

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received **MAR 22 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Thornton W. Burgess House (preferred)

and/or common Laughing Brook Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary

**2. Location**

street & number 789 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hampden N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampden code 013

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Massachusetts Audubon Society

street & number Laughing Brook Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary

city, town Hampden N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampden County Registry of Deeds

street & number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth, #2 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

## 7. Description Thornton W. Burgess House, Hampden, Massachusetts

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thornton W. Burgess House is a small, well-preserved vernacular farmhouse built some time between 1780 and 1784. The building nestles against the south slope of one of the Wilbraham Mountains in rural central Hampden, a village which stretches along Main Street in the narrow Scantic River Valley. In addition to the house, the eighteen-acre lot contains a barn, two small studio-outbuildings, and a cold cellar.

In plan and design, the house is a cellarless wood-frame 1½ story central chimney cottage with a rear kitchen ell (formerly a woodshed). It sits on a stone foundation, is sheathed in grey painted cedar shingles and capped with a 45° pitched asphalt-shingled gable roof. Simple decorative treatment of the symmetrical three-bay main facade (facing south on Main Street) consists of a transom above the central entry. The transom and flanking 12/12 double hung sash windows all abut the gable flank eaves. An arrow etched in the stone doorstep marks the point of the compass. The three-bay east gable end contains an off-center entry surmounted by a sawn hood and three 12/12 windows, two on the first story and one in the gable peak. The latter is flanked by two quarter size four-light windows. The west gable end is slightly altered by the addition of a bow window, but retains three 12/12 and one 6/6 window. Original 12/12 or 6/6 windows also light the rear and ell elevations. A small skylight added to the north roof slope and reconstruction of the chimney above the roofline to a more elongated form exist as minor alterations to the building fabric.

The interior feature which best shows the age of the house is the staircase, a steep and narrow run with a turn near the top. Each step averages six inches high and three inches wide. The large central brick chimney hosts three fireplaces, including a very large stone fireplace with a side bee-hive oven in the main room. This room also shows early timber frame construction with gunstock posts. To the side, and one step down from the main living area, is a small extra bedroom.

Other significant interior features include doors constructed of boards up to sixteen inches wide and hung on wrought iron Y hinges. Some of these doors have 3 over 2 raised panels. A built-in barrel back cupboard stands in one corner of the dining room.

The grounds around the Burgess House are well maintained and include a picket fence, mowed lawns, shrubs and sidewalks laid out to facilitate visitor access to the house, and several large sugar maples in front of and to the west side of the house.

In the immediate vicinity of the house are two ancillary structures: a cold cellar with three foot thick stone walls built into the hillside (north) and a large 19th-century barn. A portion of the barn was converted into a studio ca.1955; it now serves multiple functions as classroom and nature lab space, as well as animal shelter. One of the two small studios was completely rebuilt after 1966 due to advanced deterioration, and is now a field classroom; the other may retain some original features.

(Continued)

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Continuation sheet Thornton W. Burgess House Item number 7 Page 1  
Hampden, Massachusetts

The house is currently being restored to the period of Thornton W. Burgess' occupation, with the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities acting as consultants. Long-range plans for the property include setting up a small museum devoted to Burgess in the barn.

# 8. Significance

Thornton W. Burgess House, Hampden, Massachusetts

*165 Other 9/13/89*

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1965	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1780–84; 1928–1965      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thornton W. Burgess House possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Its primary significance lies in its association with Thornton W. Burgess, world-renowned naturalist, conservationist, and children's author during the first half of the 20th century. In addition, the house is locally important as an intact example of late 18th century spare and functional domestic design, built by a descendant of Hampden's first settlers. The Thornton W. Burgess House thus meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant at the local, state, and national levels.

Calvin Stebbins, who built the house between 1780 and 1784, was a member of a pioneer family; Stephen Stebbins (his uncle) is credited with erecting the first house in Hampden, at the east end of the town (ca.1741). The proximity of East Brook (or Laughing Brook) to the east and an early trail, now Main Street, probably influenced Calvin's choice of a homesite. Today, the Burgess House is the oldest house remaining on Main Street, and one of the best preserved period structures in town.

Thornton W. Burgess (January 14, 1874, Sandwich, Mass. - June 5, 1965, Hampden, Mass.) owned this property from 1928 to 1965 during the height of his literary career. The first house which he himself owned, it served as his summer home for twenty-seven years and then as his permanent residence for the ten years prior to his death.

Thornton W. Burgess was best known for his children's stories. Published in over 70 books, in magazines, and in newspapers where 15,000 consecutive syndicated stories ran, his stories were written to entertain and to acquaint young readers with the wonders of nature. Although his characters possessed human names and speech abilities, all of their characteristics and habits were based on biological truth and accuracy. His work appealed to all ages and was read on many continents, with books published in French, English, Swedish and Chinese. He was especially loved in the United States and Canada, where his newspaper stories appeared daily.

He started several clubs for children which had a powerful influence for promoting kindness to and protection of wildlife, in saving species, and in establishing sanctuaries and public and private parks. Through his radio club, Mr. Burgess worked with Dr. Alfred O. Gross of Bowdoin College in many of his research studies. Mr. Burgess assisted Dr. Gross in his heath hen study on Martha's Vineyard (1928–1931), and together they banded the last heath hen in 1931.

Honors he received included a trophy from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Northeastern University (1938) and three gold medals. These included the Gold Medal of the Wildlife

(Continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 18

Quadrangle name Hampden

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	1 8	7 1 4	7 2 0	4 6	6 0	1 0 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
C	1 8	7 1 4	3 5 0	4 6	5 9	7 3 0
E	1 8	7 1 4	5 5 0	4 6	5 9	9 4 0
G						

B	1 8	7 1 4	7 0 0	4 6	5 9	7 2 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
D	1 8	7 1 4	3 5 0	4 6	5 9	7 8 0
F						
H						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached map. The 18 acres included in the nomination contains the house and out-buildings closely associated with Burgess, and also the land which served as the inspiration for many of his stories. Furthermore, it constitutes Brugess's original 1928 purchase.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner, with Crystal Kofke, Director, Mass. Audubon Society

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date November 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     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 Peter L. Weston

title State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 3/16/83

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 4/21/83

for Melores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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date entered

Thornton W. Burgess House  
Hampden, Massachusetts

Item number 8

Page 1

Continuation sheet

Protection Fund in 1918 for distinguished service to wildlife; the Gold Medal by the National Conservation Society at the New York World's Fair; and the Gold Medal by the Boston Museum of Science presented in 1964.

Burgess moved from his birthplace in Sandwich to Springfield some time in his early teens (late 1880s). He began to write the first of 15,000 children's stories between 1908 and 1911. Initially, they were created for his son, Thornton W. Burgess, Jr., who had been sent to live with his grandmother in Chicago following the death of Burgess' first wife in 1908. Many of these stories transmitted to his son were gathered into collections and published as his earliest books; one of the best known among them is Old Mother West Wind of 1911. That same year Mr. Burgess married Fannie Phyllis Johnson of Ithaca, N.Y., expanding his family to include himself, his wife, two step-children in their teens, his own five year-old son and his mother. Using money of Mrs. Burgess', they purchased a large house at 61 Washington Road, Springfield which still stands. Only Fannie J. Burgess' name appeared on the deed; Thornton Burgess insisted on this as it was rightfully her house.

His writing career moved into full swing after this, and he was extremely prolific for the next fifty-five years. On October 24, 1928, Thornton W. and Fannie J. Burgess purchased the house at 789 Main Street, Hampden and eighteen acres of land as a summer house and weekend retreat. This was the first house that Mr. Burgess owned. From 1829 until 1955, Mr. Burgess summered in Hampden and lived at 61 Washington Road, Springfield in the winters. Subsequently, he moved here year-round for the remainder of his life.

During this period, Burgess is known to have written a bedtime story a day, as well as numerous books, many of them from Hampden. Prior to 1955, the studio furthest from the house served as his writing studio; toward the end of his life he wrote in one room of the barn. The other small studio was used as a guest house and was often occupied by Burgess' artist, Harrison Cady.

As noted above, Burgess' fictional stories were based on his factual knowledge of New England wildlife -- their habitats and behaviors. The house and its setting provided ideal inspirational materials as well as a productive working environment; qualities not found as readily at his urban home. It was he who renamed East Brook, Laughing Brook. He used the local landscape as a backdrop for many of his stories, i.e., Laughing Brook, the Green Meadows, the Purple Hills, the Old Briar Patch, and the Green Forest. The house itself (the old kitchen, rear ell) also served as a literary stage in Tales from the Story Teller's House (1937) and While the Story Log Burns (1838).

When Burgess died in 1965 the family was not interested in keeping the land. It was put up for sale and the Hampden Lions Club, under then President Lon Levine, took an option on the land to prevent it from being sold to a developer. They then looked for a suitable organization which might be interested in using the

(Continued)

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Thornton W. Burgess House

Continuation sheet

Hampden, Massachusetts

Item number 8

Page 2

property for educational purposes as Mr. Burgess had wished. The Massachusetts Audubon Society purchased 18+ acres, Burgess' original purchase, in 1966 for use as an educational center and wildlife sanctuary.

