

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet 63 North Kingstown MRA Item number 7

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NAME: Joseph Slocum House

LOCATION: Slocum Road (one-quarter mile south of its intersection with  
Indian Corner Road

OWNER:

CONDITION: Fair; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Slocum House is a plain, simple, five-bay, one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed farmhouse, which dates from the mid-eighteenth century with later additions. The house is oriented to the south with Slocum Road running to the west, and is organized on a central chimney plan around a massive stone center chimney. Interior woodwork, most notably mantels in the two front rooms, was added in the Federal period. The house is surrounded by flat, fertile land in the southwestern corner of North Kingstown where agriculture, particularly turf farming and nurseries, continues to be an important concern.

Clapboards cover the exterior walls of the house, except on the east wall where they have been replaced by shingles. Other alterations to the exterior include the addition of an enclosed porch to the west and a shed-roofed extension to the north. The large central chimney has been stabilized by application of concrete which hides its original stone work. Though the original fenestration pattern remains, the sash is 2-over-2, probably late nineteenth century.

Fireplaces in the front rooms are surrounded by plain, Federal-style mantels. The seven-foot wide fireplace opening in the rear center kitchen which probably contains an oven has been covered, but its mantel is still in place.

Walls and ceilings are plastered on the first floor. The front rooms have simple chair rails. Throughout the house there are four-panel and board-and-batten doors with old hardware. Posts are cased.

The attic is reached by a steep enclosed stair leading from the front entry. Partitions, perhaps dating from the same period as the first floor woodwork, divide the space. The roof is constructed of pegged, common rafters.

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PERIOD: 1700-1799, 1800-1899  
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture  
SPECIFIC DATES: Unknown; mid-17th century  
BUILDER: Unknown

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Slocum House is a well-preserved example of the plain, vernacular eighteenth-century farmhouse, once common in North Kingstown and now rare. Simple in form and decoration, the house is characteristic of those built by small holders in southern and western Rhode Island in the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries.

Joseph Slocum who owned the house in the early 1800s is the first owner it is possible to document using North Kingstown's fire-damaged land records. It was he, most likely, who installed the simple Federal wood-work. It seems likely that the house was built by a Slocum as this large family settled in this area (still known as "Slocumville") in the early eighteenth century. The Slocums seem to have been small farmers; the house is still surrounded by flat, open land in a section of North Kingstown still used for agriculture.

ACREAGE: less than one  
QUAD NAME: Slocum, R.I.  
UTM REFERENCES: A 19 289930 4600040

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundary line of the nominated property is defined as the lot line of Assessor's Plat 56, lot 3, and includes the Slocum House and its immediate setting.

LEVEL: Local

Photo numbers 56-58