

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	322

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.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date July, 1985

Williamstown Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 18/652780/4728800

(Staple additional sheets here)

Town North Adams MRA

Address 568 West Main Street

Historic Name Wells House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1840

Source Deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting The house sets on a knoll in

the center of the mill community of

Braytonville, overlooking W. Main St.,

now a major roadway. To the south of
the property is an early twentieth
century suburban development.

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

The house is architecturally significant as a rare surviving local example of a Greek Revival farmhouse with distinctive architectural features. The building is five bays wide, 2½ stories in height, with a central entrance, reflecting a traditional plan. Particularly unusual are the attenuated Doric pilasters delineating each bay of the north, east and west elevations. These pilasters, which support a frieze beneath the cornice of the roof, have entasis carved in their profiles. The main entrance is ornamented with four pilasters, sidelights and transom. Also, each gable end has a full pediment.

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

The Wells House, located on the road to Williamstown (now Route 2), was built by Orson Wells, who came to North Adams in 1815, and built an acid-producing factory (no longer extant) near the present building. Acid was critical to the tanning and woolen industry, and Wells and his son, Daniel, were also involved in the textile manufacturing enterprises that grew up in the adjoining industrial community of Braytonville.

As late as 1894, Daniel Wells owned 160 acres around this house, one of the oldest in the area. The house itself remained in the Wells family until 1968. Surrounding buildings, most of 20th century construction, testify to the increased development in the area located ? miles west of North Adams' core.

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

Owner's Deed information (interview 1/10/83)

History of North Adams, MA 1749-1889, W. F. Spear, No. Adams, 1885

Atlas of the Towns of Adams, No. Adams, and Williamstown, D. L. Miller, NY, 1894

Criteria for Evaluation

The Wells House, a distinguished example of Greek Revival styling, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association with North Adams' early industrial and agricultural past. The building thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/12/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name North Adams MRA
State Bershire County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Hathaway Tenement

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

12. Johnson School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

13. Johnson Manufacturing
Company

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

14. Norad Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

15. Sherman, William B.,
Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

16. Sykes House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

17. Wells House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/25/85

Attest

18. Phelps House

S. Review

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Wells House (North Adams MRA)
Berkshire County Berkshire
MASSACHUSETTS

SEP 12 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 10/10/85 10/27/85

Action: ACCEPT 10-25-85

_____ 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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- 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



99
Wells House

568 West Main St.

North Adams, ^{MA} Mass.

Northeast view.

Photo by R.Reed, 1981.

Negative at NAHC

Wells House
568 West Main Street
North Adams, Mass.
North Adams MRA



