

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fobes-O'Donnell House

Other names/site number: The Oakham Historical Museum

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1221 Old Turnpike Road

City or town: Oakham State: MA County: Worcester

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>January 19, 2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SHPO</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

3/7/2018
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, single dwelling

GOVERNMENT, post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE, museum

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL _____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood clapboard, asphalt shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Fobes-O'Donnell House is a well-preserved Colonial-style farmhouse now owned by the Oakham Historical Association. The house stands on a 1.14-acre lot at 1221 Old Turnpike Road, a wooded, two-lane, east-west artery through rural Oakham. Set back from the street and fronted by a broad lawn, the house faces north onto the T- intersection of Hunt and Old Turnpike roads. The house has a two-story, single-pile, five-bay, side-gable main block with a late 19th-century Queen Anne-style porch extending across the façade (*Photo 1*). An ell and a lean-to extend from the rear of the main block, and a shed extends to the east (*Photo 2*). Based on its Georgian interior features, framing details, and documentary research, the main block of the house is believed to date to ca. 1771 (see Section 8).

In front of the east corner of the house stand two granite posts four feet in height with hand-swedged iron hitching rings used for securing horses (*Photo 1*, far left). The hitching posts are believed to date to the 1812–1824 period when there was a post office in the house. Near the street on the front lawn is a ca. 1990s sign reading “Oakham Historical Museum.” Immediately west of the house are woods. Barrow's Brook, a cold-water fishery for native brook trout, is located southwest of the house on land that was part of the Fobes-O'Donnell House property until the early 1990s, when the acreage was reduced from approximately 67 to its present size. Approximately 60 of those 67 acres remain as open fields to the south and west of the house, preserving the farmhouse setting.

O'Donnell descendants own abutting houses to the east and west at 1195 Old Turnpike Road (1950) and 1241 Old Turnpike Road (1994) and maintain the acreage to the south of the house as hayfields. The partial remains of a detached barn, which burned in 1963, are evident on what is now a separate parcel of the family's acreage.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

The Fobes-O'Donnell House stands among several other historic farmsteads that characterize the area. These include the James Conant-Luther Spear Jr. House at 1148 Old Turnpike Road (ca. 1790, OKH.32), the Alexander Wilson-Moses Gill House at 600 Barre Road (ca. 1776, OKH.24) and the James Craige, Jr.-Skelton Felton House at 128 Hunt Road (ca. 1750, OKH.30). There are also a few late 20th/early 21st century subdivisions within one-half mile east and west of the house.

The Fobes-O'Donnell House retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property's two contributing resources are the house (1 building) and the two hitching posts (counted as one resource). The museum sign is a noncontributing object because of its recent date.

Narrative Description

The Fobes-O'Donnell House is a two-and-a-half story, side-gable, single-pile, five-bay, center-entry dwelling (*Photo 1*). While the interior indicates it was constructed in the Georgian period, the façade is more typical of the late Federal period, suggesting that the house was remodeled in the first quarter of the 19th century. The house is covered with painted wood clapboards and has an asphalt shingle roof. Across the north-facing façade is a late 19th-century porch. The porch, along with an Italianate-style front door, indicates alterations in the last quarter of the 19th century. At the rear of the house are three additions (*Photo 2*). A 1½-story gabled ell extends from the left (west) side of the rear of the main block. On the right side of the building, the roofline has been extended down to cover a single-room lean-to. To the right of this, extending off of the east elevation of the main block and lean-to, is a single-story gabled shed clad with vertical boards (*Figure 1*).

Main Block

The Fobes-O'Donnell House stands on a low fieldstone foundation. A brick chimney is centered on the building, and serves four fireplaces. The trim on the main block consists of plain cornerboards, close eaves at the gable ends, and a boxed cornice across the façade that is carried around to shallow cornice returns on the sides of the house—all typical Federal-period features. The main entry, centered on the building, has a simple surround that matches the trim on the house (*Photo 6*). The main entry door, however, is in the Italianate style, which was popular in the third quarter of the 19th century. The five-panel door has thick molding and two long, round-arched, glazed upper panels. All of the windows on the main block have six-over-six sash with thin muntins, which became popular in the Federal period. Windows are framed with projecting surrounds, and the lintels of the second-story windows are incorporated into a plain fascia board that runs beneath the cornice.

Across the first floor of the façade is a shed-roofed open porch. The Queen Anne styling of the turned posts and jigsaw-cut brackets indicate that the porch is a late 19th-century addition. The porch railing has square balusters, with two thicker balusters at the stairs topped by round newel caps.

Interior

The interior layout of the main block is a hall-and-parlor, center-chimney plan (*Figures 1 and 2*). The central core, composed of the chimney stack and circulation space, is flanked by one room on each floor, for a total of four rooms in the main block. On the first floor, the hall is to the east and the parlor to the west. A shallow root cellar is located under the hall, but not the parlor. In front of the chimney stack on the first floor is a set of stairs and an entry vestibule; on the second floor, a hallway connects the two

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

rooms (chambers). A second set of stairs, in front of the chimney on the second floor, leads up to the attic. Throughout the main block, the floors are wide pine boards and the walls and ceilings are covered in plaster, with the exception of the hall ceiling, which is discussed below. Posts are visible projecting into many of the rooms of the main block.

Vestibule and Main Staircase

The front entry door opens into a small vestibule, approximately four by eight feet (*Photo 9*). A door to the left (east) leads to the hall; a door to the right (west) leads to the parlor. There are matching doors hung in the doorways, each with four raised panels that face into the rooms. The doors are hung on HL hinges, and both doors have their original Suffolk latches. On the south wall of the entry is a dogleg stairway, which abuts the central chimney and leads to the second floor (*Photo 10*). The staircase has square balusters and square newel posts with domed caps. Raised-field paneling on the walls supporting the stairs is in the Georgian style.

Hall

Historically, the hall was a utilitarian, multipurpose room where the family gathered and where the kitchen would have been located in a single-pile house without a lean-to. A fireplace on the west wall of the room (*Photo 11*) has Georgian-style paneling. A wooden mantel shelf (a post-Georgian feature) projects from a large raised panel above the firebox. The current brick firebox is not centered under the mantel, and there are several vertical boards to the left of the opening, suggesting that the firebox was once larger, probably including a bake oven if the room was originally used as kitchen. To the right of the fireplace is a closet door with two raised panels on which there is still one original HL hinge (*Photo 12*). The door opens into a shelved storage space under the main stairway.

The hall ceiling was originally covered with plaster, which has been removed, exposing the hand-hewn summer beam and joists (*Photo 31*). Notably, the summer beam is a transverse beam, spanning the depth of the room, rather than the more common longitudinal beam spanning the width of the room. In addition, the summer beam has no decoration, indicating it was meant to be covered. Posts projecting into the four corners of the room are all cased as was typical of Georgian-style finishes in the principal rooms.

Parlor

The parlor, which was a formal room in which to receive guests, is the west room on the first floor. With a fireplace on the east wall, it is similar in size to the hall, but has much finer paneling and a plaster ceiling (*Photo 13*). However, in the early 1940s a wood stove that was vented through the room's fireplace overheated and caused wall and ceiling materials to char, creating bubbles in the surface finish. These surfaces were repaired and the ceiling received a new coat of plaster.

The fireplace is surrounded by a fine vernacular example of Georgian paneling. It features a single large panel with eared corners, a heavy cornice, and bolection molding. The mantel shelf, a later addition, has a line of molding underneath it. To the right of the fireplace is a closet with shelves and a four-panel door similar to those found in the rest of the main block. Cased posts project into the room from all four corners.

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

Second Floor

The two chambers (now called bedrooms) on the second floor are similar in size to the rooms on the first floor. The rooms are accessed by the main stairs, which rise to the second floor in a central hallway (*Photo 14*). Doors at the east and west ends of the hallway provide access to the two chambers. The hall chamber has a closet to the left of the chimney; the parlor chamber may have had a closet, but it has been replaced by a set of shelves. Like the two rooms downstairs, square, cased posts project into all four corners of the rooms on the second floor.

The trim in both of the chambers is in a wider, flatter Greek Revival style, suggesting an update of the house during the second quarter of the 19th century. The fireplace in the hall chamber, however, has what appears to be Georgian-period bolection molding. Wide trim is found around the windows and doors on the second floor (*Photo 15*). In the parlor chamber, the fireplace was later bricked over and a stovepipe was inserted (*Photo 16*). There is no mantel and no trim around the fireplace opening, although the ends of vertical wood paneling are visible extending down to the top of the firebox from underneath wallpaper. The paneling is of a style common at the end of the 18th century, and similar paneling is found in the second-floor hallway covering the stairs leading up to the attic.

