**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Burlingame-Noon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:
3261 Mendon Road

CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland

STATE: Rhode Island, 02851

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Accessible to the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Charles E. and Lucille D. White

STREET AND NUMBER: 3261 Mendon Road

CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland

STATE: Rhode Island, 02851

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Cumberland Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER: Town Hall, 15 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland

STATE: Rhode Island, 02851

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
This building, still a dwelling but no longer a farmhouse, is today in external appearance a modest but dignified smaller structure—two-and-a-half-storeys high, gable-roofed and clapboarded—of the Greek Revival period, and accordingly trimmed. In its original form, however, it could be given a date of c. 1800-1815, and it was, as roofline evidence seen against the chimney within the attic indicates, a one-and-a-half-storey house of "Cape Cod cottage" type: timber-framed upon a low stone foundation, as is also an ell later than the original cottage. Floor-plan is the traditional one dictated by a centre chimney behind a small entry- and stair-hall and serving hearths in three major rooms of each floor. The house faces south-west, presenting a five-bay frontal elevation, and attached at its north-east corner is a storey-and-a-half ell running off towards the rear and containing one large space below and a (now remodelled) garret above.

The purely functional and later ell remains barren in its exterior treatment, while the original and much earlier storey-and-a-half dwelling probably at first had modest Federal-period trim outside, consonant with that remaining inside on its first floor. When the house was heightened by one storey in the 1830's or 1840's its outside was "modernised and improved" by the application of simple Greek Revival trim, a thing often done by many rural families who were prospering by that time. So, we now see the former cottage turned into a two-and-a-half-storey house, with panelled pilasters applied to its corners and a new front doorway with sidelights, pilasters and a modest entablature. Old, small-paned window sash was then replaced on the more conspicuous elevations by six-over-six sash. From this time would date the ell which can be entered from the north-east portion of the heightened house. Added also at this time was a wooden fence to separate the property from increasingly-busy Mendon Road; this has square boarded piers with projecting flat caps, spaced to contain stretches of slender pickets.

Since its enlargement, the house has remained remarkably intact, not only on its exterior but also internally, in both plan and trim. On its first floor one finds the expected five-room, central chimney plan. The living-room has very good Federal-period woodwork. Across the greater part of the rear of the house runs what was apparently, from the quality of its trim, always the dining-room. The original kitchen or "keeping-room," rather unconventionally placed at an end of the house, retains its wide cooking-hearth with ovens at one side and has a finer trim than was generally to be found in kitchens. Up until recent minor changes the second-floor arrangement was very similar to that below, except that there were three large rooms and only one smaller one rather than the five to be found downstairs. Trim on this added floor displays characteristics of the Greek Revival style in contrast to the Federal-style woodwork below. From the second floor a small and narrow stair runs to the attic or garret under the gable, a space plastered between timbers but not divided into rooms. The 17' by 28' ell attached to the

(See Continuation Sheet.)
7. Description.

The house at its north-east has its gable- or ridge-line perpendicular to that of the main dwelling and except for its necessary corner conjunction with the house is off to one side of the latter.

In the 18th0's (probably when it was enlarged and re-trimmed) and 1850's, the house was in ownership of the Burlingame family; its earlier proprietor(s) and exact building date have not yet been traced. In 1866 it came into possession of Patrick Noon, and Noon lived there—apparently making no changes except for the introduction of essential plumbing and electrical conveniences—until 1971. Under the present new ownership, necessary repair work and the improvement of utilities was undertaken in 1972, but the house has undergone no structural or greatly visible change.
In view of the changes which have taken place along Mendon Road in Cumberland, one first thinks of the Burlingame-Noon house and what remains of its land (a little more than a half acre) as being an important, surviving and typical "sliver" of the original farming layouts and domestic architecture that the whole district once displayed, and of which almost nothing remains now. This had long been an agricultural area, pierced by a main highroad. Stretching back on either side of Mendon Road were the acreages of farm families, well-rooted in the section and for generations not attracted away from their homes and fields. They were able to have good local housewrights and carpenters to build and trim their XVIII- and early XIX-Century dwellings. Later, as they prospered increasingly in the War of 1812-Civil War period, they would employ the same to enlarge and improve their houses, outbuildings and accessories.

The Burlingame-Noon house shows the more happy results of such "improvements." Here they were accomplished in the period of the Greek Revival and were done with simple and handsome restraint and economy: the new entrance door, the upstairs mantels, the fronting fence. The rear ell adds size and interest to the house-arrangement but was kept purely functional and undecorated (it is thought perhaps to have housed a village store).

It is fortunate that in this particular dwelling almost no changes were made by successively-occupying generations over more than one hundred and twenty-five years. The remaining land immediately surrounding the house has not changed; what is left is open, gently rolling and has some large old trees; whatever outbuildings there may have been when the property was larger have not survived, due to nearby real-estate enterprises. The house, however, still has a comfortable yard. The new owners have undertaken maximum restoration and minimum interior change. The Burlingame-Noon house is one of the very few houses and sites remaining to show what the Mendon Road part of Cumberland once was like.
### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Partial text visible]

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** Slightly more than one-half acre

**Latitudes and Longitudes Coordinates: Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<td>0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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<td>0 0 0</td>
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</table>

**Latitudes and Longitudes Coordinates: Defining the Center Point of a Property of Less Than Ten Acres**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 0 58 32 31 N</td>
<td>71 0 27 25 58 W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**Name and Title:** Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

**Organization:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**Street and Number:** John Brown House, 52 Power Street

**City or Town:** Providence

**State:** Rhode Island, 02906

**Date:** April 11, 1973

### 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National: ☐
- State: ☑
- Local: ☐

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Attest:**

Keeper of The National Register
## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
##### PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th>COMMON</th>
<th>AND/OR HISTORIC</th>
<th>NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burlingame-Noon House</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET AND NUMBER</th>
<th>3261 Mendon Road</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
<th>PHOTO CREDIT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NEGATIVE FILED AT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clifford M. Renshaw, III</td>
<td>July, 1973</td>
<td>Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
<th>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exterior from the south-east.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NAME**

Burlingame-Noon House

**LOCATION**

STATE  
Rhode Island

COUNTY  
Providence

TOWN  
Cumberland

STREET AND NUMBER  
3261 Mendon Road

**PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT  
Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE  
July, 1973

NEGATIVE FILED  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

**DESCRIPTION**

Detail of parlor, showing mantel and wainscot on east wall.
**Burlingame-Noon House**

**Rhode Island**

**Providence**

**Cumberland**

3261 Mendon Road

**Clifford M. Renshaw, III**

July, 1973

West wall of former kitchen (present dining-room), showing original cooking-hearth with ovens concealed at right, and original hardware.
BURLINGAME-NOON HOUSE

Geographical Coordinates

Latitude: 41° 58' 32.31" N
Longitude: 71° 27' 25.58" W
**Name:** Burlington-Noon House

**Location:**
- **Street and Number:** 3261 Mendon Road
- **City or Town:** Cumberland

**State:** Rhode Island
- **Code:** 44
- **County:** Providence
- **Code:** 007

**Map Reference:**
- **Source:** U.S. Geological Survey
- **Scale:** 1: 24,000
- **Date:** 1919

**Requirements:**
- To be included on all maps:
  1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.