

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
	MAR 16 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: Henderson Home
AND/OR HISTORIC: Stiles (Ezra) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 14 Clarke 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Home for the aged
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Newport			STATE: Rhode Island, 02840
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall, Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport	CODE: 44		

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall			COUNTY: Newport
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 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> 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

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
99-10-16-1972	

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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		

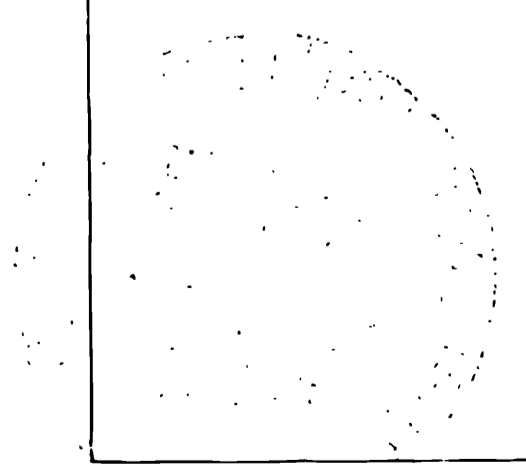
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1756, the Ezra Stiles House is a large, two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-wide, gambrel-roofed house. Its plan is that of four rooms on each principal floor with central halls, organized around two large interior brick chimneys. Now facing west, the house originally faced its garden to the south, with its gable end to the street. When turned west to face the street it was placed on a new, high, brownstone foundation abutting the sidewalk. Even though the house was turned and remodelled in 1834, it retains its over-all eighteenth-century lines and character.

The windows have their original pegged frames and moulded cornices. Two pedimented dormers which light the garret on the front also remain. The original doorway was replaced with one of Greek Revival design. Set in a panelled recess and protected by a one-story, flat-roofed portico supported by Doric columns and simple pilasters, this doorway is framed by a transom and sidelights of etched glass. The original cornerboards were also replaced with the simple panelled pilasters common to the Greek Revival. A two-story clapboarded kitchen all with a brick end wall and interior chimney adjoins the house to the rear. Bay windows, each two stories tall, have been extended from the front rooms at either side of the house.

Although the house has retained its cased beams and panelled wainscoting on the interior, many of the mantels and much of the other trim in its rooms date from after 1834. A graceful, winding staircase in the central hall rises from the ground floor all the way to the third level under the gambrel roof.

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) 1756-1776, 1834

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the records of the Second Congregational Church in Newport, this house was erected as a parsonage in 1756 on land which had been donated by William Ellery and Peter Coggeshall. From the time of its erection, until 1776, the house was occupied by Ezra Stiles, then minister of the congregation. In addition to being a brilliant churchman, Stiles was recognized as probably the most learned man in New England in his time, and he sought information on all manner of subjects. A friend of Benjamin Franklin, Stiles conducted the first experiments with electricity in New England. In the garden of his house on Clarke Street he grew white mulberry trees for experiments with silk-worms, explained in a still-preserved manuscript; he here observed the transit of Venus in the company of Henry Marchant and William Vernon.

Stiles was also important as an educator. He had been librarian of the Redwood Library since his arrival in Newport; and he helped James Manning found the third college in New England--Rhode Island College (now Brown University). His church's congregation, depleted by the Revolution, was forced to dismiss him in 1776. Stiles became President of Yale College in the following year, but it was not until 1786 that he formally ended his ministry in Newport.

Architecturally, the Ezra Stiles House is most significant as part of an extremely well preserved, one-block-long street of exceptionally fine eighteenth-century buildings which include the Second Congregational Church (1735) and the important Vernon House (c. 1708, enlarged c. 1760), a registered National Landmark. Although the Stiles House was somewhat altered in 1834, when the church sold it to a private individual, it nevertheless retains much of its early character. Its preservation is essential for the protection of the rare architectural quality and historical significance of the street in which it stands.

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. 192.

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 ' 23" N	71 ° 18 ' 50 " 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 20, 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 *Clifford M. Renshaw, III*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 20, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

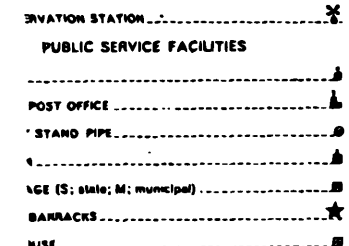
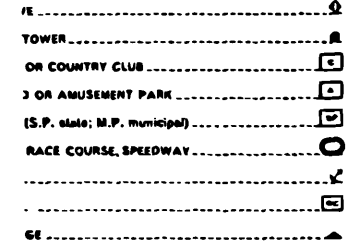
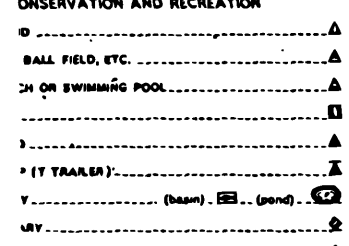
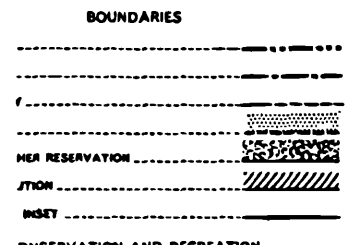
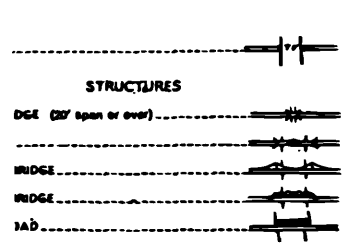
MAR 16 1972

