

**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 69-06-38-0001	DATE 6/23/69

1. NAME

COMMON:
Miantonomi Memorial Park and World War I Memorial Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Miantonomi, Tomony or Wanomitonomo Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Between Hillside and Girard Avenues. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY: Newport	CODE
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
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) <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial <input type="checkbox"/>
		Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
City of Newport

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE: R. I.	CODE
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall, Broadway

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE: R. I.	CODE
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 32 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE: R. I.	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Newport
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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 type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Miantonomi Memorial Park comprises 32 acres around Miantonomi Hill north of Newport.

The tall memorial tower on the top of the Hill was dedicated in 1929 to the fifty six men of Newport who died in the service of their country or in the service of an ally in World War I. Built of rough field stone after designs by William Mitchell Kendall then senior partner in the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, it is based upon the numerous circular watchtowers or beacons of fieldstone which are to be found along the coasts of the Old World. Around the base of Newport's tower, however, is an arcaded terrace inspired by Newport's Old Stone Mill, called America's most controversial structure. This tower is also crowned with a lantern reminiscent of the Pharos, the lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt.

The tower rises 78 feet six inches above the 150-foot hill. The height to the parapet of the first terrace is 16 feet, nine inches, and the height to the parapet of the second terrace, 58 feet, nine inches. A circular staircase rises almost to this level. From this point, a short, narrow stairway gives access to the terrace, which provides a splendid view of countryside and ocean.

The cost of the tower was \$37,600. In addition, the commission has been responsible for the landscaping, and the construction of boundary walls and picnic facilities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

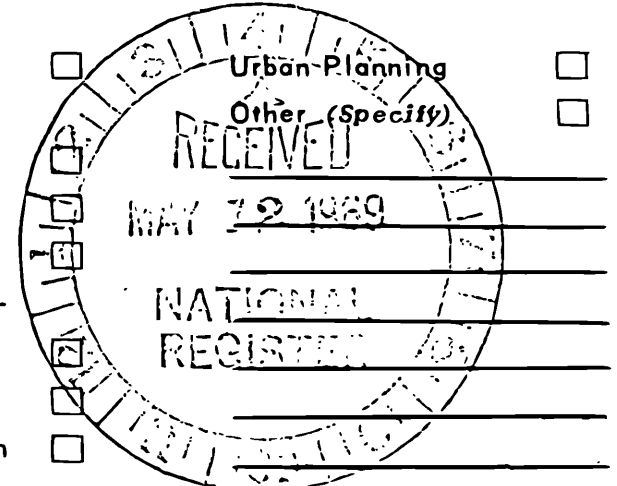
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ~~Before 1637 (Indian), 1667, 1776, 1817, 1923,~~ 9.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban-Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy			
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science			
Art	Landscape and		Sculpture			
Commerce	Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-			
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian			
Conservation	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater			
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		



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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The site was part of Acquidneck, purchased by the Committee of Antinomian leaders (after conferring with the local Sachem Wonnumentonomey from the Chief Sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi by deed dated March 24, 1637/8.) This hill was the seat of power of Miantonomi and its Indian name variously Wonnumentonomey, Miantonomi or Tomony, has been kept.

The colonial settlers used the hill for a lookout, for public executions, and for beacons. By 1667 a beacon had been established on "Wonomitonomo" Hill which, when fired, was the "directory to the rest of the beacons to be forthwith fired through out the whole colony." In 1776 another beacon was erected here "to give the country an alarm in case of invasion" and Colonel Israel Putnam built fortifications at this time. After the fall of the Island of Rhode Island to the British, fortifications, including the forts on Tomony Hill were strengthened. Remains of the powder magazine and other works used as part of the British lines of defense are still visible. The French later used the works as part of their inner lines. In 1796 the Secretary of War reported to the Congress that a citadel for the protection of the inhabitants had been erected on Tomony Hill.

