

I. INTRODUCTION

An historical and architectural in-depth survey of the Southern Thames Street Neighborhood in Newport, Rhode Island, was undertaken by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission in conjunction with the city's Community Development Project Area. In addition, this study covers the east side of Spring Street, from Memorial Boulevard to Narragansett Avenue. Though largely outside the Community Development Program Project and Recreation Service, and by the City of Newport, with funds made available through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Summer Internship Program.

In this report, the term "Southern Thames Street Neighborhood" designates the entire Lower Thames Street Community Development Project Area. In addition, this study covers the east side of Spring Street, from Memorial Boulevard to Narragansett Avenue. Though largely outside the Community Development Program Project Area, several of these properties are so integral to the history of this neighborhood that it was essential that they be included in the report.

The goals of the Historical Preservation Commission's survey program are accomplished in three stages: field survey and research, preparation of maps and publication of a final report on each area studied. A standard

survey form, the "Historic Building Data Sheet," is used throughout the state (Appendix E). It includes both architectural and historical information and a photograph of each building or site. Historical information is obtained from local maps, state atlases, city directories, deed records and published and manuscript histories and guidebooks. Data from the survey forms is transferred onto maps so that an area's architectural and historical assets can be easily identified for preservation planning purposes. The survey forms also provide much of the data for the final report. The report is reviewed by local officials, area residents and local historians in draft form. Upon completion of the project, copies of the survey sheets, maps and final report are filed in appropriate local repositories, such as the city or town hall, historical society or library and at the Commission's office.

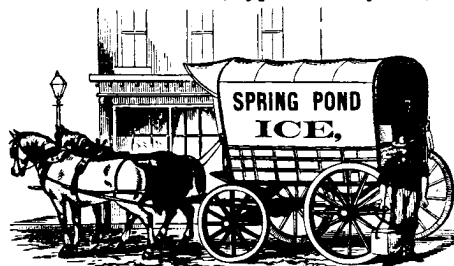
This report presents a concise analysis of the Southern Thames Street Neighborhood's historical development and recommendations for preservation planning. More than anything else, it is for the use and enjoyment of neighborhood residents. It is also intended for other Newport residents and for city officials. In the appendices are explanations of the National Register of Historic Places, the grants-in-aid program, historic district zoning and the survey form of the Historical Preservation Commission; there is also an inventory of structures and sites of particular significance to the historic character of the area covered in the report and of the city as a whole.

The survey report deals with the neighborhood's historical and physical evolution—its topography, street pattern and buildings. It traces past development and suggests guidelines for change. It should broaden awareness and pride in the historical environment as well as stimulate positive interest in the future of the neighborhood.

The Historical Preservation Commission conducted the survey in cooperation with the Newport Planning Department, headed by Mr. Samuel L. Jernigan, Jr., and assisted by Mr. John G. Horton, Ms. Lucy L. Eddy, Mr. Richard A. Lutmen and Mr. Guy E. Weston.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission would like to thank the following persons for their support: Mayor Humphrey J. Donnelly III; Mr. Brian Pelletier and the members of the Newport Historic District Commission; Mr. William A. Sherman, Mrs. Peter Bolhouse and Mr. Stanley A. Ward of the Newport Historical Society; Mr. William H. Leys of the Newport Redevelopment Agency; Mr. George Weaver of the Newport Restoration Foundation; Mr. Daniel R. Porter, formerly of the Preservation Society of Newport County; Ms. Helen J. Keabian and Mr. Charles A. McNeil of the Rhode Island Historical Society Library; Ms. Helena Wright of the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum; Captain Eugene B. Henry, Jr., of the Newport Public Library; and Mr. Leonard J. Panaggio of the Rhode Island Department of Economic Development.

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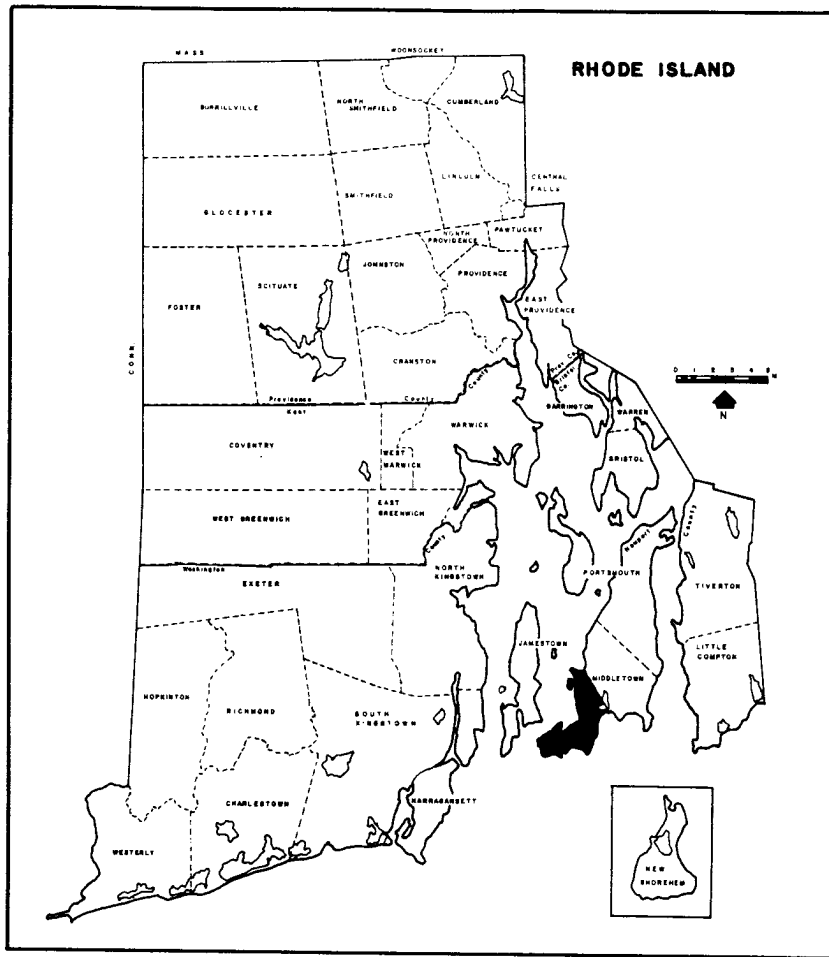


