

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	139

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date May 1985

Town Sherborn

Address 137 South Main Street

Historic Name Charles Holbrook House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1870-1875

Source V/A

Style Second Empire

Architect N/A

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard/Slate Roof

Outbuildings Barn/Garage

Major alterations (with dates) None

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage 6.20

Setting Situated on a knoll, behind a semi-circular drive, the house is surrounded by mature trees, manicured shrubs, and a broad front lawn.

(Staple additional sheets here)

UTM reference:

A-19 305060 4677360

B-19 305070 4677260

C-19 304920 4677220

D-19 304910 4677320

scale 1:25,000 Medfield Quadrangle

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Charles Holbrook House is the finest Second Empire-style house in Sherborn. Although little more than a cottage in terms of scale, the building's facade include high-style elements found in far grander Second Empire-style residences: for example, bracketed porches, polygonal bay, ornate dormer enframements, and a slate shingle-covered mansard roof. Of interest are the original multipaneled front door and granite steps.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The house was built ca. 1870-1875 for Charles Holbrook, one of the sons of Jonathan Holbrook, the Sherborn cider maker. Holbrook's cider mill was located in South Sherborn on Forest Street. Charles Holbrook worked with his father in cider production, and their mill, which operated from 1853 until 1897, was known as the world's largest such facility. The prosperity of the Holbrooks' enterprise is reflected in the exterior and interior finishes on this house, which was built along Sherborn's major roadway, a short distance from the mill. The building contains superb interior woodwork throughout. It is interesting to note that #5 Washington Street (ca. 1878-1880, #146) was almost a carbon copy of 137 South Main Street until a fire destroyed its mansard roof in the 1940s.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Charles Holbrook House, a finely detailed example of the Second Empire style, and the best of only a handful of examples in Sherborn, retains integrity of setting, design, materials, location, feeling, and workmanship, as well as associations with a member of Sherborn's most enterprising late 19th century family, the Holbrooks. The building thus fulfils Criteria C and A of the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Maps of 1875 & 1889.
Ann C. Shaugnessy-A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
 -History of Sherborn, 1974
Margaret Dowse Buntin's research

MAP KEY

A: House
B: Barn/Garage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

11/20/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Sherborn Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Cleale, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

12. Dowse, Rev. Edmund, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

13. Fleming, Thomas, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

14. Goulding, Eleazer, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

15. Holbrook, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/8616. Leland, Deacon, William,
HouseEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

17. Lewis, Charles D., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

18. Morse, Daniel, III, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

19. Morse-Tay-Leland-Hawes House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

20. Sanger, Asa, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 4/3/86

86000502

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Holbrook, Charles, House (Sherborn MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. NOV 20 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 12/19/85 - 1/4/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-3-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Charles Holbrook House

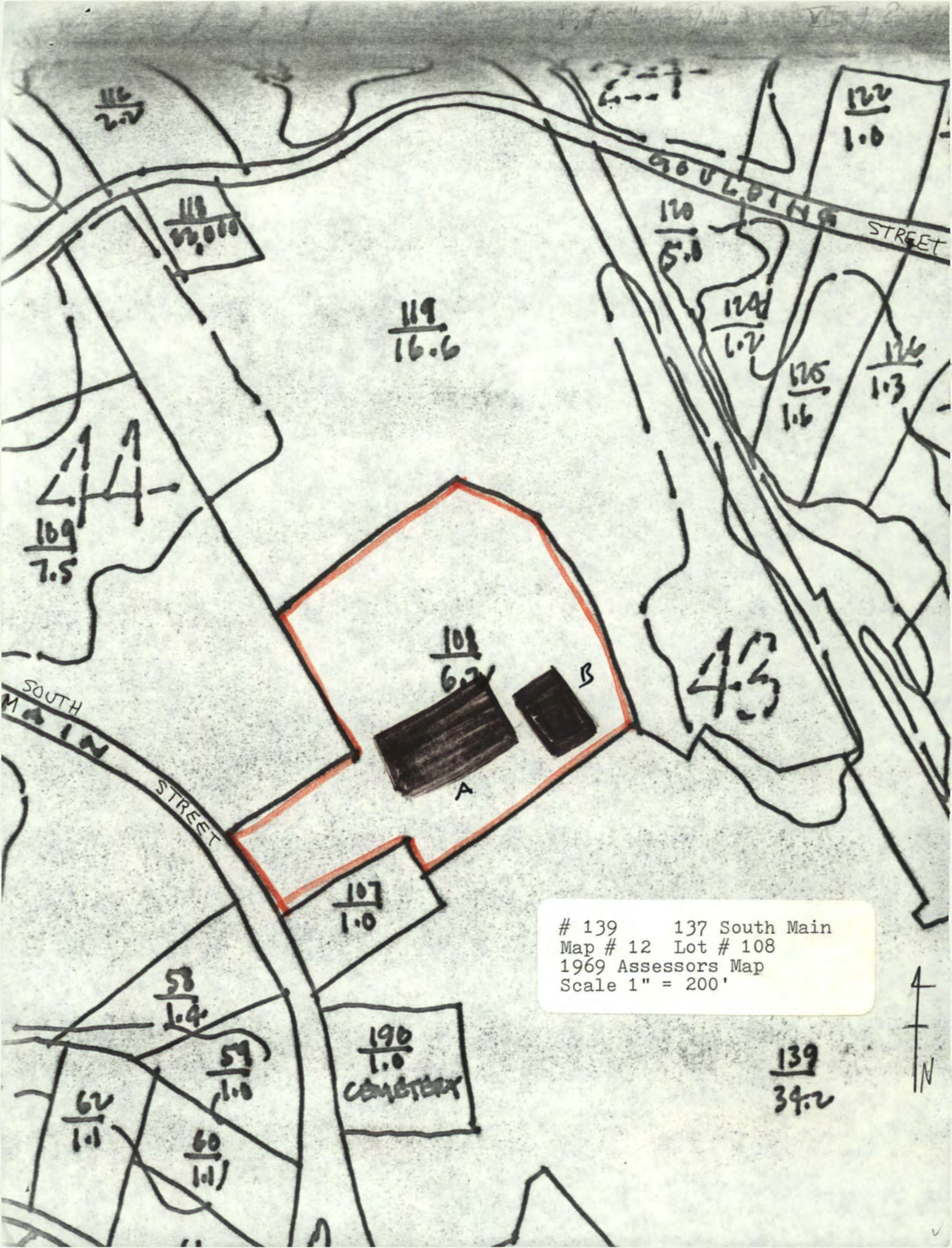
137 So. Main St.

Sherborn, Mass. *MRA*
MIDDLESEX CO

(SHERBORN MRA)



Holbrook, Charles, Vice
Sherborn NRA, MA



139 137 South Main
Map # 12 Lot # 108
1969 Assessors Map
Scale 1" = 200'

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000293