**1. NAME**

Common: Great Road Historic District

And/or Historic: "Quinsinckett"

---

**2. LOCATION**

Street and Number: Great Road

City or Town: Lincoln

State: Rhode Island

---

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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<td>Structure</td>
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Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate):

- Agricultural
- Government
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Military
- Educational
- Religious
- Entertainment
- Museum
- Scientific
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)
- Transportation
- Comments

---

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Owner's Name: Multiple

Street and Number:

City or Town: Lincoln

State: Rhode Island

---

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Lincoln Town Clerk

Street and Number: 100 Old River Road

City or Town: Lincoln

State: Rhode Island

---

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Title of Survey: See continuation sheet

Date of Survey: Federal State County Local

Depository for Survey Records:

Street and Number:

City or Town: Lincoln

State: Rhode Island

---

**Form 10-300** UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)
The section of the Great Road between the villages of Saylesville to the southeast and Limerock to the northwest is a narrow, two-lane road which follows the course of the Mosshassuck River. Twisting through the valley, between dams, ponds, and mill runs of an early textile industry, the Great Road to Mendon is bordered by broad, hilly fields, farmed for more than 300 years, and by dense woodland. The Great Road Historic District is approximately 0.6 miles long. To the south it is bounded by the Lincoln Woods State Reservation, east to the rear of the lots on Preserved Arnold Road, north to the Great Road, east to the eastern edge of the Eleazer Arnold House property, north along the property line to the top of the ridge of hills, northwest along this ridge behind the Great Road properties, continuing across the northwest branch of the Great Road to include the Butterfly Pond, then southeast along the edge of the pond, across Breakneck Hill Road to the edge of the Lincoln Woods.

Architecturally the Great Road Historic District is a fabric of structures from the seventeenth through the early nineteenth centuries, tightly woven and little interrupted by more modern construction. Built in 1687, the "splendid mansion of Eleazer Arnold" stands as a landmark as one approaches the district from the east. Built by the progenitor of the Arnold family which settled widely in the area, this National Historic Landmark has been reconstructed in a twentieth century image of what domestic architecture of the seventeenth century might have been. Although much of the present detail dates from this reconstruction, and although the front peaked gable is now missing, this two-story house retains its fine pilastered stone chimney and its exposed stone end, typical of seventeenth century houses in Rhode Island.

Two-fifths of a mile west of the Eleazer Arnold House, the Israel Arnold House at 600 Great Road is remarkably well-preserved and restored. The house is a two-story, gable roofed, clapboard structure of the five-room, central chimney type. The partially exposed brick chimney on the south end of the gambrel roofed ell has courses of burned headers (laid in common bond), a feature rarely found in Rhode Island. Both the kitchen of the main portion of the house and the first-floor room of the ell retain extremely large brick fireplaces, each with a bee-hive oven. Although construction of the ell has formerly been thought to have pre-dated that of the main portion, the framing exposed during recent restoration has revealed that the entire structure must have been built as a whole, probably before 1740. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

From its wooded, hilltop site, the Israel Arnold House overlooks the Moffett Mill complex. Built in 1812, the mill served as a machine shop, and later as a shoe-lace and braid factory. It is a narrow, two-story, gable-roofed structure of weathered clapboards and horizontal sheathing. Built close to the road, it stands beside its still intact dam and pond. Although many of its windows are boarded up, the mill remains in original condition. Of the several small cottages clustering around the mill, (continued)
6. Structures List in Existing Surveys:

National Register of Historic Places
Eleazer Arnold House, 1687 (National Historic Landmark)
Israel Arnold House, c.1740
"Hearthside" (Stephen H. Smith House), 1810

Historic American Building Survey
"Hearthside," HABS RI-47.
Eleazer Arnold House, HABS RI-87
Israel Arnold House, HABS RI-91
Croade Tavern, HABS RI-88
Moffett Mill, HABS RI-90

7. Description (continued)

one just east at 571 Great Road is from the settlement's ear-
liest years. Thought to have been an Arnold House, this small,
two-story, clapboarded building with its simple Federal detail
remains well preserved. Together with an old barn and a modest
Italianate house built by the mill owner on the hill above in
1862, these structures are an intact, early industrial settle-
ment.

