

The Southern New England Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology
Invites you to an

**Industrial Heritage Tour of Hearthside House
and Moffett Mill, in Lincoln, Rhode Island**

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – about 1:00 p.m.

RSVPS are necessary because the Moffett Mill is accessed only by a short van ride,
which will be provided for us.

Reply to Betsey Dyer: bdyer@wheatoncollege.edu
with your name, phone number, email, and which New England chapter you belong to
See description below about the terrain and footing



Hearthside House, built ca 1810

[Hearthside House](#)

The Moffett Mill: This is a rare survivor of the early days of industrialization in the Blackstone River Valley, and it is considered one of the first job shops in Rhode Island. It was originally built by George Olney in 1812 and later changed hands in 1850 when Arnold Moffett, Jr., purchased it. Soon after acquiring the mill, Moffett replaced the wooden dam with one made of stone and added a turbine to replace the breast-style waterwheel. Remains of the turbine and an early flyball governor are still in the mill. This machine shop produced wagons, carriages, wooden boxes, and shoelaces, along with various tools and parts needed by local farmers. The shop ran a braiding business on the second floor to produce round laces for Civil War soldiers' boots and flat laces for ladies' corsets. By the turn of the century, the family closed the mill, and it was left virtually the way it had been during its last day of business. A visit to the mill is like seeing the inside of a time capsule,

with many of the original contents and products still in place, with many more having been returned in recent years, including a sleigh and carriage that were built on-site.

Hearthside House/Hearthside Looms: Hearthside House became known as "Hearthside" because of Hearthside Looms, a hand-weaving business that was run out of the third floor by Arnold G. Talbot during the early part of the 20th century. Now, the original looms that both Arnold and his wife Katharine used to create some of the country's finest fabrics are back at Hearthside, in the very same place they were some 100 years ago. The collection includes large barn looms, spinning wheels, flax wheels, table looms, parlor loom, warping frame, hand loom, and a creel as well as coverlets. The Talbots were highly regarded throughout the country for their fine handiwork on these antique looms. The Talbots weaving represented a rebirth of the American arts and crafts movement, according to a *House Beautiful* article in 1907. The Talbots became the only commercial enterprise in the United States dedicated to weaving ecclesiastical fabrics by hand. With just eight weavers, the "Hearthside Looms" produced coverlets, curtains, linen, rugs, towels, table and pillow covers, couch covers, portieres, rugs, and altar cloths for customers well beyond the Rhode Island borders. Some of the products made will be on display.

PARKING will be at Chase Farm parking lot, 671 Great Road, Lincoln, RI, 02865. Hearthside House has a van that shuttle tour groups between the two destinations.

The Hannaway Blacksmith shop is situated in the Chase Farm parking lot. Blacksmithing lessons are available there. There are also interpretive panels that give visitors a good overview of the Great Road Heritage District.

LOGISTICS: A visitor will need to climb to the third floor of Hearthside House on sturdy, but sometimes steep, stairs in order to see the Hearthside Looms in the attic where the Talbots worked to produce their tapestries. At Moffett Mill, visitors will need to navigate a flight of stairs to see the second floor of the mill, where the braiding operation took place. The steps are stable, but the older ones may have a curve to them. The "stairs" to the basement where one can see the sluiceway are a bit trickier to navigate. We ask visitors to go down "backwards" as if climbing a ladder. At the bottom, one has to be careful to find one's footing, as there is a bit of ledge to negotiate.

What else can you do (on your own) in and near Lincoln, RI?

Museum of Work & Culture
42 South Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Open 9:30-4:00
Email: mowc@rihs.org

If you would like breakfast and lunch in the area, we recommend

Breakfast: Shanna's Country Kitchen, Limerock Center, 1517 Old Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI, 02865, hours 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: The Lodge Pub, 40 Breakneck Hill Rd., Lincoln, RI, 02865, hours 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.