

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and or common Eddy Homestead

2. Location

street & number 2543 Hartford Avenue

N.A. not for publication

city, town Johnston

N.A. vicinity of

congressional district #2
Hon. Claudine Schneider

state Rhode Island

code 44

county Providence

code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N.A. <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Clinton W. Briggs

street & number 2543 Hartford Avenue

city, town Johnston

N.A. vicinity of

state Rhode Island 02919

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnston Town Hall

street & number 1385 Hartford Avenue

city, town Johnston

state Rhode Island 02919

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Johnston, Rhode Island

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

150 Benefit Street

city, town Providence

state Rhode Island 02905

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
X good	ruins	X altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on heavily traveled State Route 6 in rural western Johnston, the Eddy Homestead is a typical and well-preserved early nineteenth-century Rhode Island vernacular farmhouse. Supported by the standard post-and-beam frame and finished with clapboards, the house stands one-and-one-half stories high with a small ell on the east side and a center chimney. The house faces south on a small lot, set off by fences, including a picket fence on the south side. Outbuildings include a well, with nineteenth-century wellhead, southeast of the main house, and a twentieth-century garage to the northwest.

The exterior of the house is simple. The house has a symmetrical, five-bay facade with center entrance; a six-panel front door framed by narrow side lights; and six-over-six double-hung windows. The one-story ell extends east in the same plane as the facade; a door, near the main block of the house, and a window are in the south wall of the ell. On the west side of the house and set back from the plane of the facade is a twentieth-century porch, now screened. The only significant change to the house's original configuration is a large shed dormer on the north slope of the roof, at the rear of the building.

The interior follows the standard five-room plan for houses of the period. The front door opens into a shallow front hall, and a narrow run of steep stairs opposite the door leads to the attic. The parlor on the west side of the hall has a simple one-story Federal-style mantel. The room on the east side of the hall was originally the kitchen--a standard placement in rural, western Rhode Island five-room-plan houses--and it retains its cooking fireplace with bake oven and simple one-story mantel. At rear center is the third large room, also with a simple, one story mantel. The corner rooms at rear have been slightly modified: that on the west has been opened on the south to become part of the west parlor; that on the east has been converted to a bathroom. A modern kitchen occupies the ell, originally a woodshed. The attic, probably unfinished originally, has been converted into two bedrooms. All the corner posts in the house are framed, and the H-L hinges and latches appear original.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social/	
X 1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater	
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates c. 1790(?) Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eddy Homestead is significant to the history of Rhode Island architecture as a fine and intact example of a typical, rural, vernacular house type: the small, center-chimney, five-room-plan, story-and-a-half farmhouse. This farm enjoyed a long popularity across the state from the mid-eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries, a period which coincides with the state's most intense agricultural activity. These houses were neither elaborate nor modishly finished; they are simple, sturdy dwellings important in defining the domestic experience on Rhode Island farms by the state's earlier settlers. Because of their age, their relative scarcity, and their modest size, these houses as a group have been subjected to indiscriminate development pressures, including heavy alterations or demolition; consequently, few survive in anything approaching original condition.

The Town of Johnston was set off from Providence in 1759. During the first century of its political existence, the town was primarily a sparsely settled farming community, its rolling hills dotted with farms of varying size. The farmhouses built during these years, like others in western Rhode Island, were simple, one-and-a-half- or two-and-a-half-story dwellings like the Eddy Homestead or the Daniel Angell House, 15 Dean Avenue (entered on the National Register on 21 April 1975). While other such houses are known to have existed in Johnston, few remain today.

The Eddy Homestead is interesting for its plan, a western Rhode Island variation on the five-room scheme. In the standard five-room plan, the cooking fireplace is in the center room on the rear of the building. In the western Rhode Island variation, the cooking fireplace is located in one of the two front rooms. This little-studied variation¹ appears in the western part of Providence County in the Towns of Johnston, Gloucester, Foster, Scituate, Cranston, Smithfield, and North Smithfield; it also appears in western Kent County in the Towns of Coventry and West Greenwich. This western variation is used in both one-and-a-half- and two-and-a-half-story dwellings throughout this area.

The Eddy Homestead remained in the family through much of the nineteenth century. In the middle years of the century, it was occupied by Daniel Eddy--grandfather of singer Nelson Eddy--who farmed potatoes on the surrounding acreage, not included in this nomination.

