

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

753/00004051

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: Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Other names/site number: Solomon Keyes Garrison House (erroneously)
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 16 Frances Hill Road
City or town: Westford State: Massachusetts County: Middlesex
Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 Suran</u>		<u>November 8, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	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

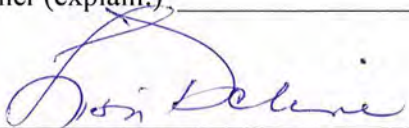
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4. National Park Service Certification

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): _____


Signature of the Keeper

12/3/19
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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</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.)

DOMETIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English/ New England Colonial
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood, synthetic, brick

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 ca. 1751 Colonial/Federal-style Jonathan Keyes Sr. House is located in the town of Westford, near its eastern border with the town of Chelmsford. The Keyes House sits on a 1.45-acre lot at the intersection of rural Frances Hill and Hunt roads. The house faces south with a side orientation to the street. The former farmhouse is a timber-frame, 2 ½-story, double-pile dwelling with a center chimney and a side-gable roof. The three-bay façade has a centered main entry that is covered by a projecting, front-gabled, enclosed porch (Photo 1, 2). The Keyes House is clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with cedar shingles. The house sits on a dry-laid fieldstone foundation capped by dressed-granite slabs visible above grade (Photo 7). The property also includes a workshop/garage that stands north of the house (Photo 6). Built in 2000, it is a noncontributing resource.

A dendrochronology study of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House in the summer of 2016 confirmed that the house was originally a saltbox form, and found that its earliest timbers date to 1750. Given the time needed between felling the trees and building the house, the dendrochronology report theorized that the earliest construction date would have been in the spring of 1751. For this reason the house has been given a ca. 1751 date. The dendrochronology report also found that the rear lean-to of the original saltbox was raised to a full two stories no earlier than 1815/1816. Since the exterior and interior display primarily Federal period features, it appears

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that the house was remodeled in the early 19th century, probably at the time the rear roof was raised.

Narrative Description

The area immediately around the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House retains its rural, heavily forested setting, particularly to the east where a small brook runs close to the house surrounded by a patch of wetlands. Several apple trees that surround the Keyes House are reminders that orchards were associated with the Keyes House when the acreage was larger.

Across Frances Hill Road along the west edge of the street are several large pieces of cut granite and stone that are believed to be the foundation remains of a barn that was associated with the Keyes House before the farm was subdivided. Immediately to the north of the Keyes House, the house at 14 Frances Hill Road is believed to have been an outbuilding also historically associated with the Keyes House. To the northwest of the Keyes House is a subdivision of single-family houses constructed in the mid-1990s; other, more recent houses are scattered along Frances Hill and Hunt roads.

Facing due south, the Keyes House is a timber framed, 2½-story, double-pile dwelling. The hall-and-parlor plan house has a three-bay façade with a center chimney and center entry. The second-story windows are placed directly under the cornice, and narrow cornerboards rise to eaves that have a minimal overhang and do not return at the gable ends. A one-story, front-gabled, enclosed entry porch (rebuilt after 1993) projects from the center bay. The six-panel, Federal-style main entry door is a recent addition. (The owner is storing the original door, which is in poor condition.) The door is framed on either side by 2/3 sidelights, three panes to a side, with a recessed raised panel at the bottom. A 6/6 sash is located on each side wall of the porch. Historic images show the original hipped-roof configuration of the porch with four sidelights on either side of the door (Figure 3). The windows on the house are largely replacement 6/9 sash, typical of the Colonial period. They are true divided light wood windows protected by storm windows. There is, however, one 6/6 sash window above the main entry that likely dates to the late 18th century, based on its muntin profile.

Moving clockwise around the house, the west elevation has six windows placed in an unbalanced configuration, two per floor. The four windows on the first floor are 6/9 replacement sash. The two windows in the gable end are smaller 2/4 sash.

The rear elevation also presents unbalanced fenestration. An entry door is located west of center; this door, with a Classical Revival style surround, was added after 1993. Some of the sash are of the 6/9, but others are post-1993 6/6 sash, particularly three windows on the first floor that light the kitchen.

The building's east elevation is difficult to see, as that side of the house is heavily wooded due to the wetlands and stream that run close to the house. The unbalanced fenestration on this

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elevation is joined by a pair of post-1993 French doors, set south of center, that lead to a small patio area.

Interior

The layout of the Keyes House is of the hall-and-parlor plan, with a central chimney and circulation area flanked by a hall on one side and a parlor on the other. A bank of rooms spans the rear pile of the house (see Figure 1 for a floor plan of the first floor).

Gunstock posts visible on the second floor indicate that the front pile of the house was constructed as a 2 ½ -story building; the posts in the rear corners are square, indicative of their later date when the leanto was raised. In the attic, several original, shorter rear rafters remain connected to the front face of the roof, while others have been sawn off, indicating that the house originally took the form of a saltbox with integral leanto (Photo 21, 22). In addition, there is a scar on both sides of the chimney where the original rafters rested against it, further evidence that the roof was raised (Photo 23). The full-height rafters are pegged together at the ridge, without a ridge beam. Throughout the house, the floors are wide wood boards, while the walls and ceilings are plastered. Some of the plaster walls have been replaced since 1993, as many of them were in poor condition when the property changed hands at that time.

The large central chimney serves the building's six fireplaces, with three on each floor. The shallow fireboxes of the fireplaces indicate that they were rebuilt after the 18th century. Two of the fireplaces on the first floor include beehive ovens outside of the firebox, which is typical of the Federal period. It is likely that all of the fireplaces were rebuilt around the time the leanto was raised (ca. 1815).

Stair Hall

The main entry door leads into the stair hall (Photo 9). The interior finish of the rebuilt projecting porch is a reproduction, but the finishes and details in the rest of the stair hall are historic. The main set of closed-stringer stairs turns in front of the chimney stack. The stairway balustrade has narrow, square, newel posts with nearly flat tops and no balusters; there is no evidence that the balusters have been removed. The absence of balusters is rare, but there is a strikingly similar example at the Hildreth-Robbins House in nearby Chelmsford (19 Maple Road, CLM.70, NRIND). A small closet is located under the stairs, and wide horizontal paneling is found on the west wall of the stairwell. A small door in the chimney opens into a smoke room, a common 18th-century feature. The doors into the rooms on either side of the stair hall, the parlor and hall, are typical four-panel Georgian doors with raised panels facing into the rooms, not the stair hall. The latches on the doors are Norfolk latches that are likely replacement hardware.

Parlor

To the east of the entry hall, accessed by a 4-panel door in the east wall immediately in front of the stairs, is the parlor (Photo 10), typically the most formal room in Colonial/Federal period houses.

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The Gilberts, who bought the house in 1993, removed the plaster ceiling, revealing the joists and summer beam. Notably, the summer beam has no chamfer or other detailing, indicating it was not exposed when the house was constructed. Typical of Middlesex County timber frame buildings, the summer beams on the first floor of the Keyes House run longitudinally (from the chimney girt to the side outer wall of the house), while those on the second floor are transverse (from the front to the back of the house). The posts projecting into the room at the southeast and southwest corners are cased, with no elaboration on the casing. In the northwest corner of the room, on the north wall, a door provides access to the kitchen at the rear of the house. On the same wall, in the northeast corner, is a set of full-height built-in shelves, added by the Gilberts. Post-1993 French doors in the east wall of the room lead outside to a small patio area. On the west wall is the fireplace (Photo 11). The surround is typical of the Federal style in the early 1800s, and is similar to many of the other fireplace surrounds in the house. A large raised panel above the mantelshelf was added by the Gilberts. Low wainscoting runs around the base of the wall, composed of raised panels; these were also added by the previous owners.

Hall

The room to the west of the stair hall is the hall, identified as a less-formal room by its simpler fireplace surround (Photo 12). Like the parlor, all of the hall's visible framing members are cased (Photo 13). The Gilberts removed the casing on the summer beam, and it was not chamfered, indicating that the beam was likely always cased. The casing was replaced after it was removed. The room has two doors, one in the southeast corner leading to the stair hall, and a second in the northeast corner, north wall, leading to the kitchen at the rear of the house. The only elaboration in the room is around the fireplace. Between the door to the stair hall and the fireplace, located at the north end of the east wall, is a group of four large raised panels, two-over-two, with the two at the top taller than those on the bottom. The firebox and an external beehive oven take up much of the space to the north of the panels. The fireplace has no mantelshelf or surround. Three wide horizontal boards, with no elaboration, fill the space between the firebox and the ceiling. Some plain boarding and a small cupboard fill the space to the extreme left of the fireplace, between the firebox and the wall. As noted above, the firebox is shallower than would be expected of an 18th-century firebox, indicating it was rebuilt, and in this case with an external oven. A modern wood stove sits in the firebox today.

Kitchen

The kitchen space, in the rear pile of the house, has a large fireplace with an external beehive oven located on the south wall, between the two doors from the parlor and hall (Photo 14). The wall around the fireplace is covered in horizontal wood boards, and a narrow mantle shelf on two brackets spans the firebox. At the east end of the kitchen space is a modern kitchen area, with cabinets and appliances installed after 1993 (Photo 15). Two pairs of modern 6/6 sash windows light the space, one pair on the east wall and a second on the north wall. A door to the outside is located on the north wall, in the northwest corner of the room. This door was added by the Gilberts, when they removed a door that had been on the west wall in order to provide space for a bathroom in the northwest corner of the house. A set of stairs rises to the second floor between the bathroom and the hall to the south. A set of stairs leading to the basement is accessed in the bathroom.

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Second Floor

The layout of the second floor of the Keyes House is similar to the first floor, with two large rooms at the front of the house flanking the chimney and front circulation space, and three smaller rooms above the kitchen at the rear of the house (see Figure 2 for a floorplan of the second floor). The rooms display the wide-wood board floors and plaster walls and ceilings found in most of the rooms below.

The main set of stairs rises from the entry hall to a small hall on the second floor between the parlor chamber and hall chamber. A set of enclosed stairs continues up to the attic. The second floor landing is lit by a small 6/6 sash window. As with the stair hall downstairs, the doors on either end of the second floor stair hall are four-panel Georgian doors with replacement hardware.

Parlor Chamber

Located directly over the parlor, the parlor chamber serves as a bedroom. The room has cased framing members with a fireplace on the west wall. The shallow firebox has a Federal style surround and mantelshelf, similar to the one found below in the parlor (Photo 16). The Gilberts added a large panel above the fireplace. A closet is located to the right of the fireplace on the west wall. The room has two doors, one from the front stair hall and a second on the north wall, in the northwest corner of the room, leading to the rear rooms on the second floor.

Hall Chamber

Like the parlor chamber, the hall chamber has cased framing members and a fireplace on the east wall (Photo 17). A cased, transverse summer beam connects the front and rear walls of the house. The fireplace surround is identical to that found in the Parlor Chamber, with a large panel above added after 1993 (Photo 18). A small closet has been added to the northeast corner of the room, diagonally connecting the north and east walls. The room has two doors, one to the stair hall and a second in the northwest corner of the room, on the north wall, that leads to the rear of the second story.

Rear Chambers

The group of three rooms and a circulation space across the back of the house would have been attic space before the roof of the leanto was raised ca. 1815. At the west end of the house is a circulation area with stairs that rise from the first floor. On the west wall at the head of the stairs is one of the only uncased posts in the house (Photo 19). It is a gunstock post that marked the end of the two-story section of the house when the house had its saltbox configuration with the rear slope of the roof sweeping down to a single story north of the post. Immediately to the north of the post is a window. The other visible framing members in the former leanto are cased, except for a beam in the bathroom that has been uncovered.

The middle room is a bedroom/office space, and notably is heated by a fireplace, which would not have been the case before the roof was raised. The shallow firebox is framed by a simple bead molding with no mantelshelf (Photo 20). The door between the rear stairs and this room is

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notable as a four-panel Greek Revival door, where the upper panels are elongated. A replacement Suffolk latch operates the door. The east room is a bedroom/utility space.

Attic

Reached via a set of narrow, steep stairs in the front hall on the first floor, the attic spans the full width of the house. The stairway is enclosed with paneled walls and a door separating it from the main stairway between the first and second floors. The stairs rise to the attic to the west of the chimney. The attic is unfinished and does not show any signs that it ever was finished. Evidence that the rear roof was raised from a leanto to its present height is clearly visible in the attic. On either side of the chimney and on the end walls, the original shorter, rear rafters are in situ, showing the original height and slope of the rear roof. The intervening rafters have been cut off. In addition, scarring is visible on the chimney at the location and angle of the original rear roof slope.

Basement

A partial basement is accessed by a set of stairs in the northwest corner of the house. The fieldstone chimney base occupies much of the space. The walls of the basement are also fieldstone, with dressed granite blocks above grade. Westford was an early granite quarrying site, making the material a logical choice for an early building. Major repairs have been made to the foundation, particularly in the northeast corner where fieldstone has been replaced by concrete block. In addition, insulation has been added to the ceiling of the basement, underneath the floorboards of the first floor.

Garage/Woodworking Shop

To the north of the house is a garage and woodworking shop built by the Gilberts in 2000, replacing a small garage (Photo 6). The end-gable, one-and-a-half story building has the appearance of a carriage house or barn, with small fixed-sash, multi-pane windows and a bay door in the gable end facing Frances Hill Road. The building is covered in wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof, with a hip roof cupola centered on the building.

Archaeological Description

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Jonathan Keyes House property. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological testing, may locate structural evidence and/or construction features for the different construction phases of the Jonathan Keyes House. Similar research might also locate structural evidence of additional domestic- and agricultural-related outbuildings that may survive on the 1.45-acre property. The 1933 images provided show several outbuildings adjacent to the house, and the historic records indicate that the larger Keyes property included numerous outbuildings and other structures associated with the family's orchards, agriculture, and animal husbandry. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) in the vicinity of the house.

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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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance
ca. 1751–ca. 1816

Significant Dates

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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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 Jonathan Keyes Sr. House meets National Register Criterion C with a local level of significance. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Under Criterion C, the Keyes House is significant in Westford as a well-preserved example of a mid-18th-century Colonial farmhouse that was updated in the Federal period. The period of significance begins with the ca.1751 construction date of the house and ends in ca. 1816, the approximate date of the Federal-period expansion. The property holds associations with the Keyes family, prominent in Westford civic and community life and owners of the Keyes House for nearly 150 years. Constructed ca.1751 by Jonathan Keyes Sr., the house served as the Keyes family homestead until the end of the 19th century.

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

Architecture

Until recently, it was believed that the Keyes House was built during the First Period (roughly 1620–1720) of American architecture. It had been theorized that Solomon Keyes built the house in 1664 when he settled in the area. Recent tree-ring dating—dendrochronology—has, however, shown that the earliest timbers in the house date to the mid-18th century. Tree ring dating is based on the fact that seasonal variations in climate are reflected in varying widths of each annual growth ring of a tree. It compares the tree ring count of timber samples taken from a historic house to previously dated ring sequences for the type of wood and region where the timber was believed to have been felled. In June of 2016, William Flynt of Historic Deerfield took samples of timbers believed to be from different phases of construction of the Keyes House. Nine pitch pine samples were found to be good enough to compare to known tree ring chronologies; two oak samples from the rear of the house were also taken, but they proved to be too short to date conclusively.

