

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet 118

Item number 7

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*R.I.  
Providence  
Woonsocket*

NAME: The 1761 Milestone *(Woonsocket M.R.A.)* (Figure 93)

LOCATION: 640 ~~South Main Street~~

OWNER: Ms. Theresa Pouliot  
640 South Main Street  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

CONDITION: Good; altered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

The 1761 Milestone is an odd-shaped piece of grey slate, somewhat broken and effaced, measuring approximately 2-by-3 feet. The inscription reads "...Miles to (B)oston 1761" and is boldly cut. The lettering follows no calligraphic pattern and looks almost like eighteenth-century handwriting. A small bronze plaque affixed to the milestone by the D.A.R. has been removed.

The milestone is mortared into a low stone retaining wall, at the edge of the sidewalk, in front of 640 South Main Street where South Main joins Smithfield Road (old Great Road) on Woonsocket's west border, an area of modest frame turn-of-the-century dwellings.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Transportation  
PERIOD: 1700-1799  
SPECIFIC DATE: 1761  
BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Stonecutter unknown  
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This milestone marks the juncture of South Main Street and Smithfield Road, old Great Road, an important Colonial highway intersection. Here Great Road, linking Providence to the south and Mendon, Massachusetts, to the north, intersected an east-west route from Boston to Connecticut which crossed the Blackstone River via the South Main Street bridge at Woonsocket Falls. This milestone is the only extant Woonsocket property which well recalls this era in the early history of American overland transportation, and it is one of but a handful of such stones surviving in Rhode Island that marks inter-colonial highways.

ACREAGE: Less than 1 acre  
BOUNDARIES: Woonsocket Assessor's plat 4-C, lot 69  
UTM: 19 290280 4651510