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date entered

Continuation sheet      Thornton W. Burgess House  
                                 Hampden, Massachusetts      Item number      9      Page      1

Burgess, Thornton W., Now I Remember, the Autobiography of Thornton W. Burgess  
Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1960.

Howlett, Carl, Early Hampden, Its Settlers and the Homes They Built, Yola Guild,  
Federated Community Church, Hampden, Mass., 1958.

Letter from Mr. Burgess at Tobago to Mrs. Donald Wilcox, Hampden, January 26, 1956.

Peck, Chauncey E. The History of Wilbraham, Mass., Wilbraham Historical Society,  
Wilbraham, Mass., 1913.

"Thornton W. Burgess - The Bedtime Story Man," Pamphlet, Little, Brown & Company,  
Boston, 1948, 24pp.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Burgess, Thornton W., House  
Hampden County  
MASSACHUSETTS

MAR 22 1983

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 4/21/83 - 5/6/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 4/21/83  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Entered in the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area 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

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMIT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



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Thornton W. Burgess House  
Main Street, Hampden, MA

South facade

Negatives in possession of  
Laughing Brook Wildlife  
Sanctuary, Massachusetts

Audubon Society

Photo 1 of 3 1981



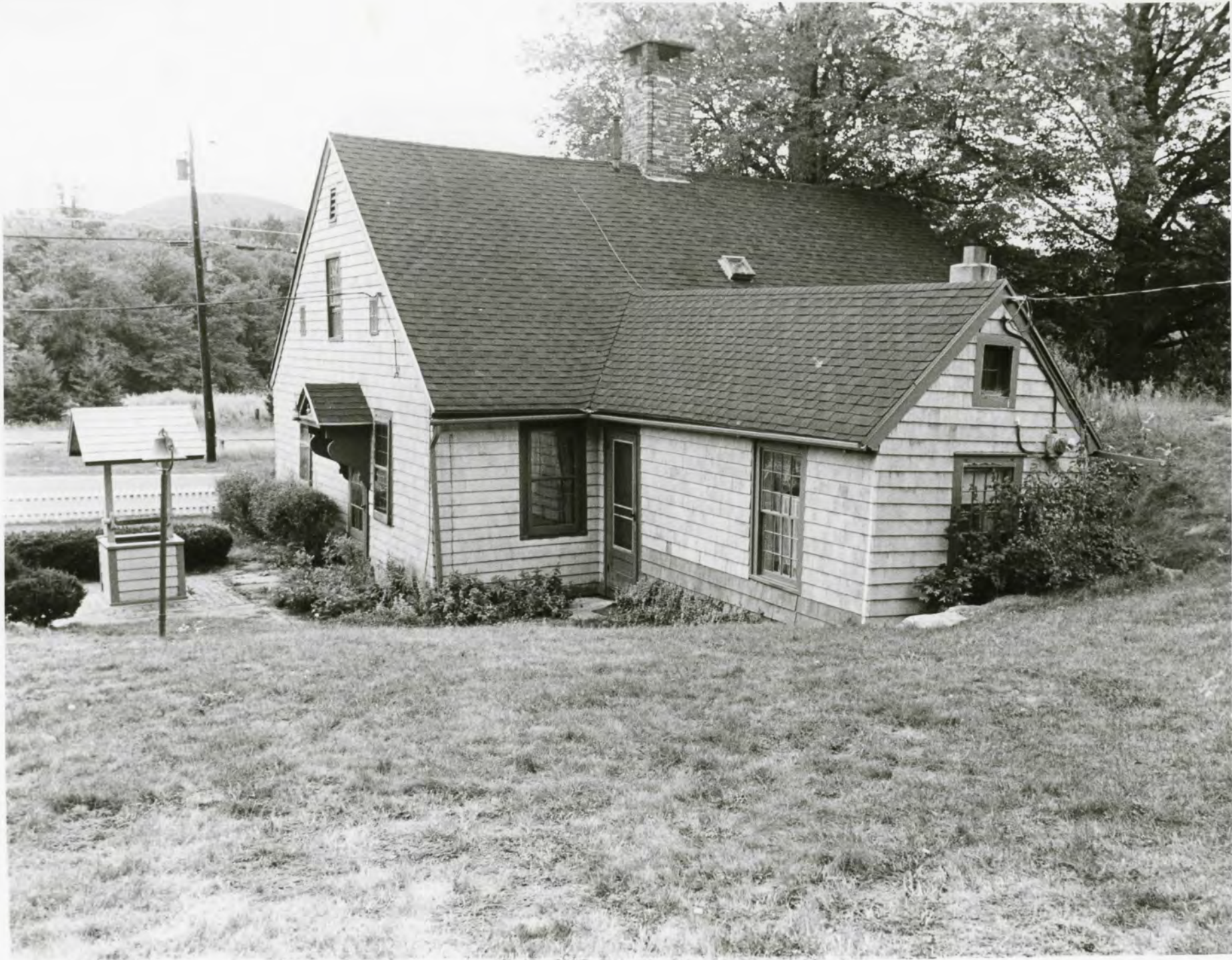
Thornton W. Burgess House  
Main Street, Hampden, MA