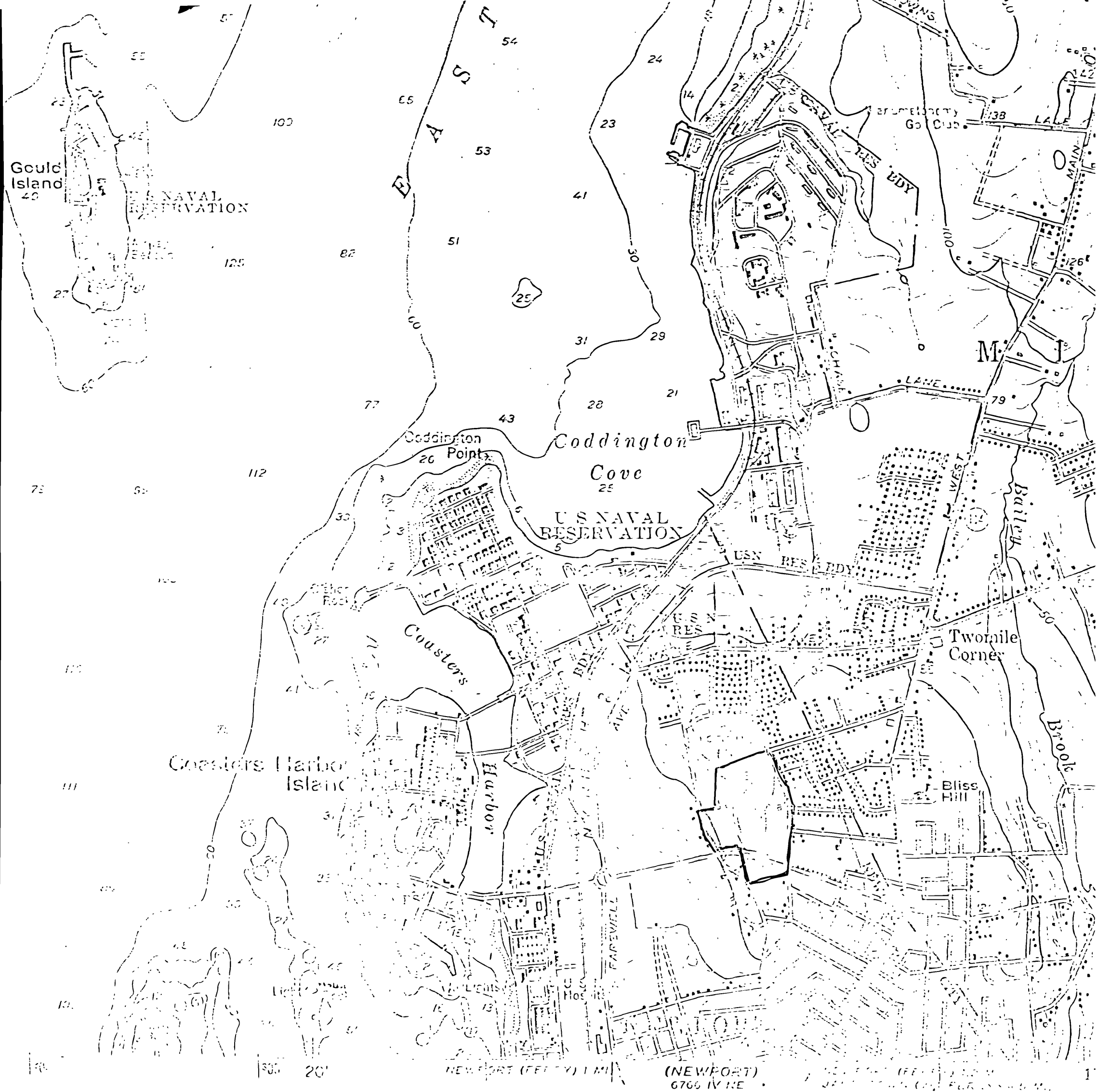
After the war, the entire area about Miantonomi Hill reverted to farm land and remained as such until 1921. During this time at least two observation towers were built here, one having blown down.

