

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 ~~Smith Andrews Taft Todd Farm~~

and/or common Todd Farm (~~preferred name~~)

2. Location

street & number 670 Farnum Pike

N.A. not for publication

city, town North Smithfield N.A. vicinity of #1, Hon. Fernand J. St Germain congressional district

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N.A. in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Louise C. Todd

street & number 670 Farnum Pike (Greenville Rd) RFD Woonsocket

city, town North Smithfield N.A. vicinity of state Rhode Island

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. North Smithfield Town Hall

street & number Main Street Slatersville P.O.

city, town North Smithfield state Rhode Island

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Route 104, Farnum Pike Recon- has this property been determined eligible? yes no
struction

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence 150 Benefit Street

state Rhode Island

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" 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 Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm (hereafter and commonly referred to as the Todd Farm), includes a house originally built about 1740, with late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century additions at each end, several outbuildings--sheds, barns, and a wellhouse--and a pond, with a sawmill and an icehouse site, on a 45-acre tract in the still-rural Primrose section of North Smithfield. The land behind the house is largely wooded, as is a steeply-sloping hill across the road. The farm has been owned by several families for its more than two-century existence, during which time some changes have been made to the interior of the house and the original, or nineteenth-century, outbuildings have been removed and replaced by a collection of early twentieth-century structures, which, in scale, style, and material are compatible with the house.

The simple colonial farmhouse is a long, two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed building of post-and-beam construction. Clapboards cover the plank walls on all sides. The house is set upon a fieldstone foundation, which is partly cemented. The central entry (in the original part of the house) is simply framed. Two other entries on the front, one at each end, also have simple surrounds. A door at the north end of the house is enclosed in a small, rectangular, weather entry while the south door is exposed to the elements. The gable roof at the north end of the house extends downward, with a break, to cover an addition at the northwest corner, giving the house a "saltbox" profile as seen from the north. Behind this addition is a gable-roofed, enclosed entry. The gable roof also overhangs an addition near the central part of the rear of the house, this containing yet another entry. The window frames, with plain surrounds, have slightly projecting, simple caps, or lintels, at the first story of the flank sides and at both stories of the gable ends; the caps of the upper windows are framed into the cornice in traditional eighteenth-century style. Most windows appear to be original. Along the east-facing facade are twelve-over-eight-paned windows at the second floor level, while two-over-two-pane windows on the first floor are of relatively recent origin. The other windows have twelve-over-nine panes, nine-over-six panes, or six-over-six panes. At the corners of the building, and at the front, where the original house joins the south end addition, are plain pilasters. The eaves project out about a foot at the flank ends; the gable-end cornice, with a slight return, is flush with the exterior of the building. The original large brick chimney, still commanding a central position, is flanked by smaller brick chimneys at each end. The north end chimney is set inside the house while the one at the south end, the most recent, was built along the exterior.

On the interior, the original five-room plan, dictated by a large central chimney serving fireplaces on each principal floor, is still evident. However, several interior walls were removed at the south end to provide a large open space, now used as a living room and kitchen. Behind the living room is a borning room, a bathroom is located behind the center chimney, and behind the kitchen is a small addition, once used as a milk room. Between the kitchen and borning room are two enclosed sets of wooden stairs, one leading from the living room to the second floor, the other running from the kitchen to the attic. The north side of the house, a separate living

(See Continuation Sheet #1).

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space for more than a century, contains a living room to the right of the center chimney, a bathroom behind that, and a dining room and a kitchen in the north end addition. The second floor stairs, at this end, ascend directly from the entrance at the right front. There is a small enclosed space between the dining room and the kitchen, with a sliding door, said to have been used to serve customers when the house also had a tavern function.

The small front hall has a tightly-angled stairway leading up from the left and running against the chimney wall. Along the north wall, near the top, is a one-panel door opening to a closet. Doors to the right and left, like all the other interior doors, are four panelled. At the first floor the doors lead to the separate living quarters.

