

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

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

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Item number 7

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Name: Elliott-Harris-Miner House
Location: 1406 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln
Classification: Building; Private; Occupied; Accessible--restricted;
Private residence
Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Sollecito (same address)
Condition: Good; Altered; Original site

Description:

The Elliott-Harris-Miner House was constructed in two parts: a small south-facing, one-and-a-half-story center chimney house probably dating from the early years of the eighteenth century, and a larger, two-story bracketed cottage which faces east toward the Louisquisset Turnpike. The two sections are joined by a kitchen wing.

The earlier section of the house is set on a fieldstone foundation and its walls are covered with shingles applied over clapboards. The house has a flank-gable roof and is only three bays wide. Its narrow windows retain their 9-over-9, double-hung sash; the central entrance has a panelled door and a five-pane transom. The house has a two-room floor plan. A tight entrance hall is set between the door and the large brick chimney. Two plank doors with H-L and strap hinges face the entrance--one opens to a steep stair leading to the unfinished garret; the other to a small cupboard. The house has but two rooms, one on either side of the chimney; both are reached by plank doors opening off the front hall. In both rooms, cased posts mark the corners, wide planks cover the floors and rough plaster covers the walls. The ceiling in the west room is plastered; the east room ceiling is covered with painted panels, probably installed in the early twentieth century. The fireplace in the west room is surrounded by flat boards with a small molded edge; it has a narrow mantel shelf. A small cupboard with plank door is set to its left. The large cooking hearth is located in the east room--it retains its iron crane and oven, located adjacent to the fireplace. Like the fireplace in the west room it has plain flat surrounds; its narrow shelf is set on brackets and seems to be a later addition. Large cupboards are set behind the chimney and reached from the corner of each room by a plank door.

The later section of the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is a cross-gabled, clapboarded, bracketed cottage set on a brick foundation. It has paired brackets at its cornice and on the bay windows on the east and south facades. The entrance to the house is set on the side of the east facade under a bracketed porch. The windows on the first floor have 2-over-1, double-hung sash; those on the second floor are narrow and round-headed.

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A small greenhouse extends from the northeast corner. The interior of the house is arranged around a long, off-center hall leading from the entrance with its sharply curved stair with its turned newel post and balusters, to the back of the house. On the left side of the hall are a large bedroom, the parlor, and dining room; on the right side are a small bedroom and bathroom. On the second floor are four small rooms. The interior of this newer half of the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is finished modestly: wide molding surrounds the 4-panel doors and there is a single black marble fireplace in the parlor.

The newer and older sections of the house are joined by 1-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing, which retains a number of its original features: pressed-tin ceiling, an insulated wooden cold cupboard, and pantry cabinets. A barn was originally located west of the house; it was demolished recently, only a cellar hole remains and it is not included in this nomination. A small spring house is set to the north of the house.

Period: 1700-1799, 1800-1899
Areas of Significance: Architecture
Specific Dates: c. 1710(?); c. 1850
Builder/Architect: Unknown

Significance:

The primary significance of the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is architectural: the bracketed cottage is a fine example of its type, well preserved and cared for; however, it is the early wing (dating from the first decades of the eighteenth century) which is especially significant--it appears to be the earliest center-chimney house surviving in Lincoln.

While the earliest of Lincoln's builders constructed houses whose sources and models were the framed, late medieval dwellings of rural England, in the second century of the town builders came under the influence of more up-to-date currents in English architecture. Though the eighteenth century house was still built as a rectangular box, of heavy posts and beams fitted together with worked joints, there was a new interest in the regularity of the facade. Where windows and doors had once been placed for convenience and need, they were now arranged symmetrically. The five-room plan became almost universal. The chimney was no longer set at the end of the house, but at its center, with five rooms arranged around it. The main entrance was set in the center of the facade. The Elliott-Harris-Miner House is the earliest example in Lincoln of this shift in architectural ideals--it is a truncated version of the center chimney, five-room house; the space along the back of the

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house is so narrow as to contain only cupboard space, rather than the usual three rooms. Exceptionally well preserved, the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is an important survivor, an early representative of the basic pattern that was popular for decades from the early eighteenth century through the early nineteenth century.

The builder of the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is not known. In the early nineteenth century the house was owned by members of the Elliott family--William Elliott seems to have owned the house when the bracketed cottage was added to the early house. By the 1870s the house had passed to George Harris, member of a long-standing family in Lincoln, and in the later years of the century, the Miner family owned the house. The acreage surrounding the Elliott-Harris-Miner House appears to have been farmed throughout the nineteenth century; in fact, a barn cellar hole is located west of the house (but is not included in this nomination). By 1873, the original farm had been reduced in size to fourteen acres. Though little evidence of the farming history of the house remains, the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is still manifestly significant as a survivor from the earliest years of Lincoln's second century and an early representative of a major change in the notion of how a house should look and be laid out.

Acreage: c. 1 acre

UTM Reference: A 10 297840 4638960

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Elliott-Harris-Miner House is the line of Lincoln Assessor's Plat 19, lot 70; the boundary includes the house, its springhouse, and their immediate surroundings, but does not include the cellar hole of a demolished barn located to the west of the house.

Level of Significance: Local

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