

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

230

Winchester, Mass., MRA

Town WINCHESTER

Address 81 Walnut Street

Historic Name Abijah Thompson House

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1835-1850

Source historic maps, style

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) possibly some trim removed

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage .17A / 7,435 sq. ft. / 04-0074

Setting densely developed residential area
east of Winchester Center

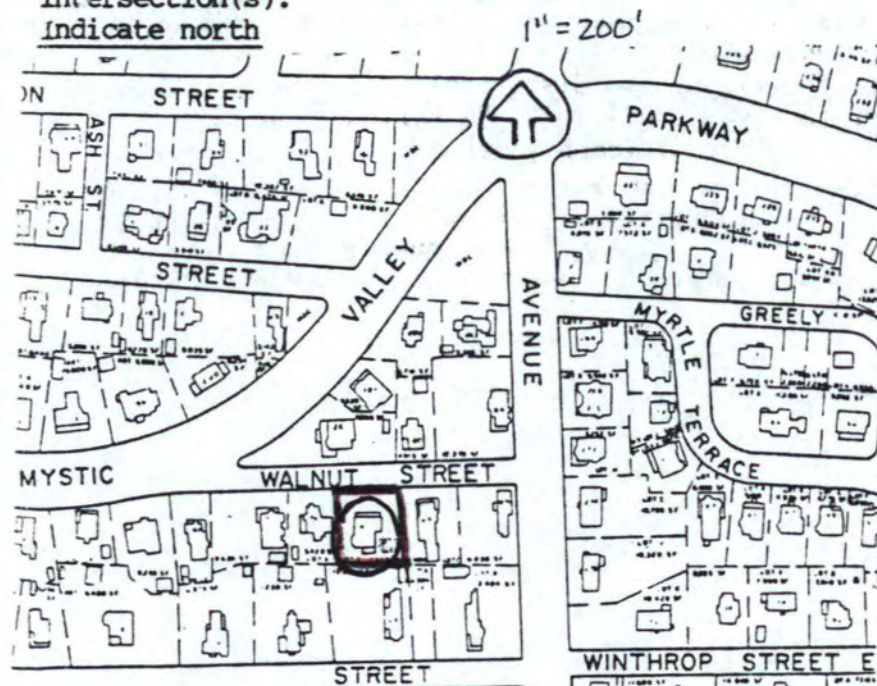
Recorded by Carol Elv

Organization Winchester Historical Comm.

Date 1/79; 10/87 revised by C. Jenkins

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

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE 19-24130. 01850

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Abijah Thompson House possesses integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is significant as an unusual example of the Gothic Revival style (see form #232; also Newton, Mass., MRA: Webster Park H.D.) characterized by a truncated central tower flanked by two steeply pitched gabled wall dormers. It also boasts full length windows flanking the entry and a towered addition at the rear. The Thompson House also reflects the initial residential development of the area directly east of the town as the population began to climb rapidly.

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

The Thompson House is an unusual example of the Gothic Revival style which bears an almost exact resemblance to several period cottages in Newton Mass. (Newton, Mass. MRA: Webster Park Historic District; NR: 9/4/86). It is a 1½ story, clapboard clad structure enclosed by a gable roof. Its symmetrical three bay facade is centered on a double leaf paneled entry which is flanked by full length French windows. A truncated, polygonal bay rises through the roofline above the entry and it is flanked by steeply pitched gabled wall dormers. A tower with pyramidal roof rises from the center of the rear elevation. A one story Tuscan porch runs across the facade. These two features may be later additions, and the gables may have lost some vergeboard trim. It is similar to the house at 85 Walnut Street (#232).

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

This house was built in the late 1830s or in the 1840s, but its first known owner is Abijah Thompson (1827-1912) in 1854. Thompson was involved in a variety of Winchester affairs. By trade a leather manufacturer, he worked for his father, Benjamin F. Thompson in Boston. He was first vice-president of the Winchester Historical Society and gathered much valuable information and artifacts of the town's history. He served on various committees of the town, including the 1882 Village Improvement Association; founded the newspaper, the Winchester Times which failed; formed the town's Masonic Lodge, and was an officer of the Savings Bank and a member of the Agricultural Library. His planned estate near the Aberjona never materialized, so he built a house at the corner of Church Street and Glen Road instead and moved there in 1867. The house then passed to Stephen Thompson.

CRITERIA STATEMENT (cont)

It meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chapman, Henry Smith. History of Winchester. 1936.
Winchester Archival Center resources: files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 22 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Symmes, Deacon John, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

52. Symmes, Marshall, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

53. Symmes, Marshall, Tenant House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

54. Thompson, Abijah, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

55. Trowbridge--Badger House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

56. Vinton, Alfred, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

57. Wedgemere (H.D.)

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

58. White, S.B., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

59. Wildwood Cemetery

Substantive Review

for Keeper Boyd Savage 7-5-89

Attest _____

60. Wyman, George, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melores Byrnes 7/5/89

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Thompson, Abijah, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Winchester MRA
NAME:

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: 89000619

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

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTMs ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Abijah Thompson House
81 Walnut Street 1/68
Winchester MA MAH

MHC Inv # 230

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303