Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Mount Hope Farm," on the east side of Metacom Avenue (originally called Back Road), today contains a handsome mansion built in three sections (c. 1745, c. 1840, c. 1890), a large Victorian barn (c. 1860), and several twentieth century buildings. These include a guest house, manager's house, play-house, toolshed, pool house, and cabin overlooking Seal Island in Church's Cove on the south shore of Mount Hope Bay. In 1684, the land containing "Mount Hope Farm" was set off to Nathaniel Byfield, one of the four original Bristol proprietors who purchased the Bristol lands from Plimoth Colony in 1680. The land included Mount Hope, ancestral headquarters of the Wampanoag Indians, from which the farm takes its name. Mount Hope, spelled Montaup, Monthaup, or Mountup, may be a corruption of the Indian work Uppaquontup meaning "the head," an accurate description of this natural promontory rising 200' above sea level to form the highest point on Mount Hope Bay.

In the early 1950's the present owner deeded Mount Hope and approximately 250 acres of the north part of the original farm to Brown University. That section of "Mount Hope Farm" is not included in this nomination (see sketch map).

Bristol, incorporated in 1680, remained part of Massachusetts until annexation by Rhode Island in 1746. The Land Records of Plymouth and Taunton, dated January 9, 1744, reveal that two years earlier a division of land between Thomas and Mary Palmer and Isaac and Elizabeth McIntosh Royall of Medford, Massachusetts, split the real estate owned at that time by the late Col. Henry MacKintosh of Bristol---"commonly known as Mount Hope Farm" and containing 746 acres. Isaac Royall and this wife Elizabeth received the southerly portion of 376 acres and began construction of the house known today as "Mount Hope Farm" or the "Governor William Bradford House."

The original Colonial two-and-one-half-story gambrel-roof section of the house (begun c. 1745) facing west to Metacom Avenue has a tworoom ground plan, with a central hall and two end chimneys which project inward, providing fireplaces for the four main rooms. The end walls are brick covered with clapboard, more typical of Massachusetts than Rhode Island construction. Dormers are typical of the fullydeveloped mid-eighteenth century Georgian style found in Newport, with two triangular pedimented dormers flanking a central dormer of segmental pediment design. Careful exterior detailing of the five-bay facade includes large windows with heavy projecting plank frames with molded caps and 12-over-12 sash; smaller windows with 6-over-6 sash are located in the attic. Bold dentil cornices are carried across both the west and east facades and rusticated corner boards ornament the corners. Use of rustication creates a design correlation with Royall House in Medford, Massachusetts, built from 1732 to 1737, by Isaac Royall's father.

(see cont. sheet 1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES c. 1745, c. 1840, c. 1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance of "Mount Hope Farm" and its land must be considered in terms of the architectural quality of the main house, and outbuildings, the archeological value of the site known to be the ancestral headquarters of the Wampanoag Indian nation, and the importance of the distinguished leaders - military, political, legal, commercial, industrial and social - who have been associated with its development. Famous persons connected with Mount Hope include in the seventeenth century--King Philip, sachem of the Wampanoag nation, Benjamin Church, Indian fighter and early settler, and Nathaniel Byfield, founder of Bristol; in the eighteenth century--Colonel Isaac Royall, Jr., Loyalist and founder of Harvard Law School, William Bradford, doctor, lawyer, and politician, and George Washington, President of the United States; in the nineteenth century--James DeWolf, sea-captain, industrialist, and Senator; and in the twentieth century--R. F. Haffenreffer, industrialist and collector, and R. F. Haffenreffer, III, modern industrialist and philanthropist.

From all indications the entire area of the original Mount Hope Farm was the site of a major Wampanoag Indian winter village. In 1904 historian Sidney S. Rider cited vast shell middens located along the shores of Mount Hope Neck and deposited by the Wampanoags who depended upon shellfish and fish for their subsistence. During construction on the farm in the 1930's a jasper point, a rare trade item, was discovered; and test trenches dug in the 1960's in the south end of the stream running through Mount Hope Farm (south from Cold Spring to Church's Cove) yielded quartz chipping debris, probably taken from the huge white quartz outcroppings of Mount Hope's cliffs. Other artifacts taken from Mount Hope Farm are part of the collections given to Brown University by the present owner in the 1950's.

