

6-12-73

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hearthside

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Smith (Stephen Hopkins) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Great Road (0.1 mile south-east of Breakneck Hill Road), Saylesville *n.w. of*

CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln Saylesville vic.

STATE: Rhode Island, 02865 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
E. Andrew Mowbray

STREET AND NUMBER:
Great Road, Saylesville

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Rhode Island, 02865 CODE: 44

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, 02865 CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

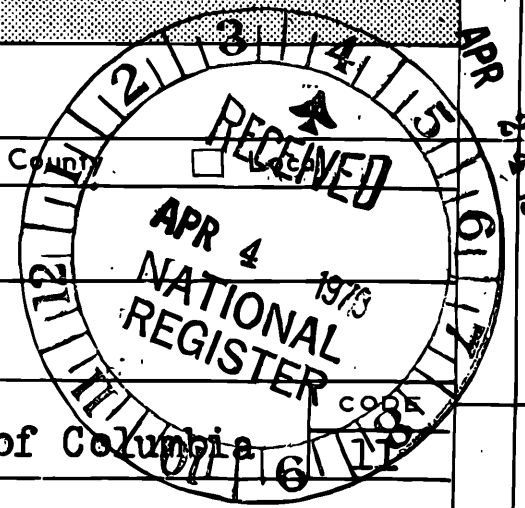
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937, 1955 Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

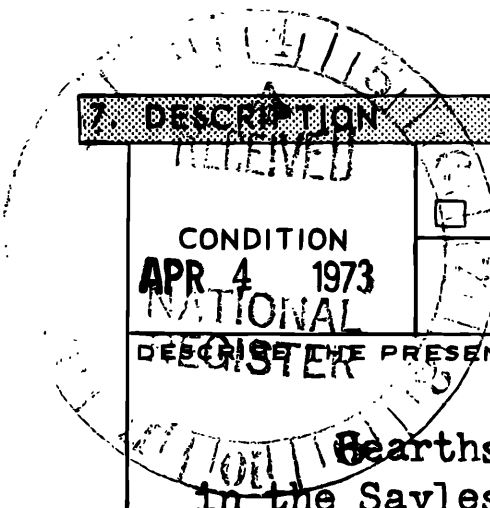
STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
APR 4 1973
NATIONAL
REGISTER

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hearthside stands, imposingly, close to the "Great Road to Mendon" in the Saylesville section of Lincoln, a rural area in the northern part of Rhode Island, as a sizeable country residence constructed c. 1810 for Stephen Hopkins Smith. The name of a known architect or builder-architect has never been associated with Hearthside. Its design may have been outlined or supervised by Smith himself, who was a person of intellect, a traveller, and undoubtedly well acquainted with the best extant and newly-arising examples of architecture in nearby Providence.

This is a high, nearly square house of two-and-a-half storeys with attic space above and is five bays wide across its main (south) front. It is set upon a low stone basement, covered by a gable roof whose ridge runs east-west and is faced with dressed local stone laid in random ashlar courses. Behind the exterior stonework are a "dead" or air space and inner walls of rubble into which main supporting beams are mortised; first-floor beams also rest upon two parallel brick walls in the basement. Across the front runs a fairly shallow two-storey unpedimented tetrastyle portico with flat-surfaced wooden piers; within this the main entrance is centred, and there is a subsidiary entrance on the east side. At the rear is a wing built in two periods--the portion with stone exterior walls constructed within a few years of the house itself, the portion of frame and clapboard construction added probably in the 1830's; accommodation is further enlarged in the half-storey under the roof by a large frontal dormer. The plan provides a central hall and a side one on the first floor and four large rooms on first and second floors of the main house, these latter being served by four narrow internal chimneys of brick. Leading up to the house from the Great Road is a stone-paved walk, with steps up from the highway, and an unpaved drive passes by the side entrance.