Southwest facade

Negatives in possession of  
Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctu-  
ary, Massachusetts Audubon  
Society

Photo 2 of 3

1981



52  
Thornton W. Burgess House  
Main Street, Hampden, MA

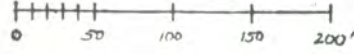
Northeast facade

Negatives in possession of  
Laughing Brook Wildlife  
Sanctuary, Massachusetts  
Audubon Society.

Photo 2 of 3 1981

PLAN OF THORNTON W. BURGESS LAND - HAMPDEN, MASS.

COPIED FROM APPROVED SUBDIVISION PLAN DATED SEPT. 24, 1966





Thomton W. Burgess House  
789 Main Street  
Hampden, MA

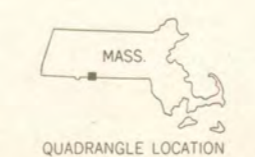
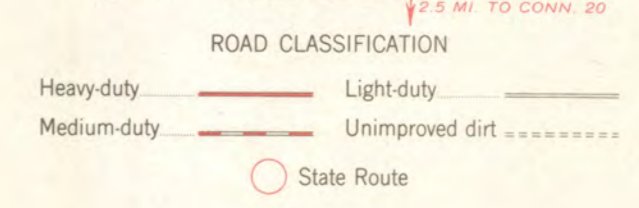
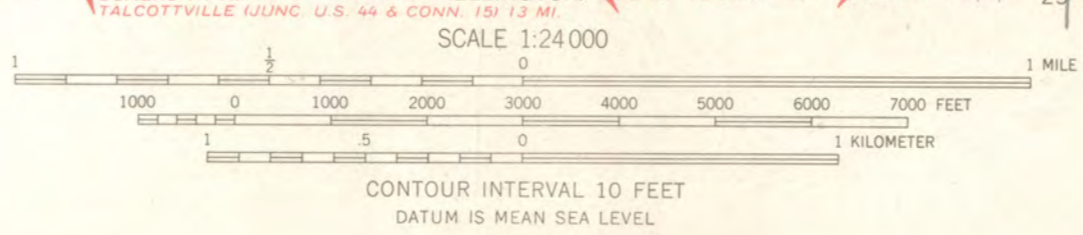
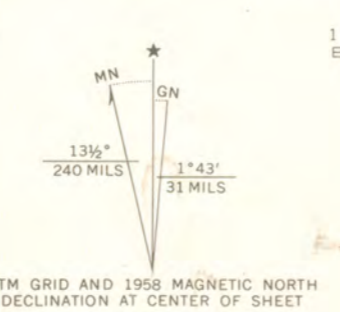
UTM References:  
A - 18/714720/4660100  
B - 18/714700/4659720  
C - 18/714350/4659730  
D - 18/714350/4659780  
E - 18/714550/4659940

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Land and Harbor Commission,  
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1938 and 1943. Revised 1958

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

HAMPDEN, MASS.-CONN.  
N4200-W7225.7/5  
1958



TOWN OF HAMPDEN

MASSACHUSETTS 01036

OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 17, 1981

Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service  
U. S. Dept. of Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:


We would like to support a request from Massachusetts Audubon Society for including the home of Thornton Burgess, at 789 Main Street, Hampden, Mass. on the Federal Register as a historic site.

This house is historically significant in Hampden and throughout this area from the point of view that it is authentic Cape Cod architecture; and also that a famous person; i.e. Thornton Burgess lived in this house.

Now this house has become a part of an education center and wildlife sanctuary within the Town of Hampden, and we would like it to be preserved.

