United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

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  
city, town  Johnston  
state  Rhode Island  

congressional district  #2  

Hon. Claudine Schneider  

3. Classification  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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4. Owner of Property  

name  Mr. and Mrs. Clinton W. Briggs  

street & number  2543 Hartford Avenue  
city, town  Johnston  
state  Rhode Island  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Johnston Town Hall  

street & number  1385 Hartford Avenue  
city, town  Johnston  
state  Rhode Island  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title  Johnston, Rhode Island  

has this property been determined eligible?  X. yes  

date  1976  

depository for survey records  Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
city, town  Providence  
state  Rhode Island  

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered  

depository for survey records  150 Benefit Street  
city, town  Providence  
state  Rhode Island  

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

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<th>Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)</th>
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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 variation 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.

Floor Plan

Eddy Homestead

Not to scale
Acreage of nominated property: less than one acre

Quadrangle name: North Scituate, R.I.

UTM References

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EASTING AND NORTHING

Zone Easting Northing

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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

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William McKenzie Woodward / Principal Historic Preservation Planner
organization: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
date: May 1983
street & number: 150 Benefit Street
telephone: 401-277-2678

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

[ ] national [ ] state [X] 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

date

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