Attic

The attic is accessed by a set of stairs in the parlor chamber, through a doorway on the east wall of the room to the left of the fireplace (*Photo 17*). There is a narrow stairway leading to the center of the attic that ascends along the front of the chimney stack. The attic extends the entire length of the main block, and has a six-over-six sash window in each gable end (*Photo 18*). The principal rafters are pegged together at the peak of the roof (*Photo 19*). Scribe marks were found on a few of the rafters in the attic, with the numbers on the west side of the rafters and the count running from west to east. Many of the purlins were reinforced with pine supports in 2005. All of the historic framing members are hand-hewn. The rafter-and-purlin construction indicates that the building was constructed before the 1780s. This structural system was common in Worcester County before the final two decades of the 18th century, when the common rafter method and five-sided ridgebeams were adopted.

Rear Ell and Lean-to

Extending from the south elevation (rear) of the house are two additions—the ell and lean-to (*Figure 1*). Although they at first appear to be contemporaneous to the main block's construction, clapboards are visible in at least three places on what would have been the original south elevation of the main block, indicating that the rear wall of the main block was once a clapboarded exterior wall. Clapboards are visible on the south wall of the main block leading from the basement to the kitchen, in the attic of the ell, and the space underneath the lean-to roof, which can be seen through a hole in the ell roof. The surviving clapboards are attached with what appear to be handmade nails, providing more evidence of a pre-1780 construction date for the main block (*Photo 30*). Where the clapboards are visible in the attic ell, they form a gable peak between two former windows, indicating that a lower ell once occupied the space of the present ell.

The ell is a 1½-story gabled structure that extends south from the parlor in the main block (*Photo 24*). The ell has three finished rooms and a large closet on the first floor with an unfinished attic above (*Photo 28, Figure 1*). A brick chimney is centered on the ell. The largest room—the width of the ell and directly behind the main block—is a modern kitchen. Kitchen cabinets, a stove, and a sink dating from the second half of the 20th century have been installed at the west end of the room (*Photo 25*), with space in the east end for a kitchen table and an old cook stove. The installation of modern kitchen equipment necessitated

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

the closing of a set of stairs that led up to the ell's attic; most of the stairs are still in situ, with the opening visible in the attic (*Photo 26*), but the exit of the stairs is now blocked by cabinets on the kitchen's north wall. The plaster in this room was updated, and 20th-century linoleum covers the floor. The lower sections of the northern and eastern walls have wainscoting constructed of two boards placed horizontally, a common early 19th-century treatment.

The other two small rooms in the ell, south of the modern kitchen, are separated by a large closet. The west room, once a pantry, is now a full bathroom with sink, toilet, and bathtub. The east room is an unheated workroom containing a set of built-in drawers and shelves, as well as access to the large closet between the two rooms (*Photo 27*). A brick chimney for the cook stove in the modern kitchen runs up the north wall of this closet. The workroom has horizontal-board wainscoting similar to that in the modern kitchen. The door to the workroom was relocated several feet to the east to make room for the kitchen cabinets.

Above the ell is an unfinished attic (*Photo 28*). The entrance to the attic is a door on the south wall of the parlor chamber; as noted earlier, stairs from the modern kitchen were blocked when the cabinets were installed. The roof system of the rear ell is composed of a five-sided ridgebeam and common rafters, which places the date of the ell addition after 1780, when this roofing system became common in Worcester County, and distinguishing it from the roofing system of the main block (*Photo 29*), which pre-dates 1780.

To the east of the ell is a shed-roofed lean-to (*Photo 20, Figure 1*). The roof of the main block extends down to cover this one-room space. During work on the roof in 2005, evidence of a former, lower roof was found under the existing lean-to roof, indicating that the current lean-to roofline is a later addition. The ell roof may have been altered when the shed (see below) was attached to the house, to make the two roof slopes align. The lean-to space likely served as a workroom or other utilitarian space, as it is adjacent to the hall in the main block. A door in the southwest corner leads outside, while a door on each of the other three walls leads to adjoining rooms of the house. The pine board floors are thinner and more irregular than the board floors found in the rest of the house. The lower part of the walls is covered in wainscoting composed of two horizontal boards with a round bead at their joint. Wallpaper covers the upper walls. As the framing is not visible, the wainscoting is a clue that the lean-to was added after the turn of the 19th century, when this form of simple wainscoting was popular. Smooth, regular, knotty pine boards, probably dating to the 1970s, cover the ceiling.

Shed

Accessed by a door in the east wall of the lean-to is a one-story, side-gabled shed covered with vertical wood siding. The rear slope of the shed's roof is flush with that of the lean-to's roof, and the shed covers the east elevation of the lean-to, as well as a portion of the east elevation of the main block (*Photo 2*). An exterior sliding door (not large enough for an automobile) is located on the south elevation, off-center to the east. A single window high in the east gable-end lights the shed; it is a fixed sash of two panes, vertically divided. Inside, the shed is an unfinished, one-room space, open to the rafters. Several of the framing members, particularly the beams and plates, have empty mortises that do not correspond to their current use, indicating the shed was constructed with repurposed pieces of wood (*Photos 21 and 23*). Timber-frame construction was used for the shed, but instead of a ridgebeam the shed has a ridgeboard (*Photo 22*). The floor is covered in poured concrete, and at the west end is a door to the cellar that runs beneath the shed, ell, and lean-to. The cellar is supported by a fieldstone foundation wall, and the area under the modern kitchen includes a fieldstone chimney base and a well for water.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance
ca. 1771–1967

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Fobes-O'Donnell House meets National Register Criterion C with a local level of significance. Under Criterion C, the property is significant as a well-preserved and representative example of a Colonial-style New England farmhouse. Constructed ca. 1771, its interior has fine Georgian-style woodwork in its

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

principal rooms but also a number of changes undertaken over the course of the 19th-century that are of historic significance. The house is also significant as a rare example of a single-pile, 2½-story form. Most surviving 2½-story houses of the era in Oakham and throughout the state are double pile. The property holds long association with the Fobes and O'Donnell families, who farmed the property for two hundred years. Although it now stands on just over one acre that was donated to the Oakham Historical Society in 1994, for most of its history the house was surrounded by a large parcel of land that was used to raise cattle and grow hay. Most of that acreage remains as open fields to the south and west of the house, preserving the farmhouse setting. From 1813 to 1824, it also served as Oakham's first post office. The period of significance begins with the building's construction ca. 1771 and continues to 1967, the standard 50-year cut off—a time period established by the National Park Service as adequate for evaluating a property in an objective historical context. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Construction Date

Although an exact date of construction for the house has not been established, a limited analysis of the physical evidence in the main block of the house supports a date between 1760 and 1780. This, in conjunction with the documentary research discussed below, suggests a date of ca. 1771. A detailed analysis of the building fabric, which is beyond the scope of this National Register nomination, is recommended to firmly establish the date of the main block, its alterations, and its additions.

Overview

Oakham, located in northwest Worcester County, was originally the west part of Rutland. Oakham incorporated as a district in 1762, then as a town in 1775. Between 1745 and 1747 ten families settled in what became Oakham. By 1750, there were 34 families dispersed throughout the district. In 1761, work began on a meetinghouse erected in the geographic center of the district, as was customary. By 1776, the new town of Oakham had a population of 598.

The northern section of Oakham, where the Fobes-O'Donnell House is located, was settled before Oakham Center to the south. This was due to the fact that the main route from Boston to Northampton ran through the north part of Oakham. The east-west road, on which the Fobes-O'Donnell House stands, was officially designated as the Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike on June 22, 1799. The corporation in charge of the road was to build a turnpike "from the east line of Amherst, on the county road, near William Breton's house, through said towns [Pelham, Greenwich, Hardwick, New Braintree, Oakham, Rutland, Holden, and Worcester] to the great road in Shrewsbury aforesaid."¹ The road was constructed in 1800, and operated for nearly 30 years as a private toll road before being made public in 1829. When a post office was established in Oakham, it was logical to locate it on the turnpike even though it was nearly two miles northwest of the meetinghouse. It was only in the 1820s, when the post office moved to Oakham Center, that the town center truly began to develop.

The land in Oakham, like most towns in the area, was well-suited to grazing cattle and growing hay, and for much of its history the town has been a rural farming community. Lacking any major highways, and

¹ Frederic J. Wood, *The Turnpikes of New England* (Boston, MA: Marshall Jones Company, 1919), 71

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

located about twenty miles northwest of Worcester, it remains a small rural town with a population of about 1,900 (2010). It is only in the past twenty years that former farmland has been sold to create subdivisions of single-family houses.

