

617

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

(Winchester, Mass. M.R.A.)

Town WINCHESTER

Address 993 Main Street

Historic Name Charles Russell House

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1841

Source Winchester Star

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric asbestos shingle

Outbuildings 2-bay garage, detached/c

Major Alterations (with dates) siding;

lower sash replacement, dates unknown

Condition Good

Moved no Date

Acreage .34 acres 14-0144

Setting Along major early road to

Woburn; in area of mixed residential

and commercial use.

Recorded by Marcia Wood

Organization Winchester Historical Com

Date 1/79; 10/87 rev. by H. White

Formerly: 359 Main Street

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



UTM REFERENCE 19.3 23620. 47 03350

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25 000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Charles Russell House is notable for its associations with James Russell, active in Winchester affairs during the late nineteenth century. The Russell House is also an important local example of the Greek Revival style. Therefore the Russell House meets Criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Charles Russell House (1841) stands on a low rise of land facing southwest, close to the Winchester-Woburn boundary. The two-and-one-half story house is based on a rectangular plan, with a rear ell. The gable roof of moderate pitch has slightly projecting eaves; there are paired windows in the gable ends. The five-bay facade is symmetrically organized. A center entrance door is framed by transom and sidelights, and is set within a one-story, flat-roofed Ionic porch with fluted columns. The windows contain six-over-six sash; some of the lower sash has been replaced with single light sash. Other characteristic Greek Revival features include the wide corner pilasters, and wide entablature. There are two brick chimneys, on the ridge in an interior position. The house has been clad in asbestos shingles, except for the rear wall where the clapboards are still visible.

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

The Charles Russell House was built in 1841 by Charles Russell on the site of an earlier house, the Belknap House. The land on which the house stands was formerly part of Woburn, and the Woburn grammar school was held for a brief time in 1728 in the Thomas Belknap House. Thomas Belknap was a native of Boston, and a glover by occupation. After first settling in Winchester, he moved to Woburn in 1698, and bought the land known as the "Forty-pound Meadow" which stretched northward along present-day Main Street, from a point near the present Woburn-Winchester boundary. His house stood where the Russell House now stands, at the corner of Main Street and Russell Road.

Belknap also bought land on the westerly side of the road to Horn Pond, from the Converse. The Horn Pond Brook which flows to the Aberjona River, ran through Belknap's land, and he utilized its waters by building a dam, and erecting a fulling mill and grist mill. This was one of the three oldest mill privileges held in Winchester (in addition to those of the Converse and Symmes families). By 1787 the Belknap family had disappeared from Winchester. In 1802 the mill site was bought from Duncan Ingraham, by the Middlesex Canal Company; the canal passed within a short distance from the mill. The Canal Company disposed of the land by 1815, and there was a succession of owners until 1847 when it was purchased by Church and Lane. The mills were no longer extant at that time, and the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

History of Winchester, vol. I, by H. Chapman, 1936, p. 86-88.
Winchester Star, July, 1900.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester	Form No: 519
Property Name: Charles Russell House	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued.

new owners established a pianoforte case factory on the site. In 1865 the business was taken over by the firm of Cowdery, Cobb and Nichols, which supplemented the water power with the use of steam.

The old Thomas Belknap house, after the family had departed, was used for a number of years as a tavern. Nathaniel Davis, who moved to Winchester from Weston, was the innkeeper.

By 1841 Charles Russell had built the present house on the site of the earlier Belknap house. Russell died ten years later in 1851, leaving the house to his widow Elizabeth and son James, who was active in local affairs. James was a member of the School Committee, an Assessor, and member of the Board of Selectmen from 1887 to 1892. He was described as an author in the July, 1900 issue of the local newspaper, the Winchester Star.

Partial chain of ownership:

1. Charles Russell 1841-1851
2. Elizabeth Russell 1852-1898
3. James Russell 1900-1907
4. Carl & Eva Anson 1908-1968
5. George Mc Dowell

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 Group

Name Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
41. Remick, Joseph, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
42. Richardson, Zachariah, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
43. Russell, Charles, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
44. Russell, Arthur H., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
45. Sharon House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
46. Simonds, William, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
47. Skillings Estate House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
48. St. Mary's Catholic Church Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
49. Stanton, Jacob, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
50. Sullivan, Edward, House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>John F. Savage 7-5-89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Russell, Charles, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Winchester MRA

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: 89000617

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
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Charles Russell House
993 Main St. 1/88
Winchester, Ma. MRA

MHC Inv. # 519

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303