

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

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 28 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William Norcross House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 14 Cushman Street N/A not for publication

city, town Monson N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampden code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard B. and Rosemary A. Johnson

street & number 17 Cushman Street

city, town Monson N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampden County Registry of Deeds

street & number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth # 132 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description William Norcross House, Monson, Massachusetts

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Norcross House, dating from the late Georgian period (ca.1785), is locally noted for its sophisticated architectural design. Consisting of a main block and northern ell, the house stands on a 3/4 acre lot in Monson Center. It faces southwest toward Main Street with its south elevation abutting directly onto Cushman Street.

This five-bay, center chimney plan building rises two stories from a stone and granite foundation to a hip roof with monitor. Sheathed in clapboards, the structure is articulated with quoins, a simple water table and an elaborate entablature with pulvinated frieze and modillion cornice. A most distinctive element of the design is the monitor which interrupts the hip and through which the center chimney rises. This component repeats the detailing (modillion blocks and quoins) seen on the main structure. Its 8-paned, single sash windows are symmetrically placed with three openings on the west elevation, two openings on the north and south elevation, and one opening on the east elevation. Elsewhere in the main block, fenestration consists of 6/6 sash in simple frames; first floor windows have heavy dentilated caps over pulvinated friezes on the principal west and south elevations.

The principal facade of the Norcross House is the western elevation. Symmetrically aligned, it consists of five bays with a center entry. The classically ornamented entry features a fanlight and is framed by pilasters which carry a molded pediment.

The four-bay south elevation facing Cushman Street features two entries which alternate with the first floor windows. Both entries repeat the stylish enframing of the first floor windows.

The eastern elevation, or rear of the house, contains a small enclosed porch on the north end which was added in 1962, and an arched entry to the cellar is located at the southern corner. Windows on this elevation are asymmetrically placed and simply framed.

The northern elevation is largely obscured by a two-story ell which extends perpendicularly from it. This five-bay, two-story gable roofed extension was constructed shortly after the main building. Originally one story in height, a second story was added in 1835.

The interior of the main building retains a number of its original features. These include a ballroom and an adjoining room with a high dome ceiling on the second floor, five working fireplaces, doors, panelling and a tight, triple run staircase at the front entrance.

The only outbuilding remaining on the property is a small shed located on the western boundary, north of the ell. At one time a barn also stood in the vicinity of the shed, but was torn down in 1962 at the time the main building underwent major rehabilitation.

8. Significance

William Norcross House, Monson, Massachusetts

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

Specific dates	ca.1785	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Norcross House is significant as a well preserved example of high style late Georgian period architecture in a rural New England community. Standing in the center of the town of Monson and facing southwest toward Main Street, the Norcross House reflects through its usage from residence and tavern in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to boarding house for mill workers in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the evolution and growth of a rural, yet increasingly industrial New England town. The building is also important for its association with the Norcross family who made major contributions to the commercial development of Monson in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, setting and workmanship, the William Norcross House meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

William Norcross, the original owner and builder of this late 18th century house, is known to have first purchased 21 acres of land and a small 1½ story dwelling in Monson in 1776. According to town records, by 1785 he had built the nominated property directly to the east of the older house, and being known as a joiner and cabinetmaker, was likely responsible for its construction. This newer structure originally served as a tavern and residence for the Norcross family, but by the early 19th century was used only as the family's residence.

At the turn of the 19th century, William Norcross constructed a new tavern and a general store, both of which were located not far from his home and close to the center of town. With the establishment of these two enterprises, Norcross became known as a successful local merchant and businessman. Upon his death in 1803, his estate was divided among his wife and two sons, who inherited respectively the 1785 house, tavern and general store. The eldest son Joel, particularly followed in his father's footsteps, becoming locally prominent in business and real estate. After his mother's death in 1806 until 1835, he and his wife lived in the 1780 family homestead, at which time he built a new Greek Revival style house nearby and sold the older property to the Monson Woolen Manufacturing Company. This mill establishment began operation in 1816 and was located just east of the Norcross property. From the date of sale in 1835 until 1927 when the mill closed, the Norcross House along with the earlier farmhouse was used by the mill company as boarding houses. During this almost 100-year period, few alterations were made to either structure. Minor changes did occur, however, to the nominated property at the time it was sold to the mill company. Alterations included the addition of a

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hampden County Registry of Deeds.
Hampden and Hampshire County Registry of Probate.
History of Monson, Monson Historical Society, Inc. (1960).

