

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000521

Date Listed: 5/11/88

Moosup Valley Historic District  
Property Name

Providence  
County

RI  
State

Foster MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Sinda McClelland  
Signature of the Keeper

5/11/88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of significance: should be State.

Criteria consideration: D was intended to be checked for the cemeteries included within the district, rather than C.

This information was confirmed with Pam Kennedy, RISHPO, by telephone on the date of listing.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAR 29 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moosup Valley Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Cucumber Hill, Harrington, Johnson & Moosup  not for publication  
city, town Foster Valley Roads  vicinity  
state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007 zip code 02825

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>42</u>	<u>37</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>18</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>60</u>	<u>23</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>121</u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historical & Architectural Development of Foster, R.I., 1636-present

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Frederick C. Wilhansen 3 March 1988  
Signature of certifying official Date  
SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Linda McClelland 5/11/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage  
 agriculture field/animal facility/  
 agricultural outbuilding (cont.)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 SOCIAL/meeting hall  
 EDUCATION/library  
 RELIGION/church (cont.)

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English  
 EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal  
 MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival  
 NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/BRICK  
 walls WOOD/weatherboard/shingle  
 STONE  
 roof ASBESTOS  
 other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Moosup Valley Historic District is a dispersed agricultural community in western Rhode Island. It has as its focus a small hamlet with a schoolhouse/library, church, grange, and cemetery fronting on Moosup Valley Road, just west of the Moosup River bridge. Surrounding this settlement are several houses and farmsteads with outbuildings built around an historic road loop laid out in the early 1750s. Stone walls line these winding roads, some still unpaved, which follow the valley's topography. The district developed along Moosup Valley Road and around the headwaters of the Moosup River, here only a small stream that flows south to Coventry then west to meet the Quinebaug River in Connecticut. The compact part of the district is concentrated along a one mile section of Moosup Valley Road, approximately two miles west of its junction with Route 14, the Plainfield Pike, to just west of Cucumber Hill Road at the former Tyler Store. It spreads north for approximately one mile on Johnson Road on the east side of the valley and on Cucumber Hill Road on the west side of the valley; south for approximately one-half mile on Potter Road and Barb's Hill Road, both leading to the village of Rice City in Coventry; and west for approximately one-half mile on Plain Woods Road.

In the center of the valley, the Moosup River flows south between gentle hills--Bennett Hill to the north, Howard Hill to the east, Cucumber Hill to the west, and Barb's Hill to the south--ranging in height from 546 feet to 680 feet. The lowest point of the valley is at 446 feet in the meadow and bog, which floods every spring, located south of the Foster Country Club, formerly the John Harrington Farm of the early 1700s (#264). Huge boulders, remnants of the glacial epoch, still dot this rolling historic landscape. Originally the valley was heavily forested; by the early nineteenth century, it was cleared for agricultural uses: pasturage; fields for hay, corn, and wheat; and numerous orchards. Many walnut and chestnut trees existed. By 1920, the chestnuts had been destroyed by blight and by 1930, the decline in agriculture resulted in the start of a dramatic change in the landscape. As a result, white pines and second growth scrub bushes now fill many former fields. Only a few views exist: the

 See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

c. 1704 to 1938

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Moosup Valley Historic District is significant for its long history as the center of community life for the surrounding agricultural area from the time of its settlement in the early years of the eighteenth century through the first four decades of the twentieth century. In large measure, the manmade features from its period of significance are intact: these include roads, houses, public buildings, farms, fields, orchards, stone walls, and several historic and pre-historic sites. An evolving hamlet, it documents the period of exploration and settlement followed by development of transportation, agriculture, architecture, and community development. The area's farming and dairy activity is documented by a full complement of late eighteenth-century through twentieth-century agricultural structures. These structures provide insight into the physical and functional organization of both individual farm complexes and agricultural communities. A store and several store sites survive to document local bartering, trade, and sales. A stagecoach stop and several original roads, whose paths are little altered over two hundred years, recall the importance of early transportation networks. Moosup Valley's architecture typifies rural vernacular building indigenous to western Rhode Island. The presence of several institutional buildings attests to its continuing role as a minor civic node.

The woodlands and meadows of the upper course of the Moosup River attracted settlers from eastern Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut after King Philip's War. The valley is named for Moosup, a Narragansett chief whose land extended to Moosup, Connecticut. Original families included the Harringtons, Tylers, Places, Blanchards and Johnsons, some of whose descendants still live in the valley.

Title to land, following traditional realty practice was typically divided among heirs, who in turn subdivided the land

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

R.I. Historical Preservation  
Commission, Providence, R.I.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately 1,730 acres

UTM References

A	1,9	27,21,2,0	4,62,63,7,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,9	26,88,9,0	4,62,31,4,0

B	1,9	27,22,1,0	4,62,25,7,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,9	26,95,9,0	4,62,58,4,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth S. Warren, Principal Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization R.I. Historical Preservation Comm. date 12/15/87  
street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678  
city or town Providence state Rhode Island zip code 02903

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Historic Functions (cont.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
EDUCATION/school/library  
RELIGION/church

Current Functions (cont.)

AGRICULTURE/storage/agricultural field

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view north across open fields strewn with large boulders from the Place-Phillips Farm (#232) at the east end of the district where Moosup Road descends gradually along a long S-curve to the bridge; the view east across the valley from the David Brayton Farm (#211) on Cucumber Hill Road; the view west across pastures from the "Diah Place" (#265) on Johnson Road; and the view northwest to the church spire across the river from Potter Road. Together, these views convey a sense of the historic landscape.

In addition to these buildings and structures are a number of historic sites that document the district's--and the town's--growth. Native American sites, identified to date, include the John Harrington Cave (c.1704), a Middle Woodland Nipmuc Rock Shelter from 300 to 1,000 A.D., and a Narragansett or Nipmuc Grinding Stone, located on Tyler land near a small stream, just south of the Iri Brown Farm on Plain Woods Road (#245). Other historic sites include the site of the Elder Bennett Baptist Meetinghouse (before 1759), first church in western Foster, on Harrington Road; 13 historic cemeteries; a sawmill and gristmill site (before 1771) on Johnson Road (S-#71); the sites of two early- to mid-nineteenth century one-room schools, Dead Cow School (S-#72) and Jangle Box School (S-#73), on Harrington Road; and an abandoned rock quarry (c.1940) on Johnson Road.

All these houses, public buildings and structures are cohesively related through their common history, craftsmanship and embodiment of a local vernacular building tradition. Together they create Moosup Valley's unique cultural landscape.

Most houses in the valley date from c.1760 to c.1860 and follow one of two popular Foster forms: the 1½-story, center-chimney, 5-bay house with a five-room plan, or the 1½-story half house with an end interior chimney and 3-bay facade. In the Moosup Valley, these forms were popular from before the Revolution well into the nineteenth century; detailing remained simple, and local wood and Foster-cut stone provided building materials. Few houses, however, retained their original size as farmers grew more prosperous, and many had later additions with the new facade built in the same plane as the old one, to create a lengthened house from 6 to 8 bays long. The William Tyler-Oliver Greene House (c.1760, c.1779) (#235) and the Henry Tyler-Mason Hopkins House (c.1785 et seq.) (#242) are both half-houses expanded to 7 or 8 bay facades with two flathead entrances; the Stephen Place-Henry Battey House (1769 et seq.) (#234) and the

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Iri Brown House (c.1815, c.1850, c.1875) are both 5-bay houses enlarged to 6 bays and further enlarged by the addition of rear ells. The much-altered Place-Dexter House (c.1760 et seq.) (#232) was lengthened and enlarged in the early 1900s from its original 5-bay form and further remodeled in the 1980s.

Moosup Valley's farm outbuildings are an important part of its nineteenth century legacy--barns, carriage sheds, privies, corn cribs, hen and goose houses, sheep pens and well houses, stone walls and rubblestone foundations of former blacksmith shops, cider mills, swill houses, and sheds are all integral elements of this district. The most complete farmsteads include the Brayton Farm (before 1791) (#211) on the easterly side of Cucumber Hill Road, the Blanchard Farm (c.1845, c.1860) (#240) on the south side of Moosup Valley Road, the William Harrington Farm (1858) on Harrington Road and the Iri Brown Farm (1815, c.1850, c.1875) on the north side of Plain Woods Road. The great 1885 Iri Brown Barn, a 4-story, timber-framed structure, built into the hillside and accessible from four levels, is one of the valley's and western Rhode Island's most architecturally significant barns.

Moosup Valley's tiny civic center conveys a special sense of on-going life in a western Rhode Island rural community. The activities of the eighteenth-century taverns, stores, and blacksmith shops are gone; however, a significant cluster of early nineteenth- to early twentieth-century public buildings, still in original use, remain. Two are fine examples of a vernacular adaptation of Greek Revival architecture. The Moosup Valley Schoolhouse (1811) (#236) now joined with the Tyler Free Library, and the Moosup Valley Church (1864-1865) (#237). Architecturally and historically, the church is the most important landmark in the valley. The third building in the civic center is the simple hall built in 1926 for the Moosup Valley Grange #26 (#238-A), which was organized in 1891 and formerly met in the church. Just west of this hall is the unique Clambake Shed (#238-B), where a Labor Day event remains a valley tradition.

In large measure, Moosup Valley retains its unspoiled eighteenth- and nineteenth-century rural character. Few structures have been extensively remodeled, and many are still surrounded by open land with a minimal intrusion of twentieth-century structures. The most dramatic change, beginning in the

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1930s and accelerated after World War II, was the abandonment of farming. With the decrease in dairy farming, the valley fields with their thin glacial till became unproductive and are to a large degree now fallow. Dairy cattle, cornfields, truck farming, and orchards are non-existent; modern uses such as tree farming, horse-raising, camping and golf have superceded tilling the soil. Many outbuildings are deteriorating, gradually creating skeletons in the pastoral landscape. The upgrading of Cucumber Hill Road (unpaved until 1940) and of Moosup Valley Road by the state in 1986, making it easier for trucks to traverse the valley, and imminent sale of several historic farmsteads are signals that the rare historic quality of this district is facing an uncertain future.

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## INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

Contributing structures include public buildings, farmsteads, outbuildings, enclosures, walls, cemeteries and mill sites, constructed from the time of settlement and development in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries, as well as the surrounding landscapes, which define the district's rural character. As a group, these buildings and structures document the nature of vernacular building in western Rhode Island for over two hundred years. The majority date from the late-eighteenth century with a fair number from the early nineteenth century. Few buildings have been constructed since 1940. Most retain their architectural integrity and are similar in size, form and siting. Continued building of basic 1½-story, gable-roof, 4- or 5-bay houses, with either a center or end chimney, sited flank to the road or lane, has created a strong historic and visual continuity. Four out of five houses follow this pattern. Enclosures on the farms are dry-laid fieldstone walls of the type commonly found in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Although agricultural use of the fields has sharply declined, these walls are important historic remnants. Of special interest are the large granite blocks (8 to 10 feet long), cut on site, used for house, barn, and mill foundations. All buildings, contributing or non-contributing, are gable-roofed and clapboarded, unless otherwise noted. Non-contributing buildings exemplify development since 1938; with few exceptions, they are minimal intrusions and in time may be considered contributing structures.

Entries in this inventory are organized by road name in alphabetical order. Historic contributing elements are coded by use of the location number assigned on the townwide survey map, prepared by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission in 1973 and 1976. Copies of this map are on file at the Commission's office, the office of Statewide Planning (Department of Administration), the Foster Town Clerk's office, and the Foster Preservation Society. Elements (buildings, barns, well-houses, hen-houses, privies, stone walls, etc.) have been assigned a letter, whether they are contributing or non-contributing. For example, the historic Hay and Cow Barn on the James Tyler Farm (#260) is coded #260-B. If a structure on the farmstead is non-contributing, the code NC has been added. Thus, the twentieth-century garage on the Iri Brown Farm is #245-NC-F. Non-contributing elements in the district which did not appear on

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the townwide survey map, have been assigned map numbers (#1 to #30); these are marked from north to south and west to east along each road right of way on the Mossup Valley Historic District map, prepared for this nomination.

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## BARB'S HILL ROAD

- NC-#13 PL1/48 Willilam G. Dixon House (c. 1960): This 1-story, 3-bay, flank-gable-roof contemporary house on the southeast corner of Plain Woods Road and Barb's Hill roads, was built by William G. and Martha Dixon. The main entrance is in the west end gable off a wood deck; the north facade has a large picture window facing the south side of Plain Woods Road; a full basement is accessible from a lower level.
- NC-#14 A. PL1/60 Earth House (c. 1981): This unusual 1-story east-facing house with a flat roof has three walls of poured concrete and a 6-bay facade composed of two doors, two units of casement glass and two fixed glass panels set in a regular pattern. The house is built into a hill and is designed to support a future second floor.
- NC-#14 B. Playhouse (c. 1985): An elevated 9-sided structure of wood and screen panels is located just northeast of the house.
- #260 PL1/50 JAMES TYLER FARM (a 72-acre farm on the east side of an unpaved road with fields sloping easterly to the Moosup River)
- A. James Tyler House (1763?): This much altered, 1½-story, 4-bay house with shed dormers, set close to road, was probably begun by James Tyler (b.1736). James was the third son of original settler John Tyler and married Mary Place in 1763. After the Revolution, James built a new house, c. 1794, on Plain Woods Road (#273) giving use of this house to his son Job, whose children Obadiah and Mary, inherited it in accordance with James's will of 1813. The house remained in the Tyler family until 1865. Detailing of the south entrance with a 4-pane transom is c. 1794; in the twentieth century the original center chimney was removed and a large stone chimney and modern wing added to the east end of the house which retains framing and plank ceiling of the original kitchen in the front southeast room.

