

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Taft, Moses, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 111 East Wallum Lake Road not for publication

city or town Burrillville vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007 zip code 02859

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- other (explain)

Taft, Moses, House
Name of Property

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County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 1 | total |

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE: granite
walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT: shingle
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1786

Significant Dates

1786

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.23 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| | Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda F. Straube

organization _____ date April 2006

street & number 111 East Wallum Lake Road telephone _____

city or town Pascoag state Rhode Island zip code 02859

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dale A. and Linda F. Straube

street & number 111 East Wallum Lake Road telephone _____

city or town Pascoag state Rhode Island zip code 02859

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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DESCRIPTION

The Moses Taft House is located at 111 East Wallum Lake Road, at the northwest corner of Warner Lane, in the village of Pascoag, in the town of Burrillville, Rhode Island. The 0.23-acre property is flat from its East Wallum Lake Road frontage to the house site, and slopes gently down away from the rear of the house. The house is set roughly in the center of the property, which has a split-rail fence around its south side, and also contains a modern shed and a small well house, behind and in front of the house, respectively. Mature deciduous trees are located in the front yard of the property.

The Moses Taft House is a one-and-one-half-story, Federal-style, side-gable, center-chimney cape. It has a rectangular plan, thirty-five feet long and twenty-six feet deep, with its façade facing south. The house sits on a foundation of uncoursed fieldstone, capped with a course of large granite slabs exposed above grade. It has a scribe-ruled timber frame with sawn and hewn members and a ridgepole. The walls are vertical plank sheathing clad with wood clapboards. The five-bay façade has a center entrance with a flat, rectangular surround framing a vertical plank exterior door and a six-panel, pegged wood inner door. A large, rectangular, granite slab provides the front step. The house has twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood sash in heavy, pegged frames. The house is plainly finished with exterior ornament limited to a molded cornice on the front and rear and beaded rake and corner boards.

The house in its current condition represents the results of a thorough rehabilitation that was initiated in 1986 to correct deterioration in various areas. This rehabilitation retained historic fabric whenever possible and where replacement was necessary it was done in kind. On the exterior, a rear shed and a side ell on the east end, both old, but neither original to the building, were removed due to structural decay and partial collapse.¹ Salvageable materials from both structures were reused elsewhere in the restoration of the house.

The house's second-generation weatherboards and cornerboards, which had been severely damaged by the application of asbestos shingles, were replaced with clapboards that match in dimension and exposure a surviving section of original cladding on the east end. The exterior front door is reconstructed from salvaged elements of a similarly-styled door at the house. The current windows replaced six-over-six double-hung sash that were heavily deteriorated. A surviving twelve-light sash provided the model for the new windows. The chimney was rebuilt from the top down to approximately two feet below the roof, to replace a modern,

¹ When the current owners purchased the house, the shed was partially collapsed, and its floors and other materials were contaminated through years of use housing goats and storing kerosene and other toxins. The shed was removed in 1987. The east addition was also in disrepair - its structural system was heavily damaged by rot and insects, its foundation was failing, and its exterior materials were in various states of advanced deterioration. Due to these problems, the addition was removed in 1990.

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downsized top section of the chimney. The reconstructed chimney, which utilizes 18th-century brick and mortar matched to the original, has a cap that is similar to other houses of the same age in the region. A new bulkhead with wood doors modeled after examples at other houses of the period is located in the center of the east end of the building.

The interior of the house is a standard five-room plan. The main entrance of the house opens to a shallow central stair hall with open doorways to rooms on either side, a vertical board door to the cellar stairs, and a narrow, enclosed two-run stair to the second floor. Approximately half way up the stairs, a small plank door opens into a smoke chamber in the chimney stack. The stair rises steeply to a small landing on the second level that is enclosed by a simple unpainted balustrade with a hand-carved rail with slender rough-sawn sticks.

The southwest parlor, now used as a kitchen, has been modernized with cabinetry along its west and north walls. The materials and style of the cabinet faces are patterned after the existing doors and other elements of the house. The walls are plastered, though the ceiling features exposed joists. A molded chair-rail wraps around the room and the corner posts are encased, with simple beads at the corners. A granite firebox with a two-piece granite hearth is located on the east wall of the room. The mantelpiece surround has paneled pilasters and a molded cornice under the mantel shelf. A built-in cupboard with a flat, rectangular frame is located above the fireplace.

The southeast parlor, which was originally the kitchen, has exposed joists and paneled walls. The wide pine paneling shows the lime-stained ghosts of lath from plaster walls that were applied and later removed. A cooking fireplace is located on the west wall. It is constructed with a granite block firebox with a massive granite lintel, and is flanked on the south end by a brick beehive oven. The entablature above is flat, with a mantel shelf supported by a carved molding. A built-in cupboard with a repaired, original door is located above the mantel shelf. A simple crown molding and a simple baseboard run around the room.

