**Miantonomi Memorial Park and World War I Memorial Tower**

**Location:**
Between Hillside and Girard Avenues. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.

**State:**
Rhode Island

**Owner of Property:**
City of Newport

**Location of Legal Description:**
City Hall, Broadway

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:**
32 acres
Miantonomi Memorial Park comprises 32 acres around Miantonomi Hill north of Newport.

The tall memorial tower on the top of the Hill was dedicated in 1929 to the fifty-six men of Newport who died in the service of their country or in the service of an ally in World War I. Built of rough field stone after designs by William Mitchell Kendall then senior partner in the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, it is based upon the numerous circular watchtowers or beacons of fieldstone which are to be found along the coasts of the Old World. Around the base of Newport's tower, however, is an arced terrace inspired by Newport's Old Stone Mill, called America's most controversial structure. This tower is also crowned with a lantern reminiscent of the Pharos, the lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt.

The tower rises 78 feet six inches above the 150-foot hill. The height to the parapet of the first terrace is 16 feet, nine inches, and the height to the parapet of the second terrace, 58 feet, nine inches. A circular staircase rises almost to this level. From this point, a short, narrow stairway gives access to the terrace, which provides a splendid view of countryside and ocean.

The cost of the tower was $37,600. In addition, the commission has been responsible for the landscaping, and the construction of boundary walls and picnic facilities.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>Pre-Columbian</th>
<th>16th Century</th>
<th>17th Century</th>
<th>18th Century</th>
<th>19th Century</th>
<th>20th Century</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prehistoric ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic ☐</td>
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<td>Agriculture ☐</td>
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<td>Art ☐</td>
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<td>Commerce ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music ☐</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The site was part of Aquidneck, purchased by the Committee of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antinomian leaders (after conferring with the local Sachem Wonnumentononey) from the Chief Sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi by deed dated March 24, 1637/8. This hill was the seat of power of Miantonomi and its Indian name variously Wonnumentononey, Miantonomi or Tommy, has been kept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The colonial settlers used the hill for a lookout, for public</td>
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<tr>
<td>executions, and for beacons. By 1667 a beacon had been established on &quot;Wonomitonono&quot; Hill which, when fired, was the &quot;directory to the rest of the beacons to be forthwith fired through out the whole colony.&quot; In 1776 another beacon was erected here &quot;to give the country an alarm in case of invasion&quot; and Colonel Israel Putnam built fortifications at this time. After the fall of the island of Rhode Island to the British, fortifications, including the forts on Tomony Hill were strengthened. Remains of the powder magazine and other works used as part of the British lines of defense are still visible. The French later used the works as part of their inner lines. In 1796 the Secretary of War reported to the Congress that a citadel for the protection of the inhabitants had been erected on Tomony Hill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>After the war, the entire area about Miantonomi Hill reverted to farm land and remained as such until 1921. During this time at least two observation towers were built here, one having blown down.</td>
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<td>In 1921 the City of Newport purchased the site for a park. The development and operation of which were entrusted to the Miantonomi Memorial Park Commission. In 1923 a bronze plaque was installed dedicating the park as a memorial to the &quot;Great War&quot; and in 1929 the present memorial tower was dedicated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thus the site has historic importance from the Colonial, Revolutionary War, and World War I periods.</td>
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<td>President James Monroe, on an inspection tour of military and naval installations, visited Miantonomi Hill in 1817.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The memorial park and the tower, dedicated in 1929, had among official attendants, Rear Adm. William S. Sims, USN; Gen. James Parker, USA (ret), Congressional Medal of Honor winner, and Mrs. Maude Howe Elliott (Pulitzer Prize winner) and daughter of Julia Ward Howe. In August of 1927 Admiral Sims and Gen. John Pershing, USA, visited the hill and it was here the famous World War I was photographed together for the first time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

No major reference, but there has been an extensive file of source materials compiled by James G. Edward
Newport Daily News
140 Thames Street
Newport, R.I.

Copies of all this material are on file: State Historical Preservation Commission, Office, State Wide Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Program, State House, Providence, Rhode Island.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>41° 30' 42&quot;</td>
<td>71° 16' 44&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>41° 30' 45&quot;</td>
<td>71° 18' 39&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>41° 30' 29&quot;</td>
<td>71° 18' 33&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>41° 30' 26&quot;</td>
<td>71° 18' 42&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 30' 44&quot;</td>
<td>71° 18' 40&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman

R. I. State Historical Preservation Commission

24 Meeting Street

Providence

12. STATE LIASON 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 [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CITY OF NEWPORT
472,000 sq.ft.

SUNSET HILL

MIANTONOMI HILL AND TOWER

1,017,597 sq.ft.

CITY OF NEWPORT

383,764 sq.ft. PLAT-4 LOT 1

CITY OF NEWPORT

270,397 sq.ft.

P-4 L-10

GIRARD AVENUE

CITY OF NEWPORT

16,300 sq.ft.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME: Miantonomi Memorial Park and World War I Memorial Tower

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Miantonomi, Tomy or Wanomitonomo Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Between Hillside and Girard Avenue. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: 1968 Newport tax plat

SCALE: 1:100

DATE: 1968

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
1. **NAME**: Miantonomi Memorial Park and World War I Memorial Tower  
   **COMMON:**  
   **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Miantonomi, Tomony or Wanomitonomo Hill

2. **LOCATION**  
   **STREET AND NUMBER:** Between Hillside and Girard Avenue. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.  
   **CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
   **STATE:** Rhode Island  
   **CODE**  
   **COUNTY:** Newport  
   **CODE**

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**  
   **PHOTO CREDIT:** John Hopf  
   **DATE OF PHOTO:** 1969  
   **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** 10 Red Cross Terrace, Newport, Rhode Island

4. **IDENTIFICATION**  
   **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** Memorial Tower and most of park is shown from air in photo originally ordered in effort to save historic Sunset Hill (in middle red circle) which was companion to Miantonomi Hill in Revolutionary War defenses. State of Rhode Island plans to cut highway through Sunset Hill.
**1. NAME**  
Miheonimi Memorial Park and World War I Memorial Towel  
COMMON:  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Miantoncini, Tomony or Wanomitonomo Hill

**2. LOCATION**  
STREET AND NUMBER: Between Hillside and Girard Avenue. Boundaries as shown on accompanying map.  
CITY OR TOWN: Newport  
STATE: Rhode Island  
CODE \ COUNTY: Newport

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**  
PHOTO CREDIT: James Edward  
DATE OF PHOTO: 1965  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 54 Gibbs Avenue, Newport, R. I.

**4. IDENTIFICATION**  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
View looking westward from meadow