The tall portico and the fan- and side-lit entrance within it are handsome appurtenances of Hearthside, but the most striking architectural features of its exterior are the ogee curves used in the end gables, the roof of the front dormer (which contains three rectangular windows surmounted by a bull's-eye one) and in the roof of the small side porch, which last had most of its components destroyed in a hurricane and must now be restored. Such a large, conspicuous, curving baroque architectural-ornamental feature was common in Europe and in England in Renaissance times but very much less so in later-settled North America, even allowing for the customary lag in popular styles. However, a prominent and extant example of an ogee pediment is to be seen in Joseph Brown's self-designed house of 1774 at 50 South Main Street in Providence; and this must undoubtedly have been the inspiration for Hearthside's later extravagances.

The house otherwise presents simple Federal-period external trim. The portico has a slim, modest moulded cornice of no great projection; originally the portico also had a surmounting low, panelled parapet--

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

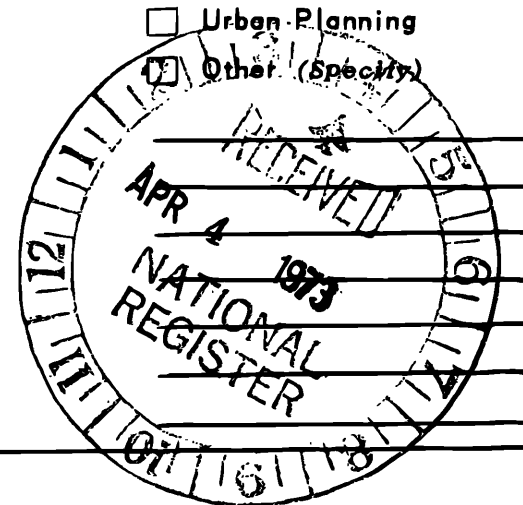
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1810

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural individuality and importance of Hearthside have already here been remarked upon, and its long-standing significance as a state and Lincoln landmark goes without saying. Some of its history, and that of its builder, is of interest:

Stephen Hopkins Smith was a member of a prominent local Quaker family (although his travels, connections, romance and architectural ambition seem to have flown beyond traditional Quaker reticence). The family was not rich, but in or before 1810 Stephen Smith found himself winner of the \$50,000 drawing in a Louisiana lottery. At that time he had great interest in a somewhat demanding local belle who required "the finest house in Rhode Island" before giving herself in marriage. Using at least \$40,000 of his winnings, it is said, Smith created Hearthside. When he drove his fiancée to see it, she was enchanted by its majesty--in the midst of nowhere--but declared it much too far out in the country for her to think of living there. After this distressing drive, Stephen Smith dwelt for some years at Hearthside as a bachelor, taking in for company his brother Joseph and his family. Joseph was the Reader of the local Quaker assembly; he also travelled, was a botanist and brought back specimens for Stephen Smith to plant on the property.

Hearthside was, at least in part, maintained from the earnings of Smith's "Butterfly Factory" across the road to the south (and so-called because of a pattern in its stonework), which did textile-printing. In addition to this enterprise, Smith was also greatly interested in the promotion of a commercial canal system and in 1823 became a commissioner of the Blackstone Canal project, connecting Providence with Worcester, Massachusetts. He was responsible for buying up much of the land for this canal and took an active part in laying out the series of reservoirs and gates it required. Much attention was given, too, to the placing of rare trees, shrubs and plants on his estate and to the landscape appearance of the area in general, which developed a reputation for sylvan beauty. In 1912, land to the south of Hearthside became the nucleus of the Lincoln Woods State Reservation, and the deed and dedication ceremony appropriately took place in Hearthside's drawing-room.

