

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
JUL 2 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mawdsley (Captain John) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bull (Jireh)--Mawdsley (Captain John) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
228 Spring 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	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 checked="" 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"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:
141 Cambridge Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25

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

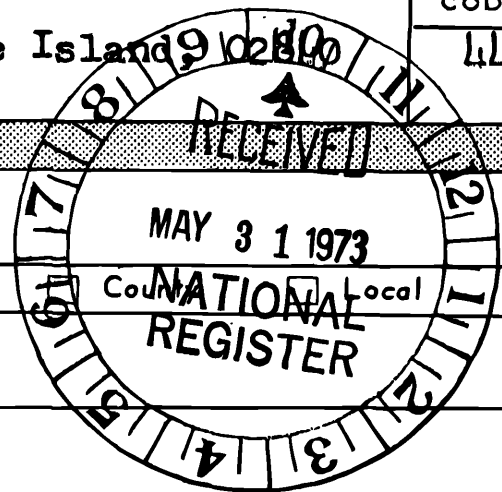
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State

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



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 2 1973

DATE: _____

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



DESCRIPTION				
(Check One)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
(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 Bull-Mawdsley House is a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-wide, clapboarded house capped by a gable-on-hip roof. It rests on a field-stone foundation and faces west. Although the present exterior appearance dates from c. 1750-1760, a two-room, two-story house, dating from c. 1680, has been incorporated within the later shell. Directly in front of this earlier house (which was of "mansion-sized" dimensions for its period), a two-story, two-room section with a central stairway was built. The original central chimney and steep stairway of the earlier house were removed and two brick interior chimneys were constructed to provide fireplaces for each room of this extended structure. Thus the present two-story, four-room, center-hall plan was obtained, and the whole building was then capped by the gable-on-hip roof.

The exterior is decorated with a modillion-and-dentil cornice, broken-out above the second-story windows, and there are panelled cornerboards. On the front, two triangularly-pedimented dormers, flanking a middle dormer with broken-scroll pediment, light the garret. Although their original sashes have been replaced by ones of six lights, the windows retain their old frames with heavy molded sills and cornices. The handsome doorway with its leaded fanlight dates from c. 1795 (as do the front steps of imported marble); the eight-panlled door and fanlight are enframed by a broken pediment supported on applied, fluted columns. Although the exterior of the earlier portion of the rear wing is identical in detail to the front section, the first-story windows at the rear are set at a slightly higher level.

The heavy framing of the original seventeenth-century rear rooms remains intact. Some of the beams there have been extensively panelled, but those in the old hall--now the kitchen--remain exposed. Here, the great summer-beam (running perpendicular to the old chimney) and the girts are beautifully finished with lamb's-tongue chamfers. The rear cornerpost in the north-east chamber is also exposed and has been chamfered where it increases in depth near the top. Fireplaces in these rooms date from the mid-eighteenth century, although some of their mantels are later. Space left after removal of the original chimney and stair allowed the creation of a back hall.

Although the front rooms on the second story are at the same level as the earlier ones to the rear, the first-story rooms of the front section are several steps lower. Thus the ceilings in the first-story front parlors are unusually high. The south-west parlor is quite elegant, with panelling to the ceiling on all four walls, a dentil cornice, a marble-faced fireplace with a two-story mantelpiece--its "eared" panel surmounted by a beautifully carved broken-scroll pediment. Splayed window reveals contain the original folding interior shutters. The north-west parlor is of similar, though simplified, design. A triple-run stairway rises

