

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001647 Date Listed: 11/14/91

Whipple--Cullen House and Barn Providence RI
Property Name County State

Lincoln MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Jan Beth Savage
Signature of the Keeper

11-14-91
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Area(s) and Criteria

Criterion C, not A, applies to the documented significance of the property under the area of Architecture.

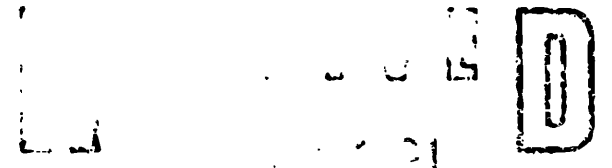
This information has been confirmed with Ann Angelone, RISHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

1647

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Whipple-Cullen House and Barn

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: Old River Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Lincoln vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Providence code: 007 zip code: 02865

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Lincoln, R.I. 1636-present

Property name Whipple-Cullen House and Barn

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Frederick C Williams
Signature of certifying official

30 Sep 1991
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 ✓ entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the
National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

William J. Savage

11-10-91

WJS Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC
AGRICULTURE

Sub: single dwelling
storage/animal facility

Current: VACANT

Sub:

Property name Whipple-Cullen House and Barn

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

COLONIAL
OTHER/utilitarian

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation STONE/granite roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD/shingle/ other _____
weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c.1740 c.1885

Significant Dates: c.1740 c.1885 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Bullder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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Description

The Whipple-Cullen House (c. 1740) is a 2 1/2-story, 5-bay, gable-roof, center-chimney house, set on a dressed stone foundation. It has a 1 1/2-story rear addition and a Victorian bracketed side porch. A late 19th-century cowbarn is located just north of the house; a farm shed (converted to a garage) is located to the east. The Whipple-Cullen House and Barn are set high on the ridge of Old River Road, about halfway between the villages of Lime Rock (listed in the National Register, 1974) and Old Ashton (listed in the National Register, 1984). To the west across Old River Road are the Lincoln Town Hall and public works garage; to the north and south are newer houses; on the east behind the house, the land falls away toward the Blackstone River and is partially wooded.

The Whipple-Cullen House faces west and is set back about 30 feet from the road. The original clapboards of the house are now covered by painted shingles. The windows have narrow cornice caps and deeply rounded sills; the sash is double-hung, two-over-one. The center entrance is hidden by a small, hip-roof enclosed portico, a later addition. The Victorian porch runs the width of the house on the south side; it has paired brackets, turned posts, turned balusters, and a molded rail.

The Whipple-Cullen House is built on the common 5-room plan, centered on the large brick chimney which rests on a stone barrel vault. The stair is located between the front door and chimney. There is a parlor on each side of the stair. A large room extends across the rear and is flanked by two small rooms.

The front door opens into a small entry with a narrow, 3-run, closed-string stair with wide moldings, acorn pendants on the angle posts, a turned newel and balusters, and a molded rail.

The first-floor rooms are finished with plaster ceilings, plaster walls (now papered), wide floor boards, deep cornice moldings, which break around the windows, cased corner posts, and some old hardware from various periods. The north parlor fireplace has a wide, flat overmantel and paired colonnettes supporting the mantel itself. The south parlor's mantel is supported by single engaged columns; the cornice in this room has a delicate Adamesque swag detail, probably a Federal addition. The center rear room contains the cooking fireplace, now bricked in; the bakeoven is set to the right of the fireplace. The mantelpiece here is heavier in scale and may be a later Colonial Revival alteration. The rear ell, which also appears to be a later addition, contains a modern kitchen.

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The plan of the second floor mirrors the first floor, but the detailing is simpler: narrow cornice moldings, plain cornerpost casings, simple fireplace surrounds, and panelled interior window blinds.

The attic contains some small rooms, finished in this century. The unfinished section displays several faint signatures on the rafters--the only legible one is that of Edward Cooke, the son of Benoni and Abigail Whipple Cooke who owned the house after 1840.

North of the house is a long, flank-gable, 2-level cowbarn. The exterior walls are covered with vertical boards. The interior is divided by rough plank walls into milking stalls. Attached to the south end of the barn is a series of outbuildings. An open shed covered with vertical boards connects the barn to a small dairy building/smokehouse. The dairy is in poor condition; its northeast corner has collapsed. A small smokehouse attached to the south wall of the dairy is in fair condition.

Behind the house is a thoroughly remodelled barn, used as a garage. It is in poor condition and is a non-contributing part of the property.

