

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 15 1976
DATE ENTERED AUG 16 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Cole Farm

AND/OR COMMON Intervale Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *E of Warrick*
Reservoir Road

CITY, TOWN *Warrick*
~~Cumberland~~ VICINITY OF

STATE Rhode Island CODE 44

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1 - (Fernand St. Germain)
COUNTY CODE
Providence 007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. William Taylor

STREET & NUMBER Cole Farm Reservoir Road

CITY, TOWN Cumberland VICINITY OF

STATE Rhode Island 02864

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER 45 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN Cumberland

STATE Rhode Island 02864

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Preliminary Cultural Resource Survey for Cumberland, R.I.

DATE 1975-1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN Providence

STATE Rhode Island

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Cole Farm, now about 4.3 acres, is situated in the still-rural Diamond Hill section of Cumberland, in the extreme north-east corner of Rhode Island. Ownership by the Coles dates back to 1770, and continued until 1924. Features of the house on the farm plainly belong to the pre-Revolutionary date mentioned. It is set well back from Reservoir Road and is reached by a long gravel drive. Trees form a screen along the road, and there are sizeable groupings of trees on the south-east and south-west portions of the property. The remaining acreage is grassed and mostly flat, though there is some slope down southerly toward the reservoir. Land to the east of the house and, somewhat farther away, to the south-east is now used as horse-paddocks, but no doubt over a long stretch of earlier years was farmed. With the presence now of horses and dogs, if no longer cows, pigs, hens and crops, there is still very much a "farm atmosphere." Completing the farm complex are the out-buildings -- a two-story barn, a former corncrib, a several-purpose shed, a privy, and a canopied well-head.

The farmhouse is a one-and-one-half-story timber-framed clapboard structure set upon a cellar of random fieldstone faced with long slabs of granite. The long axis of the structure runs east-west, and both entrances are on the south side, facing neither Reservoir Road nor the drive in from it (see plot plan). The earlier part of the house (it had a two-bay eastern extension in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century) is of five-room, central-chimney plan and is simply treated. The south elevation shows the c.1770 house with its plain central doorway, with transom lights, flanked on the west by one window (where one might generally expect two) and on the east by two windows. To the east of this older portion, and fully conforming in appearance, runs the later, two-bay extension with one doorway and one window. On this front and also at the rear, the roof overhangs the walls by about nine inches, and this overhang is finished underneath by lengths of wide boarding. Beneath this overhang runs an "eaves-cornice" of simple rounded mouldings; this breaks out over the protruded enframements of each opening on front and rear of the earlier part of the house. Windows at the ends of the house, however, have no capping mouldings whatsoever, but only long, flat "dripboards." End windows and some at the rear and in the gables retain twelve-over-twelve-paned sash, but elsewhere sash is six-over-six, a characteristic nineteenth-century modernization. The two southern entrances have large single-slab granite stoops, and each is now sheltered by a vine-grown trellis, probably added c.1925-1945.

Entering the c.1770 portion of this house, one finds the expected: a very small entry with a tightly-angled stairway leading upward (and formerly, concealed behind a door, another stairway leading to the cellar, removed since a new one was installed in the eastern extension of the house). To right and left are doorways to dining-room and parlor, both served by the central chimney, which serves also a room

(see continuation sheet #1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEP 15 1976
AUG 16 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

taking up much of the back of the house, the old keeping-room. Beside the keeping-room, filling the north-east corner of the first floor, are two rooms: one, nearly square, no doubt used as a bed-chamber (though it is now a bathroom); and next to it, close to the connection between keeping-room and dining-room, an extremely narrow room -- not much wider than its single window -- which most likely served as buttery or china cupboard. The north-west corner of the first floor is taken up by a bed-chamber entered from the parlor.

Interior trim is sparse and plain. Corner-posts are boxed; window and door openings have no moulded surrounds; there is a wainscot of horizontal boarding without any moulded capping; the stair has only a square newel and a flat hand-rail in its initial short run; doors are mostly of four plain, flat, recessed panels though some opening into the parlour have bevelled panels. In the keeping-room, however, there is full-height bevelled panelling around and above hearth and ovens. The dining-room has a small fireplace opening with a simple surrounding moulding and a shallow shelf above, and there is a small cupboard with panelled door set in the wall above and to the left of the fireplace. The parlor fireplace has a modest moulded surround with a stretch of frieze above and a shallow shelf with a supporting moulding; beside this fireplace is a tall and narrow floor-length cupboard with a door having two bevelled panels. Floors throughout the house are of the original wide boards. Most woodwork is today painted white or brown except in the parlor, where it has been stripped and grained by the present occupants.

