

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

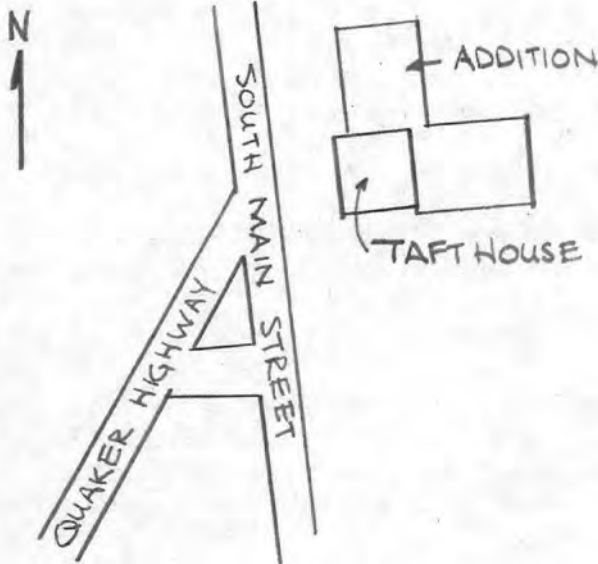
 PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
 Staple to left side of form
 Photo number _____

 Roll 3 frames 17-18

Town Uxbridge
 Address South Main Street
 Historic Name Hon. Bazaleel Taft House
 Use: Original residence
 Present Cocke 'n Kettle-restaurant
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Hon. Bazaleel Taft

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1780-1790 or earlier
 Source Secondary sources/exterior
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) 2 storey wing added east and north (ca. 1970)
6/6 sash installed (19th century?)
 Moved No Date N/A
 Approx. acreage less than 1/4
 Setting located at junction of Ironstone Road and South Main Street in an area of sparse residential development

Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Uxbridge Historical Commission
 Date May 1981

UTM: Quad BL 19 283990 4660180

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

The Hon. Bazaleel Taft House is an outstanding local example of high-style Georgian architecture, one which preserves almost all elements of its original design, despite modern commercial additions. The main house is a 2½ storey, timber-frame structure set on a foundation of dressed limestone (?) ashlar. The building has a rectangular plan with two interior chimneys and is enclosed by a hip-on-hip roof. The facade (west elevation) is symmetrical with five openings at the first and second stories and three pedimented dormers at the attic.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

In addition to being one of the most sophisticated Georgian style houses in Southern Worcester County, the Hon. Bazaleel Taft House possesses historical associations with at least three generations of the locally-prominent Taft Family. The house's exact date of construction is obscured by several factors. Although some local sources report that the house was built as late as 1790 by the Hon. Bazaleel Taft, (1750-1839), the farm on which the house stood has been owned since the early eighteenth century by Daniel Taft (1677-1761) and his son Josiah Taft (1709-1756), both of whom were among the wealthiest citizens of Uxbridge and Mendon. In addition, both were involved with the county court at Worcester and had social connections in Boston/Cambridge, where Josiah Taft, Jr. died of fever in 1756 while attending Harvard University. Both in Worcester and in Cambridge, houses of similar form were built prior to the Revolutionary War for members of the court (Gardiner Chandler House, Worcester 1760's) and wealthy merchants (John Vassall House, Cambridge, 1759). While the Hon. Bazaleel Taft House may actually date from the 1780's, the Taft family's continuous occupation of the farm, wealth, and exposure to similar high style houses suggest that a pre-Revolutionary construction date may be possible.

The house's major associations are derived from the Honorable Bazaleel Taft. Born in 1750, just six years before the joint deaths of his father and older brother, Bazaleel Taft was raised by his mother who enjoyed the position of being Uxbridge's largest tax payer by virtue of her administration of her husband's estate; local sources report that her influence was sufficiently great that when special taxes were sought to support the colonies at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Josiah Taft's widow was allowed to vote on the matter at the town meeting, the only woman allowed to do so locally before the twentieth century.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Proceedings at the Meeting of the Taft Family, at Uxbridge, MA, August 12, 1874
 Uxbridge: Spencer Bros., 1874 pp. 44-48
 Blackstone Bank 1925: 24
 Chapin 1881: 50-52, 112-115, 172

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Uxbridge	Form No: 33-53
Property Name: Hon. B. Taft House	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The center entry consists of a raised-panel door (modern replacement on the outer door) surmounted by a 5-pane transom and framed by fluted pilasters supporting a pulvinated frieze, cornice and pediment. Windows are set in heavy, projecting frames with moulded caps. The south elevation duplicates the facade in appearance, except that it is slightly asymmetrical and lacks dormers. Other elevations (north & east) are partially or totally blocked by contemporary additions built for the building's commercial conversion to a restaurant in the mid-twentieth century. Neither addition contributes to the property's historical significance, nor do they cut into the frame of the house.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

A young man at the time of the Revolution, Bazaleel Taft served as adjutant in a local company. After the war, Taft became the town's largest land holder and a staunch Federalist. At various times he served as a state senator, representative to the General Court for more than 30 years and member of the state's Executive Council. ^{The house is also associated with} Bazaleel Taft's son, Bazaleel Taft Jr. (1780-1846), an attorney, who succeeded his father politically and as a large landholder, although most of the younger Taft's adult life was spent in a house built for him by his father in 1807 (Form #35-51).

