

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

**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

John Cole Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Intervale Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Reservoir Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1 - (Fernand St. Germain)

STATE

Rhode Island

VICINITY OF
CODE

44

COUNTY

Providence

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. William Taylor

STREET & NUMBER

Cole Farm Reservoir Road

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island 02864

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cumberland Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

45 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Rhode Island 02864

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Preliminary Cultural Resource Survey for Cumberland, R.I.

DATE

1975-1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Cole Farm, now about 4.3 acres, is situated in the still-rural Diamond Hill section of Cumberland, in the extreme north-east corner of Rhode Island. Ownership by the Coles dates back to 1770, and continued until 1924. Features of the house on the farm plainly belong to the pre-Revolutionary date mentioned. It is set well back from Reservoir Road and is reached by a long gravel drive. Trees form a screen along the road, and there are sizeable groupings of trees on the south-east and south-west portions of the property. The remaining acreage is grassed and mostly flat, though there is some slope down southerly toward the reservoir. Land to the east of the house and, somewhat farther away, to the south-east is now used as horse-paddocks, but no doubt over a long stretch of earlier years was farmed. With the presence now of horses and dogs, if no longer cows, pigs, hens and crops, there is still very much a "farm atmosphere." Completing the farm complex are the out-buildings -- a two-story barn, a former corncrib, a several-purpose shed, a privy, and a canopied well-head.

The farmhouse is a one-and-one-half-story timber-framed clapboard structure set upon a cellar of random fieldstone faced with long slabs of granite. The long axis of the structure runs east-west, and both entrances are on the south side, facing neither Reservoir Road nor the drive in from it (see plot plan). The earlier part of the house (it had a two-bay eastern extension in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century) is of five-room, central-chimney plan and is simply treated. The south elevation shows the c.1770 house with its plain central doorway, with transom lights, flanked on the west by one window (where one might generally expect two) and on the east by two windows. To the east of this older portion, and fully conforming in appearance, runs the later, two-bay extension with one doorway and one window. On this front and also at the rear, the roof overhangs the walls by about nine inches, and this overhang is finished underneath by lengths of wide boarding. Beneath this overhang runs an "eaves-cornice" of simple rounded mouldings; this breaks out over the protruded enframements of each opening on front and rear of the earlier part of the house. Windows at the ends of the house, however, have no capping mouldings whatsoever, but only long, flat "dripboards." End windows and some at the rear and in the gables retain twelve-over-twelve-paned sash, but elsewhere sash is six-over-six, a characteristic nineteenth-century modernization. The two southern entrances have large single-slab granite stoops, and each is now sheltered by a vine-grown trellis, probably added c.1925-1945.

Entering the c.1770 portion of this house, one finds the expected: a very small entry with a tightly-angled stairway leading upward (and formerly, concealed behind a door, another stairway leading to the cellar, removed since a new one was installed in the eastern extension of the house). To right and left are doorways to dining-room and parlor, both served by the central chimney, which serves also a room

(see continuation sheet #1)

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taking up much of the back of the house, the old keeping-room. Beside the keeping-room, filling the north-east corner of the first floor, are two rooms: one, nearly square, no doubt used as a bed-chamber (though it is now a bathroom); and next to it, close to the connection between keeping-room and dining-room, an extremely narrow room -- not much wider than its single window -- which most likely served as buttry or china cupboard. The north-west corner of the first floor is taken up by a bed-chamber entered from the parlor.

Interior trim is sparse and plain. Corner-posts are boxed; window and door openings have no moulded surrounds; there is a wainscot of horizontal boarding without any moulded capping; the stair has only a square newel and a flat hand-rail in its initial short run; doors are mostly of four plain, flat, recessed panels though some opening into the parlour have bevelled panels. In the keeping-room, however, there is full-height bevelled panelling around and above hearth and ovens. The dining-room has a small fireplace opening with a simple surrounding moulding and a shallow shelf above, and there is a small cupboard with panelled door set in the wall above and to the left of the fireplace. The parlor fireplace has a modest moulded surround with a stretch of frieze above and a shallow shelf with a supporting moulding; beside this fireplace is a tall and narrow floor-length cupboard with a door having two bevelled panels. Floors throughout the house are of the original wide boards. Most woodwork is today painted white or brown except in the parlor, where it has been stripped and grained by the present occupants.

The upper floor is said to have been divided in its western part into two sleeping compartments, probably divided only by vertical boarding; but this space was opened into one by a recent owner, roof insulation applied, a lavatory and a clothes-cupboard installed. Nothing beyond this was done, however, and the old pegged rafters are still visible as are lack of any trim and the ancient, unpainted upper skeleton of the house.

