

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Providence
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 22 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Great Road Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Quinsnickett"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *W. of Doyleville rd and ...*
Great Road & Brecknock Hill, roads

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln *Savoyville*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #1: Hon. Fernand J. St. Germain

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lincoln Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER: 100 Old River Road

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

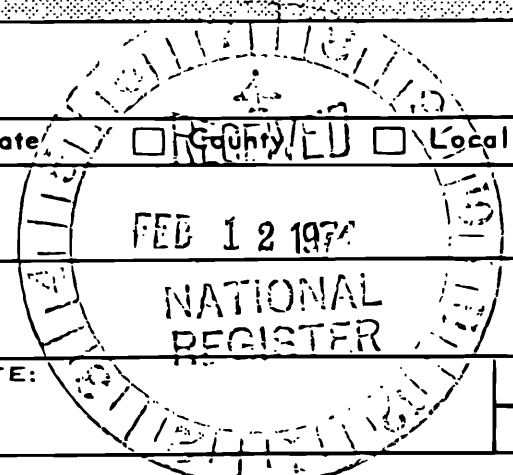
TITLE OF SURVEY: See continuation sheet

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The section of the Great Road between the villages of Saylesville to the southeast and Limerock to the northwest is a narrow, two-lane road which follows the course of the Mosshassuck River. Twisting through the valley, between dams, ponds, and mill runs of an early textile industry, the Great Road to Mendon is bordered by broad, hilly fields, farmed for more than 300 years, and by dense woodland. The Great Road Historic District is approximately 0.6 miles long. To the south it is bounded by the Lincoln Woods State Reservation, east to the rear of the lots on Preserved Arnold Road, north to the Great Road, east to the eastern edge of the Eleazer Arnold House property, north along the property line to the top of the ridge of hills, northwest along this ridge behind the Great Road properties, continuing across the northwest branch of the Great Road to include the Butterfly Pond, then southeast along the edge of the pond, across Breakneck Hill Road to the edge of the Lincoln Woods.

Architecturally the Great Road Historic District is a fabric of structures from the seventeenth through the early nineteenth centuries, tightly woven and little interrupted by more modern construction. Built in 1687, the "splendid mansion of Eleazer Arnold" stands as a landmark as one approaches the district from the east. Built by the progenitor of the Arnold family which settled widely in the area, this National Historic Landmark has been reconstructed in a twentieth century image of what domestic architecture of the seventeenth century might have been. Although much of the present detail dates from this reconstruction, and although the front peaked gable is now missing, this two-story house retains its fine pilastered stone chimney and its exposed stone end, typical of seventeenth century houses in Rhode Island.

Two-fifths of a mile west of the Eleazer Arnold House, the Israel Arnold House at 600 Great Road is remarkably well-preserved and restored. The house is a two-story, gable roofed, clapboard structure of the five-room, central chimney type. The partially exposed brick chimney on the south end of the gambrel roofed ell has courses of burned headers (laid in common bond), a feature rarely found in Rhode Island. Both the kitchen of the main portion of the house and the first-floor room of the ell retain extremely large brick fireplaces, each with a bee-hive oven. Although construction of the ell has formerly been thought to have pre-dated that of the main portion, the framing exposed during recent restoration has revealed that the entire structure must have been built as a whole, probably before 1740. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

From its wooded, hilltop site, the Israel Arnold House overlooks the Moffett Mill complex. Built in 1812, the mill served as a machine shop, and later as a shoe-lace and braid factory. It is a narrow, two-story, gable-roofed structure of weathered clapboards and horizontal sheathing. Built close to the road, it stands beside its still intact dam and pond. Although many of its windows are boarded up, the mill remains in original condition. Of the several small cottages clustering around the mill,

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6. Structures Listed in Existing Surveys:

National Register of Historic Places

Eleazer Arnold House, 1687 (National Historic Landmark)