Early Owners

The documentary research presented below, along with the architectural features described in Section 7, suggests that the house was built ca. 1771 by Jonathan Cunningham, who acquired the property in 1760.

The house stands on what was a 250-acre parcel designated as Lot 24 on the Rutland proprietors' maps. In 1755 Samuel Waldo's wife and executrix Faith Waldo sold two-thirds of Rutland proprietors' Lot 24 to Hugh Cunningham of Brookfield.² In 1769 Hugh Cunningham acquired the final third from Samuel Waldo's (named in the deed as Brigadier General Samuel Waldo) heirs—his sons Samuel and Francis, his daughter Hannah, and daughter Lucy noted as deceased.³ Oddly, this was after Hugh Cunningham had sold the entire Lot 24 to his son Jonathan Cunningham in 1760.⁴ Although this deed says it is all the land Hugh Cunningham purchased of Faith Waldo and Samuel Waldo's other heirs, it appears that the ownership of one-third of Lot 24 was unclear during the 1760s and 1770s.

In 1773, Hugh and Jonathan Cunningham sold their two parcels (one-third and two-thirds, respectively, of Lot 24) to Colonel Jonathan Murray of Rutland.⁵ Jonathan Cunningham's deed, recorded first, notes that the property was his farm and that there were buildings on it. Hugh Cunningham's deed, recorded after his son's, references "the other two thirds of said lot being now claimed by said John Murray as he purchased the same of Jonathan Cunningham now dwelling upon the premises." A previous researcher (1978 Form B; OAK.31) wrote, "August 25, 1773, Hugh Cunningham sold property with new dwelling house on the premises to John Murray." The source for that information is unknown, as the wording was not found in any of the deeds. Given the Georgian details in the present house, it is likely that Jonathan Cunningham built it on his land between 1760 and 1773, and it is clear that there was a house on the property when Cunningham sold it to Murray. New Braintree vital records show that Jonathan Cunningham, then living in Oakham, married Bethiah Thresher in New Braintree on September 3, 1771. Jonathan Cunningham likely built the house ca. 1771 in preparation for his impending marriage. Town histories note that he served in the Revolutionary War.

Colonel John Murray

Colonel Murray (d. 1794), a loyalist, was a wealthy Worcester County landowner who fled to Boston in 1775 as tensions rose during the prelude to the American Revolution. Potter's history of the Murray family indicates that Murray was a son of the Duke of Athol (notably, a John Murray is the first name listed on the charter of Athol, Massachusetts). According to Potter, Murray came to Rutland around 1730, and by the 1740s was actively serving in town government as a selectman, assessor, and town moderator. His three wives—Elizabeth McClanathan (d. 1760), Lucretia Chandler (d. 1768), and Deborah Brindley (death date unknown)—all predeceased him. Popular in Rutland, he represented the town at the state level and held many local offices as well. Around 1760, Murray, who became the wealthiest man in Rutland, built a fine Georgian-style house, now known as the Gen. Rufus Putnam House in Rutland (344 Main

² Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 36, Page 311, recorded May 1, 1755. (Samuel was named in the deed as Cornelius) Waldo's deed of purchase, and any earlier deeds, were not located.

³ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 71, Page 112; signed July 14, 1769, recorded September 23, 1773.

⁴ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 41, Page 419, recorded May 13, 1760.

⁵ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 70, Page 402, recorded August 16, 1773; Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 70, Page 617, recorded September 23, 1773.

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

Street, NHL/NRIND 1972). Since the Rutland house was his primary residence, it is likely that he purchased the Fobes-O'Donnell House in 1773 as an investment property.

In August 1774, Murray was named to the Mandamus Council, a governing body of 36 loyalists appointed by the king to replace the elected government officials in Massachusetts. This act, intended to punish the colony for the 1773 Boston Tea Party, outraged the patriots, resulting in mobs threatening the Mandamus Councilors and demanding their resignation. On August 22, 1774, after a few thousand men had gathered in Worcester to demand that Timothy Paine resign his position as a Mandamus Councilor, about five hundred men set off for Rutland to demand that Murray to do the same. The men were joined along the way by another thousand men. Murray was not at home, and it is believed that he hid for a day or two, ultimately leaving Rutland on August 25, 1774. Murray, along with most of the other Mandamus Councilors, fled to Boston. Murray ultimately settled in Saint John, New Brunswick. His Worcester County lands were among those confiscated in 1779; "about thirty estates were taken, which sold for over \$100,000."⁶ Many of Murray's properties were occupied by tenants, and it is likely that the Fobes-O'Donnell House was one of them.

After the American Revolution, in 1786, a committee charged with selling the confiscated property sold almost 90 acres of land in Oakham to Jonathan Cunningham, the same Jonathan Cunningham who had built the Fobes-O'Donnell House around 1771. The land was described as the property of John Murray and part of Lot 24.⁷ A few days later, Cunningham sold the land to Jonathan Willis of Bridgewater.⁸ The deed mentions a dwelling house and barn, and uses the county road as a boundary. In 1795, Jonathan Willis sold the property to Nathan Willis, also of Bridgewater; their relationship is unclear.⁹ A large group of Bridgewater residents moved to Oakham during the second half of the 18th century, and many of them were related by blood and marriage.

The Fobes Family

The property's long association with the Fobes family began in 1799 when Bridgewater native Joseph Fobes purchased 69.75 acres with buildings from Nathan Willis.¹⁰ Joseph Fobes (March 12, 1758–January 27, 1827) was born in Bridgewater to Josiah and Freelove (Edson) Fobes.¹¹ He served in the Revolutionary War, and in 1782 married Susanna Ames (d. August 12, 1835). The couple had one child, Peres (April 11, 1783–February 6, 1852).

In a historical address given during the laying of the cornerstone for the Fobes Memorial Library (4 Maple Street, OKH.1), Henry Parks Wright tells the story of Joseph Fobes's arrival and early years in Oakham.¹² Wright states that in 1792, Joseph Fobes approached the town about purchasing a lot on the

⁶ Burton W. Potter, Esq., "Col. John Murray and His Family," *Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity for the Year 1908*, Vol. 24, 17.

⁷ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 100, Page 376. The deed was signed in 1785 but not recorded until the following year.

⁸ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 99, Page 580, recorded June 29, 1786.

⁹ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 123, Page 560, recorded October 3, 1795.

¹⁰ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 183, Page 589, signed January 18, 1799, recorded June 10, 1812.

¹¹ Fobes family information from Oakham town records and H.B. Wright and E.D. Harvey, *The Settlement and Story of Oakham, Massachusetts*, Vol. I and II (New Haven, CT: Ernest L. Hayward, 1947).

¹² Henry P. Wright, *The Fobes Memorial Library of Oakham, Massachusetts* (New Haven, CT: Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Press, 1909), 28–32.

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

town common and opening a store there. This was discussed at Town Meeting, but the town ultimately did not sell Fobes the land. Instead, in February 1793, Fobes joined with his brother-in-law David Ames to purchase the former Craige tavern and a sawmill (both no longer extant) in the Coldbrook section of Oakham from Richard Kelley and Aaron Parmenter, respectively. The pair sold the tavern back to Richard Kelley in 1797 and dissolved their partnership the following year. Fobes then purchased the Fobes-O'Donnell House property from Nathan Willis in 1799. Fobes's date of purchase is notable, as a petition was entered into the state legislature to create the Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike in May, 1798. Fobes likely purchased the property not only for its farmland, but for its proximity to other Bridgewater families, and for its commercial potential on a new turnpike.

While it has been suggested (OAK.31) that Fobes transferred his tavern business to the Fobes-O'Donnell House, no information has been found to substantiate this. However on April 1, 1813, Fobes was appointed the first postmaster of Oakham, and he ran the post office from his house on the Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike for eleven years. For the first five years the mail was carried by a post rider or in a one-horse wagon, but in 1818 a new stage line from Worcester to Northampton replaced the post rider. Fobes held the office of postmaster until March 1, 1824, when a new postmaster took over and transferred the post office to the center of town.

