

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 FEB 23 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
White Horse Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
26 Marlborough 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Eating-place</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Preservation Society of Newport County

STREET AND NUMBER:
37 Touro 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

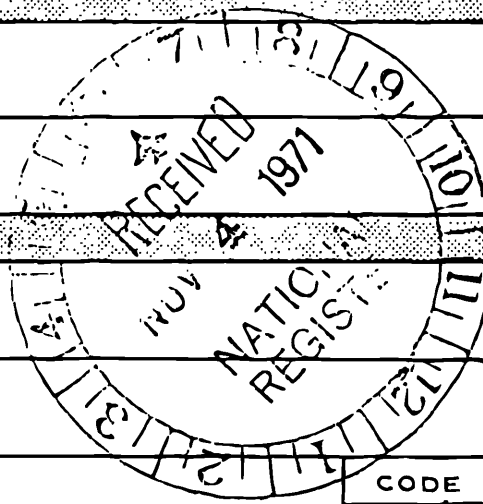
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970-1971 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:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 White Horse Tavern is a large-scale, five-bay-wide, two-and-one-half story clapboarded building capped by a gambrel roof. It is set on a stone foundation, abutting the sidewalk at the corner of Farewell and Marlborough Streets, and faces east. Probably built before 1673 as only a two-room, two-story house with a large pilastered brick chimney, it was expanded across the rear to its present five-room plan before 1750, when it probably also received its present roof-form. The building was further altered after the Revolution.

The centered main entrance on Farewell Street and the side entrance on Marlborough Street are similar in design. Each has a six-panel door surmounted by a transom and enframed by flat pilasters which support an entablature and pediment. The 18th-century windows were altered in the restoration of the 1950's; they now have twelve-over-eight double-hung sash with molded sills and caps. No evidence of the seventeenth-century windows and their proportions has remained. (As presently restored, the size and the shape of the windows have been changed from the narrow nine-over-nine dimensions common to early eighteenth-century Rhode Island building and belong to no style appropriate to this building.) A two-story shingled ell, "salt-box" in form, adjoins the rear at the north-west corner.

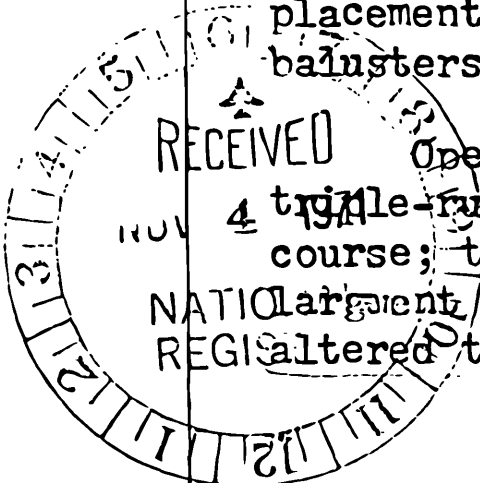
Much of the seventeenth-century character of the interior is still intact in the original eastern half of the building. Most of the heavy timber framing throughout this two-room, two-story section is exposed, revealing chamfered summer-beams and girts; and chamfering was applied to the corner-posts in the south-east room on the second floor. Although now encased by panelling, diagonal bracing in the north-west room of the second floor remains in place. The summer-beams in the north-east room on the first floor and in the south-east chamber on the second floor run perpendicular to the fireplace; those in the south-east room and in the north-east chamber run parallel to the fireplace.

Although its exposed pilastered top is a restoration, the original central chimney remains in place, as do brick fireplaces of very large dimensions in each room. The curved walls and coves above are characteristic of early brick fireplace construction in Rhode Island: those in this building are especially good examples. The triple-run winding staircase butted against the chimney in the cramped front hall is a replacement, installed in the 1950's. It is designed with sawn, S-shaped balusters and a closed, panelled string-course.

Opening into the rear of the original south-eastern rooms, a triple-run winding staircase with turned balusters and a panelled string-course; this is an original stair probably dating from the pre-1750 enlargement of the house. The rear rooms added at that time have been altered to accommodate modern restaurant facilities.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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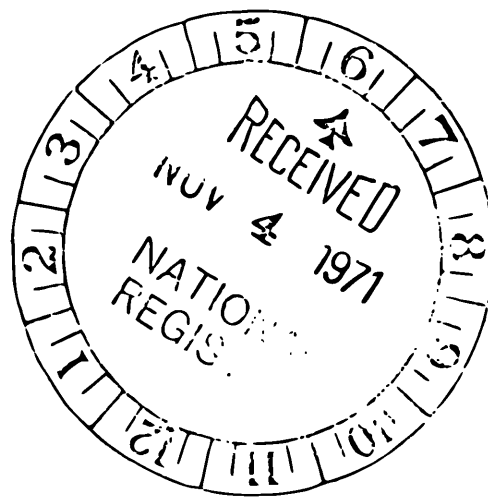
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

In the 1950's restoration, however, an unfortunate mistake was made in the treatment of the window openings and their sash, changing the size and shape from the narrower 9-over-9 proportions common to early eighteenth-century Rhode Island building. Early photographs show windows of the correct form (which had, of course, in their turn replaced the seventeenth-century windows).



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1673, c. 1730-1750

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Probably built before 1673, the White Horse Tavern is the oldest tavern still in operation in America. Acquired in 1673 by William Mayes, a famous local pirate, it first served as a private residence, but soon became an inn. Mayes himself had been granted a liquor license as early as 1687. The house came afterwards into the Nichols family by marriage, and the sign of the White Horse was first hung by Jonathan Nichols, who owned the tavern in 1730.