In 1921 the City of Newport purchased the site for a park. The development and operation of which were entrusted to the Miantonomi Memorial Park Commission. In 1923 a bronze plaque was installed dedicating the park as a memorial to the "Great War" and in 1929 the present memorial tower was dedicated.

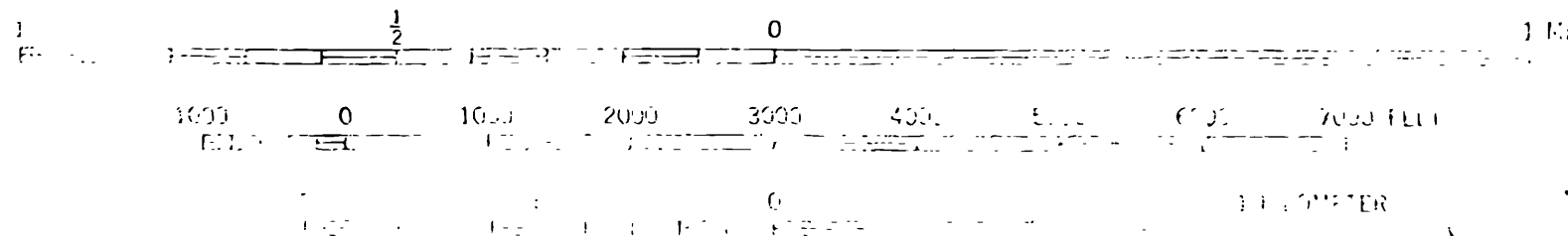
Thus the site has historic importance from the Colonial, Revolutionary War, and World War I periods.

President James Monroe, on an inspection tour of military and naval installations, visited Miantonomi Hill in 1817.

The memorial park and the tower, dedicated in 1929, had among official attendants, Rear Adm. William S. Sims, USN; Gen. James Parker, USA (ret), Congressional Medal of Honor winner, and Mrs. Maude Howe Elliott (Pulitzer Prize winner) and daughter of Julia Ward Howe. In August of 1927 Admiral Sims and Gen. John Pershing, USA, visited the hill and it was here the famous World War I were photographed together for the first time.



SCALE 1:24000



Latitude	Longitude
NW 41° 30' 42"	71° 18' 44"
NE 41° 30' 45"	71° 18' 35"
SE 41° 30' 29"	71° 18' 33"
SW 41° 30' 26"	71° 18' 42"

1968 Tax Plat
Scale 1:100



CITY OF NEWPORT
16,300 sq ft

CITY OF NEWPORT

12

1,017,597 sq ft.

HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF CITY OF NEWPORT
472,000 sq ft.

MIANTONOMI HILL
AND TOWER

CITY OF NEWPORT
270,397 sq ft.

CITY OF NEWPORT

32,900 sq ft.