Floors are of wide boards, but some in the north end are covered with carpeting. Corner posts are cased throughout, and all the ceilings, which are plastered and seven or seven-and-a-half feet high, join the walls without any cornice or moulding. The most noteworthy features of the interior are the fireplaces; however, there are no large fireplaces, as one would expect to find in an eighteenth-century dwelling, and most have been covered over. The south end living room fireplace, of stone, with a brick rear wall, has a brick hearth and its original crane. This fireplace mirrors the simplicity of the early farmhouse and living style. There is a simple moulding around the fireplace opening and around a six-inch board which frames the opening; above is a flat entablature and a small mantel shelf. Directly above the fireplace is an open, recessed cupboard, and another, narrower cupboard, left of that. The fireplace is set at the left side of the living room wall. The south end bathroom contains a small, stone-faced fireplace with a brick back and a brick hearth. Above a broad entablature is a plain, narrow shelf; above that is a two-door closet or cupboard. All the other fireplaces in the house are closed, including the fireplace of the north end interior chimney

The second floor of the south end consists of several small rooms, used for bedrooms, an artist's studio, and storage. The two bedrooms along the south side of the house contain built-in closets. There are three rooms in the second floor part of the north end--a bedroom, a store room, and a room once used as an assembly room. The ceilings in this section are higher than those of the first floor.

A stair at the south end leads to the attic space, which is unfinished. In the central section of the attic the roof is supported only by rafters, while the north and south ends have ridge poles. The north end of the attic contains a room walled off by vertical boards and entered through a four-panel door. The brick chimney extends directly through the center of the attic.

(See Continuation Sheet #2).

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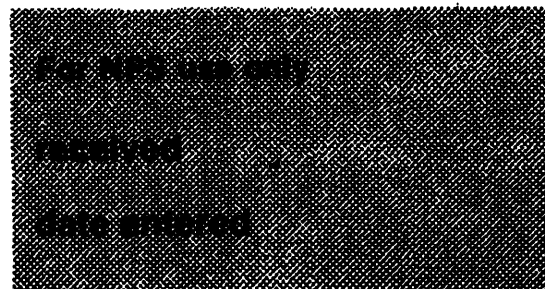
The fieldstone basement walls are partially cemented. Ceiling height varies from about seven feet in the north part, which has a dirt floor, to about six feet four inches in the south part, whose floor is cemented. There are narrow floor joists in this section. In the center of the basement is an enormous, semi-circular, stone chimney base. Stone exterior stairs are located at the northwest corner; wooden stairs lead down from the kitchen at the south end. One of the walls contains a small, recessed opening, or niche, about eighteen by fifteen inches, probably used for food storage.

The house is set slightly below Farnum Pike.* Two driveways leading to each end of the house continue behind two sheds in back of the house where they join to make a circular drive. A dirt road leads to the west, crosses Cherry Brook at a sawmill site, and divides, one part leading to Todd's Pond, a thirteen-acre body created in the mid-to-late nineteenth century and which is part of the Todd Farm. Another branch of the road continues westward to a large, open area known as Sandy Plain; formerly forested and covered with low hills, the now-sterile "plain" was created during gravel excavations in 1960, the gravel used for the construction of the nearby North Smithfield Expressway (Rhode Island Route 146). The sawmill, at the dam at the north end of Todd's Pond, operated until about 1900. The sawmill, and all the outbuildings were replaced by four others--two behind the house, one south of the house, and a smaller shed to the north (see site plan). The outbuildings, their red color with white trim matching the house, and their style, clapboard siding, and scale, in keeping with the character of the old house, constitute a picturesque grouping, enhancing the charm of the site. A large barn southwest of the house was converted to a residence in 1979. Along the driveways in front of the house are wood picket fences anchored by granite posts. Part of the fence has been removed.

*See site plan.