West of the Moffett Mill stand the house and mill of
Stephen H. Smith. Although from the same period as the Moffett
Mill, this group is of quite a different character. With
$50,000 winnings from the Louisianna Lottery, Smith built his
elegant country seat, "Hearthside," in 1810. With its unusual
ogee gable ends and colossal portico, this two-and-one-half
story stone house is one of the most elegant country houses of
the period in Rhode Island and has been listed on the National
Register. It is built well back from the road, surrounded by
fields still farmed. In 1811 Smith erected his textile printing
factory, the "Butterfly Mill," on the riverbank across the Great
Road from "Hearthside." Built of the same cut stone as the
mansion, it received its name from a formation of stones in an
exterior wall which resembled a large butterfly. Once a long,
two-story structure, it has been lowered and much altered into
a one-story residence. However, with the adjacent dam, pond,
and fragments of the old mill race, some of the original charac-
ter of this complex remains.

Several additional eighteenth century houses, a fine Ital-
ianate house of the 1870's, and a few scattered, modest houses
of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries complete the district.
GREAT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Lincoln, Rhode Island

**SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES**

1. __ Great Road, "Butterfly Mill," 1811, 1 story, cut-stone, altered into private residence.

2. __ Great Road, "Hearthside" (Stephen H. Smith House), 1810, Federal, 2½ story, cut-stone, original condition, National Register, HABS.

3. 660 Great Road, Moshassuck Mill, early 19th century, 2 story, shingle, much altered.

4. 600 Great Road, "Israel Arnold House," c.1740, 2 story, clapboard, gambrel ell with brick end chimney, restored, National Register, HABS.

5. 575 Great Road, "Moffett House," 1862, Italianate, 2 story, clapboard, original condition.

6. __ Great Road, "Moffett Mill," c.1812, 2 story, natural finished clapboards, original condition, HABS.


8. 563 Great Road, "J. Smith House," Greek Revival, 1½ story, clapboard, original condition.

9. 528 Great Road, "J. Conley House," late 18th century, 2 story, clapboard, original condition, "half-a-house."

10. 500 Great Road, "A.E. Arnold House," 18th century, 1½ story, clapboard, gambrel-roofed saltbox, altered.


12. __ Great Road, "Old Croade Tavern," c.1700, 1½ story, clapboard, gambrel-roof, framed-in overhang, moved from Pawtucket (R.I.) to rear of Eleazer Arnold House, HABS.

13. __ Great Road, "Eleazer Arnold House," 1687, 2 story, clapboard, "stone-ender" with massive pilastered chimney, restored, museum, National Historic Landmark, HABS.
7. Description (continued)

Although protected by the Lincoln Woods to the south and by open fields and a golf course to the north, recent suburban development has encroached upon the eastern edge of the district and now almost surrounds the Eleazer Arnold House. Today the character of this exceptionally rich historic district is seriously threatened by heavy traffic which now overloads the narrow, winding Great Road.

9. Bibliography (continued)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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<td>□ 19th Century</td>
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**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**
1683, 1687, 1810, 1811, 1812

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Although many of the important structures of the Great Road Historic District belong to an early textile industry, the importance of the area stems from the long history of the road itself. Built in 1683 through the Moshassuck River valley, the Great Road was part of a colonial road running north to the once flourishing center of Mendon, Massachusetts. Connecting a series of rural Quaker communities with the marketplace of Providence, the road also served as a transportation link for the Dexter Limerock Quarry in the hills just north of the district. Established in 1640, the quarry itself is one of the oldest industries still operating in the nation.

The Eleazer Arnold House, built in 1687, dates from the earliest years of the area. Its stone chimney is the best extant example of the early Rhode Island pilastered type, and its fireplaces are among the largest in New England. Known as Mr. Arnold's "splendid mansion," it is evidence of prosperous rural life in the area in the seventeenth century. Also a substantial house, the Israel Arnold House was probably built c.1740, and is among the best preserved houses of the period in the state.

By the turn of the eighteenth century the upper Moshassuck was found to be an excellent source of power for the textile mill industry, introduced by Moses Brown in Pawtucket in the 1780's. By 1850 more than a dozen small cotton, flax, and printing mills flourished on the river. A number of these small factories with their concomitant workers' cottages, tightly woven into the earlier architectural fabric of the district, remain today. Both the Moffett Mill (1812), the first machine shop in the state, and the Butterfly Mill (1811), an early textile-printing mill, are important examples of such complexes.