King Philip, Wampanoag sachem and instigator of bloody King Philip's War, fled to Mount Hope in early August of 1676. In the swamp of Mount Hope Farm near Cold Spring (see sketch map), Philip was surprised and killed on August 12 by Alderman, an Indian friendly to the colonists, who led Captain Benjamin Church to the Sachem's hiding place. (This site was marked by a Rhode Island Historical Society Plaque in 1956.)

(see cont. sheet 3)

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1	ITEM NUMBER 7	PAGE 2	

The main entrance of Mount Hope Farm is of the Ionic order with an oversized triangular pediment, and a typical mid-eighteenth century cornice with long, narrow modillions. Use of a cushion frieze instead of the old form of broken molding and turned-up backband forecasts a style which became popular in later Rhode Island work. Quaint Ioniccapitals, with hand-carved small flowers on each side of an open book, used instead of the traditional scrolls, top the flutted pilasters which rise from low bases, and make this entry an original example of the finest mid-eighteenth century Rhode Island country craftsmanship.

Interior fireplace mantels of the main section are simple in character and of excellent proportions. The south parlor fireplace is slightly more elaborate with a dentil course under the mantel and fluted pilasters. The north parlor fireplace wall has raised panels and 5' high wainscotting. Both these mantels date from about 1800 and may have been added by Governor William Bradford. The present owner has created a handsome library in the north parlor by the introduction of shelving on north and south interior walls. Upstairs, in the two bed-chambers, simple two-panel floor-to-ceiling chimney breasts have a bolection molding around the firebox.

Other original interior features include the main stairs, set against the north wall of the central hall, consisting of two runs, with turned balusters and an open string course. Of note is the curving hand-carved handrail encircling a cluster of balusters at the staircase base. Dentil cornices approximately 8" deep are found in both first-floor main rooms.

The middle two-story section, probably added c. 1840 by Samuel W. Church, has a hipped gable roof set into and lower than the original gambrel roof. Another two-story east ell has a lower gable roof. Both sections are altered for modern living. An old photograph (c. 1914) shows a simple Greek Revival style north entrance in the middle sec-Today, this entrance has been altered by the addition of a protion. jecting portico with filled-in sides. A rather severe heavy-proportioned Greek Revival style door frame with sidelights and panelled pilasters has been retained on the garden side facing south. Windows in this section contain 12-over-12 sash, and have plain plank frames. Inside, the original kitchen is now a spacious dining room. Changes include rebuilding the large fireplace, moving a cupboard door to create more wall space, moving an interior wall in the hall, and adding closets and a new staircase. The smaller late nineteenthcentury ell on the east end is now a modern kitchen. Careful attention to use of appropriate eighteenth-century door types, hardware, and

(see cont. sheet 2)

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colors has preserved the simplicity and scale of the original structures.

Outbuildings include a large Victorian barn, ca. 1860, standing just north of the main house. This gable-roofed structure, with squarebased cupola and shingle and clapboard wall cover, is living evidence of the period when Samuel W. Church ran a "model" farm at Mount Hope. Another large barn, since demolished, stood just east of this building in 1870. A smaller building of interest is the Victorian type board-and-batten, gable-roofed tool shed, just east of the main house, with its delightful cupola and weather vane dating from the turn of the century. Of note among the twentieth-century outbuildings is the playhouse built in the 1930's by carpenters at Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, owned during this period by the Haffenreffer family. This one-room playhouse repeats the gambrel roof and pedimented dormers of the "Governor Bradford House."

Memorabilia of the early owners of Mount Hope Farm include two photographs of the portraits of Isaac Royall and his wife by John Singleton Copley now in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Richmond Museum of Art, a silhouette of Elizabeth Bradford by William M. S. Doyle of Boston in its original gilded frame, Governor Bradford's slant-top desk, and an inlaid Sheraton card table. In the south parlor three country Chippendale chairs which were owned by Simeon Potter, colleague of William Bradford and hero of the "Gaspee Affair," are among the present owners' prized possessions.