Six of the pitch pine samples came from the main body of the house, which is the first phase of construction. The tree ring patterns among all of the samples matched strongly with known patterns for the year 1750. Trees were usually felled in the winter and used in construction the following spring or summer, making it likely that the house was raised in 1751. The three pitch pine samples taken from the rear of the house, where the original leanto was raised from one to two stories, were difficult to date. Flynt concluded, however, that the enlargement “provisionally occurred no earlier than the fall/winter of 1815/1816.”¹

The mid-18th century, or Second Period, date of the main body of the house is further supported by the frame. One of the hallmarks of First Period architecture is the decorated frame—typically

¹ Flynt, William A. “A Dendrochronology Study of Select Framing Timbers from the Keyes House, Westford, MA. August 2016. p. 5.

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posts and beams with chamfered or beaded edges. Such decoration was carved into the wood because the frame was intended to be seen. While the Keyes House has a timber frame, its framing members are cased or covered with plaster, which was the fashion in the Second/Georgian period. While most of the posts and beams in the Keyes House are covered, as would be expected, a few that were uncovered within the past 25 years, such as the summer beam in the parlor, show no signs of decoration, indicating that they were always cased. Cased framing members, often with a quirked bead, had supplanted exposed, decorated framing by about 1725, and were coupled with plastered ceilings and plastered or paneled walls.

The Jonathan Keyes Sr. House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a rural, mid-18th century dwelling that reached its present appearance in the early 19th century, when it was updated in the fashionable Federal style. It originally took the form of a saltbox, a common house type in Massachusetts through the 18th century. In the early 19th century, as confirmed by dendrochronology, the rear slope of the roof was raised to bring the house to a full 2½ stories. The house is also a good example of the hall-and-parlor, center chimney plan, and it is also distinguished by its three-bay façade, which is much less common than the typical five-bay, center entry façade. There is one other pre-1800 building with a three-bay façade that has been documented in Westford; all of the other pre-1800 buildings of a similar size (two-story, double-pile) have five-bay facades. The 1730 Alvan Fisher House at 3 Depot Street (WSR.60) has a three-bay façade and a cut granite foundation. A similar large dwelling with a three-bay façade is the ca. 1740 Barrett-Byam House at 40 Byam Road in Chelmsford (CLM.72). Like the Keyes House, the Byam House is believed to have been a saltbox that was raised to a full 2½ stories.

Additional History

Established as a precinct of neighboring Chelmsford in 1724, Westford was incorporated as a separate town in 1729. Some scattered settlement had occurred in the 17th century, but the community's population steadily increased throughout the 18th century after incorporation. Agriculture, and particularly orchards, served as the primary economic base of Westford, while numerous streams provided water power for lumber and textile mills. Granite quarrying and maritime supplies were also popular economic pursuits around the turn of the 19th century. By the middle of the 19th century, mills at Graniteville and Forge Village developed into larger enterprises, increasing Westford's population and adding more foreign-born residents to the community. At the edge of Boston's suburban expansion, Westford saw increased residential development in the last half of the 20th century, particularly as it is located along Interstate 495, which opened in 1957.

Solomon Keyes

The land on Frances Hill, where the Keyes House stands, was in the Keyes family's ownership from the mid-to-late 17th century almost to the end of the 19th century. Since many town histories indicate that Solomon Keyes settled in the area of the present Keyes House, it is reasonable to assume that he was the first owner of the land and that he built a house nearby.

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Town histories often name Solomon Keyes (1628–1702) as either the first settler in Westford or one of the earliest settlers in town. Solomon married Frances Grant (d. 1708) in Newbury, Massachusetts, on October 2, 1653, and shortly afterwards the couple moved to Chelmsford. A Keyes family history notes that “Solomon was town clerk and tything man in Chelmsford, and seems to have been a man of influence in those early days.”² Hodgman’s 1883 *History of Westford* gives Solomon Keyes’ date of settlement on Frances Hill as 1664, but notes that “there is reason to suppose that he was here at a time still earlier than the date of his allotment,” although no evidence is given for this supposition.³

Solomon and Frances Keyes had eleven children; the first few were born in Newbury and the later ones in Chelmsford: Hannah (September 4, 1654 – ?); Sarah (August 24, 1656 – ?); Mary (September 26, 1658 – ?); Jane (October 5, 1660 – ?); Judith (September 16, 1662 – ?); Solomon (June 24, 1665 – ?); Joseph (May 24, 1667 – June 9, 1757); Ruth (April 1669 – ?); Moses (March 21, 1671 – ?); John (August 14, 1674 – ?); and Stephen (1678 – ?).⁴

In 1701, shortly before his death, Solomon Keyes sold “several parcels of upland meadow and meadow land” to his son Joseph, including “twenty acres lying at a place commonly called by the name of Frances Hill.”⁵ The deed to Joseph does not mention buildings, but does include land to the northwest called “Long Sought For,” which would become another area of Keyes family settlement.⁶ In his will, dated December 16, 1701, Solomon leaves to his wife his house, household goods, and several animals, stipulating that she and the animals are to be cared for until her death.⁷ His will notes that son Joseph had already been given his inheritance, the land on Frances Hill that Solomon sold him in 1701.

Joseph Keyes

While his siblings and their families moved elsewhere, Joseph Keyes (May 24, 1667 – June 9, 1757) stayed in Westford. He served on the Board of Selectmen in Chelmsford, and when the new town of Westford was created in 1729, he was part of the first Board of Selectmen. He is also often identified in early town records as “Ensign,” although it is unclear where or when he served in the military. Joseph Keyes was on the first tax list of Westford after the town’s incorporation in 1729.⁸

² Asa Keyes, *Genealogy Robert Keyes of Watertown, Mass., 1633. Solomon Keyes of Newbury and Chelmsford, Mass., 1653. And Their Descendants: Also, Others of the Name* (Brattleboro, VT: Geo. E. Selleck, Printer, 1880) 59.

³ Hodgman, Rev. Edwin R, *History of the Town of Westford, in the County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, 1659-1883* (Lowell, MA: Morning Mail Company, Printers, 1883), 8.

⁴ Biographical information on the Keyes family comes from Keyes’ *Genealogy* and Chelmsford and Westford’s (after 1729) vital records.

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 3, Page 328. This deed was not recorded until 1763.

⁶ While the deed was signed in 1701, it was not recorded until 1763, when the family recorded several other deeds, perhaps in an attempt to clear title to the land.

⁷ Solomon Keyes will, Middlesex County Probate #13203

⁸ Hodgman 27. Only names are given in Hodgman’s book, no descriptions of property.

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On May 28, 1690, Joseph Keyes married Joanna Cleveland (? – March 18, 1758) in Chelmsford. The couple had four children: Miriam (March 29, 1691 – ?); Lydia (1693 – ?); Joanna (1695 – ?); and Joseph Jr. (1698 – July 11, 1744).

Having been granted the land on Frances Hill by his father in 1701, Joseph Keyes appears to have been living in the area shortly thereafter. A description of a road to be laid out in 1707 specifies that it will go “over Frances hill by Joseph Keyes.” The name Joseph Keyes appears on a 1730 map of Westford in the vicinity of the present Jonathan Keyes Sr. House, at the intersection of what are now Hunt and Frances Hill roads (Map #1).

Like his father, before his death, Joseph Keyes Sr. intended to sell most of his land to his son Joseph Keyes Jr. In a 1727/1728 deed between the two, for the sum of £100, Joseph Sr. granted to Joseph Jr. “all my lands lying on Frances Hill in said Chelmsford...where I formerly dwelt with all the fencing buildings and orcharding that is thereon.”⁹ Joseph, Sr. reserved half of the orchard for himself for ten years, and also granted himself and his wife a life estate “if I stand in need to mine and my wifes support whilest we live [*sic*].” The orchards mentioned in the deed are notable as there are still several apple trees on the present Jonathan Keyes Sr. House property. Westford and surrounding communities are known for their orchard products, and many active orchards are still there today. The deed granted Joseph Jr. half of the land after his father’s death, and the other half after his mother’s death. However, Joseph Jr. died in 1744 (see below), before his father. Joseph Sr.’s June 29, 1745, will left to his wife all of his household goods, and money to his daughters, but makes no mention of any of his real property.

Joseph Keyes Jr

Documents and maps suggest that after Joseph Keyes Jr., (1698 – July 11, 1744) came to maturity, he moved to his father’s land at Long Sought For, in the north of Westford. He is marked there on a 1730 map of town (Map #2). Joseph Jr. married Elizabeth Fletcher (June 10, 1698 – September 3, 1775) on February 28, 1719, and the couple had five children: Elizabeth (April 3, 1720 – ?), Jonathan (January 21, 1721 – June 20, 1781), Sarah (1723 – ?), Lydia (1724 – ?), and David (vital dates unknown). In December of 1742, Joseph Keyes Jr. sold his lands on Francis Hill to his son, Jonathan Keyes.¹⁰

Jonathan Keyes Sr.

Jonathan Keyes Sr. (January 21, 1721 – June 20, 1781) received fifty acres of his father’s lands on Francis Hill in the 1740s. Given that the present house dates to ca.1751, it is reasonable to attribute the building of it to him.

Jonathan Keyes married Elizabeth Fletcher (March 19, 1720 – July 23, 1761) in Westford on January 20, 1746. As noted in the Keyes family genealogy, the large Keyes and Fletcher families often intermarried. The couple had seven children: Joseph (November 26, 1746 – February 22, 1823); Joanna (February 14, 1748 – June 17, 1753); Aaron (August 27, 1751 – August 1, 1753);

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 1, Page 383. The deed reads that it was signed January 5, 1728, but was recorded January 11, 1727.

¹⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Westford Book 2, Page 376.

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Stephen (November 14, 1754 – August 3, 1758); Joanna (February 20, 1757 – ?); Elizabeth (April 8, 1759 – ?); and Hannah (May 7, 1761 – ?). Only Joseph and the three youngest daughters survived to adulthood.

After the death of his first wife Elizabeth in 1761, Jonathan Keyes married the widow Elizabeth (Hartwell) Reed (sometimes Read), also known as Betty, of Littleton on July 1, 1762. She brought six children to their marriage, and they had seven children together: Jonathan, Junior (March 30, 1763 – May 25, 1828); twins Lucy (November 15, 1765 – ?) and Lydia (November 15, 1765 – January 8, 1838); Miriam (March 13, 1767 – ?); Patty (January 15, 1769 – December 9, 1786); Francis Grant (August 31, 1771 – ?); and Aaron (May 29, 1774 – September 7, 1775).

Jonathan Keyes died in 1781, leaving a lengthy and confusing will, which he had signed in 1777. The will makes clear that by the time of his death, he had moved north to Long Sought For. His will was disallowed in court because it was so confusing and would have been difficult to administer. His executors were directed by the court to administer his property, and they gave his lands at Long Sought For to his eldest son Joseph, and to his son Jonathan, all of his land at Frances Hill. An inventory of Jonathan Keyes' property at his death indicates the farm at Frances Hill included a house, barn, corn house, silo, and cider mill. His total personal estate was valued at almost £150, and included household goods, clothes, farm implements, and animals.

Capt. Jonathan Keyes Jr.

Jonathan Keyes Jr. (March 30, 1763 – May 25, 1828) was Jonathan Sr.'s son by his second wife, Elizabeth Hartwell Reed Keyes. He is identified in town records and in Hodgman's *History* as a captain, although it is unclear when he obtained that rank. Service records in Hodgman largely relate to the period after the American Revolution.¹¹ Jonathan Jr. married Patty Woodward (August 7, 1766 – September 4, 1841) in Westford on November 25, 1787. The couple had fourteen children, several of which survived to adulthood and would be involved in the Keyes House's history. Their children were: Martha (August 16, 1787 – February 3, 1839); Jonathan (October 25, 1789 – May 4, 1845); Aaron (April 14, 1791 – November 28, 1842); Lydia (November 7, 1792 – October 12, 1874); Betsey (May 22, 1794 – ?); Joseph (March 7, 1796 – January 26, 1836); Charlotte (October 11, 1797 – October 11, 1842); Nancy (November 28, 1799 – ?); Benjamin (March 7, 1801 – April 8, 1858); Sally (July 19, 1803 – June 18, 1843); Trueworthy (July 28, 1805 – May 23, 1871); Stephen Adams (August 3, 1807 – November 24, 1842); Wright Sumner (March 5, 1809 – ?); and Laurinda (January 11, 1811 – October 13, 1839). Later wills suggest that many of the Jonathan Keyes Jr., children lived with their parents into adulthood.

Upon his death in 1828, Jonathan Jr. was a wealthy man who died intestate, leaving a large estate. His lands were appraised on November 18 of that year. He owned 22 lots of various sizes in addition to two pews in the meeting house, all valued at a total of \$6,534. The largest piece of property was his "homestead farm, containing about 72 acres, with the dwelling house, barns, sheds" and other miscellaneous features not listed. The homestead lot alone was valued at \$2200.

¹¹ Hodgman 155.

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His personal estate was auctioned off on October 16, 1828, and a full inventory of property and price is recorded in his probate records. The long inventory is a sign not only of Jonathan Jr.'s wealth, but also of the accumulation of family pieces that were in the Keyes House.

Although the items are not clearly delineated by room, several rooms are mentioned: east room, west room, east chamber, northeast chamber, west chamber, garret, kitchen, and house cellar. The presence of the northeast chamber and garret indicate that the house had been raised from a saltbox to its current height by 1828. Thus, it seems likely that Jonathan Keyes Jr. raised the leanto at the rear of the house to a full two stories between 1815, the earliest date supported by dendrochronology, and 1828, when he died. Around the same time, the house was likely updated in the Federal style. The projecting front porch, in its original hip-roof configuration (fig.3), may have been among the alterations. Projecting porches were common additions to houses with center chimneys because they allowed for a more spacious entry hall.

Jonathan Jr.'s wife Patty received the west part of the house as her dower right; she lived there until her death in 1841. It is possible that the oven beside the hall firebox dates to her use of the west side of the house. It is unclear who was living in the east half of the house, but at least three of Jonathan Jr. and Patty's children were unmarried and were involved in later transfers of the house. Patty left most of her property to her son Stephen Adams Keyes, who died a year later in 1842 of typhus. In his will, he left the property to his sister Sally Keyes, who was unmarried and possibly already living in the house. Their other sister, Lydia, was living in the west chamber, as Stephen specifically leaves the use of it to her. He also included a potential chain of title in the event of Sally's death (sic):

At the decease of the aforementioned Sally Keyes, all the above mentioned real estate is to fall into the hands of Trueworthy Keyes (if said Keyes should be living at her decease) during his life & after his decease the above named real estate is to fall into the hands of Benjamin F. Keyes (if living at T. Keyes decease) during his life. At his decease (B. F. K.) it is to fall into the hands of Aaron Keyes during his life. At his (A. K.) decease it is to fall into the hands of W. S. Keyes during his life.

Sally Keyes died of consumption the year after her brother, in 1843. In her original will, she left the property to Benjamin F. Keyes, "so long as he shall live upon the said Stephen A. Keyes' farm." It is unclear if Benjamin was already living in the Keyes House, or if Sally was encouraging him to return to the family property. However in a codicil to her will, added after her brother Stephen's death in 1842, Sally leaves all of her real and personal property to her brothers Benjamin and Trueworthy. Benjamin was likely living elsewhere, as Trueworthy took over the property upon his sister's death in 1843 (Map #3).¹²

During the 1840s, a number of land partitions and transfers of property between Jonathan Keyes Jr.'s children were recorded. However because of the number of heirs (not only did he have a lot

¹² Sally Keyes will, Middlesex County Probate #35781

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of children, but several of his children died before the land was partitioned, leaving their children as heirs), the deeds often record the transfer of multiple parcels of small acreage. For example, in one 1849 deed Benjamin F. Keyes sold thirteen parcels of land to his brother Trueworthy.¹³ The metes and bounds in the deeds are brief but indicate they were both in the northern part of Westford near Long Sought For and near Frances Hill. It appears that Trueworthy reassembled most of the parcels that had been partitioned to various heirs in the middle of the 19th century.