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .75 acre

Quadrangle name Monson Quadrangle MA-CT

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A	18	72	22	40	46	64	10	10	B	18	72	28	10	46	64	01	50
	Zone	Easting		Northing		Zone	Easting			Zone	Easting		Northing				
C	18	72	21	40	46	63	96	10	D	18	72	14	10	46	64	01	30
E									F								
G									H								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the house sited on a 3/4 acre lot with is a portion of the 21 acres (altered) originally associated with the property. Please refer to assessor's map.

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

state	code	county	code
	N/A		
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Kubie, Preservation Planner, with Richard Johnson

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1983

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Patricia L. Westowski

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 2/22/84

For NPS use only

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

for Allous Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/29/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

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

For NPS use only

received

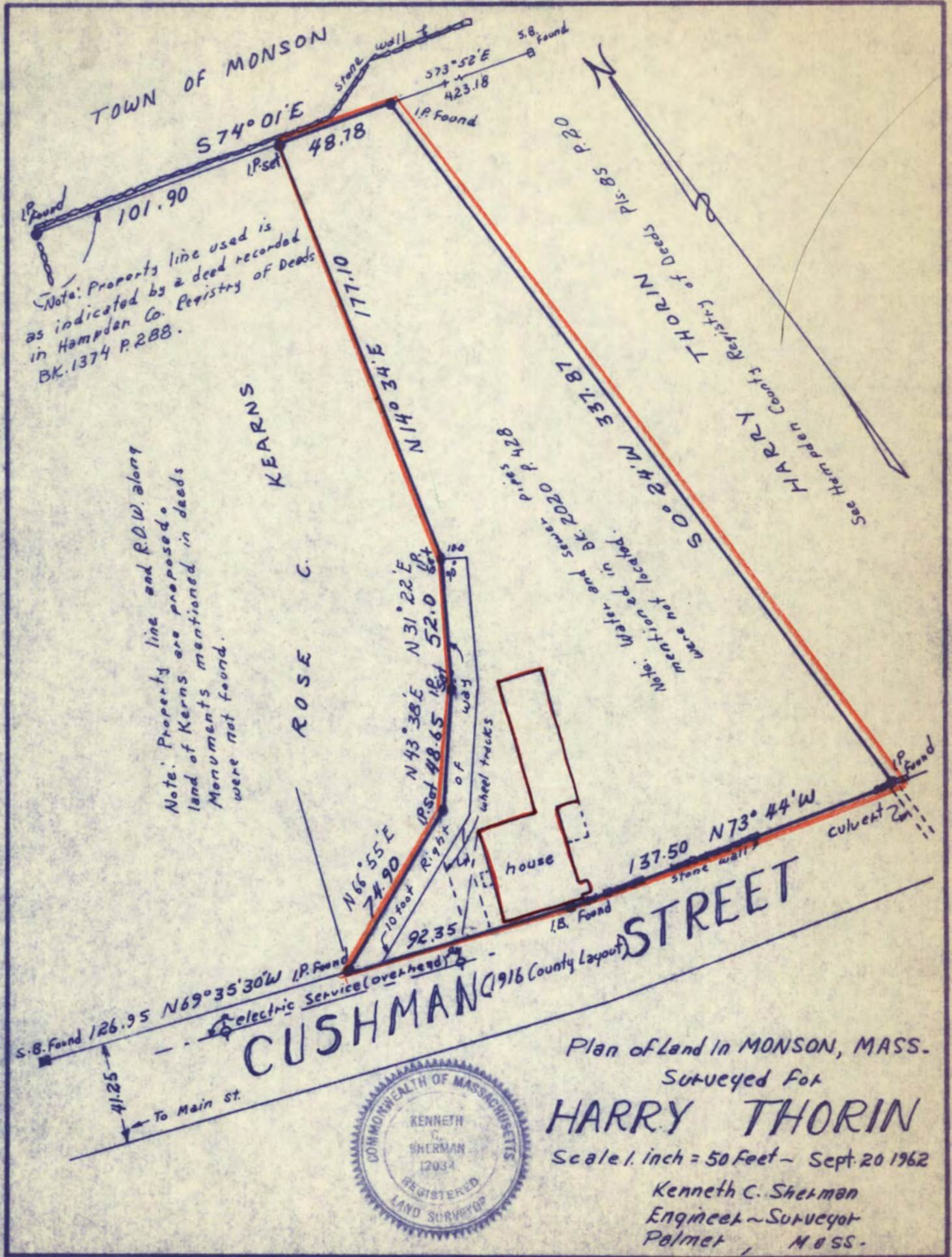
date entered

Continuation sheet William Norcross House,
Monson, Massachusetts Item number 8

Page 1

second story to the ell of the building (1835) and the construction of two lean-to style kitchens to the rear of the main structure (1835). When the mill closed in 1927, the Norcross property was sold to Adam Niedzwicki, who later converted the nominated property dwelling into three units. In 1941 he divided the property into two parcels and conveyed the two dwellings to separate owners. The 1780 Georgian period house has subsequently changed ownership three times, and in the 1960s underwent a major rehabilitation which included the conversion of the ell into four rental units, the construction of an enclosed porch to the rear of the house, and the removal of the two 1835 lean-to style kitchens. It is believed that a barn lying to the north of the ell was also torn down at this time.

The land surrounding the William Norcross House should be considered to contain the remains of subsurface structural features as well as discrete and scattered material culture deposits associated with two hundred years of human activity on the site. Identification and evaluation of the historic archaeological resources of the property may reveal information which if integrated into an appropriate research design may contribute to our understanding of the past, addressing questions pertaining to both site specific and general culture process issues.



Note: Property line used is as indicated by a deed recorded in Hampden Co. Registry of Deeds BK. 1374 P. 288.

Note: Property line and R.D.W. along land of Kearns are proposed. Monuments mentioned in deeds were not found.

Note: Water and sewer pipes mentioned in BK. 2020 P. 428 were not located.

See Hampden County Registry of Deeds Pls. 85 P. 20 HARRY THORIN

CUSHMAN STREET
 (1916 County Layout)

Plan of Land in MONSON, MASS.
 Surveyed for
HARRY THORIN
 Scale 1. inch = 50 Feet - Sept. 20 1962
 Kenneth C. Sherman
 Engineer - Surveyor
 Palmer, MASS.



F = 229.85
 S = 837.87
 R = 48.78
 S = 352.65

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Norcross, William, House
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 28 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85

Date Due: 3/29/84 - 4/13/84

Action: ACCEPT 3-29-84

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- 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

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 _____
UTM 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: _____



