

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
44	JAN 20 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Tillinghast (Charles) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
243-245 Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island, 02840 CODE: 44 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 checked="" 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 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:
Donald Gray and W. Seymour Gray

STREET AND NUMBER:
243-245 Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE:
44

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 20 1972

DATE: 1972

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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

The Tillinghast house is a much altered, two-and-one-half-story house with a gable roof, its long façade on the street. Its clapboarded walls and timber framing rest on a brick foundation. The front overhang of the roof and the plastered coved cornice, now sheathed in wood, suggest that the Tillinghast family had it built c. 1710-1720. The first story has been used as a shop for many years and has recently been remodelled with a modern wood and plate-glass storefront of "neo-Colonial" design. On the second story, single and paired six-over-six double-hung sash windows of the mid-nineteenth century replace the original ones. A two-story, flat-roofed ell with a loft opening has been extended from the rear of the building. Interiors on both first and second floors have been opened-up and re-partitioned for commercial use, leaving visible little of the house's original interior character.

The house abuts the sidewalk of Thames Street on a corner lot and has become part of a solid street façade of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century two- and three-story structures. As late as 1759 the house stood quite alone on the west side of Thames Street, projecting into the harbor, which then came up to that street's edge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

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"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

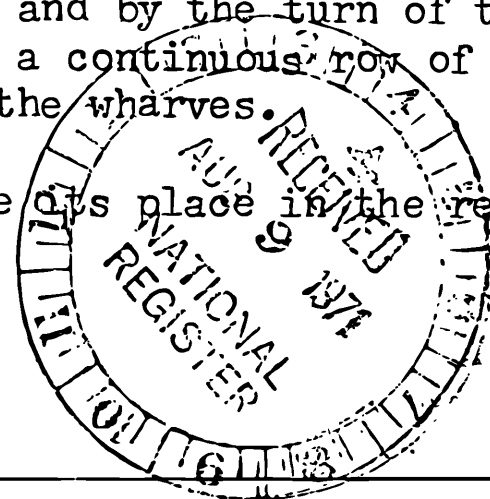
The Tillinghast house is significant in the history of Newport. It was built in the early eighteenth century for Charles Tillinghast, a member of one of the founding families of the city, as well as of the state, on land that had been in Tillinghast possession since 1677. It remains as one of the earliest structures in the city.

According to the French army's billeting list, DeChabannes and Brintaneau, aides-de-camp of Baron de Viomesnil, were quartered in the house, then owned by John Freebody, during the Revolution. In October, 1779, the house was confiscated when Freebody was cited as having been a member of the British army. His property (as well as his citizenship) was restored in 1784 when it was proven that he had never borne arms against the colonies.

Although the house has been greatly altered, its place in the architectural history of the city is still important. With the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard house, it is one of the few structures in Newport which retains a coved cornice. Such a coved cornice provided a transition between the wall surface and the roof and was one of the early architectural refinements introduced by the colonists as they broke away from their seventeenth-century, mediaeval architectural tradition.

Furthermore, the Tillinghast house was important to the physical development of the city. Thames Street, the first planned street in Newport, was built on marshy land at the edge of the harbor, to provide access to the waterfront upon which the city was economically dependent. Wharves lined the west side of the street, while shops and homes were concentrated on the east side. Projecting into the harbor, the Tillinghast house was one of the first to be built at the head of a wharf on the water side of Thames Street. Later construction followed suit: shops and sheds soon lined these wharves, and by the turn of the eighteenth century the house had become part of a continuous row of residences along Thames Street, at the head of the wharves.

It should be restored, so that it can take its place in the restoration program under way in Newport.



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), p. 229.
 Robson, Lloyd A.: Tillinghast House Was Once Confiscated (in Newport Daily News, May 8, 1965).

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' 13"	71° 18' 56"	
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: April 9, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 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 Frederick Williams

Title State Liaison Officer

Date Aug. 5, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JAN 20 1972

ATTEST:

W. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Jan 17, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS