**STATE:** Rhode Island  
**COUNTY:** Newport  

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**  

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

### 1. NAME

**COMMON:** Henderson Home  
**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Stiles (Ezra) House

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 14 Clarke Street  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
**STATE:** Rhode Island, 02810  
**COUNTY:** Newport  
**CODE:** 005

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Park
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)
- Home for the aged

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNER’S NAME:** City of Newport  
**STREET AND NUMBER:** City Hall, Broadway  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
**STATE:** Rhode Island, 02810  
**CODE:** 005

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** City Hall  
**STREET AND NUMBER:** Broadway  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
**STATE:** Rhode Island, 02810  
**CODE:** 005

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:** Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings  
**DATE OF SURVEY:** 1970-1971  
**STATE:** Rhode Island  
**COUNTY:** Newport  
**ENTRY NUMBER:** 005

**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:** 005
Built in 1756, the Ezra Stiles House is a large, two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-wide, gambrel-roofed house. Its plan is that of four rooms on each principal floor with central halls, organized around two large interior brick chimneys. Now facing west, the house originally faced its garden to the south, with its gable end to the street. When turned west to face the street it was placed a new, new, high, brownstone foundation abutting the sidewalk. Even though the house was turned and remodelled in 1834, it retains its over-all eighteenth-century lines and character.

The windows have their original pegged frames and moulded cornices. Two pedimented dormers which light the garret on the front also remain. The original doorway was replaced with one of Greek Revival design. Set in a panelled recess and protected by a one-story, flat-roofed portico supported by Doric columns and simple pilasters, this doorway is framed by a transom and sidelights of etched glass. The original cornerboards were also replaced with the simple panelled pilasters common to the Greek Revival. A two-story clapboarded kitchen ell with a brick end wall and interior chimney adjoins the house to the rear. Bay windows, each two stories tall, have been extended from the front rooms at either side of the house.

Although the house has retained its cased beams and panelled wainscoting on the interior, many of the mantels and much of the other trim in its rooms dates from after 1834. A graceful, winding staircase in the central hall rises from the ground floor all the way to the third level under the gambrel roof.
According to the records of the Second Congregational Church in Newport, this house was erected as a parsonage in 1756 on land which had been donated by William Ellery and Peter Coggeshall. From the time of its erection, until 1776, the house was occupied by Ezra Stiles, then minister of the congregation. In addition to being a brilliant churchman, Stiles was recognized as probably the most learned man in New England in his time, and he sought information on all manner of subjects. A friend of Benjamin Franklin, Stiles conducted the first experiments with electricity in New England. In the garden of his house on Clarke Street he grew white mulberry trees for experiments with silk-worms, explained in a still-preserved manuscript; he here observed the transit of Venus in the company of Henry Marchant and William Vernon.

Stiles was also important as an educator. He had been librarian of the redwood Library since his arrival in Newport; and he helped James Manning found the third college in New England—Rhode Island College (now Brown University). His church's congregation, denuded by the Revolution, was forced to dismiss him in 1776. Stiles became President of Yale College in the following year, but it was not until 1786 that he formally ended his ministry in Newport.

Architecturally, the Ezra Stiles House is most significant as part of an extremely well-preserved, one-block-long street of exceptionally fine eighteenth-century buildings which include the Second Congregational Church (1735) and the important Vernon House (c. 1700, enlarged c. 1760), a registered National Landmark. Although the Stiles House was somewhat altered in 1834, when the church sold it to a private individual, it nevertheless retains much of its early character. Its preservation is essential for the protection of the rare architectural quality and historical significance of the street in which it stands.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE MINUS LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 29' 23&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 18' 50&quot; W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 | STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: June 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903

12. STATE/LIAISON/OFICIAL/CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-655), 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 ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Date ____________________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date ____________________________
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**Rhode Island**  
**STATE**  
**Newport**  
**COUNTY**  
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**  
**(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)**

### 1. NAME
- **COMMON:** Henderson Home  
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Stiles (Ezra) House

### 2. LOCATION
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 14 Clarke Street  
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
- **STATE:** Rhode Island  
- **CODE:** 1  
- **COUNTY:** Newport  
- **CODE:** 005

### 3. PHOTO REFERENCE
- **PHOTO CREDIT:** Clifford M. Renshaw, III  
- **DATE OF PHOTO:** August, 1971  
- **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

### 4. IDENTIFICATION
- **DESCRIPTION VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** Exterior seen from the south-west.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Newport

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - ATTACH TO OR ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRY NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| COMMON: Henderson Home |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Stiles (Ezra) House |

| STREET AND NUMBER: |
| 1½ Clarke Street |

| CITY OR TOWN: |
| Newport |

| STATE: |
| Rhode Island |
| CODE: |
| 44 |

| COUNTY: |
| Newport |
| CODE: |
| 005 |

| PHOTO CREDIT: |
| Clifford M. Renshaw, III |
| DATE OF PHOTO: |
| 1971 |

| NEGATIVE FILED AT: |
| Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903 |

| IDENTIFICATION |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. |
| Main stairway, seen at first-floor level. |
1. **NAME**

   **COMMON:** Henderson Home
   **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Stiles (Ezra) House

2. **LOCATION**

   **STREET AND NUMBER:**
   14 Clarke Street

   **CITY OR TOWN:** Newport

   **STATE:** Rhode Island

   **CODE**

   **COUNTY:** Newport

   **CODE**

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**

   **PHOTO CREDIT:** Clifford M. Renshaw, III

   **DATE OF PHOTO:** 1971

   **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. **IDENTIFICATION**

   **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:**

   Portion of north-west parlor, showing eighteenth-century woodwork, nineteenth-century marble mantel.
**State:** Rhode Island  
**County:** Newport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Number</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. **Name**
   - **Common:** Henderson Home
   - **And/Or Historic:** Stiles (Ezra) House

2. **Location**
   - **Street and Number:** 14 Clarke Street
   - **City or Town:** Newport
   - **State:** Rhode Island
   - **Code:** 14
   - **County:** Newport
   - **Code:** 005

3. **Map Reference**
   - **Source:** Rhode Island, Department of Public Works: General Highway Map, Newport County ...
   - **Scale:** 1 inch = 1 mile
   - **Date:** 1966

4. **Requirements**
   - To be included on all maps:
     1. Property boundaries where required.
     2. North arrow.
     3. Latitude and longitude reference.