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 2	1973

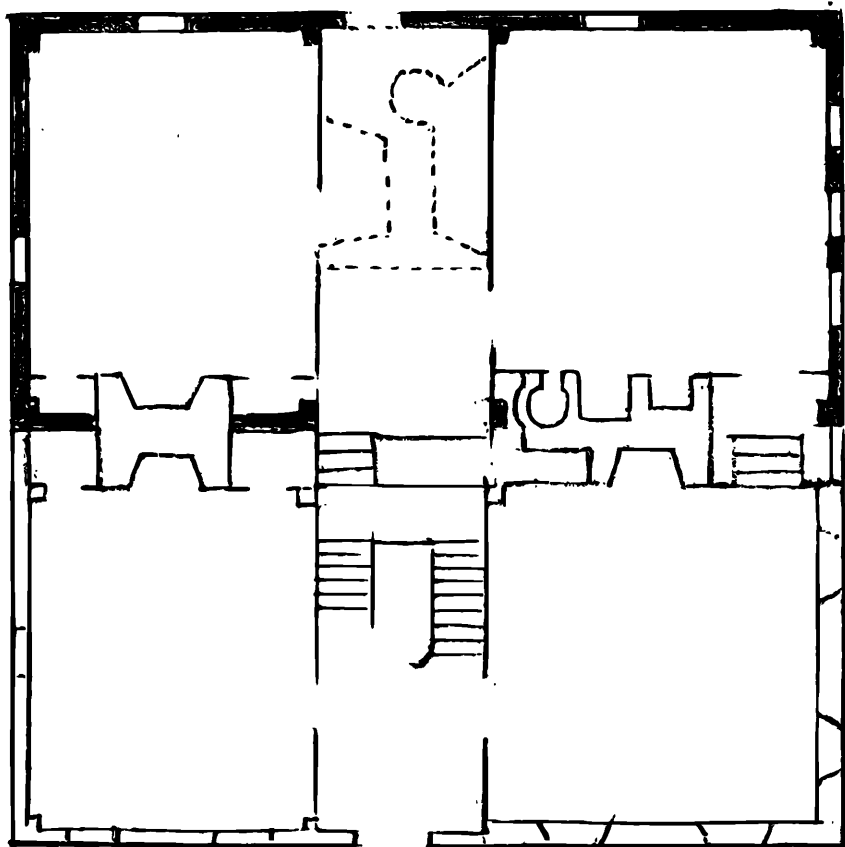
(Number all entries)

7. Description.

against the rear wall of the wainscoted front hall. Its ramped rail, supported on turned balusters, ends in a half-turn at the newel.

The detail in the second-story rooms is more simple than in those of the first story. The south-west chamber retains its two-story mantelpiece with an "eared" panel, but the original fireplace treatments in the other rooms have been altered. The simple Federal mantels in the two rear rooms came from the (demolished) Benjamin Pitman house on Broadway; they were installed here in the early twentieth century and have been attributed to Benjamin Pitman, master builder, who erected St. Paul's Methodist Church (1806) on Broadway. The original six-panel doors and old hardware have been preserved throughout.

The interior has been slightly altered in recent years to accommodate apartments. The rear ell, built in the 1920's, is of sympathetic style; its fanlighted doorway on the north side was brought from the John Pitman house at 229 Spring Street.



Sketch-plan (based on one by Norman Isham), with the older portion of the house indicated in black and its original chimney and hearths indicated by dotted lines.



3. 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. 1680, c. 1750-1760**

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On land which Benedict Arnold had bought after coming to Newport in 1654, Jireh Bull, husband of Arnold's daughter, Godsgift, originally built--it is thought, around 1680--the two-room, two-story house now incorporated in the present structure. In the middle of the eighteenth century it came into the possession of Captain John Mawdsley, a wealthy merchant, who enlarged it greatly to the fine house preserved today. During the Revolution it served as headquarters for François Jean, Marquis de Chastellux, second-in-command of the French soldiers in Newport.

Caleb Gardner, another rich merchant, bought the house in 1795; he was a Revolutionary War hero who played an important part in the expulsion of British forces from the city; he became a trusted advisor to the French and was made French consul in Newport; it was he who in 1795 added the present front-door trim, so typical of Rhode Island.

The house has great intrinsic architectural significance. The beautifully chamfered seventeenth-century timber framing of one of the earliest houses still preserved in the state remains intact in the rear portion of the Bull-Mawdsley house. Its first, two-story, two-room plan was of great dimensions for its very early date. Increased to four rooms in plan in the middle of the eighteenth century, the house was remodelled into one of the most pretentious merchant-mansions of the city. Its handsome exterior, of this latter phase, and much of its extremely beautiful interior detail remain in an excellent state of preservation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F.: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937).
 Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent, J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island ..., 2nd ed. (New York, 1967).

