

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 3 1982

date entered APR 1 1982

1. Name

historic Simmons Block

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 86-90 Park Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Adams

N/A vicinity of

congressional district First

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Berkshire

code 003

3. Classification

Category

☒ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☒ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☐ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☒ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert & Claudine Auge

street & number 427 Church Street

city, town North Adams

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts 02147

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkshire County North Registry of Deeds

street & number 65 Park Street

city, town Adams

state Massachusetts 01220

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date January, 1979

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

ADAMS: Simmons Block, 86-90 Park Street

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

The Simmons Block stands on the west side of Park Street, immediately south of McKinley Square. The building is a two-and-one-half story wood frame structure which rests on a stone foundation and is enclosed by a straight-sided mansard roof. Except as otherwise noted, the building's exterior is sided with clapboards. The building's plan is basically rectangular, although its major elevations (west and north) have a variety of projecting bays and recessed porches. Window sash on both major elevations is highly varied in the size and shape of panes, which serve as an important decorative element in the building design.

The facade (east elevation) is asymmetrical consisting of a flat section (southern 2/3 of elevation) and a projecting tower (northern 1/3). The flat section of the facade has a wooden cornice at the top of the first story; beneath the cornice is a single entry with a bracketed hood near the structure's southwest corner, and two plate glass windows flanking two arched windows. At the second story are two tri-partite windows with 1/1 sash and basket arched transoms of colored glass; at the attic is a central gable with a panelled bargeboard and two windows. The gable is flanked by two dormers with triangular three-pane lights. The tower rises from a recessed porch, supported by turned posts, behind which is an original set of double doors. The tower's second story contains paired windows surrounded by decorative panels of diagonally set clapboards and incised wood panels. The attic of the tower contains a single window flanked by engaged columns above which rises a high hip roof with a decorative cresting.

The north elevation is highly varied in its structure and fenestration; unless otherwise noted, all sash contains decorative, geometric glazing. At its east end is the base of the tower which rests partially on turned posts, behind which a modern entry has been added (ca. 1960). At the second story of the tower are two windows, at the third are two decorative lights; a chimney decorated with a terra cotta panel rises through the tower's roof. At the first story, moving west from the tower's base, are a paired window, three 2/2 windows, and an enclosed porch. At the second story is a three-sided oriel window with panelled walls, a recessed porch with turned posts, and a decorative apron (behind which are one tri-partite and one paired window), and a paired window. At the attic are three dormers and, at the building's northwest corner, an extremely ornate gable with a complex sash of colored glass.

The rear (west) elevation is concealed by a three-story porch, most of which has been enclosed with louvred wooden panels. The porches first two stories are probably original to the building and are supported by square posts with brackets; the porches third story is likely to be an addition of the mid-20th century.

The south elevation faces a narrow alley between it and a neighboring structure. Its first story is blank except for the area west of center where there are three small lights and a single entry. The second story is asymmetrical, containing two windows with decorated sash at its east end and elsewhere, 6 windows of varying sizes with 2/2 sash. The east end of the attic contains one dormer with decorated sash; west of this dormer are 4 other dormers, each containing 2/2 sash.

Alterations to the Simmons Block consist of the replacement of porch bases and railings at the facade, the possible removal of a shop entry at the center of the facade's first story, the addition of a new entry beneath the tower, and the addition of a third story

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received	MAR 1 1982
date entered	APR 1 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

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to the rear porches. None of these laterations affects the building's overall design, nor do they diminish the high quality of its ornate trim.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1885–1889 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Simmons Block possesses integrity of location design, materials and workmanship and as an unusually ornate example of the Queen Ann style meets criterion C of the NRHP.

The Block was built between approximately 1885 and 1889, the year in which the town's First directory lists the building as the residence of Albert H. Simmons a furniture dealer and undertaker. Although the Simmons Block shares decorative details with other Park Street buildings of the late 1880's and early 1890s, most notably the Park Stree Fire-house of 1890, the Block's wood-frame construction and domestic scale separate it from the more usual brick blocks of the period. The building's tower, complexly glazed sash, decorative panelling, porches with turned posts, scalloped porch aprons, oriel window, and other decorative trim mark it as the town's most complex and idiosyncratic example of Queen Anne style architecture. Although secondary sources and local directories are unclear, the facade's plate-glass storefront, set on a panelled base and capped by a decorative cornice, seems likely to have been part of the building's original design and may have been used by Simmons as a funeral parlor, a use which occupied the first story of the Block until the 1970s. Simmons' other business, a furniture store, occupied a separate building on the opposite side of Park Street. With the exception of the basement of the facade, one entry and the third story of the rear porch, the Simmons Block remains in original condition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

