**1. NAME**

**COMMON**: Whitehorne (Samuel) House

**AND/OR HISTORIC**:

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER**: 311, Thames Street

**CITY OR TOWN**: Newport

**STATE**: Rhode Island, 02840

**COUNTY**: Newport

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>No: Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE** (Check one or more as appropriate):

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Transportation
- Other (Specify) To be a house museum

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNERS NAME**: Newport Reservation Foundation

**STREET AND NUMBER**: 311, Pelham Street

**CITY OR TOWN**: Newport

**STATE**: Rhode Island, 02840

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

**STREET AND NUMBER**: City Hall

**STREET AND NUMBER**: Broadway

**CITY OR TOWN**: Newport

**STATE**: Rhode Island, 02840

**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY**: Less than 1 acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY**: Historic American Buildings Survey

**DATE OF SURVEY**: 1970

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**: Library of Congress

**STREET AND NUMBER**: 1st Street and Independence Avenue, S.E.

**CITY OR TOWN**: Washington

**STATE**: District of Columbia

**CODE**: 11
This building's high significance is as an example of the large merchants' houses built in the XVIII and XIX Centuries on Thames Street, facing their owners' commercial properties on the waterfront and afloat in the harbour. It reflects similar houses in other seaports of this period, particularly Providence and Salem. It is one of the best surviving examples of this type in Newport; as such, it is also important to the historical character of the Thames Street-waterfront neighbourhood generally.

The house was built for Samuel Whitehorne, a prosperous Newport merchant who, often in partnership with his brother John, engaged in a variety of business undertakings, including a distillery, a merchant ship, an iron foundry and machine shop, and a bank. The Whitehorne brothers, nevertheless, went bankrupt in 1813, and the house was sold at auction in 1814 (by which time Samuel Whitehorne had died).

In the mid-XIX-Century the residence was remodelled to allow commercial uses on the ground floor; and in the mid-XX-Century it further deteriorated through use of the upper floors as slum tenements. It is now under restoration by the Newport Restoration Foundation. Plans are that it will be opened to the public as a house museum, furnished from Miss Doris Duke's collection of Newport furniture.
The Whitehorne house is a large brick mansion of 1810-1811, a typical merchant's house of that period. The house is 46 feet square, three storeys high above a stone foundation; it has a low-pitched hip roof surmounted by a plain, handsome mid-XIX-Century cupola (which, however, would have to be eliminated should the most complete of restorations take place, but will otherwise be retained). Interior partitions and the roof are of frame construction. In keeping with the period of this dwelling, its brick walls are given a very clean treatment without projecting belt-courses or pilasters, and window and door openings are capped by simple brick arches. Slight variation and adornment are provided by the fanlight and sidelights of the main doorway, round-headed windows at second-floor front and rear and a bull's-eye one in the centre of the third-floor front. Later store-fronts on the ground floor have been removed, and studies are under way for the restoration of a semicircular entrance porch. The roof has a lightly-scaled but richly ornamented modillion cornice.

The formal, symmetrical five-bay façade reflects the most usual internal plan of the federal period. The main floors have each a central hall (that on the first floor divided in two midway of its length by a semi-elliptical arch) flanked by the principal rooms--two on each side. However, the large dimensions of this house allowed the introduction of smaller, subsidiary rooms along the rear as well. On the main floor, the kitchen alone survives fairly intact, the other rooms having deteriorated considerably under later commercial and slum uses. Though fireplaces were removed, much of the other decorative detail--or evidence of or for it--survives, allowing current restoration work to be undertaken with a high level of authenticity. The main stairway in the central hall was relocated; but, again, ample evidence under study will allow reliable restoration. Flimsy later partitioning on the second and third floors has been easily removed, and restoration work will be less problematic there. The interior detail--particularly in the main rooms and central hall of the first floor, and on the stairways--is typically inventive and varied, generally light and attenuated in scale, often incorporating reeded motifs, all in accord with the federal style.

The house is placed close to the sidewalks on a corner site and originally faced its builder's varied waterfront enterprises, across Thames Street. A formal garden to the rear of the house has been lost to workshops, garages and parking.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


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>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</table>

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

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<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>41° 28'</td>
<td>51° N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71° 18'</td>
<td>54° W</td>
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
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<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Osmund Overby, Project Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Historic American Buildings Survey--Newport Project

DATE: September, 1970

12. STATE/LIAISON 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 [ ] State [x] 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: ____________________________
Whitehorne (Samuel) House

411, Thames Street

Newport

Rhode Island

Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

July, 1970

Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E.,
Washington, D. C.

Exterior seen from north-east, showing rear (east) elevation.
1. NAME
Common: Whitehorne (Samuel) House

2. LOCATION
Street and Number: 414, Thames Street
City or Town: Newport
State: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
Photo Credit: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey
Date of Photo: July, 1970
Negative Filed At: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION
Describe View, Direction, etc.
Detail of main (west) entrance.
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**RHODE ISLAND**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
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<td>CITY OR TOWN: Newport</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
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Interior of mid-XIX-Century cupola added to original house.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>1. <strong>NAME</strong></th>
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<td><strong>AND/OR HISTORIC:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>STREET AND NUMBER:</strong> 44, Thames Street</td>
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<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong> Newport</td>
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<td><strong>STATE:</strong> Rhode Island</td>
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<tr>
<th>3. <strong>PHOTO REFERENCE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PHOTO CREDIT:</strong> Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATE OF PHOTO:</strong> July, 1970</td>
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<td><strong>NEGATIVE FILED AT:</strong> Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<th>4. <strong>IDENTIFICATION</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:</strong> Attic framing.</td>
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</table>
1. **NAME**

   **COMMON:** Whitehorne (Samuel) House
   **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

2. **LOCATION**

   **STREET AND NUMBER:** Hill, Thames Street
   **CITY OR TOWN:** Newport
   **STATE:** Rhode Island
   **COUNTY:** Newport

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**

   **PHOTO CREDIT:** Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey
   **DATE OF PHOTO:** July, 1970
   **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**

   **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** Closet in south-east bedroom, third floor, showing marks of original shelving.
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 28' 51" N
Longitude: 71° 18' 51" W
FORM 10.301
(July 1969)
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: Whitehorne (Samuel) House
   AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Hill, Thames Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Newport
   STATE: Rhode Island
   CODE 004
   COUNTY: Newport
   CODE 005

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey
   SCALE: 1:12,000
   DATE: 1957

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
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER 
DATE 

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
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: Whitehorne (Samuel) House

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 444, Thames Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Newport
   STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey
   DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Central hall on first floor, looking towards main (west) entrance.
1. NAME

COMMON: Whitehorne (Samuel) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 141 Thames Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Gervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

North-west bedroom on second floor, showing fireplace, window and cornice trim.
Whitehorne (Samuel) House

Hill, Thames Street

Newport

Rhode Island

Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

July, 1970

Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

View towards kitchen fireplace on first floor, showing fragments of dining-room arch.