The next owner of the property was Peres Fobes. It is unclear when he acquired the family property, but he likely inherited it from his father and mother who died in 1827 and 1835, respectively; no deed was recorded transferring ownership to Peres Fobes. Given his period of ownership (ca.1830–1852), it is likely that Peres Fobes made the Greek Revival updates to the house. Peres Fobes was prepared for Brown University, but did not enter, and instead spent his life farming in Oakham. The 1850 Federal agricultural census recorded Peres Fobes on a farm valued at \$4,000. Like many other Oakham residents, he was involved in dairying, with twelve milk cows producing 100 pounds of butter and 3,500 pounds of cheese. The farm also produced Indian corn, potatoes, and several bushels each of barley and buckwheat. Perez served as a selectman in the town from 1813–1816 and 1833–1834. He married three times, and had ten children. He first married Alice Stone (March 30, 1790–August 17, 1813) on November 3, 1808. They had three children:

Mary P. (September 1, 1809–January 2, 1853)
Joseph (August 4, 1811–March 22, 1877)
Susan Alice (June 4, 1813–December 15, 1813)

Peres married his second wife, Melissa Nye (October 18, 1791–November 1, 1829), on August 11, 1816. The couple had seven children:

Alice Stone (August 12, 1817–August 24, 1817)
John (April 27, 1818–October 5, 1846)
Timothy Nye (July 12, 1820–January 18, 1902)
Albert Howard (September 5, 1822–May 8, 1844)
Peres Ames (September 7, 1824–November 8, 1866)
William Allen (March 27, 1827–December 22, 1913)
Hiram (September 5, 1829–August 16, 1889)

Peres married his third wife, Lucy (Stone) Waterman (January 21, 1786–November 9, 1859), on June 2, 1831. She was the elder sister of his first wife, Alice. The couple did not have any children.

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

In his will, Peres (d. 1852) left a portion of his land and personal property to his wife, leaving the rest to his four sons who survived to adulthood: Joseph, Timothy Nye, Peres Ames, and Hiram. Two of the men were merchants: Hiram relocated to Worcester early in his career, and Peres Ames ranged as far as Iowa. Joseph and Timothy Nye remained in Oakham as farmers. Joseph, Peres Ames, and Hiram all sold their shares in their father's property to their brother Timothy Nye in 1857.¹³

Timothy Nye Fobes owned the family farm for the rest of the 19th century, in addition to land he acquired north of Old Turnpike Road. It appears that Timothy Nye Fobes made few changes to the house, aside from replacing the front door, and perhaps adding the porch across the front of the house. The remaining interior finishes largely predate his ownership of the property, or are significantly later. He was not active in politics or business like his brothers, instead focusing on the farm. Timothy married Maria Clapp (November 12, 1827–March 1, 1905). The couple had four children:

Ella Sybil (b. September 25, 1854)
Henry Clapp (December 13, 1858–1920)
Mary Clapp (August 24, 1860–November 18, 1898)
Frank Nye (b. March 25, 1869)

The barn that had stood on the property to the south of the house until it was demolished in 2009 was estimated to have been constructed in the 1860s, so it may have been an addition by Timothy Nye Fobes after he inherited the family farm. The 1870 agricultural census recorded Fobes with a farm of 150 acres valued at \$3,000. He was continuing the dairying work done by his father with ten milk cows producing 3,130 gallons of milk, 300 pounds of cheese, and 150 pounds of butter. The farm also produced corn, potatoes, oats, and barley, and one sheep generated three pounds of wool. In 1880 the value of the farm remained the same. Fobes had ten milk cows and sold twelve cattle, indicating he had begun dealing in the animals. The cows produced 150 pounds of butter and 2,500 pounds of cheese. The farm also had three sheep, five swine, and twelve chickens.

In 1894, Fobes sold 140 acres with buildings to Patrick O'Donnell.¹⁴ While the boundaries given in the deed are imprecise, many of the neighbors correspond to those marked on an 1898 map of Oakham (*Map 2*). The footprint of the house on that map shows the main block of the house connected to what is probably the current shed, which was connected to an outbuilding that was probably a barn. Another outbuilding stood to the south of the house in the location of the barn that was demolished in 2009 (discussed below). Directly to the south of the house is a large outbuilding, referred to by later 20th-century histories of the house as a cattle barn. Historic aerial images show this was further to the southwest of the house than depicted on the 1898 map. The ell was not depicted on the 1898 map. The same map shows that Fobes did not move far, as he is listed across the street at what is now known as the James Conant-Luther Spear, Jr. House (1148 Old Turnpike Road, OKH.32).

Although their family no longer owned the property, three of Fobes's children lived near the O'Donnell family. The 1910 census records Frank Nye Fobes and Henry Clapp Fobes living with their cousin Minnie F. Bullard, who was working as a servant for them. The widow Ella S. (Fobes) Bullard was living nearby with four of her adult children at the Bullard family homestead (1058 Old Turnpike Road OKH.33).

¹³ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 573, Page 158.

¹⁴ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 1437, Page 409.

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

The O'Donnell Family

Patrick O'Donnell (born ca. 1862) was an Irish immigrant who continued to farm the land upon acquiring it from Fobes. O'Donnell arrived in the United States in 1883 or 1884, and married Barre native Catherine White in Cambridge in 1888. O'Donnell is recorded as a farmer in Oakham in the 1900 census with his wife Catherine, daughters Mary E. and Catherine W., sons Daniel and John Patrick (March 29, 1898–November 3, 1973), and a servant, William F. Cortrell.¹⁵

By 1910 the family had grown with the addition of a son, Edwin Patrick (b. November 12, 1900), and two more daughters, Sarah Dorothea (April 17, 1903–September 1, 1910) and Grace Delia (November 8, 1907–January 11, 2001). Cortrell was no longer with the family, but Thomas Gitboy, a hired man, and Peter White, a boarder, were living with the family, as was Catherine O'Donnell's widowed, elderly mother, Mary White.

Many of the children had grown up and moved out by 1920, as did the boarders. The O'Donnells were left only with their son John and daughter Grace; presumably Catherine O'Donnell's mother had died. Both Patrick and John O'Donnell were working as farmers when the 1920 census was taken. During the 1920s and 1930s Oakham continued to be a rural farming community, with most of its residents focused on dairying, orcharding, poultry, and vegetables. What little industry had been in Oakham had closed.

It was John O'Donnell who took over the family farm. On August 2, 1920, he married Mary Catherine Myers (d. November 16, 1968).¹⁶ By 1930, the couple had two children, Hazel Mary (b. March 5, 1924) and John Jr. (b. January 28, 1927), and were living on the farm with Patrick and Catherine, John's parents. The family was also joined by John's sister Mary E. O'Donnell, and her husband, A. Leroy Burt; the couple had married on September 11, 1915.¹⁷ John's father Patrick sold him 140 acres of land in 1934. While the boundaries used in the deed are imprecise, they continue to correspond to neighbors of the Fobes-O'Donnell House on the 1870 map.¹⁸ Historic arials show that the barn or outbuilding connected to the east end of the house was demolished by 1938, leaving the house with the current footprint. By 1940, John O'Donnell's extended family members had moved out or died, and he was living with only his wife, daughter, and son.

John O'Donnell served the town as a selectman for a number of years and worked as a dairy farmer, cattle dealer, and farm appraiser, occupations typical for rural mid-century Oakham. Mary O'Donnell worked as a school-bus driver for 45 years. The cattle barn to the southwest of the house was destroyed by fire in the 1960s, leaving only the house and the barn to the southeast of the house. The foundation hole of the cattle barn is not part of the smaller parcel the house stands on today, but a driveway still runs southwest from the driveway of the Fobes-O'Donnell House to the area of the former barn.

The property remained in the O'Donnell family for 100 years, although during the later 20th century lots on the north and south sides of the street were split off for various O'Donnell descendants. The subdivisions started in 1950, when John and Mary O'Donnell sold almost three acres to their daughter, Hazel M. Young.¹⁹ Hazel had married Ralph T. Young, Jr. (1924–1972) in 1945. The couple had four

¹⁵ O'Donnell birth and death dates from Oakham town records. Records show the O'Donnells had a number of children who died young; confusing things, they often reused names of children that had died.

¹⁶ Oakham marriage records.

¹⁷ Oakham marriage records.

¹⁸ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 2607, Page 197.

¹⁹ 1195 Old Turnpike Road, Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 3270, Page 333.

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

children: Jeffrey A., Kathryn A., Patricia Ellen, and Robin Elaine. Like her father, Hazel O'Donnell Young served on the Oakham Board of Selectmen.