Trueworthy Keyes

Trueworthy Keyes (1805–1871) was a local businessman who operated “the old red store” at the center of Westford, alone and with his brother Benjamin F. Keyes.¹⁴ He was also active in community affairs, serving as a justice of the peace and listed among a group of donors for a new fence around the Westford common in 1839.¹⁵ Trueworthy married Sophia Strong (Blake) Keyes (April 20, 1801 – May 10, 1844) on April 9, 1837. Sophia was the widow of Trueworthy’s brother Joseph Keyes; Sophia and Joseph had married on June 15, 1820, and he died sixteen years later. Trueworthy and Sophia had a set of twins, Clementine and Josephine, born June 6, 1838. A number of town histories and other records (e.g., map 4) suggest that Sophia owned the Keyes House until the end of the 19th century; however these are incorrect, as she died of consumption in 1844.

The 1855 Massachusetts state census appears to record Trueworthy and his family in the Keyes House. (Although street addresses are not given, names on the same record sheet correspond to neighbors on an 1856 map of Middlesex County.) Trueworthy was living with his daughters Clementine and Josephine, his sister Lydia, Irish immigrants Elizabeth Flynn and William Butter, and Silas Carkin, born in Massachusetts. While occupation was typically recorded for the census, no occupation is given for any of the members of the household so the relationship between the Keyes family and the other three residents is unclear.

The federal agricultural census for 1860 records Trueworthy with a 150-acre farm valued at \$4500. He had four milk cows, two working oxen, seven other cattle, and seven sheep, a high number for Westford. The sheep produced 30 pounds of wool. The farm also produced other typical Westford products such as orchard goods, corn, potatoes, and hay. Trueworthy was among the few Westford farmers who kept bees, producing ten pounds of beeswax and 30 pounds of honey.

In 1865, Trueworthy was still in the house with his daughters and sister Lydia, this time listed as a farmer with ratable polls and a legal voter. They were joined by Bridget Gibson, 35, born in Newfoundland, and Albert Gibson, 9, presumably her son. The census record notes that Bridget Gibson could not read or write; her occupation is not given, but she likely worked as a cook or domestic worker for the family.

¹³ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Westford Book 18, Page 210

¹⁴ Hodgman 249. The store building was at 40 Main Street (WSR.2). The store that stands there today is a later building and likely not the one Trueworthy Keyes operated.

¹⁵ Ibid., 182 and 397

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Trueworthy's daughter Clementine married Charles Swett, a teacher living in Chelmsford, on August 28, 1866. The 1870 census reflects this change, as she is no longer living with her father and twin sister Josephine in the Keyes House. Trueworthy's sister Lydia was still in the house. The family was joined by Clark C. and Alice Clapper and Hannah Lord. Trueworthy and Clapper were listed as farmers, while Lord was a domestic worker. The 1870 agricultural census lists Trueworthy on a smaller farm valued at \$4,000. He no longer kept sheep, instead keeping eight milk cows. The cows produced 3,000 gallons of milk that was sold. The farm also produced potatoes, orchard products, and forest products.

Trueworthy Keyes died the following year, in 1871. He left all of his real and personal property to his two daughters.¹⁶ A brief mention in the *Lowell Daily Citizen and News* suggests that Trueworthy's daughters sold off many of the family possessions: "Mr. Patch spent a large part of yesterday afternoon in making sale of the personal estate of the late Trueworthy Keyes, of Westford, embracing a very large, unique and curious collection, enough to stock a respectable antiquarian society's museum."¹⁷ Trueworthy's sister Lydia died in 1874; it is unknown if she continued to live in the house after her brother's death, although her place of death is recorded as Westford. The 1880 census finds Josephine Keyes living with the Swetts in Winchester, Massachusetts. It is unknown who was living in the house in Westford when the 1880 census was taken; the Keyes sisters are not listed in the agricultural census, so it may have been a relative or a renter.

Mary Barlow Courtney Family

Josephine Keyes requested a partition of land in the 1890s, and the Keyes family farm was sold out of the family after almost 150 years. In 1898 Mary (Barlow) Courtney purchased the 11.5-acre property, as shown on a plan from that same year.¹⁸ She had married Alexander Courtney on June 22, 1890 in Lowell; they were Canadian immigrants working as wool spinners. The record of their marriage in Westford suggests they were already living in town at the time of their marriage. The 1900 census recorded the pair in Westford, with no address given. Courtney was a wool carder, while Mary was at home with their two sons, George, 5, and Alexander, 2. By 1910 the family had grown to include two daughters, Eva M., 6, and Alice, 3, and a third son, Samuel, 1. Alexander Courtney was still working in a woolen mill, and his son George had joined him, working as a carder.

Alexander Courtney died March 7, 1913, of carcinoma of the liver. Mary remarried on December 21 of that year. Her new husband was widower Peter Gosselin, who was a loom fixer living in North Chelmsford. The 1920 census lists the Gosselin family on Keyes Road in Westford; although no number is given, neighboring streets suggest the Gosselins were living in the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House. The family included Peter (listed as Frederick), Mary, two daughters named Eva, both 15 (one from each parent's first marriage), and Mary's other children Alice, 13, and Samuel, 12. By this time Gosselin had left the mills and was listed as a farm

¹⁶ Trueworthy Keyes will, Middlesex County Probate #6202

¹⁷ "City and Vicinity," *Lowell Daily Citizen and News*. 28 July 1871.

¹⁸ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 298, Page 87

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laborer. His wife and the two Evas were all working in mills; Mary as a spinner and the daughters as doffers.

A mortgage deed from 1925 suggests that the Gosselins either divorced, or that Peter Gosselin died.¹⁹ The deed between Mary Gosselin and William Arpin references a probate record from 1924 and states that the conveyance is made as if she were unmarried. In 1929 Mary (Barlow Courtney) Gosselin sold the property to her son Alexander J. Courtney and his wife Lillian M.²⁰ The 1930 census finds the Courtney family living on Frances Hill Road: Alexander J., 31; Lillian M., 30; sons Francis J., 7, and Arthur J., almost 5; and daughter Lucielle, 3. No occupation was listed for Courtney or his wife. Courtney was listed in a 1937 Westford directory on Frances Hill Road, with symbols denoting that he owned property and a car. The family was still in the Keyes House when the 1940 census was taken, and they had added son Raymond, 9, and daughter Mildred, 6.

Historic images show the house during the Courtneys' ownership (Figures 3 and 4). Two images taken September 29, 1933, show the house unpainted with a standing seam metal roof and some 2/2 window sash that would have been added after 1850 when the advent of cylinder glass made the large window panes possible. Several sheds are visible to the north of the house, and a leanto structure is visible on the rear of the house at the northwest corner. The Federal period configuration of the main entry porch is also visible, with a hipped roof.

In 1941, the Courtneys sold the house to Mary Gosselin Bastien.²¹ This is likely Mary Barlow, although no information about her marriage to anyone named Bastien has been found. She immediately sold the property to her other son, Samuel.²² He is listed in a 1942 directory as a farmer on Frances Hill Road.²³

In 1944, Samuel J. Courtney sold the Keyes House and surrounding property to Audrey W. Hildreth.²⁴ The house passed through several owners in the 1940s and into the 1950s. Arthur Coffin Jr. and Teresa F. Coffin purchased the property in 1952, with the same metes and bounds as when Mary Courtney purchased it in 1898. The Coffins owned the property for twenty years, selling it in 1972 to Karl J. Sladek III and Elizabeth A. Sladek. The Sladeks subdivided the property before a sale in 1987, creating the current 1.45-acre lot on which the Keyes House stands. They also created a separate lot to the east, which is present-day 28 Hunt Road.

¹⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 717, Page 550

²⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 775, Page 343

²¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 257

²² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 258

²³ In the directory, his wife is listed as Lilian M., but this is likely a mistake; a later deed gives his wife's name as Eva D. Courtney.

²⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds book 1016, Page 451

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The Gilbert Family

In 1993 Philip and Abby Gilbert purchased the Keyes House from Martha H. Briscoe. At the time, the house was in poor condition. It had been vacant for several years, and the weather and animals had taken a toll on the building. The east side of the house had fallen off of the foundation, and was several inches lower than the west side. Animals and insects had chewed through a number of posts in the house. As noted in the previous narrative, the Gilberts did a significant amount of work to rehabilitate the house, with Philip Gilbert, a carpenter, doing much of the work himself.

Portions of the foundation and chimney stack on the north side of the house were rebuilt with concrete block to provide a more stable base for the building (Photo 8). Some of the plaster walls of the house were replaced to update the building's wiring and to add insulation. The post in the southeast corner was replaced, as it had rotted away. Many of the post casings were replaced, as they too had rotted or been eaten by animals. A door at the northeast corner of the house visible in historic photographs had already been removed by 1993, and a modern kitchen installed. However, Philip Gilbert stated that when he was doing work in that area, he found the framing for the door still in place. Some of the windows on the house were replaced, as they too had suffered from damage by animals. A modern bathroom was installed on the first floor, to add a second bathroom to the house. The Gilberts sold the house to the current owners in 2017.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized a prominent landowning family and farmstead that helped shape the agricultural and social evolution of this part of Westford. Although only a small portion of the original farm remains today with the Jonathan Keyes House, additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate 18th- and 19th-century outbuildings and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) that can better inform our understanding of the layout and character of a farmstead and its associated activities as they developed over the course of two centuries. Structural evidence of outbuildings and their locations may contribute information relating to both agricultural and domestic activities on the farm and how these changed through time. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important information relating to the above activities, as well as any potential cottage industries that may have also been present on site. Information from occupational-related features can also contribute to our understanding of the lives of the different Keyes family members who occupied the farm and the extent to which their lives characterized life in the western part of Westford during the 18th through 20th centuries.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Harriette Merrifield Forbes Collection, American Antiquarian Society

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Massachusetts State Census of Population for 1855 and 1865

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 294, Page 96

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 298, Page 87

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 717, Page 550

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 761, Page 520

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 775, Page 343

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 257

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 258

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1016, Page 451

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1057, Page 95

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1078, Page 149

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1121, Page 136

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1198, Page 454

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 2015, Page 49

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 4082, Page 213

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 6648, Page 155

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 30, Page 66

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 159, Page 16

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 1, Page 383

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 2, Page 376

Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 3, Page 327

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Middlesex County Probate Records #13203 (Solomon Keyes); #13196 (Joseph Keyes);
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#35781 (Sally Keyes); #6202 (Trueworthy Keyes)

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Westford vital records

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: J. V. Fletcher Library, Westford, MA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WSR.123

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.450 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: 42.602995 | Longitude: -71.404551 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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

The boundaries of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House property follow the lot lines of Westford assessor's parcel 038-0039-00001 and the metes and bounds given in a deed from Martha H. Briscoe to Philip K. Gilbert and Abby W. Gilbert, in 1993 (Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 6648, Page 155). The property boundaries are also given in Plan Book 159, Plan 16, from 1987.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property represent the current legal boundary of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House.

Resource Count

Name	Date	Type	Status
Jonathan Keyes Sr. House	Ca. 1751/1810s	B	C
Garage/workshop	2000	B	NC

B = building

C = contributing

NC = non-contributing

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jennifer B. Doherty, preservation 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 besty.friedberg@state.ma.us
telephone (617) 727 8570
date: March 2019

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.)

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: Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
City or Vicinity: Westford, MA
County: Middlesex State: MA
Photographer: Jennifer B. Doherty
Date Photographed: June and September, 2015

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0001)
South (façade) elevation, facing north

Photo #2 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0002)
South (façade) and west (side) elevations, facing northeast

Photo #3 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0003)
West elevation, facing east

Photo #4 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0004)
North (rear) and west (side) elevations, facing southeast

Photo #5 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0005)
North (rear) and east (side) elevations, facing south

Photo #6 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0006)
West (façade) and south elevation of the workshop

Photo #7 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0007)
Basement, chimney stack to the left facing south

Photo #8 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0008)
Basement, chimney stack to the right, facing east

Photo #9 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0009)
Main stairs, facing northwest

Photo #10 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0010)
Parlor, facing south

Photo #11 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0011)
Parlor, facing west

Photo #12 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0012)
Hall, facing east

Photo #13 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0013)
Hall, facing south

Photo #14 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0014)
Kitchen, facing southeast

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Photo #15 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0015)
Kitchen, facing east

Photo #16 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0016)
Parlor chamber, facing west

Photo #17 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0017)
Hall chamber, facing southeast

Photo #18 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0018)
Hall chamber, facing east

Photo #19 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0019)
Former leanto area, facing west

Photo #20 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0020)
Former leanto area, facing south

Photo #21 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0021)
Attic, facing east

Photo #22 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0022)
Attic, facing southeast

Photo #23 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0023)
Attic, facing southeast

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.

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
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Sketch Map & Exterior Photo Key



Source: Adapted from Westford Mass. GIS Viewer

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
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Figures and Interior Photo Keys

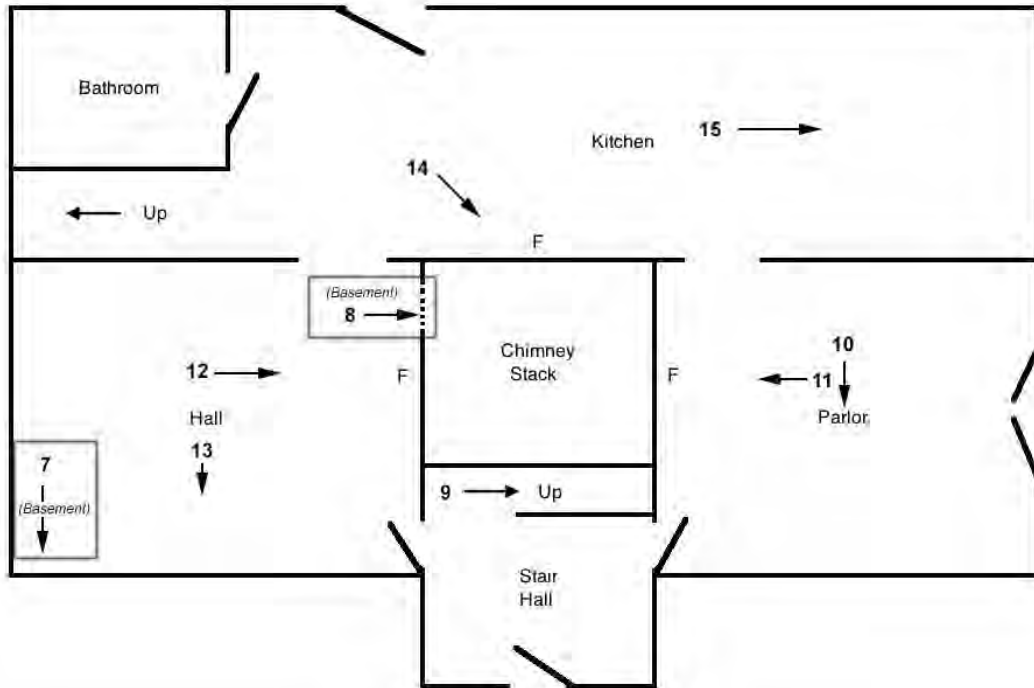


Figure 1 – The first floor of the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House with photo key. Not to scale.