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Philip's death ended bloody King Philip's War which had ravaged the English colonies since June of 1675. Immediately, the ancestral Wampanoag lands at Mount Hope, exempt from the Pokanoket Purchase of 1653, were claimed by four colonies -- Massachusetts Bay, Plimoth, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Plimoth won the dispute and in 1680 sold the land to four Boston merchants, including Nathaniel Byfield, who acquired Mount Hope and 366 acres which would become Mount Hope Farm as part of his share.

Isaac Royall, Jr., builder of "Mount Hope" and a leading Loyalist, was the son of a wealthy merchant from Antiqua, West Indies, builder of historic Royall House (1732-1737) in Medford, Massachusetts. The younger Royall served for twenty-three years on the Governor's Council until 1774, and was chairman of Selectmen in both Charlestown and Medford. A member of the Artillery Company of Boston, he was made its first Brigadier in 1761. In March of 1774, Royall appointed Joseph Thompson, also of Medford, his attorney, with power to lease the farm "now in occupation of Captain Bennett Munroe." Royall, fled to Halifax three days before the Battle of Lexington and died seven years later in England of smallpox. In his will he stipulated that the proceeds of the sale of a large tract of land near Worcester be used to establish the first Law Professorship at Harvard.

Six portraits of the Royall family by leading American artists are still in existence: Isaac Royall, Jr. and Family, painted in 1741 by Robert Feke, hangs at the Harvard Law School; a double portrait of Mary and Elizabeth Royall by John Singleton Copley, painted in 1758, hangs in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Isaac Royall painted in 1770 by Copley, is in the Karolik Collections at the Boston Museum; and Elizabeth MacIntosh Royall, painted the same year by Copley, hangs in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Copley painted Sir William Pepperell and Family in England in 1778 (William Pepperell married Elizabeth Royall, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Royall) and later in 1785 a double portrait of William and Elizabeth Pepperell is attributed to Mather Brown, an American working in London. "No other family in America had as many fine likenesses in the eighteenth century" to quote the "Royall House Reporter" of April, 1967.

During the Revolution, the "Mount Hope Farm" lands were confiscated by the State of Rhode Island and proceeds from the crops used to discharge the balance of pay due officers and soldiers of the Contin-

(see cont. sheet 4)

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ental battalions of Colonel Christopher Greene and Colonel Henry Sherburne. In 1783, the lands were sold to Nathan Miller of Warren, who in turn sold the farm to William Bradford, Deputy Governor and later United States Senator from Rhode Island. Bradford retained Caleb Harris to measure the property which precisely contained 368 acres and 40 rods. This beautiful hand-drawn Harris survey is displayed by the present owner R. F. Haffenreffer, III, who owns approximately 200 acres of the original farm.

William Bradford, who acquired Mount Hope in 1783, typifies the energy, adaptability, and courage which were characteristic of Americans living in the vital formative years of our nation. Bradford, fifth in descent from the Governor of Plymouth, trained to be a physician with Dr. Ezekiel Hersey of Hingham, Massachusetts. Bradford moved first to Warren, Rhode Island, then around 1758 to Bristol. By 1764, we find Bradford practicing law, one of the first lawyers in Bristol, and serving as delegate to the Rhode Island General Assembly. By the outbreak of the Revolution, Bradford was a member of the Committee of Safety, a leading member of the Committee of Correspondence, a member of the General Assembly, and last Deputy Governor under Colonial Governor Joseph Wanton of Newport. When Wanton was deposed in October, 1775, for Tory sympathies, Nicholas Cooke of Barrington became first Governor of the independent State of Rhode Island and William Bradford First Deputy Governor. serving until May of 1778.

Elected by Rhode Island as a delegate to the Continental Congress, Bradford remained in Rhode Island to command the defense of Bristol. During the bombardment of Bristol in October of 1775, Bradford boarded the command ship Rose with Simeon Potter, hero of the "Gaspee Affair," and negotiated for cessation of the bombing. Late in May of 1778, the British burned his original Bristol home which stood on the northeast corner of State and Hope Streets.

