

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0685950
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DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1978
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

JOSEPH
Smith-Cushing House

AND/OR COMMON

SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

109 Smithfield Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Providence

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
#2 Hon. Edward Beard

STATE

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY

Providence

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Henry Paolino and Joseph Aldoriso

STREET & NUMBER

109 Smithfield Road

CITY, TOWN

North Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

North Providence Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

2008 Smith Street

CITY, TOWN

North Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Providence Preliminary Survey

DATE

1977-1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Smith-Cushing House is a clapboarded, two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed structure with a six-bay facade. Many of the building's narrow, hand-hewn, lapped clapboards have survived, adding texture to the facade. Over the six second-story windows on the facade, (see photo #1) the main cornice projects to form individual moulded cornices for each of the windows. The existing fenestration consisting of 9/9 double-hung sash may be original. The first-story window frames and fenestration have been enlarged to 12/12 sash and capped by splayed lintels. The outside shutters are of mixed vintage; some are the moulded moveable blinds, dating from the 1840s, while others are later Victorian fixed-louver versions. The chimneystack fills the west side (see photo #2) of the original (1705) section of the house. The lower portion is stone, while the upper is brickwork, laid up in Flemish bond, rising to the L-shaped chimney. The chimney, once pilastered has been rebuilt in the last forty years. A post-1762 lean-to addition across the entire back gives the house a salt-box profile. The building faces south and fronts on what was an early eighteenth-century road leading from Providence to Smithfield.

The first house on the site burned during King Philip's War of 1675-1676. The foundation wall and stone-end chimney were incorporated into the western half of the present house, erected in 1705. This section was built on the Rhode Island, two-story, two-room plan, with two fireplaces, one for each room, set side by side in the stone end wall. The upper story was probably a sleeping loft.

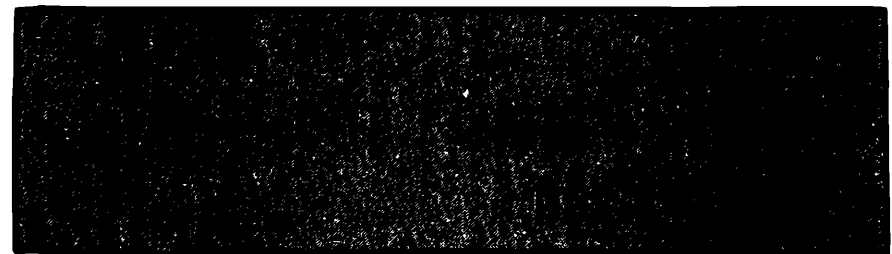
In 1762 the house changed hands and was rebuilt. The doubling in size of the house by the addition of an eastern wing, a new central staircase with a chamber and rear stairs behind it, and the re-working of the original rooms has concealed to a great extent the early character of the house. It was at this time that the house was raised to a full two-and-a-half stories.

The final structural changes took place post 1762, possibly late eighteenth-century--a one-and-a-half-story rear lean-to addition was added across the north facade, doubling the size of the keeping room on the northwest, and adding a new kitchen beyond the dining room to the northeast, with a breezeway (now enclosed) between the two. The attic space over this addition is largely unfinished, with the exception of a small bathroom installed circa 1945. During the post-Civil War period the fanciful porticos with open-work piers were added to the front and side entrances.

The interior (see plan) of the Smith-Cushing House, excepting the rear lean-to addition already discussed, is a product of the 1762 reworking of the house.

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The entrance hall is remarkably spacious. The unusually ample staircase (see photo #3) rises in three runs and has a heavily moulded closed stringcourse, acorn pendants and turned balusters, with half-balusters against the newels, which are topped by ball finials. Behind the stairs is a simple interior chamber and a rear hall and staircase.

To the west of the entrance hall is the great room or library (see photo #4). The room, despite the 1762 reworking, betrays some of its earlier origins; the corner posts survive, as does the summer beam, now cased, running from chimney girt to end girt. The mantel, following later fashion, was replaced circa 1810-1825 with an attenuated, more "Georgian" stock Federal mantel. All the doors in this room are of the eight-panel type, as befits the most important room in the house.

