## Form 10-300

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**July. 1969**

**National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form**  
*(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)*

### 1. Name
**Common:** Tillinghast (John) House
**And/or Historic:**

### 2. Location
**Street and Number:** 11/2 Mill Street
**City or Town:** Newport
**State:** Rhode Island, 02810

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Preservation in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present Use:** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Agricultural
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Entertainment
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Private Residence
- [ ] Public Acquisition
- [ ] In Process
- [ ] Being Considered
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**Comments:**

### 4. Owner of Property
**Owner's Name:** Anli Corporation
**Street and Number:** 11/2 Mill Street
**City or Town:** Newport
**State:** Rhode Island, 02810

### 5. Location of Legal Description
**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.:** Newport City Hall
**Street and Number:** Broadway
**City or Town:** Newport
**State:** Rhode Island, 02810

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys
**Title of Survey:** Historic American Buildings Survey
**Date of Survey:** 1959
**Federal:** [x]  
**State:** [ ]  
**County:** [ ]  
**Local:** [ ]
**Depository for Survey Records:** Library of Congress
**Street and Number:** Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.
**City or Town:** Washington
**State:** District of Columbia
Built in 1760 on a site facing south on Touro Park and the Old Stone Mill, the John-Tillinghast house—though altered—is a conspicuous local example of the late Colonial residence and of the increasing use of academic forms for the decoration of luxurious dwellings in that period. It is a timber-framed, two-and-one-half-storey structure upon a stone basement and is covered with beaded clapboarding. From the decked hipped roof arise two internal chimneys which appear to have been rebuilt. Old photographs show the main doorway with a plain flat enframement consisting of pilasters supporting a segmental pediment rather than the elaborate, trianguarly-pedimanted Corinthian porch (obviously a product of the Colonial Revival) with iron railings which now heavily protrude to shelter the doorway. The moulded wooden eaves cornice originally had only supporting modillions and a dentil course below, but a plain frieze band, interrupted by each upper window opening, appears to be an insertion of the Greek Revival period, when surely the panelled Tuscan corner pilasters were also applied to the house. Windows, now containing two-over-two sash, are in early-type protruding frames having simple architraves resting upon moulded sills; those of the lower floor have a capping cornice as well. Dormers, with rather heavy triangular pediments which appear to be coeval with the added porch, project from the roof, three of them in the south front, and—except for their heavy cappings—would be a part of the house's original design.

Besides the applications of trim mentioned above, the house has also undergone extensive enlargement. Most prominent are a north-east extension topped by a glazed observatory, a two-and-one-half-storey rear ell (approximately doubling the interior space) running north, and a glazed porch attached to the west side. Other outside additions on the property include a frontal retaining-wall of stone, a carriage house, a swimming pool and, along the north side, a brick wall with arches now closed by boarding.

Internally, the main and original portion of the house displays a typical XVIII-Century four-room, central-hall plan, with two interior chimneys each serving two hearths on each floor. The front door opens to the main hall—now partitioned in front to form a vestibule—whose northern half contains the main stairway. This hall is now completely panelled with dark wood and floored in tile, both dating from the late XIX Century; but the original broad, semi-elliptical archway with a heavy keystone still divides its length in two. The wide staircase rises in U-shape in two runs and a landing to the second floor. It retains its original ramped rail upon twisted balusters and its "caged" newel, but the underside of the upper run has modern panelling to match the walls and also, in fact, the ceiling of the hall. On the landing there is the original round-headed window enframement with a keystone in its arch and a window-seat filling the bottom; it does not now, however, contain moveable double-hung sash but is entirely filled by ornamental XIX-Century glazing of very small panes of bevelled or cut glass.
7. Description.

An apartment has been made of each half of the first floor, and the second floor forms one large apartment extending into the ell. The first floor of the ell provides a fourth apartment. Wall and fireplace trim on the first floor is all of late XIX- or early XX-Century application, with rich paneling and carving of varnished woods. The second floor remains more intact in both plan and décor, displaying simple panelled wainscots, old mantels with plain, academic detailing and marble hearth-surrounds. However, even on this floor one of the front rooms was "improved" by the introduction of a coffered ceiling of stained wood.

Remarkably and fortunately, after all the expansion and cosmetic treatment it has undergone, the house can still proclaim itself to the spectator as a good example of the large, prominently-sited mid-XVIII-Century town residence.