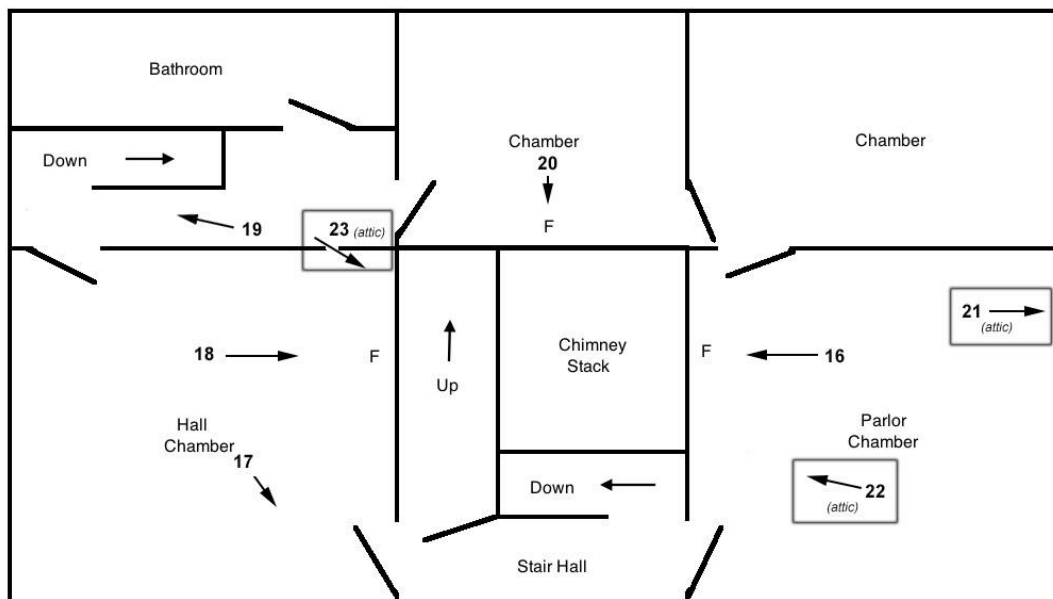


Figure 2 – The second floor of the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House with photo key. Not to scale.

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Figure 3 (above) and 4 (below) – These photographs of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House by Harriette Merrifield Forbes were taken in 1933. From the collection of the American Antiquarian Society.



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Historic Maps



Maps #1 and #2 – A 1730 map of Westford shows Joseph Keyes marked at the location of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House (above) near the border with Chelmsford, while his son Joseph Keyes, Jr., is marked in the northern part of town, near Long Sought For (below).



Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

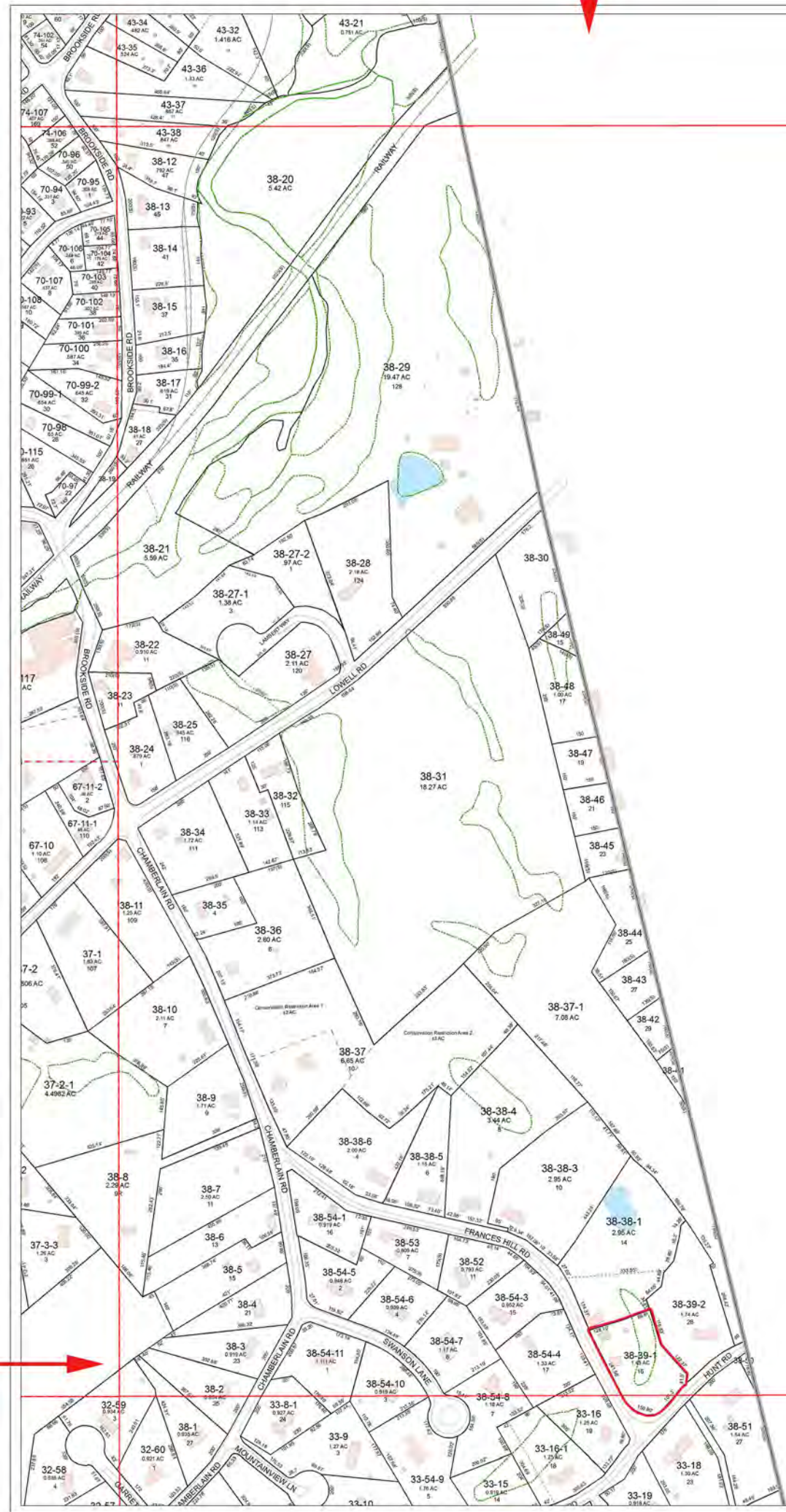
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Map #3 – This 1856 map erroneously marks “T. Keyes,” Trueworthy Keyes, at the intersection of Chamberlain Road and Francis Hill Road, north of the property’s actual location.



Map #4 – This 1875 map erroneously marks “S. Keyes,” likely Trueworthy Keyes’ wife Sophia, who had died in 1844, as the owner of the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House.



Town of Westford
Massachusetts



Assessors
Tax Map

PUBLIC RECORD RESPONSE - DISCLAIMER
Westford hereby produces the following information: GIS Data Information - Mapping System. In maintaining its GIS Data, the Town of Westford has made every effort to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of the content thereof however, errors can occur. It is expressly understood and agreed that in producing this information, the Town of Westford, its officials, agents, servants and employees does not warrant or guarantee the information it has provided, nor does it accept responsibility for any errors contained therein. In no event will the Town of Westford, its officials, agents, servants and employees be deemed or held obligated, liable, or accountable for any loss or damage incurred or resulting from the use of the information provided.

Legend

- Parcel
- Former Parcel
- Easement
- Road Edge
- Wetlands DEP 2006
- Railroad
- Water Body
- Building
- Out Building



200 100 0 200
Feet
1" = 200'

Data Sources: All landbase data including street outlines, surface water, buildings, and railroads were developed from aerial photography flown in April 2005.
DEP Wetland Information was obtained from MassGIS.
All parcel information should be verified with the Town of Westford's Assessor.

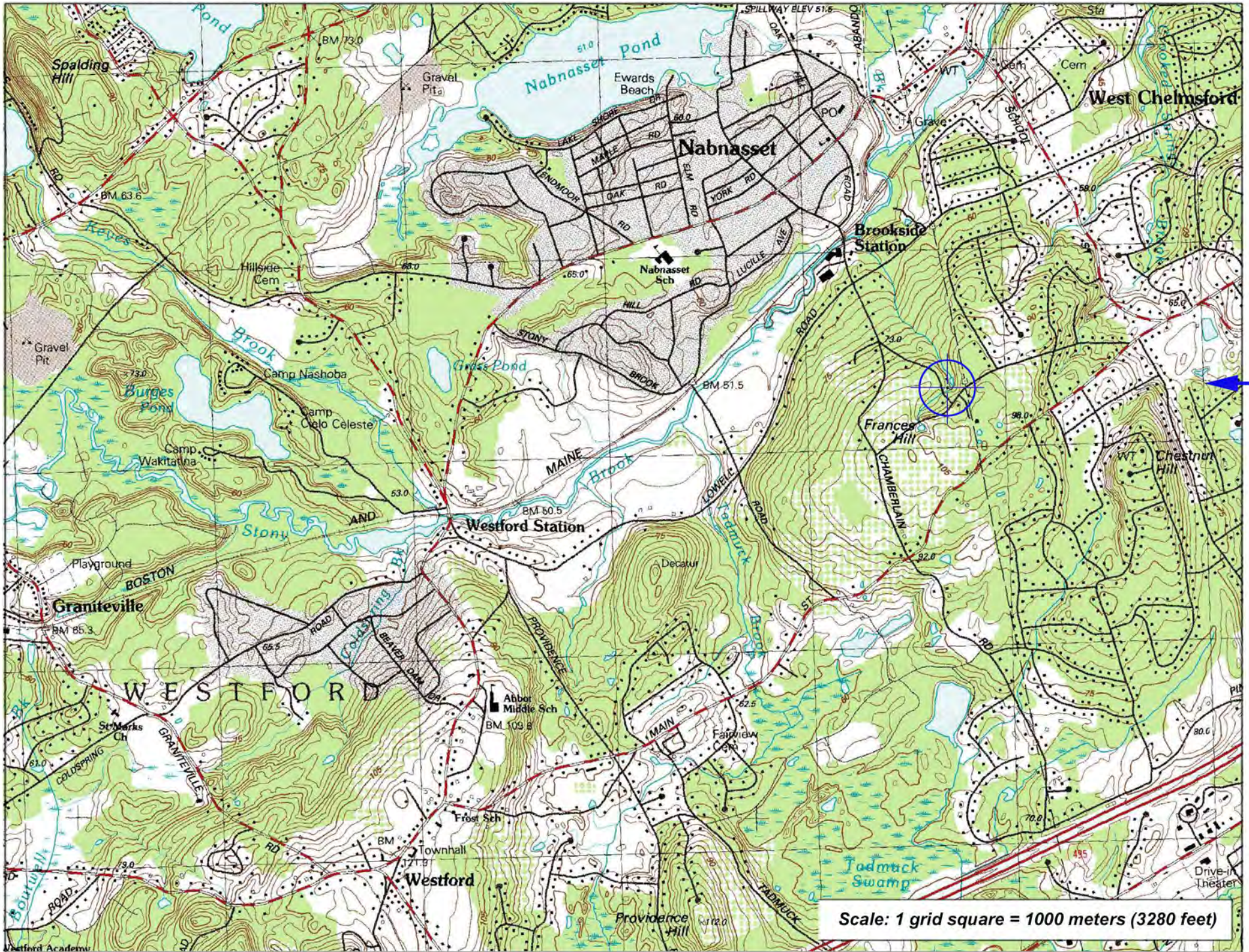
77	78	43
72	42	74
69	70	38
66	67	33
64	32	

		47	48		
	44	45	46		
39	40	41	42	43	
34	35	36	37	38	
29	30	31	32	33	
24	25	26	27	28	
19	20	21	22	23	
14	15	16	17	18	
9	10	11	12	13	
	4	5	6	7	8
	1	2	3		

Tax Map

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9/23/2013



Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



1. South (façade) elevation, facing north



2. South (façade) and west (side) elevations, facing northeast

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



3. West elevation, facing east



4. North (rear) and west (side) elevations, facing southeast

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



5. North (rear) and east (side) elevations, facing south



6. West (façade) and south elevation of the workshop

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



7. Basement, chimney stack to the left facing south



8. Basement, chimney stack to the right, facing east

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



9. Main stairs, facing northwest



10. Parlor, facing south

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



11. Parlor, facing west



12. Hall, facing east

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



13. Hall, facing south



14. Kitchen, facing southeast

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



15. Kitchen, facing east



16. Parlor chamber, facing west

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



17. Hall chamber, facing southeast



18. Hall chamber, facing east

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



19. Former leanto area, facing west



20. Former leanto area, facing south

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



21. Attic, facing east



22. Attic, facing southeast

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex Co.), MA



23. Attic, facing southeast















































National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission
Property Name: Keyes, Jonathon, Sr. House
Multiple Name:
State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: RS100004051

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 12/3/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary NR Criterion: C.
Comments:

Recommendation/ AOS: architecture; POS: c. 1751-c. 1816; LOS: local.
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 12/3/19

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

April 23, 2019

Kathryn Smith
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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 75 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

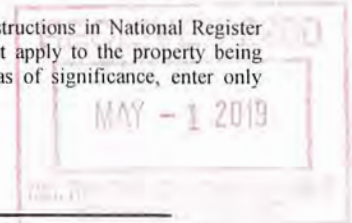
cc: Simon W. Andrews and Anne H. Mason, 16 Frances Hill Road, Westford
Jennifer Doherty, Consultant
Mark D. Kost, Chair, Westford Board of Selectmen
Kate Hollister, Chair, Westford Planning Board
David G. Gutbrod, Chair, Westford Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4051

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: Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House

Other names/site number: Solomon Keyes Garrison House (erroneously)

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 16 Frances Hill Road

City or town: Westford State: Massachusetts County: Middlesex

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

Returned

<u>Brona Simon</u>		<u>4/23/19</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	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

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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Returned

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Returned

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English/ New England Colonial

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood, synthetic, brick

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 ca. 1751 Colonial/Federal-style Jonathan Keyes Sr. House is located in the town of Westford, near its eastern border with the town of Chelmsford. The Keyes House sits on a 1.45-acre lot at the intersection of rural Frances Hill and Hunt roads. The house faces south with a side orientation to the street. The former farmhouse is a timber-frame, 2 ½-story, double-pile dwelling with a center chimney and a side-gable roof. The three-bay façade has a centered main entry that is covered by a projecting, front-gabled, enclosed porch (Photo 1, 2). The Keyes House is clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with cedar shingles. The house sits on a dry-laid fieldstone foundation capped by dressed-granite slabs visible above grade (Photo 7). The property also includes a workshop/garage that stands north of the house (Photo 6). Built in 2000, it is a noncontributing resource.

A dendrochronology study of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House in the summer of 2016 confirmed that the house was originally a saltbox form, and found that its earliest timbers date to 1750. Given the time needed between felling the trees and building the house, the dendrochronology report theorized that the earliest construction date would have been in the spring of 1751. For this reason the house has been given a ca. 1751 date. The dendrochronology report also found that the rear lean-to of the original saltbox was raised to a full two stories no earlier than 1815/1816. Since the exterior and interior display primarily Federal period features, it appears

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that the house was remodeled in the early 19th century, probably at the time the rear roof was raised.