City Atlases (1895 & 1904) and Directories (post-1889).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .125 acres

Quadrangle name Windsor, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
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6	5	4	1	4	0
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4	7	2	0	5	1	0
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B

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C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes only the rectangular lot on which the building stands; the bounds of this lot are described in the Berkshire County North Registry of Deeds, Record Book 680, p. 442; and in Plan Boo 240 H, Plan 99 (copy attached).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director, with Brian Pfeiffer, ACT for Massachusetts

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1981

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 2/17/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/1/82

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

82004951

Property: Simmons Block
State, County: MA, Berkshire
Federal Agency: _____Working No. 3/3/82-597
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-1-83
Date Due: 4-1-82 / 4-17-82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/1/82Entered in the
National Register☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

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

photos 1
maps 4Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
☐ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

X 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

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 _____

USGS 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Simmons Block
Adams, Massachusetts
Berkshire County

Photo Credit: Brian Pfeiffer
Negative filed: ACT for Massachusetts
Identification: East and North elevations.
Date: July, 1979

MAR 3 1982

Simmons Block
Adams, MA
UTM Reference
18/654140/4720510

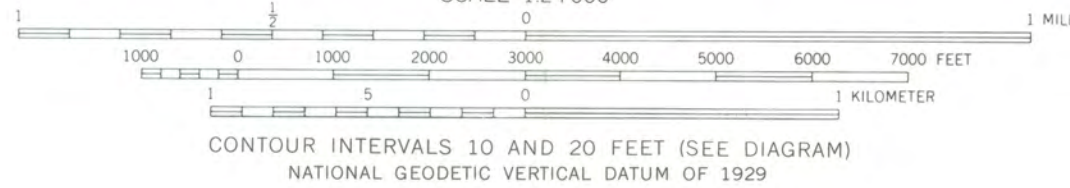
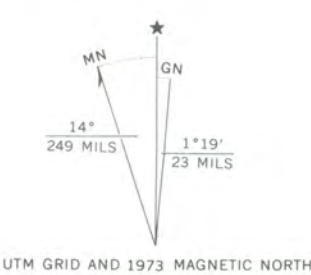
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WINDSOR QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-BERKSHIRE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943 and 1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVALS 10 AND 20 FEET (SEE DIAGRAM)
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