¹William McKenzie Woodward, "Patterns in Place: Rhode Island Vernacular Architecture," paper delivered 19 January 1982 in the Forum of Rhode Island History series "Patterns of Life: Folk Tradition in Rhode Island."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

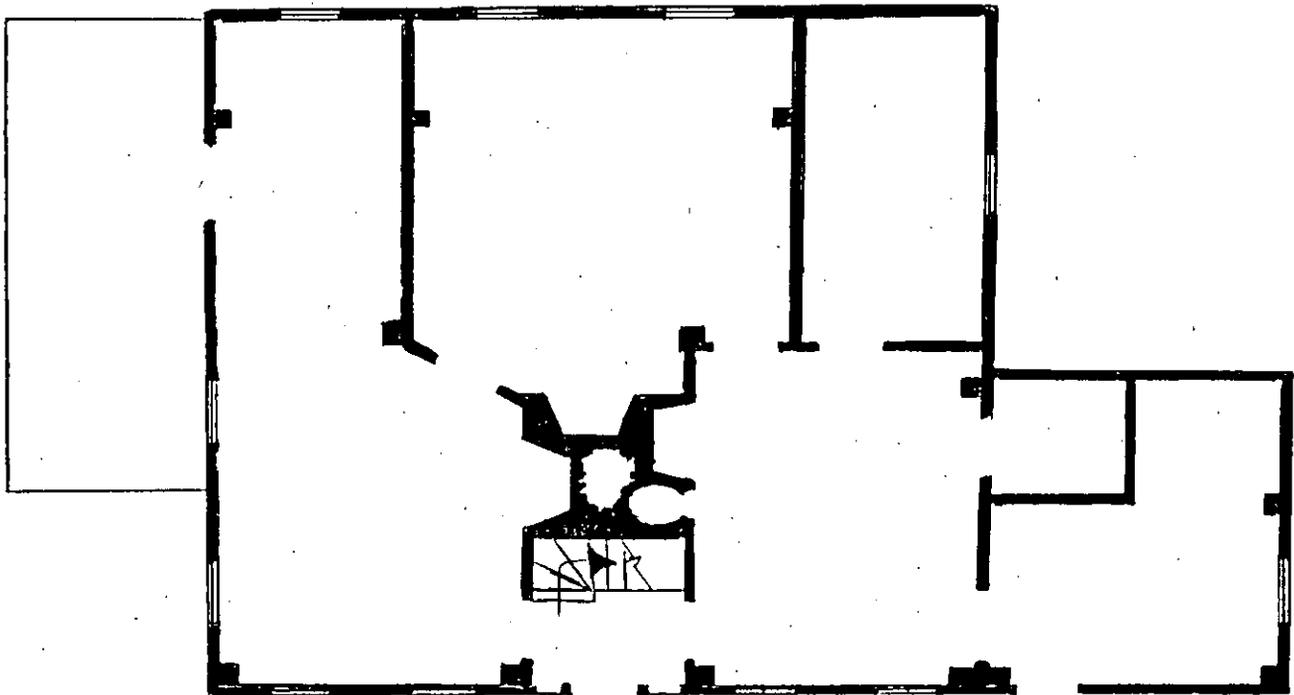
1

Item number

7

Page

1



Floor Plan

Eddy Homestead

Not to scale

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 2

Woodward, William McKenzie, "Patterns in Place: Rhode Island Vernacular Architecture," paper delivered 19 January 1982 in the Forum of Rhode Islnad History series "Patterns of Life: Folk Tradition in Rhode Island."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Downing, Antoinette F. Early Homes of Rhode Island. Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1937.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name North Scituate, R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	2	8	8	3	5	0	4	6	3	4	1	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Eddy House encompasses lot 46 on Johnston Assessor's Plat 24. The lot includes the resource and its immediate surroundings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William McKenzie Woodward / Principal Historic Preservation Planner
Rhode Island Historical

organization Preservation Commission

date May 1983

street & number 150 Benefit Street

telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence

state Rhode Island 02903

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



EDDY HOMESTEAD
2543 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: 1983

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI

View: view of house from southeast, showing
well head.

Photo #1



EDDY HOMESTEAD
2543 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: 1983

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI

View: Detail of entrance.

