

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1975

MAR 26 1976

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Bryant-Cushing House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 768 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Norwell

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Plymouth

CODE

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Richard D. and Margaret H. McMullan

STREET & NUMBER

768 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Norwell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02061

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Russell Street

CITY, TOWN

Plymouth

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1973

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bryant-Cushing House is situated facing north on a large expanse of lawn, which extends 200 feet in front of and behind the house. The front of the house is partially shielded from Route 123 by a large yew bush, and the lawn is surrounded by woods. The property extends 2,000 feet behind the house to the North River.

The house, a two story, center chimney, full colonial, was built in 1698, and has hardly been altered since that time. The north facade, five bays wide, has nine 12/12 windows with plain surrounds. The elaborate center doorway is topped by a triangular pediment and flanked by pilasters. Over the door and beneath the pediment is a transom with five bull's eye lights. The facade, as well as the other elevations, are shingled, with many hand split shakes still extant.

The large central chimney vents six fireplaces, and is decorated with pilasters, string courses, and a stepped cornice. A smaller chimney is located on the south side of the house. There are two shingled ells to the south west at the rear of the house which have been modernized on the interior.

The interior of the house has been remarkably preserved throughout the years. The floor plan remains the same, with two rooms in the front and a kitchen and burning room in the rear and four rooms corresponding to these on the second floor. The staircase rises steeply in a double return, and retains its original Jacobean banisters. The wide planked floors are original, and all of the fireplaces still have their original mantels. A rectangular clear leaded glass window from a monastery in Canterbury, England was installed in the south wall of the old kitchen in the 1920's by Prof. Arthur E. Dewing; all the other window positions are original.

The only major alterations to the house occurred in 1937-38, when the present owners put in plumbing, heat, and electricity. At the same time they restored some of the plaster work and made a few structural repairs.

The house is built on a remarkably large scale for its time. The rooms are spacious and have unusually high eight foot ceilings. The house contains an abundance of paneling and simple moulding, mostly based on medieval designs and patterns. The house was obviously built by a wealthy person, and stands today as a virtually unaltered example of excellent late 17th century architecture in New England.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAR 26 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Professor Arthur Dewing, a teacher at Harvard Business School. Professor Dewing, when he retired from teaching in 1937, wanted to give the house to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, but the present owners of the house, the McMullans, persuaded him to sell it to them.

Before the McMullans moved in they undertook the only major alterations the house has faced. Electricity, heating and plumbing were installed, some plaster was restored, a few floorboards were replaced, and the interiors of the two ells to the rear of the house were insulated and had new floors and walls installed. The house is now in excellent condition, and because of its original size and scale, and with the addition of modern conveniences, it is an extraordinarily comfortable building, which still exudes a strong sense of the early Colonial era.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☒ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1698

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Bryant

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bryant-Cushing House is significant as one of the best examples of late seventeenth century architecture left in New England, and has been essentially unaltered since it was constructed in 1698.

The house was built by Thomas Bryant, on land that his father John Bryant had acquired in 1643. Thomas was one of the group of prosperous artisans associated with the well-known North River ship building community, and owned a sawmill in addition to plying his trade as a house carpenter. At the time Thomas built the house he was only 23, and single. The size and scale of the house are surprising considering the fact that Thomas was a bachelor, but the records clearly indicate that he did build the house, and lived there alone until he married in 1707. His wife, Mary Ewell, was the daughter of another artisan associated with the ship building community. After his marriage, Thomas served as a magistrate, and was a member of the General Court.

It is important to note that the Bryant-Cushing House bears a significant resemblance to the Winslow House (1699) in nearby Marshfield. The Winslow House was built for the politically important Winslow family and was occupied by them for many generations. Both houses are built on a large scale not usually associated with early colonial buildings; they both contain identical mouldings and paneling; and they both have the same floor plan and large central pilastered chimney. It appears that the same tools were used to make the mouldings in both houses. The fact that there are so many other similar features gives rise to the possibility that the Winslow House was built by Thomas Bryant a year after he built his own house.

The house remained in the Bryant family until 1769, when it was bought by H. Cushing. Cushing was a wealthy shipbuilder, but fortunately, made no alterations to the house. Three generations of his family lived there, until the house was bought in the 1880's by Dr. Cushing, from a distant branch of the original Cushing family. Dr. Cushing's daughter still lives in Norwell, and has been a valuable source of information about the house.