After the death of the elder Taft, the house was owned and occupied by Joseph and Chloe (Taft) Thayer. Thayer (1792-1872) was a native of Douglas, Massachusetts; he graduated from Brown University in 1815, after which he studied law with the Honorable Levi Lincoln of Worcester and, later, with Bazaleel Taft, Jr., at Uxbridge. Thayer set up a local law practice in 1818, married the Hon. Bazaleel Taft's daughter, and eventually succeeded his father-in-law as Uxbridge's largest land owner and wealthiest citizen. Among Thayer's various business ventures, he was active in supporting the development of the Blackstone Canal and the establishment of the Providence and Worcester Railroad of which he was on the first board of directors. After Thayer's death, the house was occupied by his widow, and by the 1890's was either owned and/or occupied by Gideon M. Aldrich.

The Hon. Bazaleel Taft House possesses integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship, as well as historical associations with several generations of the Town's most prominent family, all of whom were active in the community's economic development. The Taft House meets criteria A, B and C of the NRHP.

OWNER: Nick Sampson
South Main St.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

For NPS use only
received 8/26/83
date entered _____

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area

State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Whipple, A., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

42. Williams, N., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

43. Taft, Aaron, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

²⁴¹ 44. Taft, Bazaleel, Jr., House
and Law Office

Substantive Review

for Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 10/7/83

Attest

45. Taft, Hon. Bazaleel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

46. Taft Brothers Block

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

47. Taft, George, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

48. Taft, Moses, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

49. Taft, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

²⁴⁷ 50. Taft, Zadock, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Taft, Hon. Bazaleel, House (Uxbridge MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. AUG 26 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 9/22/83 - 10/16/83
Action: ACCEPT 10/7/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

- 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

(A R F 571000) 0800 081000 001 010
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

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 _____

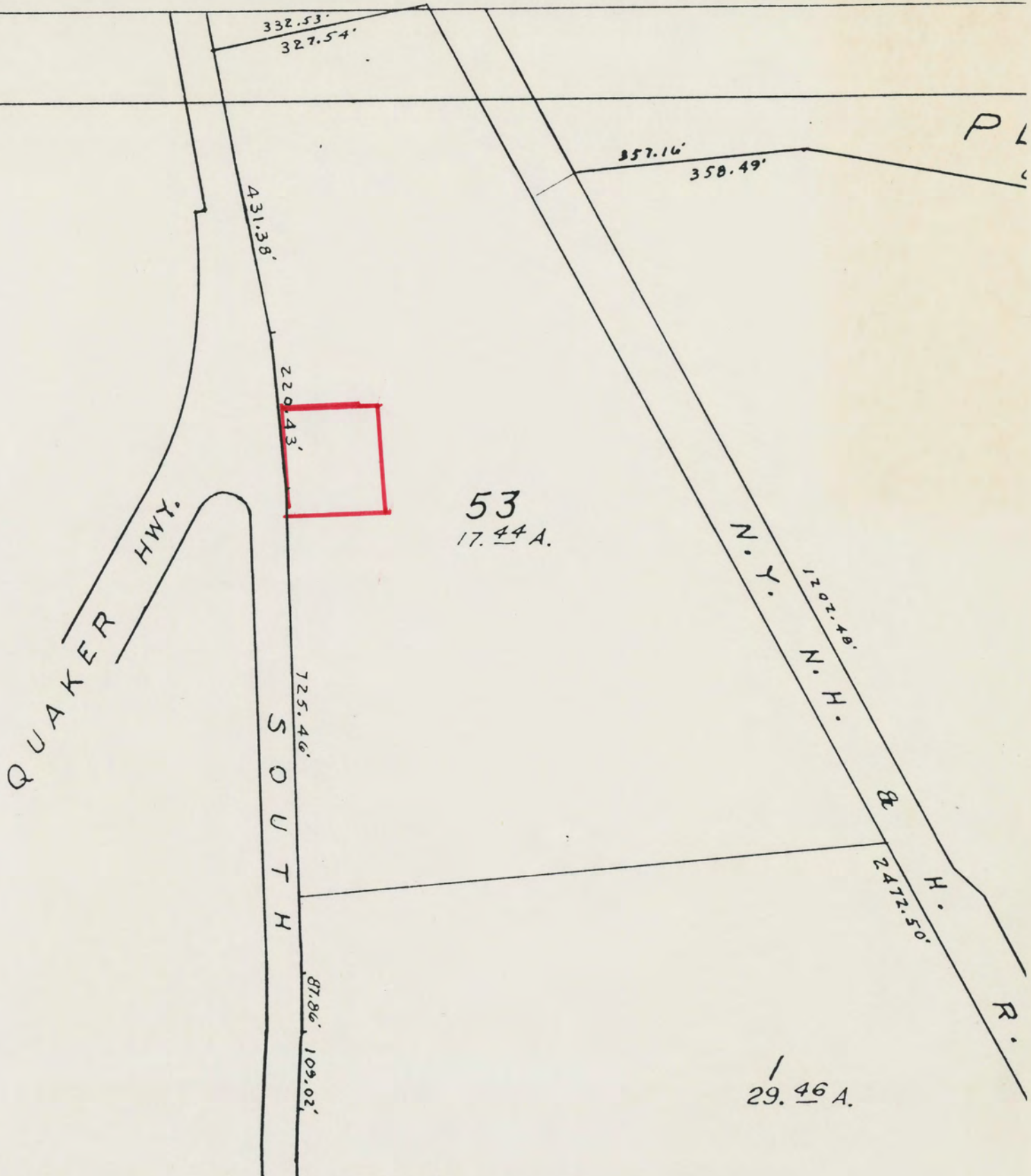
13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____





Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area
 Hon. Bazaleel Taft House
 South Main Street
 Map #33 Lot #53
 Exbridge Assessors
 1" = 200' 1983

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000299