

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| STATE: | Rhode Island |
| COUNTY: | Providence |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE | MAY 17 1974 |

1. NAME

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| COMMON: | Edwin H. Farnum House |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | Angell House |

2. LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|------------|---|-------------|
| STREET AND NUMBER: ^{U.S.} Putnam Pike (Route 44) at its intersection with Collins Street | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Johnston, Rhode Island | | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #2 Robert O. Tiernan | |
| STATE Rhode Island | CODE 44 | COUNTY: Providence | CODE 007 |

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Restoration work is being planned</u> |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| OWNER'S NAME: | Town of Johnston |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | Johnston Town Hall, 1385 Hartford Avenue |
| CITY OR TOWN: | Johnston |
| STATE: | Rhode Island |
| CODE: | 44 |

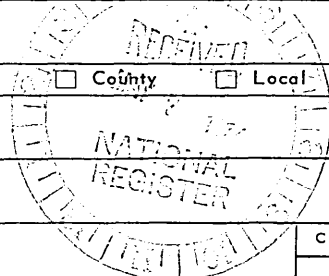
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: | Johnston Town Hall |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | 1385 Hartford Avenue |
| CITY OR TOWN: | Johnston |
| STATE: | Rhode Island |
| CODE: | 44 |

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | none |
| DATE OF SURVEY: | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | |
| STATE: | |
| CODE: | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE: | |
| COUNTY: | |
| ENTRY NUMBER: | MAY 17 1974 |
| DATE: | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house built by members of the Angell family and now known as the Farnum House is a two-story frame house, with gable roof set parallel to Putnam Pike (U.S. Route 44). Of center chimney plan, the rectangular structure is situated alone on a large open lot, but there are still remaining foundations of a small carriage house and outbuildings. The front facade is a five-bay composition, with the entrance slightly off center to the right. Evidence in the cellar indicates that the house originally consisted of three bays and the deed history bears this out. Records show that the house was enlarged ^{about 1800's} ~~about 1795~~. It was evidently brought up to date at the same time and most of the existing detailing is Federal in character. The entrance has three quarter length sidelights and a segmental fanlight, set with radiating louvers on the exterior, framing a six raised panel door. The side and fanlights are Federal with a three-quarter round molding, with molded caps at the transom bar level and at the middle of the fanlight. The first floor portion of the front facade has two windows to the left of the entrance (with later sash) and a large projecting semi-octagonal bay window to the right (probably a 20th century addition). The upper floor has five windows, in line with those below at left and centered above the entrance and bay. The upper windows are framed into the molding of the eaves cornice. All window frames are flat, with no additional trim. All walls are covered with weather boards 4 inches to the weather, with equal spacing.

See letter
5-13-75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The gable end elevations have not been altered, with five windows (later sash) in the northwest end, 1/2/2, and four windows and a door in the southeast end. The rear elevation, however, has had a door set into the second floor level, replacing a window, and a door and enclosed porch added to first floor. The foundation is fieldstone set in lime mortar and faced with dressed granite, and the roof is modern asphalt shingles over early wood shingles. Corner boards are flat, with no bead, and the continuous sill board has a bevelled top edge.

The interior of the house has been changed, but enough remains to permit an accurate restoration. The first floor plan is dominated by the massive brick center chimney and enclosed, curved stairway. The plan is a five-room layout with three fireplaces serving the three main rooms. The rear half of the house has a large central room flanked by two smaller rooms with vertical plank walls as dividers. Beaded corner posts remain exposed but much of the baseboard and chair rails have been replaced. All mantels, three on each floor, have been removed, but one original remains in storage. It is of a typical one-story Federal form, and all evidence indicates that the other mantels were of this same one-story type. Two later doors have been added to the small rear rooms on the first floor. Three of the remaining doors are original, but most are late 19th century. Except for the bay window, all window trim is original, but sash is 2/2. Floors, plaster walls and ceilings, except again for the room with the bay window, are original, as is the stairway, but the rail is later.