In 1971, John O'Donnell, then a widower, sold a 1.15-acre lot (1343 Old Turnpike Road) to his granddaughter (Hazel and Ralph Young's daughter) Robin and her husband Ronald P. Skowyra.²⁰ Following the death of her parents, Hazel O'Donnell Young inherited all of the property. The Fobes-O'Donnell House was rented to tenants while O'Donnell family members constructed or moved to other houses nearby. Hazel O'Donnell Young sold a 1.5-acre lot (1289 Old Turnpike Road) to her daughter Patricia and her husband Charles R. Kruckas in 1977.²¹ In 1990, Hazel O'Donnell Young sold the rest of the land to her son Jeffrey A. Young and his wife Barbara.²² This deed covered 67.434 acres on the south side of Old Turnpike Road, including the Fobes-O'Donnell House. Hazel O'Donnell Young also owned land on the north side of the road, which has been split into a few lots. Family members continue to live on the former O'Donnell properties on both sides of the street.

In 1994, the house and just over one acre were donated to the Oakham Historical Association by Patrick O'Donnell's great-grandson, Jeffrey A. Young, to be used as a museum.²³ The Fobes-O'Donnell House is used by the Oakham Historical Association as a museum dedicated to preserving Oakham's history. The building has exhibits relating to Oakham's development, and serves as the headquarters for the Oakham Historical Association. The organization has undertaken recent work to maintain and preserve the building. In 2005 work was done to the ell to insulate the space, replace the siding, and replace seven of the windows. In May of 2005, a new asphalt-shingle roof was put on the entire building. Inside the main block, the historic roof framing and sheathing were left in place, but additional purlins were placed between the rafters to provide support for the sagging roof. The roof over the lean-to was completely rebuilt, and as noted above, a lower roofline was discovered at that time. The horse barn or carriage house that was located to the south of the house had fallen into disrepair and was demolished in September 2009.

Architecture

The Fobes-O'Donnell House is a well-preserved, representative example of a Colonial-style farmhouse. While Georgian features are clearly evident on the interior, the exterior features, including the side-gabled, five-bay form with a center chimney, are characteristic of Massachusetts farmhouses built throughout the 18th century and into the early 19th century. The main reason for this is that conservative building practices often persisted for decades, particularly in rural areas.

Georgian stylistic features, which derived from the classical architecture of the Renaissance, came to Colonial America from England. The Georgian style is sometimes called the "Second Period" of American Architecture because it followed the medieval-derived First Period (ca.1630–1720). The fully developed, academic examples of the Georgian style were expensive to build and only seen the grand homes of the wealthiest people. Perhaps the most celebrated Massachusetts example was the Hancock House in Boston (1737–1740; demolished 1863). An extant high-end example is the Vassal-Craige-

²⁰ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 5136, Page 238, July 26, 1971.

²¹ Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 6274, Page 341, August 31, 1977.

²² Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 13032, Page 46, October 2, 1990.

²³ Young and his wife, Barbara A. Young, sold the current 1.149-acre property to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Inc. in 1994 (Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 16799, Page 38, December 30, 1994). That organization sold it to the Oakham Historical Museum in 1997 (Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 19449, Page 301, December 18, 1997).

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA

Name of Property

County and State

Longfellow House in Cambridge (1759); another is the Isaac Royal House in Medford (ca. 1747)—both now house museums.

Such high-style houses were rare, even in sophisticated urban areas, and nonexistent in rural areas like Oakham, where the most prestigious house was likely to be a 2½-story, hipped-roof, double-pile house with paired chimneys and a center-hall plan, also known as the Georgian plan. The 1760s Gen. Rufus Putnam House is a fine example in Rutland. But, more typically, as seen in the Fobes-O'Donnell House, local builders continued to incorporate some First-Period features into vernacular Georgian-period houses and even into Federal-period houses. The most visible features that persisted from the First Period in vernacular houses were the center chimney and the hall-and-parlor plan, which resulted from the massive central chimney. The timber frame also persisted but rather than exposing and decorating the frame, as was the style in the First Period, the frame was hidden by plaster on the walls and ceilings and by casing the corner posts. Fireplace walls were covered, usually floor to ceiling, with raised-field paneling.

Significant Georgian interior features of the Fobes-O'Donnell House include the raised-field paneling on the fireplace walls and on the walls of the main staircase. The paneling in the parlor with eared corners is a particularly significant Georgian detail as is the bolection molding around the firebox. Other period details include plastered walls and ceilings, cased corner posts, four-panel doors, and Suffolk latches.

The house is a quintessential, 2½-story, five-bay, gable-roofed, center-entry Massachusetts farmhouse. While the symmetrical form and horizontality of the house are character-defining Colonial period features, there are no decorative details that reflect the Georgian or the subsequent Federal style. Typically, in a modest vernacular farmhouse, the decoration was around the main entry, but in this case the current door is a mid- to late 19th-century Italianate-style update. The original door, which probably fit into the present opening, would have been wood-paneled with either small glazed panes in the upper section of the door itself or topped by a transom window to light the entrance vestibule.

One feature of the Fobes-O'Donnell House is unusual: the single-pile form. A search of the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) reveals that the single-pile, 2½-story form is rare in Oakham. (Most of the inventory forms for Oakham were prepared by Albert Parkman of the Oakham Historical Commission in 1978, using documentary research to date the houses.) The MACRIS search also revealed that approximately 40 Oakham houses have 18th-century dates, with the earliest date being 1765. The majority are capes (1½ stories); and only three clearly have the 2½-story, single-pile form—the Fobes-O'Donnell House, the Woods-Felton House at 356 Hunt Road (ca. 1787; OKH.82), and the Wilson-Felton House at 449 Hunt Road (ca. 1770; OKH. 83). The addresses on Hunt Road are about one mile north of the Fobes-O'Donnell House. The vast majority of 2½-story, 18th-century houses in Oakham and across Massachusetts are double pile.

Modest alterations to the Fobes-O'Donnell over the centuries reflect the needs and tastes of owners who wanted to update the utility and appearance of the house. In addition to the Italianate front door, the most important stylistic alteration is the Queen Anne front porch. Both alterations fall within the period of significance for the house (ca. 1771–1967), and are therefore architecturally significant in their own right.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

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US Federal Agricultural Census for 1850, 1860, and 1880.

US Federal Census of Population for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940

Vital Records for Oakham, Massachusetts.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 183, Page 589.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 1437, Page 409.

Young, Jeffrey A. "OKH.31 – Fobes-O'Donnell House," Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Inventory Form. September, 2005.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): OKH.31

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.149 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 741357 | Northing: 4694709 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property follow the lot lines of Oakham assessor's parcel 36, map 407, which is included with this nomination.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries correspond to 1.149-acre parcel on which the Fobes-O'Donnell House stands and which was donated to the Oakham Historical Association for use as a museum in 1994.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lucy Tessnau, Oakham Historical Commission, and Jennifer Doherty,
consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail Betsy.Friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone 617-727-8470
date: November 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Fobes-O'Donnell House

City or Vicinity: Oakham

County: Worcester State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Jennifer Doherty

Date Photographed: March 11, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0001)
North (main) façade, camera facing south

Photo #2 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0002)
South elevation, camera facing northwest

Photo #3 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0003)
West elevation, camera facing southeast

Photo #4 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0004)
West elevation, camera facing north

Photo #5 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0005)
North (main) and east elevations, camera facing southwest

Photo #6 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0006)
Detail of main entry door, camera facing south

Photo #7 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0007)
Basement, entry from shed addition, camera facing east

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Worcester, MA
County and State

Name of Property

Photo #8 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0008)

Clapboards on the south wall of the main body of the house in the stairs from the basement, camera facing northwest

Photo #9 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0009)

Inside of the main entry door, camera facing northwest

Photo #10 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0010)

Stairs in the main entry hall, camera facing southeast

Photo #11 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0011)

The fireplace in the original kitchen, camera facing west

Photo #12 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0012)

Closet in the original kitchen and the door to the main entry, camera facing northwest

Photo #13 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0013)

Fireplace in the parlor, camera facing east

Photo #14 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0014)

The upstairs hallway looking into the east bedroom, camera facing east

Photo #15 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0015)

The fireplace and closet in the east bedroom, camera facing southwest

Photo #16 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0016)

The fireplace in the west bedroom, camera facing east

Photo #17 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0017)

The entry into the west bedroom and the door to the attic stairs, camera facing northeast

Photo #18 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0018)

The attic above the main body of the house, camera facing southwest

Photo #19 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0019)

Rafters and ridgebeam pegged together in the attic, camera facing west

Photo #20 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0020)

The added workroom with the shed roof, and the door leading to the shed addition, camera facing east

Photo #21 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0021)

The door from the workroom to the shed addition, camera facing southwest

Fobes – O'Donnell House

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

Photo #22 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0022)

The roof of the shed addition, camera facing east

Photo #23 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0023)

Unused mortise in a repurposed piece of wood in the shed addition, camera facing south