Fig. 1a. Map of Rhode Island highlighting Newport.

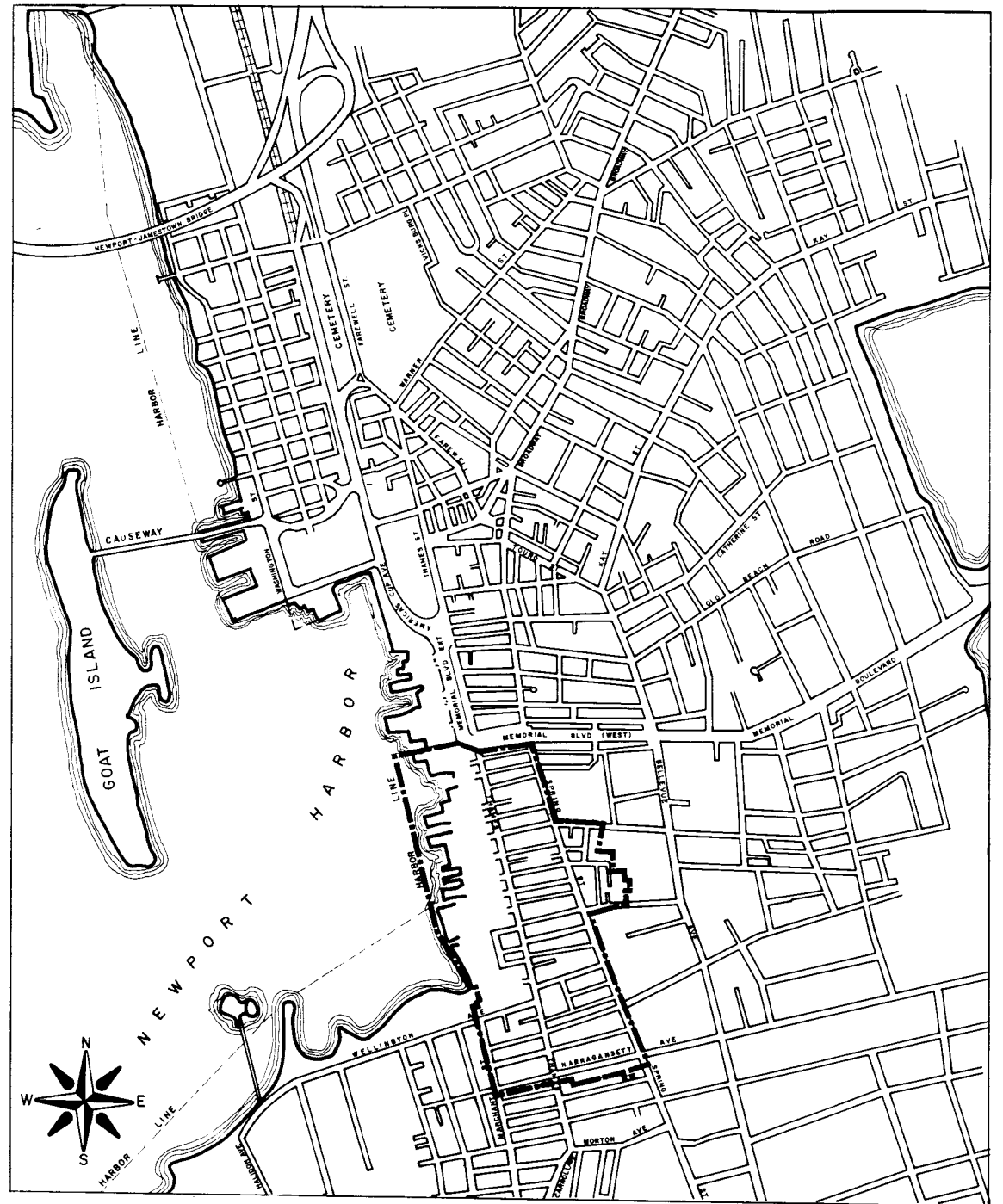


Fig. 1b: Map of Newport highlighting the Southern Thames Street area.