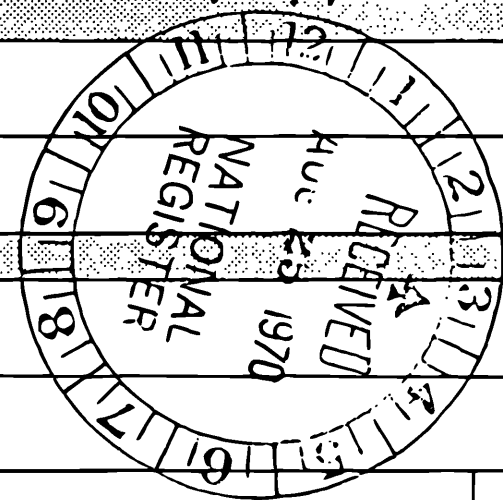


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Rhode Island
COUNTY:	Newport
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.10.44.0015	10/15/70



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Senior Citizens Center

AND/OR HISTORIC: King (Edward) House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Aquidneck Park, Spring Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island, 02840      CODE: 38      COUNTY: Newport      CODE: 005

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Recreation</u>
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: City of Newport

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall, Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newport      STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 38

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newport      STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 005

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7.23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: To be included in a survey now being planned

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Rhode Island

COUNTY: Newport

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.44.0015

DATE: 10/15/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

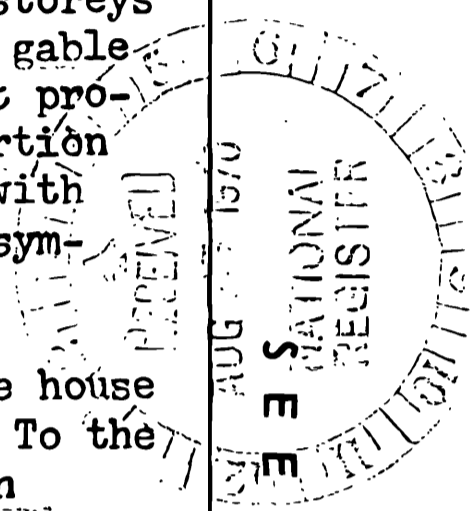
This house, built in 1845-1847, is basically square in plan, varied only by slight projections on the north and south, a minor recess on the west and a service wing at the east. It is constructed of brick (originally painted beige) with sandstone cornices, brackets, string-courses and window dressings. Architectural ornamentation in the form of porches, balconies, hoods etc. is of wood. The cubic mass of the house is broken up by variations in the height and roof treatment of its parts, which in some places are of two or two-and-a-half storeys, in others three storeys (one three-storey part being taller than the other). Both hip and gable roofs are used with intentional contrast. The variations in height produce the effect of a rectangular tower rising in the south-west portion of the house. The other variations in height and plane, together with porches and differences in window treatment, produce, finally, an asymmetrical effect--a desired feature of the "Italian Villa" style.

An arcaded porch was formerly at the south-west corner of the house in an angle caused by the short southerly projection of one room. To the east of this projection another porch, carried on square posts, ran around the corner and across most of the back of the house. Both porches were not mere appendages, but formed parts of the over-all architectural composition: so their absence must be noted. A small number of round-headed dormers long ago let into certain parts of the roof do not show in the original design; yet they are minor intrusions rather than serious alterations.

In spite of apparent exterior asymmetry, the first-floor plan is, as mentioned, very nearly square. A long central entrance- and stair-hall takes up one third of the width of the house and is divided into two parts by a triple arcade. Flanking the hall are two drawing-rooms to the south, a dining-room (its interior remodelled) and a large butler's pantry to the north. Across the rear of the house from south to north are a library, "office," service stair and kitchen, with a large laundry room projecting east from the kitchen. The plan of the second, or bedroom, floor is quite similar to that of the first, and quarters for servants were arranged at the top of the three-storey parts of the house. Interior trim has survived and has the plain, heavy characteristics of the 1845-1855 period. There are strong cornices, mouldings and window-trim, marble mantels, but no elaborate carved or sawed work. Floors in some cases are inlaid.

