

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Eldred, Henry, Farm

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 368 Old North Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: South Kingstown vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Washington code: 009 zip code: 02881

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.
 See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_____	entered in the National Register	_____	_____
_____	<u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____	determined eligible for the	_____	_____
_____	National Register	_____	_____
_____	<u> </u> 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:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>DOMESTIC</u>		<u>secondary structure</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>		<u>storage</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>		<u>agricultural field</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>		<u>animal facility</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>		<u>storage</u>

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7. Description

Architectural Classification:

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation STONE/Granite roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD/weatherboard 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: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c.1822 to c.1880

Significant Dates: c. 1822

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Eldred, Henry

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

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Peace Dale Library, Kingston Free Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 9 acres

UTM References:			Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>289620</u>	<u>4596960</u>	B	_____	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The nominated property occupies Town of South Kingstown Assessor's Plat 16-4, lot 4 and is approximately nine (9) acres in size.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the land and buildings historically associated with the property since the period of significance. The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields and other lands that have, since the period of significance, been part of the Henry Eldred Farm and retain their integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Richard C. Youngken, Planning Dir., and Pamela Kennedy, RIHPC

Organization: The Newport Collaborative, Inc. Date: July, 1991

Street & Number: 14 Pelham Street Telephone: 401-846-9583

City or Town: Newport State: R.I. ZIP: 02840

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The Henry Eldred Farm is a complex which includes a Federal farmhouse with a Victorian wing, four small outbuildings dating from the early to mid-19th century, and a diminutive agricultural landscape which includes stone walls, granite gateposts, fence posts, picket fences and a farm yard. The outbuildings and the house are set in a cluster around the yard and are reached by a driveway. The house faces east; the outbuildings are northwest of the house; land to the west and southeast of the house is divided and outlined by stone walls, fence posts, and fences.

The house faces North Road, a rural two lane road, and is set back about fifty feet from the pavement. The approach to the house is framed by stone walls, tall pines, and a picket fence to form a front yard with a granite-paved walkway to the front door.

Inventory:

Henry Eldred House (probably 1822): The Eldred House is a well-preserved early 19th-century Rhode Island vernacular farmhouse. Supported by a post-and-beam frame, set on a cut stone foundation, and finished with clapboards, the gable-roofed house is 1-1/2-stories high with a 1-1-2-story Victorian rear ell and has two slightly off-center interior chimneys.

The exterior of the house is simple. The house has a slightly asymmetrical 5-bay facade with a center entrance; a 6-panel door framed by flat pilasters and a 4-pane transom and capped with an Adamesque fan; and 6-over-6 double-hung window sash. The gable-roofed ell has a small dormer in each roof face, a single small chimney, casement windows, and a south-facing door under an inset porch. The ell is further extended by a later shed and an open carport.

The house is constructed on a 2-room plan. The front door opens into a curved-ceiling front hall which runs the length of the house into the ell; a narrow single-run stair with plain square balusters leads to the attic. The parlor on the south side of the hall has a simple, 1-story Federal mantel with engaged Tuscan columns and a heavy cornice molding. The ell contains two rooms, a kitchen with a wide hearth and a dining room; the attic is divided into three bedrooms. The corner posts in the house are boxed, and some early hardware remains.

The plan and finish of the house are consistent with the probable date of 1822, but some evidence suggests that the house may be an expansion of an earlier structure. The asymmetry of the facade and the paired chimneys, and some aspects of the framing suggest that the north wall of the hall may have been the exterior wall of a 1-room structure.

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Blacksmith Shop (date unknown, probably early to mid-19th century): A small, clapboarded, 1-story, gable-roofed structure, with a random-ashlar granite end wall, heavy hewn posts and beams, massive plates, and wide plank floors. The windows are 6-paned, both fixed and double-hung. Two plank doors have wrought iron pintles and strap hinges. Late 19th-century photographs present evidence that a brick chimney has been removed. The anvil has been removed, but the stone anvil base remains. (Map #1).

Shed (date unknown, probably mid-19th century): A small, 1-story, gable-roofed storage shed, adjacent to the blacksmith shop. It has a heavy post-and-beam timber frame, notched and mortised rafters, wide plank walls, and clapboard sheathing. There are no windows; a plank door is set at each gable end. A concrete floor obscures the original plank floor and sills. (Map #2).

Stock Barn (date unknown, probably mid-19th century): A long, two-level, gable-roofed, wood-framed stock barn. The barn is set on a cut-granite foundation and has a heavy post-and-beam frame. The lower level of the barn is open to the weather for about half the length of the barn. A lean-to is attached to the east (flank) side. The barn is sheathed in board-and-batten, with clapboards on the north gable end and on the lean-to. The upper level of the barn is an open loft. The building has undergone some changes; there may have been a larger shed attached to the east elevation at one time, perhaps for horse stalls. (Map #3).

Carriage Barn (date unknown, probably mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story, gable-roofed building, of post-and-beam construction. The building has a 2-bay carriage area with folding plank doors on the south side and a loft above. The west end of the barn is a tack room with a plank pedestrian door and a small window. The exterior is covered with shingles, clapboards, and board-and-batten siding. (Map #4).

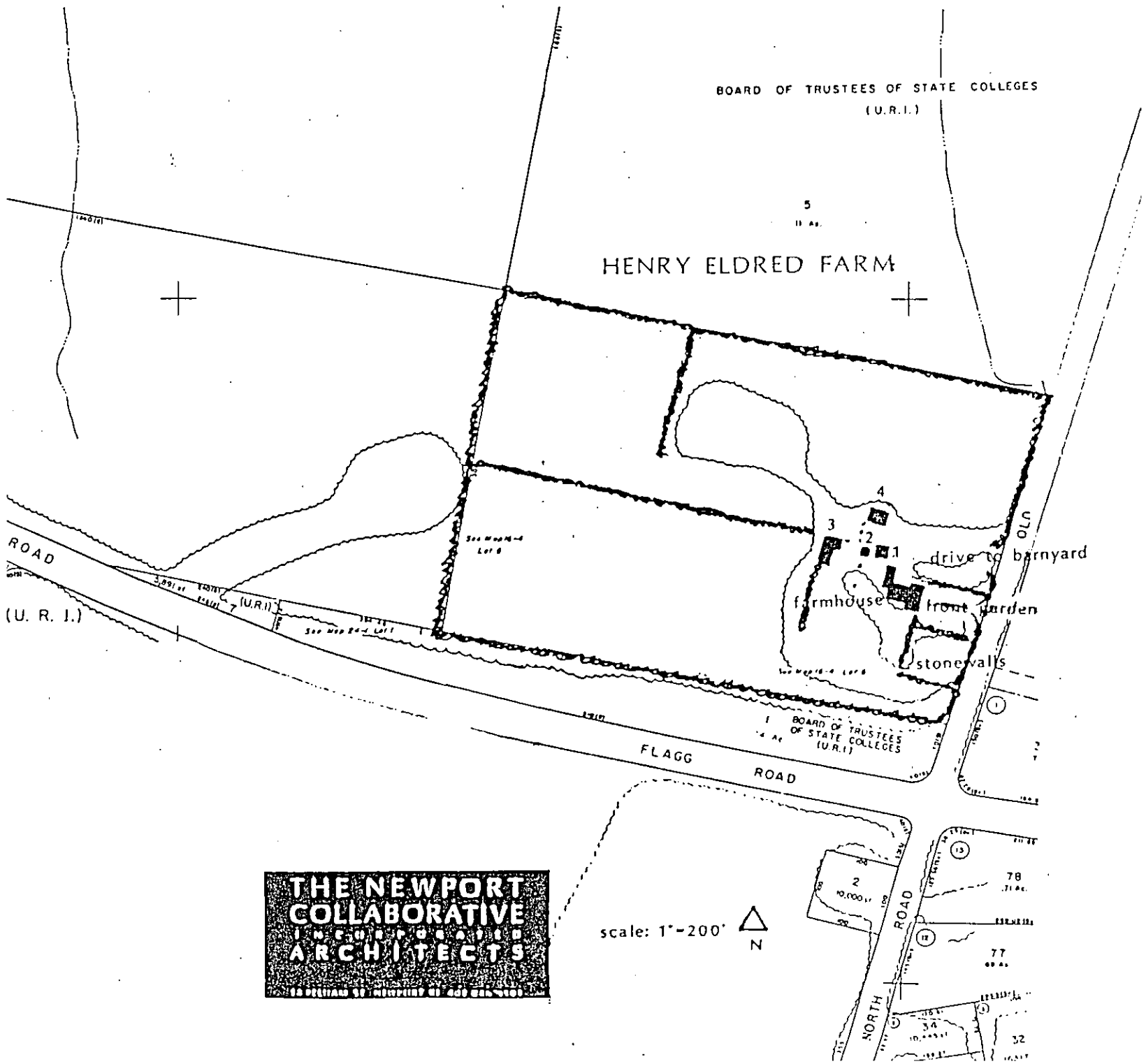
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Photographs

- 1) Henry Eldred Farm, 368 Old North Road
- 2) South Kingstown, Rhode Island
- 3) Photographer: Richard C. Youngken
- 4) Date: June, 1990
- 5) Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

- 6) View: Looking west at east principal elevation of the farmhouse.
- 7) Photo #1

- 6) View: Looking southwest at east and north elevations of the blacksmith shop; shed on far right.
- 7) Photo #2

- 6) View: Looking southwest at the east elevation of the stock barn.
- 7) Photo #3

- 6) View: Looking northwest at the south and east elevations of the carriage barn.
- 7) Photo #4

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The Henry Eldred Farm is an historic farmstead whose buildings and lands have significance in documenting Rhode Island agriculture and architecture. The farmhouse is a well preserved example of the state's rural vernacular houses. The other farm buildings--smith shop, shed, stock barn, and carriage barn--are significant as examples of vernacular building types which are important elements of the agricultural landscape. The buildings, stone walls, and fields constitute a significant whole, representing an important pattern of Rhode Island 19th-century agriculture--a small holding which supplemented a craftsman's household.

The Eldred House is a good example of the vernacular farmhouse, a naive interpretation of the Federal style by a dextrous country craftsman. The doorway, in particular, has the slightly eccentric proportions which are typical of the state's unsophisticated rural interpretations of urban styles. The plan is unusual, and is not documented elsewhere; if further evaluation demonstrates that the Eldred house is indeed a 19th-century expansion of an earlier 1-room dwelling, it may have additional significance for its ability to demonstrate the adaptation of an earlier form to later requirements.

The several outbuildings at the Eldred Farm are good examples of 19th-century agricultural workshops and storage structures. All are small in scale and simple in form. Each is reasonably well preserved, and all demonstrate to some extent the incremental changes necessary as utilitarian buildings were adapted to changing requirements throughout the nineteenth century. Their heavy frames and mortised and pegged joints have been altered and reconfigured overtime with light dimension members and nailed joints, as was typical of this building type, and they also retain sufficient integrity of design and materials to document their original appearance. Of special interest is the smith's shop, a relative rarity.

In addition to its farmhouse and its outbuildings, the Eldred Farm retains its farm fields in their 19th-century size and arrangement. The overall disposition of buildings, walls, and fields reflects the historic organization of Rhode Island's rural landscape. The historic farm complex--a house surrounded by barns, sheds, and shops, in turn surrounded by a managed landscape of gardens, fields, pastures, and woods, with fences and walls outlining and segregating various uses--was for several centuries the common pattern of Rhode Island's landscape. Well preserved examples of this pattern are increasingly rare.

The Eldred Farm was developed to supplement a single-family household in the building and masonry business. Henry Eldred (?-1862), a mason/builder and the farm's owner during the period of significance, was

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active in the nearby village of Kingston during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when building activity here at the social and governmental center of the Town of South Kingstown peaked. Some of the fine, small-scale stone buildings in Kingston (see National Register nomination for the Kingston Village Historic District) may have been built by Eldred--the County Records Office is attributed by some to him, and the Kingston Jail may be his work.

In 1871 the farm was acquired by Eldred's youngest son, John Risley Eldred, the only one of four sons to carry on the mason and building business. At this time the property included the 24 acres here nominated, the house, and at least some of the outbuildings. John Eldred probably added the rear kitchen ell to the farmhouse.

Contemporary sources suggests Eldred began building here about 1822, moving to the site some used building materials for the house. He is described by a contemporary diarist as hauling building parts up Old North Road by team to his property. Eldred's small farm was apparently used both as a base for the operation of his building business and a supplement to it. His buildings and few dozen acres produced food, and also provided equipment storage, housing for oxen or horses used both at the farm and in the building trade, and, as the smith shop suggests, tool and machinery maintenance.

The house and outbuildings of the Eldred Farm are still in use today; the fields have in large measure returned to forest. The complex continues to convey its historic character and role as a small-scale farm. The nearby village of Kingston retains its historic character, but expanding suburban development and a growing state university adjacent to the farm emphasize the value of this 19th-century survivor.

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Pettaquamscutt Historical Society collection, photographs and other information in the Eldred Family vertical files, Kingston, R.I.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Historical and Architectural Resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report, 1984.

Town of South Kingstown, Property Transfers Records.

Town of South Kingstown, Probate Records.

Wells, Rev. J. Hagadorn, Kingston Annuals, Reminiscences of Little Rest, Kingston, R.I., January 28, 1987.



Henry Eldred farm
368 Old North Road
North Kingstown, R. I.

Photo #2



Henry Eldred Farm
368 Old North Road
South Kingstown, R.I.

Photo # 3



368 Old North Road
South Kingstown, R. I.

Photo #4

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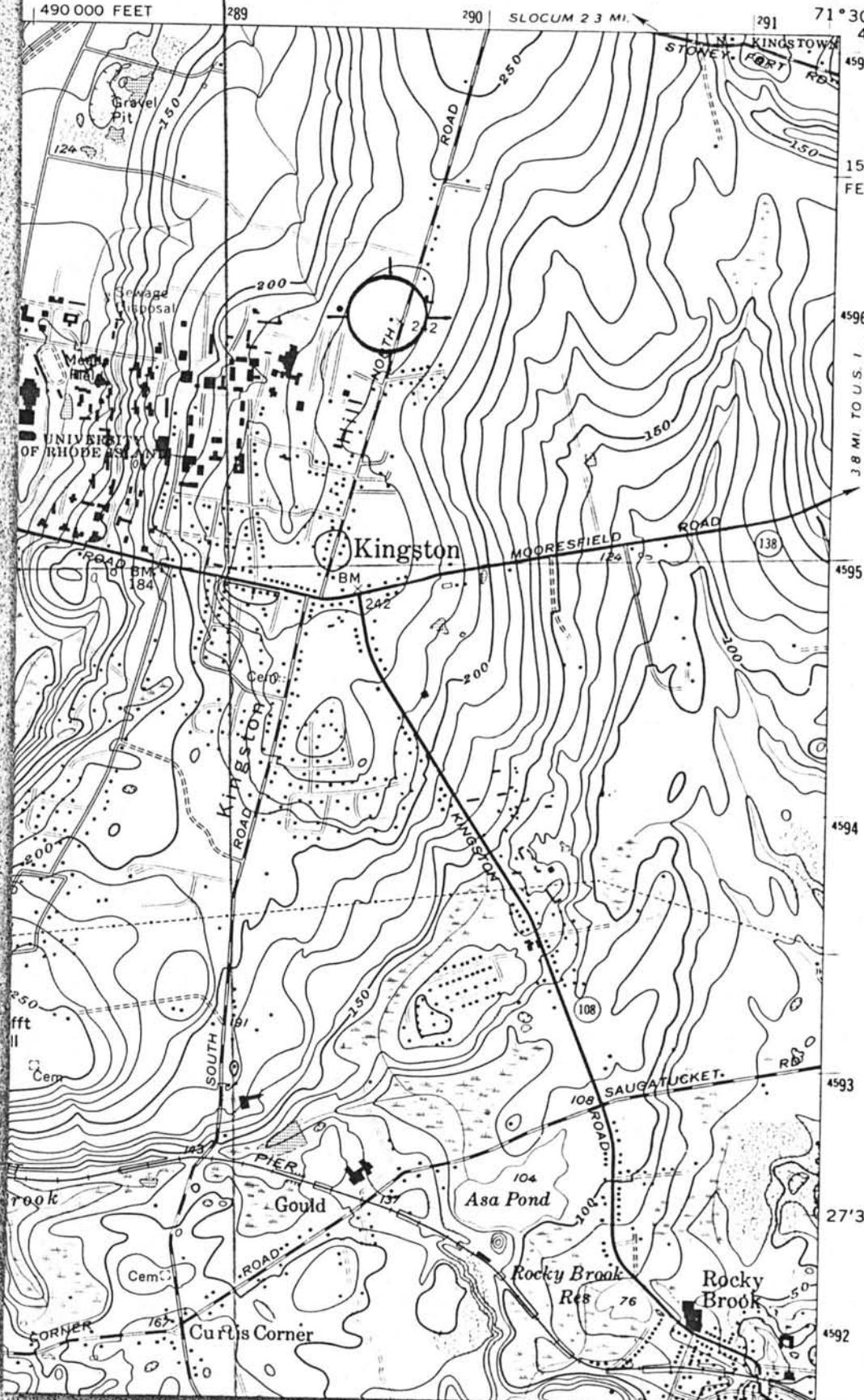
H. Alfred Farns

368 Old North Rd

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Farm

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