The three rooms across the rear of the house are finished with plaster walls. The northeast room has been converted to a modern bathroom. It retains beaded post encasements and ghosts on the walls of earlier shelving. The northwest room is a utility room/entrance vestibule, with the back entrance of the house on the north wall, beaded corner post encasements, and a closet. The center room is a bedchamber. A fireplace located on the room's south wall has a simple, flat Federal surround and a mantel shelf supported by a carved molding. This fireplace is currently infilled with a wood panel.

The house retains many four-panel doors and some of vertical boards. Original doors were in place and stored in the attic of the house in 1986. These were repaired in-kind as necessary where feasible. Historic window

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casings are intact throughout the house. Pine floorboards between 10 and 14 inches wide are extant throughout the house.

Rehabilitation work on the first floor includes the replacement in kind of the front and back sills and floor joists in the southeast and southwest rooms, which was necessitated by rot and insect damage. The floor in the keeping room was deteriorated beyond saving, and has been replaced with boards salvaged from the east ell and milled to match the dimensions of the damaged boards. In addition to original four-panel and board-and-batten interior doors, there are a number of replicas that match the original doors as well as a few matching replacement doors from local salvage yards. All have age-appropriate hardware including Norfolk and bean latches and some wrought iron strap hinges.

The second floor of the house contains a bedchamber on each end, with a small center room off the stair hall. The west bedchamber has a shallow, brick fireplace with a simple, flat surround and brick hearth. The other rooms do not contain fireplaces. The upstairs rooms are finished with plastered kneewalls and sloping ceilings hung from the rafters and collar ties.

The cellar is unfinished, with a massive uncoursed, granite fieldstone chimney base that transitions to brick behind the fireboxes on the first floor.

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List of Photographs

The information for items 1 through 5 for all of the photographs is as follows:

1. Taft, Moses, House
2. Providence County, Rhode Island
3. Photographer: Jeffrey D. Emidy
4. Photography date: May 2007
5. Original digital files located at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

The information for items 6 and 7 for all of the photographs is as follows:

Photographs

6. Exterior, south elevation – camera facing northwest
7. Photograph #1

6. Typical window detail, west elevation – camera facing east
7. Photograph #2

6. Cornice detail, southwest corner of house – camera facing northeast
7. Photograph #3

6. Stairway with door to smoke chamber on wall – camera facing northeast
7. Photograph #4

6. Southeast parlor (originally kitchen) fireplace and west wall – camera facing northeast
7. Photograph #5

6. Southwest parlor (now kitchen) fireplace – camera facing east
7. Photograph #6

6. First-floor center rear room fireplace – camera facing southwest
7. Photograph #7

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6. Second-floor west bedchamber fireplace – camera facing east
 7. Photograph #8

 6. Second floor stair landing and door to west bedchamber – camera facing west
 7. Photograph #9

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Federal style of architecture was an outgrowth of the Georgian style of the mid- to late-eighteenth century, offering lighter surface decoration than its predecessor, and flattened visual planes. Typical rural houses from this period and style were one or two stories tall, with timber frames and gable roofs. Fenestration tended to be symmetrical, with larger window openings than in previous styles, and with center entrances common. Rural Federal style buildings continued to be dominated by the four-or-five-room plan, with a massive, brick, center chimney. The ornament of Georgian style houses was pared down and lightened with the Federal style, and in many rural examples, was minimized to near omission.

The Moses Taft House (1786, architect/builder unknown) is significant as a typical example of eighteenth-century rural Federal-style domestic design in Burrillville. The house exhibits the typical characteristics of the rural colonial farmhouse, including a symmetrical, five-bay, center entrance façade, side gable roof, twelve-over-twelve windows, and simple window and door surrounds. The interior configuration of the house follows the standard Rhode Island, five-room, center-chimney plan. Extant historic interior elements of the house, including: four mantelpieces, original floorboards, doors and hardware, paneling, and wood trim, all contribute to the significance of the resource.

The majority of high-style examples of this style are in the urban areas of the state, while the rural areas contain more vernacular forms, like the Moses Taft House. While most of Burrillville's houses of the same age and form have been altered over time with additions and/or modern replacement materials, the Moses Taft House remains true to its original design and materials.

Moses Taft farmed his land and for a time operated a sawmill nearby, on the Clear River, with Seth Ross, who resided on Eagle Peak Road. Agriculture was the dominant way of life in Burrillville in the eighteenth century, and a number of flank-gable center chimney houses were constructed during this time. In the intervening centuries, many of these houses have been lost entirely or heavily altered. The Moses Taft House is here nominated for its architectural quality and character, and for its ability to document a once-common house type in Burrillville.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. Historic and Architectural Resources of Burrillville, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report. 1978.

Town of Burrillville, Rhode Island. Land Evidence Records. 1846–1847.

Town of Burrillville, Rhode Island. Early Birth, Death, and Marriage Records. From 1806.

Town of Glocester, Rhode Island. Early Land Evidence Records. Pre-1800.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all of the land recorded in Burrillville Tax Assessor' plat 156, lot 60.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that portion of the original Moses Taft property which contains the house and has not been subdivided and developed.

