The upper floor is said to have been divided in its western part into two sleeping compartments, probably divided only by vertical boarding; but this space was opened into one by a recent owner, roof insulation applied, a lavatory and a clothes-cupboard installed. Nothing beyond this was done, however, and the old pegged rafters are still visible as are lack of any trim and the ancient, unpainted upper skeleton of the house.

Around 1795-1810, the old house acquired its eastern extension of two bays, with its own southern entrance almost duplicating the older doorway to its west but without transom. Here were provided another "keeping-room," with a good-sized hearth using a slim chimney just inside the end gable; a bed-chamber behind; a new stair to the

(see continuation sheet #2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 15 1970
DATE ENTERED	AUG 16 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

cellar and another to the upstairs chamber. Door openings to the older part of the house did not separate the two sections and the two generations who lived there. This communicative arrangement allowed the young couple more amenities than were possible in their small extension. In the federal period addition there is slightly more wooden trim than in the older house, around windows, doors, fireplace. This trim is plain, sharp in profile, and "countrified," but indicative of the date of the addition.

In 1975 the Cole farmhouse remains remarkably intact. Necessary kitchen, bathroom, and heating conveniences have been installed, but none have damaged the old plan, fabric, woodwork, hardware, or even the numerous wall-pegs for the hanging of garments.

Completing the farm complex are the necessary ancillary structures, all here present and obviously old in date, although perhaps not all dating from the 1770's, since such buildings were not always built with the same care and expense as was a dwelling and also often required enlargement, re-location or rebuilding. There is a two-and-one-half-story barn (whose interior now houses a fairly modern arrangement of box stalls for horses) with a former wagon-shed at its lower level, where the ground slopes southerly. Like the other subsidiary buildings, this is of robust pegged-timber construction sheathed in weathered vertical boards and battens. Nearer to the house is a one-and-one-half-story corn-crib. Between this and the house is a smaller structure which may have been at one end a smokehouse and, at the other, a piggery with a depressed outside pen for those animals. Directly south of these accessory buildings, farther from the house, and screened by trees and bushes, are two more: a wood-shed having also some work-shop or storage space, and a three-seat privy. More ornamental and more visibly placed, directly in front of the house's south, or entrance front, is a white-painted, boxed-in well-head with a gabled covering supported on square piers; it still produces pure water when its bucket is sent down.

Except for such necessities as electricity, piped-in water, a telephone, propane gas for cooking, and modern heating equipment -- all remaining inconspicuous -- nothing has spoiled the ambience of the Cole Farm or the antique quality of the house its original proprietor built.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