Photo #2



EDDY HOMESTEAD
2543 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Date: 1983

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI

View: Southwest parlor, view from northwest
toward mantel.

Photo #3

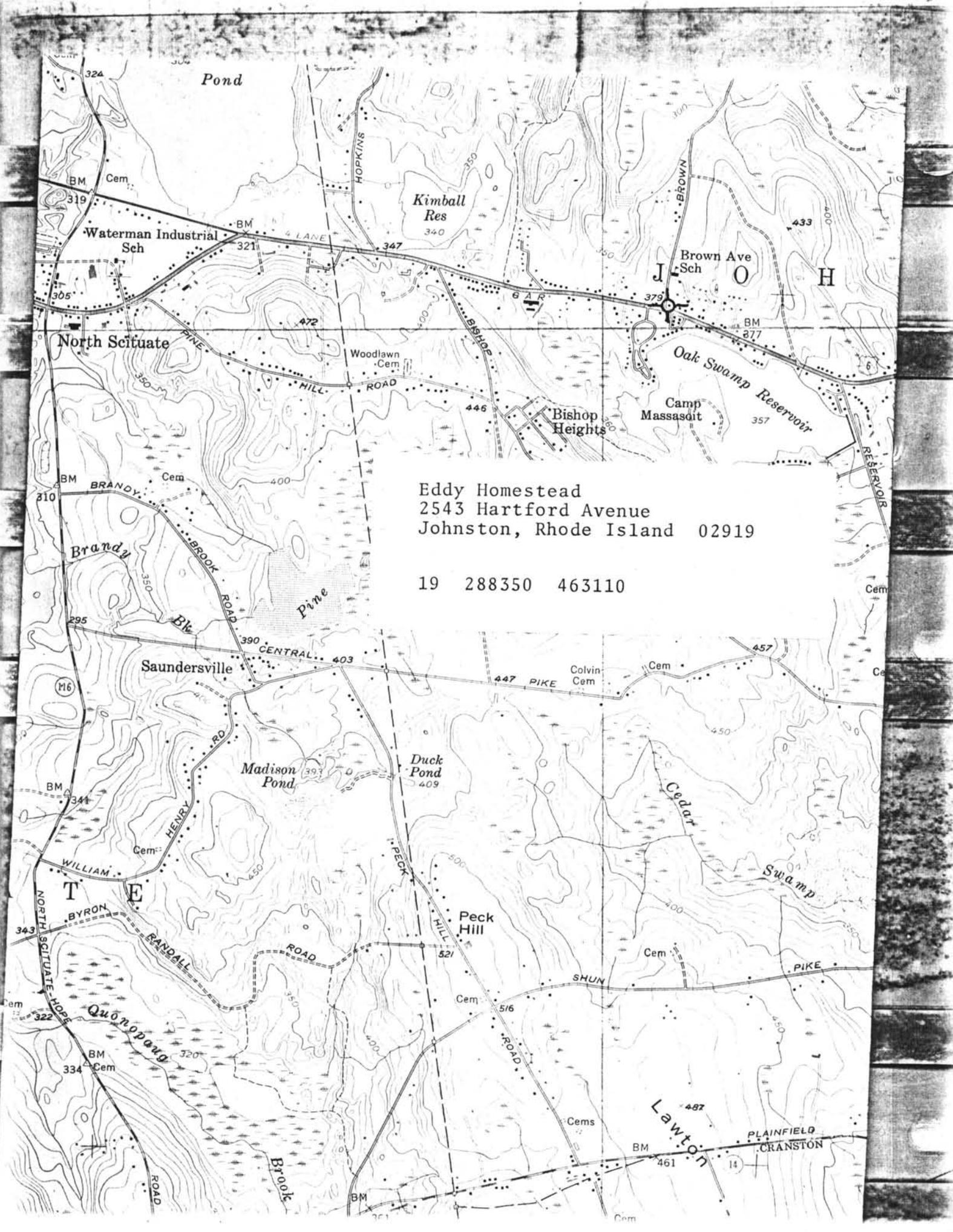


EDDY HOMESTEAD
2543 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: 1983
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

View: Southeast parlor (former kitchen), view
from southeast showing cooking fireplace.

Photo #4



Eddy Homestead
2543 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

19 288350 463110