Photo #24 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0024)

The modern kitchen, with the door to the cellar (closed) and the doorway to the parlor, camera facing northwest

Photo #25 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0025)

The modern cabinets and sink, and replacement windows in the new kitchen, camera facing west

Photo #26 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0026)

The closed-off stairs from the addition attic down to the new kitchen, camera facing northwest

Photo #27 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0027)

The built-in drawers and shelves in the workroom of the new kitchen, camera facing east

Photo #28 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0028)

The attic of the kitchen addition, camera facing south

Photo #29 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0029)

The attic of the kitchen addition looking onto the south wall of the main house, camera facing north

Photo #30 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0030)

Clapboards on the south wall of the main house in the attic of the kitchen addition, camera facing north

Photo #31 (MA_Worcester County_Fobes-O'Donnell House_0031)

Ceiling of the hall, looking north, showing the summer beam and joists

Maps and Figures

Map 1: Detail, 1870 Worcester County Atlas

Map 2: Detail, 1898 Worcester County Atlas

Figure 1: First-floor plan with photo locations

Figure 2: Second-floor plan with photo locations

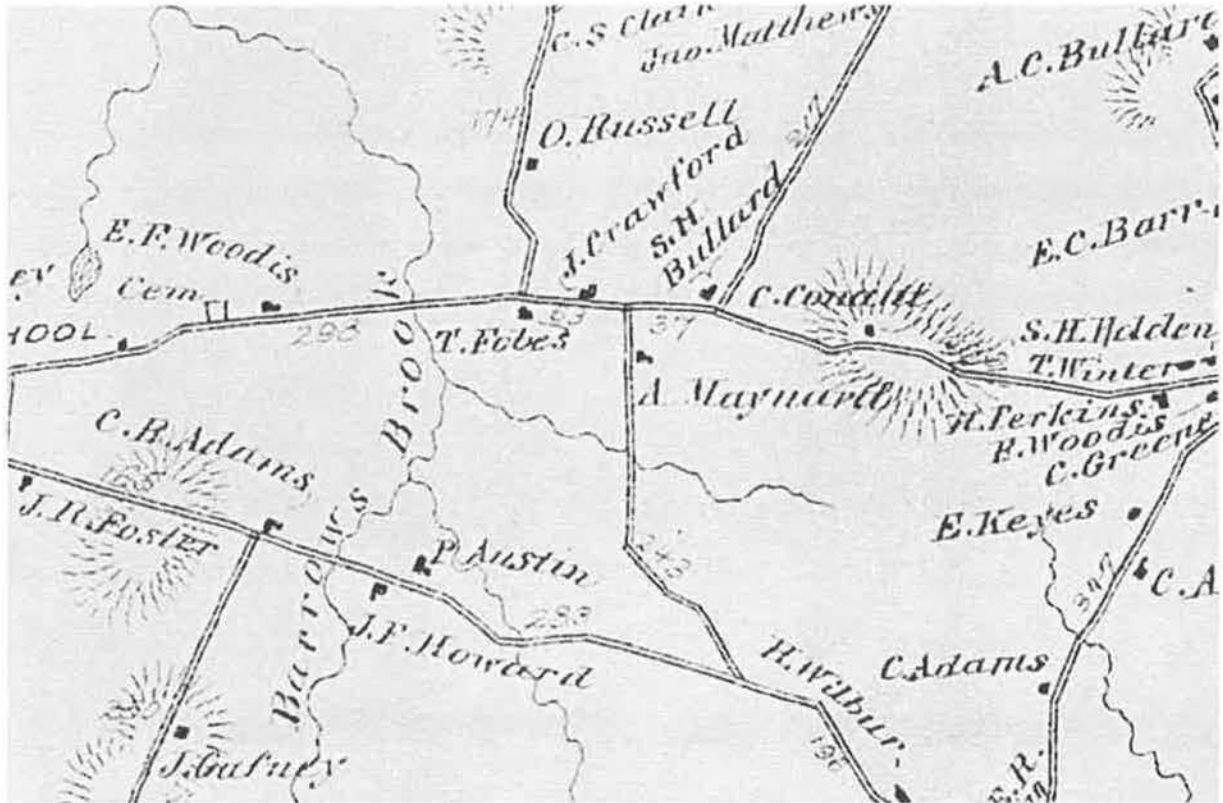
Plan of land in Oakham, prepared for Hazel M. Young, 1990

Oakham assessors map

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

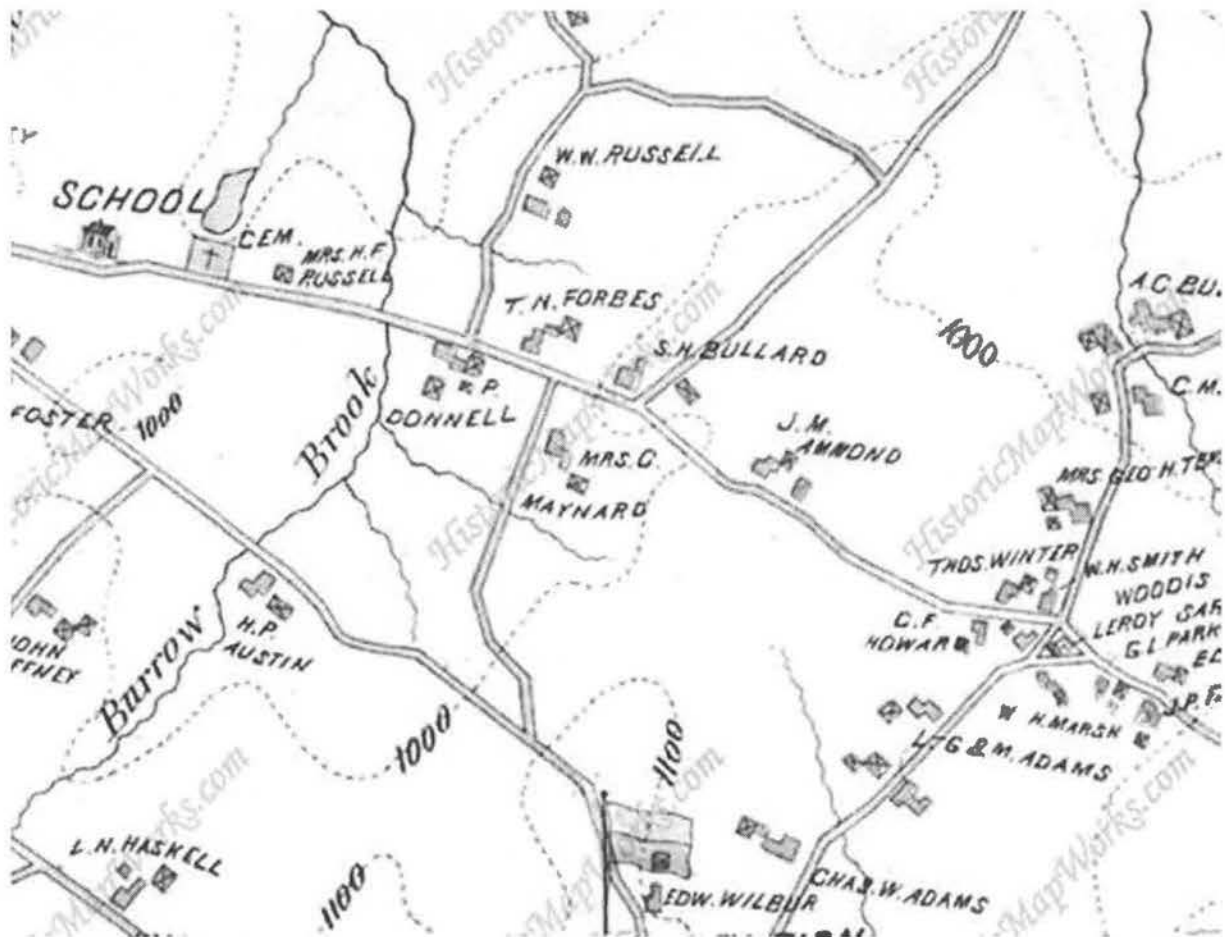
Additional Documentation – Maps



Map 1 – This detail of an 1870 Worcester County atlas shows “T. Fobes” as the owner of the Fobes-O’Donnell House. Note Barros Brook running to the west and south of the Fobes property.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State



Map 2 – This detail of an 1898 Worcester County atlas shows “P. Donnell,” a misspelling of Patrick O’Donnell, as the owner of the Fobes House (center of map). Just across the road is T.N. Forbes, likely a misspelling of the name of Timothy Nye Fobes.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Additional Documentation – Figures

