woods. The second floor remains more intact in both plan and décor, displaying simple panelled wainscots, old mantels with plain, academic detailing and marble hearth-surrounds. However, even on this floor one of the front rooms was "improved" by the introduction of a coffered ceiling of stained wood.

Remarkably and fortunately, after all the expansion and cosmetic treatment it has undergone, the house can still proclaim itself to the spectator as a good example of the large, prominently-sited mid-XVIII-Century town residence.



8. Significance.

and of a flat frieze or fascia below the XVIII-Century cornice, and the introduction, perhaps earlier, of some new mantels inside. There are angular Victorian extensions to the house to the rear and one side of the house dating c. 1870-1880, but their height, the size of openings and the details of trim are made--as much as possible--consonant with similar features of the original part of the house.

However, by around 1885-1895, considering the social pretensions then dominating Newport and the forms of entertaining practised there, it was evidently thought by the owners of the Tillinghast house at that time that some fashionable up-dating or glossing was needed. To the exterior was attached the heavy, aedicular entrance porch--hopefully "Colonial," but rather more Roman--and the dormers were given heavy mouldings on their pediments, where the original trim was surely more slim. Inside, in the stair-hall and the downstairs reception-rooms (the second floor was left largely untouched), some very expensive redecoration was undertaken: panelled walls, panelled ceilings and beams, elaborate mantels of hybrid style--all in various woods highly varnished. Although records do not include this work as being by the famous firm of McKim, Mead & White, one is reminded of the beginnings of their decorative work in the Colonial Revival style, which had wide influence, and the Tillinghast house reflects their quick followers. Beyond its long-standing place in state and local history, in important associations, we can see also here a rather interesting example of XIX-Century changes made to a house built earlier, and of extravagant Colonial Revival imprints placed upon a building which was of the Colonial period to begin with.

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) 1760 ff.

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>Turn-of-the-</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>century social</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>life</u> |
| <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

This house remains an important and noticeable survivor among the great pre-Revolutionary houses of Newport, partly due to its central siting and to its size. In spite of alterations and additions, its original form and proportions, its original plan are clear; and its architectural history will, after other paragraphs, prove of interest and significance.

Its builder was John Tillinghast, a prosperous Newport merchant, and from 1760 until the time of the Revolutionary War it could house his family and take care of his hospitality as had been planned. By 1780, when the British enemy forces (one has not reports of their occupying it) had left Newport and a large body of more acceptable French military allies arrived in July of that year, this house--like other large ones--was in part placed at the disposal of the French military command. Two officers of the engineer corps are listed as billeted in the Tillinghast house, and it is also believed that the Marquis de Chastellux was housed there for a time and that he there recorded his famous memoirs of Newport and its citizens in wartime.

The French left Newport in June of 1781, but the house was to continue to have important associations. In 1783-1784 its tenant was Major-General Nathanael Greene--perhaps, after George Washington, our most important Revolutionary commander: here he received his former colleagues-in-arms, the Marquis de Lafayette, Baron Steuben, Thaddeus Koszciusko. Later it had as occupants Archibald Crary, commander of the Second Rhode Island Regiment, and William C. Gibbs, Governor of Rhode Island from 1821 to 1824. The subsequent succession of owners has not been traced, but in recent decades, though already converted to apartments, the building had for some time been called the Garrettson house.

Dominant in a pleasing location in the centre of town, commodious and liveable, the body of the house remains and has obviously been appreciated by its post-Tillinghast owners who, however, were not averse to giving it various minor exterior face-liftings, some major enlargements and various interior decorative "improvements" to accord with the needs and tastes of their times. Thus we see the application (c. 1830-1840) to the old structure of Greek Revival corner pilasters

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1915 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1952), pp. 5-6.
 Dawson, Herbert A.: Historic Newport (Newport, Rhode Island, 1933), pp. 39-40.
 U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island... A Guide ... (Boston, Massachusetts, 1937), p. 222.
 The Preservation Society of Newport County: Washington-Rochambeau Celebration, 1780-1955 (Newport, Rhode Island, 1955), p. 19.

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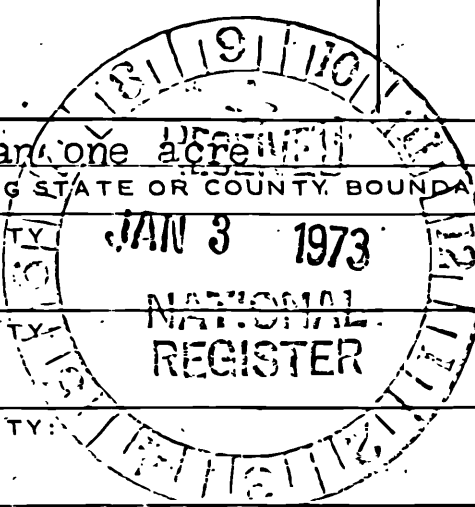
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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' 08.84" N	71° 18' 36.14" 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: B. Christopher Bene, Surveyor-Researcher
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant.

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: July 26, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 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: Therick C. Williamson

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 27, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 11 73