

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO. 75
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

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

Photo number 3-26, 3-27

Town Methuen ✓

Address 8 Ditson Place

Historic Name Johnson House ✓

Present Owner: Mrs. Bertha Williams,  
8 Ditson Place

Use: Present private residence

Original same

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1830

Source v/a; maps

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) projecting  
bay: late 19th century.

Moved no Date n/a

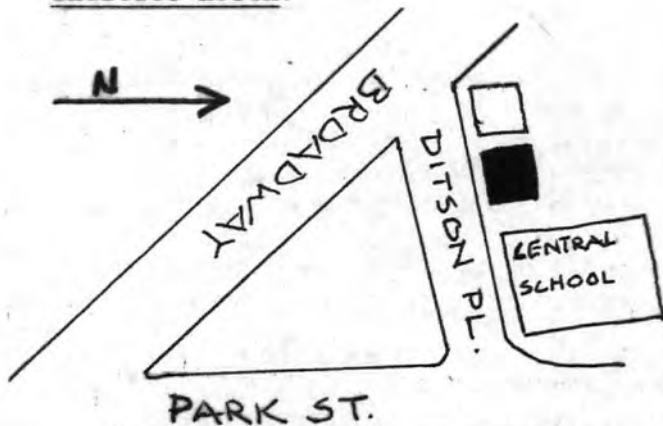
Approx. acreage 13,178 sq. ft.  
less than one acre

Setting tree-line residential street  
adjacent to downtown.

UTM: Lawrence Quad 1:25,000  
19 320960/4732630

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.



Recorded by Carole Zellie

Organization Landscape Research, Ltd.

Date May 1978; rev. 1983

Assessor's Data: Block 52, Lot 6

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The so-called Johnson House is a rectangular plan, hipped-roofed dwelling with end chimneys and a five-bay facade with central entry. The clapboard-clad building rests on a granite foundation. 6/6 double-hung sash are intact in the windows; window enframements include simple mouldings and peaked lintels. A later projecting bay with bracketed cornice appears to have been added about 1870. The distinctive feature of the facade is the elaborate treatment of the entry portico, including a quatre-foil motif in a running frieze-band, and quatre-foils set into the porch soffit. The Johnson House is one of the most elaborate and best preserved Federal period houses in Methuen.

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

The Johnson House is significant as a well preserved example of Methuen's "high styled" early 19th century architecture. Situated near the town center, it was likely considered one of the outstanding buildings of the town when constructed ca. 1830. The Johnson House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received 12/7/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area  
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. House at 50 Pelham Street Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

22. House at 526 Prospect Street Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

23. House at 9 Park Street Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

24. Johnson House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

25. Lawrence Street Cemetery Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

26. Methuen Water Works Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

27. Morse, Moses, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

28. Nevins Memorial Library Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

29. Nevins, Henry C., Home for Aged and Incurables Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

30. Pleasant-High Historic District Substantive Review

for Keeper

Gene Van Duzend 1/20/84

Attest

REF # 84002398

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Johnson House (Methuen MRA)  
Essex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC - 7 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85  
Date Due: 1/5/84 - 1/20/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 1/20/84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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

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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Johnson House

3-76

Wethers URA, Ma

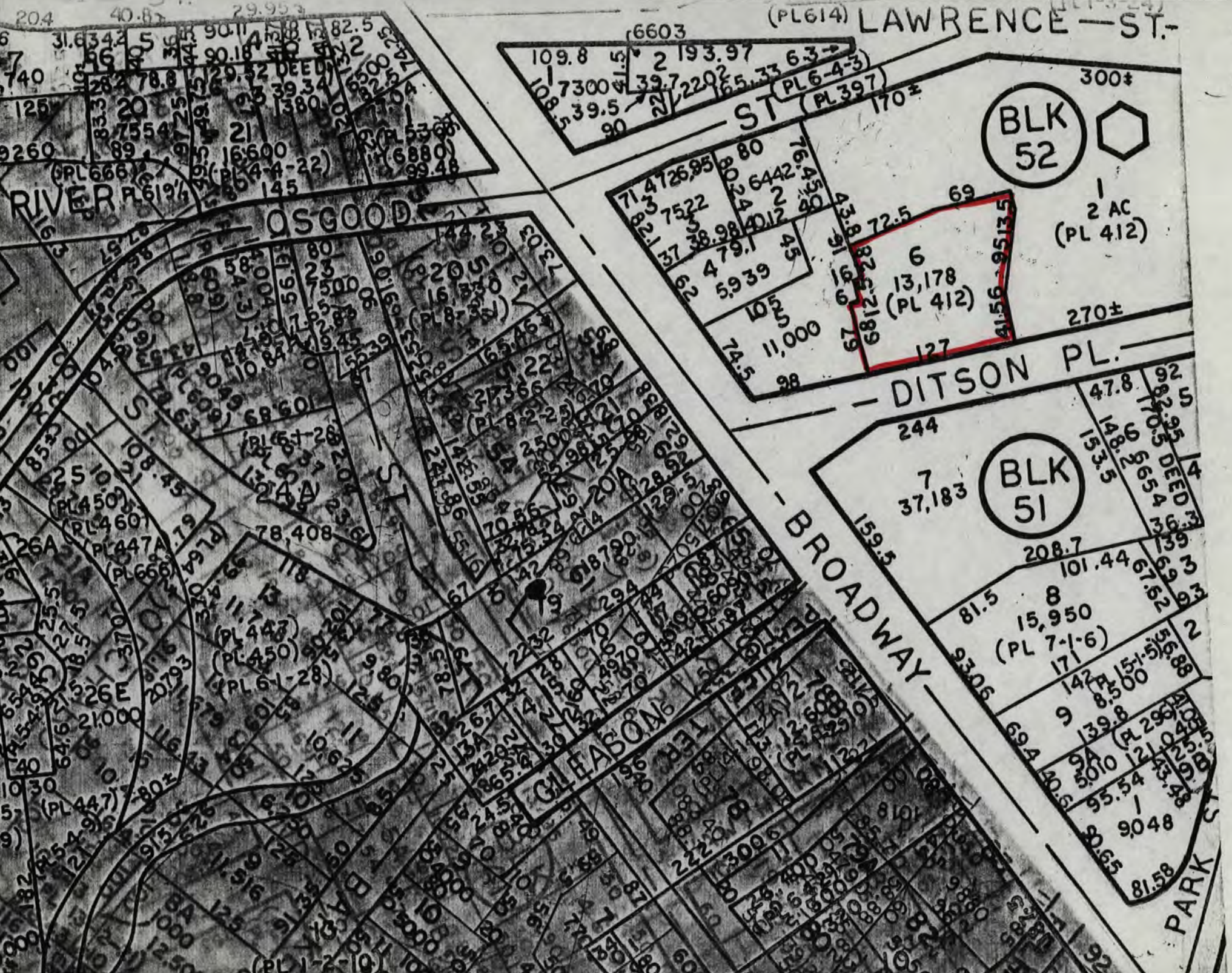
713A



Johnson House  
Northen NRA, Ma

3-27

713A



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000284