(cased)

late

While the house has been altered, enough of the original fabric remains to permit an accurate restoration project.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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)

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 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 checked="" 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 deed history indicates that this house was built about 1765 by either Stephen Angell or his son Daniel. Stephen deeded "forty acres of land with a new house thereone standing" to Daniel in consideration of the love, goodwill, and naturall affection I have (for him)" in 1767.

The Angells were descended from Thomas Angell who came as an apprentice with Roger Williams from England in 1631. Angell thereafter accompanied Williams when he was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636, to Seekonk and Rhode Island; and he was one of the original signers of the compact drawn up on August 20th, 1637 to form the town fellowship of Providence.

Stephen was Thomas Angell's great-grandson. He served in a number of civic capacities in Johnston including as a member of the Town Council.

Daniel gave half of the farm, including the dwelling house and other buildings, to his son Olney in 1795. Olney promptly built an addition to the house, remodelled the front door to its present federal appearance with wooden fan and sidelights,* and opened the house as a tavern.

The Angell house is significant for its role in the history of the town of Johnston, as a farm house, and as one of the town's taverns. It is also significant, for its typically colonial visual quality in an increasingly modernized environment and for the information it yields about our early building practices. Steady erosion of our early architecture means that every surviving early structure is valuable today. Johnston particularly has been subject to heavy development in the twentieth century and this house is one of the town's few remaining landmarks that date back to pre-Revolutionary times. The town acquired the house in the 1940's and has recently committed itself to restoring it as a Bicentennial project.

*The doorway was changed probably circa 1815-20.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bayles, Richard M.: History of Providence County, Rhode Island (New York, 1891).
 Beers, D. G.: Atlas of Rhode Island (Philadelphia, 1870)
 Beers, J. H. & Co.: Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island (Chicago, 1908), v. III.
 Bicknell, Thomas Williams: The History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (New York, 1920), v. III
 Everts and Richards: Atlas of Surveys of Providence County, Rhode Island (Philadelphia, 1895).
 Johnston, Town of: Land Evidence Records.

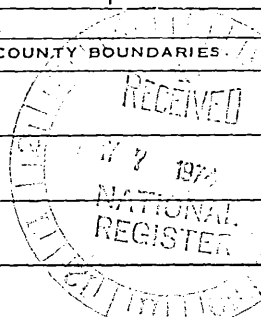
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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° 51' 46N " | 71° 29' 39 " W | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 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: Russell Wright and Ancelin Lynch, Consultants

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: April, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 52 Power Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: Thomas Williams
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 2, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/17/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.16.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|------|
| STATE | Rhode Island | |
| COUNTY | Providence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | |

(Number all entries)

Deed research indicates that this house was built about 1765 by Stephen Angell, who deeded "forty acres of land with a new house thereone standing" to his son Daniel "in consideration of the love, goodwill, and natural affection I have (for him)" in 1767. Daniel apparently sold the house soon afterward.

The Angell family in Johnston descended from Thomas Angell who came as an apprentice with Roger Williams from England in 1631. Angell thereafter accompanied Williams when he was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636, to Seekonk and Rhode Island; and he was one of the original signers of the compact drawn up on August 20th, 1637 to form the town fellowship of Providence.

Stephen was Thomas Angell's great-grandson. He served in a number of civic capacities in Johnston including as a member of the Town Council.

The Angell house is significant as one of the early homes of the ubiquitous and prolific Angell family, who were among the first settlers in Johnston. It is also important for its typically colonial visual quality in an increasingly modernized environment and for the information it yields about our early building practices. Steady erosion of our early architecture means that every surviving early structure is valuable today. Johnston particularly has been subject to heavy development in the twentieth century and this house is one of the town's few remaining landmarks that date back to pre-Revolutionary times. The town acquired the house in the 1940's and has recently committed itself to restoring it as a Bicentennial project.

Accompanying letter dated 12/11/75
1/11/76

