

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
	JAN 20 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Newport Steam Factory

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
449 Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE Rhode Island, 02840	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
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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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" 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:  
Newport Electric Company

STREET AND NUMBER:  
159 Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

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:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

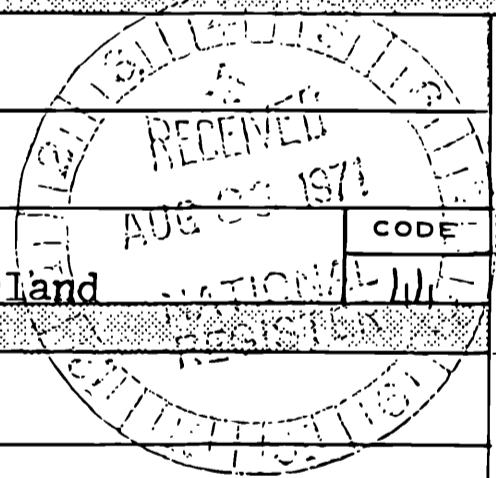
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

JAN 20 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

This is a rectangular masonry building, about 48 feet by 120 feet, eleven bays long, three-and-a-half stories high with a gable roof. The masonry walls, made of green granite from Jamestown, Rhode Island, rough-cut and laid in random patterns, are a particularly handsome feature of the building. Supplementing the load-bearing outer masonry walls is a heavy timber mill-frame construction on the interior and a wood-trussed roof construction. Windows are spaced evenly on the north and south long sides of the building, double-hung with twelve-light sash, the windows of the ground floor being taller than the others.

A square entrance and stair tower projects from the center of the north side of the building and still contains a stairway, though much altered and rebuilt. The tower, which now terminates with a low pitched roof about the height of the main roof ridge, originally carried a square wooden belfry with an arched, louvered opening on each face.

The interiors originally probably consisted simply of open floor space on all four floors, as is now seen on the fourth, or attic, floor and most of the third floor. The first two floors have been partitioned for later storage purposes. The masonry walls are plastered, and there was apparently wooden wainscoting in some areas. The attic story seems to have been more fully finished than the lower stories, but little of that finish work remains.

Later brick buildings adjoin the original stone one at both ends--higher on the east and lower on the west--involving the rebuilding of the east and west walls of the original building. The north and south walls of the building are essentially intact, although a few window openings have been closed, or enlarged as loading entrances. The original building is at the center of a group of industrial buildings on the waterfront and is the key piece, architecturally, in the group.

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**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) 1831

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

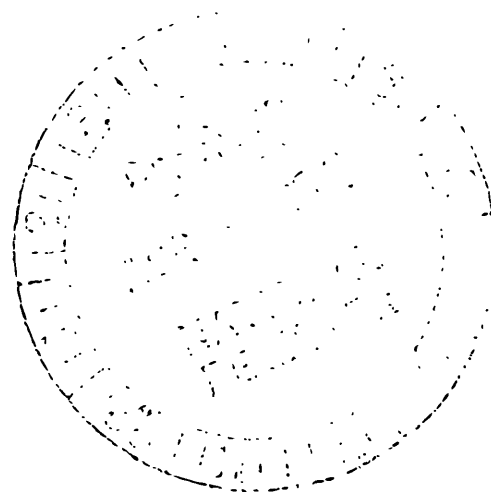
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Newport Steam Factory was built in 1831 by a group of Newport business men. It was one of four early cotton mills built at about the same time on the Newport waterfront in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to revive the economy of the town, which still had not recovered from the Revolution. The Newport Steam Factory and the Perry Mill, built in 1835 and much altered, are the only two remaining.

The Newport Steam Factory cost about \$40,000 to build and was used for cotton manufacturing until 1857, when it was closed due to the depression in the cotton-manufacturing business. It was sold in 1858 and re-fitted for manufacturing warp. In a fire in 1860, the second and third floors were damaged and some machinery lost. At that time 64 men were employed in the mill. The building was acquired in 1892 by the Newport Illuminating Company and has been a key building until recent times in its activity.

The Newport Steam Factory is the most important surviving example of the 19th-century industrial development of the Newport waterfront, as well as being an interesting large example of early mill construction in New England.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Newport Daily News, August 1, 1882, p. 2.  
Newport Mercury, November 10, 1860.

**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' 03" N	71° 18' 58" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

117  
19/313  
45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Not known; probably not more than two

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Osmund R. Overby, Project Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Historic American Buildings Survey Newport Project, 1970      DATE: August, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
90 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport      STATE: Rhode Island, 02840      CODE: 44

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 C. Williams*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date August 16, 1971

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

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

JAN 20 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

*A. Bradford*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Jan. 17, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS