

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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JUN 5 1985

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Continuation sheet 43 North Kingstown MRA Item number 7 Page 43

NAME: Stephen Northrup House
LOCATION: 99 Featherbed Lane
OWNER: Emma Rogers
99 Featherbed Lane
North Kingstown, RI 02852
CONDITION: Good; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Stephen Northrup house is a two-story, shingled, flank gable structure, set in a relatively rural area south of Wickford near the Annaquatucket River. The original house, built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century, had a large section added to its chimney end in the mid- or late eighteenth century; an ell was built on back in the mid-nineteenth century. Framing and interior detailing reflect the construction phases: large chamfered beams are visible in the original structure, while beaded corner posts and more elaborate woodwork appear in the eighteenth-century section and machine-finished materials in the ell. The three sections of the house are remarkably intact.

The facade, which faces Featherbed Lane to the west, is slightly asymmetrical. The simple doorway is just north of the center of the five-bay facade, its alignment matched by the large chimney projecting from the roof ridge above. This asymmetry reflects the house's construction: the older section to the south is several feet longer than the eighteenth-century addition.

The first floor of the older half has one large room with two very small rooms at the southern end. It is dominated by a heavy chamfered frame and a long chamfered summer beam which runs from the stone fireplace (now covered) in the northern end to the southern exterior wall. There is one raised, two-panel door; the others are of plain board-and-batten design.

The eighteenth-century north section mirrors the floor plan of the older section on a smaller scale. All original woodwork remains including raised, four-panel doors, beaded corner posts, and beaded board-and-batten doors. Its overmantel is comprised of two horizontal, raised panels.

The ell contains two kitchens and two stairways. It was added when the house was divided to serve as mill workers' housing for the nearby Annaquatucket Mill, established in 1832. Apparently little else was added in the conversion. The second floor is divided into rooms, the detailing matching that on the first floor.

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The existence of archeological evidence on the property relating to the earliest period of occupation is quite probable. Written sources mention outbuildings and, although none remain, ground configuration may indicate possible locations. The property could be particularly rich in archaeological resources since it is undisturbed by driveways or other modern intrusions.

PERIODS: 1700-1799, 1800-1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

SPECIFIC DATES: early 18th century (perhaps 1712); mid-18th century;
mid-19th century (probably after 1832)

BUILDER: Stephen Northrup (?)

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Stephen Northrup House is significant in the history of North Kingstown's architecture as a rare survivor of the early eighteenth century; major additions made in the mid-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries have significance in documenting the use and adaptation of an early house by later owners.

In a 1727 land title case, John Kenyon of Westerly claimed that in 1683 he had moved into the house occupied by Stephen Northrup at the time of the case. Kenyon said that he lived there for eight years, paying rent to "Mayor Smith in behalf of Mr. Killum of Boston," and that Northrup took up residence there when he left. Land acquisition records indicate that Northrup purchased the land about 1712, suggesting that the house may date from this time instead. In either case, the house is a rare surviving example of Rhode Island's early building period which is characterized by a heavy, chamfered frame. Subsequent additions altered this original structure very little and are themselves of interest.

Esbon Sanford, who built the neighboring Annaquatucket Mill in 1832 and lived across the street at 88 Featherbed Lane, owned the property for many decades. He first rented out the house in 1860 and later sold it to the founders of the Hamilton Web Company. The Hamilton Company owned the property until 1952.

Little is known about Stephen Northrup other than that he produced a large family, and that he and his heirs were active in purchasing and exchanging land in North Kingstown.

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ACREAGE: less than one
QUAD NAME: Wickford, R.I.
UTM: A 19 295840 4602650

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Northrup House is defined as the lot line of Assessor's Plat 69, lot 27, and includes the house and its immediate surroundings.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

Photo numbers 33-36