During the last half of the nineteenth century, large-scale factory operations along the Blackstone and lower Moshassuck Rivers preempted the small mills of the upper Moshassuck, and the Great Road gradually returned to its former rural tranquility. Although the district is bordered by a protected woodland and by fields still under cultivation, suburban development to the east and excessive traffic through the area threaten this tranquility, a quality essential to the character of the Great Road Historic District.
Brown, Frank C., "Rhode Island Houses Along the Blackstone River Valley," The Monograph Series, Pencil Points, April, 1935.


### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** 100 acres

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME AND TITLE:**
Clifford M. Renshaw III, Consultant

**ORGANIZATION:**
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**DATE:**
1/10/74

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
52 Power Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Providence

**STATE:**
Rhode Island

### 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 [x]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

**Name**

**Title**

**Date**

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

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

**ATTEST:**

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Date**
1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Great Road Historic District
   - AND/OR HISTORIC: "Quinsnickett"

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Great Road
   - CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln
   - STATE: Rhode Island
   - CODE: 44
   - COUNTY: Providence
   - CODE: 007

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw
   - DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1973
   - NEGATIVE FILED AT: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 52 Power St., Providence, R.I.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
     - Moffett Mill
     - Great Road Historic District
     - Great Road, Lincoln, R. I.
     - north side
## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

**STATE**
- **Rhode Island**

**COUNTY**
- **Providence**

---

### 1. NAME
- **COMMON:** Great Road Historic District
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** "Quinsnickett"

### 2. LOCATION
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** Great Road
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Lincoln
- **STATE:** Rhode Island
- **CODE:** 44
- **COUNTY:** Providence
- **CODE:** 007

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- **DATE OF PHOTO:** July, 1973
- **NEGATIVE FILED AT:**
  - R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 52 Power St., Providence, R.I.

### 4. IDENTIFICATION
- **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**
  - Arnold-Lincoln House
  - Great Road Historic District
  - Great Road, Lincoln, R.I.
  - South (front) and West sides
## COMMON NAME
**Great Road Historic District**

**AND/OR HISTORIC:** "Quinsnickett"

## LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Great Road

**CITY OR TOWN:**
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**STATE:**
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**CODE**
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**COUNTY:**
Providence

**CODE**
007

## PHOTO REFERENCE

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Eric Hertfelder

**DATE OF PHOTO:** February, 1973

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R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 52 Power St., Providence, R. I.

## IDENTIFICATION

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

"Butterfly Mill"
Great Road Historic District
Great Road, Lincoln, R. I.

North (front) and East sides
COMMON: Great Road Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: "Quinsnickett"

STREET AND NUMBER:
Great Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln
STATE:
Rhode Island

PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Hertfelder
DATE OF PHOTO: February, 1973
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 52 Power St., Providence, R. I.

"Hearthside" (Stephen H. Smith House)
Great Road Historic District
Great Road, Lincoln, R. I.
South (front) and West sides
Form No. 10-301a

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)

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**COMMON:** Great Road Historic District

**AND/OR HISTORIC:** "Quinspickett"

2. **LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Great Road

**CITY OR TOWN:** Lincoln

**STATE:** Rhode Island

**CODE:** 44

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3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Clifford M. Renshaw

**DATE OF PHOTO:** July, 1973

**NEGATIVE FILED AT:** R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 52 Power St., Providence, R. I.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

- Moffett House
- Great Road Historic District
- 575 Great Road, Lincoln, R. I.
- West (front) and South sides
Great Road Historic District
Lincoln, Rhode Island
1973
Great Road Historic District

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

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Boundary of District: ------------

SCALE 1:24000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
**COMMON:** Great Road Historic District

**AND/OR HISTORIC:** "Quinsnickett"

**LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Great Road

**CITY OR TOWN:** Lincoln

**STATE:** Rhode Island

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**SOURCE:** U.S. Geological Survey

**SCALE:** 1: 24,000

**DATE:** 1949 (photorevised 1970)

**REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
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<td>View from North</td>
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# GREAT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

**STATE:**
- Rhode Island

**COUNTY:**
- Providence

### 1. NAME

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* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1