OIM REF
 18-10-75 um

19/306960/H594876

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' 06" N	71° 18' 49" 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **June 28, 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

Frederick C. Williamson
 Name **State Historic Preservation Officer**

Title _____

Date **5/7/73**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert S. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **7/2/73**

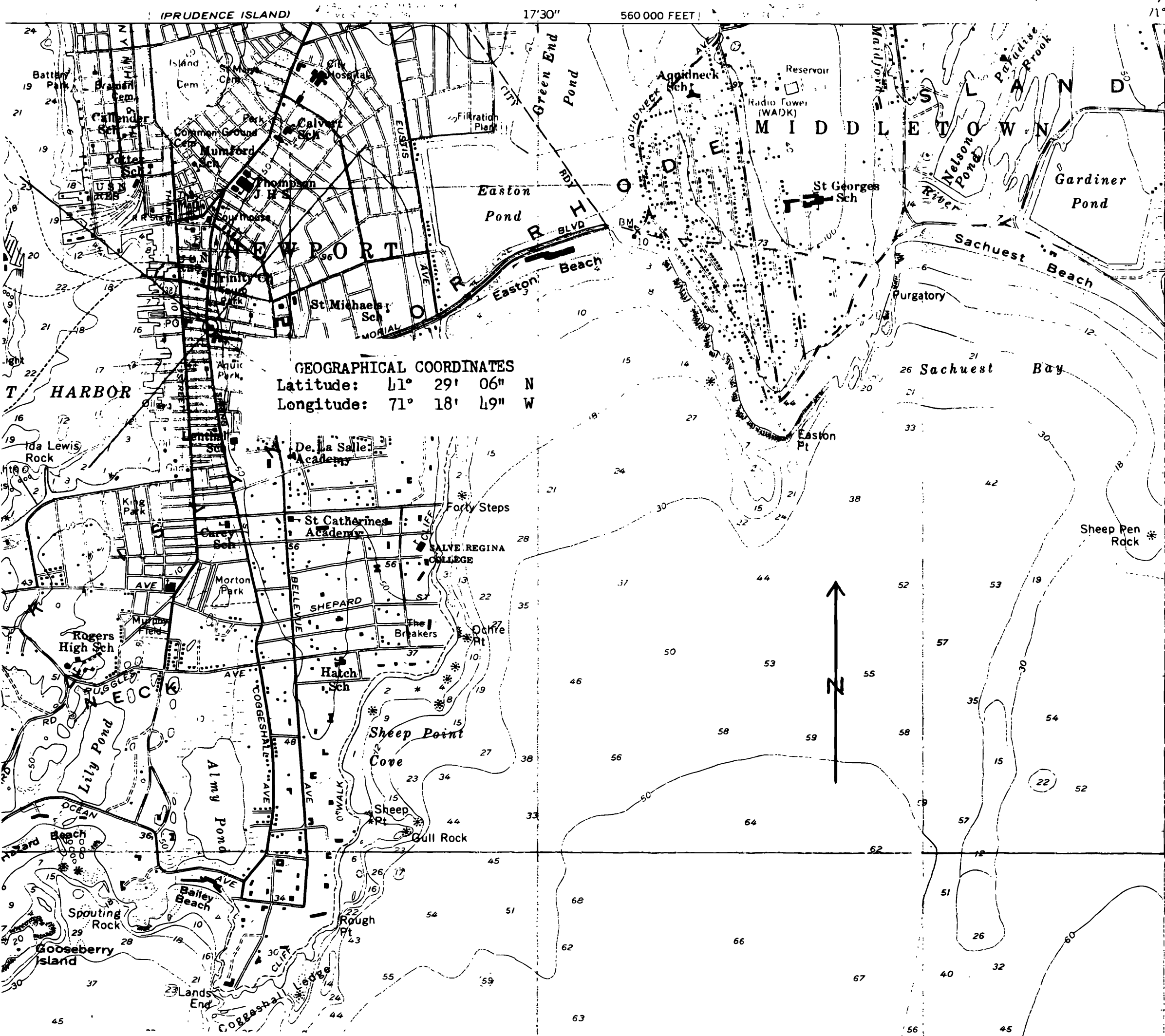
ATTEST:

6 19 73
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *[Signature]*

NEWPORT QUADRANGLE
 RHODE ISLAND—NEWPORT CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(TIVERTON)



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
 Latitude: 41° 29' 06" N
 Longitude: 71° 18' 49" W