We, therefore, offer for your consideration, the request that it be entered on the Federal Register as a Historic Site.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Flynn  
Chairman  
Board of Selectmen

F/rw



P.O. Box 363  
Hampden, Mass. 01036

September 30, 1981

Massachusetts Audubon Society  
Laughing Brook  
789 Main Street  
Hampden, Mass. 01036

Attention: Ms. Crystal Koffke

Dear Ms. Koffke:

This letter is to confirm that the Historical Society of the Town of Hampden, Inc. supports your efforts to have the "Burgess" house listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is our understanding that you are requesting this listing based on the fact that for many years it was the home of Thornton Burgess, author and conservationist; also that it is one of Hampden's old houses, and its architecture is historically important.

This supporting letter was approved by the members attending our monthly meeting on September 23, 1981; we trust it will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

*Alice R. Moriarty*  
President  
(for the Society)

afm



CONSERVATION  
EDUCATION  
RESEARCH

LAUGHING BROOK EDUCATION CENTER AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

December 8, 1982

Ms. Virginia Fitch  
Preservation Planner  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Fitch:

We are quite excited that our National Register nomination for the Thornton W. Burgess House is going to be considered by the State Review Board. Below is some additional information which I hope will be helpful to you.

Mr. Burgess was born in Sandwich, Ma. in 1874 and moved to Springfield sometime in his early teens. After his first wife died, he sent his son, Thornton W. Burgess, Jr. to Chicago to live with his grandmother. It was during this period of time that his son was aged 2 to 5 (1908-1911) that he began to write the first of what was to become 15,000 bedtime stories. He began by writing these stories to his son and later continued them. Many of these were gathered into collections and they became some of his early books. One of his first books was Old Mother West Wind, published in 1911. In 1911, Mr. Burgess married Fannie Phyllis Johnson of Ithaca, N.Y. His new family consisted of himself, his wife, two step-children in their teens, his own 5 year-old son and his mother. The Burgess' used money that had belonged to Mrs. Burgess to buy a house in Springfield on 61 Washington Road. Fannie J. Burgess' name was the only one that appeared on the deed and Thornton Burgess insisted on this since it was rightfully her house.

His writing career moved into full swing soon after this and he was extremely prolific for the next 55 years. On October 24, 1928, Thornton W. and Fannie J. Burgess bought the house in Hampden. (Registry of Deeds 1406-493). This was the first house that Mr. Burgess owned. From 1929 until 1955, Mr. Burgess summered in Hampden and lived at 61 Washington Road in Springfield in the winter. He was attracted to Hampden and particularly the Cape Cod style house for several reasons. He loved antiques and the house was filled with them from the previous owner, Damon Coates. Some say that the fact that the house was a Cape Cod reminded him of his boyhood growing up on the Cape. And he often said that the house provided him with the ideal setting to continue his work. It was he who re-named East Brook Laughing Brook and used the physical surroundings for many of the other backdrops for his stories--ie: the Green Meadows, the Purple Hills, the Old Briar Patch, and the Green Forest.

Mr. Burgess wrote many stories and books while he lived in the house at Hampden. He used the small building on the hill as a writing

TOWN OF HAMPDEN

MASSACHUSETTS 01036

OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 9, 1982

Ms. Valerie Talmage  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mass. Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Mass. 02108

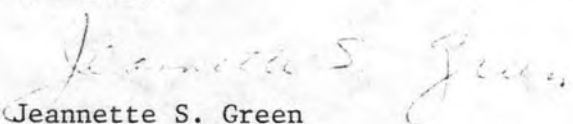
Dear Ms. Talmage:

We were pleased to be informed that Thornton W. Burgess House will be considered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Our Board is unanimously in favor of this house being on the National Register of Historic Places, and would like our support recorded as such. Following renovations, this structure will again be one of the main attractions of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook installation in our town.

Each year many thousands of people, both old and young, visit this site, and are interested in the surroundings where Mr. Burgess lived, and the beauties of nature which inspired his stories. We consider this area as a definite plus for our town.

Sincerely,

  
Jeannette S. Green  
Chairman  
Board of Selectmen

G/rw  
cc Laughing Brook



**MASSACHUSETTS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02108  
617-727-8470

**MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY**  
Secretary of State

March 16, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

✓ Hampden: Thornton W. Burgess House (national)

Foxboro: Memorial Hall (local)  
Grange Hall (local)  
Josiah Pratt House (local)

Also enclosed is the Garbose Building in Gardner, which was returned to us for a property map.

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

*Candace Jenkins*

Candace Jenkins  
Registration Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ:mmd  
Enclosures



38. I cannot comment on this because I lack  
the file

JB