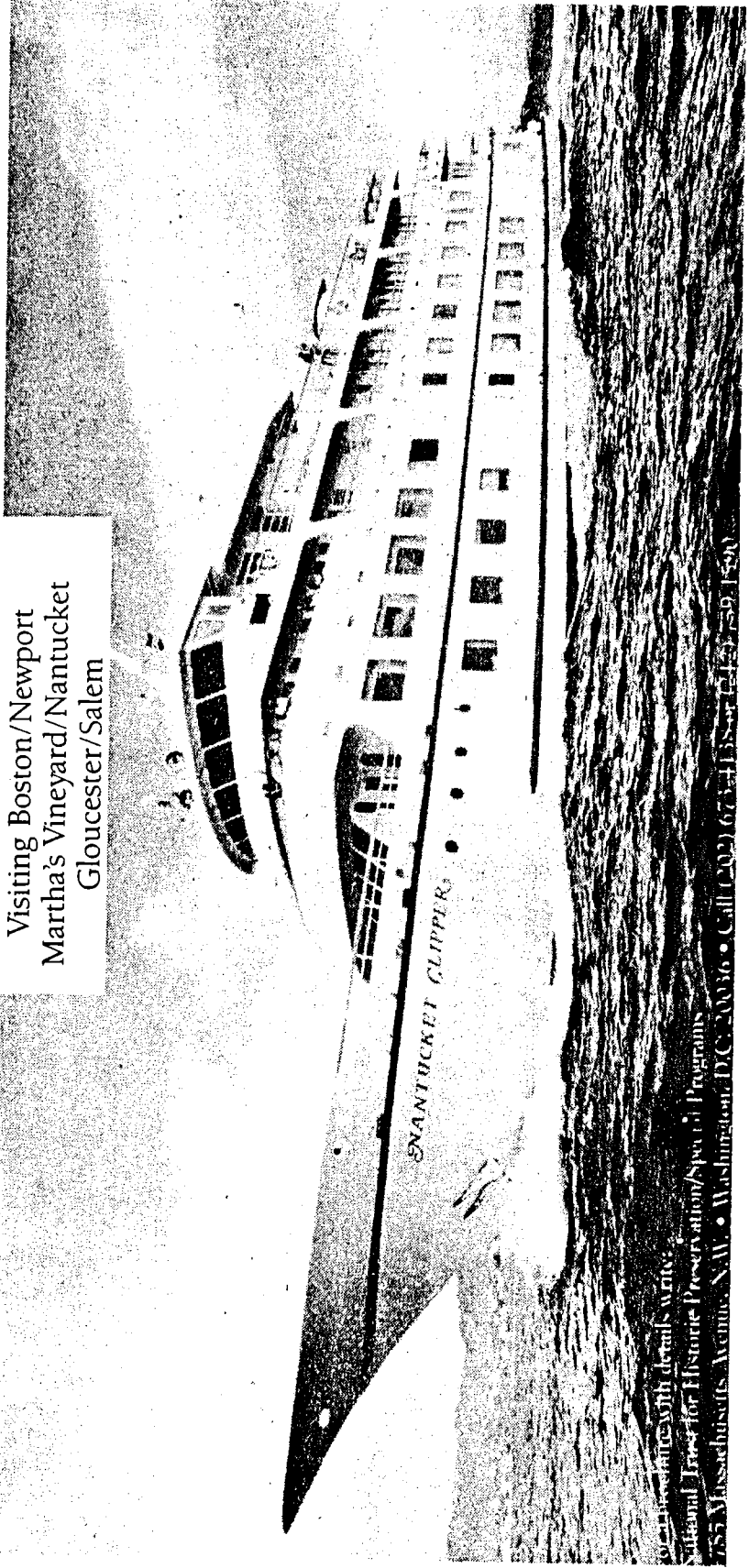


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## COASTAL CRUISE SHIP

- Create an "inner harbor" at the foot of Dorrance Street as the focal centerpiece of the Old Harbor reclamation. It would feature a museum ship and contain docking facilities for Narragansett Bay commuting craft, visiting boats, and small boat rentals. Water taxis would transfer commuters to Market Square and Capital Center. The "inner harbor" would require excavation of 1.5 acres of waterfront land.
- Docks for small boat rentals
- Replace the cooling canal at South Street Station with a marina.