Around 1795-1810, the old house acquired its eastern extension of two bays, with its own southern entrance almost duplicating the older doorway to its west but without transom. Here were provided another "keeping-room," with a good-sized hearth using a slim chimney just inside the end gable; a bed-chamber behind; a new stair to the

(see continuation sheet #2)

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cellar and another to the upstairs chamber. Door openings to the older part of the house did not separate the two sections and the two generations who lived there. This communicative arrangement allowed the young couple more amenities than were possible in their small extension. In the federal period addition there is slightly more wooden trim than in the older house, around windows, doors, fireplace. This trim is plain, sharp in profile, and "countrified," but indicative of the date of the addition.

In 1975 the Cole farmhouse remains remarkably intact. Necessary kitchen, bathroom, and heating conveniences have been installed, but none have damaged the old plan, fabric, woodwork, hardware, or even the numerous wall-pegs for the hanging of garments.

Completing the farm complex are the necessary ancillary structures, all here present and obviously old in date, although perhaps not all dating from the 1770's, since such buildings were not always built with the same care and expense as was a dwelling and also often required enlargement, re-location or rebuilding. There is a two-and-one-half-story barn (whose interior now houses a fairly modern arrangement of box stalls for horses) with a former wagon-shed at its lower level, where the ground slopes southerly. Like the other subsidiary buildings, this is of robust pegged-timber construction sheathed in weathered vertical boards and battens. Nearer to the house is a one-and-one-half-story corn-crib. Between this and the house is a smaller structure which may have been at one end a smokehouse and, at the other, a piggery with a depressed outside pen for those animals. Directly south of these accessory buildings, farther from the house, and screened by trees and bushes, are two more: a wood-shed having also some work-shop or storage space, and a three-seat privy. More ornamental and more visibly placed, directly in front of the house's south, or entrance front, is a white-painted, boxed-in well-head with a gabled covering supported on square piers; it still produces pure water when its bucket is sent down.

Except for such necessities as electricity, piped-in water, a telephone, propane gas for cooking, and modern heating equipment -- all remaining inconspicuous -- nothing has spoiled the ambience of the Cole Farm or the antique quality of the house its original proprietor built.

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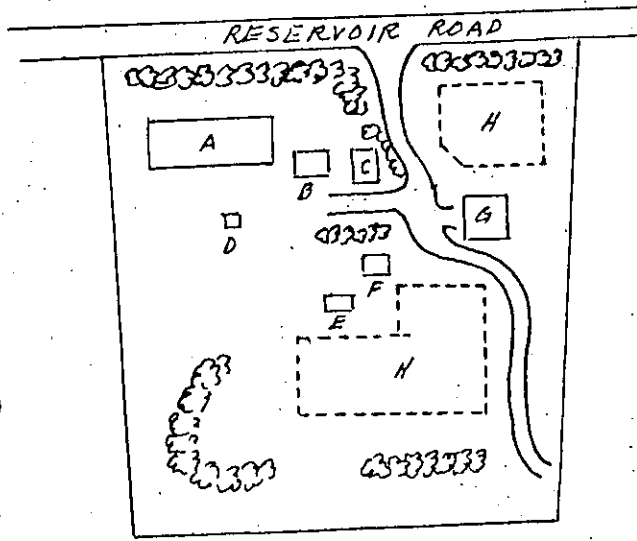
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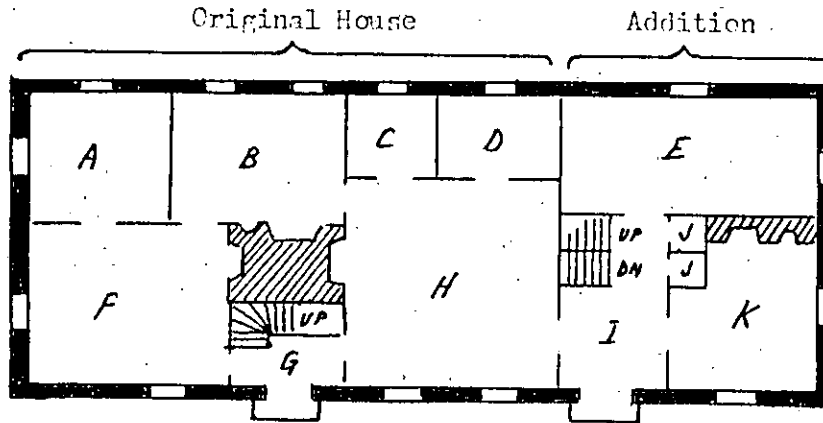