P-4
L-50

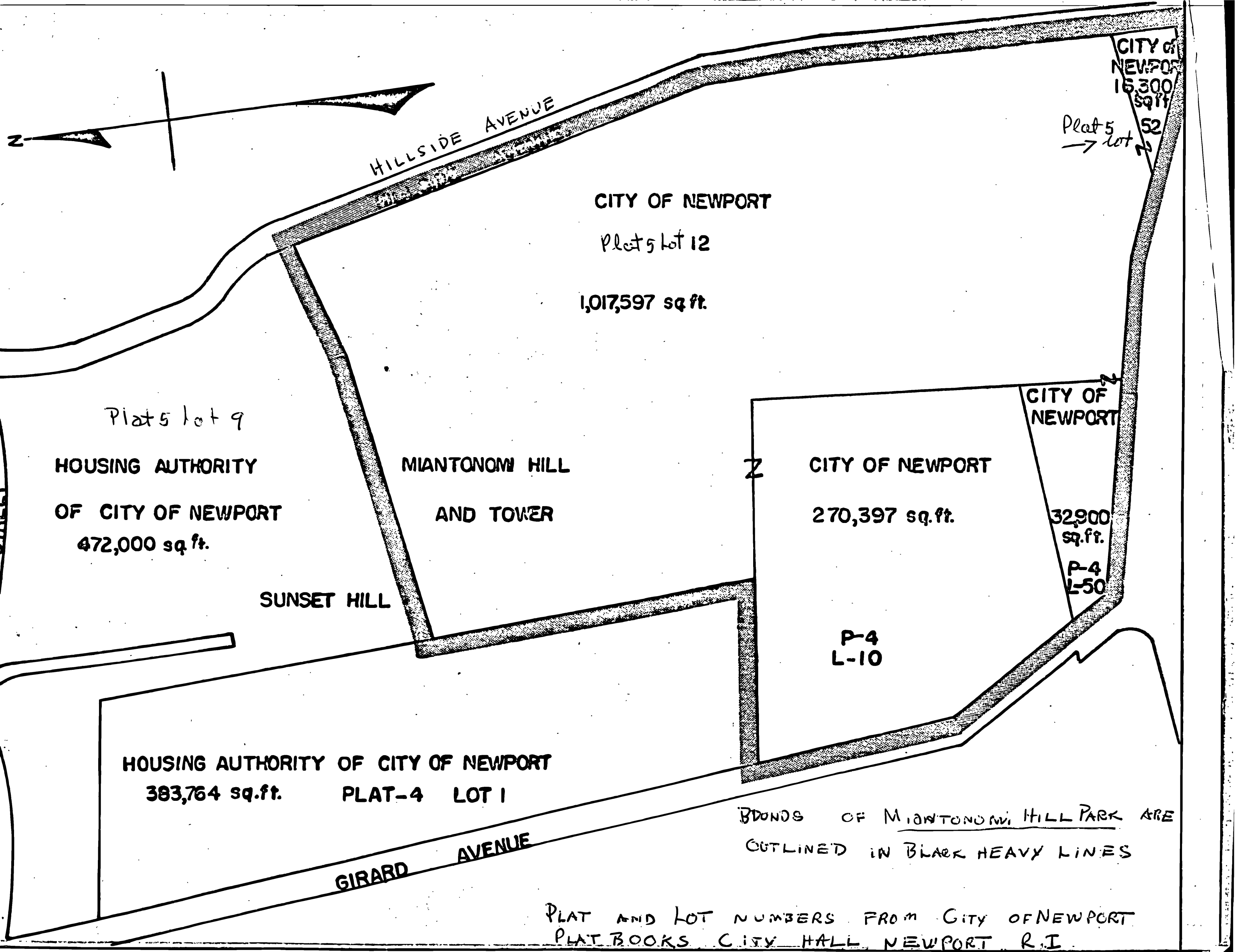
SUNSET HILL

P-4
L-10

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CITY OF NEWPORT
383,764 sq ft. PLAT-4 LOT 1

GIRARD AVENUE

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW 40° 30' 42"	71° 18' 44"
NE 40° 30' 45"	71° 18' 39"
SE 41° 30' 29"	71° 18' 53"
SW 41° 30' 26"	71° 18' 42"



CITY OF NEWPORT
16,300 sq ft

Plat 5
→ lot 52

CITY OF NEWPORT

Plat 5 lot 12

1,017,597 sq ft.

CITY OF NEWPORT

CITY OF NEWPORT

270,397 sq. ft.

32,900 sq. ft.

P-4
L-50

P-4
L-10

MIANTONOMI HILL
AND TOWER

SUNSET HILL

Plat 5 lot 9

HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF CITY OF NEWPORT
472,000 sq. ft.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CITY OF NEWPORT
383,764 sq. ft. PLAT-4 LOT 1

GIRARD AVENUE

BOUNDRIES OF MIANTONOMI HILL PARK ARE
OUTLINED IN BLACK HEAVY LINES

PLAT AND LOT NUMBERS FROM CITY OF NEWPORT
PLAT BOOKS CITY HALL NEWPORT R.I.