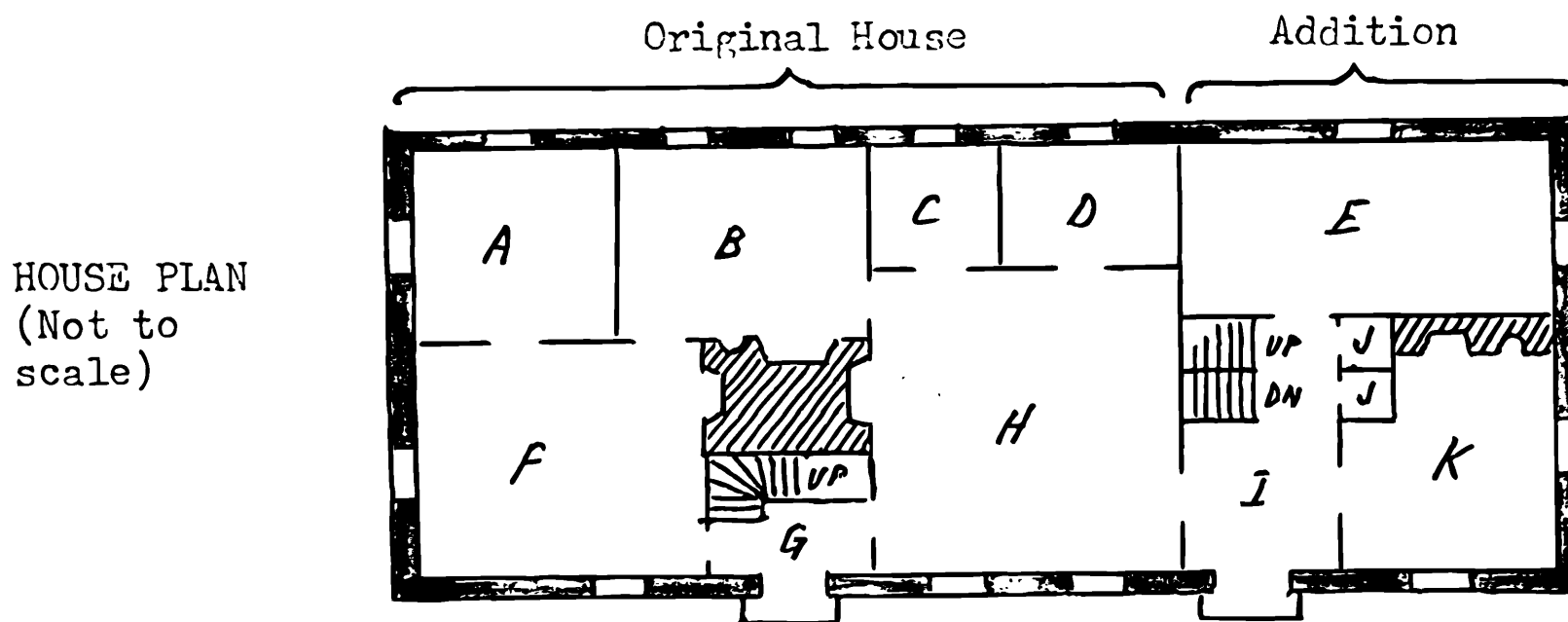
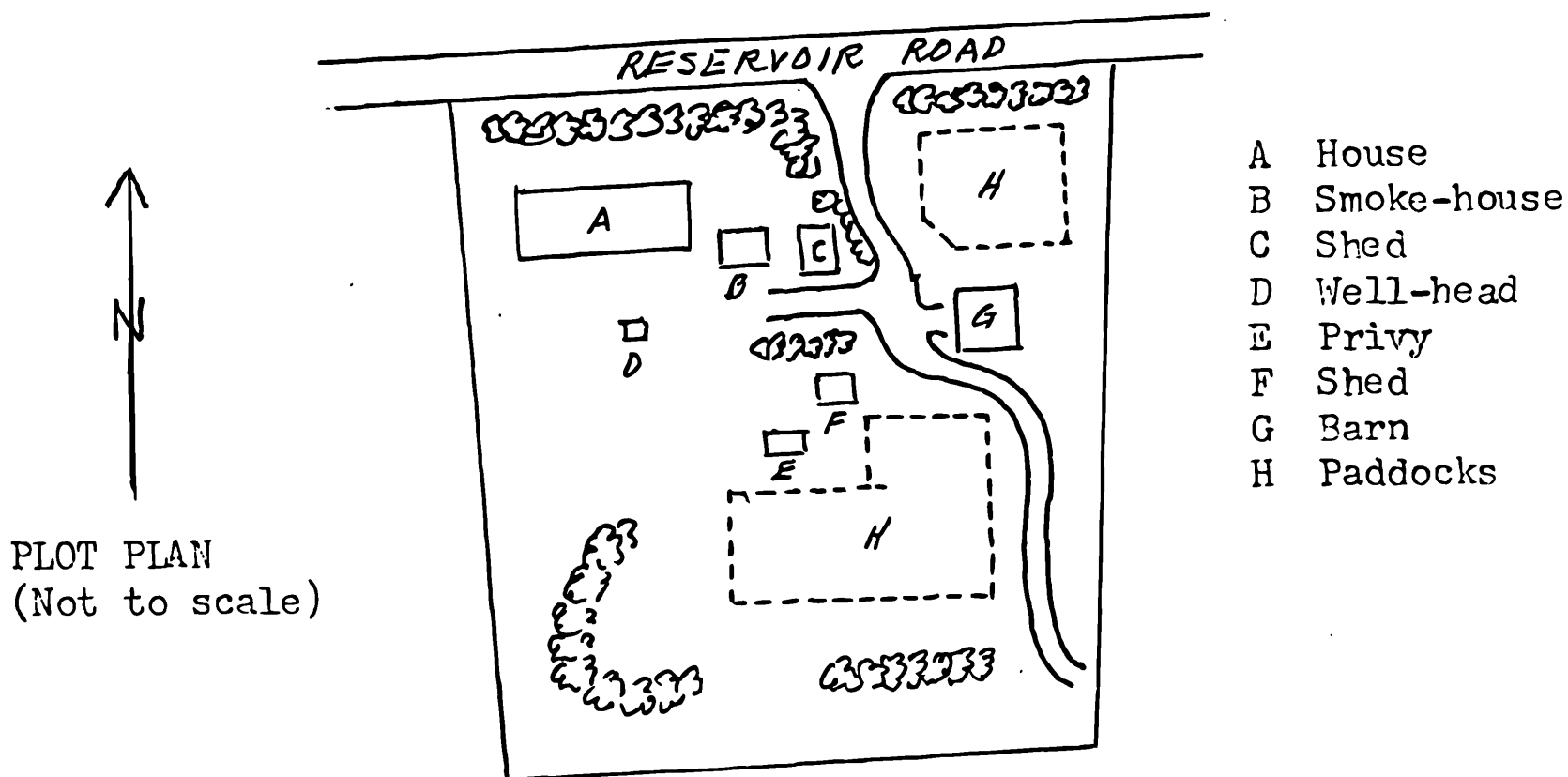
RECEIVED DEC 15 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 16 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4



