

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.
53-A

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Roll 17

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.

1. Town Worcester
Address 12 Nelson Place
Name John Brooks House
Present use residence
Present owner Roger and Ruth Brooks
3. Description:
Date ca. 1847-1856
Source deeds and Brooks obit.
Style bracketed Victorian
Architect unknown
Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) barns (modern)
Other features three gables facing
Grove Street, paired brackets with
drop pendants, hexagonal gable
light, porch
Altered not significantly Date _____
Moved no Date _____
5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 21, p. 21
3.53 acres, no lot # 1
One acre or less _____ Over one acre ☒
Approximate frontage 500'
Approximate distance of building from street
50'
D. Latino
6. Recorded by ed. B. R. Pfeiffer
Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc
Date December 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John H. Brooks
Original use residence (farmhouse)
Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☒	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	☐	Science/ invention	☐
The Arts	☐	Industry	☐	Social/ humanitarian	☐
Commerce	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☐
Communication	☐	Political	☒		
Community development	☒				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

John Brooks (1809-1894), a native of Princeton, came to Worcester in 1837. By 1847 he had purchased a farm called the "Nelson Place" on which he may have built the west wing of the present house, a smaller cottage, as a building is shown in this approximate location on the 1851 map of Worcester. According to Brooks' obituary, the present house was built in 1856 and remained his home until 1881. Brooks was a deacon of the Central Church from 1863 to 1879; a member of the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1854, 1885 and 1886; and a member of the Worcester Common Council in 1850-1851. In addition to farming, Brooks worked as a blacksmith and was involved in real estate development in the Chadwick Square and Greendale sections of the city. The property remains in the possession of Brooks' descendants and is, perhaps, the only farm left in Worcester.

The John Brooks House is a one and one-half storey frame house, built to give the appearance of a cottage. The facade (south) is three bays wide at the first storey, rising to a steep gable with oculus at the attic. At the first storey, the facade has a side-hall entry, two over-sized windows and a full porch with open supports and original brackets. Unusual for buildings of this type, the Brooks House has three bracketed gables on the east (side) elevation. On the house's west wall is a rectangular-plan ell set at right angles to the main body of the house. Alterations to the house are minor, consisting of a one-storey frame addition at the north end of the house's east elevation. In its present condition, the Brooks House is a particularly fine example of locally popular cottage-type of the 1850s and 1860s.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Worcester County Registry of Deeds.
Worcester Historical Society. Biographical file.
Wall, Caleb. Reminiscences of Worcester, 1657-1877. p.213.

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Accept
M. R. R. R.
2/28/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

S. D. D. D.
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



JUN 1979



by Dierley

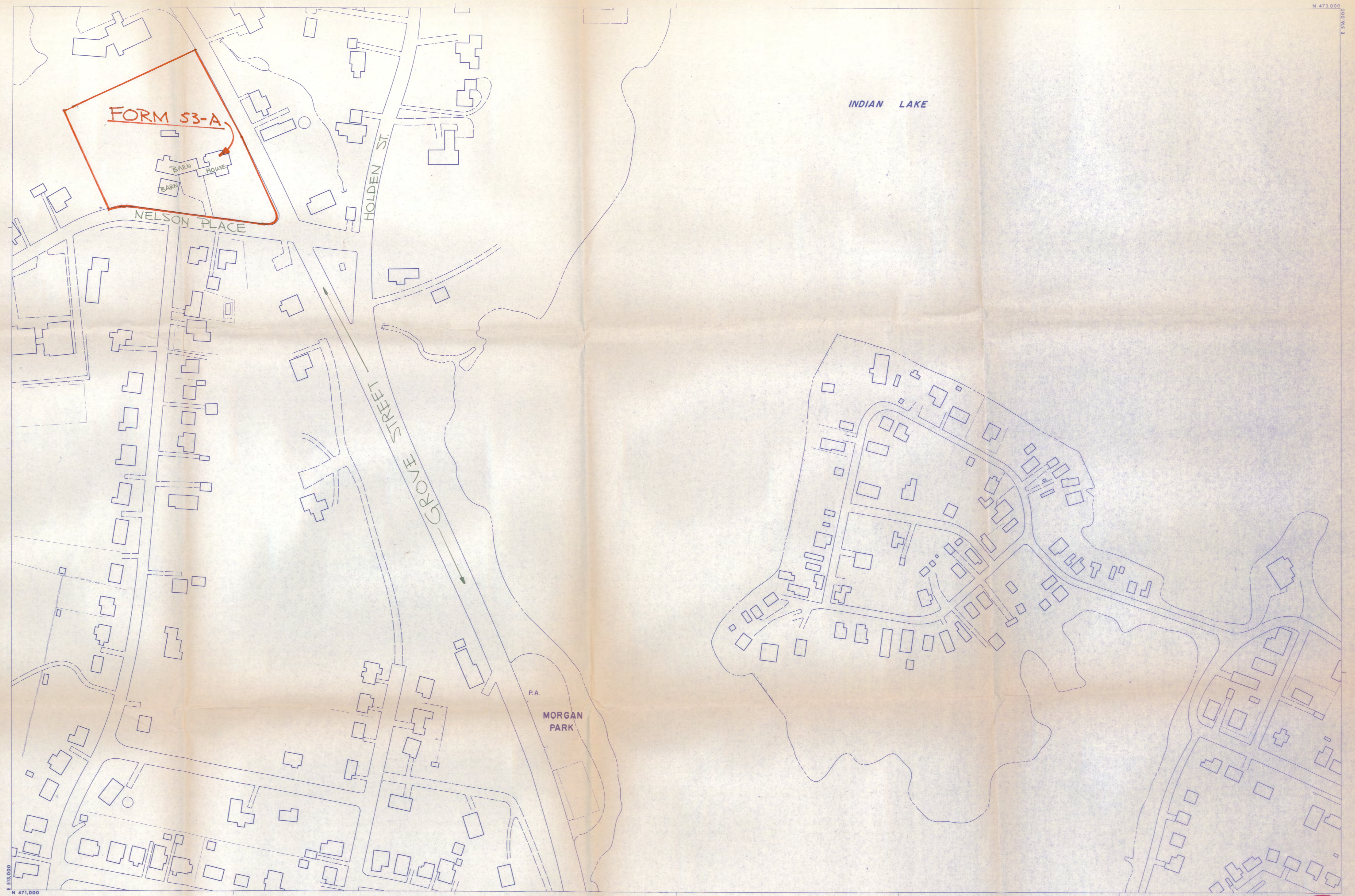
JUN 1979



by Dierley

S3-A³⁰ AUG 1979
Brooks, John, House
12 Nelson Place
Worcester MA, Ma
South + east elev.

MAR 5 1980



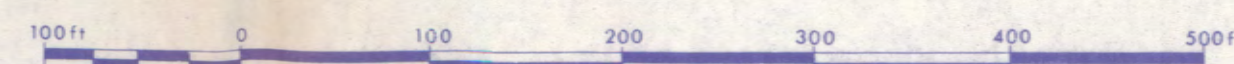
COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS

moore survey & mapping corp.

CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S., & M.S.&M. CORP.

UPDATED BY _____, DATE: _____

THIS MAP REPRODUCED
FROM MAPPING MEETING
NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY
STANDARDS AT A SCALE
OF 1"=200'



500 FOOT GRID BASED ON
MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

INDEX		
41	42	43
52	54	54
63	64	65

CITY OF WORCESTER
MASSACHUSETTS

PLANIMETRIC BASE MAP

PROJECT: M.S.M. 2517

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1-7-75

SHEET 53 OF 220 SHEETS