8. Significance.

and of a flat frieze or fascia below the XVIII-Century cornice, and the introduction, perhaps earlier, of some new mantels inside. There are angular Victorian extensions to the house to the rear and one side of the house dating c. 1870-1880, but their height, the size of openings and the details of trim are made—as much as possible—consonant with similar features of the original part of the house.

However, by around 1885-1895, considering the social pretensions then dominating Newport and the forms of entertaining practised there, it was evidently thought by the owners of the Tillinghast house at that time that some fashionable up-dating or glossing was needed. To the exterior was attached the heavy, pedicular entrance porch—hopefully "Colonial," but rather more Roman—and the dormers were given heavy moldings on their pediments, where the original trim was surely more slim. Inside, in the stair-hall and the downstairs reception-rooms (the second floor was left largely untouched), some very expensive redecoration was undertaken: panelled walls, panelled ceilings and beams, elaborate mantels of hybrid style—all in various woods highly varnished. Although records do not include this work as being by the famous firm of McKim, Mead & White, one is reminded of the beginnings of their decorative work in the Colonial Revival style, which had wide influence, and the Tillinghast house reflects their quick followers. Beyond its long-standing place in state and local history, in important associations, we can see also here a rather interesting example of XIX-Century changes made to a house built earlier, and of extravagant Colonial Revival imprints placed upon a building which was of the Colonial period to begin with.
This house remains an important and noticeable survivor among the great pre-Revolutionary houses of Newport, partly due to its central siting and to its size. In spite of alterations and additions, its original form and proportions, its original plan are clear; and its architectural history will, after other paragraphs, prove of interest and significance.

Its builder was John Tillinghast, a prosperous Newport merchant, and from 1760 until the time of the Revolutionary War it could house his family and take care of his hospitality as had been planned. By 1780, when the British enemy forces (one has not reports of their occupying it) had left Newport and a large body of more acceptable French military allies arrived in July of that year, this house—like other large ones—was in part placed at the disposal of the French military command. Two officers of the engineer corps are listed as billeted in the Tillinghast house, and it is also believed that the Marquis de Chastellux was housed there for a time and that he there recorded his famous memoirs of Newport and its citizens in wartime.

The French left Newport in June of 1781, but the house was to continue to have important associations. In 1783-1784, its tenant was Major-General Nathanael Greene—perhaps, after George Washington, our most important Revolutionary commander: here he received his former colleagues-in-arms, the Marquis de Lafayette, Baron Steuben, Thaddeus Kosciusko. Later it had as occupants Archibald Crary, commander of the Second Rhode Island Regiment, and William C. Gibbs, Governor of Rhode Island from 1821 to 1824. The subsequent succession of owners has not been traced, but in recent decades, though already converted to apartments, the building had for some time been called the Garretson house.

Dominant in a pleasing location in the centre of town, commodious and liveable, the body of the house remains and has obviously been appreciated by its post-Tillinghast owners who, however, were not averse to giving it various minor exterior face-liftings, some major enlargements and various interior decorative "improvements" to accord with the needs and tastes of their times. Thus we see the application (c. 1830-1840) to the old structure of Greek Revival corner pilasters (See Continuation Sheet.)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: B. Christopher Bene, Surveyor-Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: July 26, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906

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 certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

[Signature]

Date:
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 29' 8.04" N
Longitude: 71° 15' 36.14" W

GENERAL HIGHWAY
NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND
PORTSMOUTH • MIDDLETOWN

PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF
DIVISION OF ROAD
HIGHWAY PLANNING
IN COOPERATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROAD

SCALE 1: 1,000
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

COMMON: Tillinghast (John) House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 11/2 Mill Street
CITY OR TOWN: Newport
STATE: Rhode Island

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Department of Public Works
SCALE: 1" : 1320'
DATE: 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

STATE
Rhode Island

COUNTY
Newport

ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FORM 10-301
(July 1969)
1. NAME
   COMMON: Tillinghast (Governor John) House
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 142 Mill Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Newport
   STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene
   DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Detail of room on second floor.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME
   COMMON: Tillinghast (Governor John) House
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 142 Mill Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Newport
   STATE: Rhode Island
   CODE: 44
   COUNTY: Newport
   CODE: 005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene
   DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Detail of main stairway, showing landing window.
1. NAME
   COMMON: Tillinghast (Governor John) House
   AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 142 Mill Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Providence
   STATE: Rhode Island
   COUNTY: Newport

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene
   DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.: Entrance (south) front.