Date _____

ATTEST: *William H. Hunt*
Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 11 1972

19/205240/46 p. 03 SEE INSTRUCTIONS



PLANE COORDINATES (IN FEET)

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE

GATE

VALVE HOUSE

FENCE

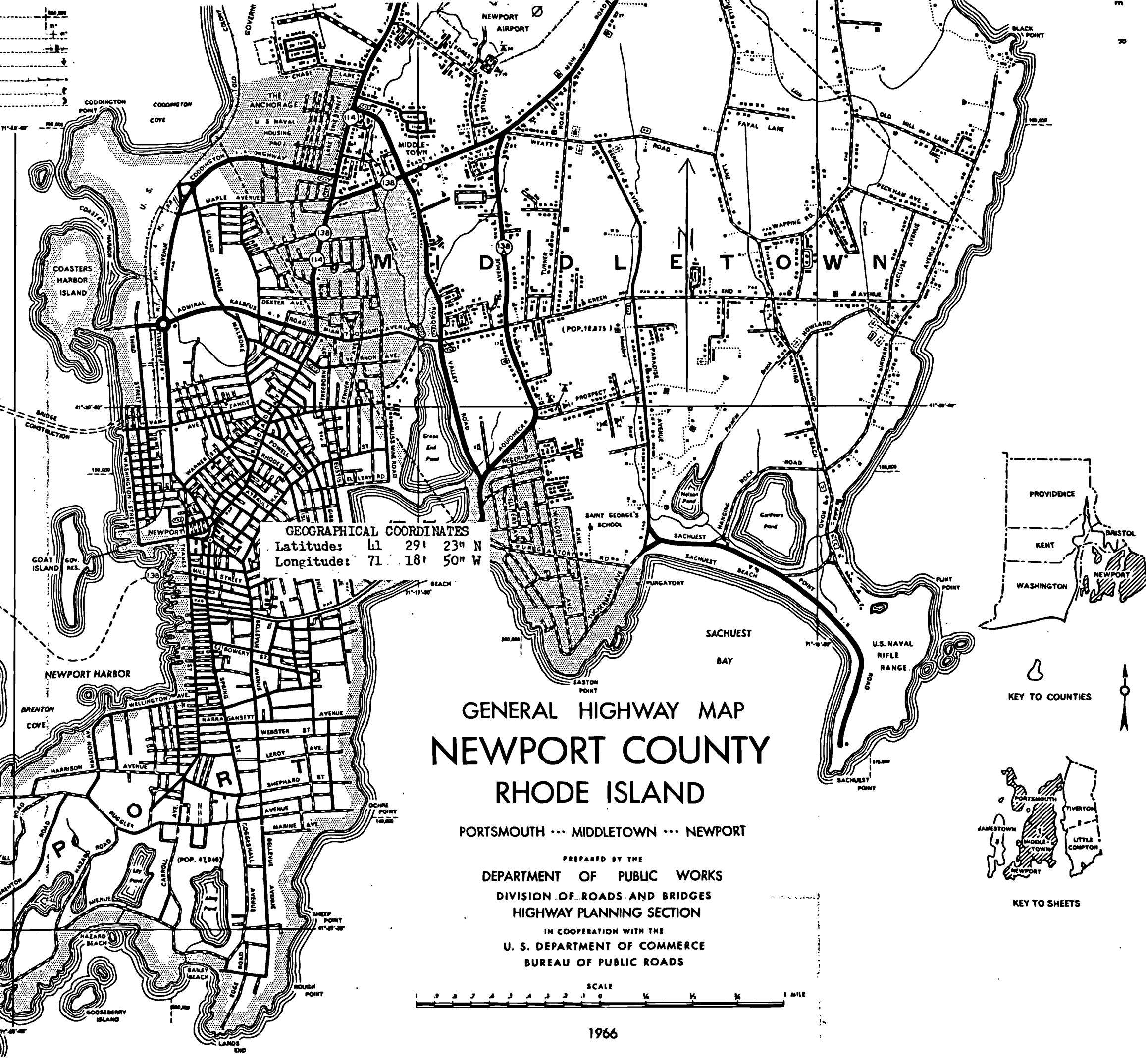
GAS STATION

DRIVE IN THEATER

NARRAGANSETT

NEWPORT LINER

TO JAMESTOWN



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
 Latitude: 41° 29' 23" N
 Longitude: 71° 18' 50" W

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP NEWPORT COUNTY RHODE ISLAND

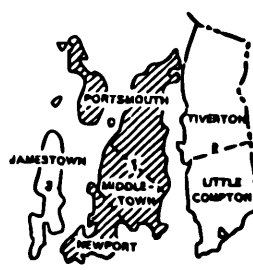
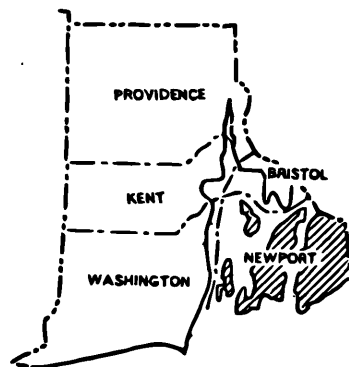
PORTSMOUTH ... MIDDLETOWN ... NEWPORT

PREPARED BY THE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 DIVISION OF ROADS AND BRIDGES
 HIGHWAY PLANNING SECTION

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS



1966



KEY TO SHEETS