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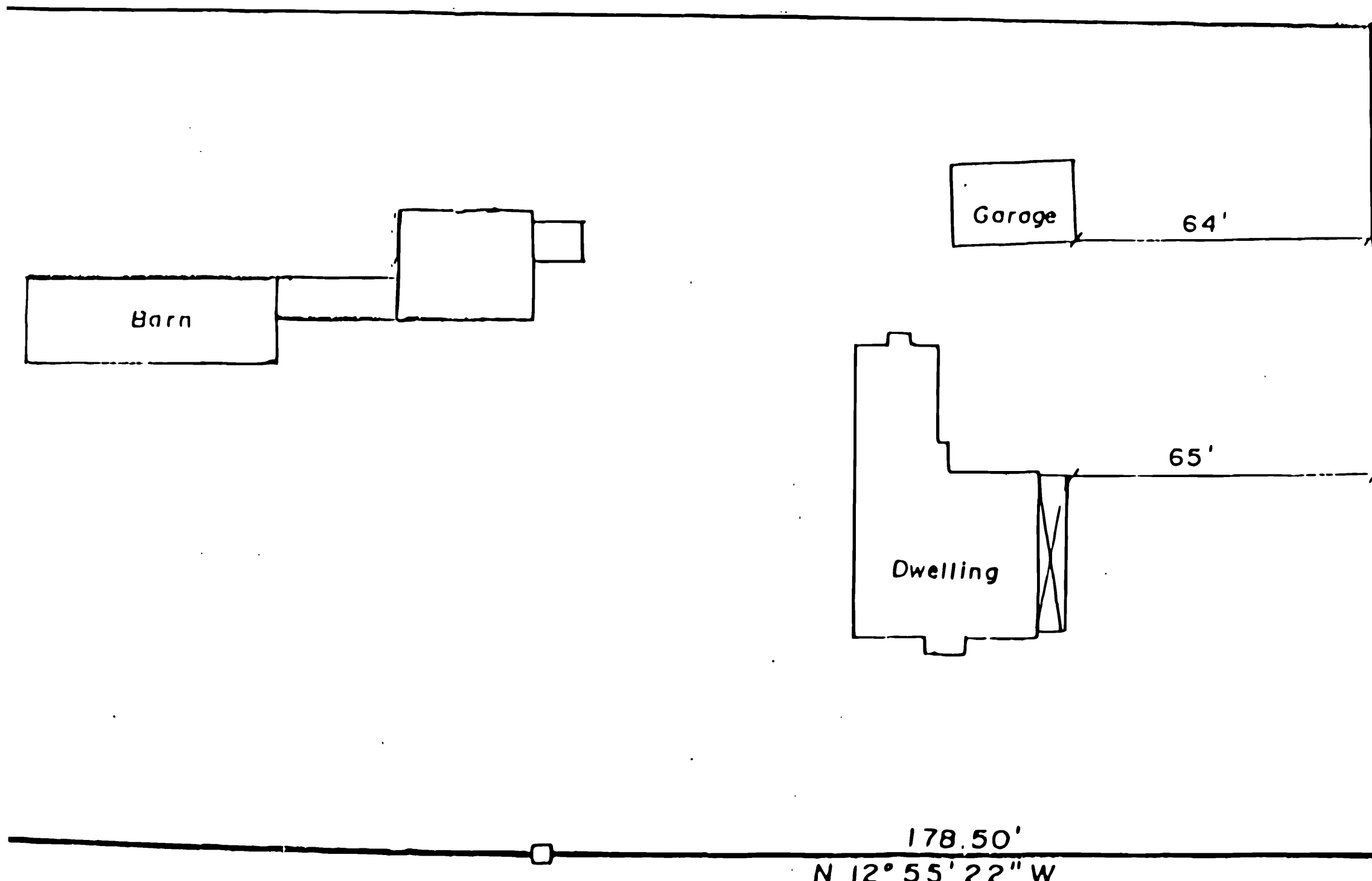
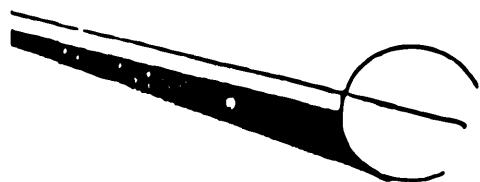
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Site plan



OLD

RIVER

ROAD

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Significance

The Whipple-Cullen House is significant as a typical eighteenth-century farm house, able to document the quality and character of domestic construction during Lincoln's first century of development. The Whipple-Cullen Barn is a useful example of nineteenth-century farm buildings, a building type which was significant in the town's past and is now relatively rare.

The size, elevation, plan, and detail of the Whipple-Cullen House is typical of Lincoln's eighteenth-century houses. The house's elevation (with center door flanked by two windows on each side); its plan (five rooms arranged around a center chimney, the narrow stair tucked between door and chimney, fireplaces in each of the three principal rooms); its size (two full stories with an attic); and its detail (classically inspired yet simple woodwork) are characteristic of houses built in Lincoln through the eighteenth and into the nineteenth centuries. With variations, houses on this pattern were built for decades.

