

MMW 20 1985
3

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	117

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.

See attached map.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date May 1985

Town Sherborn
Address 32 Pleasant Street
Historic Name Joseph Twitchell House

Use: Present Residence
Original Residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1710, possibly 1690
Source N/A

Style First Period
Architect N/A
Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
Outbuildings Barn, Sheds, Guesthouse

Major alterations (with dates) North wing added ca. 1800

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting The Twitchell House is located in the more rural portion of western Sherborn.

UTM reference: 19 301820 4678110

(Staple additional sheets here)

scale 1:25,000 Holliston Quadrangle

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

The Joseph Twitchell House is one of half a dozen Sherborn residences that may be First Period structures. The building retains a distinctive saltbox profile. It possesses a single-pile, central-hall plan, two and a half stories in height, with an integral rear lean-to. Its main facade is three bays wide, and centered on the ridge is a large brick chimney. The roof was probably raised at one time; two sets of rafters remain in the attic, the lower set of which is fastened together without a ridge pole. Also visible on the interior

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

The Twitchell House has seen continuous use since it was first constructed in the early 18th century. Like most of Sherborn's surviving early dwellings, the Twitchell House was located originally in relative isolation. Despite a 1690 date painted on its chimney, the house was probably built by farmer Joseph Twitchell, Jr., on his father's land ca. 1710. The First Period dwelling was enlarged and the roof raised in the mid 18th century by Twitchell descendants. Its use as a farm continued into the 20th century; today it is a "gentlemen's farm," the estate of a well-to-do landowner. The house retains its rural setting, and is located in a relatively undeveloped area of western Sherborn.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Joseph Twitchell House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, as well as a continued association with agricultural life in Sherborn. In its present form, Twitchell House is a well-preserved example of the evolution from First Period to Georgian-style structures, and thus fulfills Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. Although the total acreage currently associated with this property is quite large (approximately 80 acres), only the area immediately surrounding the house and outbuildings is being nominated.

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

Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875, and 1889.

Margaret Dowse Buntin's research

Anne C. Shaughnessey, A Guide to Sherborn, 1974.

Harriet Forbes, "Some 17th Century Houses of Middlesex County, MA",
Old-Time New England, Jan. 1939.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

Sherborn

117

Property Name: Joseph Twitchell House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

is the beveled-edge summer beam.

A Georgian-style center entryway, a mid 18th century addition, is topped by a six-pane transom. The door enframingent is composed of decorative pilasters supporting a narrow, flat entablature. In the early 19th century, an end-gabled ell was added to the building's western wall. It is three bays wide, and a broad wood string course defines its two stories. A large barn, crowned by a cupola, stands near the house. It was built in the mid 19th century. Both house and barn have been recently restored. The guest house is a recent addition to the property.

MAP KEY

- A = House
- B = Guesthouse
- C = Barn
- D = Sheds

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 11/20/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 13

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Sherborn Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Sanger, Richard, III, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelene Byers 1/3/86

22. Sawin-Bullen-Bullard House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelene Byers 1/3/86

23. Twitchell, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelene Byers 1/3/86

24. Vaughn, H. G., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelene Byers 1/3/86

25. Ware's Tavern

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelene Byers 1/3/86

26. Woodland Farm-Leland House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelene Byers 1/3/86

27.

Keeper

Attest

28.

Keeper

Attest

29.

Keeper

Attest

30.

Keeper

Attest

86000510

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Twitchell, Joseph, House (Sherborn MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. NOV 20 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 12/19/85 - 1/4/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-3-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

National Register
National Register

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ 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

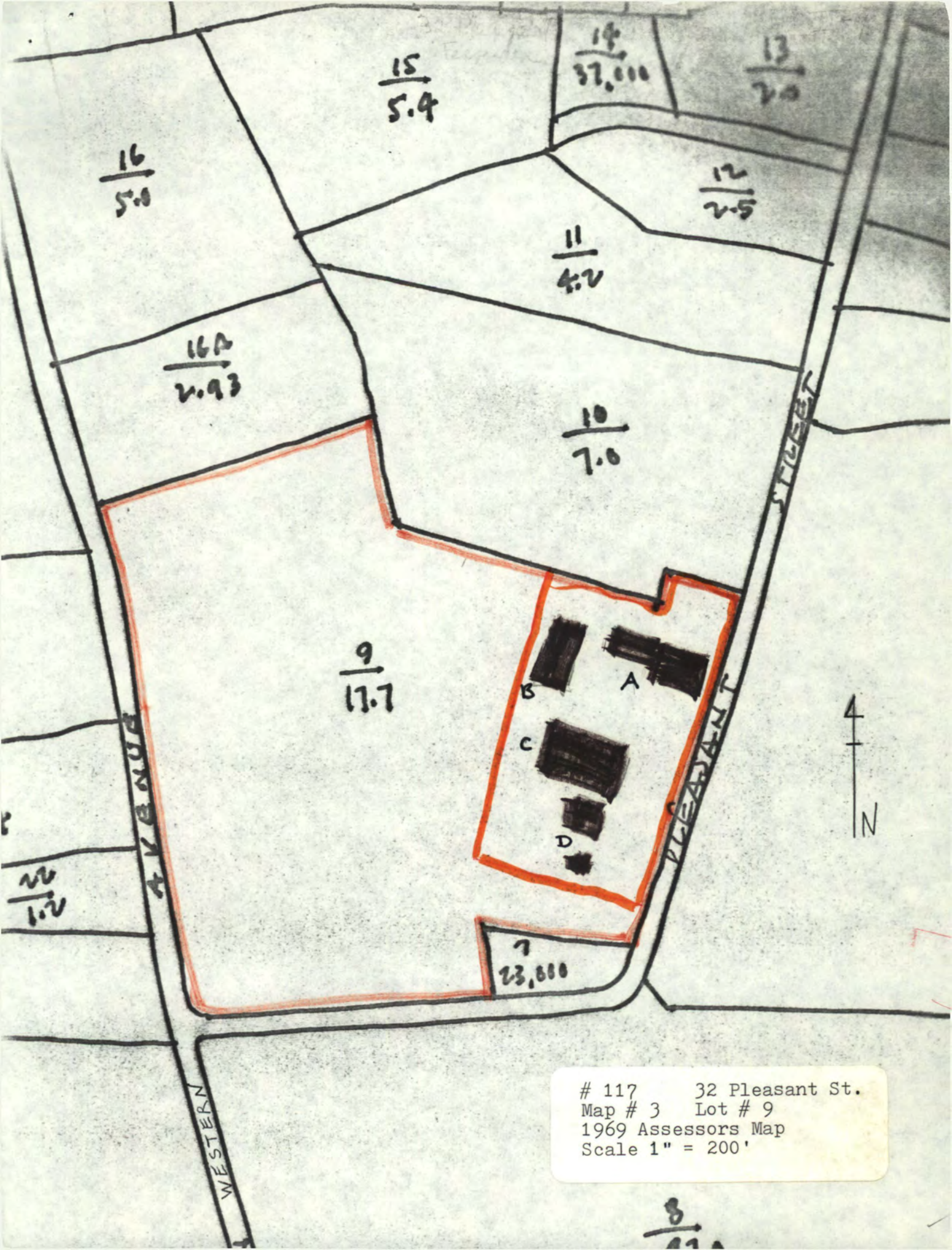
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Turtchell, Joseph, House
Shorburn MRA, Ma



117 32 Pleasant St.
Map # 3 Lot # 9
1969 Assessors Map
Scale 1" = 200'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000293