The grounds of the house slope upward from Spring Street, the "villa" being located on their crest. There were various ancillary buildings of wood--gatehouse, stable etc.; but with two exceptions these have disappeared, as has an interestingly treated brick wall surrounding the property, though the heavy, rusticated stone gate piers remain. These grounds now comprise Aquidneck Park, its lower slope occupied by a new public library. Following long residential use the King House itself for a lengthy period housed the public library. When this use

(See Continuation Sheet)



INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

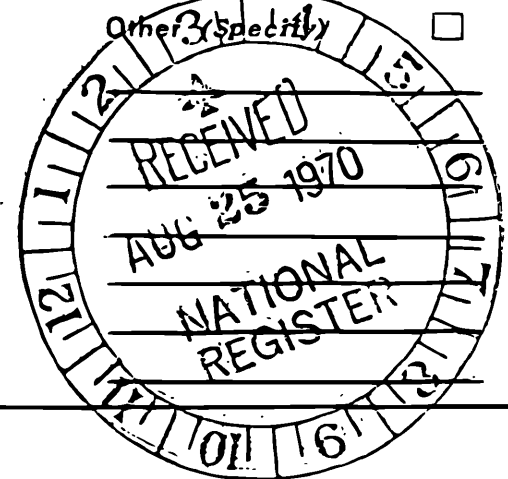
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1845-1847**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Edward King House has importance now as a handsome example of a particular style of XIX Century architecture. But this is not an importance acquired only through age, for this house has been important in American architecture ever since it was first designed and built.

Its architect, Richard Upjohn, was a very great figure in the national development of his profession. He had a considerable influence on public, official and ecclesiastical taste in buildings and styles and was founder of the American Institute of Architects. As a design from his hand the building is of great intrinsic and historic value. It is the one "Italian Villa" which more than any others has been cited and illustrated in architectural publications. A. J. Downing gave it several pages, five illustrations and extravagant praise in his widely used book The Architecture of Country Houses. Adaptations of its exterior design were frequent. Through repeated mention and illustration in modern architectural histories, it has come to be considered a prototype of the "Italian Villa Style," even though it was not the very first example built.

It shows the beginning in large dwellings (and public buildings as well) of the break with traditional symmetry of design and regularity of plan. Here, freedom in plan and outline is first starting to become evident, as is variety in the placement of ornament. In this development one finds masses and spaces pulled out, pushed in, balanced and juxtaposed, manoeuvred in their relationships of weight and height. These masses--generally intended to appear monumental--were usually quite plain in surface. At the time of the King House, ornamentation was simple but big in scale: heavy and projecting bracketed cornices, arcades with robust piers, impressive but severe window and entrance trim. Detail may be Italianate, often correctly academic, but it is certainly never placed or spaced according to the old academicism.

Reflected in such a house as this are also other things--the need in a very prosperous America for big houses, more rooms for varied uses, the desire to emerge from the somewhat cramping rectangularity

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell: Rhode Island Architecture (Providence, R. I., 1939), p. 49.  
 --- Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1958), pp. 103, 105.  
 Downing, A. J.: The Architecture<sup>of</sup> Country Houses (New York, 1865), pp. 317-321.  
 Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport ... (Cambridge, Mass., 1952), pp. 123-124.  
 Upjohn, Everard: Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman (New York, 1939), pp. 93, 94, 125, 128, 202.

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	28'	57" N	71°	18'	47" W
NE	41°	29'	00" N	71°	18'	40" W
SE	41°	28'	51" N	71°	18'	39" W
SW	41°	28'	54" N	71°	18'	45" W

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:  
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: April 11, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 State House, 90, Smith Street.

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island      CODE: 38

**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: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: August, 19, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: OCT 15 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

DATE: SEP 16 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

19/307000/409/550  
 TIM REF  
 10-10-70  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70,10,44,0015	DATE 10/15/70

(Number all entries)

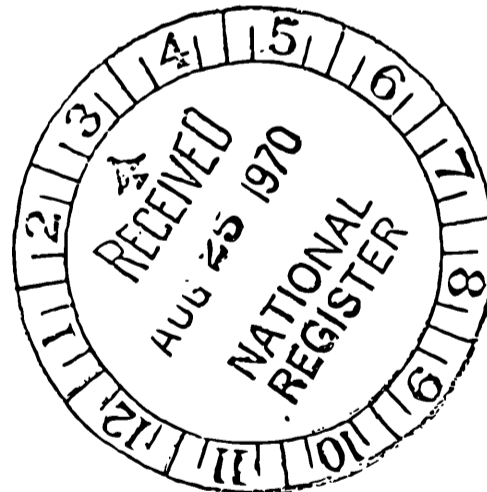
7. Description.