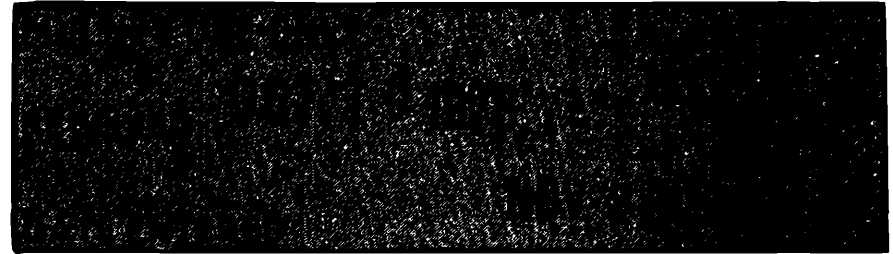
Opening off the great room, to the north, is the keeping room, which has suffered from recent restoration efforts--but the very wide brick fireplace still retains its bee-hive oven intact. The dome-shaped oven is a distinctive feature of the exterior backwall of this fireplace. The spacious, wide, stone cellar stairs descend from this room.

The east wing consists of two rooms: a front parlor and a rear dining room. Both are served by a second chimneystack set inside the east wall with the triangular fireplaces set back to back. The fireplace openings have plain mantels framed only by heavy bolection mouldings, with the overmantels consisting of two rectangular, raised panels, originally shelfless; a crude mantel shelf was added in the parlor. Both rooms retain their eight-panel doors with inset hinges, as well as two-panel interior shutters for all the windows.

An unusual feature of the house is the small chamber located in the west wing, but several steps below the second floor landing. This "dark bedroom," plain save for an early two-panel door, would seem to have been the attic space for the 1705 core, before the roof was raised to its full two-and-a-half-story height.

The second-floor plan follows roughly that of the first, where the major rooms are concerned. A large bedchamber (see photo #5) is located directly above the great room and despite its later construction, it also has a cased summer beam running from chimney girt to end girt. The room is distinguished by an unusual chimney-breast. The fireplace opening is framed by heavy, rounded, mitered bolection mouldings;

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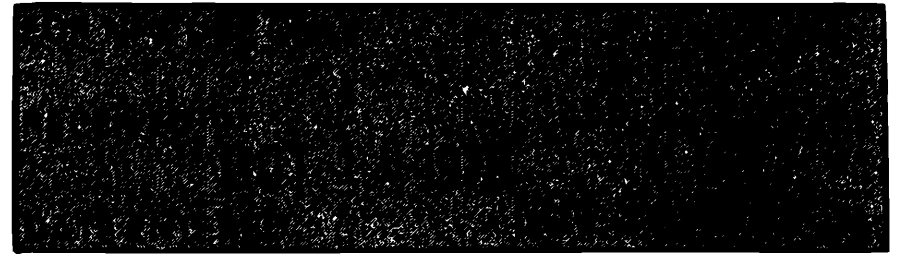
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the two-panel overmantel is defined by three crudely tapered and reeded pilaster strips with heavy cornice caps. It is an elaborate example of the vernacular--a primitive use of the classical motifs.

The two upper bedchambers in the east wing are duplicates of the east parlor and the dining room. However, here the mantels are detailed only by bolection mouldings at the openings; the absence of a panelled overmantel in these rooms may have been a question of means, but more probably a result of their less important function.

The back stairs continue to the attic space which is large and unfinished, except for a primitive form of painting, consisting of reddish circles daubed onto the whitened walls and ceiling.