#### 4. SHORELINE FEATURES

- 4,800 LF of new and reconstructed riverwall is to be provided to support and accommodate river walks.
- Explore means of providing access along the 1,400 LF of Narragansett Electric shore line currently excluded from its shore line improvements plan.
- Construct landscaped riverwalks and boardwalks along the entire length of both sides of the harbor.
- Establish Waterfront Heritage Trail: Starting at Roger Williams 1636 Landing along the Seekonk River, south and west through India Point Park, north along the river to Roger Williams Spring Park, south then west to a visitors' center at Waterplace, south through Kennedy Plaza to Custom House, then south along the water to the proposed Festival Marketplace at the Old Harbor. A similar proposal was made by the City in 1972 as part of the Harborview Trail, but was dropped from the plans because of lack of funds. It was later proposed and endorsed in 1984 as part of the Providence Waterfront Study.

#### G. PUBLIC ATTRACTIONS

"If there is magic on this planet," the naturalist Loren Eiseley wrote in his landmark book, The Immense Journey, "it is contained in the water." More and more cities are finding truth in Eiseley's statement, as they revitalize their urban waterfronts with a tidal wave of aquariums, performing arts centers, maritime museums, and other public buildings. Capable of drawing more than a million people a year, these tools of economic development contain more magic than any wand. According to Codirector Ann Breen of the Waterfront Center in Washington, D.C., over 3,000 cities in the U.S. have developed their waterfronts . . . . Moreover, Boston's rerouting of its central artery and San Francisco's sweeping revitalization of its Embarcadero area are evidence that . . . . cities are finally demolishing highways to retrieve their harbors and quays.<sup>2</sup>

Urban harbor and riverfront districts require a "menu" of activities and attractions to be successful in drawing people. The menu can vary to reflect the uniqueness of each City; however, there does appear to be a core array of commercial and public features that are common to most successful urban waterfronts. These include: convention center, hotels, trolley and water

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<sup>2</sup>Excerpt from Waterfront World

transportation, continuous walkways with a variety of amphitheaters for performances, museum ships, historic features such as trails, places, and districts, some combination of museums, often an aquarium, and finally a "festival" marketplace or district with shops, galleries, and eateries.

Public attractions combine education and entertainment to draw tourism, anchor urban development, and boost local economies. Providence already has or is planning for many of these attractions including the College Hill and Downtown Historic Districts, a Convention Center under construction, the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, and the Rhode Island History Center is being planned for the old Shepard Building.

Many of the attractions described below are currently being assessed by existing committees or commissions. Others, which are in the discussion stage, evolved during the series of meetings held by the Old Harbor Project Advisory Committee.

- Festival market including RI Shore Dinner Hall along the water at the foot of Dorrance Street
- 18th century shipyard and wharf at India Point Park or along South Water Street to recreate the China Trade era<sup>3</sup>
- Oceanographic museum and aquarium at Fox Point. A commission has recently been established to study the feasibility of creating a Rhode Island Marine Science Center and Aquarium. Many second and third tier cities are building projects that focus on their regional waters<sup>4</sup>
- Lighthouse observation tower with the Rhode Island Lighthouse Museum located in its base
- Childrens' museum along South Water Street or at South Street Station
- Historic Coastal Steamer. Currently being restored, the Nobska, last classic American coastal steamer, is temporarily docked at India Point Park's "Ceremonial Dock." It is in need of its own dock
- Museum of Rhode Island Shipping and Industrial History at the historic brick power plant at South Street Station. It would complement the Shepherds museum by displaying large exhibits such as steam locomotives, trolley cars, and 12 meter racing boats. The Peabody Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, is an excellent example of a maritime facility.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>See Appendix B for a summary of aquariums, maritime museums, and reconstructed waterfront districts in other cities.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

- Energy learning center at Point Street Landing with guided tours of the Manchester Street Power Plant
- 300 room hotel at South Street Station
- Corliss Landing entertainment district
- Conservatory along South Water Street
- Bandshell
- Place to watch fireworks
- Museum ship to be berthed at the Inner Harbor at the foot of Dorrance Street
- Doubloon landing arts and crafts center along South Water Street