

NOV 20 1985

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	35

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Town Sherborn

Address 46 Forest Street

Historic Name Morse-Barber House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence/meetinghouse

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1674

Source V/A

Style First Period/Georgian with Greek Revival decorative elements.

Architect N/A

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Barn, ca. 1847

Major alterations (with dates) Enlarged in 1814, remodelled ca. 1835.

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage 4.33 acres

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 1985

Setting The Morse-Barber House is situated close to the road, across from site of Holbrook cider mill, near railroad tracks.

UTM reference: A-19 305500 4676850
B-19 305590 4676720
C-19 305500 4676640
D-19 305420 4676760
scale 1:25,000 Medfield Quadrangle

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Morse-Barber House has at its core an early structure, possibly ca. 1674, that has been enlarged over time. The building's main block, 2 1/2 stories in height and two rooms deep, features a symmetrical five-bay facade. Inspection of the interior framing suggests that the original dwelling may have been two stories in height and one room deep, and perhaps three bays in width, located in what is now the western end of the present structure.

(Cont'd)

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

The Morse-Barber House may have the strongest claim to being the oldest structure in Sherborn--visual analysis has suggested that within its early 19th century exterior is incorporated an earlier building, which may date to the 1670s.

The house also holds significant historical associations with the Wood and Morse families, two of Sherborn's first grantees. The land on which the original structure was erected belonged to Nicholas Wood, who received a land grant on the west side of the Charles River from the General Court in 1652. In 1671 his daughter, Mahitable, married Joseph Morse, and they built a house (possibly the core of the nominated structure) on part of her father's farm, "twenty-two rods south of his house." Like most of Sherborn's earlier settlers, their house site, though relatively isolated, was located in south Sherborn in easy proximity to the Charles River.

The Morse home served as Sherborn's first meetinghouse for as many as 100 settlers until the first formal church was erected in the early 1680s.

By 1753 the Barber family owned the property and it remained in their possession until the late 19th century.

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

Research of Margaret Dowse Buntin.

Anne C. Shaughnessy, A Guide to Sherborn and The History of Sherborn, 1974.

Frances Bardwell, "Historical sketches, Sherborn Tercentenary 1652 - 1952".

Old Time New England, January 1939, Vol. 29 - "Some 17th Century Houses of Middlesex County" by Harriet Forbes.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

Sherborn

35

Property Name Morse-Barber House

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

The building received Greek Revival-style surface treatments ca. 1835, including the addition of a shallow-pedimented entablature with full-length sidelights framing the central doorway, plain corner boards, and a fully enframed gable pediment. No other exterior changes have been made since this time, and the house remains an example of Federal-period form and massing, with the added application of popular mid 19th century decorative elements. The house was enlarged ca. 1814, at which time the main block was enlarged to its present size and a single-story ell was appended to the rear, eastern side of the structure. Fenestration, 6/6 sash throughout, is simply enframed.

A frame barn, said to be the largest built in Sherborn, was erected close to the house ca. 1847. The tracks of the Framingham and Mansfield railroad, laid in 1869, pass near to this structure on the eastern edge of the property.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Morse-Barber House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building is one of several Sherborn properties that retain some elements of First Period structures. The potential for archaeological features that would contribute to the significance of the property is high, around both the house itself and remaining foundations of earlier structures. In its present form, the house is a well-preserved example of Federal and Greek Revival styling; thus the building represents evolving construction techniques and tastes in a peripheral rural community. As such, the Morse-Barber House fulfills Criteria C and D of the National Register of Historic Places, as well as Criterion A for its associations with Sherborn's early patterns of development.

MAP KEY

A: House

B: Barn

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 13

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Sherborn Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTSCover Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Assington

Substantive Review for KeeperPatrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

Determined Eligible

2. Buttonballs

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Substantive Review

Keeper

Eligible Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-863. Edwards Plain-Dowse's
Corner Historic
DistrictSubstantive Review for KeeperPatrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

4. Morse-Barber House

Substantive Review for KeeperPatrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

5. Sewall-Ware House

Substantive Review for KeeperPatrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-866. Sherborn Center Historic
DistrictSubstantive Review for KeeperPatrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

7. Stanox Farm

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Substantive Review for

Keeper

Eligible Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

8. Sudbury Waste Weir A

Substantive Review

Attest

9. Bullen-Stratton-
Cozzen HouseReferred to the
National Register

Keeper

William Byers 1/3/86

Attest

10. Clark-Northrup House

Referred to the
National Register

Keeper

William Byers 1/3/86

Attest

86000493

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Morse--Barber House (Sherborn MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

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

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

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Significant as a Federal period residence when it was greatly enlarged c. 1814. The house can no longer convey significance of its reputed c. 1674 section. The addition of popular Greek Revival decorative elements c. 1835 represents an important stage in the house's evolution. Also representative of Sherborn's early patterns of development.