Israel Arnold House, c.1740

"Hearthside" (Stephen H. Smith House), 1810

Historic American Building Survey

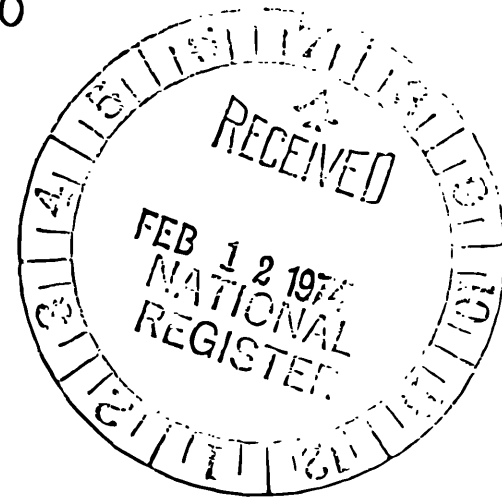
"Hearthside," HABS RI-47

Eleazer Arnold House, HABS RI-87

Israel Arnold House, HABS RI-91

Croade Tavern, HABS RI-88

Moffett Mill, HABS RI-90



7. Description (continued)

one just east at 571 Great Road is from the settlement's earliest years. Thought to have been an Arnold House, this small, two-story, clapboarded building with its simple Federal detail remains well preserved. Together with an old barn and a modest Italianate house built by the mill owner on the hill above in 1862, these structures are an intact, early industrial settlement.

West of the Moffett Mill stand the house and mill of Stephen H. Smith. Although from the same period as the Moffett Mill, this group is of quite a different character. With \$50,000 winnings from the Louisiana Lottery, Smith built his elegant country seat, "Hearthside," in 1810. With its unusual ogee gable ends and colossal portico, this two-and-one-half story stone house is one of the most elegant country houses of the period in Rhode Island and has been listed on the National Register. It is built well back from the road, surrounded by fields still farmed. In 1811 Smith erected his textile printing factory, the "Butterfly Mill," on the riverbank across the Great Road from "Hearthside." Built of the same cut stone as the mansion, it received its name from a formation of stones in an exterior wall which resembled a large butterfly. Once a long, two-story structure, it has been lowered and much altered into a one-story residence. However, with the adjacent dam, pond, and fragments of the old mill race, some of the original character of this complex remains.

Several additional eighteenth century houses, a fine Italianate house of the 1870's, and a few scattered, modest houses of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries complete the district.

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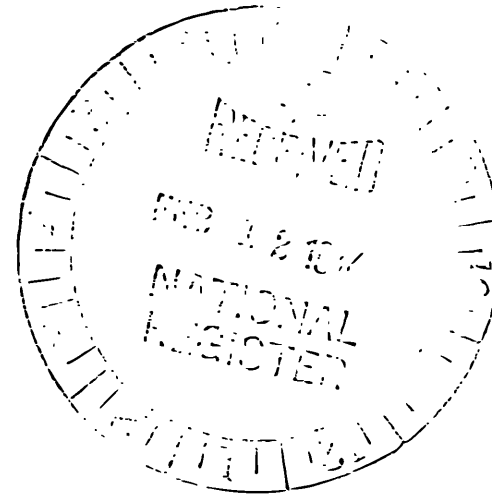
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7. Description (continued)

Although protected by the Lincoln Woods to the south and by open fields and a golf course to the north, recent suburban development has encroached upon the eastern edge of the district and now almost surrounds the Eleazer Arnold House. Today the character of this exceptionally rich historic district is seriously threatened by heavy traffic which now overloads the narrow, winding Great Road.

9. Bibliography (continued)

Klyberg, Albert T., Once in a Hundred Years (Introduction).
Town of Lincoln (R.I.), 1971.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1683, 1687, 1810, 1811, 1812

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although many of the important structures of the Great Road Historic District belong to an early textile industry, the importance of the area stems from the long history of the road itself. Built in 1683 through the Moshassuck River valley, the Great Road was part of a colonial road running north to the once flourishing center of Mendon, Massachusetts. Connecting a series of rural Quaker communities with the marketplace of Providence, the road also served as a transportation link for the Dexter Limerock Quarry in the hills just north of the district. Established in 1640, the quarry itself is one of the oldest industries still operating in the nation.

The Eleazer Arnold House, built in 1687, dates from the earliest years of the area. Its stone chimney is the best extant example of the early Rhode Island pilastered type, and its fireplaces are among the largest in New England. Known as Mr. Arnold's "splendid mansion," it is evidence of prosperous rural life in the area in the seventeenth century. Also a substantial house, the Israel Arnold House was probably built c.1740, and is among the best preserved houses of the period in the state.

By the turn of the eighteenth century the upper Moshassuck was found to be an excellent source of power for the textile mill industry, introduced by Moses Brown in Pawtucket in the 1780's. By 1850 more than a dozen small cotton, flax, and printing mills flourished on the river. A number of these small factories with their concomitant workers' cottages, tightly woven into the earlier architectural fabric of the district, remain today. Both the Moffett Mill (1812), the first machine shop in the state, and the Butterfly Mill (1811), an early textile-printing mill, are important examples of such complexes.