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BARB'S HILL ROAD

- B. Hay and Cow Barn (early nineteenth century, mid-twentieth century): The hay barn, sited east of the house, is a 1½-story, gable roof, timber-framed, barn, with a later mid-twentieth century, 4-bay, gable roof addition on the south side. The entire barn is clapboarded and has a rubblestone foundation with access to the pasture on the lower east flank. The hay barn has a large pair of swinging doors in the center of the east flank; it is still used for hay storage.
- C. Foundation (c. 1800): Three walls of a small rubblestone foundation built into the hill directly east of the house, possibly used for a hen house.
- D. Foundation (c. 1800): Three walls of a larger rubblestone foundation built up the hill, east of the house and south of #3, possibly used for a pen and foundation for a goose house.

#261 BLANCHARD-BOSS FARM (a 70-acre farm on the west side  
PL1/58 of an unpaved road)

- A. Reuben Blanchard-James Boss House: (c. 1797 and 1874): Originally a standard, 5-bay, center-chimney house, built by Reuben Blanchard (1774-1848), son of Isaac Blanchard (1746-1816), who owned the Blanchard grist mill on Potter Road and gave his son this acreage. After the Civil War, veteran James Boss, who had acquired the farm in 1864, used his bonus to raise the roof and to remove original fireplaces in 1874. Restoration in 1975 included construction of a new stone center chimney and addition of 12 over 12 sash.
- B. Garden (eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century): The land directly south of the Blanchard-Boss house is a walled fieldstone garden set into the slope of the site; it is presently used as a flower and herb garden.
- C. Well (c. 1800?): Directly south of the house and near the garden stone wall is a rubblestone well, approximately 2 feet in diameter and 24 feet deep; the well is now closed.

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## BARB'S HILL ROAD

- D. Barn Foundations (c. 1864?): These are the dry-laid rubblestone foundations of a large barn, set deep in the sheep pasture to the south of the house. The north and south foundations both exist; the barn blew down in the 1938 hurricane. At the south end, a three-sided enclosure survives, connected to a stone-lined lane leading to the fields.
- E. Stone Walls (c. 1800 et seq.): Dry-laid rubblestone walls surround the house which is set on a slight hill and are found on both sides of Barb's Hill Road.
- NC-#15 A. Hans E. Hansen House (c. 1976): This 1½-story, 4-bay, west-facing house with a flank-gambrel roof is a modern adaptation of an eighteenth-century cottage. It has traditional double-hung 12/12 windows and is set approximately sixty feet back from the road with a picket fence. The lot contains 5 acres.  
PL1/51A
- NC-#15 B. Garage (c. 1976): A 1-story gable-roof structure set to the east of the house clad with vertical planking. It is located off the north side of the driveway.
- NC-#16 Richard Elliott House (c. 1986): This 1½-story, 3-bay, contemporary, west-facing house has a salt-box roof extending to cover a full-width front porch. It was built by a local builder and is set at the end of a curving drive in a pine grove on a 5-acre lot.  
PL1/52A
- NC-#17 Christopher De Merchant House (c. 1974, c. 1986): A 1-story, contemporary, flat-roof octagon facing south, with a 2-story, steep, shed-roof wing attached on the north side, facing west to the garden. The house is set approximately 150 feet west of the road on a 10.8-acre site, originally part of the King-Tyler-Johnson Farm (#262).  
PL1/57A
- NC-#18 Thomas F. Griffiths House (c. 1980): A 1-story, 4-bay, shingled, west-facing house with a flank gable roof and a 3-unit picture window. It is set at the end of a U-shaped drive just north of a wood-post-and-rail corral on the south part of the 6.1 acre lot.  
PL1/52

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## BARB'S HILL ROAD

#262 JOSHUA KING-JOHN TYLER III FARM (an 88-acre farm on  
PL1/57 the west side of an unpaved road)

- A. King-Tyler-Johnson House (c.1770, c.1845, and 1880): This 1½-story, 7-bay, south-facing house with two interior chimneys, set end to the road, is a typical example of the lengthened house form. It was begun by Joshua King, who purchased land running west to Jencks Road and the Connecticut border, from the heirs of Governor Samuel Cranston, one of the original Westconnaug proprietors. John B. Tyler III (1784-1860) bought the property in 1836 and probably remodeled the interior; by 1862, Casey B. Tyler owned it. John Tyler and Casey B. Tyler both kept the general store at the head of Barb's Hill Road (#244). Casey B. Tyler was a local historian and author; his "Reminiscences" of Foster and Scituate, published in the Pawtuxet Valley Gleaner in 1892 and 1893, are an important, if not always reliable, source for early Foster history. In 1868, the farm (containing 88 acres and the house) was sold to the Johnson family, who added the east wing in 1880; it remains in family ownership. Remodelling in 1986 included insertion of a bay window, metal sash, and clapboards, shingles, and vinyl siding over the original wall cover.
- NC-B. Harold Dexter Barn (1986): This 1½-story, end-gambrel-roof, 3-bay structure, was built on the foundations of an original barn destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. It is sited 200 feet west of the house and was built by Earle Johnson's son-in-law when he became part owner of the farm.
- C. Clayville Wood Shed (late nineteenth century): A small, 1-story, end-gable-roof, south-facing outbuilding with a wood frame and vertical boarding that stands west of the house. It was moved here from Clayville by Earle C. Johnson. An attached shed-roof garage on the east side is dilapidated and used for storage.
- NC-D. Storage Shed (1985): A simple, 3-bay, gable-roof, south-facing structure, built by Harold Dexter for farm

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BARB'S HILL ROAD

machinery; it has open bays and is located just east of the barn and northwest of the woodshed.

- NC-E. Well House (1986): A small, 1-story, gable-roof structure built on the site of the original well. It has horizontal boarding topped with lattice work and is in use today.

CUCUMBER HILL ROAD

The northern portion of the road, from the north end of present Shippee Schoolhouse Road, south almost to present Harrington Road, was laid out in 1754; the southern portion was opened in 1787-1788. Cucumber Hill Road was unpaved until 1940; in 1986 it was widened and resurfaced.

- NC-#26  
PL4/71 Thomas J. Matthews House (1964): This 1½-story, 4-bay, center chimney house with a gable roof and typical shed dormer, was built for the Thomas and Margery Harrington Matthews, local historian and direct descendant of John Harrington, first settler in the Moosup Valley. Frank Dorman, architect, designed this west-facing house to reflect the form of the Iri Brown House (#245-A). It is sited at the end of a short drive. The name "Polly's Portion" is derived from family land divisions.

- #209  
PL4/24 WRIGHT-BRAYTON SPENCER FARM (a 52-acre farm on the west side of the resurfaced road)

- A. Wright-Brayton Spencer House (c. 1770, 1882): This lengthened, 1½-story, gable-roofed house, built on an exposed cut-stone basement, was built in two stages on its hillside site. The east section was moved from the Iri Brown Farm (#245) by Benjamin Wright before 1851; it was sold by Albin Wright to Olney Brayton about 1864, and then sold to Aaron and Matilda Spencer about 1880. The Spencers added the west end about 1882.
- B. Stone Wall and Terraces (late nineteenth century): A massive cut-stone retaining wall, west of the house,

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CUCUMBER HILL ROAD

and two stone terraces east of the house probably date from the late 1880s, when the house was enlarged.

- C. Barn Foundations (late nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone foundations of a large barn, set on a hill northwest of the house, now overgrown with spreading juniper.

#210 STEPHEN BRAYTON FARM (a 31-acre farm on the west side  
PL1/25 of the improved road)

- A. Stephen Brayton House ( c.1830, c.1930): This 5-bay, 1½-story house facing south has been moderately altered. The original center chimney has been removed, two large gable-roof dormers added on the south roof face and a compound shed dormer on the north roof face have been installed. The house is set gable end to the road in the middle of former agricultural fields and orchards, assembled by Stephen Brayton in small parcels from the estates of Olney and Thomas Brayton and George Tyler from 1830 to 1833. Second-growth trees now obscure the view northeast across Moosup Valley.
- B. Shed (c.1930): This is a small 1½-story, flank-gable roof, wood-framed building with novelty wood siding that stands to the southeast of the house. It has an outside stair on the west side leading to a loft and a pair of swinging doors on the north flank; currently used as a garage.
- C. Privy (mid- to late nineteenth century): This is a dilapidated, small, end-gable roof, frame outhouse with vertical plank siding. It is located southwest of the house and is no longer used.
- D. Outbuilding (c.1930): A small flank-gable roof structure with novelty wood siding and no windows, located west of the house near an old pear tree, which is a remnant of the farm orchard; it is now used for storage.
- E. Barn Foundations (mid- to late nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone foundations of a large barn, set

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## CUCUMBER HILL ROAD

end to the lane, are located in the middle of a field, southwest of the house. Two large flat boulders, probably at the main entrance on the north side, are still in place. The barn was damaged in the 1938 hurricane.

- NC-#27 A. Mobile Home (c. 1967): A 1-story metal trailer built into a hillside site facing southwest on the east side of the road. The land was originally part of the "Brayton Farm" (#212).
- NC-#27 B. Garage (c. 1970): A large, simple, 2-bay, flank-gable-roof garage covered with vinyl siding just south of the mobile home.
- NC-#28  
PL1/33 Arnold Hewitt House (c. 1965): A 1-story, flat-roof, west-facing ranch house with a combination of composition brick and vertical boarding on the facade; a 4-bay garage wing is attached on the south end.
- NC-#11 A.  
PL1/25A Edward Olausen House (1981-1982): This 2- and 1-story L-shaped east-facing house, designed by Eli Townsend, is a modern version of a 1690 "Williamsburg Colonial" featured in Yankee magazine. It is built on a 20-acre site, originally part of the Stephen Brayton Farm (#210) and is sited on a slight hill at the end of a long drive with extensive flower beds.
- NC-#11 B. Olausen Garage (c. 1985): This 3-bay garage and workshed, a modern adaptation of a carriage house, has a saltbox roof and is located to the south of the house.
- NC-#12  
PL1/30 Foster Veterinary Clinic (c. 1970): This 4-bay, 1-story, flank-gable-roof, utilitarian, east-facing building was constructed for Nicholas Gorham; it is covered with vinyl siding. The first clinic was located at the Tyler "Ledge Corner Farm" (#212) farther south on the road.
- #211  
PL1/27 THE BRAYTON FARM (a 98- acre farm on the east side of the improved road with fields bounded by the Moosup River on the east)

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## CUCUMBER HILL ROAD

- A. David Brayton House (before 1791): This well-restored, 5-bay, center-chimney house with a rear ell, may have been started by Silas Harrington (1740-1819), grandson of John Harrington, first settler in the Moosup Valley. Silas acquired 40 acres of this farm from his father, Josiah Harrington, in 1765. In 1791, David Brayton of Pomfret, Connecticut, purchased 62 acres of land here from Silas Harrington, followed by purchase of additional acreage from Simeon Harrington in 1792. The house, facing south, is sited at the end of a dirt road leading east off Cucumber Hill Road and has a broad view of the valley. Original fireplaces are cut "Nipmuc Stone," peculiar to the area. During restoration, 1797 newspapers were found under ancient plaster by the present owners. This is still a working farm.
- B. Well House (1857): A small gable-roof wood structure with a circular metal screen inscribed "Bates, Providence, 1857," located just south of the house.
- C. Animal Pen (eighteenth and nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone walls enclosing a rectangular area to the east of the house on a lower slope; a wood gate on the south side leads to fields. The plot is now used for a garden.
- D. Corn Crib/Guest House (mid-to-late nineteenth century, twentieth century): A small, 1-story, end-gable-roof building set on a stone foundation, now enlarged and remodeled as a guest house.
- E. Goose House (mid-to-late nineteenth century): A small, 1-story, end gable roof building with plank walls set to the southeast of the corn crib.
- NC-F. Elmer Ayres Barn (c. 1940): A 1½-story, shingled, frame structure with a steep-angled, kicked-out-gambrel roof, built a slight distance west of the house. Its construction was the last community barn-raising held in Foster, just before World War II. The Ayres owned this farm until 1971.

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CUCUMBER HILL ROAD

G. Stone Walls (c. 1790 et seq.): Dry-laid rubblestone walls set off the house from the fields and line the dirt land leading west to the barn.

#212 TYLER FARM/LEDGE CORNER FARM (a 24.8-acre farm west of  
PL1/23 the improved road)

A. Esek Tyler House (c.1800 et seq.): This restored typical center-chimney house facing south has a 1-story ell which was a 1-room schoolhouse moved here from Plain Woods Road sometime before 1895. John and William Tyler of Voluntown, Connecticut, purchased this land in 1728; Esek Tyler (b. 1781), John Tyler's grandson, acquired the land by 1809; the deed states that it was the lot he "now lives on." Esek Tyler's heirs sold the farm to John O. Potter in 1851; by 1856, Sterry K. Foster was one of the owners. Today, the house is the center of a complex of buildings sited at the end of a private lane near a man-made pond dug in the 1970s.

NC-B. Francis Monohan House (c.1960): A 1-story heavily remodeled house facing west over the 14-acre man-made pond to the north of the house (#212). In the late 1960s, Nicholas S. Gorham used this building for his veterinary clinic.

NC-C. Horse Barn-Pool Shed (c.1965,c.1970): A 1½-story flank gambrel roof structure facing south with vertical siding. The barn is 5-bays long with a new 7-bay gable-roof enclosed swimming pool enclosure attached on the west end.

NC-D. Garage (c.1975): A 1-story, utilitarian, 3-bay, salt-box roof structure, just east of the Horse Barn-Pool Shed.

HARRINGTON ROAD

#271 WILLIAM HARRINGTON FARM ( a 93-acre farm on the north  
PL4/72 and south side of Harrington Road, laid out in 1753,  
and the west side of Cucumber Hill Road)

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### HARRINGTON ROAD

- A. William Harrington House (1858): A 1½-story, gable-roof house, facing south, with a 1½-story set-back ell fronted by an open Victorian porch, built by William Harrington (1830-1904), great-great-great-great-grandson of John Harrington, first settler in Moosup Valley. William Harrington was a Civil War veteran and member of the Town Council; he raised potatoes and apples for the Providence market. In the twentieth century Wheaton Harrington had a dairy farm here. The land is still in family ownership and supports a tree farm today.
- B. Wheaton Harrington Cow Barn (1919): This 2-story, shingled, frame building, with a kicked-out gambrel roof, is set flank to the south side of the road; large sliding doors are set in the center of both west and east ends. It was built by Finnish carpenters on the site of an earlier barn. A massive, square, 2-story stone silo remains intact on the interior. Large granite blocks, from 8 to 10 feet long, form the lower level which opens south to a walled enclosure and ramp leading to sheep and cattle pasturage, now overgrown. The barn occupies the site of the Revolutionary War era Captain Simeon Harrington House.
- C. Wood Shed (c. 1858, c. 1980): A 2½-story, gable-roof building, set flank to the road, just northeast of the house, originally used for butchering and processing hogs and for storing dairy products; it is now used as a residence.
- D. Smoke House (c. 1890-1900): This rare, small, end-gable-roof structure with crude plank walls is attached to William Harrington's large wood shed. It is sited just north of the house and is used today for storage.
- E. Silo Foundation (c. 1930): Concrete foundations of an earlier silo are evident at the northeast corner of Wheaton Harrington Cow Barn.
- F. Outbuilding (early twentieth century): A 1-story shingled frame building with a gable roof, three bays by one bay deep, set flank to the north side of the

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## HARRINGTON ROAD

road. A vertical plank door with strap hinges is on the west end; it is used as a garage.

- G. Stone Walls (c. 1858 et seq.): Dry-laid rubblestone walls extend from the house easterly along the north side of Harrington Road and westerly from the barn to a corner with the former line of Cucumber Hill Road.

S-#43  
PL4/73A DEAD COW SCHOOL SITE (1811, burned c. 1849): This is the site of a small, 1-story, one-room schoolhouse which was built on the north side of the road as part of the program to establish schools within a two-mile walking distance of any home in the valley. It took its name from Dead Cow Brook which formed the west bound of the site.

S-#42  
PL4/73A JANGLE BOX SCHOOL SITE (c.1849, demolished 1950s): This is the site of a small, 1-story, one-room, end-gable-roof, Greek Revival structure, one bay by two bays wide; it had a single trabeated south-facing door, wide fascia and cornerboards. It replaced the Dead Cow School and was located a short distance to the east. The name derived from an argument over this new location. This ungraded school, serving 15 to 20 pupils from the north end of the valley, was closed about 1910 and converted to a house. Due to deterioration, the building was demolished in the 1950s.

NC-#1  
PL4/73A Richard E. Cook House (1987): This 1½-story, contemporary, south-facing log house has an end gable roof with shed dormers and shed roof extensions on both north and south sides. Windows include a Victorian-type 3-bay window with a curved ogee roof on the east end and large south picture windows. It is set in the woods, approximately 125 feet north and west of the corner of Harrington and Gold Mine Roads.

NC-#30  
PL4/84 Harold Fell House (c. 1978): This 2-story contemporary chalet has a gambrel roof and unpainted wood vertical board cladding. It faces southwest and is located at the east end of a curving driveway on the

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## HARRINGTON ROAD

south side of the road in a wooded setting; a large deck overlooks the Foster Country Club.

HC-#72 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (mid-18th century to late  
PL4/83 19th century): A cemetery containing 150 graves, on the south side of the road and east of the Elder Bennett Meeting House site (before 1751), first church in the valley and in western Foster. Rubblestone walls surround the cemetery on the north and east, with the fairways of the Foster Country Club on the south and west. Burials from c. 1750 to 1877 include some of the oldest still-legible stones in Foster.

## JOHNSON ROAD

#264 HARRINGTON-JOHNSON FARM (now the Foster Country Club,  
PL4/76, a 100-acre farm on the east and west sides of Johnson  
83, and Road at the intersection of Harrington Road.) The  
PL5/8 acreage of this farm has been developed as a golf course. Some elements of the historic uses of the land were retained when the golf course was designed (see verbal boundary description for further information), such as stone walls and field divisions, and a number of historic cemeteries and an important site (see S-#37) were not altered during course construction. The entire farm is included in this nomination in order to include such elements, but the land itself no longer retains integrity as farmland.

NC-A. Job Johnson House (c. 1784, c. 1830, c. 1870, burned and rebuilt 1933, remodelled c. 1958): An 1870 west ell is all that remains of this farmhouse which was built in three sections, burned in 1933, and rebuilt on the original foundations. The oldest, central section, started by Job Johnson, was a 5-bay, gambrel-roof, center chimney house; it had a 3-bay Greek Revival ell added on the east and 3-bay Victorian ell added on the west. Job Johnson, half-brother of John Johnson (#268), married Martha Harrington and purchased this land from her family in 1784. His grandson, Elisha Johnson, a Colonel in the 13th Militia in the Civil War, was Town Moderator and served in the General

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## JOHNSON ROAD

Assembly in 1865. Elisha's son, Clarke Howard Johnson (1853-1930), who married Ida Harrington, was a well-known lawyer; he served in the General Assembly from 1899-1903, became Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, a member of the R.I. Supreme Court from 1903-1917, and its Chief Justice from 1913-1917. Ida Harrington Johnson's nephew, Herman Harrington (1898-1975), obtained the farm in the 1920s for a dairy farm; after the 1933 fire, he rebuilt the 6-bay central and east gambrel-roof sections. Modernization of this historic farm dates from its sale in 1958 for the Foster Country Club. Today, a contemporary dining room with brick and tile cladding and terrace block the original facade, and a large 5-bay cinder-block north ell with casement windows has been added for a function room.

- B. "The Bungalow" (1926): A 1-story, end-gable-roof house with a full-width porch set just east of the house and now used for a golf pro shop. This partially prefabricated bungalow was in family use from 1926-1935, and was later used for hired help and rented as a honeymoon cottage. The 3-bay porch, originally screened, now has a cinder-block modern railing.
- NC-C. Herman B. Harrington Barn (1943): This large, 2-story, 14-bay, end-gambrel-roof, braced-framed, cow barn, with a 2-story ell and attached 1-story ell on the southeast corner, is sited about sixty feet north of the house. It was built during World War II to replace a large Victorian barn on the same site destroyed by fire. Two silos, now dismantled, stood just at the northeast corner, and entrance to the hay loft was originally through the grain room in the 2-story ell. A new entrance has been cut in the east end to reach the loft which is used for storage of golf carts and equipment.
- D. Stone Walls (mid-1800s): Dry-laid rubblestone walls and steps, probably built by Elisha Johnson, set off the house and form a long curve east from Johnson Road halfway up the present driveway; the upper stone walls date from re-use of the farm for the Foster Country Club.

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## JOHNSON ROAD

- E. Stone Wall (mid-1800s): A beautiful capped rubblestone wall extends for approximately sixty feet to the east of the house; it originally defined the family garden.
- S#-37  
PL5/8 JOHN HARRINGTON'S CAVE (Middle Woodland Period 300 to 1000 A.D.): This prehistoric Native American rock shelter, facing south, roughly triangular in shape and measuring about 20 feet by 30 feet and 7 feet high forms a shelf in a large granite gneiss outcropping which rises about 60 feet and is approximately 400 feet east of the Foster Country Club. It overlooks the meadows and the upper passage of the Moosup River, forming a natural place to store food gathered from inland hunting. A passage through the hill opens from the present-day parking lot. Before the Contact period, the Nipmucs lived in this area. Artifacts found here included several shards of grit-tempered pottery, one shard of cord-wrapped pottery, some white quartz chipping detritus, and a yellow quartzite blade. John Harrington (c.1665-1738), first settler in the Moosup River Valley, used this shelter in the early 1700s. Recent growth has obscured the opening to this important site.
- HC-#77  
PL4/83 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (early to mid-19th century): A small family-owned cemetery about 800 feet south of the Elder Bennett Meeting House Cemetery (Foster HC-#72) in the middle of the Foster Country Club on the west side of the road. It is in poor condition and contains twelve graves of the Harrington family dating from 1822 to 1863.
- HC-109  
PL4/76 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (early to mid-18th century): This cemetery is located just west of the road on a slight ridge, partway up Bennett Hill. It is enclosed by rubblestone walls on the north and east and the Foster Country Club, the former Harrington-Johnson Farm (#264) on the south and west. Burials include 47 unmarked graves of the Harrington family and other settlers, among the earliest in Foster.

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## JOHNSON ROAD

- HC-#101 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (mid- to late 19th century): This small family-owned cemetery with nineteen graves of the Brayton family is located in the middle of the Foster Country Club, the former Harrington-Johnson Farm (#264), on the west side of the road. It was formerly enclosed by granite posts connected by iron rails. Burials date from 1826-1905.
- HC-#78  
PL5/9A FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (mid-19th century): A small, stone-walled cemetery just east of a curve in the road on a slight knoll, now part of the Foster Country Club. It contains only one grave, that of Benjamin Harrington.
- NC-#2 A.  
PL5/9A Tom Murray House (c. 1978): This 1½-story contemporary north-facing house with a low gable roof and wood shingles is set end to the road at the end of a long gravel drive leading east off the road; the greenhouse on the southwest corner is original. It was built for Alton Bassett's daughter, Sonia, and her husband Tom Murray, on eight acres set off from the Bassett Farm / "Diah Place". (#265).
- NC-B. Garage (c. 1978): A 1-story, widened gable-roof structure, facing west, with wide double doors set near the road.
- NC-C. Horse Shed (c. 1980): A small gable-roof outbuilding set to the south of the house with crude wood cladding.
- #265  
PL5/1 OBADIAH HARRINGTON FARM (a 24-acre farm on the west side of Johnson Road with meadows sloping west to the Moosup River)
- NC-A. Obadiah Harrington House (c.1762 et seq.): This greatly altered 1½-story lengthened house was begun for Obadiah Harrington (d.1765) who was known as "Diah" and acquired 87 acres of land along the Moosup River in 1762. His son, Obadiah Jr., inherited the farm. About the mid-19th century, it was sold to William Penn Blanchard (1805-1891), who owned several farms in the area (#267, #268). By 1895, it was owned by Mrs. S.E.

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JOHNSON ROAD

- Bassett and remains in family ownership. Large corner posts and an open staircase with pendants are interior remnants of its original colonial character.
- B. Charles Bassett Barn (1892): This large, 2-story, wood-framed, end-gable-roof, shingled structure has several shed-roof extensions which add to its picturesque profile. A milkroom was added on the east and a small shed roof wing for cows and heifers on the west. The barn is approximately 100 feet west of the house and is still used for agriculture.
- C. Horse Barn (late nineteenth century): A somewhat smaller barn with plank wall construction now covered with wood shingles; it is sited close to the large barn on the south side of the barnyard.
- D. Corn Crib? (late nineteenth century): A small, end-gable-roof structure with a plank door set on a low stone foundation very close to the south side of the wagon shed.
- E. Wagon Shed/Garage (early nineteenth century?): This gable-roof structure set flank to the barnyard and close to the northeast corner of the house (#265) has been remodeled for a garage and clad with novelty siding.
- F. Hen House (c.1920): This 2-story, flat-roof, wood clapboard structure with 15 bays, facing south, is just across the road from the house. It is now dilapidated and no longer in use.
- NC-G. Alton Bassett Tenant House (c. 1948): This small, 1-story, 3-bay, flank-gable-roof, east-facing house is built into a slope with a garage underneath. It was built for the manager of the Bassett Farm (#265); vinyl siding has replaced its original wood clapboards.

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## JOHNSON ROAD

- #266  
PL2/12 JONATHAN HARRINGTON FARM (a 110-acre farm on the east side of the road just north of West Meadow Brook)
- NC-A. Glenn Sutton House (c. 1978): This 1 and 1½-story modern brick chateau combines a steep hip roof center section flanked by wings with peak roofs. Locally known as "The Castle," it is sited at the end of a long drive in the middle of hayfields now rented to a Coventry farmer. The Jonathan Harrington House (c. 1780) was demolished in 1974 for construction of this house.
- B. Root Cellar (late eighteenth century): An unusual, rubblestone, domed, underground shelter built into the south side of a slope in the middle a hayfield. It is located approximately 300 feet southwest of the Glenn Sutton House. Used in the colonial period to store root crops--potatoes, onions, turnips. A large stone lintel frames the south-facing entrance, now blocked by a tree.
- C. Stone Walls (late eighteenth to late nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone walls run in a straight line from the edge of West Meadow Brook in a northeast direction in front of the present house; these walls originally defined fields of the Jonathan Harrington farm.
- HC-#102  
PL2/12 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (early 19th century): A relatively small square cemetery located on a knoll overlooking the valley just northwest of the site of the Jonathan Harrington House (c. 1780, demolished 1974). It is bounded by rubblestone walls capped by flat stones with an iron entrance gate between two granite posts on the southeast corner. Burials include members of the Harrington, Corp, and Smith families.
- #267  
PL2/13 WANTON JOHNSON FARM (a 19-acre farm on the east side of Johnson Road just south of West Meadow Brook)
- A. Wanton Johnson-John Johnson 2nd House (between 1813 and 1832): This 1½-story, center-chimney house facing

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south with small 1-bay ell and entrance set back at the west end has been moderately altered. Windows have been enlarged and the transom covered over. Exterior walls have been shingled and the staircase rebuilt; however, most of the original plan remains, and some fine Federal woodwork is retained. Wanton Johnson (1780-1863), who married Elizabeth Place, was the son of John Johnson (1752-1822), who came from Coventry and bought land on both sides of Johnson Road by 1778. The 1828 Foster School Committee laid out the new school district to go to the northwest corner of "Wanton Johnson's Red House" then west to the north side of Johnson's old house (#268). The 1860 census records that Wanton, age 79 and a widower, lived here with his John 2nd (1809-1899) and his daughter-in-law Susan Fuller, who were married in 1832. In 1865, John Johnson 2nd sold the farm to Reuben Harrington, who three days later sold it to William Blanchard (1805-1891), a large local land holder.

- B. Blacksmith Shop (mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century): This end-gable-roof wood building with board-and-batten cladding on a foundation of 6-to-8-foot granite blocks is set close to the south side of the road. It is just north of the house and is used today for a garage.
- C. Well House (mid-nineteenth century): A small gable-roof wood structure located near the southwest front corner of the house.
- D. Walled Garden (mid-nineteenth century to twentieth century): Directly south of the house is a lower level, walled fieldstone garden reached by steps. Three walls around this rectangular grassy area exist; the south end is filled with trees. The garden creates a fine setting for the house.
- E. Hen House (late nineteenth century): This is a long, 1-story, wood-shingled building, five bays wide and one deep, with a tin-clad gable roof and five interior sections. It is sited east of the walled garden in front of the house and is now used for storage.

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## JOHNSON ROAD

- F. Hen House Foundation (late nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone foundations of another Hen House are located just north of the existing Hen House.

#268 JOHN JOHNSON-WANTON JOHNSON FARM (a 73-acre farm on  
PL2/11 the west side of Johnson Road with fields sloping west  
to a bog along the Moosup River)

- A. John Johnson-Sarah Johnson House (c. 1780? and 1840): This 1½-story, 5-bay, flank-gable roof, farmhouse, facing east to the road, has a late Greek Revival doorway with a flat pedimented frame and sidelights. The set-back, 3-bay ell on the south end is possibly the earliest part of the house. Based on deed research and local tradition, it appears that this ell was a 3-bay half-house; that the roof was raised and interior end chimney removed during rebuilding; and that this is the first house John Johnson (1752-1822) built after his land purchase in 1778. The farm passed from John Johnson to his son, Wanton (1781-1863), then to Wanton's sister, Sarah Johnson (1775-1863), in 1838. Construction of the main section, with incorporation of the earlier half-house, on a new foundation set flank (east) to the road probably dates from this period. In 1845, Sarah, a spinster, conveyed her interest to William P. Blanchard, 2nd, retaining the right to occupy the west section. By 1851, John L. Blanchard, one of William P. Blanchard's sons, acquired this farm. The barn (1905), attached by a breezeway on the south end of the ell, is now used for a wood shop and loft apartment.
- B. Well House (mid-nineteenth century): A small gable-roof wood structure located in the front yard east of the house.
- C. Granite Hitching Post: A four-foot high granite post approximately 8" by 10" in section with a short iron post and ring on top set on the road to the east of the house.
- D. Barn Foundations (eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth century): These are dry-laid rubblestone

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foundations of a barn, approximately 24' by 40' with remains of a square root cellar still evident. The barn was 3 stories high and stood just north of the house.

- NC-#3 A. Phil De Merchant House No. 2 (c. 1970): This 1- and 1½-story L-shaped, center chimney house is a modern version of a Colonial cottage. Traditional double-hung 12/12 and 6/6 windows set in groups of 3 and 5 are used along with skylights. It was built by a local contractor who acquired 114 acres of the Wanton Johnson Farm (#267). The house is on a slight hill, facing west, with a large, 2-bay, salt-box roof garage attached on the north side, forming a small court. Beautiful gardens surround the house.  
PL2/14
- NC-#3 B. Workshop (C. 1980): A 1-story, end-gable roof, south-facing structure, two bays wide by three bays deep, clad with vertical planking. It is located off the north side of the driveway.
- NC-#3 C. Playshed (c. 1970?): A small gable-roof wood structure set to the north of the workshop; it is now used for storage.
- NC-#4 Phil De Merchant House No. 1 (1969): This small 1½-story, modern, west-facing house with a flared end-gambrel roof and a small gable-roof ell at the east was built by a local contractor for his daughter. It combines traditional double-hung 12/12 windows with a casement window and a sliding glass patio door; walls are unpainted vertical boards.  
PL2/14A
- NC-#5 Edward W. Bradley House (c. 1980): This 1-story modern raised-ranch house, facing east with a low flank gable roof and end chimney, is set on a high foundation with its main entrance and garage on a lower level. It combines modern double-hung 8/8 windows with a curved five-panel "picture" window.  
PL2/10
- NC-#6 Phil De Merchant House No. 3 (1974): This 1- and 1½-story, gable-roof, L-shaped modern house is the third version of a Colonial cottage built by a local  
PL2/14A

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JOHNSON ROAD

contractor. A large brick chimney is located at the end of the west wing and a gable-roof, double garage is attached at the southeast corner. Walls are covered with wide modern "split" clapboards. It faces west in a wooded setting at the end of a curving drive and is presently occupied by the builder.

- NC-#7 A. David Kettle House (c. 1975): This 1½-story, flank-gambrel-roof, shingled west-facing house is a modern version of a 5-bay Colonial farmhouse; a full shed dormer extends across the rear (east) side. It has a wooded setting.  
PL2/15
- NC-#7 B. Garage (c. 1975): A 2-bay wooden structure with a salt box roof and vertical board-and-batten cover set at the south side of the driveway.
- NC-#8 Robert Salisbury House (c. 1950, c. 1975) This 1-story, shingled, gable-roof, L-shaped house over a full basement is set into a small hill. It faces east with the main entrance located on the 3-bay north facade on the upper level; garage doors open on the lower level.  
PL2/9
- NC-#9 Arthur Johnson House (c. 1968): This 1-story, gable-roof, south-facing house over a full basement, has an end chimney of brick on the east end. The facade is clad with clapboards and the other sides are shingled. It is sited southwest of the Benajah Place House (#269) and was built in two stages, originating as a "ground house."  
PL2/16
- #269 BENAHAH PLACE FARM (an 84-acre farm on the east side of the road with a sweeping view south and west over the valley)  
PL2/17
- A. Benajah Place House (c. 1760 et seq.): This expanded 6-bay, south-facing house with a typical gable roof and shed dormer, and a later gable-roof and shed roof ell on the north side, is sited on a hillside. Recent facade alterations date from 1986. It was built in two or three sections by Benajah Place (1742-1815), son of Enoch Place (1704-1789), who settled in the valley in

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JOHNSON ROAD

the 1750s and purchased 300 acres from Stephen Harrington on both sides of Johnson Road. In 1801, Benajah Place granted the privilege of building a saw mill on the small tributary of the Moosup River that flows through the south part of the farm to his son John Place. John Place owned mill rights here with John Johnson, Jr. (see site #71). The homestead farm passed to Job W. Place, Horace Lester Place, and in the twentieth century to the Phillips and Johnson families. Oscar Johnson, of Finnish origin, was a well-known carpenter who with John Simula built many of the valley's barns and hen-houses in the 1920s and 1930s.

- B. Oscar Johnson Hay and Cow Barn (c. 1936): This 2½-story, timber-framed structure with a kicked-out gambrel-roof is sited just northeast of the house. It is covered with shingles and has two 1-story ells on the south and a 1-story shed attached on the north. The barn has a remarkable, 2-story, x-framed, door in the center of the west end which lowers vertically from the upper story on a track, allowing access to the hay loft. A large pair of swinging doors opens to the west on the first level. The barn is used for storage today.
- C. Wood Shed (late nineteenth century): A 1-story, end-gable-roof building with weathered shingles, located just north of the house and east of the driveway to the barnyard. A simple flat-head door opens on the west flank; it is still used for a wood shed.
- D. Privy (late nineteenth century): A small gable-roof shingled structure in poor condition, located about sixty feet northeast of the house with a door on the west end.
- NC-E. Garage (1941): A 1-story, flank-gable-roof structure with novelty siding, located southeast of the house on the east side of a circular drive.
- F. Stone Walls (eighteenth and nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone walls set off the barnyard and continue to the woods, running easterly and northerly from the house.

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JOHNSON ROAD

- HC-#86 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (late 19th and early 20th  
PL2/17 century): A small, stone-walled graveyard, about 50 feet by 90 feet, located on the crest of the hill southwest of the Benajah Place House (#269). It contains graves of the Place and Phillips families and has a sweeping view south and west across the valley.
- #270 PLACE-PHILLIPS FARM (a 41-acre farm sited on the west  
PL2/8 side of Johnson Road)
- A. Abraham Place-J. Whipple Phillips House (c. 1826 et seq.): This 1½-story east-facing house with a mid-19th century, set-back ell fronted by a Victorian porch, set close to the road, has been somewhat altered. It was probably started by Abraham Place (1800-1851), a grandson of Benajah Place, who inherited most of the land his father, Enoch Place (1704- 1787), purchased from Stephen Harrington in 1751. In 1826, Abraham married Abby Rathbun; childless, they gave the farm to is niece, Jane Ann, who married James W. Phillips. The Phillips family owned the farm through the rest of the century. Whipple Phillips' daughter married a Lovecraft and their son H. P. Lovecraft, who visited here, became a noted Rhode Island author of fantasy/horror stories.
- B. Privy (mid-nineteenth century): This is a small, end-gable-roof, frame outhouse with vertical plank siding. Located west of the house, it is no longer in use.
- C. Chicken Shed (late nineteenth century): Small typical shed-roof frame building with vertical boarding located approximately 200 feet southwest of the house; it is dilapidated and no longer in use.
- D. Barn Foundations (mid-nineteenth century to early twentieth century): These dry-laid granite foundations of a large barn, set end to the road, are directly across Johnson Road, to the east. The barn blew down in the 1938 hurricane.

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JOHNSON ROAD

NC-#10 A. Cottage (c. 1980): This small, 1-story, flank-gable,  
PL2/19 shingled cottage facing west has an L-shaped plan.

NC-#10 B. Outbuilding (c. 1980): A large, gable-roof, wood  
structure with unpainted board and batten wall cover  
located at the bottom of a slope several hundred feet  
east of the house.

S-#71 JOHNSON SAW MILL SITE AND GRIST MILL SITE: (before  
PL2/8 1771): By 1757, a road was laid out to run north from  
Moosup Valley Road on the east side of the Moosup River  
through the Place and Harrington farms to reach Elder  
Bennett's Meeting House. It was relaid in 1771 to run  
"between the saw mill and corn mill newly erected."  
John Johnson (1752-1822) moved to Foster from Coventry  
and began buying land on both sides of this road, which  
became Johnson Road. The Johnson Saw Mill site is  
approximately 200 feet west of the present road and  
grist mill site approximately 300 feet to the east,  
both halfway between the John Johnson House (#268) and  
the John Place House (#270). After John's death, his  
son Wanton sold his father's mill rights, owned with  
John Place, to John Johnson, Jr., in 1833.

NC-S-#72 Rock of Ages Quarry (1940s): In the early 1940s, the  
PL2/8 Rock of Ages Quarry was opened on a hillside site 800'  
west of Johnson Road, and one mile south of the Place-  
Phillips House (#270). Mining of this local black  
basalt was unprofitable as the material proved too  
brittle; operations were discontinued by 1950. The  
quarry, approximately 40' x 60' in plan and an  
abandoned machine shed are all that remain. The rock-  
strewn site, part of the Place-Phillips Farm, commands  
a view northwesterly across Moosup Valley.

S-#102 Gabbro Outcrop: An unusual gabbro outcrop in the  
middle of an old pasture. The rock, near the west edge  
of the road, is decaying and weathering rapidly so that  
much of the material is crumbled black rock.

MOOSUP VALLEY ROAD

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## MOOSUP VALLEY ROAD

#232 PLACE-DEXTER FARM (a 20-acre farm on the north side of  
PL2/7 Moosup Road at its junction with Johnson Road)

- A. Enoch Place Farmhouse (c. 1750 et seq.): This much altered, lengthened, 1½-story, south-facing house, has long been a landmark in Moosup Valley, located as it is at the corner of Moosup Valley Road and Johnson Road. It may have been built as early as c. 1750 as Enoch Place (1704- 1787) of North Kingstown had purchased 300 acres of land on both sides of Johnson Road from Stephen Harrington in 1751. Enoch, Jr., inherited this farm in 1789 and his son George farmed it in the mid-1880s; Arthur B Dexter acquired the farm in 1888 and ran a general store here in the early 1900s. The east section was added in 1904. Other alterations included addition of gable-roof dormers and large bay windows on the south facade. The farm is still in family ownership.
- B. George Place Barn (late nineteenth century): This 1½-story, wood-framed barn with a salt-box roofline, has a banked entrance on the south side. It is covered with shingles and planking and has a stone foundation. Located at the east corner of the lot with access to Johnson Road, it is in poor condition.

HC-#85 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (c. 1826-c. 1866): A  
PL2/7 square, 50-feet-by-50-feet, family-owned cemetery located on a knoll about 400 feet north of the road. It is surrounded on the north and east by rubblestone walls and on the east and south by meadows of the Place Farm (#232). Burials include members of the Place family including George Place (1792-1863) and his two wives, Susan W. Place (1787-1829) and Giffey Place (1791-1866).

HC-#23 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (mid-nineteenth century): A  
PL2/7 small, square, 20-feet-by-20-feet, family-owned cemetery located just south of a larger boulder in the middle of the Place Farm (#232) about 100 feet south of

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MOOSUP VALLEY ROAD

Foster Historical Cemetery #85. It contains five graves of the Place and King families dating from 1843 to 1849.

HC-#90 RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL CEMETERY (early 19th century):  
PL2/78 A small well-maintained cemetery just west of the Moosup Valley Fire Station (late 1940s, 1982). It is enclosed by massive cut-stone walls and entered through a small iron gate. Burials of the Place family date from 1822; Batteys, Blanchards and Salisburys are also buried here.

NC-#23 Franklin Arnold House (c. 1968): A 1½-story, L-shaped,  
PL2/79 flank-gable roof north-facing house with wood clapboards and an attached 4-bay ell containing a garage and small porch. It is set at the end of a long drive about 300 feet south of the edge of the road.

NC-#233 Moosup Valley Volunteer Fire Department (1946, 1982):  
PL2/78 A 1-story, L-shaped, flank-gable roof structure facing north with a small modern siren tower, set on the south side of the improved road. The facade has a 2-bay section for engine No. 5 and an added 2-bay section for Engine No. 6; both sections have metal overhead doors. Wall cover combines natural and painted wood shingle. This service was organized in 1944.

#234 STEPHEN PLACE-HENRY BATTEY FARM (a 24-acre farm on the  
PL2/80 south side of Moosup Valley Road)

A. Stephen Place House (1769 et seq.): This lengthened, 6-bay, 1½-story house, with southern 1½-story ell, originally stood north of the road facing south. It was begun by Stephen Place (1736-1814), one of Enoch Place's five sons. Stephen served in the Revolution and his son, Stephen, Jr., was a member of the Valley's first school committee in 1828. In the 1860s, it was sold to Henry Battey, who owned a saw-mill (S# 31), and was also a cattle dealer and Poor Farm Superintendent. The Battey family lived here until the 1950s.

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- B. Cattle Barn (mid-nineteenth century, twentieth century): This 2-story, timber-framed, flank-gable-roof building, in good condition with a banked entrance on the south side, is covered with vertical board and batten and has rubblestone foundations. A pair of large swinging doors are on the north flank.
- C. Sheep Pen (late nineteenth century-twentieth century): This large structure with a shallow gable roof is set end to the road directly on top of rubblestone walls. It is west of the barn and opens southerly to a sheep run lined with dry-laid rubblestone walls which could easily be closed by a pole-gate at each end.
- NC-#22  
PL2/6 Dewhurst Quonset Hut (c. 1947): A semi-cylindrical structure of corrugated steel panels built into the hillside with attached flat-roof wings. It is located on the north side of the road and faces west.
- NC-#21 A.  
PL2/5 Harold Arthur House/Frog Pond Farm (c. 1950): A 1-story, 3-bay, south-facing Cape with wood siding and a 6-unit picture window. A 2-story offset ell on the east side has a 2-bay garage with separate entrance.
- NC-#21 B.  
PL2/4 Garage (20th century): A small wooden utility structure set at the rear with an extended gable roof.
- NC-#20 A. Ellis Bennis House (c. 1960): A 1-story, 3-bay, south-facing ranch house with a low flank-gable roof; an offset wing on the east has a porch, large picture window and second entrance.
- NC-#20 B. Horse Barn/Garage (c. 1980): A 1-story, flank-gable roof structure located at the rear of the house; a large yard enclosed by a white rail fence connects to this barn on the north side.

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- NC-#19 A. Robert Allen Salisbury House (c. 1940, c. 1971): A  
PL2/81 1½-story, 5-bay, shingled, north-facing house with  
offset 1-story ell on the west; a shed roof is extended  
over a rear (north) porch and a full-width dormer  
extends across the facade (south).
- NC-#19 B. Garage (c. 1940): A 1-story, gable-roof, utilitarian  
structure with 2 car bays located south of the house.
- NC-#19 C. Gazebo: A small 6-sided wooden structure located  
southeast of the house.
- NC-#19 D. Small Barn (c. 1940): A small 1-story wood shingled  
barn set end to the street with a sliding door on the  
flank opening east to the driveway.
- #235 TYLER-GREENE FARM (a 48-acre farm on the north side of  
PL2/3 Moosup Valley Road; large granite boulders are  
found on the site)
- A. William Tyler-Oliver Greene House (c. 1760, c. 1779,  
remodeled 1986): This lengthened, 1½-story, 8-bay  
south-facing house, with two flathead entrances, may  
have been started by William Tyler (b. 1718), oldest  
son of original settler John Tyler. John Tyler, who  
acquired the land from Thomas Foster (owner of 150  
acres along the Moosup River), left this river-bank  
site to his son William who lived here for a number of  
years. By 1779, William sold 40 acres "with buildings"  
to Oliver Greene, a Revolutionary soldier; it remained  
in Greene ownership well into the 1870s. Restoration  
of the house, set approximately 100 feet north of the  
road, began in 1986.
- B. Barn (late nineteenth century, twentieth century):  
This 1-story, low-gable-roof, timber-framed barn,  
south of the house, is approximately one-half of a  
large barn which had a silo (now gone) at the north  
end. It is currently under rehabilitation for use as a  
workshop/storehouse.

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## MOOSUP VALLEY ROAD

- HC-#83 RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL CEMETERY (early 19th century):  
PL1/40 This large cemetery, probably begun by John Tyler, Jr. (b.1728), is just east of the Moosup Valley Church and stretches several hundred feet along the north side of Moosup Valley Road. The earliest burials, mostly of Blanchards and Tylers, date from the beginning of the 1800s and include some of the finest Federal headstones in Foster; there are several incised with angel's heads, sunbursts, or weeping willow patterns. Potters, Browns, and Johnsons (including Clarke Howard Johnson, former Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court from 1913 to 1917) are also buried here. In 1867, the cemetery was deeded to Casey Tyler, local historian and storekeeper for \$10 dollars; he platted and began selling lots. Development of such a community cemetery was a distinct trend in this period. Along the road, a handsome 2½-foot wall of quarried granite block, broken by iron gates, defines the cemetery; the three other sides are enclosed by a fieldstone wall topped with cut-stone caps.
- #236 MOOSUP VALLEY SCHOOLHOUSE NO. 3/Vestry School/Tyler  
PL1/44 Free Library (1811, 1900, 1965): The 1-story, 1-room, Greek Revival schoolhouse with paired entrances and raised flat lintels, built in 1811 on a 1-acre lot on the south side of the road given by mill owner Isaac Blanchard, was closed in 1952. Originally known as the Wells School, it was called the Vestry School from its use for both Sunday School and worship services before the construction of the Moosup Valley Meeting House, 1864 (#237). By, 1872, it was renamed Moosup Valley Schoolhouse No. 3. In 1965, the structure, built just across the road in 1900 to house a library given by local historian and store-keeper Casey B. Tyler, was moved and joined to the schoolhouse by a large modern addition. The identical roof slopes of each section were carefully aligned to create a pleasing structure. The building was then opened as the Tyler Free Library and serves as a community center.

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## MOOSUP VALLEY ROAD

- #237  
PL1/39 MOOSUP VALLEY CHURCH (1864-1865): This vernacular, late Greek Revival, 1-story, gable-roof church, with paired entrances and a short, square, bell tower (rebuilt in 1974 and formerly ornamented with acroteria) was built to serve religious and community needs of the Moosup Valley. The 1-acre site on the north side of the road was leased to the Moosup Valley Association by Iri Brown, and sixty-five subscribers pledged money, materials and labor for its construction. Prior to its building, families in and near Moosup Valley attended church in other Foster and Coventry churches. Completion of the Meeting House in 1865 and the influence of two Christian pastors living in the Valley culminated in organization of the Moosup Valley Christian Church in 1868. George Kennedy (1824-1903) became its first pastor and served until 1898. In 1931, the Christian Church merged with the Congregational denomination and in 1961 became part of the United Church of Christ. The church remains active today.
- HC-#84  
PL1/44 RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL CEMETERY (late 19th century): This typical privately-owned small cemetery is located immediately south and west of the Moosup Valley Grange on a slight hill. It is enclosed by an iron-rail fence with granite posts. Burials of the Blanchard family date from 1860.
- #238  
PL1/45 MOOSUP VALLEY GRANGE AND FIELD (a 1-acre lot on the south side of Moosup Valley Road)
- A. Moosup Valley Grange Hall #26 (1926, c.1954): A long, plain, 1-story, gable-roof building set on a raised concrete foundation sited gable end to south side of the road. A gable-roof portico on a raised platform is reached by a double flight of stairs. The grange was organized in 1891 and met in the Moosup Valley Church until 1926. After the 1954 hurricane, the building was enlarged and remodeled.

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- B. Clambake Shed (1928): To the west in an open field is a long gable-roof shed set back from the south side of the road. Clambakes, a traditional country celebration, have been held here every year since 1928 except for one year during World War II and in 1954 due to the hurricane.

#239 JUDGE TYLER'S TAVERN STAND (a 24-acre farm on the north side of the road)  
PL1/38

- A. William Tyler, Jr., House (c. 1780; rebuilt 1815): This is a center-chimney, 1½-story house facing south, with set-back ell at the west. Built by William Tyler, Jr. (b. 1750) who acquired the land in 1779 and moved here from his old house just east of the Moosup River (#235), the house served as a public tavern and a town council meeting place. William was a Justice of the Peace and town council member. It remains in Tyler family ownership.
- B. Barn Foundations (late nineteenth century): These are dry-laid rubblestone foundations of a barn, set flank to and near the road at the southeast corner of the lot; the north side opens to the fields.
- C. Blacksmith Shop Site (mid- to late nineteenth century): Part of the dry-laid rubblestone foundations of a small blacksmith shop (moved from the Benjamin Wells Farm) are found at the southwest corner of the lot near the road.
- D. Stone Walls (late nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone walls, built by George Kennedy, set off the house from the road on the south and west sides.

#240 BLANCHARD FARM (a 66-acre farm on the south side of the road with fields sloping easterly to the Moosup River)  
PL1/46

- A. Caleb Blanchard House (c. 1809, c. 1827, c.1884): This atypical, 1½-story, 4-bay house, facing west, is set end to the street on a slight knoll, with a lower

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1½-story east wing. It was probably started by Caleb Blanchard on the foundations of an earlier house which burned. Caleb inherited the farm in 1809 from his father Isaac Blanchard, son of William Blanchard (d. 1751), owner of the Blanchard mill on nearby Potter Road. In 1827, John Anderson of Coventry acquired the farm; the addition of Greek Revival features probably followed this purchase. By 1863, the Anderson heirs sold the farm to Mathew Sweet, and in 1884 Charles R. Greene bought the property. George Kennedy, a carpenter and first pastor of the Moosup Valley Church, added the east wing with a full-width Victorian porch for the Greene family. Second growth trees now obscure the view north and east across the valley.

- B. Barn and Carriage House (late-nineteenth century): This 1½-story, timber-framed, flank-gable-roof building, just south of the house, is approximately one-half of an older larger barn (the east half was taken down in late 1986). It is covered with weathered vertical siding; the roof has shingles on the north side and galvanized aluminum sheeting on the south side. Two bays (without doors) open to the south. This barn is in good condition and is used for storage and for automobiles.
- C. Corn Crib (eighteenth century): This is a small, single-story, end-gable-roof, building with weathered vertical plank siding, located just north of the house and west of the driveway. The crib, which has hand-hewn beams and a pegged frame, is set on stone piers. A simple plank door opens to the south; it is used as a woodshop.
- D. Stone Walls (eighteenth and nineteenth century): Dry-laid rubblestone walls set off the barnyard and line the laneway leading westerly to the fields. These walls continue to the end of the meadow, running southerly from the house and then continue throughout the farm defining fields.
- E. Chicken Coop Foundations (nineteenth century): Rubblestone walls of an abandoned chicken coop are located to the west of the corn crib.

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## MOOSUP VALLEY ROAD

- HC-#106 FOSTER HISTORICAL CEMETERY (mid-19th century): A  
PL1/46 medium-size, stone-walled, square, 30 feet by 30 feet,  
cemetery located south of the road deep in the middle  
of the fields of the Blanchard Farm (#240). It is in  
poor condition and contains six graves of the Welles,  
Robonson, and Briggs families dating from 1851 to 1861.
- #241 THOMAS TYLER FARM (a 52-acre farm on the north side of  
PL1/37 the road and east side of Cucumber Hill Road)
- A. Thomas H. Tyler House (c.1855): This typical, 1½-  
story, 5-bay, gable roof house facing south is set  
flank to the road on the corner of Moosup Valley Road  
and Cucumber Hill Road. Thomas H. Tyler (1818-1888),  
whose great-grandfather was original settler John  
Tyler, lived here in the 1860s and 1870s. Two large  
barns which stood behind the house along Cucumber Hill  
Road in the 1890s have been demolished. The dog-leg  
shaped lot runs north and east to the Moosup River.
- NC-B. Garage (c. 1920): A 1-story peak-roof garage with one  
door opening to the east is located at the west side of  
the driveway.
- #242 HENRY TYLER FARM (a 101-acre farm on the south side of  
PL1/47 Moosup Valley Road at the foot of Cucumber Hill Road)
- A. Henry Tyler-Mason Hopkins House (c.1785 et seq.):  
This somewhat altered 1½-story lengthened house is  
sited gable end to the road. Its uneven 7-bay facade  
with two untrimmed entrances faces east not south,  
typical siting for this period. The house was begun by  
Henry Tyler soon after his father, John Tyler, Jr.  
(b.1728), second son of the original John Tyler,  
deeded him the land in 1784. Nathan Hopkins, who  
married a Tyler daughter, bought the farm in 1798 and  
it subsequently passed to his son Mason Hopkins, a  
preacher at Rice City Christian Church in the 1840s and  
at the Foster Center Church a little later. Three  
interior fireplaces (in the north section) are now

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covered over and their chimney reduced in height above the ridge pole.

- B. Privy (late nineteenth century): A small gable-roof shingled structure with a generous overhang. It is located about sixty feet southeast of the house and has one door facing west.
- C. Field Barn (late nineteenth century): Located some distance south of the house in the middle of a field, this large 2-story shingled building is very dilapidated. It is the only one of eight outbuildings standing in 1895 that survives. The land slopes southerly to meet a branch of the Moosup River.
- D. Foundation Site (c.1800 et seq.): Three walls of a small rubblestone foundation built into a slight slope directly south of the house, possibly used for a hen house.

PLAIN WOODS ROAD

#243 CAPTAIN JAMES TYLER FARM (a 50-acre farm on the north  
PL1/22 side of the unpaved road)

- A. Captain James Tyler House (c. 1794-1795 and c. 1830): This typical, 5-bay, south-facing house, with a rebuilt center chimney and later 2-bay ell fronted by a porch under the extended main gable roof, was built in two sections. It stands near the site of John Tyler's Log Cabin (c. 1728) which was torn down c. 1790. After the Revolution, Captain James Tyler (b.1736), the third son of John Tyler, moved here from his old farm on Barb's Hill Road (#260) and started a new house. James prospered and started a small store by 1812 on this site. His son, John Tyler III (1784-1860), lived here in the 1850s and was the proprietor of Tyler's Store (#244).
- B. Well House (1857): A small gable-roof wood structure with a circular metal grill inscribed "Bates, Providence, 1857," located near the northeast corner of the house.

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## PLAIN WOODS ROAD

- C. Wood Shed (mid- to late nineteenth century): A small, 1-story, gable-roof shed with an attached ell on the east side with a shed roof and weathered shingles, located a short distance northeast of the house. A simple plank door with strap hinges opens to the south.
- D. Stone Walls (c. 1790 et seq.): Dry-laid rubblestone walls set off the house from Plain Woods Road, relaid in 1792, which leads west over a hill to the Connecticut border.

#244 TYLER STORE (a small lot on the north side of the road)  
PL1/20

- A. Tyler Store (west end 1834, east end c. 1870): This plain, 2½-story, gable-roof, south-facing building, six bays long by three bays deep was built in two stages. It has an added 2-story porch on the east end and decorative cut shingles on both gable ends. It was begun by John Tyler III (1784-1860), whose father James (b.1736) sold his 1812 store in 1830. The Tyler Store was a center of community activity throughout the nineteenth century. In 1868, it became the post office for Moosup Valley and was then enlarged c. 1870. The Tyler family, their store, and their cider mill which operated nearby gave the name "Tyler" to this vicinity. The Tyler store may well have been the longest continuously operating store in the valley.
- B. Barn and Carriage House (c. 1870): A 1½-story, extended gable-roof, timber-framed barn with an attached 3-bay carriage house on the east side with a lower gable roof, located directly west of the Tyler Store and close to the north edge of the road. Weathered shingles cover three sides; wide vertical planks are used on the north side of the barn and on the carriage house.
- C. Wood Shed (c. 1890): A small, 1-story, gable roof, shed with weathered vertical boards stands directly north of the Tyler Store.

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## PLAIN WOODS ROAD

- D. Well House (1857): A small, gable-roof wood structure with a circular metal grill inscribed "Bates, Providence," is located just east of the store's porch.
- E. Stone Walls (c. 1790 et seq.): Stone walls set off both sides of Plain Woods Road, relaid in 1792, from its intersection with Barb's Hill Road, leading south to Rice City in Coventry, Rhode Island.
- NC-#24 A. Monroe Knight House (c. 1960): A modern, 1-story, PL1/60 flank-gable roof, north-facing, ranch house with minimal detailing and aluminum siding; the house is set on the south side of the road at the edge of the woods.
- NC-#24 B. Garage (date unknown): A 3-bay outbuilding with an extended gable roof, approximately 30 feet off the south edge of the road.
- #245 IRI BROWN FARM (an 80-acre farm with fields on the PL1/19 north and south sides of the unpaved road)  
and  
PL1/61
- A. Iri Brown House (1815, c. 1850, c. 1875): This expanded 6-bay, center-chimney, south-facing house with a 2-story later rear ell was built in two stages. Iri Brown (b. 1785) was the son of Esek Brown, a descendant of James Brown, one of the earliest landowners in the Moosup Valley. Iri Brown was a schoolteacher, farmer, and a director of the Mount Vernon Bank. With his son-in-law, Sterry K. Foster (1822-1895), husband of Ann Eliza Brown, he helped found the Moosup Valley Church in 1864 (#237). In the late 1800s, Curtis H. Foster (1861-1920), Iri Brown's grandson, lived here and substantially enlarged the homestead.
- B. Iri Brown Barn (1885): This magnificent 4-story, gable roof, timber-framed barn was built into a hillside north of the house and is accessible on four levels. It cost \$3,000, used fifty thousand feet of plank cut on the property, and is unparalleled in Rhode Island. Tradition says that the barn was built to keep Iri Brown's grandson, Curtis Foster (1861-1920) "down on

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## PLAIN WOODS ROAD

the farm;" it represents a major and unusual capital investment for this time. The lower two stories are built into solid rock ledge. Three stone silos are in the interior; stone work was by Thomas Dalton. This barn may reflect the influence of Shaker barn construction which was typified by multiple levels and hillside siting. Several members of the Foster family "went to the Shakers" in 1816. Curtis Foster stayed in Foster and was manager at the Moosup Valley Creamery, organized in the late 1880s by Foster residents. The barn was reshingled in 1986 and is used today for horses and hay.

- C. Carriage House (1885): This is a 1½-story, pegged-frame, flank-gable-roof, shingled, structure with a loft just north and east of the house. Two doors open to the south. The Carriage House is in good condition and is now used for a carpenter shop.
- D. Privy (mid- to late nineteenth century): A small, end-gable-roof, frame outhouse with vertical plank siding directly east and within three feet of the carriage house. It was restored in 1986.
- E. Chicken House (late nineteenth century): A single-story, end-gable-roof frame structure set on rubblestone foundations near the man-made pond. It has two plank doors and double-hung sash with minimal Late Victorian detailing. The interior is white-washed; this former chicken house is now used for storage.
- NC-F. Garage (early twentieth century): A 1-story shingled structure with a pyramid roof, located at the east side of the driveway
- G. Stone Walls (early and mid-nineteenth centuries): Stone walls set off both sides of Plain Woods Road and define the fields. On the south side of the road, opposite the house, is a particularly fine section of cut-and-dressed granite blocks built by Curtis Foster (1861-1920).

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POTTER ROAD

- NC-#25 A. Robert Gordon Log Cabin (c. 1986): A 1½-story, east-facing log house with a flank gambrel roof on the west side of the road. This is the third house built on the foundations of a house reputedly begun by Stephen Foster (1746-1816), son of Lydia Blanchard and Stephen Foster. In the 1870s, the original house was occupied by Douglas Farnum Blanchard (1813-1881), a mason, who later moved to Uxbridge, Massachusetts. The first house burned in 1903 and a small, 1½-story, 3-bay, flank-gable-roof cottage was then constructed over half the foundation; this second house burned in 1976. The land runs west to the Moosup River and includes the site of the old Foster store fronting on Moosup Valley Road, first store in the valley.
- PL1/43E  
and 43F

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown  
Date: 1926  
Negative: Foster Preservation Society

View: Old view of the Moosup Valley hamlet looking northeast across the valley to the Wanton Johnson Farm (#267) from the Caleb Blanchard Farm (#242). From the left, buildings shown include: Judge Tyler's Tavern Stand including the William Tyler Jr. House (c.1789, rebuilt 1815) (#239), the blacksmith shop (mid-to-late 19th century), and the large barn (late 19th century) set near the road, both now demolished. In the center is the Moosup Valley Christian Church (1864-1865) (#237) with its carriage shed (destroyed in the 1938 hurricane) and the original location of the Moosup Valley Library (#236) given by Casey B. Tyler, local storekeeper and historian. The large cemetery (Foster #83) is visible to the right of the church and the new Moosup Valley Grange #26, built in 1928 and later enlarged after the 1954 hurricane (#238).

Photo #1

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown

Date: 1919

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: To north of Moosup Valley Christian Church showing original acroteria on the bell-tower (removed in 1974), and the long gable-roof carriage shed (destroyed in the 1938 hurricane) (#237).

Photo #2

**United States Department of the Interior  
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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Traditional Labor Day Clambake held by the Moosup Valley  
Grange #26 looking north from the Clambake Shed (#238-B) on the  
left to the Moosup Valley Church (#237), and the Moosup Valley  
Grange #26 on the right (#238-A).

Photo #3

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National Park Service**

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**MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island**

**Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren**

**Date: 1987**

**Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission**

**View: William Tyler, Jr. House (c.1780, rebuilt 1815); view to north of a typical 5-bay center-chimney house, built by William Tyler, Jr (b.1750), lowered from two stories after the Great Gale of 1815. It served as a public tavern and council meeting place and was known as Judge Tyler's Tavern Stand (#239).**

**Photo #4**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown  
Date: c. 1910  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: John Harrington's Cave (Middle Woodland Period, 300 to 1000 A.D.); old view to the east, Judge Clarke Howard Johnson (1853-1930) and two cousins in front of a Native American Rock Shelter, approximately 20 feet by 30 feet by 7 feet high, found in a granite gneiss outcropping located approximately 400 feet east of the Foster Country Club (#264). This cave was used by John Harrington (c.1665 -1738), first settler in the Moosup Valley in the early 1700s (S#-73).

Photo #5

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown  
Date: c. 1890  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Across the Moosup Valley; southeast across the valley with the William O. Harrington Farm (#271) showing the ice-house (now demolished), woodshed (now converted to a residence) (#271-C), hen-house and house (#271-A) in the foreground. The original barn (burned in 1918) shows on the south side of the road. In the distance on the left is the "Diah Place" Barn (#265-B) on Johnson Road and the Harrington cornfields and hay meadows in the heart of the valley (now the Foster Country Club). On the right is Cucumber Hill Road leading south to Moosup Valley Road.

Photo #6

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown  
Date: c. 1890  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: William Harrington Barn (c. 1880); view to southeast, Eunice and William O. Harrington standing in front of the wagon shed door on his large barn; this 2-story shingled barn with an extended gable roof was built on the foundations of the Revolutionary War era Captain Simeon Harrington house. In 1919, the barn burned and was replaced by Wheaton Harrington's Cow Barn (#271-B).

Photo #7

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren  
Date: 1987  
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Wheaton Harrington Cow Barn (1919); view to the west of the large barn (#271-B) with a distinctive kicked-out gambrel roof, built by Finnish carpenters on the site of an earlier barn. Large 8 foot by 10 foot granite blocks, cut from local stone, form the laneway in the foreground and are found in the barn foundations (#271-G).

Photo #8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Moosup Valley, to the east across the valley to the John Johnson-Wanton Johnson Farm (#268) from the Brayton Farm (#211). On the left is the Well House (1857) (#211-B), and Stone Walls (#211-G), which frame the gate leading to the stone-walled fields.

Photo #9

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**MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island**

**Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren**

**Date: 1987**

**Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission**

**View: Goose House on the Brayton Farm (mid-to-late 19th century); view to the northeast of a typical, small, 1-story, gable-roof building with plank walls set to the southeast of the Corncrib (#211-E).**

**Photo #10**

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Elmer Ayres Barn (c.1940); view to the southwest of the 1½-story shingled barn on the Brayton Farm with a steep-angled kicked-out gambrel roof reminiscent of the Wheaton Harrington Cow Barn (1919) (#271-B). Its construction was the last community barn-raising held in Foster, just before World War II (#211-F).

Photo #11

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Privy on the Place-Phillips Farm (mid-19th century); view  
to the north of the small frame shingled outhouse located  
approximately 40 feet west of the farmhouse (#270-B).

Photo #12

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Caleb Blanchard Barn (early to mid-19th century, reduced  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 1986); view to the north of the barn (#240-B), built by  
Caleb Blanchard who inherited the farm in 1809; the Corn Crib  
(#240-C) is visible on the left and typical rubblestone walls of  
the barnyard in the foreground (#240-D).

Photo #13

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Corn Crib on the Blanchard Farm (18th - 19th century);  
view to the north of a small end-gable-roof building with  
weathered plank siding, hand-hewn beams and a pegged frame,  
located just west of the Caleb Blanchard House now used for a  
wood shop (#240-C).

Photo #14

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Henry Tyler-Mason Hopkins House (c. 1785 et seq.); view to the northwest of the 1½-story, 7-bay, east-facing house, begun by Henry Tyler soon after his father, John Tyler (b.1728) deeded him the land in 1784 (#242-A). The house was enlarged by Mason Hopkins, Henry Tyler's grandson, who was a noted preacher at the Rice City Christian Church in the 1840s and later at the Foster Center Church.

Photo #15

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National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Iri Brown House (1815, c. 1850, c. 1875); view to the north of the house built by Iri Brown (b. 1785), a descendant of James Brown, one of the earliest landowners in Moosup Valley. This lengthened, 6-bay, center-chimney house with a shed dormer is typical of Moosup Valley farmhouses (#245-A).

Photo #16

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Iri Brown Barn (1885); view to the north of the magnificent, 4-story, timber-framed barn, built into a hillside and accessible on four levels, constructed by Iri Brown to convince his grandson Curtis Foster (1861-1920) to "stay down on the farm." It cost \$3,000 dollars and used 50,000 feet of plank, cut on the property, and represents a major capital investment for its period (#245-B).

Photo #17

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Chicken House on the Iri Brown Farm (late 19th century);  
view to the northeast of a small, 1-story, gable-roof building  
with two plank doors, clapboards and minimal Late Victorian  
detailing, set south of the man-made pond (#245-E).

Photo #18

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Curtis Foster's Stone Walls (c.1885-1890); Plain Woods Road; view to the west of a particularly fine section of cut-and-dressed granite blocks on the south side of Plain Woods Road, opposite the Iri Brown House. These walls were built by Curtis Foster (1861-1920), Iri Brown's grandson (#245-G).

Photo #19

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Unknown

Date: c. 1890

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Old Tyler Store and Post Office (east end 1834; west end and porch, c.1870); view to the northwest of the 2½-story, 8-bay, gable-roof store begun by John Tyler III (1784-1860). The original store was doubled in size about 1870 by addition of a 4-bay west end and 2-story porch on the east end. It served as the post office from 1868 and remained the center of community activity throughout the nineteenth century--giving the name "Tyler" to the vicinity.

Photo #20

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MOOSUP VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Foster, Rhode Island

Photographer: Elizabeth S. Warren

Date: 1987

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View: Robert Gordon Log Cabin (c. 1987); view to the east of a 1½-story gambrel roof log cabin, under construction, on the foundation of a house reputedly begun by Stephen Foster (1746-1816) (NC-#25-A). In the foreground is a handsome rubblestone retaining wall which extends west to the Moosup River, probably built by Douglas Farnum Blanchard (1813-1881), a skilled mason (#26-B). The Blanchard family operated the large Blanchard Grist Mills just south.

Photo #21

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further. The first settler, John Harrington (c. 1665-c. 1738), moved here about 1704 from Smithfield, dwelling in a Woodland Period rock shelter near the present Foster Country Club, and assembling nearly 1,000 acres on the northeast side of the valley. Harrington divided his land among five sons in the 1730s; his homestead farm is now the acreage of the Foster Country Club. By 1728, John Tyler moved east from Voluntown, Connecticut, buying land set off to William Russell, of Newport, in the Westconnaug Purchase of 1662. John left his land to three sons in his will of 1773 and by the post-Revolutionary era, Tyler farms occupied the southwest corner of the valley (#212, #235, #241, #242, #243 and #260). Judge Tyler's Tavern Stand (#239) became the center of town government and trade from 1780 to 1815 and the Tyler Store (#244), begun by John Tyler III (1784-1860), served as the valley's community center and post office from 1834 until the last half of the nineteenth century. By 1751, Enoch Place (d.1787) moved west from North Kingstown and bought a 300-acre tract on both sides of the south end of Johnson Road. His land was divided among five sons, and four Place farmhouses still exist in the district (#232, #269, #270, and #234).

The limited water power of the Moosup River was harnessed for small-scale grist and saw mills, a prerequisite for continued settlement, by the Blanchard and Johnson Families. By 1744, William Blanchard (d.1751) bought 39 acres on both sides of the river and started the first grist mill on the east bank, one half mile south of Moosup Valley Road. Successive generations of Blanchards ran it almost continuously until 1886 when the mill was washed out; it was never rebuilt. The Blanchard Farm (#240), a 66-acre tract on the west bank, remains one of the valleys's most intact farmsteads. Farther north, along both sides of Johnson Road, John Johnson (1732-1822), arrived from nearby Coventry to start both a saw-mill and grist-mill by 1770. The Johnson mills (S-#71), probably seasonal at best, were closed by 1851. These mill sites are today a reminder of the valley's origins.

Both Moosup Valley Road and Plain Woods Road are part of the original east-to-west road system that linked early settlers in western Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut with Narragansett Bay in the late 1600s and 1700s; both appear as paths on the map of the Westconnaug Purchase, surveyed in 1707 and mapped in 1734. Moosup Valley Road joins the Plainfield Pike to the east, an Indian trail in use as early as 1709, and established as a legal

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highway in 1711. The first turnpike corporation in Rhode Island, second in the nation, was formed in 1794 to upgrade this major road. At the same time, both Moosup Valley Road and Plain Woods Road (or the 'Brooklyn Road') were upgraded for stagecoach service from the Plainfield Pike to Connecticut.

Access to this highway system and development of local roads were critical to the growth of this hamlet and the surrounding community. Johnson Road and Harrington Road existed by 1757, built to reach Elder Bennett's Baptist Meeting House at the head of the valley, the first church in western Foster, now demolished. Barb's Hill Road was laid out in 1785 to link Moosup Valley with Coventry on the south, and the south section of Cucumber Hill Road opened in 1787-1788, to connect the valley with northern Foster. Potter Road was laid out in 1796 to reach Rice City in Coventry. These last two remain unpaved and retain their narrow, stone-walled, nineteenth-century character. These historic roads evoke a clear image of country life when transportation was primarily by horse and stagecoach and inclement weather could make roads impassable. It is significant that no new roads have been laid out in the valley since the early 1800s.

Agriculture remained the basis of the Moosup Valley's prosperity for nearly 150 years. In the 1700s and early 1800s, hardwood forests were cleared and Indian meadows put into agricultural use. The valley's thin soil spread over glacial till was used to raise hay, rye, corn, potatoes, apples and vegetables. Cattle, geese, sheep, goats, and swine grazed in the meadows. Stone-walled roads and fields, surviving outbuildings, pens, and ruins are reminders of this farming era. Although Foster in general went into a period of stagnation from 1820 to 1895, the Moosup Valley prospered through development of dairy farming and market gardening. Iri Brown (b.1785), a descendant of James Brown, one of the Westconnaug purchasers, assembled land on both sides of Plain Woods Road to develop a successful dairy farm (#210). The Olney Brayton Farm (#210) and the David Brayton Farm (#211) on Cucumber Hill Road both date from this period; both were developed by Connecticut men who continued to move into the Moosup Valley to develop dairy farms. Just to the north on Harrington Road, the William Harrington Farm (1858) (#271) supplied potatoes and apples to the Providence market.

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A concerted effort at large-scale dairy farming was attempted in the 1850s and again in the early 1860s when wealthy William Penn Blanchard (1805-1891), owner of the Blanchard Mills, bought up the John Johnson Farm (#268), the Obadiah Harrington Farm/ "Diah Place" (#265), and the Wanton Johnson Farm (#268) along Johnson Road. Development of modern refrigeration led to the organization in 1888 of the Cold Spring Creamery (#230), a short-lived community effort, spurred by local residents Clarke H. Johnson and Curtis H. Foster. The Creamery failed in 1900 in the face of strong competition from New York and Vermont farmers. After World War II, valley residents began to seek their fortunes elsewhere rather than to farm the depleted soil of the area; farmlands began to be rented by owners in Scituate, Coventry and Connecticut. Today, land is primarily used for horse-breeding and tree-farming.

The Moosup Valley Historic District contains one of the state's most impressive collections of agricultural architecture. Buildings include farmhouses, barns, carriage sheds, corn cribs, goose houses, hen houses, privies, and--in the twentieth century--garages. It is important that these buildings, developed as specialized forms to house a wide variety of farming tasks, be recorded because they document the builder's response to the requirements of an agricultural livelihood. The valley's farm complexes are generally built in a cluster with a south-facing farmhouse sited close to a road and outbuildings axially related in a north to south or east to west direction at the rear of the farmhouse. Variations are found in layout when a road separates the farmhouse and its barn or outbuildings and a few isolated field barns were built in the late nineteenth century at the peak of the dairy farming era.

Farm houses follow typical western Rhode Island forms. Most originated as center-chimney, five-bay-facade buildings, or as end-chimney, three-bay facade buildings. All the historic farmhouses are 1- or 1½-stories in height, a basic and enduring type, and are built of local wood and stone. Few survive in their original form, but enlargements, carried out as family size and wealth allowed, have acquired significance in that they indicate how valley families responded to social and economic changes. Typical farmhouses include the David Brayton House (before 1791) (#211-A), a classic, 5-bay, center-chimney, house facing south with a later rear ell, the Captain James Tyler House (c. 1794 and c. 1830) (#243-A), a 5-bay house expanded by a 2-bay

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ell fronted by a porch under the extended main gable roof, and the Henry Tyler-Mason Hopkins House (c.1785), a half-house, lengthened to a 7-bay facade with an added end chimney and two entrances.

The district's barns follow several formats. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries gable-roofed barns with a rectangular plan were often built into a hillside with rubblestone walls exposed on three sides and an opening for livestock generally located on the south flank. This allowed building of a 1½-story to 2½-story timber-framed upper floor with hay loft above and addition of smaller wings, as needed. The Hay and Cow Barn (#260-B) on the James Tyler Farm and the Cattle Barn (#234-B) on the Stephen Place-Henry Battey Farm are both examples of this type and are still in use. By the late nineteenth century, large wide barns with low spreading gable roofs became popular. Most striking is the 4-story Iri Brown Barn (1885). Another barn of this type was the William Harrington Cow Barn (c. 1885) which burned in 1919. It was replaced by the Wheaton Harrington Cow Barn (#271-B), a 2½-story shingled building with a distinctive kicked-out gambrel roof. This was one of the first of many gambrel-roof barns built by local Finnish carpenters well into the twentieth century. Other examples are the Oscar Johnson Hay and Cow Barn (c. 1936) (#269-B), the Elmer Ayres Barn (#211-F) and the Herman B. Harrington Cow Barn (#264-C), both dating from the early 1940s. The area's barns are notable, too, for their inclusion of interior silos. Both the Iri Brown Barn and the Wheaton Harrington Barn have square stone silos below ground. By the mid-1920s, the familiar round silo form became popular and foundations of these structures are part of the valley's agricultural heritage.

In general, outbuildings are commonplace, small, 1-story or 1½-story, gable-roof structures clad with vertical planks or rough-cut shingles. Untrimmed entrances are found either in the gable end or a flank wall. Throughout the valley, carriage sheds, corn cribs, goose-houses, hen-houses, and privies survive. Typical examples include the Carriage House (1885) (#245-C) at the Iri Brown Farm, now converted to a carpenter shop, the Corn Crib on the Blanchard Farm (#240-C), now used as a wood shop, the Goose House on the Brayton Farm (#211-E), and the privy on the Place-Phillips Farm (#270-B), both still in original use. These plain utilitarian structures were built from the early eighteenth to the late nineteenth century with little change in form. As

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such, they are significant and fragile resources, subject to deterioration, demolition, and re-use for modern functions.

The development of Moosup Valley as a local commercial and institutional center was encouraged by its location along a road, linking the valley to Providence on the east, the farm communities of Connecticut to the west, and other Foster hamlets. This linear nucleus began with the building of several stores along Moosup Valley Road where farmers could barter goods and buy necessities. As early as the mid-eighteenth century, the Foster Store stood on the southwest corner of Moosup Valley Road and Potter Road on the "store lot;" by 1857, this became John Potter's broom shop. Another small store (c. 1780 to c. 1820) stood just west of Judge Tyler's Tavern Stand (#239), and John Tyler, III, operated a drygoods store at the intersection of Plain Woods Road and Barb's Hill by 1812. This was the forerunner of the Tyler Store of 1834 (#244), longest continually operating store in town, a busy stagecoach stop, and Moosup Valley Post Office from 1868 to the early 1900s. It is now altered to a residence. The Dexter family also ran a general store from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s at the Place-Dexter Farm (#232), a local landmark at the junction of Moosup Valley Road and Johnson Road.

Institutional development of Moosup Valley's small civic center began with construction of the Moosup Valley Schoolhouse (#236) in 1811, followed by building of the Moosup Valley Church (#237) from 1864 to 1865 and the Moosup Valley Grange #26 (#288) in 1926. The schoolhouse, a rare one-room type now joined to the Tyler Free Library of 1900, was also known as the Vestry School as Christian services and Sunday School were held here until the mid-1860s.