Narrative Description

The area immediately around the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House retains its rural, heavily-forested setting, particularly to the east where a small brook runs close to the house surrounded by a patch of wetlands. Several apple trees that surround the Keyes House are reminders that orchards were associated with the Keyes House when the acreage was larger.

Across Frances Hill Road along the west edge of the street are several large pieces of cut granite and stone that are believed to be the foundation remains of a barn that was associated with the Keyes House before the farm was subdivided. Immediately to the north of the Keyes House, the house at 14 Frances Hill Road is believed to have been an outbuilding also historically associated with the Keyes House. To the northwest of the Keyes House is a subdivision of single-family houses constructed in the mid-1990s; other, more recent houses are scattered along Frances Hill and Hunt roads.

Facing due south, the Keyes House is a timber framed, 2½-story, double-pile dwelling. The hall-and-parlor plan house has a three-bay façade with a center chimney and center entry. The second-story windows are placed directly under the cornice, and narrow cornerboards rise to eaves that have a minimal overhang and do not return at the gable ends. A one-story, front-gabled, enclosed entry porch (rebuilt after 1993) projects from the center bay. The six-panel, Federal-style main entry door is a recent addition. (The owner is storing the original door, which is in poor condition.) The door is framed on either side by 2/3 sidelights, three panes to a side, with a recessed raised panel at the bottom. A 6/6 sash is located on each side wall of the porch. Historic images show the original hipped-roof configuration of the porch with four sidelights on either side of the door (Figure 3). The windows on the house are largely replacement 6/9 sash, typical of the Colonial period. They are true divided light wood windows protected by storm windows. There is, however, one 6/6 sash window above the main entry that likely dates to the late 18th century, based on its muntin profile.

Moving clockwise around the house, the west elevation has six windows placed in an unbalanced configuration, two per floor. The four windows on the first floor are 6/9 replacement sash. The two windows in the gable end are smaller 2/4 sash.

The rear elevation also presents unbalanced fenestration. An entry door is located west of center; this door, with a Classical Revival style surround, was added after 1993. Some of the sash are of the 6/9, but others are post-1993 6/6 sash, particularly three windows on the first floor that light the kitchen.

The building's east elevation is difficult to see, as that side of the house is heavily wooded due to the wetlands and stream that run close to the house. The unbalanced fenestration on this

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elevation is joined by a pair of post-1993 French doors, set south of center, that lead to a small patio area.

Interior

The layout of the Keyes House is of the hall-and-parlor plan, with a central chimney and circulation area flanked by a hall on one side and a parlor on the other. A bank of rooms spans the rear pile of the house (see Figure 1 for a floor plan of the first floor).

Gunstock posts visible on the second floor indicate that the front pile of the house was constructed as a 2 ½ -story building; the posts in the rear corners are square, indicative of their later date when the leanto was raised. In the attic, several original, shorter rear rafters remain connected to the front face of the roof, while others have been sawn off, indicating that the house originally took the form of a saltbox with integral leanto (Photo 21, 22). In addition, there is a scar on both sides of the chimney where the original rafters rested against it, further evidence that the roof was raised (Photo 23). The full-height rafters are pegged together at the ridge, without a ridge beam. Throughout the house, the floors are wide wood boards, while the walls and ceilings are plastered. Some of the plaster walls have been replaced since 1993, as many of them were in poor condition when the property changed hands at that time.

The large central chimney serves the building's six fireplaces, with three on each floor. The shallow fireboxes of the fireplaces indicate that they were rebuilt after the eighteenth century. Two of the fireplaces on the first floor include bench ovens outside of the firebox, which is typical of the Federal period. It is likely that all of the fireplaces were rebuilt around the time the leanto was raised (ca. 1815).

Stair Hall

The main entry door leads into the stair hall (Photo 9). The interior finish of the rebuilt projecting porch is a reproduction, but the finishes and details in the rest of the stair hall are historic. The main set of closed-stringer stairs turns in front of the chimney stack. The stairway balustrade has narrow, square, newel posts with nearly flat tops and no balusters; there is no evidence that the balusters have been removed. The absence of balusters is rare, but there is a strikingly similar example at the Hildreth-Robbins House in nearby Chelmsford (19 Maple Road, CLM.70, NRIND). A small closet is located under the stairs, and wide horizontal paneling is found on the west wall of the stairwell. A small door in the chimney opens into a smoke room, a common eighteenth century feature. The doors into the rooms on either side of the stair hall, the parlor and hall, are typical four-panel Georgian doors with raised panels facing into the rooms, not the stair hall. The latches on the doors are Norfolk latches that are likely replacement hardware.

Parlor

To the east of the entry hall, accessed by a 4-panel door in the east wall immediately in front of the stairs, is the parlor (Photo 10), typically the most formal room in Colonial/Federal period houses.

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The Gilberts, who bought the house in 1993, removed the plaster ceiling, revealing the joists and summer beam. Notably, the summer beam has no chamfer or other detailing, indicating it was not exposed when the house was constructed. Typical of Middlesex County timber frame buildings, the summer beams on the first floor of the Keyes House run longitudinally (from the chimney girt to the side outer wall of the house), while those on the second floor are transverse (from the front to the back of the house). The posts projecting into the room at the southeast and southwest corners are cased, with no elaboration on the casing. In the northwest corner of the room, on the north wall, a door provides access to the kitchen at the rear of the house. On the same wall, in the northeast corner, is a set of full-height built-in shelves, added by the Gilberts. Post-1993 French doors in the east wall of the room lead outside to a small patio area. On the west wall is the fireplace (Photo 11). The surround is typical of the Federal style in the early 1800s, and is similar to many of the other fireplace surrounds in the house. A large raised panel above the mantelshelf was added by the Gilberts. Low wainscoting runs around the base of the wall, composed of raised panels; these were also added by the previous owners.

Hall

The room to the west of the stair hall is the hall, identified as a less-formal room by its simpler fireplace surround (Photo 12). Like the parlor, all of the hall's visible framing members are cased (Photo 13). The Gilberts removed the casing on the summer beam, and it was not chamfered, indicating that the beam was likely always cased. The casing was replaced after it was removed. The room has two doors, one in the southeast corner leading to the stair hall, and a second in the northeast corner, north wall, leading to the kitchen at the rear of the house. The only elaboration in the room is around the fireplace. Between the door to the stair hall and the fireplace, located at the north end of the east wall, is a group of four large raised panels, two-over-two, with the two at the top taller than those on the bottom. The firebox and an external beehive oven take up much of the space to the north of the panels. The fireplace has no mantelshelf or surround. Three wide horizontal boards, with no elaboration, fill the space between the firebox and the ceiling. Some plain boarding and a small cupboard fill the space to the extreme left of the fireplace, between the firebox and the wall. As noted above, the firebox is shallower than would be expected of an eighteenth century firebox, indicating it was rebuilt, and in this case with an external oven. A modern wood stove sits in the firebox today.

Kitchen

The kitchen space, in the rear pile of the house, has a large fireplace with an external beehive oven located on the south wall, between the two doors from the parlor and hall (Photo 14). The wall around the fireplace is covered in horizontal wood boards, and a narrow mantle shelf on two brackets spans the firebox. At the east end of the kitchen space is a modern kitchen area, with cabinets and appliances installed after 1993 (Photo 15). Two pairs of modern 6/6 sash windows light the space, one pair on the east wall and a second on the north wall. A door to the outside is located on the north wall, in the northwest corner of the room. This door was added by the Gilberts, when they removed a door that had been on the west wall in order to provide space for a bathroom in the northwest corner of the house. A set of stairs rises to the second floor between the bathroom and the hall to the south. A set of stairs leading to the basement is accessed in the bathroom.

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Second Floor

The layout of the second floor of the Keyes House is similar to the first floor, with two large rooms at the front of the house flanking the chimney and front circulation space, and three smaller rooms above the kitchen at the rear of the house (see Figure 2 for a floorplan of the second floor). The rooms display the wide-wood board floors and plaster walls and ceilings found in most of the rooms below.

The main set of stairs rises from the entry hall to a small hall on the second floor between the parlor chamber and hall chamber. A set of enclosed stairs continues up to the attic. The second floor landing is lit by a small 6/6 sash window. As with the stair hall downstairs, the doors on either end of the second floor stair hall are four-panel Georgian doors with replacement hardware.

Parlor Chamber

Located directly over the parlor, the parlor chamber serves as a bedroom. The room has cased framing members with a fireplace on the west wall. The shallow firebox has a Federal style surround and mantelshelf, similar to the one found below in the parlor (Photo 16). The Gilberts added a large panel above the fireplace. A closet is located to the right of the fireplace on the west wall. The room has two doors, one from the front stair hall and a second on the north wall, in the northwest corner of the room, leading to the rear rooms on the second floor.

Hall Chamber

Like the parlor chamber, the hall chamber has cased framing members and a fireplace on the east wall (Photo 17). A cased, transverse summer beam connects the front and rear walls of the house. The fireplace surround is identical to that found in the Parlor Chamber, with a large panel above added after 1993 (Photo 18). A small closet has been added to the northeast corner of the room, diagonally connecting the north and east walls. The room has two doors, one to the stair hall and a second in the northwest corner of the room, on the north wall, that leads to the rear of the second story.

Rear Chambers

The group of three rooms and a circulation space across the back of the house would have been attic space before the roof of the leanto was raised ca. 1815. At the west end of the house is a circulation area with stairs that rise from the first floor. On the west wall at the head of the stairs is one of the only uncased posts in the house (Photo 19). It is a gunstock post that marked the end of the two-story section of the house when the house had its saltbox configuration with the rear slope of the roof sweeping down to a single story north of the post. Immediately to the north of the post is a window. The other visible framing members in the former leanto are cased, except for a beam in the bathroom that has been uncovered.

The middle room is a bedroom/office space, and notably is heated by a fireplace, which would not have been the case before the roof was raised. The shallow firebox is framed by a simple bead molding with no mantelshelf (Photo 20). The door between the rear stairs and this room is

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notable as a four-panel Greek Revival door, where the upper panels are elongated. A replacement Suffolk latch operates the door. The east room is a bedroom/utility space.

Attic

Reached via a set of narrow, steep stairs in the front hall on the first floor, the attic spans the full width of the house. The stairway is enclosed with paneled walls and a door separating it from the main stairway between the first and second floors. The stairs rise to the attic to the west of the chimney. The attic is unfinished and does not show any signs that it ever was finished. Evidence that the rear roof was raised from a leanto to its present height is clearly visible in the attic. On either side of the chimney and on the end walls, the original shorter, rear rafters are in situ, showing the original height and slope of the rear roof. The intervening rafters have been cut off. In addition, scarring is visible on the chimney at the location and angle of the original rear roof slope.

Basement

A partial basement is accessed by a set of stairs in the northwest corner of the house. The fieldstone chimney base occupies much of the space. The walls of the basement are also fieldstone, with dressed granite blocks above grade. Westford was an early granite quarrying site, making the material a logical choice for an early building. Major repairs have been made to the foundation, particularly in the northeast corner where fieldstone has been replaced by concrete block. In addition, insulation has been added to the ceiling of the basement, underneath the floorboards of the first floor.

Garage/Woodworking Shop

To the north of the house is a garage and woodworking shop built by the Gilberts in 2000, replacing a small garage (Photo 6). The end-gable, one-and-a-half story building has the appearance of a carriage house or barn, with small fixed-sash, multi-pane windows and a bay door in the gable end facing Frances Hill Road. The building is covered in wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof, with a hip roof cupola centered on the building.

Archaeological Description

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Jonathan Keyes House property. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological testing, may locate structural evidence and/or construction features for the different construction phases of the Jonathan Keyes House. Similar research might also locate structural evidence of additional domestic- and agricultural-related outbuildings that may survive on the 1.45-acre property. The 1933 images provided show several outbuildings adjacent to the house, and the historic records indicate that the larger Keyes property included numerous outbuildings and other structures associated with the family's orchards, agriculture, and animal husbandry. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) in the vicinity of the house.

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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.

Returned

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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance
ca. 1751-1969

Significant Dates

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Returned

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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 Jonathan Keyes Sr. House meets National Register Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Under Criterion A, the property is significant for its association with the Keyes family, prominent in Westford civic and community life and owners of the Keyes House for nearly 150 years. Constructed ca.1751 by Jonathan Keyes Sr., the house served as the Keyes family homestead until the end of the nineteenth century. Under Criterion C, the Keyes House is significant in Westford as a well-preserved example of a mid-eighteenth century Colonial farmhouse that was updated in the Federal period. The period of significance begins with the ca.1751 construction date of the house and ends in 1969, which is 50 years from the present. The standard 50-year cutoff for significance was established by the National Park Service as an adequate period of time for objective historical perspective.

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

Architecture

Until recently, it was believed that the Keyes House was built during the First Period (roughly 1620-1720) of American architecture. It had been theorized that Solomon Keyes built the house in 1664 when he settled in the area. Recent tree-ring dating—dendrochronology—has, however, shown that the earliest timbers in the house date to the mid-18th century. Tree ring dating is based on the fact that seasonal variations in climate are reflected in varying widths of each annual growth ring of a tree. It compares the tree ring count of timber samples taken from a historic house to previously dated ring sequences for the type of wood and region where the timber was believed to have been felled. In June of 2016, William Flynt of Historic Deerfield took samples of timbers believed to be from different phases of construction of the Keyes House. Nine pitch pine samples were found to be good enough to compare to known tree ring chronologies; two oak samples from the rear of the house were also taken, but they proved to be too short to date conclusively.

Six of the pitch pine samples came from the main body of the house, which is the first phase of construction. The tree ring patterns among all of the samples matched strongly with known patterns for the year 1750. Trees were usually felled in the winter and used in construction the following spring or summer, making it likely that the house was raised in 1751. The three pitch pine samples taken from the rear of the house, where the original leanto was raised from one to two stories, were difficult to date. Flynt concluded, however, that the enlargement “provisionally occurred no earlier than the fall/winter of 1815/1816.”¹

¹ Flynt, William A. “A Dendrochronology Study of Select Framing Timbers from the Keyes House, Westford, MA. August 2016. p. 5.

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The mid-18th century, or Second Period, date of the main body of the house is further supported by the frame. One of the hallmarks of First Period architecture is the decorated frame—typically posts and beams with chamfered or beaded edges. Such decoration was carved into the wood because the frame was intended to be seen. While the Keyes House has a timber frame, its framing members are cased or covered with plaster, which was the fashion in the Second/Georgian period. While most of the posts and beams in the Keyes House are covered, as would be expected, a few that were uncovered within the past 25 years, such as the summer beam in the parlor, show no signs of decoration, indicating that they were always cased. Cased framing members, often with a quirked bead, had supplanted exposed, decorated framing by about 1725, and were coupled with plastered ceilings and plastered or paneled walls.

The Jonathan Keyes Sr. House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a rural, mid-18th century dwelling that reached its present appearance in the early 19th century, when it was updated in the fashionable Federal style. It originally took the form of a saltbox, a common house type in Massachusetts through the eighteenth century. In the early 19th century, as confirmed by dendrochronology, the rear slope of the roof was raised to bring the house to a full 2½ stories. The house is also a good example of the hall-and-parlor, center chimney plan, and it is also distinguished by its three-bay façade, which is much less common than the typical five-bay, center entry façade. There is only one other pre-1800 building with a three-bay façade that has been documented in Westford; all of the other pre-1800 buildings of a similar size (two-story, double-pile) have five-bay facades. The 1730 Alvan Fisher House at 3 Depot Street (WSR.60) has a three-bay façade and a cut granite foundation. A similar large dwelling with a three-bay façade is the ca. 1740 Barrett-Byam House at 40 Byam Road in Chelmsford (CLM.72). Like the Keyes House, the Byam House is believed to have been a saltbox that was raised to a full 2½ stories.

Social History

Established as a precinct of neighboring Chelmsford in 1724, Westford was incorporated as a separate town in 1729. Some scattered settlement had occurred in the seventeenth century, but the community's population steadily increased throughout the eighteenth century after incorporation. Agriculture, and particularly orchards, served as the primary economic base of Westford, while numerous streams provided water power for lumber and textile mills. Granite quarrying and maritime supplies were also popular economic pursuits around the turn of the nineteenth century. By the middle of the nineteenth century, mills at Graniteville and Forge Village developed into larger enterprises, increasing Westford's population and adding more foreign-born residents to the community. At the edge of Boston's suburban expansion, Westford saw increased residential development in the last half of the twentieth century, particularly as it is located along Interstate 495, which opened in 1957.

Solomon Keyes

The land on Frances Hill, where the Keyes House stands, was in the Keyes family's ownership from the mid-to-late seventeenth century almost to the end of the nineteenth century. Since many

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town histories indicate that Solomon Keyes settled in the area of the present Keyes House, it is reasonable to assume that he was the first owner of the land and that he built a house nearby.

Town histories often name Solomon Keyes (1628-1702) as either the first settler in Westford or one of the earliest settlers in town. Solomon married Frances Grant (d. 1708) in Newbury, Massachusetts, on October 2, 1653, and shortly afterwards the couple moved to Chelmsford. A Keyes family history notes that "Solomon was town clerk and tything man in Chelmsford, and seems to have been a man of influence in those early days."² Hodgman's *History of Westford* gives Solomon Keyes' date of settlement on Frances Hill as 1664, but notes that "there is reason to suppose that he was here at a time still earlier than the date of his allotment," although no evidence is given for this supposition.³

Solomon and Frances Keyes had eleven children; the first few were born in Newbury and the later ones in Chelmsford: Hannah (September 4, 1654 – ?); Sarah (August 24, 1656 – ?); Mary (September 26, 1658 – ?); Jane (October 5, 1660 – ?); Judith (September 16, 1662 – ?); Solomon (June 24, 1665 – ?); Joseph (May 24, 1667 – June 9, 1757); Ruth (April 1669 – ?); Moses (March 21, 1671 – ?); John (August 14, 1674 – ?); and Stephen (1678 – ?).⁴

In 1701, shortly before his death, Solomon Keyes sold "several parcels of upland meadow and meadow land" to his son Joseph, including twenty acres lying at a place commonly called by the name of Frances Hill.⁵ The deed to Joseph does not mention buildings, but does include land to the northwest called "Long Sought For," which would become another area of Keyes family settlement.⁶ In his will, dated December 16, 1701, Solomon leaves to his wife his house, household goods, and several animals, stipulating that she and the animals are to be cared for until her death.⁷ His will notes that son Joseph had already been given his inheritance, the land on Frances Hill that Solomon sold him in 1701.

Joseph Keyes

While his siblings and their families moved elsewhere, Joseph Keyes (May 24, 1667 – June 9, 1757) stayed in Westford. He served on the Board of Selectmen in Chelmsford, and when the new town of Westford was created in 1729, he was part of the first Board of Selectmen. He is also often identified in early town records as "Ensign," although it is unclear where or when he served in the military. Joseph Keyes was on the first tax list of Westford after the town's incorporation in 1729.⁸

² Keyes 59.

³ Hodgman 8.

⁴ Biographical information on the Keyes family comes from Keyes' *Genealogy* and Chelmsford and Westford's (after 1729) vital records.

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 3, Page 328. This deed was not recorded until 1763.

⁶ While the deed was signed in 1701, it was not recorded until 1763, when the family recorded several other deeds, perhaps in an attempt to clear title to the land.

⁷ Solomon Keyes will, Middlesex County Probate #13203

⁸ Hodgman 27. Only names are given in Hodgman's book, no descriptions of property.

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On May 28, 1690, Joseph Keyes married Joanna Cleveland (? – March 18, 1758) in Chelmsford. The couple had four children: Miriam (March 29, 1691 – ?); Lydia (1693 – ?); Joanna (1695 – ?); and Joseph Jr. (1698 – July 11, 1744).

Having been granted the land on Frances Hill by his father in 1701, Joseph Keyes appears to have been living in the area shortly thereafter. A description of a road to be laid out in 1707 specifies that it will go “over Frances hill by Joseph Keyes.” The name Joseph Keyes appears on a 1730 map of Westford in the vicinity of the present Jonathan Keyes Sr. House, at the intersection of what are now Hunt and Frances Hill roads (Map #1).

Like his father, before his death, Joseph Keyes Sr. intended to sell most of his land to his son Joseph Keyes Jr. In a 1727/1728 deed between the two, for the sum of £100, Joseph Sr. granted to Joseph Jr. “all my lands lying on Frances Hill in said Chelmsford...where I formerly dwelt with all the fencing buildings and orcharding that is thereon.”⁹ Joseph, Sr. reserved half of the orchard for himself for ten years, and also granted himself and his wife a life estate “if I stand in need to mine and my wifes support whilest we live [*sic*].” The orchards mentioned in the deed are notable as there are still several apple trees on the present Jonathan Keyes Sr. House property. The deed granted Joseph Jr. half of the land after his father’s death, and the other half after his mother’s death. However, Joseph Jr. died in 1744 (see below), before his father. Joseph Sr.’s June 29, 1745 will left to his wife all of his household goods, and money to his daughters, but makes no mention of any of his real property.

Joseph Keyes Jr

Documents and maps suggest that after Joseph Keyes Jr. (1698 – July 11, 1744) came to maturity, he moved to his father’s land at Long Sought For, in the north of Westford. He is marked there on a 1730 map of town (Map #2). Joseph Jr. married Elizabeth Fletcher (June 10, 1698 – September 3, 1775) on February 28, 1719, and the couple had five children: Elizabeth (April 3, 1720 – ?), Jonathan (January 21, 1721 – June 20, 1781), Sarah (1723 – ?), Lydia (1724 – ?), and David (vital dates unknown). In December of 1742 Joseph Keyes Jr. sold his lands on Francis Hill to his son, Jonathan Keyes.¹⁰

Jonathan Keyes Sr.

Jonathan Keyes Sr. (January 21, 1721 – June 20, 1781) received fifty acres of his father’s lands on Francis Hill in the 1740s. Given that the present house dates to ca.1751, it is reasonable to attribute the building of it to him.

Jonathan Keyes married Elizabeth Fletcher (March 19, 1720 – July 23, 1761) in Westford on January 20, 1746. As noted in the Keyes family genealogy, the large Keyes and Fletcher families often intermarried. The couple had seven children: Joseph (November 26, 1746 – February 22, 1823); Joanna (February 14, 1748 – June 17, 1753); Aaron (August 27, 1751 – August 1, 1753); Stephen (November 14, 1754 – August 3, 1758); Joanna (February 20, 1757 – ?); Elizabeth

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 1, Page 383. The deed reads that it was signed January 5, 1728, but was recorded January 11, 1727.

¹⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Westford Book 2, Page 376.

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(April 8, 1759 – ?); and Hannah (May 7, 1761 – ?). Only Joseph and the three youngest daughters survived to adulthood.

After the death of his first wife Elizabeth in 1761, Jonathan Keyes married the widow Elizabeth (Hartwell) Reed (sometimes Read), also known as Betty, of Littleton on July 1, 1762. She brought six children to their marriage, and they had seven children together: Jonathan, Junior (March 30, 1763 – May 25, 1828); twins Lucy (November 15, 1765 – ?) and Lydia (November 15, 1765 – January 8, 1838); Miriam (March 13, 1767 – ?); Patty (January 15, 1769 – December 9, 1786); Francis Grant (August 31, 1771 – ?); and Aaron (May 29, 1774 – September 7, 1775).

Jonathan Keyes died in 1781, leaving a lengthy and confusing will, which he had signed in 1777. The will makes clear that by the time of his death, he had moved north to Long Sought For. His will was disallowed in court because it was so confusing and would have been difficult to administer. His executors were directed by the court to administer his property, and they gave his lands at Long Sought For to his eldest son Joseph, and to his son Jonathan, all of his land at Frances Hill.

Jonathan Keyes Jr.

Jonathan Keyes Jr. (March 30, 1763 – May 25, 1828) was Jonathan Sr.'s son by his second wife, Elizabeth Hartwell Reed Keyes. Jonathan Jr. married Patty Woodward (August 7, 1766 – September 4, 1841) in Westford on November 25, 1787. The couple had fourteen children, several of which survived to adulthood and would be involved in the Keyes House's history. Their children were: Martha (August 16, 1787 – February 3, 1839); Jonathan (October 25, 1789 – May 4, 1845); Aaron (April 14, 1791 – November 28, 1842); Lydia (November 7, 1792 – October 12, 1874); Betsey (May 22, 1794 – ?); Joseph (March 7, 1796 – January 26, 1836); Charlotte (October 11, 1797 – October 11, 1842); Nancy (November 28, 1799 – ?); Benjamin (March 7, 1801 – April 8, 1858); Sally (July 19, 1803 – June 18, 1843); Trueworthy (July 28, 1805 – May 23, 1871); Stephen Adams (August 3, 1807 – November 24, 1842); Wright Sumner (March 5, 1809 – ?); and Laurinda (January 11, 1811 – October 13, 1839). Later wills suggest that many of the Jonathan Keyes Jr., children lived with their parents into adulthood.

Upon his death in 1828, Jonathan Jr. was a wealthy man who died intestate, leaving a large estate. His lands were appraised on November 18 of that year. He owned twenty-two lots of various sizes in addition to two pews in the meeting house, all valued at a total of \$6,534. The largest piece of property was his "homestead farm, containing about 72 acres, with the dwelling house, barns, sheds" and other miscellaneous features not listed. The homestead lot alone was valued at \$2200. His personal estate was auctioned off on October 16, 1828, and a full inventory of property and price is recorded in his probate records. The long inventory is a sign not only of Jonathan Jr.'s wealth, but also of the accumulation of family pieces that were in the Keyes House.

Although the items are not clearly delineated by room, several rooms are mentioned: east room, west room, east chamber, northeast chamber, west chamber, garret, kitchen, and house cellar. The presence of the northeast chamber and garret indicate that the house had been raised from a

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saltbox to its current height by 1828. Thus, it seems likely that Jonathan Keyes Jr. raised the leanto at the rear of the house to a full two stories between 1815, the earliest date supported by dendrochronology, and 1828, when he died. Around the same time, the house was likely updated in the Federal style. The projecting front porch, in its original hip-roof configuration (fig.3), may have been among the alterations. Projecting porches were common additions to houses with center chimneys because they allowed for a more spacious entry hall.

Jonathan Jr.'s wife Patty received the west part of the house as her dower right; she lived there until her death in 1841. It is possible that the oven beside the hall firebox dates to her use of the west side of the house. It is unclear who was living in the east half of the house, but at least three of Jonathan Jr. and Patty's children were unmarried and were involved in later transfers of the house. Patty left most of her property to her son Stephen Adams Keyes, who died a year later in 1842 of typhus. In his will, he left the property to his sister Sally Keyes, who was unmarried and possibly already living in the house. Their other sister, Lydia, was living in the west chamber, as Stephen specifically leaves the use of it to her. He also included a potential chain of title in the event of Sally's death (sic):

At the decease of the aforementioned Sally Keyes, all the above mentioned real estate is to fall into the hands of Trueworthy Keyes (if said Keyes should be living at her decease) during his life & after his decease the above named real estate is to fall into the hands of Benjamin F. Keyes (if living at T. Keyes decease) during his life. At his decease (B. F. K.) it is to fall into the hands of Aaron Keyes during his life. At his (A. K.) decease it is to fall into the hands of W. S. Keyes during his life.

Sally Keyes died of consumption the year after her brother, in 1843. In her original will, she left the property to Benjamin F. Keyes, "so long as he shall live upon the said Stephen A. Keyes' farm." It is unclear if Benjamin was already living in the Keyes House, or if Sally was encouraging him to return to the family property. However in a codicil to her will, added after her brother Stephen's death in 1842, Sally leaves all of her real and personal property to her brothers Benjamin and Trueworthy. Benjamin was likely living elsewhere, as Trueworthy took over the property upon his sister's death in 1843 (Map #3).¹¹

During the 1840s, a number of land partitions and transfers of property between Jonathan Keyes Jr.'s children were recorded. However because of the number of heirs (not only did he have a lot of children, but several of his children died before the land was partitioned, leaving their children as heirs), the deeds often record the transfer of multiple parcels of small acreage. For example, in one 1849 deed Benjamin F. Keyes sold thirteen parcels of land to his brother Trueworthy.¹² The metes and bounds in the deeds are brief but indicate they were both in the northern part of Westford near Long Sought For and near Frances Hill. It appears that Trueworthy reassembled most of the parcels that had been partitioned to various heirs in the middle of the nineteenth century.

¹¹ Sally Keyes will, Middlesex County Probate #35781

¹² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Westford Book 18, Page 210

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Trueworthy Keyes

Little is known about Trueworthy Keyes (1805-1871), but Hodgman indicates that he operated “the old red store” at the center of town.¹³ Trueworthy married Sophia Strong (Blake) Keyes (April 20, 1801 – May 10, 1844) on April 9, 1837. Sophia was the widow of Trueworthy’s brother Joseph Keyes; Sophia and Joseph had married on June 15, 1820, and he died sixteen years later. Trueworthy and Sophia had a set of twins, Clementine and Josephine, born June 6, 1838. A number of town histories and other records (e.g., map 4) suggest that Sophia owned the Keyes House until the end of the nineteenth century; however these are incorrect, as she died of consumption in 1844.

The 1855 Massachusetts state census appears to record Trueworthy and his family in the Keyes House. (Although street addresses are not given, names on the same record sheet correspond to neighbors on an 1856 map of Middlesex County.) Trueworthy was living with his daughters Clementine and Josephine, his sister Lydia, Irish immigrants Elizabeth Flynn and William Butter, and Silas Carkin, born in Massachusetts. While occupation was typically recorded for the census, no occupation is given for any of the members of the household so the relationship between the Keyes family and the other three residents is unclear.

The federal agricultural census for 1860 records Trueworthy with a 150-acre farm valued at \$4500. He had four milk cows, two working oxen, seven other cattle, and seven sheep, a high number for Westford. The sheep produced 30 pounds of wool. The farm also produced other typical Westford products such as orchard goods, corn, potatoes, and hay. Trueworthy was among the few Westford farmers who kept bees, producing ten pounds of beeswax and 30 pounds of honey.

In 1865, Trueworthy was still in the house with his daughters and sister Lydia, this time listed as a farmer with ratable polls and a legal voter. They were joined by Bridget Gibson, 35, born in Newfoundland, and Albert Gibson, 9, presumably her son. The census record notes that Bridget Gibson could not read or write; her occupation is not given, but she likely worked as a cook or domestic worker for the family.

