

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**(NATIONAL HISTORIC INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM)**  
**(LANDMARKS)**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Brick Market

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Brick Market

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Thames Street and Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport 1st Congressional District

STATE Rhode Island	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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Newport, and Preservation Society of Newport County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
44

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Newport City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE:  
Rhode Island

CODE:  
44

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Library of Congress/Annex

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D.C.

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

The Brick Market, is a three-story brick building with a low hipped roof. The first story is treated as an arcaded basement upon which the upper two stories rest, united by giant Ionic pilasters which surround the entire building between the windows. They are doubled at the corners to create the necessary halt in rhythm at the endges of the building. A modillioned cornice with deep frieze provides a well scaled cap to the composition.

Harrison derived his design from Inigo Jones, Old Somerset House, reproduced in Colin Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus. The proportions of the basement to the upper floors, the rhythm of the arcade and pilasters, the spacing of the windows, and the alternation of triangular and segmental pediments for the second story windows are all clearly derived from Old Sommerset House.

Harrison also made several important adaptations which illustrate his skill as a designer. While the original English design was of stone, construction in America called for brick, calling for a less stately air by changing from Jones' use of the Corinthian order to a simpler Ionic, and omitting from the second story windows the balustrated balconies and scrolls under the pediments, subtle adjustments of weight and scale were successfully achieved. Because of the brick material a rusticated basement was also wisely avoided, replaced by only a beltcourse around the springing of the arches. The greater bulk of the basement story in its slight extension beyond the upper two floors was sufficient to visually support the upper floors of brick. The original broad simplicity of effect is somewhat dissipated today by the small paned windows which close the once opened arcades.

The interior was probably always comparatively plain. After a series of alterations to suit the various uses of the building, it was completely rebuilt in 1928 under the direction of Norman Isham. At this time the yellow paint applied in the nineteenth century was removed from the brick. This necessitated the replacement of the soft brick on the north and east walls of the basement story.

BOUNDARY

Brick Market is bounded on the north by Long Wharf Mall, about 78 feet, on the east by Thames Street, about 38 feet, on the south by urban renewal land, of the City of Newport, about 78 feet, and on the west by Urban renewal land, about 38 feet, which boundary defines Lot k, Plat 24 of the City of Newport.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1761-62**

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brick Market, Newport, begun in 1761, was designed by Peter Harrison, one of Americas most prominent and important architects of the eighteenth century. ~~Harrisons design was taken from a plate of Inigo Jones, Old Somerset House, London, published in Colin Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus.~~ The use of giant classic orders superimposed on an arched basement was a frequent Palladian motif in England. Harrison reinterpreted the forms to suit the smaller scale of the building and the brick construction. The formal, academic composition gives the building an imposing presence and dignity which belies its rather small size. The Brick Market, like Harrison's Redwood Library and Kings Chapel, also national historic landmarks, introduce a new awareness of correct classical ~~design and a sophistication in its~~ handling which establishes a base for the classical designs of Thomas Jefferson and the Greek Revival.

HISTORY

In 1760 the ~~proprietors of the Long Wharf decided waterfront land to~~ Newport for the erection of a market house to meet the growing commercial needs of the city. The lot measured thirty-eight feet by fifty feet. When Harrison requested a lot thirty-three feet by sixty-six feet it was granted.

The standard form for market houses was fairly well accepted, based on function, as two stories resting on an arcaded ground floor. Using an engraving of Old Somerset House by Inigo Jones in Colin Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus, Harrison adapted the European model to the scale of the American town.

Work on the foundations began in September 1762 and was advanced to a stage where it could not be abandoned without great loss. When no money remained the committee roofed the structure at its own expense. None of the upper chambers were finished in August of 1764 when the building committee sought assistance from the Town Meeting.

Two years later no floor had been laid. In 1771 windows, doors and other exterior details were ordered and in December of 1772 the building was finally opened to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bridenbaugh, Carl, Peter Harrison, First American Architect, Chapen Hill, N.C., 1949.  
 Downing, Antoinette F., Early Homes of Rhode Island, Richmond Va., 1937.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and Scully, Vincent J. Jr., The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1952, Cambridge, Mass., 1952.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.

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		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		19.306650.4595510	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "			0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			0 ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmark Review Project, original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1967.

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey DATE: 1/9/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Landmark

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Designated 02/9/1960 date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Certified:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys date

ATTEST:

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Director, OAHPS date

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LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance second page

All rental and profits from the building went to the Newport town treasury to be used for the purchase of grain to supply a public granary for the town. After the Revolution the upper part of the building housed a printing office and in 1793 was remodeled as a theater. It was used for this purpose until 1799. In 1842 the building was altered to serve as the townhall. The third floor was removed and the second made into one large room with galleries on three sides. The first floor arches were fitted with windows and doors and this section was used for stores. From 1853 to 1900 the old market served as the City Hall for Newport. The third floor was reconstructed and the exterior of the Brick Market was completely restored in 1928 under the supervision of Norman Isham. The Brick Market is now used as a crafts shop.