The next owner of the house was Mrs. Bacon, who bought the property c. 1918. She acquired the house to help her nephew in his real estate business, but according to the present owners of the house, she went into the building only once, looked around and declared the building was evil, and never set foot on the premises again. The house was vacant for about 18 months, before it was acquired by

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brigg's History of Shipbuilding on the North River
Deane's History of Scituate
Vital Records of Scituate in Boston Atheneum

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 352360 4668830
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Richard D. McMullan

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

October 29, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Oct. 29, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attesting Robert B. Kettig
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3/26/96

Attesting Robert B. Kettig
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-21-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **NOV 7 1975**

DATE ENTERED

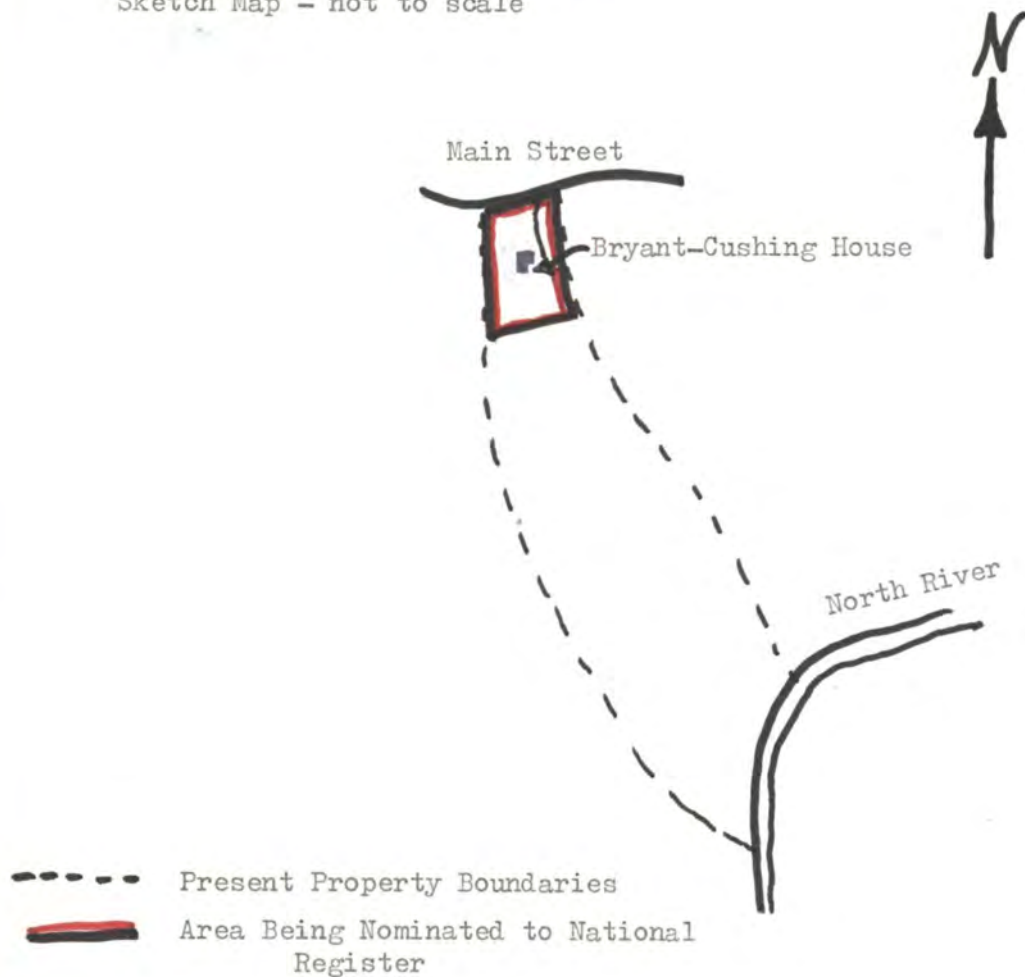
MAR 26 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Norwell, Bryant-Cushing House
Sketch Map - not to scale



Property

Bryant - Cushing House

State

Mass.

Working Number

11.7.75 2003

Plymouth

TECHNICAL

Photos

1

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 11.7.75

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

12-22-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept

HW Smith

12/17/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

Nice!

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

1/29/76

BRANCH CHIEF

accept

HW Smith

3-11-76

KEEPER

Accept

Rettig (for Montague)

3-21-76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

MAR 26 1976

Federal Register Entry

5-4-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Bryant-Cushing House

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Norwell

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Plymouth

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Norwell High School

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT
same

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

north facade

PHOTO NO 1 of 1

(MS1)