Trueworthy’s daughter Clementine married Charles Swett, a teacher living in Chelmsford, on August 28, 1866. The 1870 census reflects this change, as she is no longer living with her father and twin sister Josephine in the Keyes House. Trueworthy’s sister Lydia was still in the house. The family was joined by Clark C. and Alice Clapper and Hannah Lord. Trueworthy and Clapper were listed as farmers, while Lord was a domestic worker. The 1870 agricultural census lists Trueworthy on a smaller farm valued at \$4,000. He no longer kept sheep, instead keeping eight milk cows. The cows produced 3,000 gallons of milk that was sold. The farm also produced potatoes, orchard products, and forest products.

¹³ Hodgman 249. The store building was at 40 Main Street (WSR.2). The store that stands there today is a later building and likely not the one Trueworthy Keyes operated.

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Trueworthy Keyes died the following year, in 1871. He left all of his real and personal property to his two daughters.¹⁴ A brief mention in the *Lowell Daily Citizen and News* suggests that Trueworthy's daughters sold off many of the family possessions: "Mr. Patch spent a large part of yesterday afternoon in making sale of the personal estate of the late Trueworthy Keyes, of Westford, embracing a very large, unique and curious collection, enough to stock a respectable antiquarian society's museum."¹⁵ Trueworthy's sister Lydia died in 1874; it is unknown if she continued to live in the house after her brother's death, although her place of death is recorded as Westford. The 1880 census finds Josephine Keyes living with the Swetts in Winchester, Massachusetts. It is unknown who was living in the house in Westford when the 1880 census was taken; the Keyes sisters are not listed in the agricultural census, so it may have been a relative or a renter.

Mary Barlow Courtney Family

Josephine Keyes requested a partition of land in the 1890s, and the Keyes family farm was sold out of the family after almost 150 years. In 1898 Mary (Barlow) Courtney purchased the 11.5-acre property, as shown on a plan from that same year.¹⁶ She had married Alexander Courtney on June 22, 1890 in Lowell; they were Canadian immigrants working as wool spinners. The record of their marriage in Westford suggests they were already living in town at the time of their marriage. The 1900 census recorded the pair in Westford, with no address given. Courtney was a wool carder, while Mary was at home with their two sons, George, 5, and Alexander, 2. By 1910 the family had grown to include two daughters, Eva M., 6, and Alice, 3, and a third son, Samuel, 1. Alexander Courtney was still working in a woolen mill, and his son George had joined him, working as a carder.

Alexander Courtney died March 7, 1913, of carcinoma of the liver. Mary remarried on December 21 of that year. Her new husband was widower Peter Gosselin, who was a loom fixer living in North Chelmsford. The 1920 census lists the Gosselin family on Keyes Road in Westford; although no number is given, neighboring streets suggest the Gosselins were living in the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House. The family included Peter (listed as Frederick), Mary, two daughters named Eva, both 15 (one from each parent's first marriage), and Mary's other children Alice, 13, and Samuel, 12. By this time Gosselin had left the mills and was listed as a farm laborer. His wife and the two Evas were all working in mills; Mary as a spinner and the daughters as doffers.

A mortgage deed from 1925 suggests that the Gosselins either divorced, or that Peter Gosselin died.¹⁷ The deed between Mary Gosselin and William Arpin references a probate record from 1924 and states that the conveyance is made as if she were unmarried. In 1929 Mary (Barlow Courtney) Gosselin sold the property to her son Alexander J. Courtney and his wife Lillian M.¹⁸ The 1930 census finds the Courtney family living on Frances Hill Road: Alexander J., 31; Lillian

¹⁴ Trueworthy Keyes will, Middlesex County Probate #6202

¹⁵ "City and Vicinity," *Lowell Daily Citizen and News*. 28 July 1871.

¹⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 298, Page 87

¹⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 717, Page 550

¹⁸ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 775, Page 343

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M., 30; sons Francis J., 7, and Arthur J., almost 5; and daughter Lucielle, 3. No occupation was listed for Courtney or his wife. Courtney was listed in a 1937 Westford directory on Frances Hill Road, with symbols denoting that he owned property and a car. The family was still in the Keyes House when the 1940 census was taken, and they had added son Raymond, 9, and daughter Mildred, 6.

Historic images show the house during the Courtneys' ownership (Figures 3 and 4). Two images taken September 29, 1933, show the house unpainted with a standing seam metal roof and some 2/2 window sash that would have been added after 1850 when the advent of cylinder glass made the large window panes possible. Several sheds are visible to the north of the house, and a leanto structure is visible on the rear of the house at the northwest corner. The Federal period configuration of the main entry porch is also visible, with a hipped roof.

In 1941, the Courtneys sold the house to Mary Gosselin Bastien.¹⁹ This is likely Mary Barlow, although no information about her marriage to anyone named Bastien has been found. She immediately sold the property to her other son, Samuel.²⁰ He is listed in a 1942 directory as a farmer on Frances Hill Road.²¹

In 1944, Samuel J. Courtney sold the Keyes House and surrounding property to Audrey W. Hildreth.²² The house passed through several owners in the 1940s and into the 1950s. Arthur Coffin Jr. and Teresa F. Coffin purchased the property in 1952, with the same metes and bounds as when Mary Courtney purchased it in 1898. The Coffins owned the property for twenty years, selling it in 1972 to Karl J. Sladek III and Elizabeth A. Sladek. The Sladeks subdivided the property before a sale in 1987, creating the current 1.47-acre lot on which the Keyes House stands. They also created a separate lot to the east, which is present-day 28 Hunt Road.

The Gilbert Family

In 1993 Philip and Abby Gilbert purchased the Keyes House from Martha H. Briscoe. At the time, the house was in poor condition. It had been vacant for several years, and the weather and animals had taken a toll on the building. The east side of the house had fallen off of the foundation, and was several inches lower than the west side. Animals and insects had chewed through a number of posts in the house. As noted in the previous narrative, the Gilberts did a significant amount of work to rehabilitate the house, with Philip Gilbert, a carpenter, doing much of the work himself.

Portions of the foundation and chimney stack on the north side of the house were rebuilt with concrete block to provide a more stable base for the building (Photo 8). Some of the plaster walls of the house were replaced to update the building's wiring and to add insulation. The post in the southeast corner was replaced, as it had rotted away. Many of the post casings were replaced, as

¹⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 257

²⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 258

²¹ In the directory, his wife is listed as Lilian M., but this is likely a mistake; a later deed gives his wife's name as Eva D. Courtney.

²² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds book 1016, Page 451

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they too had rotted or been eaten by animals. A door at the northeast corner of the house visible in historic photographs had already been removed by 1993, and a modern kitchen installed. However, Philip Gilbert stated that when he was doing work in that area, he found the framing for the door still in place. Some of the windows on the house were replaced, as they too had suffered from damage by animals. A modern bathroom was installed on the first floor, to add a second bathroom to the house. The Gilberts sold the house to the current owners in 2017.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized a prominent landowning family and farmstead that helped shape the agricultural and social evolution of this part of Westford. Although only a small portion of the original farm remains today with the Jonathan Keyes House, additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate 18th- and 19th-century outbuildings and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) that can better inform our understanding of the layout and character of a farmstead and its associated activities as they developed over the course of two centuries. Structural evidence of outbuildings and their locations may contribute information relating to both agricultural and domestic activities on the farm and how these changed through time. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important information relating to the above activities, as well as any potential cottage industries that may have also been present on site. Information from occupational-related features can also contribute to our understanding of the lives of the different Keyes family members who occupied the farm and the extent to which their lives characterized life in the western part of Westford during the 18th through 20th centuries.

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Published Materials

"City and Vicinity," *Lowell Daily Citizen and News.* 28 July 1871.

Fletcher, Edward H. *Fletcher Genealogy: An Account of the Descendants of Robert Fletcher, of Concord, Mass.* Boston, MA: Alfred Mudge & Son, 1871.

Harde, Ellen and Marilyn Day. *The New Old Houses of Westford.* Westford, MA: Westford Historical Society, 2011.

Hodgman, Rev. Edwin R., A. M. *History of the Town of Westford, in the County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, 1659-1883.* Lowell, MA: Morning Mail Company, Printers, 1883.

Keyes, Asa. *Genealogy Robert Keyes of Watertown, Mass., 1633. Solomon Keyes of Newbury and Chelmsford, Mass., 1653. And Their Descendants: Also, Others of the Name.* Brattleboro, VT: Geo. E. Selleck, Printer, 1880.

Waters, Rev. Wilson, M. A., B. D. *History of the Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts.* Lowell, MA: Courier-Citizen Company, 1917.

Unpublished Materials

Chelmsford vital records

Flynt, William A. "A Dendrochronology Study of Select Framing Timbers from the Keyes House, Westford, Massachusetts," *Historic Deerfield, Inc.* August, 2016.

Harriette Merrifield Forbes Collection, American Antiquarian Society

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

- Massachusetts State Census of Population for 1855 and 1865
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 294, Page 96
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 298, Page 87
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 717, Page 550
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 761, Page 520
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 775, Page 343
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 257
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 964, Page 258
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1016, Page 451
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1057, Page 95
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1078, Page 149
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1121, Page 136
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 1198, Page 454
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 2015, Page 49
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 4082, Page 213
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Book 6648, Page 155
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 30, Page 66
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 159, Page 16
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 1, Page 383
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 2, Page 376
- Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds, Westford Book 3, Page 327

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

Middlesex County Probate Records #13203 (Solomon Keyes); #13196 (Joseph Keyes);
#13192 (Jonathan Keyes); #13195 (Jonathan Keyes); #35786 (Stephen Keyes);
#35781 (Sally Keyes); #6202 (Trueworthy Keyes)

Schuler, Gretchen and Anne M. Forbes, editors, with Betsy Friedberg. "First Period
Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts Thematic Resource Nomination," National
Register of Historic Places Nomination. Listed March 9, 1990.

US Federal Census of Agriculture for 1860, 1870, and 1880

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

Westford vital records

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: J. V. Fletcher Library, Westford, MA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WSR.123

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.450 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: 42.602995 Longitude: -71.404551
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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

The boundaries of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House property follow the lot lines of Westford assessor's parcel 038-0039-00001 and the metes and bounds given in a deed from Martha H. Briscoe to Philip K. Gilbert and Abby W. Gilbert, in 1993 (Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 6648, Page 155). The property boundaries are also given in Plan Book 159, Plan 16, from 1987.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property represent the current legal boundary of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House.

Resource Count

Name	Date	Type	Status
Jonathan Keyes Sr. House	Ca. 1751/1810s	B	C
Garage/workshop	2000	B	NC

B = building

C = contributing

NC = non-contributing

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jennifer B. Doherty, preservation 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 besty.friedberg@state.ma.us

telephone (617) 727 8570

date: March 2019

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.)

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: Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House

City or Vicinity: Westford, MA

County: Middlesex State: MA

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

Photographer: Jennifer B. Doherty

Date Photographed: June and September, 2015

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

Photo #1 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0001)
South (façade) elevation, facing north

Photo #2 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0002)
South (façade) and west (side) elevations, facing northeast

Photo #3 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0003)
West elevation, facing east

Photo #4 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0004)
North (rear) and west (side) elevations, facing southeast

Photo #5 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0005)
North (rear) and east (side) elevations, facing south

Photo #6 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0006)
West (façade) and south elevation of the workshop

Photo #7 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0007)
Basement, chimney stack to the left facing south

Photo #8 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0008)
Basement, chimney stack to the right, facing east

Photo #9 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0009)
Main stairs, facing northwest

Photo #10 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0010)
Parlor, facing south

Photo #11 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0011)
Parlor, facing west

Photo #12 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0012)
Hall, facing east

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

Photo #13 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0013)
Hall, facing south

Photo #14 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0014)
Kitchen, facing southeast

Photo #15 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0015)
Kitchen, facing east

Photo #16 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0016)
Parlor chamber, facing west

Photo #17 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0017)
Hall chamber, facing southeast

Photo #18 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0018)
Hall chamber, facing east

Photo #19 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0019)
Former leanto area, facing west

Photo #20 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0020)
Former leanto area, facing south

Photo #21 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0021)
Attic, facing east

Photo #22 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0022)
Attic, facing southeast

Photo #23 (MA_Middlesex County_Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House_0023)
Attic, facing southeast

Returned

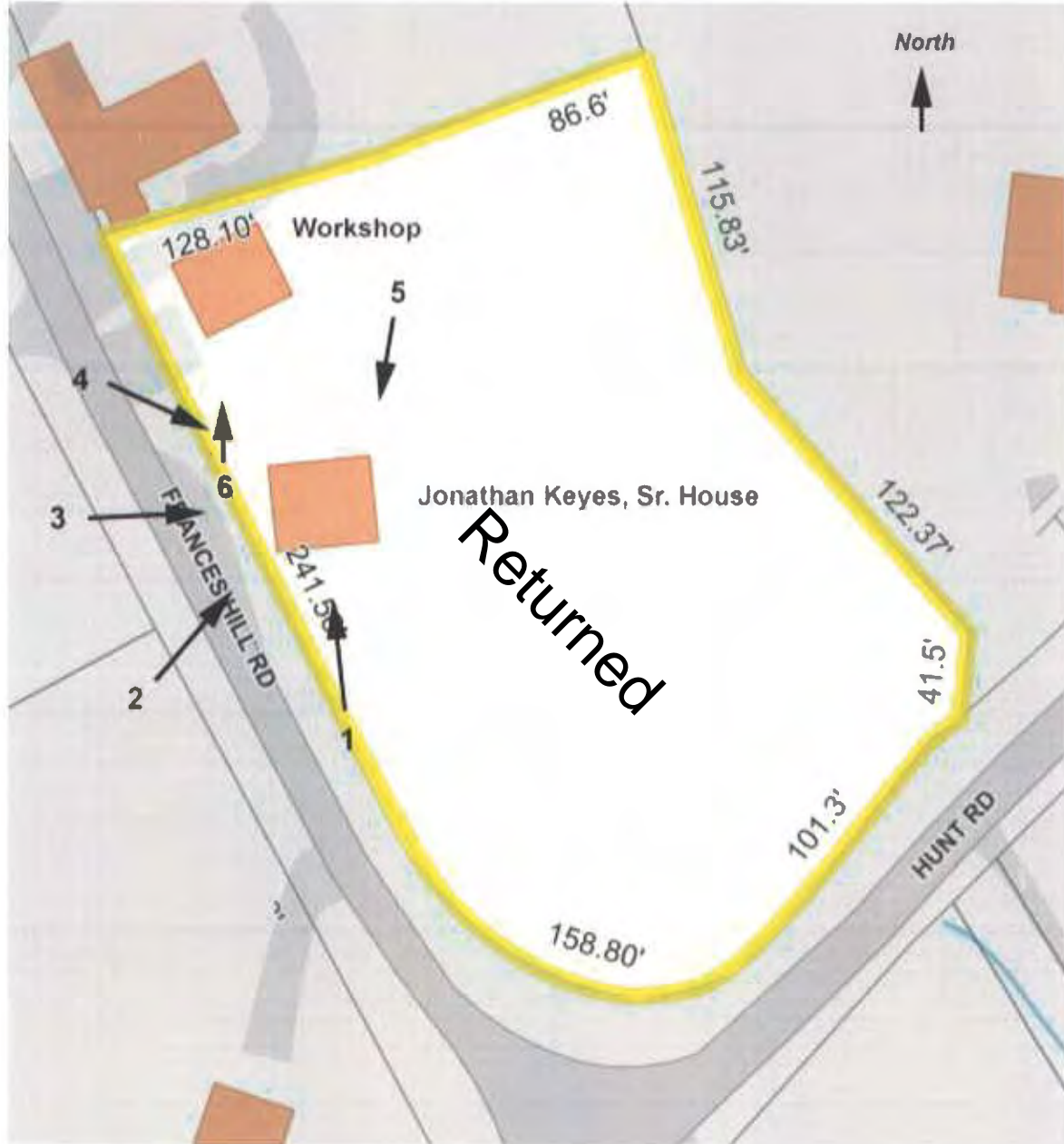
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