William Norcross House
14 Cushman Street
Monson, MA

Richard B. Johnson, Photographer
Monson, MA

Photo #1 of 2
Front West elevation

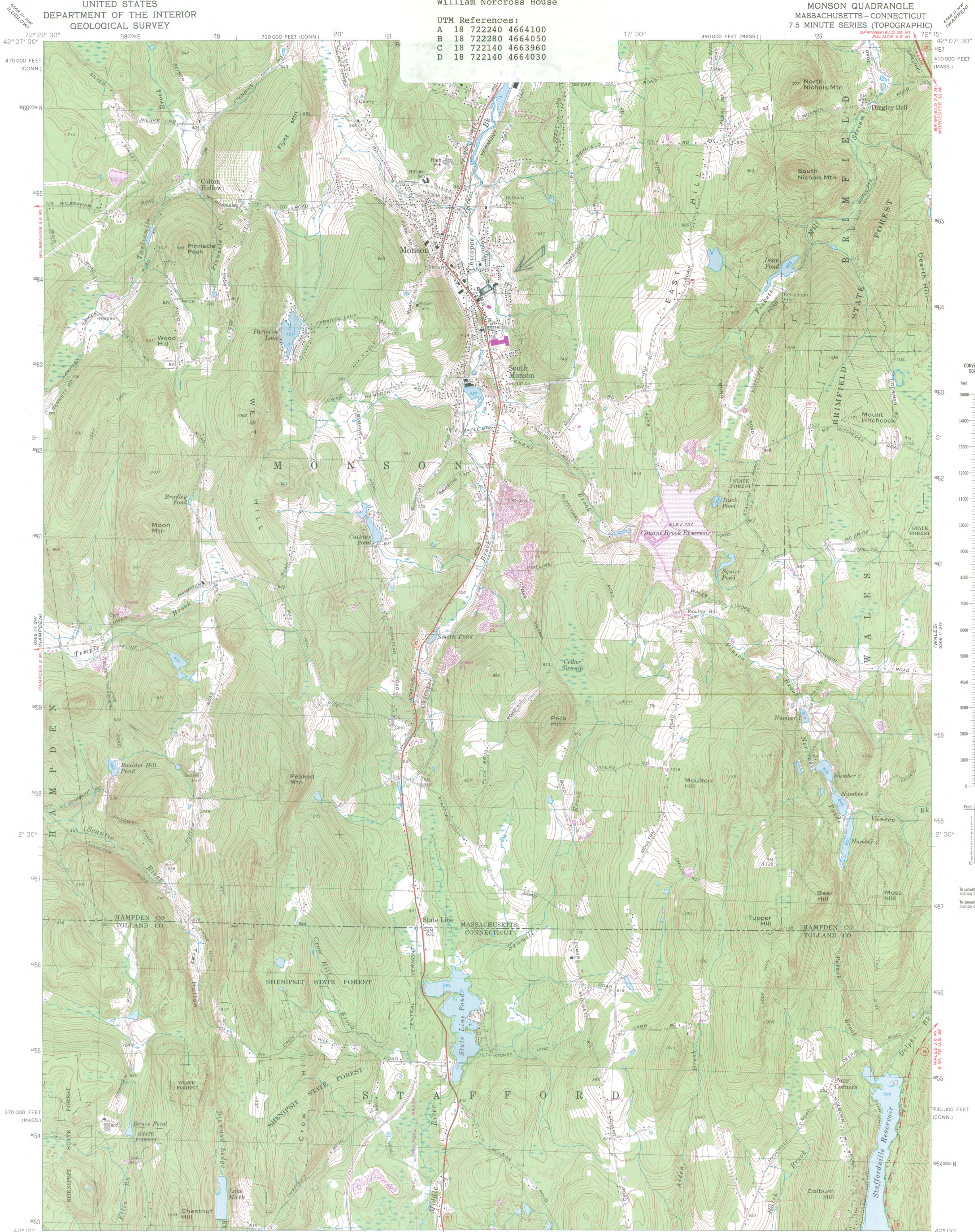


William Norcross House
14 Cushman Street
Monson, MA

Richard B. Johnson, Photographer
Monson, MA

Photo #2 of 2
West and South elevations

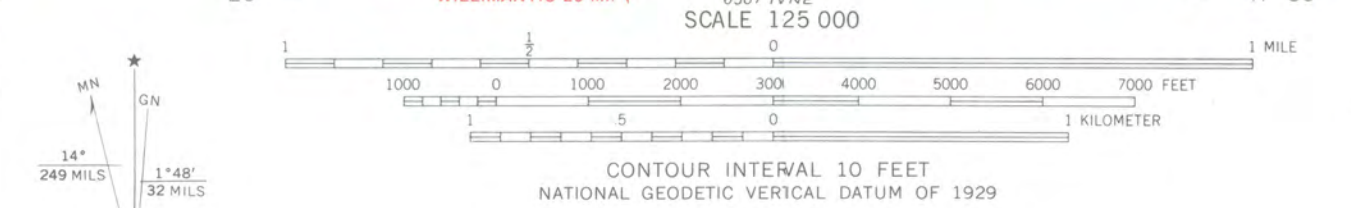
UTM References:
A 18 722240 4664100
B 18 722280 4664050
C 18 722140 4663960
D 18 722140 4664030



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21286
8	24284
9	27282
10	30280

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

MONSON, MASS. - CONN.
N4200-W7215/7.5
1967
PHOTOREVIEW 1979
AMS 6568 III SE-SERIES V814

USGS MAP
MONSON Quadrangle

27 6f
January 4, 1984

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

RECEIVED

Re: William Norcross House
14 Cushman Street
Monson, MA 01057

JAN - 5 1984

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Gentlemen:

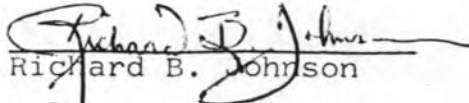
The purpose of this letter is to comment on whether the above referenced property should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and further to confirm that both the present property owners, Richard B. Johnson and Rosemary A. Johnson support and consent to the listing of said property in the state and national registers.

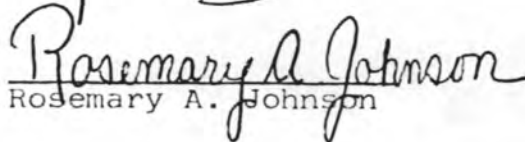
The William Norcross House-tavern is worthy of the protection and benefits provided to properties listed on the national register due to its architectural significance. It is the most sophisticated 18th century structure in the Town of Monson, and the double hip or monitor roof form with center chimney is possibly unique to the area.

There is also concern that the home is located in a central commercial zoning district and situated extremely close to the public way known as Cushman Street.

We hope that the favorable tax benefits will encourage future landlords or owners to preserve, restore and accurately repair the property as opposed to modernizing the property or allowing it to deteriorate.

Very truly yours,


Richard B. Johnson


Rosemary A. Johnson