**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Hearthside
   - AND/OR HISTORIC: Smith (Stephen Hopkins) House

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Great Road (0.1 mile south-east of Breakneck Hill Road), Saylesville
   - CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln
   - STATE: Rhode Island, 02865
   - CODE: 11
   - COUNTY: Providence
   - CODE: 007

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - CATEGORY (Check One):
     - District
     - Site
     - Structure
     - Object
   - OWNERSHIP:
     - Public
     - Private
     - Both
   - PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY:
     - Private Acquisition:
       - In Process
       - Being Considered
     - Public Acquisition:
       - Occupied
       - Unoccupied
       - Preservation work in progress

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - OWNER'S NAME: E. Andrew Mowbray
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Great Road, Saylesville
   - CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln
   - STATE: Rhode Island, 02865
   - CODE: 11

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, 02865
   - CODE: 11

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
   - DATE OF SURVEY: 1937, 1955
   - DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.
   - CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   - STATE: District of Columbia
   - CODE: 11
Hearthside stands, imposingly, close to the "Great Road to Mendon" in the Saylesville section of Lincoln, a rural area in the northern part of Rhode Island, as a sizeable country residence constructed c. 1810 for Stephen Hopkins Smith. The name of a known architect or builder-architect has never been associated with Hearthside. Its design may have been outlined or supervised by Smith himself, who was a person of intellect, a traveller, and undoubtedly well acquainted with the best extant and newly-arising examples of architecture in nearby Providence.

This is a high, nearly square house of two-and-a-half storeys with attic space above and is five bays wide across its main (south) front. It is set upon a low stone basement, covered by a gable roof whose ridge runs east-west and is faced with dressed local stone laid in random ashlar courses. Behind the exterior stonework are a "dead" or air space and inner walls of rubble into which main supporting beams are mortised; first-floor beams also rest upon two parallel brick walls in the basement. Across the front runs a fairly shallow two-storey unpedimented tetrastyle portico with flat-surfaced wooden piers; within this the main entrance is centered, and there is a subsidiary entrance on the east side. At the rear is a wing built in two periods—the portion with stone exterior walls constructed within a few years of the house itself, the portion of frame and clapboard construction added probably in the 1830's; accommodation is further enlarged in the half-storey under the roof by a large frontal dormer. The plan provides a central hall and a side one on the first floor and four large rooms on first and second floors of the main house, these latter being served by four narrow internal chimneys of brick. Leading up to the house from the Great Road is a stone-paved walk, with steps up from the highway, and an unpaved drive passes by the side entrance.

The tall portico and the fan- and side-lit entrance within it are handsome appurtenances of Hearthside, but the most striking architectural features of its exterior are the ogee curves used in the end gables, the roof of the front dormer (which contains three rectangular windows surmounted by a bull's-eye one) and in the roof of the small side porch, which last had most of its components destroyed in a hurricane and must now be restored. Such a large, conspicuous, curving baroque architectural-ornamental feature was common in Europe and in England in Renaissance times but very much less so in later-settled North America, even allowing for the customary lag in popular styles. However, a prominent and extant example of an ogee pediment is to be seen in Joseph Brown's self-designed house of 1771: at 50 South Main Street in Providence; and this must undoubtedly have been the inspiration for Hearthside's later extravagances.

The house otherwise presents simple Federal-period external trim. The portico has a slim, modest moulded cornice of no great projection; originally the portico also had a surmounting low, panelled parapet—

(See Continuation Sheet.)
The architectural individuality and importance of Hearthside have already here been remarked upon, and its long-standing significance as a state and Lincoln landmark goes without saying. Some of its history, and that of its builder, is of interest:

Stephen Hopkins Smith was a member of a prominent local Quaker family (although his travels, connections, romance and architectural ambition seem to have flown beyond traditional Quaker reticence). The family was not rich, but in or before 1810 Stephen Smith found himself winner of the $50,000 drawing in a Louisiana lottery. At that time he had great interest in a somewhat demanding local belle who required "the finest house in Rhode Island" before giving herself in marriage. Using at least $60,000 of his winnings, it is said, Smith created Hearthside. When he drove his fiancée to see it, she was enchanted by its majesty--in the midst of nowhere--but declared it much too far out in the country for her to think of living there. After this distressing drive, Stephen Smith dwelt for some years at Hearthside as a bachelor, taking in for company his brother Joseph and his family. Joseph was the Reader of the local Quaker assembly; he also travelled, was a botanist and brought back specimens for Stephen Smith to plant on the property.

Hearthside was, at least in part, maintained from the earnings of Smith's "Butterfly Factory" across the road to the south (and so-called because of a pattern in its stonework), which did textile-printing. In addition to this enterprise, Smith was also greatly interested in the promotion of a commercial canal system and in 1823 became a commissioner of the Blackstone Canal project, connecting Providence with Worcester, Massachusetts. He was responsible for buying up much of the land for this canal and took an active part in laying out the series of reservoirs and gates it required. Much attention was given, too, to the placing of rare trees, shrubs and plants on his estate and to the landscape appearance of the area in general, which developed a reputation for sylvan beauty. In 1912, land to the south of Hearthside became the nucleus of the Lincoln Woods State Reservation, and the deed and dedication ceremony appropriately took place in Hearthside's drawing-room.

