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AREA

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FORM NO.

267

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

(Winchester, Mass. M.R.A.)

Town WINCHESTERAddress 403 Main StreetHistoric Name Sharon House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present dwellingOriginal dwelling-main block
shoe shop-rear ell

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1835Source stylistic analysis, deedsStyle Greek RevivalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric feathered clapboardsOutbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Condition Very GoodMoved no Date _____Acreage .14 acre 05-0247Setting Suburban residential along
early road to Woburn.Recorded by Carol ElyOrganization Winchester Historical CommDate 1978; rev. by H. White 10.87Formerly 105 Main Street (pre-1905)

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or

UTM REFERENCE 19.324460.4701530USGS QUADRANGLE Lexington, Mass.SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Sharon House is significant as a rare surviving structure associated with the shoe industry in Winchester, which dominated the economy of the town during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Therefore the Sharon House meets Criteria A of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Sharon house is a two-and-one half story gable-roofed structure with the ridge parallel to the street. The house is characterized by asymmetrical placement of the entrance and windows. The gable roof has short returns. Windows have a six-over-six sash configuration. The trabeated entrance is offset slightly to the left. There is a two-stage ell to the rear. The stages of the ell are not perpendicular to the main block of the house, but are set at roughly a thirty degree angle from the main block. The outline of the ell conforms to an identical angle in the property line on which it sits.

The front of the house is set at the sidewalk, with no setback.

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

The Sharon House stands in the northwest corner of the original Black Horse Tavern property, right on the property line. The Black Horse Tavern was built circa 1725 on the east side of Main Street between Prospect Street and Black Horse Terrace (which was the driveway to the Tavern stables). The land originally belonged to Edward Converse, the mill owner, who was among the town's first settlers during the seventeenth century.

In 1724 one of Converse's descendants sold roughly ten acres to William Richardson. Later that same year (1724) Richardson bought an additional 22 acres surrounding the original parcel. Richardson then built himself a hip-roofed mansion house in the Georgian style. Soon afterward, in 1728, the house was sold to a wealthy Bostonian, Capt. Isaac Dupee.

In 1743 Capt. Dupee sold the house to David Wyman, who began operating an inn and tavern in the house. Wyman (d.1751) refers to the structure in his will as the Black Horse Tavern. It remained a place of public entertainment until 1835. The tavern was widely known as one of the state's best rural taverns. It was a successful hostelry patronized by travelers to and from Boston, including farmers on their way to the city markets.

The tavern also exerted a strong social influence on the town, and was a popular local gathering place. The importance of the tavern is

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

History of Winchester, by H.Chapman, 1936, pp.93-100, 119-20.

Deeds

N.A. Richardson, Reminiscences

Maps

1850 census

Application of Joseph Sharon to A.D.Weld Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Winchester

Form No:

267

Property Name: Sharon House

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued,

apparent in that during the latter part of the eighteenth century, Winchester was referred to as Black Horse Village. During the nineteenth century the Tavern changed owners many times, and much of the surrounding acreage was sold off. The last owner demolished the house in 1892.

The Sharon House was built circa 1835 on a quarter-acre parcel at the northwest corner of the Black Horse Tavern land. The two-stage rear ell of the Sharon House may possibly have been a shoe shop which was either built on or moved to the Tavern land.

The ell may be the structures referred to by local historian N.A. Richardson in his Reminiscences, as Calvin Richardson's shoe shops which originally stood further up the road along Washington Street. The shoe shop does not appear on the 1831 map of Winchester. However, it may be the "shed" mentioned in an 1835 sale notice for the Tavern property.

In 1837 the "shoe shop and its land" are leased for one year to Abner and Rufus Wade. In 1841 the quarter-acre plot and the shop are exempted from a deed to the Black Horse Tavern property, which was sold that year to Oliver Hastings.

Stylistic evidence suggests that the main house was built during the 1830s. At the time the main house was built it was possibly attached to the front of the shoe shop. In 1846 the house was sold to Mary Ann Sharon, matron of a local school for orphaned girls from 1855-1859. The 1850 census lists Mrs. Sharon, her son, daughter-in-law, and 3 grandchildren residing at the house. Her son, Joseph, was a local wheelwright. After serving in the Civil War, he returned to Winchester and began work as an undertaker. The house remained in the Sharon family until 1940.

Shoe-making had been a major industry in Winchester since the eighteenth century. The 1798 Massachusetts Real Estate Tax Survey listed a great many houses in town with shoe-making shops attached to them. From 1770-1840 making shoes by hand methods was a local adjunct to the tanning and currying of leather centered in Woburn.

Shoe shops in Winchester were usually small structures, often no larger than twelve feet square, standing beside or to the rear of the owners house. N.A. Richardson, the local historian, in his Reminiscences, states that during the 1830s over 35 of the 70 houses in Winchester at that time had shoe shops in them, and he lists them by name. Among those houses listed is the Sharon house, referred to as "Calvin Richardson's shoe shop, before it was built over into a dwelling house." The Sharon House is one of the last traces of a once-thriving local industry.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 22 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 41. Remick, Joseph, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 42. Richardson, Zachariah, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 43. Russell, Charles, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 44. Russell, Arthur H., House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 45. Sharon House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 46. Simonds, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 47. Skillings Estate House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 48. St. Mary's Catholic Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 49. Stanton, Jacob, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelene Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 50. Sullivan, Edward, House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u>John F. Savage</u> 7-5-89 | Attest _____ |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sharon House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Winchester MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000613

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7/5/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

 count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

 historic current

DESCRIPTION

 architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

 acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

 sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Sharon House
403 Main St. 1/88
Winchester, Ma. MRA

MHC Inv. # 267



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303