The tavern served as a center of local affairs throughout the early years of Newport. The Town Council met here, as did the colony's General Assembly--according to tradition--while Richard Munday's Colony House (1739) was under construction. So important was the tavern's role in public affairs that it was thought that perhaps the Colony House should be built facing it.

The White Horse Tavern is of great architectural significance. Although it was enlarged to its present dimensions in the mid-eighteenth century, its original section is one of the earliest structures preserved in the state. The early interior character of this building has been restored and is well maintained, and the structure still serves the public as a tavern.

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), pp. 4, 17, 167, 168, 175, 191.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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' 29.26"N	71° 18' 53.72"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:
Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman, Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE
July 25, 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 Frank J. Williams

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 20, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

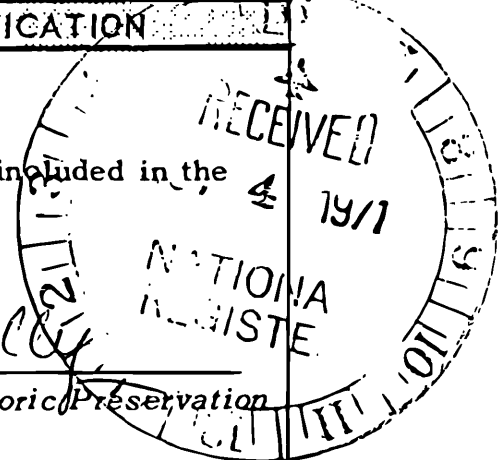
Ernest A. Connelley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

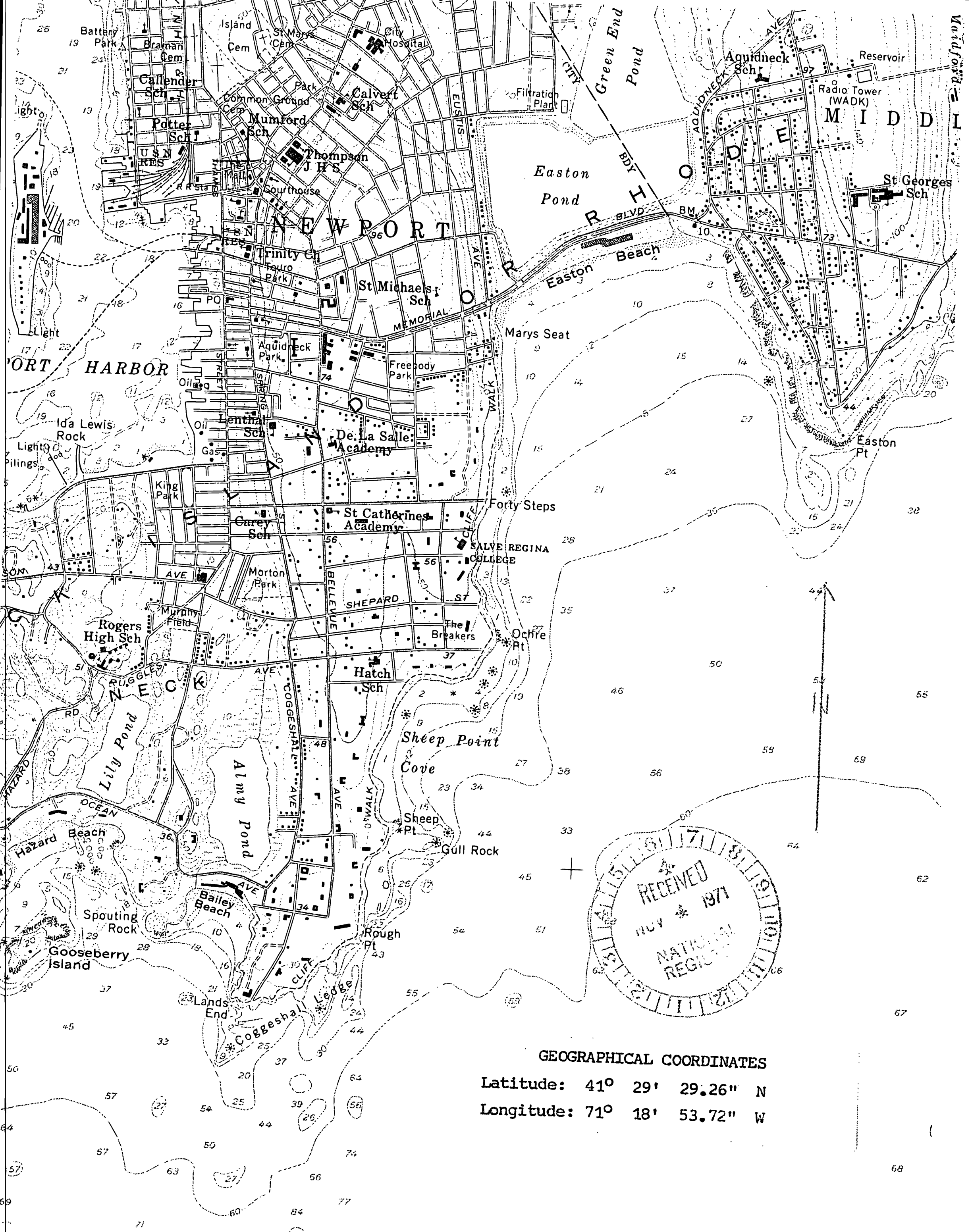
ATTEST:

William Ventresca
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



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 12-10-70
 DTN REI
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS



RECEIVED
 NOV 4 1971
 NATIONAL
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GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 29' 29.26" N
 Longitude: 71° 18' 53.72" W