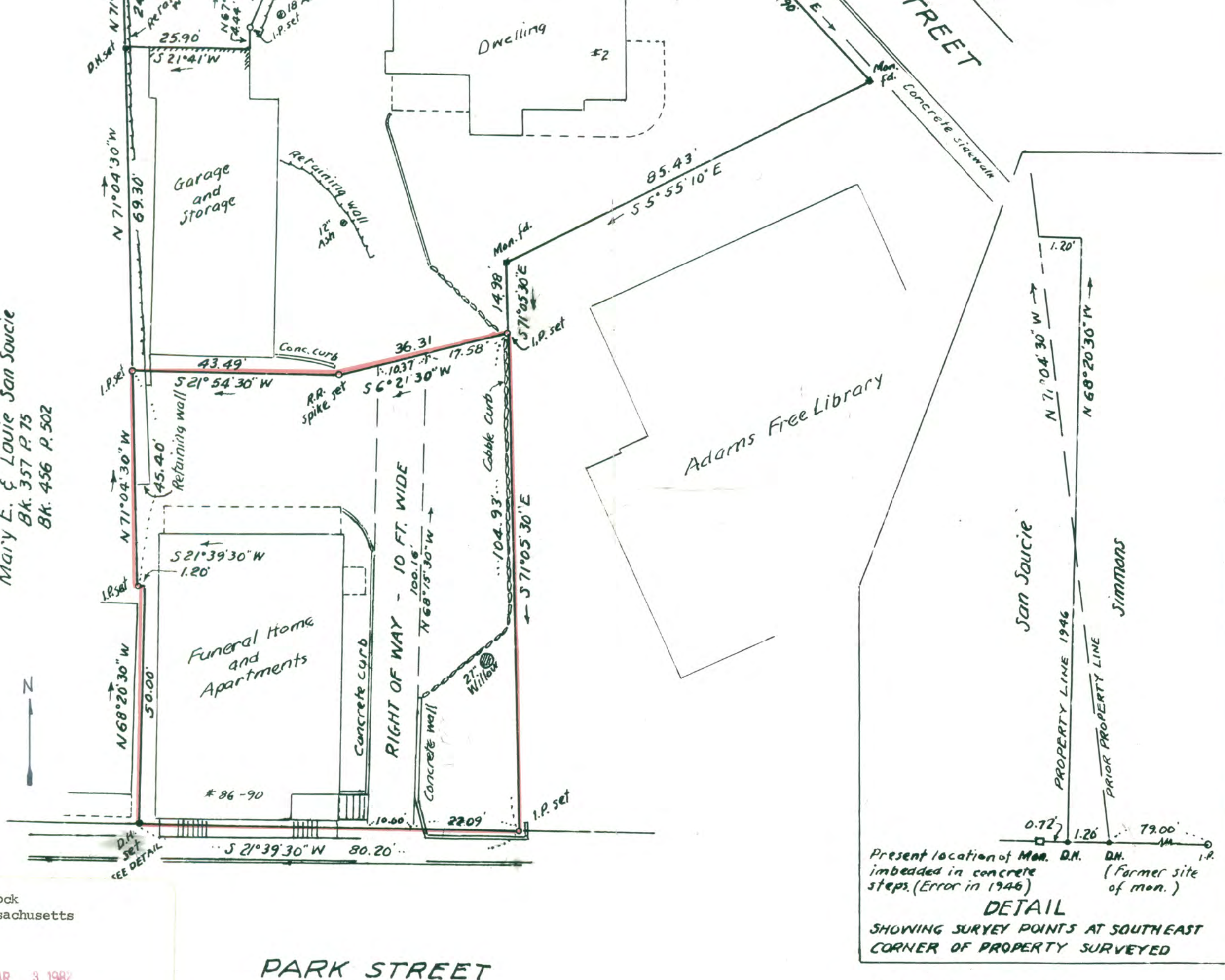
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

WINDSOR, MASS.
N4230-W7300/7.5
1973

AMS 6369 II SE-SERIES V814



Mary E. & Louie San Soucie
 BK. 357 P. 75
 BK. 456 P. 502



Simmons Block
 Adams, Massachusetts

MAR 3 1982

PARK STREET

Present location of Mon. D.H. imbedded in concrete steps. (Error in 1946)
 D.H. (Former site of mon.)

DETAIL
 SHOWING SURVEY POINTS AT SOUTHEAST CORNER OF PROPERTY SURVEYED

SUBDIVISION PLAN
 OF LANDS OWNED BY

21742

Bk 240H

Pg. 99

Partial
Pg. 15



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 17, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper
National Register Division
National Park Service
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following National Register nomination forms:

Adams: Armory Block (local)
Adams: Barrett Block (local)
Adams: Berkshire Mill #1 (local - DOE 6/81)
Adams: Jones Block (local)
Adams: Mausert Block (local)
Adams: Pittsfield & North Adams Passenger Station and Baggage and
Express House (local)
Adams: Simmons Block (local)
Lawrence: American Woolen Mill Housing District (local)
Melrose: Town Center Historic District (local)
Milton: Belcher-Rowe House (local)
Needham: Davis-Mills House (local)
Needham: Joshua Lewis House (local)
Needham: Townsend House (local)
Peabody: Nathaniel Felton Houses (local)
Stockbridge: Glendale Power Station (local)
Stockbridge: Wheatleigh (state)
Webster: Main Street Historic District (local-DOE)
Westfield: Octagon House (local)
Weymouth: Old South Union Church (local)

All were voted eligible by the State Review Board at their meeting on 2/10/82 and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Comments by owners and other interested parties are attached. Owners and chief elected officials were notified of pending Review Board consideration on December 23, 1981.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

CJ/amf

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 1, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mausert Block	Adams Berkshire County
Armory Block	Adams Berkshire County
<u>Simmons Block</u>	Adams Berkshire County
Octagon House	Westfield Hampden County

Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
Honorable Silvio O. Conte

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108