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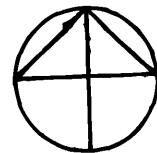
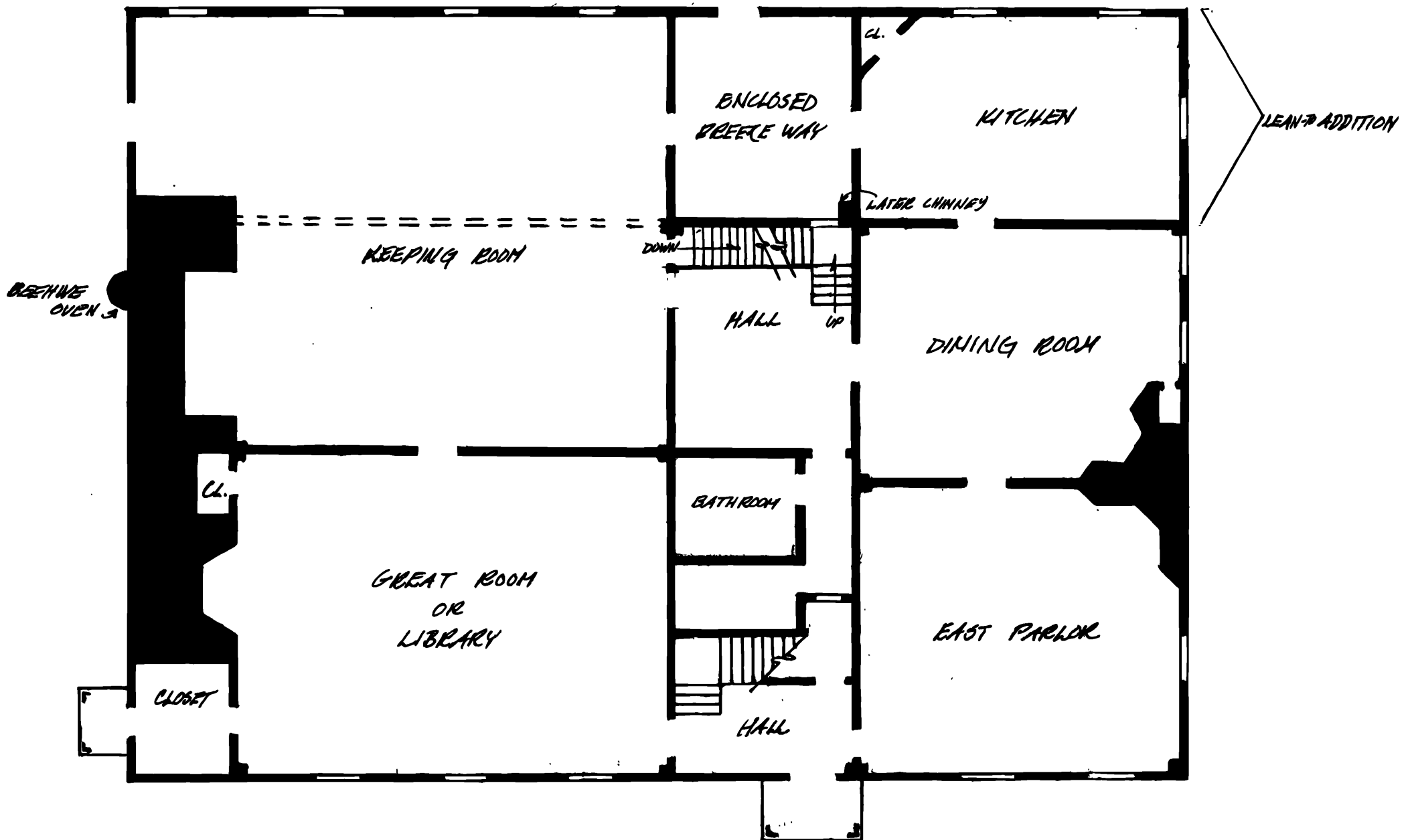
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SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
109 SMITHFIELD ROAD
NORTH PROVIDENCE, R.I.
SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

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 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 1705-1762

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smith-Cushing House is the only surviving "stone-ender" in the town of North Providence. The stone-end house type is probably based on a medieval house form from southern Britain--timber-framed, plank-walled structures, one-and-a-half stories high, usually with one room per floor. A massive stone chimneystack at one end formed almost an entire wall--hence the name "stone-ender." This house type was peculiar to Rhode Island in the early colonial era. Only a dozen such structures are known to survive in the state.

The Smith-Cushing House illustrates both Phase II and Phase III of Norman Isham's classification of Rhode Island "stone-enders." The one-story stone base of the chimneystack, a survivor of King Philip's War of 1675-1676, probably served a one-and-a-half story, two-room house. The chimney base and cellar wall were re-used in 1705 to build a Phase III enlarged stone-end house. Raised to a full two stories, the stone end was built up with brick, laid up in Flemish bond, with two rooms on the first floor--it is unclear as to whether there were two on the second.

The core of the house was built in 1705, according to deeds by Joseph Smith, grandson of John Smith, the miller, a compatriot of Roger Williams, who established the first grist mill in Providence. The area that encompasses present-day North Providence was originally divided into five farms--one was owned by John Smith.

In 1762, the house passed out of the Smith family. The house had served as the focus of a 190-acre farm. This now passed from the Smiths, good yeoman farmers, into the Jenckes family. Judge Daniel Jenckes, Chief Justice of Providence, bought the farm at public auction for his son John. John, a gentleman farmer, member of a wealthy Providence family, had the means to double the size of the house and remodel both the interior and the exterior, according to the latest fashion.