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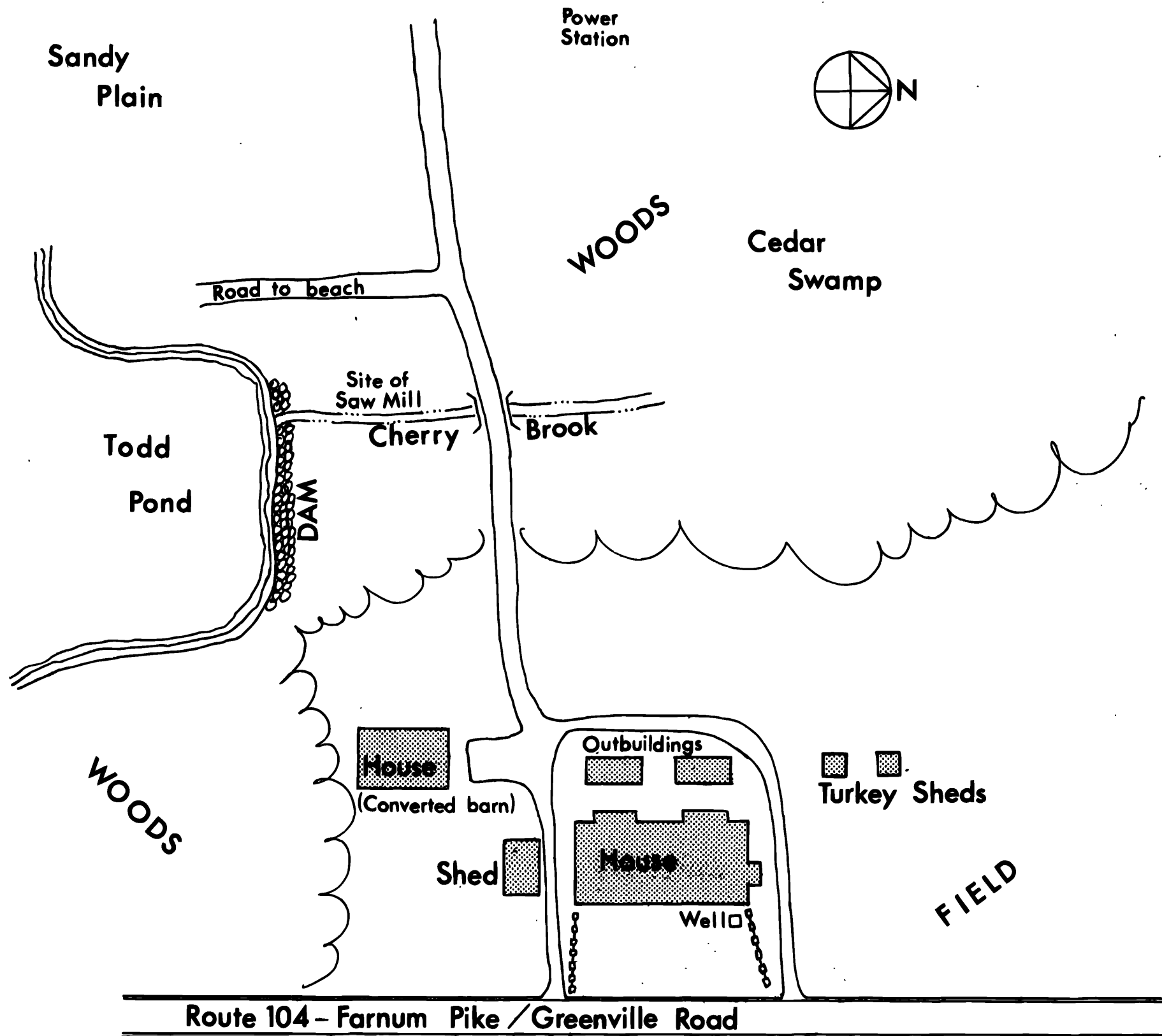
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Todd Farm
Route 104
North Smithfield, Rhode Island
Sketch—Plan not to scale

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 checked="" 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 c. 1740 et seq **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm is a noteworthy local landmark for the quality of its architecturally-significant farmhouse and its later out-buildings, for its association with early industry, and for its families important in this section of North Smithfield.

The Todd farmhouse, although somewhat changed over the years, remains a good example of an early, vernacular rural dwelling. Unpretentious in style, it still retains its basic simplicity. An unusual feature of the old farmhouse is its length, created by the additions at each end. There is no other dwelling like it in North Smithfield today. The Todd Farm complex--the old farmhouse and its attendant outbuildings--constitutes an aesthetically pleasing group of buildings and is one of only several surviving in North Smithfield today.

The earliest records dealing with the area that became the Todd Farm show that in 1733 Elisha Smith deeded to his son Noah 117 acres; this was the northern part of a tract purchased from Colonel Joseph Whipple, where Noah then dwelt. In 1740, Noah gave to his brother Daniel 100 acres south of Noah's dwelling, excepting a right of way to pass to "the mill." It is possible that the homestead and farm were established at this time. Noah Smith died in 1748. His inventory mentions a sawmill and a cross-cut saw

There is considerable difficulty in precisely identifying and locating properties on the earliest deeds, but in 1778, when Daniel Smith, black-smith, gave to his son Daniel Smith his sixty-acre homestead farm, including a house and the son's improvements to it, it is clearly the present property.