After 1778 William Bradford continued to serve Bristol as a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly and was elected to the United State Senate in 1792. By 1796, he resigned and returned to the quiet life centered around Mount Hope. During this time, General George Washington spent a week at "Mount Hope Farm." A family legend describes how the two distinguished looking men, clad in the fashion of the day in black velvet, with ruffles around their wrists and at their bosoms, and with powdered hair, promenaded the piazza and talked together hour after hour. William Bradford

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served Bristol and Rhode Island with distinction for a total of thirty-five years in the General Assembly and as Speaker of the House of Representatives for eighteen years. His public service also included acting as a trustee of Brown University from 1785 until his death in July, 1808.

On William Bradford's death the property passed to his daughter Ann, wife of James DeWolf, youngest son of Mark Anthony DeWolf, the founder of the DeWolf dynasty. Captain DeWolf was one of Bristol's most enterprising sea-captains, involved in whaling, the Far East trade, and privateering, including sponsorship of the famous Yankee, most successful privateer of the War of 1812. He extended his interests to include banking and textiles and established the Arkwright Mills in Coventry in 1814. Like his father-in-law, James DeWolf was influential in politics and served as United States Senator from Rhode Island from 1821-1825. James DeWolf and his wife lived at their own house, "The Mount," which stood nearby off Metacom Avenue -- and the "Governor Bradford House" passed to John Bradford, oldest son of Governor Bradford.

After John Bradford's death, an interesting Auction Sale notice in the <u>Gazette and Companion</u>, dated February 13, 1836, gives a contemporary description of Mount Farm (or Mount Hope Farm) "containing upwards of 300 acres of first rate land..with a large and commodious Mansion House, two capacious barns, and all other necessary buildings. There is also a large and productive orchard of apple and a variety of other fruit trees..."By March, 1837, Samuel W. Church, wealthy Taunton and Bristol merchant, purchased Mount Hope. Samuel Church developed a model farm here before moving to the larger Church family homestead on Poppasquash Point. Members of the Church family then held the Mount Hope Farm lands until 1912.

In 1917, R. F. Haffenreffer, father of the present owner, purchased the property, which had fallen into a neglected state, and began its restoration. The Haffenreffer family have a long career of successful industrial interests in Rhode Island including ownership of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company from 1924-1942, the Mount Hope Bridge Corporation from 1932 to 1953, and the Narragansett Brewing Company from 1933 to 1965. In the fifties, the Haffenreffer family deeded approximately 240 acres of the original farm including Mount Hope, historic seat of the Wampanoag tribe, the creamery, and other additions which contained their father's Indian relics and early American memorabilia, known as King Philip Museum, to Brown University. This extensive private collection is

(see continuation sheet 6)

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now open to the public as the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology and an extensive education program is conducted for Rhode Island school children by the Brown University Department of Anthropology.

Today, this handsome estate with its historic mansion, outbuildings, and beautiful gardens, is an island of tranquility in an increasingly urban landscape. Recent plans of the State of Rhode Island to construct an interstate highway threatens to cut off "Mount Hope Farm" and its historic Indian lands from the neighboring community of Bristol, with whom its ties are so well and long established . "Mount Hope Farm," with its architectural and social heritage and its numerous influential owners who have affected the political, social, economic development of Rhode Island and our nation, merits the national regognition and protection offered by nomination to the National Register of Historic Sites and Places. It is, therefore, a fitting candidate for nomination during the celebration of our American Bicentennial. •2

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The twentieth-century outbuildings are not intrusions into the environment of Mount Hope Farm. (reference to #7, page 2)

Nomination of the total remaining acreage of "Mount Hope Farm" to the National Register of Historic Sites and Places is justified in terms of historical accuracy as it represents one of the original Bristol land grants set off to Nathaniel Byfield in 1680. (reference to #8, page 4)

Additional archeological information will be forwarded on the return of Doctor Ruth Giddings, curator, Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, from Africa. (reference to #8, page 1)

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