The house has passed through the Rhodes, Wilde, Cushing, Hurdis and MacLaine families--all descended from John Jenckes. The house has only recently passed out of the family. Throughout the nineteenth century the farm was leased out to be farmed professionally. In the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette. Early Homes of Rhode Island. 1937.
 Isham, Norman. Early Rhode Island Houses. 1895.
 Providence Deed Books 1709-1762.
 North Providence Deed Books 1772-1855.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1-1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	2 9.6 6.2 0	4.6 3.6 5.0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That certain lot or parcel of land, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on the northerly side of Smithfield Road, in the Town of North Providence, County of Providence and State of Rhode Island, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southeasterly corner of the parcel herein
 (see cont. sheet #5)

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

Vivienne F. Lasky, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

(401) 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

Frank DeWitt

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 29, 1978

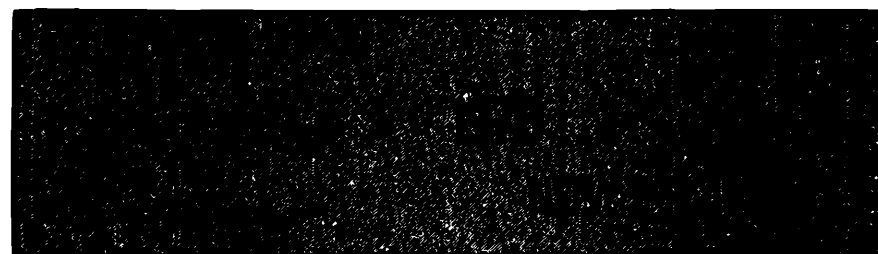
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Charles S. ...*
 DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICE
 DATE 11/22/78

DATE 11/22/78
 SIGNER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 11/22/78

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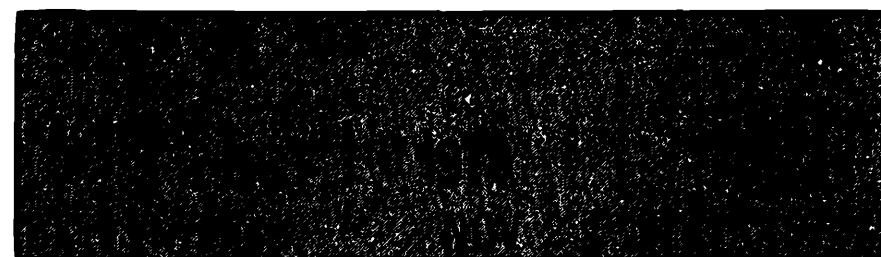
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post-Civil War period both the owners and the tenant farmer occupied the house, perhaps accounting for the re-working of the rear lean-to addition, which expanded the keeping room and provided space for a new kitchen.

It is not until the late nineteenth century that the farmlands were substantially reduced. Throughout this century, land has been sold off in parcels and platted. Today, the house stands on less than one-and-a-half acres of land; an 1870 one-and-a-half-story barn and carriage house, a shed, well-head, and a two-seater "biffy" located to the north and west of the house are also included in the nomination. As yet, the pasturelands to the west of the house, and the lot to the east, enclosed by substantial, well-laid stone walls, although not within the nomination, are undeveloped, and add much to the siting of the house.

The Smith-Cushing House evolved out of a medieval building tradition that had continued into the eighteenth century in much of Rhode Island. The house's growth to its present appearance--a large, basic, mid-eighteenth century farmhouse, was possible because of the growing wealth of the farming aristocracy that maintained the property well into this century.

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conveyed, said point being two (2) feet west of the westerly face of a stone wall and in the northerly line of Smithfield Road at Station 34 plus 42 more or less as shown on Rhode Island Highway Plat No. 1026 and recorded in Deed Book 52 page 532 in the North Providence records; thence going northerly two (2) feet from and parallel to the westerly face of said wall eighty three (83) feet more or less to a corner; thence turning and going easterly on a line two (2) feet from and parallel to the northerly face of another stone wall eight and four tenths (8.4) feet to an iron pin driven in the ground at the south-westerly corner of land conveyed to Edward T. Donovan and wife Ruth B. and Leonard Albanese and wife Jean, recorded in Deed Book 97 page 294; thence going northerly with the westerly line of this conveyance two hundred sixteen (216) feet more or less to the southeasterly corner of Lot No. 6 of the "Cushing Meadow Plat owned by Sara H. MacLaine, R. H. Rawdon March 1957, Scale 1" = 30 ft." as shown on Plat Card 168 in the North Providence records; thence going westerly with the southerly line of the Cushing Meadow Plat and the southerly line of land conveyed to Edward T. Donovan and wife Ruth B. in Deed Book 96 page 113 one hundred sixty three and five tenths (163.5) feet to a corner; thence turning an interior angle of about 88° and going southerly three hundred twenty three (323) feet more or less to Smithfield Road; thence going easterly with the northerly line of Smithfield Road one hundred eighty six and five tenths (186.5) feet to the point and place of beginning.

Said parcel contains 55,050 square feet of land more or less.

Said premises are subject to taxes assessed December 31, 1977.