NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME
HISTORIC
Joseph Smith-House
AND/OR COMMON
Smith-Cushing House

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
109 Smithfield Road
CITY, TOWN
North Providence
STATE
Rhode Island

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BUILDINGS
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOOTH

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Henry Paolino and Joseph Aldorisio
STREET & NUMBER
109 Smithfield Road
CITY, TOWN
North Providence
STATE
Rhode Island

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
North Providence Town Hall
STREET & NUMBER
2008 Smith Street
CITY, TOWN
North Providence
STATE
Rhode Island

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
North Providence Preliminary Survey
DATE
1977-1978
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
CITY, TOWN
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island
STATE
the two-panel overmantel is defined by three crudely tapered and reeded pilaster strips with heavy cornice caps. It is an elaborate example of the vernacular—a primitive use of the classical motifs.

The two upper bedchambers in the east wing are duplicates of the east parlor and the dining room. However, here the mantels are detailed only by bolection mouldings at the openings; the absence of a panelled overmantel in these rooms may have been a question of means, but more probably a result of their less important function.

The back stairs continue to the attic space which is large and unfinished, except for a primitive form of painting, consisting of reddish circles daubed onto the whitened walls and ceiling.
SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
109 SHIPTFIELD ROAD
NORTH PROVIDENCE, R.I.
SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE
The Smith-Cushing House is the only surviving "stone-ender" in the town of North Providence. The stone-end house type is probably based on a medieval house form from southern Britain—timber-framed, plank-walled structures, one-and-a-half stories high, usually with one room per floor. A massive stone chimney stack at one end formed almost an entire wall—hence the name "stone-ender." This house type was peculiar to Rhode Island in the early colonial era. Only a dozen such structures are known to survive in the state.

The Smith-Cushing House illustrates both Phase II and Phase III of Norman Isham's classification of Rhode Island "stone-enders." The one-story stone base of the chimney stack, a survivor of King Philip's War of 1675-1676, probably served a one-and-a-half story, two-room house. The chimney base and cellar wall were re-used in 1705 to build a Phase III enlarged stone-end house. Raised to a full two stories, the stone end was built up with brick, laid up in Flemish bond, with two rooms on the first floor—it is unclear as to whether there were two on the second.

The core of the house was built in 1705, according to deeds by Joseph Smith, grandson of John Smith, the miller, a compatriot of Roger Williams, who established the first grist mill in Providence. The area that encompasses present-day North Providence was originally divided into five farms—one was owned by John Smith.

In 1762, the house passed out of the Smith family. The house had served as the focus of a 190-acre farm. This now passed from the Smiths, good yeoman farmers, into the Jenckes family. Judge Daniel Jenckes, Chief Justice of Providence, bought the farm at public auction for his son John. John, a gentleman farmer, member of a wealthy Providence family, had the means to double the size of the house and remodel both the interior and the exterior, according to the latest fashion.

The house has passed through the Rhodes, Wilde, Cushing, Hurdis, and Maclaine families—all descended from John Jenckes. The house has only recently passed out of the family. Throughout the nineteenth century the farm was leased out to be farmed professionally. In the
post-Civil War period both the owners and the tenant farmer occupied the house, perhaps accounting for the re-working of the rear lean-to addition, which expanded the keeping room and provided space for a new kitchen.

It is not until the late nineteenth century that the farmlands were substantially reduced. Throughout this century, land has been sold off in parcels and platted. Today, the house stands on less than one-and-a-half acres of land; an 1870 one-and-a-half-story barn and carriage house, a shed, well-head, and a two-seater "biffy" located to the north and west of the house are also included in the nomination. As yet, the pasturelands to the west of the house, and the lot to the east, enclosed by substantial, well-laid stone walls, although not within the nomination, are undeveloped, and add much to the siting of the house.

The Smith-Cushing House evolved out of a medieval building tradition that had continued into the eighteenth century in much of Rhode Island. The house's growth to its present appearance—a large, basic, mid-eighteenth century farmhouse, was possible because of the growing wealth of the farming aristocracy that maintained the property well into this century.
conveyed, said point being two (2) feet west of the westerly face of
a stone wall and in the northerly line of Smithfield Road at Station
34 plus 42 more or less as shown on Rhode Island Highway Plat No. 1026
and recorded in Deed Book 52 page 532 in the North Providence records;
then going northerly two (2) feet from and parallel to the westerly
face of said wall eighty three (83) feet more or less to a corner;
then turning and going easterly on a line two (2) feet from and
parallel to the northerly face of another stone wall eight and four
tenths (8.4) feet to an iron pin driven in the ground at the south-
westernly corner of land conveyed to Edward T. Donovan and wife Ruth B.
and Leonard Albanese and wife Jean, recorded in Deed Book 97 page 294;
then going northerly with the westerly line of this conveyance two
hundred sixteen (216) feet more or less to the southeasterly corner of
Lot No. 6 of the "Cushing Meadow Plat owned by Sara H. MacLaine, R. H.
Rawdon March 1957, Scale 1" = 30 ft." as shown on Plat Card 168 in
the North Providence records; thence going westerly with the southerly
line of the Cushing Meadow Plat and the southerly line of land conveyed
to Edward T. Donovan and wife Ruth B. in Deed Book 96 page 113 one
hundred sixty three and five tenths (163.5) feet to a corner; thence
turning an interior angle of about 88° and going southerly three hundred
twenty three (323) feet more or less to Smithfield Road; thence going
easterly with the northerly line of Smithfield Road one hundred eighty
six and five tenths (186.5) feet to the point and place of beginning.
Said parcel contains 55,050 square feet of land more or less.
Said premises are subject to taxes assessed December 31, 1977.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Isham, Norman. Early Rhode Island Houses. 1895.
Providence Deed Books 1709-1762.
North Providence Deed Books 1772-1855.

GEOPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1-1/2 acres

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That certain lot or parcel of land, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on the northerly side of Smithfield Road, in the Town of North Providence, County of Providence and State of Rhode Island, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southeasterly corner of the parcel herein
(see cont. sheet #5)

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Vivienne F. Lasky, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: September 1978

STREET & NUMBER: 150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE: (401) 277-2678

CITY OR TOWN: Providence, Rhode Island

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: State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE: September 29, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
North Providence, Rhode Island

Vivienne F. Lasky, Photographer  March, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

Exterior view from the southwest

Photo #1
SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
North Providence, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer  September, 1978

Negative:  Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View of west wall showing stone and brick end chimney

Photo #2
SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
North Providence, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer September, 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View of Staircase, looking northeast

Photo #3
SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
North Providence, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer       September, 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View of Great Room or Library looking west toward mantel

Photo #4
SMITH-CUSHING HOUSE
North Providence, Rhode Island

Warren Jagger, Photographer    September, 1978

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

View of Upper Chamber looking west toward mantel

Photo #5