

Bannister House
Newport County
One Mile Corner (Middletown)
Newport, Rhode Island

Habs No. RI-141

HABS
RI
3- MIDT
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

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Date of Erection - Before 1765

Builder - John Bannister or Banister, wealthy merchant of Newport and early patron of Peter Harrison.

Architect - Attributed to Peter Harrison

Present Condition - Demolished 1956-57 after vain attempts of local antiquarians to preserve it.

Materials of Construction - Rusticated siding, sanded like the Redwood Library, brick central chimneys.

Historical Events Connected with the Structure: During the Revolution the house was occupied by British troops and British General Pigot established his field headquarters here. In 1777 British engineers erected their main defenses nearby.

Alas for the fortunes of the Bannisters. John, the builder, bequeathed^A an ample estate to his son Thomas whom he advised "not to enter into a trade". During the Revolution, Thomas Bannister was a Tory. After the war his properties were confiscated and he was banished from the State.

Sources - Conversation with Daniel Jones, of Newport and New York City, 1958 who preserved the accompanying photographic record.

Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island, Richmond, Virginia, 1937, pp. 231, 233, 247.

American Guide Series, Rhode Island, W.P.A. Series, Boston, 1937

See also Carl Bridenbaugh, Peter Harrison First American Architect. Chapel Hill, N.C., 1949, footnote p. 54 and passim. Compare also figures 13-14 illustrating the Governor Wentworth Mansion (likewise attributed to Harrison), with respect to the projecting kitchen wing, a common feature of both.

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