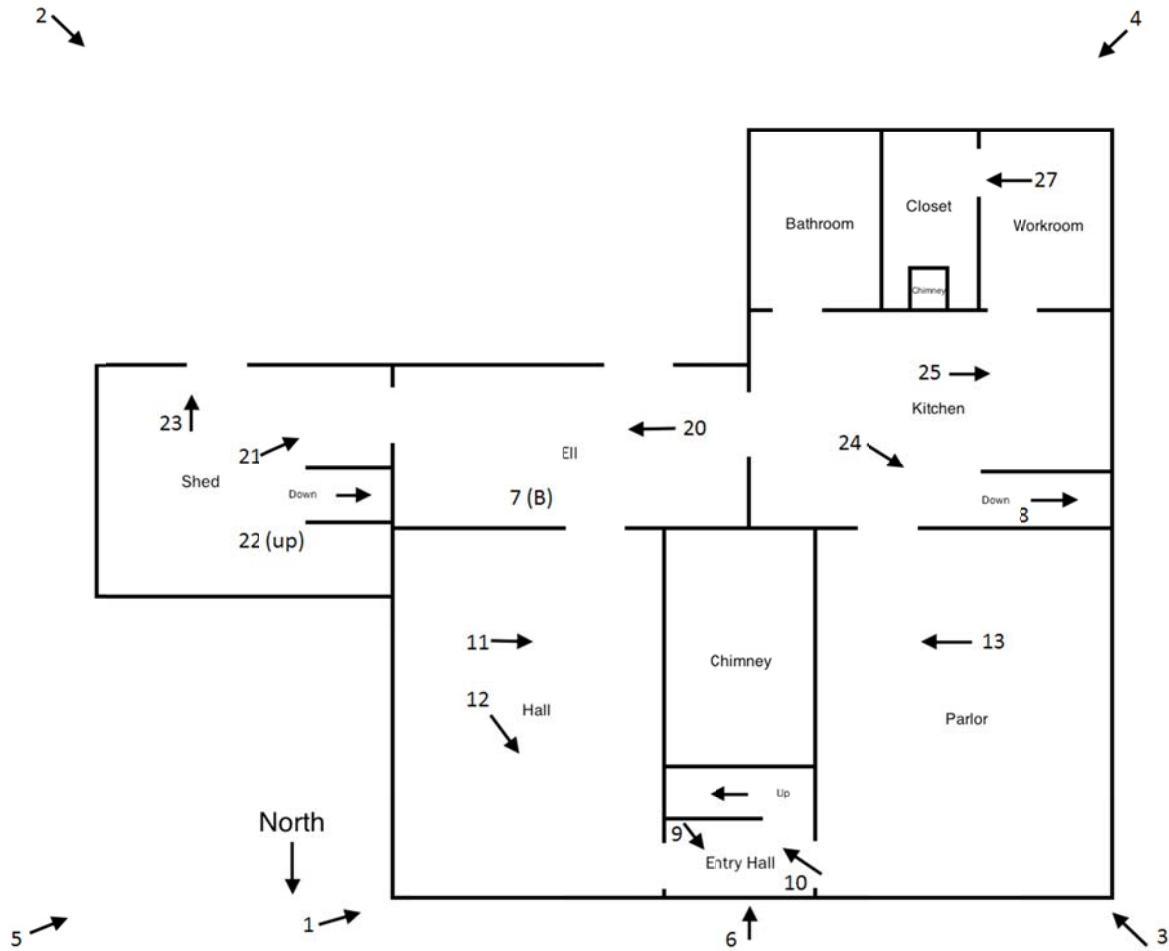


Figure 1 – The first floor of the Fobes-O'Donnell House with photo locations. Not to scale.

Fobes – O'Donnell House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

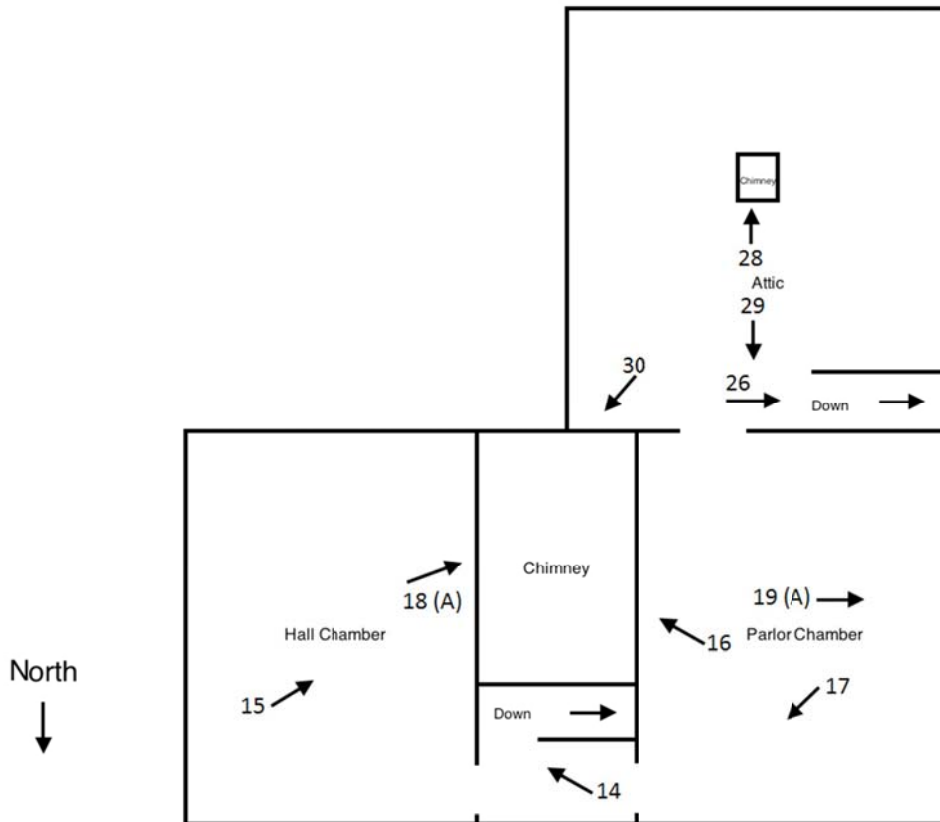
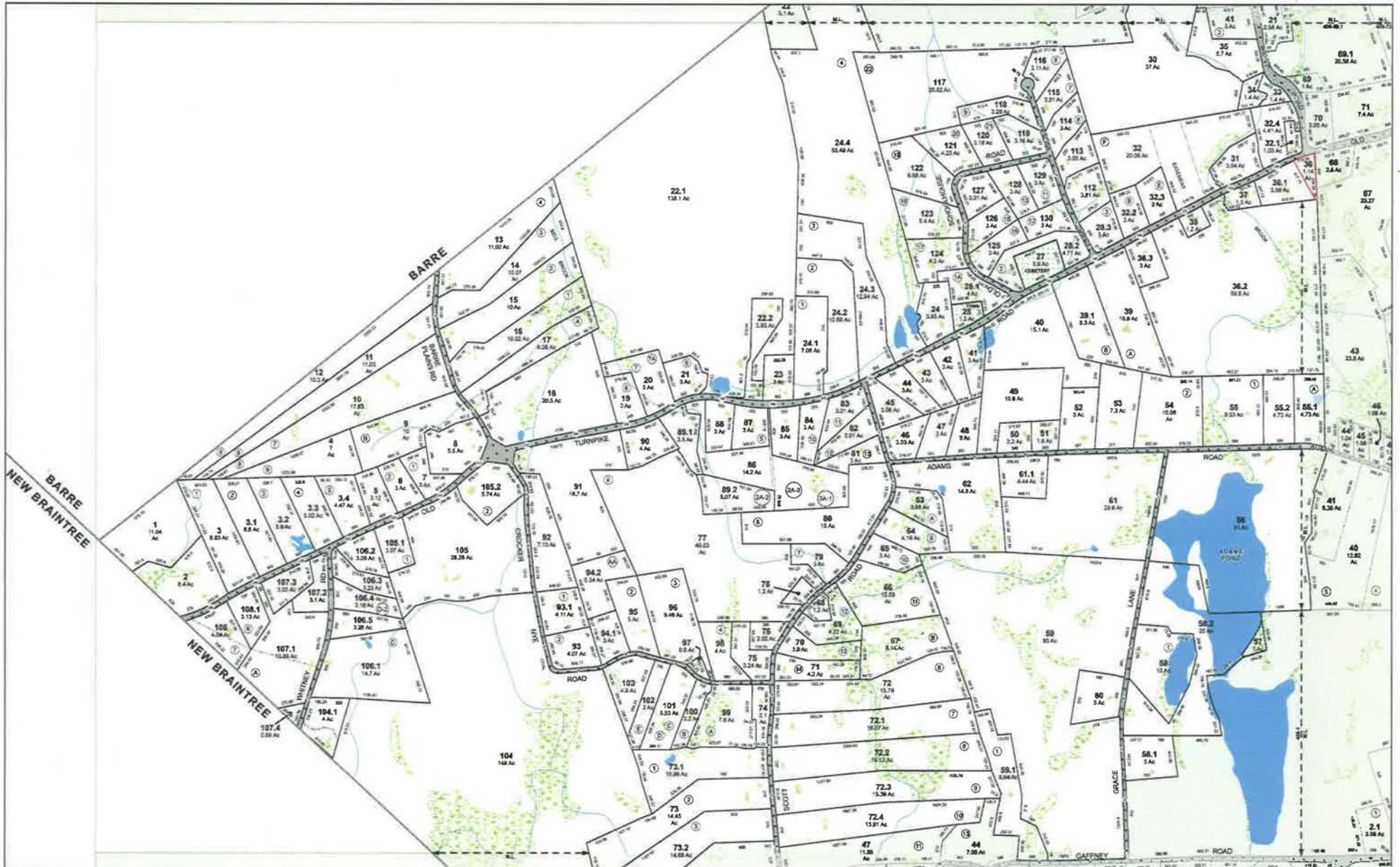


