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
   - **STATE:** Rhode Island
   - **CODE:** 44
   - **COUNTY:** Newport
   - **CODE:** 005

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - **CATEGORY** (Check One)
     - [x] Building
     - [ ] Site
     - [ ] Structure
     - [ ] Object
   - **OWNERSHIP**
     - [x] Public
     - [ ] Private
     - [ ] Both
   - **PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
     - [ ] In Process
     - [ ] Being Considered
   - **STATUS**
     - [x] Occupied
     - [ ] Unoccupied
   - **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**
     - [x] Restricted
   - **PRESENT USE**
     - [ ] Agricultural
     - [x] Commercial
     - [ ] Educational
     - [ ] Entertainment
     - [ ] Government
     - [ ] Industrial
     - [ ] Military
     - [ ] Other (Specify)
     - [ ] Private Residence
     - [ ] Religious
     - [ ] Scientific
     - [ ] Transportation
     - [ ] No
     - [ ] 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
   - **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
     - [x] Federal
     - [ ] State
     - [ ] County
     - [ ] Local
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** Division of Prints and Photographs
     - Library of Congress/Annex
     - **CITY OR TOWN:** Washington
     - **STATE:** D.C.
     - **CODE:** 11
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 end 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.
The Brick Market, Newport, begun in 1761, was designed by Peter Harrison, one of America's most prominent and important architects of the eighteenth century. Harrison's 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 deeded 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 arched 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.
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.
As the designated State Liaison Officer or the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Public Law 89-665, I hereby nominate this property or 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 [ ]

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

_________________________  ________________
Name (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)
STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Newport

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

1. NAME
COMMON: Brick Market
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brick Market

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Thames Street and Washington Square
CITY OR TOWN: Newport

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Newport Quadrangle
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1957 photorevised 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS:
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENTRY NUMBER</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NEGATIVE FILED AT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</strong></td>
<td>View of south side of Brick Market</td>
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</table>
In this Late Georgian structure, erected in 1761-62, Peter Harrison introduced into the main stream of architectural practice in the colonies the compositional procedure of giant classic orders superimposed on a range of arch forms. The Brick Market was also the noted architect's last architectural work.

In 1760 the proprietors of the Long Wharf deeded waterfront land to Newport for erection of a market house. Funds for construction were raised by means of a public lottery and Peter Harrison of Newport donated his services as the architect. Work on the three-story brick structure, which was 33 feet wide and 65 feet long, began in 1761 and the building was roofed in 1762, although not all the details were completed until July, 1772.

As usual, Harrison turned to his English architectural books, selecting as a model the large gallery at Somerset House in London, designed by Inigo Jones and John Webb and published by Colen Campbell in Vitruvius Britannicus (London, 1717), Volume I, as plate 16. As applied to the market house, the design was modified for brick rather than stone construction and rustication of the base was omitted. The giant pilasters were also changed from Corinthian to Ionic, and the urns over the cornice omitted. In spite of these alterations, however, the design was unusually close to the original.

The market was built with open arches on the ground floor--seven arches on the long side, three on the short--and the upper stories, whose windows had alternating angular and segmental pediments, were devoted to retail dry goods shops and offices. The exterior design was completely formal, and one of the most academic in the colonies; it is believed to be (Continued)
Rhode Island

The Brick Market

7. Continued:

the earliest instance in the English colonies of the favorite academic composition of arched base with an order of giant pilasters above.

All rentals 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. In 1793 the upper stories were remodeled as a theater and were used for this purpose until 1799. In 1842 the building was altered to serve as the town hall. 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 M. Isham and two years later the interior was completely rebuilt. Because of the soft condition of the original brick, the north and east walls of the basement floor also had to be replaced. The once-open arcades were left enclosed by small paned windows.

The Brick Market is now utilized as a crafts shop and is open to visitors.

8. References:
