United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form  

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  Nathan Westcott House  
   other names/site number  

2. Location  

   street & number 150 Scituate Avenue  
   city, town Cranston  
   state Rhode Island  
   code R.I.  
   county Providence  
   code 007  
   zip code 02920  

3. Classification  

   Ownership of Property  
   Category of Property  
   Number of Resources within Property  
   Contributing  
   Noncontributing  
   1 building(s)  
   1 district  
   1 site  
   1 structure  
   1 object  

   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0  

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.  
   Signature of certifying official  
   Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
   State or Federal agency and bureau  
   Date  

   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.  
   Signature of commenting or other official  
   State or Federal agency and bureau  
   Date  

5. National Park Service Certification  

   I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
   □ entered in the National Register.  
   □ determined eligible for the National Register.  
   □ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
   □ removed from the National Register.  
   □ other, (explain:)  
   □ See continuation sheet.  

   Signature of the Keeper  
   Date of Action  

JUN 21 1988
NATIONAL REGISTER
RECEIVED
The Nathan Westcott house is a small three-bay, one-and-half-story house with a low gambrel roof and clapboard sheathing. It has a large central pilastered brick chimney. Standing on the south side of Scituate Avenue at an elevation slightly lower than the road, the house is half hidden from the streetside. The present north facade facing the road was originally the back of the house. The roofline was extended in salt-box fashion.

The house lot is surrounded on two sides--to the west and south--by the that of the Joy Homestead, already listed in the National Register.

Internal evidence indicates that the house was probably constructed as a half-house. The deep stone cellar, approximately twenty feet square, roughly corresponds to the keeping room above. The house was then enlarged later in the eighteenth century with the addition of a parlor to the west, and with the salt box extension of the roof, the house was extended along the north facade adding two more rooms, a new entry hall with a brick floor and a buttery.

The house is entered through a simple plank door; a large slab of uncut granite acts as a stoop. The entry hall itself is small, dark and cramped. A very steep, narrow stair leads to the garret, directly into one bedroom; the second bedroom is reached by stepping across the gap created by the stairwell. The floors are all wide planks and the ceilings quite low, under six feet. The corner-posts in the lateral rooms are encased but project into the rooms. The windows, repaired and replaced over time, are varied, some with six-over-six sash, some with nine-over-nine, and others with twelve-over-twelve sash. The hardware is all reproduction.

To the east of the entry hall is the keeping room, now the kitchen. In the keeping room the ceiling beams are exposed. The brick fireplace with bake-oven is simply detailed with a plank board mantel with a narrow shelf. Just behind the keeping room
is a bathroom, which took the place of a buttery. To the west of
the entry is a small parlor with a simple fireplace. To the rear
of the west parlor is a larger second parlor, once two rooms,
with a shallow narrow fireplace; the third served by the large
chimney. The detailing in this room with cupboards and shelves
above and beside the fireplace is all mid-nineteenth century.

The upstairs garret bedrooms are very simple and have no
architectural embellishment.
Period of Significance: The Nathan Westcott House is nominated for its architectural significance, that is, for its ability to document the modest late eighteenth-century houses built by the town’s small farmers. The period of significance therefore corresponds to the house’s dates of construction; internal evidence indicates that the house was probably constructed in two stages (see #7) but neither construction date is known exactly. It is estimated, again on the internal evidence of the quality and character of the house, that the original construction date is c. 1770 and that the addition was constructed c. 1790. Hence, the periods of significance are defined as c. 1770 and c. 1790.
8. Statement of Significance

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

- [ ] nationally
- [ ] statewide
- [X] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria

- [ ] A
- [ ] B
- [X] C
- [ ] D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

- [ ] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D
- [ ] E
- [ ] F
- [ ] G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Period of Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c. 1770</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1790</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cultural Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Architect/Builder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Builder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Nathan Westcott House is a good example of a small eighteenth-century dwelling built by a modest farm family. A small, simple structure, even its alterations and additions, as well as minor repairs are in the same rustic, primitive spirit. As such, it is rare in Cranston, where most earlier houses were altered in later, more affluent times.

Together with the abutting Joy Homestead, the Westcott House formed the nucleus of a small village known in the eighteenth century as Joytown. Through the years, the owners of the Westcott property sold off parcels of their land to the Joy family next door; by 1882 the Joys owned the house as well. The result of this pattern of acquisition is the relatively open space between the two properties, retaining their original relationship in a fashion unusual for this relatively built-up part of Cranston.

The house is associated with two other prominent Cranston and Rhode Island families. Around 1895 the house was acquired by Samuel Fenner, a descendant of the family that settled much of northern Cranston and built one of the two remaining stone-enders in the city. Early in the twentieth century the property was bought by the Knight family who farmed much of this area (their c. 1760 homestead stands at 1900 Scituate Avenue).
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2193240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Nathan Westcott House is the line of Cranston Assessor's Plat 12/6, lot 3109.

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the Nathan Westcott House and its immediate setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vivian Lasky
organization Consultant
street & number 18 Savoy Street
city or town Providence
date
telephone 401-272-6692
state Rhode Island zip code 02906
Nathan Westcott House
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

Date: July, 1987
Photographer: Vivienne Laskey
Negative. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit St., Prov.

View: Exterior, North Elevation

Photo #1
Nathan Westcott House
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

Date: July, 1987
Photographer: Vivienne Lasky
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: Exterior, south elevation

Photo #2
Nathan Westcott House
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

Date: July, 1987
Photographer: Vivienne Lasky
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit St., Prov.

View: Exterior, south & east elevations
Nathan Westcott House
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

Date: July 1987
Photographer: Vivienne Laskey
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View: Interior, fireplace wall, Keeping room.

Photo #4
Nathan Westcott House
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

Date: July, 1987
Photographer: Vivienne Laskey
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit St., Prov.

View: Interior, fireplace wall, west parlor

Photo #5
Nathan Westcott House
150 Scituate Avenue
Cranston, RI
19 293940 4627940