Figure 2 – The second floor of the Fobes-O'Donnell House with photo locations.
Not to scale.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

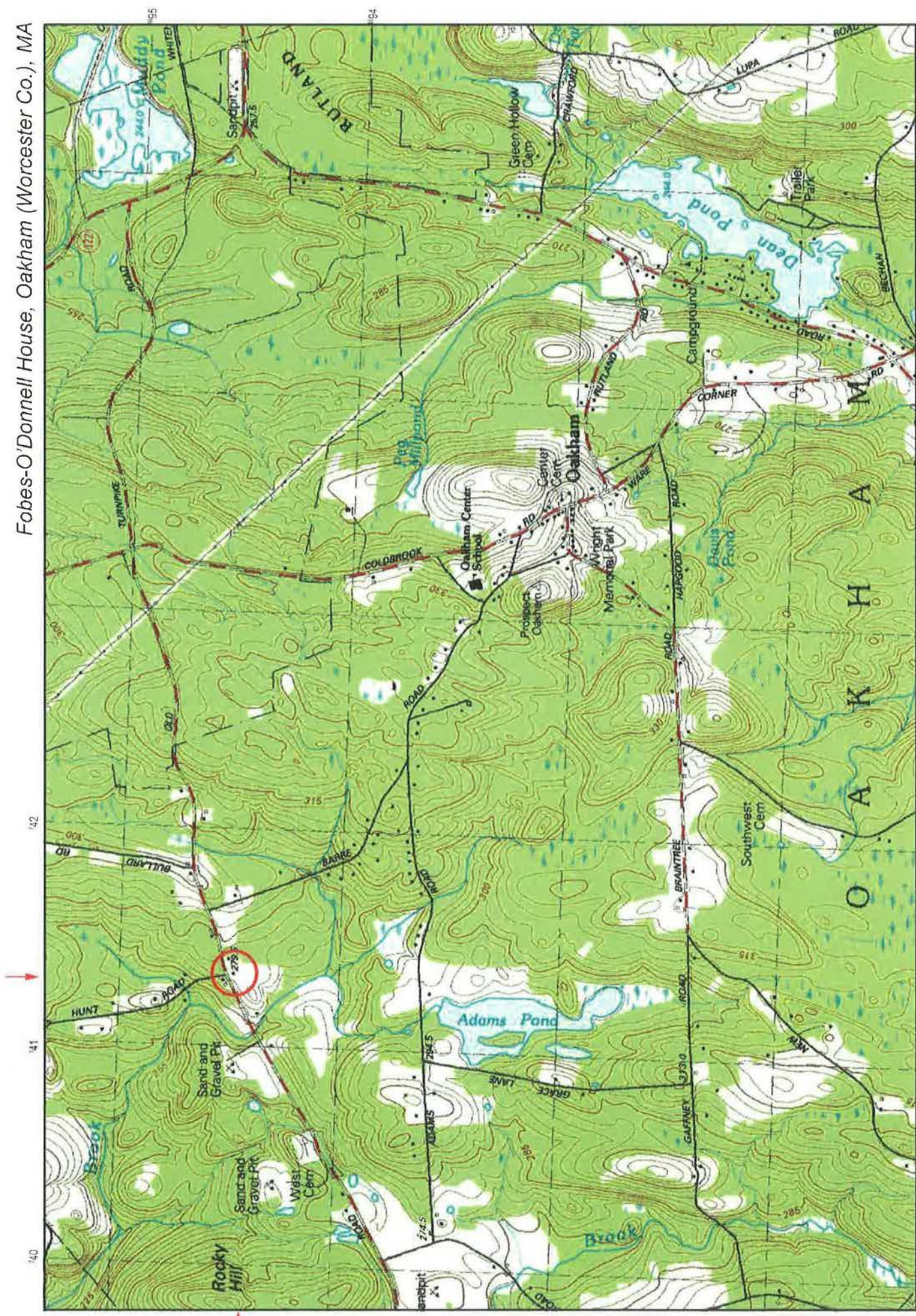
Fobes-O'Donnell House, Oakham (Worcester Co.), MA



<p>FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.</p>	<p>PRODUCED IN 2015 BY CMRPC 2 WASHINGTON SQUARE, UNION STATION WORCESTER, MA 01604</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROPERTY PARCEL EXEMPT LAND TOWN BOUNDARY ROADS RAILROAD WATER STREAMS WETLANDS SUBDIVISION LOT NO ADDRESS POINTS 100FT NUMBER MULTIPLIED BY 10 	<p>ASSESSORS MAP OAKHAM MASSACHUSETTS</p>		<p>REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2015</p>	<p>MAP NO. 407 SCALE 1 in = 400 feet</p>
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DATE: 5/4/2015 FILE: H:\Projects\Oakham_10/17/2012_Assessor_Map_2/125.mxd

Fobes-O'Donnell House, Oakham (Worcester Co.), MA



















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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Fobes--O'Donnell House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

Date Received: 1/25/2018 Date of Pending List: 2/26/2018 Date of 16th Day: 3/13/2018 Date of 45th Day: 3/12/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002197

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 3/7/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments: _____

Recommendation/
Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion C.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus *Patrick Andrus* Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 3/7/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission



January 19, 2018

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Fobes-O'Donnell House, Oakham (Worcester), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Jenn Doherty, consultant
Chair, Oakham Historical Commission
Chair, Oakham Board of Selectmen



Joeckel, Jeffery <jeff_joeckel@nps.gov>

Fwd: Fobes-O'Donnell and Osgood Bradley NR nominations

1 message

Andrus, Patrick <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>
To: "Joeckel, Jeffery" <jeff_joeckel@nps.gov>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 1:06 PM

Hi Jeff: I spoke with you last week about MA SHPO request that we replace parts of these two nominations (not yet listed). See attached.

Patrick

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Friedberg, Betsy (SEC) <betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 11:41 AM
Subject: Fobes-O'Donnell and Osgood Bradley NR nominations
To: "Andrus, Patrick" <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>

Hi Patrick,

Here are the revisions to the Fobes-O'Donnell and Osgood Bradley nominations. For Fobes, I am just sending the cover page and the 3 pages in section 8 that we discussed. For Osgood-Bradley, the changes our commissioner requested were minor but scattered throughout the text of the nomination, so I'm sending all of sections 7 and 8. We will also send you hard copies in our next transmittal package.

Thank you.

All best,

Betsy

Betsy Friedberg

National Register Director

Massachusetts Historical Commission

220 Morrissey Blvd.

Boston, MA 02125

Ph: 617-727-8470

Fax: 617-727-5128

www.sec.state.ma.us/mhcbetsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

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Patrick Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places


3/9/2018


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: Fobes-O'Donnell and Osgood Bradley NR nominations

National Park Service
(202) 354-2218
patrick_andrus@nps.gov

3 attachments

 Fobes-O'Donnell Nomination-cover-rev .pdf
521K

 Fobes-O'Donnell Nomination-Sec.8--p9-1 1-rev.pdf
20K

 Osgood-Bradley-sec7-8- revMar2018.pdf
93K