Recom./Criteria Accept H4C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 1-3-86
____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category

Ownership
Public Acquisition

Status
Accessible

Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

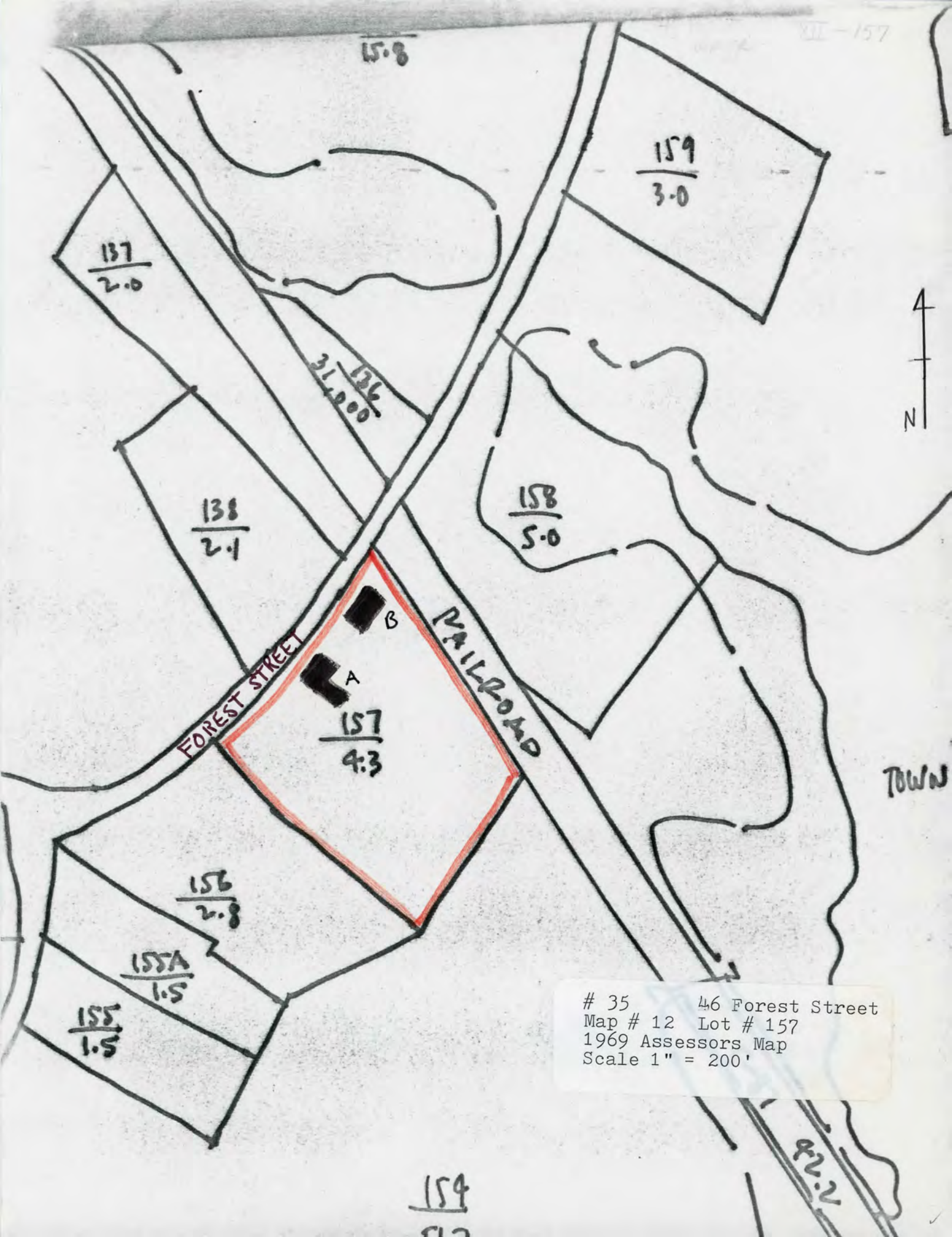
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Morse-Barber House
Storham MRA, Ma



35 46 Forest Street
Map # 12 Lot # 157
1969 Assessors Map
Scale 1" = 200'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000293