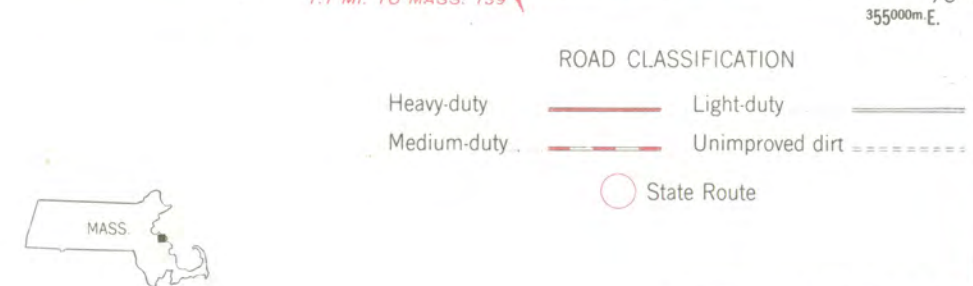
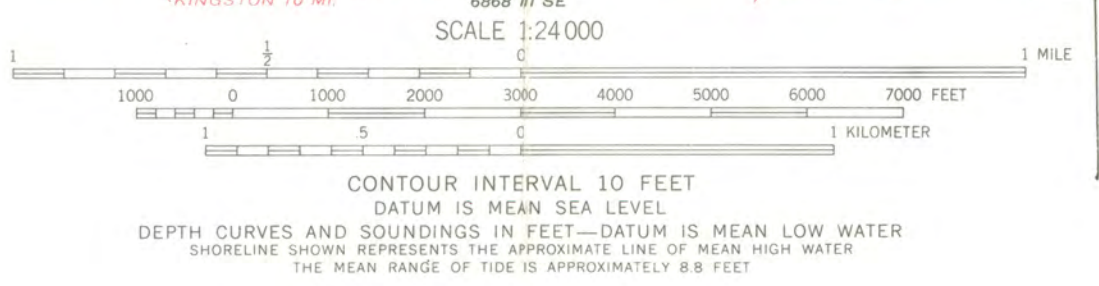
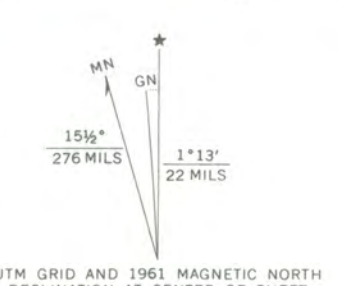
①

Bryant-Cushing House
Norwell, Mass.



Norwell, Bryant-Cushing House
UTM reference:
19/352360/4668830

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs Topography by planimetric surveys 1935-1936
Revised 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 244 (1960)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



COHASSET, MASS.
N4207.5—W7045/7.5
1961

AMS 6868 III NE—SERIES V814



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 7 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC	Bryant-Cushing House		
AND/OR COMMON	same		

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN	Norwell	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	Plymouth	STATE	MA
------------	---------	-------------	--------	----------	-------	----

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE	U.S.G.S., Cohasset, Mass. quadrangle		
SCALE	1:24,000	DATE	1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
 2. NORTH ARROW
 3. UTM REFERENCES

Bryant-Cushing House



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
~~100 Beacon Street~~ *Boston, Massachusetts 02108*

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

727-8470

31 October 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find three National Register nominations for the following properties:

1. Brockton, Brockton City Hall
2. Lee, Lee Lower Main Street Historic District
3. Norwell, Bryant-Cushing House

These properties have been voted eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Reed Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/mw

enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 26 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dwight-Henderson House	Great Barrington Berkshire County
Bow Street Historic District	Somerville Middlesex County
Lee Lower Main Street Historic District	Lee Berkshire County
Haydenville Historic District	Haydenville, Town of Williamsburg Hampshire County
Brockton City Hall	Brockton Plymouth County
Bryant-Cushing House	Norwell Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. James A. Burke

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02103

Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

PR MOTT:djb 4/5/76

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Bryant-Cushing House		2 OTHER NAMES:		3 date of entry: 3-26-76		4 county code: 023	
5 LOCATION street & number 768 Main St.		city / town Norwell		vicinity of MA		county Plymouth	
6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic		7 OWNER: ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12		12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL	
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☒ NO		14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☒ NO		15 ACREAGE 2		16 if state who prepared form? ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
16 CONDITION ☒ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair		☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated		☒ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated		17 features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7	
18 ACCESS ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☒ NO		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no	
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☒ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ INVENTION-14		☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25	
22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐		23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: HOUSE CURRENTLY: HOUSE		24 dates of initial construction: 1698 major alterations: historic events:		25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
26 architectural style(s): New England Colonial		27 architect: [redacted]		28 master builder: Thomas Bryant		29 engineer:	
30 landscape architect / garden designer:		31 interior decorator:		32 artist:		33 artisan: Thos. Bryant-house carpenter	
34 builder/contractor:		35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: Thomas Bryant, architect/builder, magistrate, member of MA General Court; may also have built the Winslow House (c. 1699) in neighboring nearby Marshfield. EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:					

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Frame, shingling; 2 1/2 stories, L-shaped, gabled roof, center and interior chimneys, front center entrance with transom and pedimented architrave, simple window architraves; 17th C. interior fittings; alterations. New England Colonial.

Excellent example of late 17th C. New England architecture; Built for Thomas Bryant, prosperous house carpenter, magistrate, member of the MA General Court.