Although Smith lived at Hearthside in unintended celibacy, he...
also a hurricane victim and requiring replacement. The main entrance has panels below its sidelights and the simplest of inset wooden surrounds. Window openings, capped by splayed single-piece stone lintels, are set in wooden architraves and have six-over-six sash. The wooden moldings in the ogee gables are enriched by a beaded section, and so originally were all other major exterior moldings, except in the wing.

As for the interior, one enters on the first floor a stair-hall which has a flat, horizontally-boarded, painted wooden wainscot rising to a chair-rail of dark wood. At one side the stair rises in a short, straight, open-string run of four steps and then continues its ascent in an enclosed spiral to the second floor; its first four-step stage has a ramped rail with columnar newel of dark wood (echoed against the east wall) and square, painted, stick balusters; the four steps have sawn scrolls at their ends. Throughout the house, windows and doors (6-panel) have simple molded architraves. The windows have reveals for panelled folding shutters, and on the second floor window-seats are provided within the reveals. Modest one-storey mantels of Federal style are to be seen throughout, but those in the two front, first-storey rooms are executed in imported marble—-one black, the other white.

Grounds now comprise about one acre, with vestiges of a flower garden on the west side and large old trees here and there—in particular, two "tulip poplars" in front, one of which Stephen Smith planted to match the other already there. There is a barn to the rear, but it is not the original one, which was burnt, and other original outbuildings have not survived. In spite of numerous changes of ownership in a century-and-a-half the main house has come down in remarkably intact condition and since 1955 has had a particularly sympathetic owner, who intends to keep the fabric in good repair and to undertake such little restoration (frontal parapet, side porch etc.) as is necessary.

8. Significance.

lived very well indeed and entertained there. The stone walk from road to portico is reported to have been laid by torchlight in one night in preparation for important guests invited for the next day. During his occupancy, Hearthside must have been the "manor house" of Lincoln, as its like was not nearby and its hospitality was probably not to be equalled. Later on, Smith went to live in a smaller house in the neighbourhood, and in the next century his former home changed hands frequently.

However, though its grounds are now reduced, Hearthside itself has come down with its architectural integrity unimpaired, and it is today in good hands. Rhode Island has well-known city houses, magnificent summer mansions, and among its old country houses Hearthside is still the grandest—as it was intended to be.
**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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*Approximate acreage of nominated property:* 

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

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**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

**12. STATE/LIAISON/OFFICER/CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-666), 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 [x]
- Local [ ]

*Name*

*Title*

*Date*

**13. NATIONAL REGISTER/VERIFICATION**

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

*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

*ATTEST:*

Keeper of The National Register

*Date*
1. NAME
COMMON
Hearthside

AND/OR HISTORIC
Smith (Stephen Hopkins) House

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION
STATE
Rhode Island

COUNTY
Providence

TOWN
Lincoln

STREET AND NUMBER
Great Road (0.1 mile south-east of Breakneck Hill Road), Saylesville

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT
E. Andrew Mowbray

DATE
c. 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House,

52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
South front: detail of dormer and portico cornice.
1. NAME
COMMON
Hearthside
AND/OR HISTORIC
Smith (Stephen Hopkins)
NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) House

2. LOCATION
STATE
Rhode Island
COUNTY
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TOWN
Lincoln
STREET AND NUMBER
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E. Andrew Mowbray
DATE
c. 1972
NEGATIVE FILED AT
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House,

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
52 Power Street, Providence,
Rhode Island, 02906
Main entrance.
1. NAME
   COMMON: Hearthside
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Smith (Stephen Hopkins) House
   NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION
   STATE: Rhode Island
   COUNTY: Providence
   TOWN: Lincoln
   STREET AND NUMBER: Great Road (0.1 mile south-east of Breakneck Hill Road), Saylesville

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: E. Andrew Mowbray
   DATE: c. 1972
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   North end of stair-hall, showing the beginning of the spiral stair.
1. NAME

COMMON
Hearthside

AND/OR HISTORIC
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2. LOCATION

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

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Detail of dining-room, showing typical interior trim.
1. NAME
COMMON
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AND/OR HISTORIC
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4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Exterior from the south-east.
HEARTSIDE

Geographical Coordinates
Latitude: 41° 54' 23.57" N
Longitude: 71° 25' 49.41" W

SCALE 1:24000
0
1 MILE

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

VILLAGE GREEN ASSOCIATES, INC.
LAND SURVEYING - PLANNING - TECH. SERVICES
162 COLUMBIA STREET
PEACE DALE, RHODE ISLAND 02883
STREET AND NUMBER: Great Road
CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln
STATE: Rhode Island

1. NAME
COMMON: Hearthside
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Great Road

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln
STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Providence

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1949

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.