PLOT PLAN
(Not to scale)



- A House
- B Smoke-house
- C Shed
- D Well-head
- E Privy
- F Shed
- G Barn
- H Paddocks

HOUSE PLAN
(Not to scale)



- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| A Bedroom | G Entry |
| B Keeping-room | H Dining-room |
| C Cupboard | I Entry |
| D Lavatory (now) | J Closets |
| E Bedroom | K Keeping-room |
| F Parlour | |

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the John Cole Farm is a well-preserved example of the complete farmstead of a northern Rhode Island farmer. The significance of the farm complex lies in its survival as a complete form. Typical of the area both physically and in its history of ownership, the John Cole Farm represents an important stage in the development of Rhode Island agricultural history.

The house was built by John Cole shortly after he acquired the property in 1770. Ten years later Cole deeded the property to his son Joseph, although he retained the occupancy of the house during his lifetime. Throughout the nineteenth century Cole descendants continued to own and work the farm until the property was deeded to Helen Whipple by Lewis Cole in 1897.

When John Cole's family removed to the Cumberland area (then known as Attleboro Gore), they were one of several hundred farming families spread thinly over the northern Rhode Island agricultural area; Cumberland's population in 1774 was only 1,756. Most of these were subsistence farmers, paying for the few necessities they did not raise with small cash surpluses made from sales in town. The thin, rocky soil of area, punctuated by pockets of richer land such as the Diamond Hill Plain where Cole settled, retarded settlement. John Cole's original one hundred acres, some of it woodlands, were probably the maximum number a single family could work; as late as 1850, thirty acres of the farm were still unimproved.

John Cole, described in the deeds as a "yeoman" and "husbandman," did not figure prominently in the history of Cumberland; nor did his family. Despite their long-standing residence in the community, there is apparently no record that the Coles played a significant role in the public life of their town. Although they may have been somewhat more prosperous than their neighbors, the Cumberland Coles were essentially typical of the area's hard-working, self-sufficient country people. An 1806 "Expence Book" for the farm shows that it produced surpluses of timber, hay, potatoes, barley, and apples, cider, and quinces in its orchards. The Cole family purchased necessities with profits from

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these sales--tallow, thread, tea, rice, coffee, and some luxuries as well--a silver hook and eye, a silver cup, silk for handkerchiefs. Cole children may have had more extensive educational and social accomplishments than their fellows, since their father recorded the price of his son's "board and schooling at E(ast) G(reenwich)" and noted payment to "Smith and Delarue for teaching our children the rudiments of dancing." Throughout the century, the Cole Farm produced potatoes, rye, barley, and orchard products and supported small numbers of livestock--working oxen, cattle, and swine. Lumber from the Cole woodlot was used in the construction of the Methodist Church in nearby Arnold's Mills and there was a Cole pew there. In the town cemetery west of the farm is the private burial ground of the Cole family.

The Cole Farm is especially significant today because it has survived as a complex, a total entity of roads, fences, fields, and buildings. The integrity of the structures and their settings has been so well-preserved that a visitor to the farmstead may still study the siting of the buildings, their orientation to each other and to the surrounding landscape. One can see on the farm the house in which John Cole and his family lived and the ancillary structures they built to maintain the variety of functions required by a family farm.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Cole Family Papers, 1717-1830," Rhode Island Historical Society.
 Coleman, Peter J. The Transformation of Rhode Island, 1790-1860.
 Providence: Brown University Press, 1963

See Continuation Sheet #5

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.3

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	3100	640	46	51	320	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard B. Harrington, Consultant Pamela Kennedy, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

June, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence,

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

December 3, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Mayer, Kurt B. Economic Development and Population Growth in
Rhode Island. Providence: Brown University Press, 1953.

United States Census of Population: 1850, Free Inhabitants
in Cumberland, Productions of Agriculture in Cumberland,
Rhode Island.



John Cole Farm
Cumberland, Rhode Island

Mr. Rufus Taylor c. 1971
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
Commission

Aerial view of Cole Farm, showing house at left,
well, sheds, outhouse, corncrib, barn, and pad-
docks.

Photo # 1



John Cole Farm
Cumberland, Rhode Island

Dennis Albert March , 1976
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
Commission

South front of John Cole house, with earlier
section shown at left (west).

Photo #2





John Cole Farm
Cumberland, Rhode Island

Dennis Albert March, 1976
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
Commission

View east toward lilac-surrounded outhouse,
corncrib, and barn.