In 1784, David Andrews of Mendon, a housewright, acquired the farm from Daniel Smith. David learned the trade of millwright, and quite possibly the dam and sawmill date from this time. In 1826, upon David Andrews' death, his property, divided into seven parcels, was left to his wife, Sarah, and their three daughters, Mary Ann, Lucy, and Abigail. Sarah died in 1834.

Mary Ann Andrews married Nelson Taft, who came here from nearby Mendon, Massachusetts. Nelson, a carpenter, employed Albert Todd, who in 1833, at the age of seventeen, had come here from New York state to his uncle Edward Hotchkiss' farm a short distance north of the Todd Farm. Albert Todd, who later became a printer, first with the Woonsocket Patriot, then for a while with the Providence Journal, married Abigail Andrews in 1837. It is possible that the house was divided into separate living quarters about this time.

(See Continuation Sheet # 4).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beers, J.M. & Co., Representative Men and Old Families of R.I. 1908

Todd, George I., ed., The Todd Family in America the Descendants of Christopher Todd, 1637-1919. 1920. (See Continuation Sheet #5).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15 acres

Quadrangle name Georgiaville, R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	8	9	4	0	0	4	6	4	9	3	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	9	2	8	9	8	7	0	4	6	4	9	1	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	9	2	8	9	5	4	0	4	6	4	8	5	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	9	2	8	9	1	0	0	4	6	4	8	5	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of North Smithfield assessor's plat 12, lot 9, including approximately 45 acres of the total 77-acre Todd Farm tract--this includes Todd Pond with a surface area of about 13 acres--all the land along (See Continuation Sheet #5).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Walter A. Nebiker

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date September 1980

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas A. Williams

title

date December 23, 1982

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An 1851 map of Providence Country, Rhode Island shows the house with the name "Taft" and a "S. Mill" on the pond. In 1855 and 1862, maps show the dual ownership, labeling the house "Taft and Todd" and the mill as "N. Taft's Saw Mill." Albert Todd died in 1854, the three Andrews daughters passed on between 1871 and 1890, and in 1892, Nelson Taft died. After Nelson Taft's death, the property came solely into the Todd family. David C. Todd, son of Albert, born on the homestead in 1842, worked with Nelson Taft in his early years, and also worked as a carpenter in Woonsocket. He went into the lumber business, and erected a new mill on the farm in 1879. An 1895 map shows the farm--"Cedar Valley Farm"--owned by David C. Todd, and a saw-mill and an ice house on the pond.

The farm was worked into the twentieth century, and the ice house and the sawmill continued in operation for some years into the century. The land eventually went to William O. Todd, a grandson of Albert, then passed on to William's son, Robert L. Todd. Robert Todd was associated with his father in the operation of the family worsted mills, including Lawton and Pocasset Spinning before and after World War I. Serving in the army in both World Wars, he was discharged as a captain after World War I and as a lieutenant colonel after World War II. Robert L. Todd died in 1971 and the property is now owned by his widow, Louise Cole Todd. Louise Todd, who served as an art supervisor in the East Providence public schools and who also conducted a teacher training class for Rhode Island state college students, is a widely-traveled and well-known local artist, with a strong concern for the Todd property and for the preservation of the buildings and the farm heritage.

The Todd Farm has been worked as a general farm, poultry was raised here for several decades from about 1890 on, but the occupants of the farm primarily had non-agricultural interests, notably the sawmill which furnished the Smithfield area with timber, clapboards, shingles, and planks, which were used for many early homes and barns, for a period of about 150 years. An ice house along the pond was used for ice storage for about one-half century. Although the sawmill and the ice house are gone, the pond, formed by a typical Rhode Island stone-and-earth filled dam and surrounded by woods, is a lovely expanse of water, its natural beauty complementing the attractive farm setting nearby.

Despite the traffic along Farnum Pike and recent suburbanization, the house, set back from the road on a large tract of land, retains the ambience of an early Rhode Island farm, which the present owner plans to continue.

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Continuation sheet 5

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Woonsocket Call, December 20, 1963. "Mrs. Todd Gains Knowledge As Widely Traveled Artist."

Woonsocket Call, September 1, 1971. "Col. Todd, Ex-Businessman From Old Rhode Island Family, Dies."

Item #10 (cont.)

Farnum Pike (or Greenville Road) and extending west to include Todd Pond, and the land about 300 feet around its shoreline. The nominated parcel also includes the old farmhouse, the outbuildings, and the sites of a sawmill and icehouse.