**State:** Rhode Island  
**County:** Newport

### National Register of Historic Places

#### Inventory - Nomination Form

**Type all entries - complete applicable sections**

**1. Name:**
- Common: Preservation Society of Newport County: Headquarters
- And/or Historic: Rogers (Joseph) House

**2. Location:**
- Street and Number: 37 Touro Street
- City or Town: Newport
- State: Rhode Island, 02840

**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>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present Use** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Military
- Religious
- Offices of preservation organisation: Yes

**4. Owner of Property:**
- Owner's Name: The Preservation Society of Newport County

**5. Location of Legal Description:**
- Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.: City Hall
- Street and Number: Broadway
- City or Town: Newport
- State: Rhode Island, 02840

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys:**
- Title of Survey: Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings
- Date of Survey: 1970-1971
- 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
Erected c. 1790, this three-story, five-bay-wide, clapboarded house was built by Joseph Rogers, a Newport merchant. Set upon a stone foundation, the hipped-roof house abuts the sidewalk of Touro Street and faces Washington Square to the north. Twelve-over-twelve-pane double-hung sash windows light the first and second stories, while the typically shorter window openings of the third floor have eight-over-eight-pane sash; these third-floor windows are set just below the main cornice (all of the now-correct types of window sash are restorations by the present owner). The beautifully carved central doorway, however, is original. It was inspired by such architectural handbooks as those of James and William Pain. The six-panel door (also a restoration by the present owner) is contained between applied, fluted half-columns of the composite order which support a pediment, with dentils, into which the door's surmounting leaded fanlight arises.

Basically square in plan, with chimneys in the internal walls, the house was originally composed of two rooms on either side of front and rear halls occupying its center. The lower front hall has retained its dentilled cornice and the simple stairway which rises along its side in two runs. The rail, taking a half-turn at its start, is supported by balusters of simple form and has turned newels. The secondary stair in the rear hall backs up against the main stairway. The chimneys have been removed, and the rooms, throughout, have been stripped of their trim. Some of the rooms have been altered in size and now accommodate offices. A shallow, two-story ell, part of it capped by a gable roof, attaches at the rear.

The Rogers house remained in private residential use until the 1890's, when it was turned into a convent. By 1907 it had been adapted to new use as a parochial high school, and by then or before had lost its inner trim and had had certain exterior features of "Queen Anne" style—lately removed—applied. Having outlived adequacy and safety as a school building, the house was within quite recent years presented to The Preservation Society of Newport County by the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence.
Now maintained by The Preservation Society of Newport County as its headquarters, the Rogers house is characteristic of the many large and elegant houses which once lined Washington Square. Its doorway is an extremely beautiful example of Federal-period design. As one of the few remaining eighteenth-century residences on that square, it helps provide a suitable visual and historical accompaniment to Richard Munday's Colony House (1739) and Peter Harrison's Brick Market (1761), at the head and foot of the square respectively, as well as a handsome neighbor to the home of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (built before 1757) next-door.
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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
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<td>NE</td>
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<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 29' 24&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 18' 52&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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
State House, 90 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

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 [ ] Local [ ]

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

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
**Common:** Preservation Society of Newport County; Headquarters  
**AND/OR Historic:** Rogers (Joseph) House

**Location:**  
**Street and Number:** 37 Touro Street  
**City or Town:** Newport  
**State:** Rhode Island  
**Code:** RI  
**County:** Newport  
**Code:** 005

**Photo Reference:**  
**Photo Credit:** John Hopf  
**Date of Photo:** c. 1971  
**Negative Filed At:** John Hopf, 10 Red Cross Terrace  
**Newport, Rhode Island, 02840**

**Identification:**  
**Describe View, Direction, Etc.:** Exterior from the north-east.
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 29' 21" N
Longitude: 71° 18' 52" W
1. NAME

COMMON: Preservation Society of Newport County: Headquarters
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rogers (Joseph) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 37 Touro Street
CITY OR TOWN: Newport
STATE: Rhode Island

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey
SCALE: 1: 24,000
DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

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