Photo #4

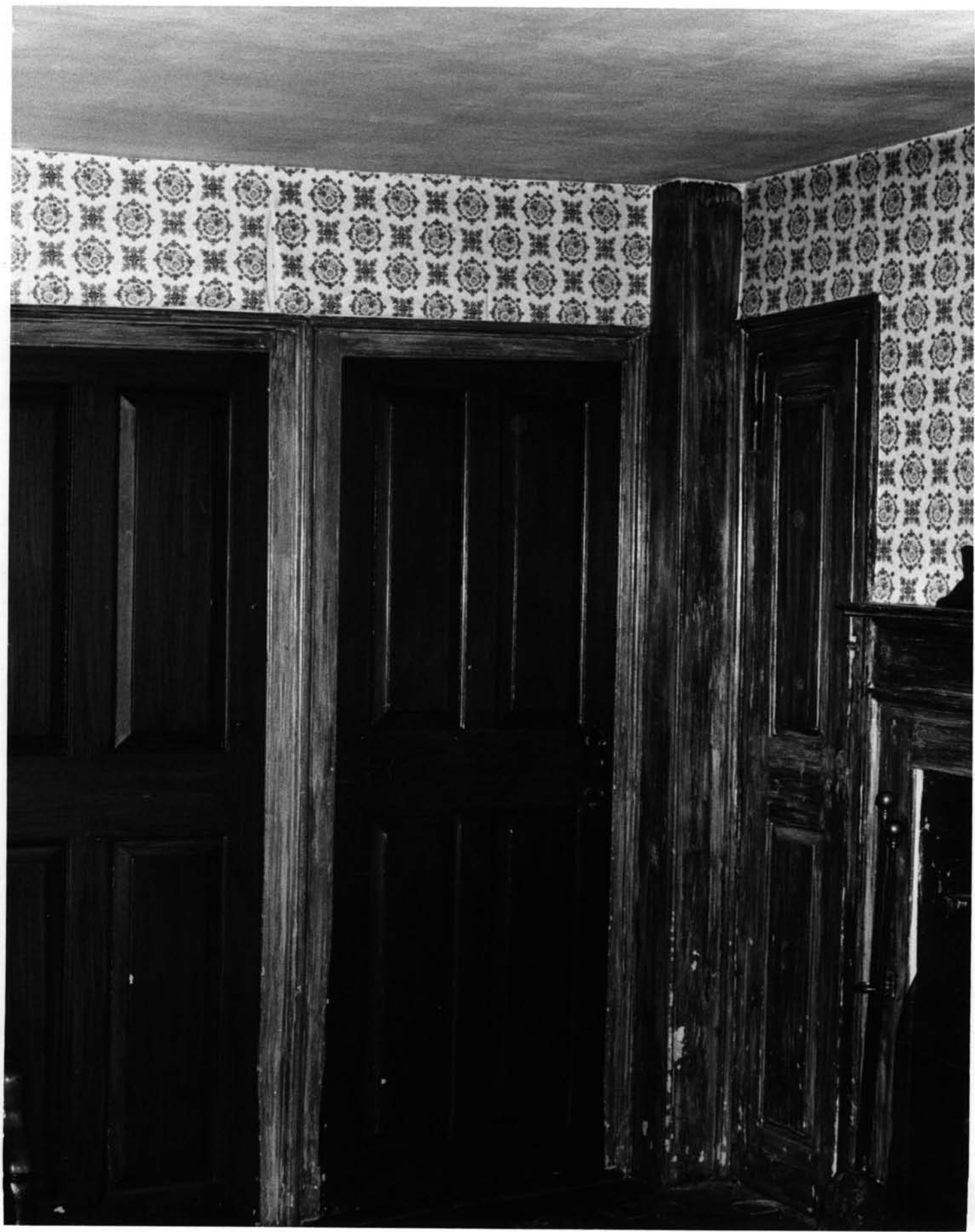


John Cole Farm
Cumberland, Rhode Island

Eric Hertfelder November, 1976
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
Commission

View of fireplace wall in dining room.

Photo #5



John Cole Farm
Cumberland, Rhode Island

Dennis Albert
Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
Commission

March 1976

Detailing of cupboard and of doorways of north
wall of west parlor.

Photo #6

SETTS
ORKS
SSIONER

PAWTUCKET QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND-MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WENTHAM, MASS 7.2 MI.
0.4 MI. TO R.I.H.

25'

300

1901

630 000 FEET (MASS.)

1903 71°2



COLE FARM
CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND

19 300640 4651320