Lincoln retains a number of eighteenth-century houses. Many of them show the effects of two centuries of modification; a smaller number, including the Whipple-Cullen House are remarkably well preserved. The greatest concentrations of these early structures are on lower Great Road (listed in the National Register in 1974) and Lime Rock (listed in the National Register in 1974). Scattered through the rest of Lincoln are a handful of early houses, such as the Whipple-Cullen House, once outlying farms, left from a century when cultivating the land was the principal economic activity of the town.

Similarly, the Whipple-Cullen Barn is a good example of its building type. Farm buildings have proved to be one of the most fragile elements of the town's stock of historic buildings. Replaced often and rarely maintained after they outlive their utility, barns and sheds are increasingly rare. The Whipple-Cullen Barn, probably built in the late nineteenth century, is a good well-preserved example of the stock barn.

In its history of ownership and use, the Whipple-Cullen property evinces some of the patterns of Lincoln's development. The house was probably built by Job Whipple who acquired the land in 1736. The property remained in the Whipple family until 1873. Of particular interest are owners Stephen Whipple and his son Simon, both of whom were extensively involved in the local lime industry and in Smithfield town affairs, both in the General Assembly and on the Town Council. Simon Whipple was also connected with the Smithfield Woolen & Cotton Manufacturing Company, one of

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the town's earliest factories. The Whipples appear to have operated a general, unspecialized farm. In the mid-nineteenth century when Benoni Cooke and his wife Abigail Whipple farmed here, ten cows were kept on the place, along with small crops of potatoes, rye, apples, and barley.

In 1881 the farm was acquired by John Cullen (1837-1908). Cullen emigrated from Ireland at age 20 and worked at the Lonsdale Company farm. As with many Blackstone Valley farms, Cullen converted the Whipple Farm to a dairy operation--the barn on the property seems to date from his tenure here. The Cullen family raised Holsteins and are reported to have done their own bottling and delivery on local routes. John Cullen became a building contractor and started a coal and dry goods business; he participated in the construction of the Berkeley Mill and did the company's teaming on contract. Among his children were Rev. Thomas Cullen, editor of the diocesan newspaper, The Providence Visitor, and author of a history of the Catholic church in Rhode Island, and Patrick Cullen, a senator in the General Assembly and head of the state's Milk Control Division. The Cullens operated the dairy until the 1940s and, in fact, still own the property.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one

| UTM References: | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>19</u> | <u>297520</u> | <u>4644720</u> | B | _____ | _____ |
| C | _____ | _____ | _____ | D | _____ | _____ |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Vivienne F. Lasky, Consultant - Pamela A. Kennedy, Principal
Hist. Pres. Specialist

Organization: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission Date: Sept. 91

Street & Number: 18 Savoy St. - 150 Benefit St. Telephone: 401-272-6692

City or Town: Providence State: R.I. ZIP: 02906

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Major Bibliographical References

Bayles, Richard M. History of Providence County, Rhode Island, W.W. Preston & Co., New York, 1891.

Conley, Patrick T. and Smith, Mathew S. Catholicism in Rhode Island - The Formative Era. Published by the Diocese of Providence, 1976.

Cullen, Rev. Thomas F., The Catholic Church in Rhode Island, published by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, North Providence, Rhode Island, 1936.

Smithfield Land Evidence Records (located in Old Smithfield Town Hall, now Central Falls City Hall)

Deeds: Book I p. 257
Book II p. 704
Book 21 p. 320-323
Book 22 p. 188
Book 50 p. 26
Book 1 p. 495, Lincoln Town Hall

Statewide Preservation Report P-L-1: Lincoln, Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, 1982.

Steere, Thomas. History of the Town of Smithfield, 1730-1871, Providence, Rhode Island, 1981.

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Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Whipple-Cullen House and Barn is a section of Plat 29, lot 150, fronting on Old River Road. The boundary is a rectangle, 178.5 feet by 150 feet, with 90 degree corners, the short side set along a line drawn between a point 65 feet south from the southeast corner of the house's porch, a point 64 feet south from the southwest corner of the garage, and a point along the highway line of Old River Road.

Boundary Justification

For much of its history, the Whipple-Cullen House has been the headquarters for a moderate-size general farm and (later) a dairy farm. The early boundaries of the farm stretched along Old Rive Road and Cullen Hill Road, toward Washington Highway and the village of Old Ashton. In the last century, sections of the farm along Washington Highway, Old River Road, and Cullen Hill Rad have been platted and built upon. The Whipple-Cullen House and Barn are now located on a 55-acre polygonal lot. The land is partially wooded and does not sufficiently convey its original use to justify its inclusion in the nomination. The bulk of the 55 acres may be platted in the near future. The boundary outlined here provides a suitable and appropriate setting for the house and barn; it excludes land not directly related to the significance of the buildings.