During the last half of the nineteenth century, large-scale factory operations along the Blackstone and lower Moshassuck Rivers preempted the small mills of the upper Moshassuck, and the Great Road gradually returned to its former rural tranquility. Although the district is bordered by a protected woodland and by fields still under cultivation, suburban development to the east and excessive traffic through the area threaten this tranquility, a quality essential to the character of the Great Road Historic District.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Frank C., "Rhode Island Houses Along the Blackstone River Valley," The Monograph Series, Pencil Points, April, 1935.

Downing, Antoinette F., Early Homes of Rhode Island. Richmond (Va.): Garrett and Massie, 1937.

Isham, Norman F., and Albert F. Brown, Early Rhode Island Houses. Providence: Preston and Rounds, 1895.

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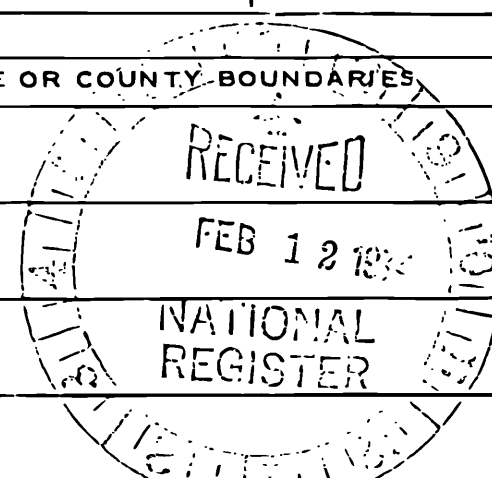
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 54' 41.54"	71° 26' 1.78"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 54' 14.18"	71° 25' 7.5"				
SE	41° 54' 0.0"	71° 25' 20.29"				
SW	41° 54' 27.36"	71° 26' 14.56"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 100 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Clifford M. Renshaw III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: 1/10/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Richard Williams

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

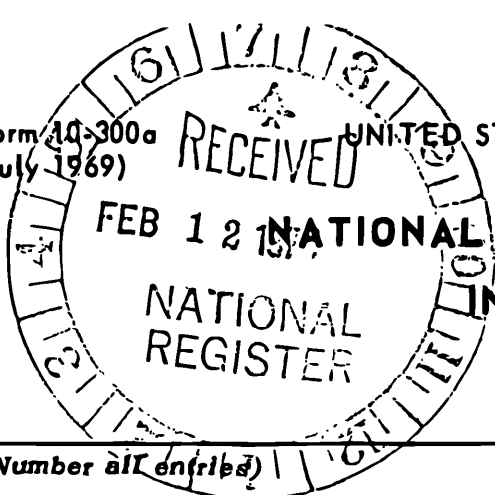
Date: 7/27/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7.19.74

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GREAT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Lincoln, Rhode Island
SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES

1. ___ Great Road, "Butterfly Mill," 1811, 1 story, cut-stone, altered into private residence.
2. ___ Great Road, "Hearthside" (Stephen H. Smith House), 1810, Federal, 2½ story, cut-stone, original condition, National Register, HABS.
3. 660 Great Road, Moshassuck Mill, early 19th century, 2 story, shingle, much altered.
4. 600 Great Road, "Israel Arnold House," c.1740, 2 story, clapboard, gambrel ell with brick end chimney, restored, National Register, HABS.
5. 575 Great Road, "Moffett House," 1862, Italianate, 2 story, clapboard, original condition.
6. ___ Great Road, "Moffett Mill," c.1812, 2 story, natural finished clapboards, original condition, HABS.
7. 571 Great Road, "Arnold-Lincoln House," early 19th century, Federal, 2 story, clapboard, original condition.
8. 563 Great Road, "J. Smith House," Greek Revival, 1½ story, clapboard, original condition.
9. 528 Great Road, "J. Conley House," late 18th century, 2-story, clapboard, original condition, "half-a-house."
10. 500 Great Road, "A.E. Arnold House," 18th century, 1½ story, clapboard, gambrel-roofed saltbox, altered.
11. 503 Great Road, "A.E. Sherman House," c.1870, Italianate, 2½ story, clapboard.
12. ___ Great Road, "Old Croade Tavern," c.1700, 1½ story, clapboard, gambrel-roof, framed-in overhang, moved from Pawtucket (R.I.) to rear of Eleazer Arnold House, HABS.
13. ___ Great Road, "Eleazer Arnold House," 1687, 2 story, clapboard, "stone-ender" with massive pilastered chimney, restored, museum, National Historic Landmark, HABS.