The Moosup Valley Church with its starkly beautiful simple square belfry is the valley's best-known landmark. Its building truly coalesced this dispersed community--it was built to provide a "suitable place for divine service, lectures, Sabbath School" and for a singing school. Prior to its building, Christian families in and near the Moosup Valley traveled to services in other Foster hamlets-- north over Howard Hill to Foster Center, south along twisting river roads to Rice City (Coventry) or west on Plain Woods Road to the Line Church at the corner of Kennedy Road in the old Dorrance School. Inclement weather and poor roads often made any travel arduous or impossible. It is no

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accident that the picturesque one-acre site, just west of the Moosup River, given by Iri Brown to the Moosup Valley Association for a church, is in the near-center of the Moosup Valley hamlet. By 1870, 46 members of the Christian Church in Coventry, were dismissed to join the new Moosup Valley Church. Valley families who helped build this infant church included the Kennedys, Blanchards, and Fosters. Members of the "Christian Church," in contrast to Foster's Baptists and Quakers, saw the true Christian Church as one which included all with only the Bible as its foundations and with complete freedom in its interpretation. "Union" services were held in the 1890s with the Line Church and by 1928, a similar arrangement was in existence with Rice City and Clayville. In 1931, the Mt. Vernon Larger Parish was formed, a formal organization of all small Baptist and Congregational churches in the area. In 1961, there was a unanimous vote to join with the United Church of Christ. The Moosup Valley Church's long history of combined religious and community use is typical of rural areas in Rhode Island where such organizations have considerably overlapping memberships. This church, still serving about thirty families, is a significant structure in the long history of changing religions in Foster.

Today, Moosup Valley preserves a living sense of the past. It continues to function as the institutional center of the valley and descendants of original settlers--Harringtons, Tylers, Places, Blanchards, and Dexters still live here. In spite of modern encroachments and changes in land use, Moosup Valley's cultural resources have integrity and exist in relation to the land much as they always have. Stone walls line historic roads and broad fields, strewn with boulders, stretch away from the tiny civic center. To date no state highway traverses the valley. Moosup Valley remains an unspoiled hamlet--a quiet corner far from metropolitan centers. The cultural landscape of Moosup Valley evokes a picture of life in the late nineteenth century in the western hill towns as experienced by past generations of Rhode Islanders. Its importance is increased by the fragility of such extant resources and the loss of similar landscapes elsewhere to the spread of urban and suburban growth.

Period of Significance: The period of significance is defined as extending from the early 18th century when settlement and building began in Moosup Valley to 1938. The district continues to document significant aspects of the town's residential,

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commercial, agricultural, and religious life since 1938, but as this significance is not exceptional, the period of significance ends in 1938.

Criteria Considerations:

(A) The religious properties identified in the inventory as contributing are included in the nomination as they derive their significance from their architectural character (which represents vernacular building patterns in rural Rhode Island) and their historical importance to the development of the district.

(B) A few minor agricultural outbuildings which were moved are included in the inventory as contributing resources. The process of moving and re-using such minor farm structures is a significant pattern in the development of Foster agriculture. In all cases, such outbuildings were moved during the period of significance and have acquired significance since their move as they were integrated into farm complexes and were used on new locations for agricultural purposes.

(C) A number of small historic cemeteries are identified as contributing resources. These cemeteries derive their significance from their association with events which make a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Foster's history, in this case the creation and use of small burying grounds on family farms, reflecting a common Rhode Island pattern. Such cemeteries document mortuary practices in rural areas developed without established churches.

(Sites) A number of foundations (principally of agricultural outbuildings) are identified as contributing resources. Farming practices throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries have made agricultural outbuildings one of the scarcest and most fragile of historic resources; as agricultural changes and decline took place such outbuildings were either actively destroyed or allowed to deteriorate; Moosup Valley represents for Rhode Island an unusually intact group of such outbuildings.

The foundations of those outbuildings which have disappeared have significance of their own, apart from the fact that the sheds, barns, privies, etc., which once stood on the foundations, no longer exist. Their significance lies in their ability to

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document the number, kind, and (especially) the location of the elements of an historic farm complex.

For several hundred years, farming was a means of livelihood and a method of production in Foster; but it has been, in addition, a way of organizing the landscape and has had great impact on the visual character of the town. As a piece of land, a farm is an organized and managed landscape--of buildings, gardens, fields, pasture, and woods.

Many farmhouses survive in Foster and in Moosup Valley, but the dependent buildings which were as important as the houses are much more rare, especially in a setting where the shape of the land and its relationship to the farm structures retains its agricultural character. Even foundations of demolished structures have significance in documenting the use and character of a farm.

Some of these sites may, in addition, be significant as archaeological sites, with the potential to yield information about various aspects of Moosup Valley's history. At present, none of the sites has undergone the archaeological testing which would identify this potential. But even lacking such testing, these sites have significance for their association with farming in Foster.

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Maps

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- 1862 Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Henry F. Walling, New York, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.
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Donald J. Boisvert  
Sandra J. Campbell  
John G. & Miriam A. Cuniff  
Harold Dann, Jr.  
Maurice A. Dunbar  
Arne Johnson

Earle C. Johnson  
Patricia Lenth  
Margery I. Matthews  
Edward H. Olausen, Jr.  
Charles A. Poole

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The district is bounded as follows: Beginning at the northern bound of the district at the northeast corner of Plat 5, lot 8, then following south the eastern bound of lot 8, to the northeast corner of Plat 5, lot 9B; then in a straight line drawn south from this point across lot 9B to a point in line with the northeast bound of Plat 2, lot 12, then continuing in a straight line northeast along the northeast bound of lot 12 for approximately 700 feet to a point in the northern bound of lot 12, then in a straight line drawn southeast from this point across lot 12, crossing West Meadow Brook, to the southeast corner of Plat 2, lot 13, and continuing in a straight line drawn southeast across Plat 2, lot 14, to meet the north corner of Plat 2, lot 17, then following easterly the northern bound of lot 17 to the northeast corner of lot 17, then in a direct line south to a depth of 1500 feet to a point in line with the eastern bound of lot 17, and continuing in a straight line drawn south from this point across lot 17 to meet a point in the line of the southern bound of lot 17, then following in straight line west along the southern border of lot 17 and the southern bound of Plat 2, lot 19, to meet the southwest corner of lot 19, then in a line drawn from this point across Johnson Road to a point in the east bound of Plat 2, lot 7, then continuing south along the western bound of Johnson Road to a corner with Moosup Valley Road. Thence in a line drawn west along the north side of Moosup Valley road for 330 feet to a point in the southern bound of Plat 2, lot 7, then in a line drawn from this point across the road to the northeast corner of Plat 2, lot 79, and then following the eastern bound of lot 79 to a depth of approximately 1380 feet to meet the Coventry Town line and then west in a straight line west following the south bounds of Plat 2, lots 79, 80 and 80A to the southwest corner of lot 80A, then continuing north along the west bound of lot 80A for a distance of approximately 2750 feet to a point in the eastern bound of Plat 1, lot 41-J, then continuing in a straight line drawn northwest from this point across lot 41-J to meet Potter Road. Thence in a line drawn north from this point across the road to a point in line with the eastern bound of Plat 1, lot 43-F, then following in a straight line northwest along the southern boundaries of lot 43-F to meet the Moosup River, then following the southerly course of the Moosup River to the southeast bound of Plat 1, lot 46, then in a straight line west along the south bound of lot 46, for 858 feet +/- to a point in line with the southwest corner of lot 46, then westerly for 33 feet to meet the southeast corner of Plat 1, lot 47, then following west the south bound of lot 47 for 874 feet to a point

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in the southern bound of lot 47, then continuing in a straight line south along the east bound of lot 47 for 660 feet, then continuing west along the south bound of lot 47 for 247 feet, then continuing south along the east bound for 165, then continuing in a straight line west along the southern bounds of Plat 1, lots 47, 50, and 52 to meet Barb's Hill Road. Then in a line drawn west from this point across the road to a point in line with the eastern bound of Plat 1, lot 57, and then following the west side of the road southeasterly to the southeast corner of lot 57, then continuing in a straight line west along the south bound of lot 57 to the southwest corner of lot 57, then continuing to the northwest along the western bound of lot 57 to meet the southwest corner of Plat 1, lot 57A, then northwest for 150 feet and north for 450 feet and east for 137 feet along the western bound of lot 57A to meet a point in line with the western bound of Plat 1, lot 58. Thence continuing in a straight line north along the western bound of lot 58 to a point in the western bound of lot 58 and continuing west to the southeast corner of Plat 1, lot 68B, then northwest for 168 feet to the northeast corner of lot 68B, then west to the southeast corner of lot 68, then north in a straight line for 200 feet along the east bound of lot 68 to the northeast corner of lot 68, then continuing west to the southeast corner of lot 68A, then continuing in a straight line north along the eastern bound of lot 68A to the southwest corner of Plat 1, lot 62. Thence following to the northeast the north bound of lot 58 for 575 feet, then north to a point in the northern bound of lot 58, then northeast along the northern bound of lot 58 for 1900 feet to the southwest corner of Plat 1, lot 61, then continuing northeast along the western bound of lot 61 for 1750 feet to meet Plain Woods Road and then following the south side of the road northwesterly for 1200 feet +/- to a point in the south side of Plain Woods Road. Then in a line drawn from this point across the road to the west corner of Plat 1, lot 19, then continuing in a straight line northeast along the northerly bound of lot 19 for 1640 feet to the southwest corner of Plat 1, lot 25, and continuing in a straight line northeast along the northerly bound of lot 25 for approximately 1550 feet to a point in line with the northwest bound of lot 25, then continuing northwest for 1000 feet, then northwest in a straight line along the southwest bound of Plat 4, lot 24, to the northeast corner of lot 24, then northeast along the northwest bound of lot 24 to meet the north corner of lot 24, then southeast for 400 feet to a point in the northbound of lot 24, then northeast along the northerly bound of

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lot 24 to meet Cucumber Hill Road. Then in a line drawn northeast across the road to a point in line with the northwest bound of Plat 4, lot 87, and then following the east side of the road northwest to the west corner of Plat 4, lot 72, then northeasterly along the northwest bound of lot 72 for approximately 1000 feet to meet Dead Cow Brook. Thence following the southeasterly course of Dead Cow Brook to meet the northwest corner of Plat 4, lot 73A, then continuing northeast along the northern bound of lot 73A to meet Gold Mine Road and then following the west side of the road southeasterly and south for 523 feet to meet Harrington Road. Thence in a line drawn south across the road to a point in the north bound of Plat 4, lot , then following the south side of Harrington Road east to the northwest corner of HC-72, then in a line drawn north across the road to a point in line with the west corner of Plat 4, lot 86, and continuing to the northeast along the north bound of lot 76 to meet Johnson Road, then in a line drawn northeast from this point across lot 8 for approximately 1400 feet to the point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nucleus of the district is the agricultural area that surrounds the headwaters and plains of the Moosup River and centers on the Moosup Valley hamlet fronting Moosup Valley Road. Wherever possible the boundary was drawn to follow recorded property lines of the nearby farms, which developed on each side of the valley and along Moosup Valley Road. In some instances the lot lines are unchanged from the mid-1700s when the Coventry town line formed the south border of Foster, and the 1728 Old Colony Line formed the west border between Rhode Island and Connecticut. In cases where the presence of large lots would include acreage no longer in agricultural use, an arbitrary line was drawn to connect farms linked together by cultural, historic, and architectural associations. Where new construction has intruded or land use has dramatically changed, road rights of way, unchanged for over two hundred years, were used to form parts of the boundary at the north edge and southeast edges of the district. It is recognized that this is an evolving landscape with a sensitive juxtaposition of predominately historic farmsteads and contemporary elements in an agrarian setting, which, to date, has no major modern intrusions.

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At the north end of the district, part of the acreage of the Harrington-Johnson Farm (#264), now the golf course for the Foster Country Club, was included because the farm contains the John Harrington Cave (S#-37), shelter for the valley's first settler and recognized as a major Native American site and a number of historic cemeteries. The physical pattern of original agricultural uses and family cemeteries is still evident in this pastoral setting. The depth of the view across the valley remains one of a spacious, rural landscape with a narrow, winding road right of way, ponds, and clumps of trees along the river edges. The present recreational use of this land dates to 1958, but the spatial integrity of this low-lying, swampy open land has changed little, unlike the intrusive trailer park, immediately north of the district and excluded from it. Early twentieth-century photographs document the existing pattern of fields demarcated by walls, trees, the river, and the road right of way. Tree lines, formed by groups of swamp maples along the river banks are relatively unchanged. Pine trees, planted in the 1960s, simply follow lines of old stone walls in the "Plains" and "Round Swamp Meadow" to divide the fields into modern fairways. Recent plantings and surface changes include mowed meadows and close-cut golf greens; the seasonally flooded meadows and wetlands along the Moosup River have long been free of the glacial till found elsewhere in the valley, and this cleared quality represents a historic quality more than an artificially cleared condition.

At the east edge of the district, the concentration of modern buildings along Moosup Valley Road has isolated the Moosup Valley Creamery (#230) and prevented its inclusion in the district. At the south end of the district, new construction on Potter Road, the result of subdivision of historic farms into five-acre lots, has prevented extension of the southern boundary to include the significant Blanchard Mill Site (S#-49). The western boundary follows lot lines of several historic farms, laid out in the mid 1700s along Barb's Hill, Plain Woods and Cucumber Hill roads.