- A Bedroom
- B Keeping-room
- C Cupboard
- D Lavatory (now)
- E Bedroom
- F Parlour
- G Entry
- H Dining-room
- I Entry
- J Closets
- K Keeping-room

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the John Cole Farm is a well-preserved example of the complete farmstead of a northern Rhode Island farmer. The significance of the farm complex lies in its survival as a complete form. Typical of the area both physically and in its history of ownership, the John Cole Farm represents an important stage in the development of Rhode Island agricultural history.

The house was built by John Cole shortly after he acquired the property in 1770. Ten years later Cole deeded the property to his son Joseph, although he retained the occupancy of the house during his lifetime. Throughout the nineteenth century Cole descendants continued to own and work the farm until the property was deeded to Helen Whipple by Lewis Cole in 1897.

When John Cole's family removed to the Cumberland area (then known as Attleboro Gore), they were one of several hundred farming families spread thinly over the northern Rhode Island agricultural area; Cumberland's population in 1774 was only 1,756. Most of these were subsistence farmers, paying for the few necessities they did not raise with small cash surpluses made from sales in town. The thin, rocky soil of area, punctuated by pockets of richer land such as the Diamond Hill Plain where Cole settled, retarded settlement. John Cole's original one hundred acres, some of it woodlands, were probably the maximum number a single family could work; as late as 1850, thirty acres of the farm were still unimproved.

John Cole, described in the deeds as a "yeoman" and "husbandman," did not figure prominently in the history of Cumberland; nor did his family. Despite their long-standing residence in the community, there is apparently no record that the Coles played a significant role in the public life of their town. Although they may have been somewhat more prosperous than their neighbors, the Cumberland Coles were essentially typical of the area's hard-working, self-sufficient country people. An 1806 "Expence Book" for the farm shows that it produced surpluses of timber, hay, potatoes, barley, and apples, cider, and quinces in its orchards. The Cole family purchased necessities with profits from

(see continuation sheet #4)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Cole Family Papers, 1717-1830," Rhode Island Historical Society.

Coleman, Peter J. The Transformation of Rhode Island, 1790-1860.
Providence: Brown University Press, 1963

See Continuation Sheet #5

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.3

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	3 00 6 40	46 5 13 2 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard B. Harrington, Consultant Pamela Kennedy, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

June, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence,

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard B. Harrington

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

December 3, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. M. Stapp

DATE

8/16/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

8.21.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 15 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 16 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

these sales--tallow, thread, tea, rice, coffee, and some luxuries as well--a silver hook and eye, a silver cup, silk for handkerchiefs. Cole children may have had more extensive educational and social accomplishments than their fellows, since their father recorded the price of his son's "board and schooling at E(ast) G(reenwich)" and noted payment to "Smith and Delarue for teaching our children the rudiments of dancing." Throughout the century, the Cole Farm produced potatoes, rye, barley, and orchard products and supported small numbers of livestock--working oxen, cattle, and swine. Lumber from the Cole woodlot was used in the construction of the Methodist Church in nearby Arnold's Mills and there was a Cole pew there. In the town cemetery west of the farm is the private burial ground of the Cole family.

The Cole Farm is especially significant today because it has survived as a complex, a total entity of roads, fences, fields, and buildings. The integrity of the structures and their settings has been so well-preserved that a visitor to the farmstead may still study the siting of the buildings, their orientation to each other and to the surrounding landscape. One can see on the farm the house in which John Cole and his family lived and the ancillary structures they built to maintain the variety of functions required by a family farm.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

5

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Mayer, Kurt B. Economic Development and Population Growth in Rhode Island. Providence: Brown University Press, 1953.

United States Census of Population: 1850, Free Inhabitants in Cumberland, Productions of Agriculture in Cumberland, Rhode Island.