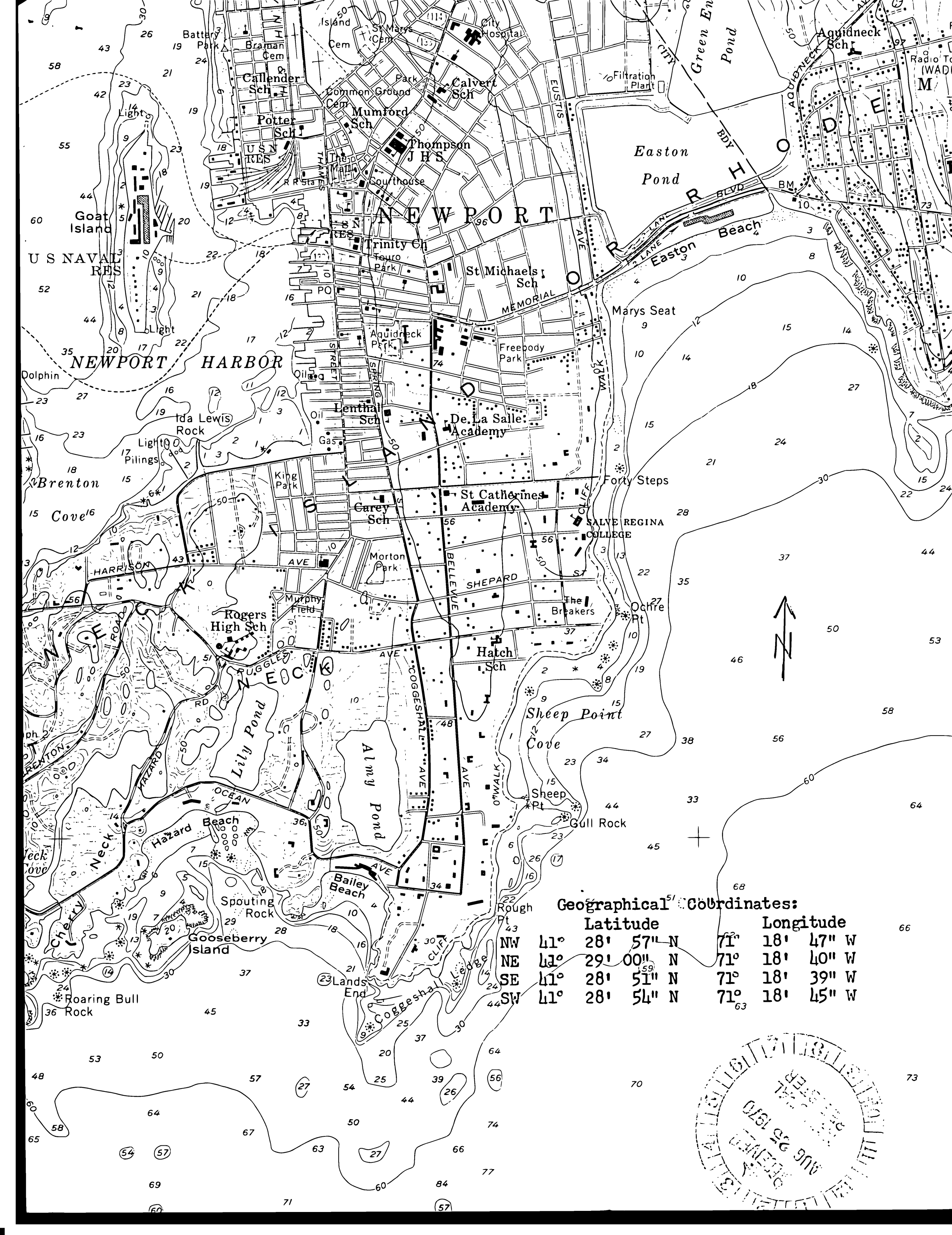
recently terminated, the house underwent outside repair and sympathetic internal renovation (though not a complete restoration) and is now a community centre for older persons.

8. Significance.

of earlier defined styles, unaccommodating to this expanded living. Additionally, there were desires for more light and air--rooms with several exposures; for more outdoor living--porches, verandahs, balconies. There was a desire, too, to impress the spectator. All of these desires are fulfilled in the King House.

As said, this house was sufficiently admired in its day to produce many near-copies and close adaptations, of which one (G. M. Bradley House, Providence, c. 1850-1855) is a sort of compliment to Upjohn by another talented and imaginative architect, Thomas Tefft. Upjohn and a Baltimore client both so liked the King design that Upjohn reproduced it there, almost exactly in mirror-image, as "Homewood Villa"--needlessly demolished by Johns Hopkins University quite recently. It is more than lucky that the King House survives, and highly important that it shall continue to do so.





**Geographical Coordinates:**

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	41° 28' 57" N	71° 18' 47" W
NE	41° 29' 00" N	71° 18' 40" W
SE	41° 28' 51" N	71° 18' 39" W
SW	41° 28' 54" N	71° 18' 45" W