Sketch Map & Exterior Photo Key



Source: Adapted from Westford Mass. GIS Viewer

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

Figures and Interior Photo Keys

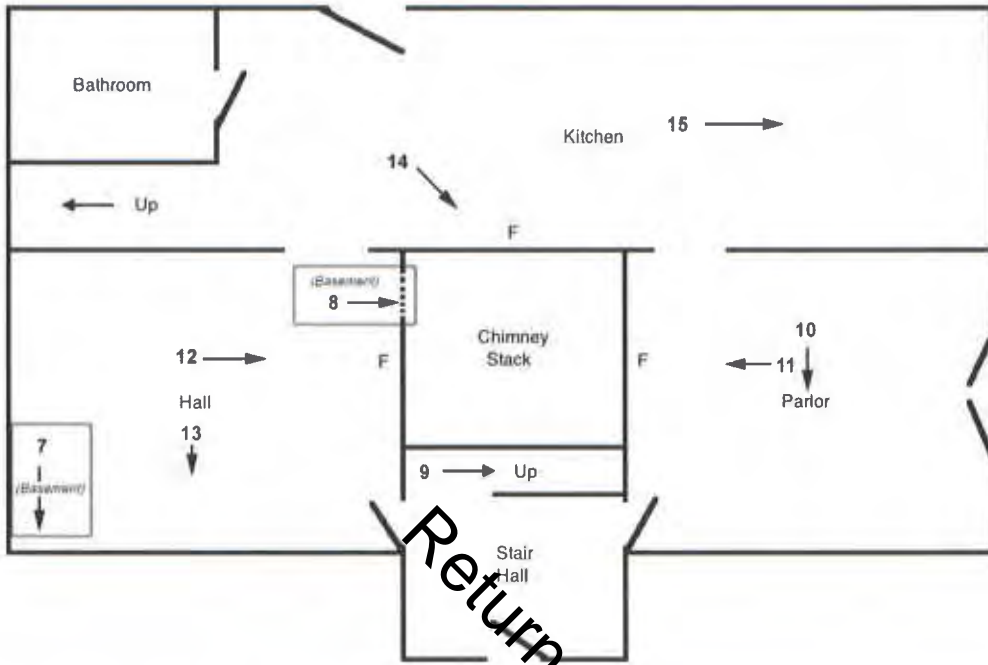


Figure 1 – The first floor of the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House with photo key. Not to scale.

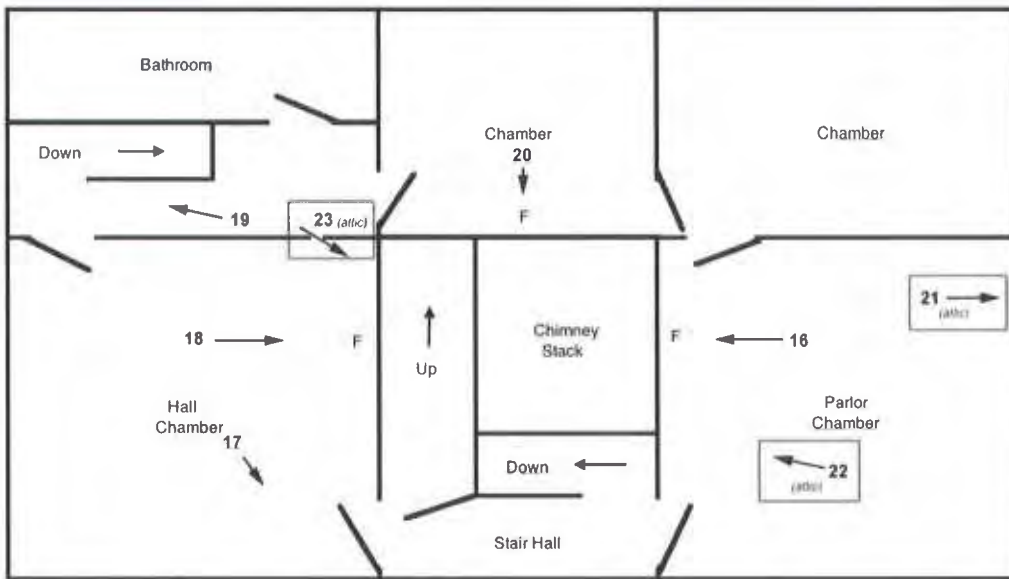


Figure 2 – The second floor of the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House with photo key. Not to scale.

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State



Figure 3 (above) and 4 (below) – These photographs of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House by Harriette Merrifield Forbes were taken in 1933. From the collection of the American Antiquarian Society.



Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

Historic Maps



Maps #1 and #2 – A 1730 map of Westford shows Joseph Keyes marked at the location of the Jonathan Keyes Sr. House (above) near the border with Chelmsford, while his son Joseph Keyes, Jr., is marked in the northern part of town, near Long Sought For (below).



Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House
Name of Property

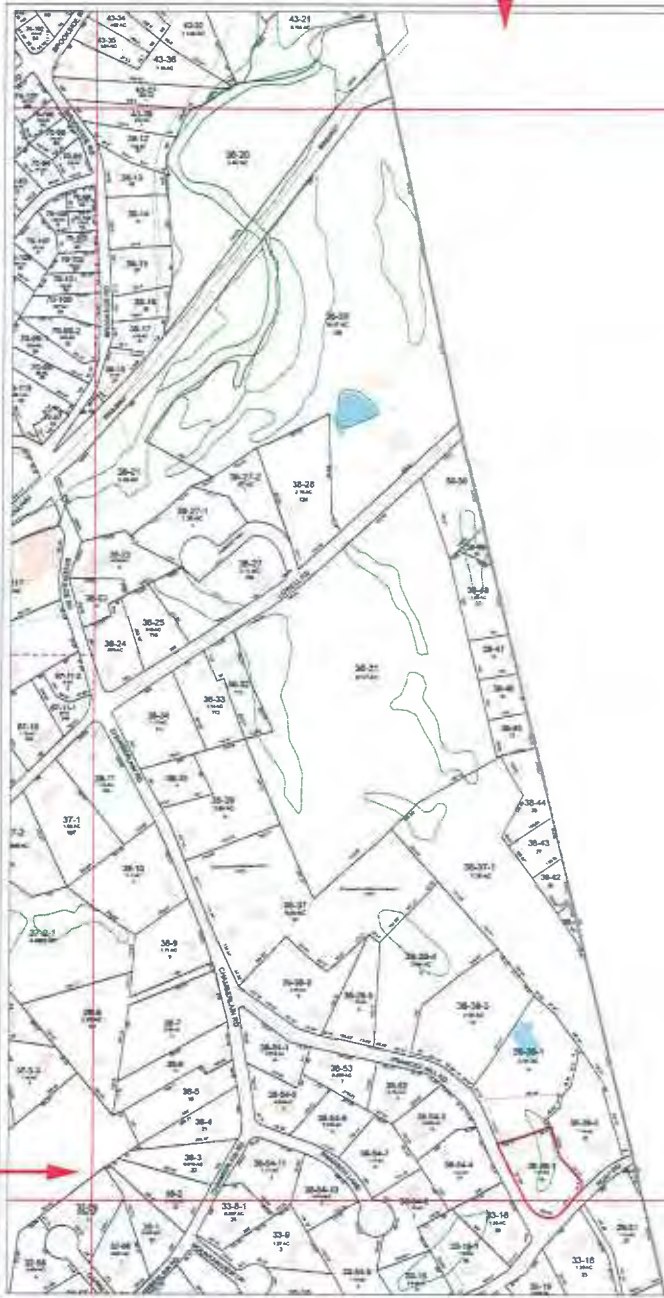
Middlesex, MA
County and State



Map #3 – This 1856 map erroneously marks “S. Keyes,” Trueworthy Keyes, at the intersection of Chamberlain Road and Francis Hill Road, north of the property’s actual location.



Map #4 – This 1875 map erroneously marks “S. Keyes,” likely Trueworthy Keyes’ wife Sophia, who had died in 1844, as the owner of the Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House.



Returned

Town of Westford
Massachusetts



Assessors
Tax Map

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED - DISCLAIMER

Westford hereby certifies the following information: All data information, including System information is GIS Data. The Town of Westford has made every effort to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of the information furnished on this map.

It is expressly understood and agreed that a reviewing firm, independent of the Town of Westford, is not responsible for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in the information provided on this map. The Town of Westford, its officials, agents, contractors, and employees are not liable for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in the information provided on this map.

Legend

- Parcel
- Former Parcel
- Easement
- Road Edge
- Wetlands DEP 2006
- Railroad
- Water Body
- Building
- Out Building



200 100 0 200
1" = 200'

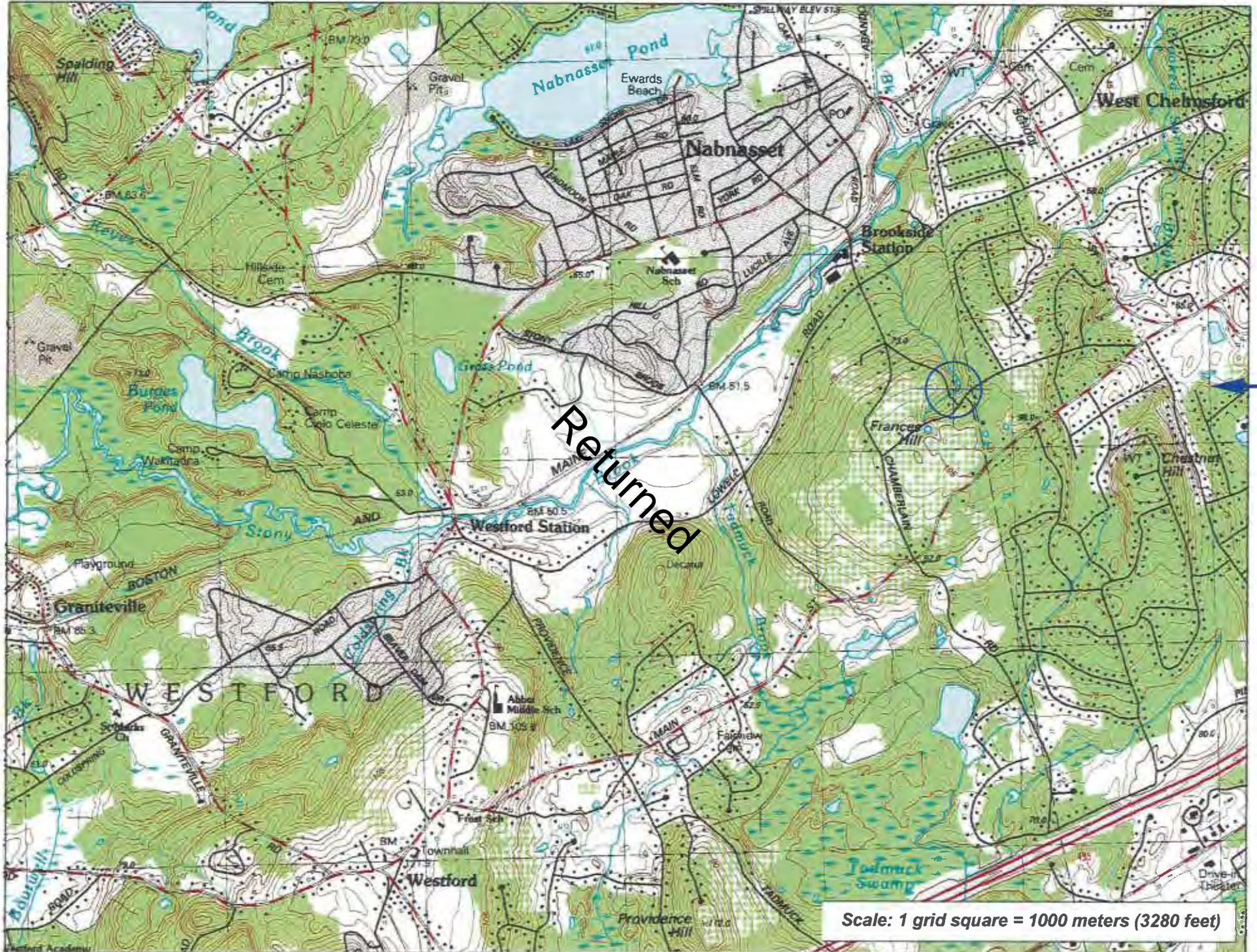
This System is not a warranty of any kind. It is provided for informational purposes only. The Town of Westford is not responsible for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in the information provided on this map.



Tax Map

38

9/23/2013



Scale: 1 grid square = 1000 meters (3280 feet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Keyes, Jonathon, Sr. House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

Date Received: 5/1/2019 Date of Pending List: 5/16/2019 Date of 16th Day: 5/31/2019 Date of 45th Day: 6/17/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004051

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: _____

Accept Return Reject 6/17/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Significance for Social History not adequately justified

Recommendation/ Criteria _____

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 6/17/19

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Comments
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Jonathan Keyes, Sr., House
Property Location: 16 Frances Hill Road, Westford, Middlesex Co., MA
Reference Number: SG - 4051
Date of Return: 7/24/2019

Nomination Summary

The Jonathan Keyes, Sr., House nomination is being returned for substantive and technical issues. The nomination claims local level significance under Criteria A and C, with the areas of significance of social history and architecture. The period of significance is c. 1751-1969.

Issues

The nomination does make the case for architectural significance, under Criterion C, for the c. 1751-c. 1816 Colonial/Federal-style, two-and-a-half-story, timber-frame house. However, under Criterion A, the case has not been made for significance under social history and should be dropped. The information presented is basically a genealogy of the Keyes family and does not demonstrate their efforts in promoting the welfare of society or their contributions to the life ways of an important social group. The Keyes genealogy and information on the ownership of this property can be moved to the end of Section 8, under a separate heading, "Additional History."

Technical

In Section 3, please indicate the opinion of the SHPO.

In Section 8, page 11, please drop "social history" and modify the period of significance to cover the date of construction to the enlargement of the house.

If you have any questions about these comments, please feel free to call me at 202-354-2239 or email me at Lisa_Deline@nps.gov.

Lisa Deline, Historian
National Register of Historic Places



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

November 8, 2019

Kathryn Smith
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, 16 Frances Hill Road, Westford (Middlesex County), MA

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form, reference number SG – 4051, which the MHC is resubmitting:

Jonathan Keyes, Sr. House, Westford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

MHC staff have worked with the preservation consultant who prepared the original nomination on behalf of the property owner, and we have addressed the comments in the review memo referenced above. The substantive issues for which the nomination was returned on July 24, 2019, have been resolved in the enclosed revision.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Simon W. Andrews and Anne H. Mason, 16 Frances Hill Road, Westford
Jennifer Doherty, Consultant
Mark D. Kost, Chair, Westford Board of Selectmen
Kate Hollister, Chair, Westford Planning Board
David G. Gutbrod, Chair, Westford Historical Commission