United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mowry, Tyler, House

other name/site number: _______________________

2. Location

street & number: 112 Sayles Hill Road

city/town: North Smithfield vicinity: N/A

county: Providence state: RI

zip code: 02896 code: 007 not for publication: N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property name: Mowry, Tyler, Hse, Sayles Hill Rd, Prov. Cty., N. Smithfield, RI

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ______ meets ______ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of certifying official

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ______ meets ______ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

______ entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

______ determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

______ determined not eligible for the National Register.

______ removed from the National Register.

______ other (explain): __________________________

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form


7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Federal

Other Description:

Materials: foundation Granite/Stone  roof Asphalt shingle  walls Clapboard  other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: State

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1825

Significant Dates: c. 1825

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.
9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 19 292420 4648700 B
C ____________________________ D ____________________________

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

 Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Roberta Randall/Historic Preservation Architect

Organization: RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission Date: 5/96

Street & Number: 150 Benefit Street Telephone: 401 277-2678

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02906
Description

Facing south on Sayles Hill Road, the Tyler Mowry House is a highly intact rectilinear center-hall-plan house with an integral kitchen ell to the east built at the same time as the house (ca. 1825). The interior of the main house is a typical Federal plan; with a central hall containing the stair to the second floor; two rooms to either side of the center hall at the first floor and the second floor, larger front rooms and smaller rear rooms separated by chimneys which contain fireboxes for each of the four rooms on the first floor and the two front rooms on the second floor. The ell, also rectilinear, contains two rooms separated by a large cooking fireplace with a beehive oven, and a pantry with shelving. The interior spatial configuration remains as built with no alterations.

The main block of the house is thirty-six feet wide and twenty-eight feet deep, with gable roof. The facade is a two-story, five-bay front with a Federal, flat-headed, panelled, and sidelight center entry framed by banded "Gothick" colonettes. The overdoor panel contains a characteristically Federal patera, and the door is the original six-panel door. The windows of the main house are original projecting plank frames with simple sloped caps and original twelve-over-twelve sash and wood shutters. The house retains early clapboards in good condition. The one story ell measures twenty-eight feet wide by twenty-one feet deep, also with gable roof. The facade of the ell has a similarly detailed entry although much simplified. The windows are original plank frame with later six over six sash, although the original twelve over twelve sash were saved and are presently stored in the attic. The ell also has early clapboards which are presently covered with asphalt shingles. All other elevations of the house as well as the ell are in similar condition to the facade. The exterior of the building maintains a high degree of integrity.

On the interior, the center hall contains a typical Federal stairway with a simple rail and square balusters. The open string stair is beautifully detailed with sawn scroll ornamentation below each tread and a drop pendant showing at the first floor ceiling below the second floor newel post. The center hall is also decorated with a chairrail, which is typical throughout the house. The southeast and the southwest parlors are detailed with matching pilastered mantels similar in style to the front entry detailing. Both of these rooms have plaster walls and ceilings and are decorated with chairrails and beaded, cased corner posts. The southeast parlor has a shelved closet to the west of the chimney and an entry to the rear room to the east of the chimney, as well as an entrance to the ell.
along the east wall, while the southwest parlor has only one door, other than the center hall door, that leads to the rear room. The two rear rooms are much plainer, with simple mantels and over cupboards with panelled doors. The northwest room also contains a shelved closet to the east of the chimney. These rooms have doors which lead back to the center hall which is now separated by a wall running east-west at the end of the stair run. The rear of the center hall contains a door to the exterior.

The second floor plan matches the first in room layout and dimension, except for the small room located at the head of the stair above the rear of the center hall. The second floor, like the first, has tall ceilings typical of the Federal period. The southeast and southwest chambers have pilastered mantels similar to, but smaller than the first floor mantels. These rooms are plastered and also have chairrails and beaded cased corner posts. Each room has only one door leading to the center hall. The rear rooms have no fireplaces, but have two closets each on either side of the chimney. The northeast room's east closet contains access to the ell attic as well as a ladder stair to the main attic. There is also a enclosed stairway to the main house attic above the main stair in the center hall. The west chimney remains intact and is offset from the mass below at the attic level so that it will fall centered on the ridge of the roof. The chimney mass at the attic has buttressed sides to provide extra support for the severe offset. The east chimney has been rebuilt from the attic floor up through the roof although it is apparent from the visible evidence that it originally matched the west chimney. The attic retains its original framing and is in good condition except at one rafter bay at the east end of the north slope where water damage developed and exacerbated a large hole.

The ell cooking fireplace has been blocked but remains intact behind, except for one cheek, which has been straightened. The beehive oven, however remains intact. The mantel is plain with an overmantel cabinet. In the northeast corner of the ell, there is a pantry with decorative shelving on four sides of the room. The northwest corner of the ell contains a secondary stair to the attic space above. The ell contains doors to the exterior at both the south and north elevations.

All of the original four-panel, raised-panel interior doors with original hardware remain in place throughout the house and are in good condition. This is true of all other materials as well, including the mantels, stairway, window sash, door and window trim, chairrails and much of the flooring. The house has never had a heating system, or hot running
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Section number: 7

The ell contains a sink that had pumped cold water from a well directly outside. The house has a water closet but has never had a bathroom or septic system.

The vernacular agricultural landscaping directly around the house also remains much as it looked during the period when the farm was operating. Several granite fence posts, stonewalls, cattle paths, bull pen, and granite steps remain as evidence of the earlier dairy farm.

