

MAY 22 1989

606

AREA  
E

FORM NO.  
298

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

(Winchester M.R.A.)

Town WINCHESTER

Address 212-214 Main Street

Historic Name Deacon John Symmes House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1807

Source Chapman's History of Winchester

Style Federal

Architect anonymous

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage/NC

Major Alterations (with dates) Roof eaves

balustrade removed, date unknown.  
Porch added to entrance, date unknown  
Condition Excellent

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage .30 acre 07-0041

Setting Suburban residential near

major intersection

Recorded by Bettina Cooper, Carol Ely

Organization Winchester Historical Comm.

Date 8/78, revised 10/87 by H. White

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property location



UTM REFERENCE 19.3 24300, 4700790

USGS QUADRANGLE LEYINGTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Deacon John Symmes House is one of Winchester's most important and well-preserved Federal period dwellings, and it is associated with the Symmes family, whose members were among Winchester's earliest settlers. The Deacon John Symmes House therefore meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Deacon John Symmes House (c.1807) is a typical Federal period dwelling, of the type which dotted the countryside surrounding Boston during the early nineteenth century. The Deacon John Symmes House is one of two houses of this period associated with the Symmes family. The other is the Marshall Symmes House (#300), circa 1817, which stands nearby at 230 Main Street.

The Deacon John Symmes House is a two and one-half story, rectangular plan dwelling with a hip roof of low pitch, and double rear wall chimneys. It exhibits the characteristic boxy proportions of the Federal style. The five-bay facade is organized around a central entrance, which has been enclosed by a later entrance porch. The outer windows are paired with the center window aligned with the entrance. Other features of note include the wide corner boards and slightly projecting eaves.

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

The Deacon John Symmes House is one of several Symmes family dwellings located in the vicinity of Symmes Corner, the area near the intersection of Main Street, Bacon Street and Grove Street. The Symmes family members were among Winchester's earliest settlers. The Reverend Zachariah Symmes, minister of the Charlestown Church, received a land grant of roughly 300 acres centered around present-day Symmes Corner. Although the Reverend himself remained in Charlestown, his sons began farming the Winchester land soon after 1650, and by 1700 had erected a fulling mill and dye house as well.

The Deacon John Symmes House is the oldest of the extant Symmes family houses. It was built by Deacon John Symmes circa 1807, in an area of Winchester which was then still part of Medford. Deacon John Symmes (1781-1860) was a son of John Symmes, a local blacksmith and wheelwright and veteran of the Revolutionary War. The younger John Symmes married Pamela Richardson in 1804. In addition to continuing the blacksmith trade, he served as deacon of the Medford Congregational Church until his death. Pamela operated Winchester's first formal school in this house.

Symmes opposed the incorporation of the Town of Winchester in 1850, and refused an appointment to the Board of Selectmen. However, he remained active in the town and church affairs of the city of Medford.

After his death, the house was inherited by his son Luther and daughter Mary. The house remained in the possession of Symmes family members until 1926.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds

Maps

History of Winchester, by Henry Chapman.

Files, Winchester Archival Center.

Winchester Star.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester M.R.A	Form No: 298
Property Name: Deacon John Symmes House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Other Symmes family houses in Winchester include the Marshall Symmes House (#300) built circa 1817;

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MAY 22 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Winchester MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
51. Symmes, Deacon John, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
52. Symmes, Marshall, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
53. Symmes, Marshall, Tenant House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
54. Thompson, Abijah, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
55. Trowbridge--Badger House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
56. Vinton, Alfred, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
57. Wedgemere (H.D.) <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
58. White, S.B., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____
59. Wildwood Cemetery <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Beth Savage</u> 7-5-89 Attest _____
60. Wyman, George, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/5/89 Attest _____



Deacon John Symmes House  
212 - 214 Main St. 1/88  
Winchester, Ma. M.R.A.

MHC Inv. # 298

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Symmes, Deacon John, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Winchester MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000606

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 1.3.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Approved**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 1.3.14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 10, 2013

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 I (eye) Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Address changes for properties listed on the NRHP

As we digitize our inventory of historic resources, we are discovering discrepancies in property addresses due to renumbering, changing the address to a side street that abuts the parcel, or assigning a precise address where none had existed. In some cases, property owners have notified us of an incorrect address. We are, therefore, writing to request technical corrections in the National Register records for the following properties in

**Winchester (Middlesex County)**

- Sanborn House (Aigremont) (NRIND 12/14/1981) — new address is **21 High Street** (formerly 15 High Street) 81000286 ✓
- Winchester Town Hall (NRIND 3/31/1983; NRDIS 11/21/1986) — new address is **71 Mount Vernon Street** (formerly 71 Mount Auburn Street, which was a typo) 83000837 ✓

**The following were listed on 7/5/1989 as NRIND in the Winchester MRA**

- Ayer, Thomas Prentiss House — new address is **10 Grove Street** (formerly 8-10 Grove Street) 89000630 ✓
- Childs, Webster House — new address is **9 Meadowcroft Road** (formerly 16A Ginn Road) 89000644 ✓
- Gardner, Edward House — new address is **0 Gardner Place** (formerly 89 Cambridge Street) 89000605 ✓
- Mason, John C. House — new address is **10 Hillside Avenue** (formerly 8-10 Hillside Avenue) 89000634 ✓
- Oak Knoll — new address is **17 Brooks Street** (formerly 39 Oak Knoll) 89000648 ✓

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128  
[www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc](http://www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc)

- Simonds, William House—new address is **418-420 Main Street** (formerly 420 Main Street) 89 000640 ✓
- Symmes, Dea. John House—new address is **212 Main Street** (formerly 212-214 Main Street) 89000606 ✓
- Wildwood Cemetery— new address is 34 Palmer Street (formerly Wildwood Street). In addition to being individually listed in 1989 as part of the MRA, the cemetery was included in the Middlesex Canal Historic and Archaeological District, listed on 11/19/2009 89000658 ✓

Sincerely,

*Betsy Friedberg*

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

XC: Winchester Historical Commission

National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Symmes, Deacon John, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Winchester MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000606

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    7/5/89 DATE    Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage               verbal boundary description  
 UTMS               boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_