Although Smith lived at Hearthside in unintended celibacy, he

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette Forrester: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 387-389, 390.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

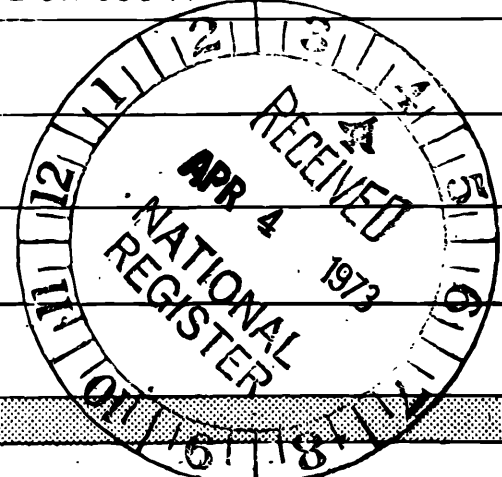
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 54' 23.57" N	71° 25' 49.41" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UIM
19/298400

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: March 15, 1973

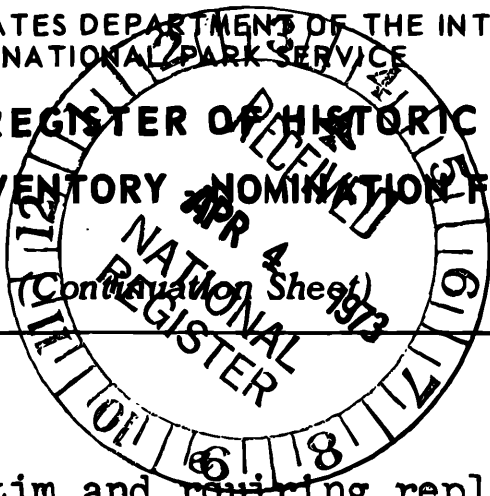
STREET AND NUMBER: John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Daniel Williams</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>3/28/73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>4/24/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Acting Keeper of The National Register</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>4/18/73</u></p>
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM



STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

also a hurricane victim and requiring replacement. The main entrance has panels below its sidelights and the simplest of inset wooden surrounds. Window openings, capped by splayed single-piece stone lintels, are set in wooden architraves and have six-over-six sash. The wooden mouldings in the ogee gables are enriched by a beaded section, and so originally were all other major exterior mouldings, except in the wing.

As for the interior, one enters on the first floor a stair-hall which has a flat, horizontally-boarded, painted wooden wainscot rising to a chair-rail of dark wood. At one side the stair rises in a short, straight, open-string run of four steps and then continues its ascent in an enclosed spiral to the second floor; its first four-step stage has a ramped rail with columnar newel of dark wood (echoed against the east wall) and square, painted, stick balusters; the four steps have sawn scrolls at their ends. Throughout the house, windows and doors (6-panel) have simple moulded architraves. The windows have reveals for panelled folding shutters, and on the second floor window-seats are provided within the reveals. Modest one-storey mantels of Federal style are to be seen throughout, but those in the two front, first-storey rooms are executed in imported marble--one black, the other white.

Grounds now comprise about one acre, with vestiges of a flower garden on the west side and large old trees here and there--in particular, two "tulip poplars" in front, one of which Stephen Smith planted to match the other already there. There is a barn to the rear, but it is not the original one, which was burnt, and other original outbuildings have not survived. In spite of numerous changes of ownership in a century-and-a-half the main house has come down in remarkably intact condition and since 1955 has had a particularly sympathetic owner, who intends to keep the fabric in good repair and to undertake such little restoration (frontal parapet, side porch etc.) as is necessary.

8. Significance.

lived very well indeed and entertained there. The stone walk from road to portico is reported to have been laid by torchlight in one night in preparation for important guests invited for the next day. During his occupancy, Hearthside must have been the "manor house" of Lincoln, as its like was not nearby and its hospitality was probably not to be equalled. Later on, Smith went to live in a smaller house in the neighbourhood, and in the next century his former home changed hands frequently.

However, though its grounds are now reduced, Hearthside itself has come down with its architectural integrity unimpaired, and it is to-day in good hands. Rhode Island has well-known city houses, magnificent summer mansions, and among its old country houses Hearthside is still the grandest--as it was intended to be.