The property has been unoccupied for the past year and seriously neglected for several years prior. The result has been some water damage at the rear of the building to the basement framing and first floor flooring at the northwest corner. There is also roof damage at the northeast corner of the main roof which has resulted in damage to the framing below at both the attic floor and the second floor. All of this damage is easily repairable with no further loss of original fabric.
Photographs

3. Photographer:
4. Date:
5. Negative: RIHP&HC
(The above information applies to all photographs)

7. Photo #1

7. Photo #2

7. Photo #3

6. View: Front (south) entrance door.
7. Photo #4

6. View: Center hall stairway, looking north.
7. Photo #5

6. View: Southwest parlor mantel, looking north.
7. Photo #6

7. Photo #7

7. Photo #8

6. View: Southwest chamber mantel, looking north.
7. Photo #9

6. View: Agricultural landscape showing cow path, looking north.
7. Photo #10
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Property name: Mowry, Tyler, Hse, Sayles Hill Rd., Prov. Cty., N. Smithfield, RI

Section number: 7

First floor sketch plan--not to scale
Second floor sketch plan—not to scale
Significance

The Tyler Mowry House is a significant example of Federal domestic architecture which exhibits a level of architectural sophistication and quality more typically found in urban areas than in rural northern Rhode Island. No changes or alterations of any significance have been made to this house since it was originally built, including modernization of any kind. It is uniquely unaltered on the exterior and on the interior.

The Mowry House follows the general format of later Federal houses in Rhode Island. The center hall, four-room plan dwelling with integral service ell became common in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The Mowry House is distinguished, however, by stylish detail unusual in a remote rural setting, notably the entrance surround and the fine mantelpieces in the front rooms on both floors. "Unpedimented doors of some elaboration became more common after 1810," Downing further notes and describes variations on the Adam fan motif as decoration for the frieze of such entrances. The mantelpieces, framed by engaged colonnettes supporting a broad frieze and topped by an exaggeratedly projecting mantel shelf, are closely related to those published in Asher Benjamin's pattern books. The repetition of the form used on the first story in smaller scale on the second story suggests greater sophistication on the part of the designer/builder than in most rural houses.

Due to industry and transportation developments, housing during the nineteenth century in Northern Rhode Island grew considerably in what had been rural farmland prior to this time. Many houses of the Federal period were built in growing villages developing along new transportation routes, but this large, center hall house in its rural agricultural setting is a rare example not only due to its elaborate size and decoration for its setting when constructed in the early nineteenth century, but also for its unaltered appearance today. The integrity of the Mowry House is remarkable. All the original exterior and interior trim remains intact, and in most places the paint is at most two or three layers deep. The rear rooms

1Antoinette F. Downing, *Early Homes of Rhode Island* (Richmond, 1937): 323.


3Ibid, p. 371.
The area which is now North Smithfield was settled in 1666 as a part of the Town of Providence and remained primarily agricultural through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This particular part of town, known as Sayles Hill, developed more after the construction of the nearby Great Road, which went through the area, which was settled in 1666 as a part of the Town of Providence and remained agricultural until the late nineteenth century. The road, which went through the area, was known as the Smithfield Road, and it became a separate town, with boundaries as we know them today.

By 1972-1852, the house on the farm site, probably around the time of the death of the first settler, was passed down to his daughter, Sarah Ann Mowry. Sarah Ann Mowry never married and the property had passed out of the family to Charles Irons by 1895. In 1919 the large farm was purchased by the Marcotte family, who transformed the area into residential use.

In May, 1666, 2000 acres in North Smithfield were deeded to John Mowry, his brother Nathaniel and Edward Inman, who became the first settlers on Sayles Hill. Nathaniel Mowry built his homestead on this site shortly thereafter, and the property, which included the house and a large farm, was passed down through four generations to Tyler Mowry, 1792-1852, who improved the farm and made it one of the finest in the area. His wealth and prosperity are evident in this sophisticated house which he built on the farm site, probably around the time of his marriage to Uranah Sayles on March 16, 1815. Following his death, his daughter Sarah Ann occupied the house and a large farm, which was purchased by the Marcotte family, who transformed the area into residential use.

In the twentieth century, the area became more accessible than ever before and transformed the rural areas of North Smithfield into suburban areas, which were farmed through the car and motorcycle. In the twentieth century, highway improvements saw rapid growth within the area, which was settled in 1666 as a part of the Town of Providence and remained agricultural until the late nineteenth century. The road, which went through the area, was known as the Smithfield Road, and it became a separate town, with boundaries as we know them today.

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Property name: Mooney, Tyler, Hse, Sayles Hill Rd., Prov. Cty., N. Smithfield, RI

Section number: 9

Major Bibliographical References


Town of North Smithfield. Land Evidence Records.

Town of Smithfield. Land Evidence Records.

Walling, H. F. Map of Providence County, Rhode Island. 1851.
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The property nominated includes all of North Smithfield Tax Assessor's Plat 17, Lot 12. This parcel is all that remains of the land historically associated with the property.
Tyler Mowry House
Providence County
N. Smith field, R.I.

Photo #1 of 10
Tyler Maury House
Providence County
N. Smithfield, R.I.
Photo #3 of 10
Tyler Mowry House
Providence County
N. Smithfield, R.I.
Photo #4 of 18
Tyler Mowry House
Providence County
N. Smith Field, R.I.
Photo #6 of 10
Tyler Mowry House
Providence County
N. Smithfield, R.I.
Photo #7 of 18
Tyler Mowry House
Providence County
N. Smithfield, R.I.
Photo #8 of 18
Tyler Mowry House
Providence County
N. Smith field, R.I.
Photo #9 of 10
Tyler Mowry House
Providence, County
N. Smithfield, R.I.
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