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OCT 30 1990United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Purchase - Ferre House (preferred)
other names/site number Jonathan Purchase House

2. Location

street & number 1289 Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Agawam N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Hampden code 013 zip code 01001

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
3	buildings
1	sites
4	structures
	objects
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Brona Simon DSHPO
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical
State Historic Preservation Officer

10/22/90
Date Commission;

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

Entered in the
National Register

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

for
Signature of the Keeper

11/29/90
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; Secondary

Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling;

Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Purchase-Ferre House, Agawam, Massachusetts, is a two-story, five-bay, double-pile, timber-frame structure representative of the more substantial farmhouses erected in the Connecticut River Valley in the mid to late 18th century. It stands on a knoll facing west across the main 18th century north-south route through the town of Agawam (a part of West Springfield until 1855). The grounds feature a cluster of mature evergreens and native hardwoods on the north and south sides of the house. The field behind the house includes a small grape arbor and various ornamental plantings. The present neighborhood consists of single-family homes which vary in size and age.

The house rests on a sandstone block foundation and features a massive side-gabled roof pierced by a brick center chimney. The exterior wall fabric consists of wooden clapboards with a four to five inch reveal, painted white. The impressive center entrance on the west elevation features a wide-panelled door, 3/4-length sidelights, engaged pilasters, and a flat, dentilated pediment. The original double-leaf, carved wooden doors, a characteristic of mid-18th century Connecticut Valley houses, were removed from the front entrance in the 19th century, but do survive on the cellar hatchway. Each of the doors features two vertical tombstone panels, a horizontal rectangular panel, and an arched panel reminiscent of scrolled pediment designs. Traces of the original paint are clearly visible. The windows throughout the house are 6/6 wooden sash, set very close to the eaves on the upper story. Old 9/9 wooden sash survive with their original raised panel shutters in the north and south gable windows of the attic.

The central chimney of the house is twelve feet square in the basement. The basement itself is divided into four rooms with a passage behind the chimney. The largest room in the basement has a large fireplace, a brick bake oven, and a dirt floor. Tradition states that a family lived in the basement, "but never after the Ferrers owned it." The walls of the basement below grade are fieldstone and brick.

The plan and detailing of the house are remarkably well preserved. The shallow entry hall is dominated by a dogleg stair with a very simple railing and balusters. Panelled interior doors on either side of the entry lead to the north and south parlors.

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Purchase - Ferre House,
Agawam, Massachusetts

The north parlor, in characteristic New England fashion, is the most highly detailed room in the house. The cased summer beam is accented by a complex molding that joins the cornice molding around the room. The fireplace wall is completely panelled with a restrained mantle and fireplace surround. A molded chair rail and panelled dado continue around the room. The northwest corner of the parlor features an exemplary shell cupboard with fluted pilasters, rosettes, and keystone decoration. The floors are wide pine boards, typical of the period.

The south parlor is slightly simpler than the north parlor. It, too, features a cased summer beam, cornice moldings, a panelled fireplace wall, chair rail, and dado. The fireplace wall includes a recessed china cupboard and a "parson's cupboard," on the door of which survive chalk accounts kept by earlier residents.

At the south end of the parlor, a pair of pocket doors lead to a sunroom that was added by James H. Ferre in 1842. The polygonal front bay of the one-story addition is one of the building's few concessions to 19th century style.

The long kitchen running across the back of the house features a massive fireplace with stone hearth, cased beams, panelled interior walls, and wide pine floors. A staircase off the old kitchen leads to the basement and second floor. A new kitchen wing added ca. 1970 leads off the northeast corner of the house in the space formerly occupied by a "borning room" and an attached shed.

The upstairs floor plan is very similar to that of the first floor. The north chamber includes a panelled fireplace wall with bolection molding around the fireplace. The cornice moldings, chair rail, and panelled dado continue around the room, and the wide pine floors remain intact.

The south chamber has simple casings on the summer beam, corner posts, and cornice. The chair rail and dado are significantly simpler in design. A hinged panel on the north wall conceals the old staircase to the attic. Access to the attic was changed in 1842, but the old staircase survives intact.

Behind the north chamber is a small bedroom, the walls of which are covered by horizontal feather-edged panelling with no painted finish. The new (1842) staircase to the attic runs from this room. Across the back of the house is a large rear bedroom with vertical feather-edge panelling and a small fireplace. The panelling is inscribed with initials and compass designs by an earlier occupant. A modern bathroom above the new kitchen wing completes the upstairs plan.

The open attic of the house provides a view of the exposed framing and the inscription that marked the house raising (May 19, 1764). The patches in the

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floor document the change to the attic staircase. Of special note are the raised-panel interior shutters on the attic windows. Similar shutters on all the main windows were replaced by exterior shutters in the 1840s.

Most of the woodwork throughout the house is covered by several coats of paint and apparently has never been stripped or sanded. The unpainted woodwork in the back bedrooms appears never to have been painted or refinished. Virtually all of the old doors retain their old Suffolk latches with strap or HL hinges.

The rear ell of the house includes an attached single-bay wood frame carriage shed and an attached granary. The granary includes wooden doors and hinges and a series of bins for storing different grains.

The small one-story building west of the garage has always been known as "the shop." It is framed in the manner of the late 18th or early 19th century and includes a harness bench, a wooden lathe, and other devices related to wheel- and harness-making. In the northeast corner of the shop are the remains of a brick hearth, which held a large iron kettle. Small potatoes ("pig potatoes") were boiled in the kettle to produce mash for the pigs, which were kept just outside the shop.

The Adams sisters, the present owners of the house, made some basic repairs before moving into it in 1961, but the house survives remarkably intact. An old kitchen at the southeast corner of the house was converted to a first-floor bedroom for their mother, Mary Edith Ferre. A detached two-car garage was built south of the house in 1963/64. A new kitchen was added on to the house ca. 1970; for it, the old windows from the woodshed were reused.

The lot on which the house currently sits (1990) includes 3.375 acres with 361.08 feet of frontage on Main Street and a northern lot line of 471.23 feet.

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. Five prehistoric sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the property, a relatively flat terrace between the Connecticut River located to the east and the confluence of Tarkill/Three Mile Brook to the west, indicate favorable locational criteria for native settlement and subsistence activities. Given limited disturbances on the property and the size of the parcel (3.375 acres), a moderate potential exists that sites are present.

There is a high potential for significant historical archaeological remains on the property. Controlled testing and excavation can help determine the exact location and construction date for the large two-story barn said to have been located northeast of the house, burned in 1914. Similar testing can also help locate additional outbuildings and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) which date from the mid 18th through 19th centuries. Most of these resources are likely associated with the residential/agricultural use of the farm, however, survivals of a more specialized nature associated with wheel- and harness-making in the shop may also exist.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1764-1914

Significant Dates

1799; ca. 1840

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jonathan Purchase

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Purchase-Ferre House, Agawam, Massachusetts, is a well-preserved example of a mid-18th century Connecticut Valley farmhouse. It retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, having been in the same family since 1799 with no substantial alteration to the physical structure. The Purchase-Ferre House thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Agawam was originally part of the Springfield grant of 1635. In 1696, it became a parish of West Springfield, which it remained until 1855, when it achieved independent status as the town of Agawam. Located on the west bank of the Connecticut River, its fertile bottomlands supported a thriving agricultural economy from the mid-17th to the mid-19th century. Farmsteads were established along the Connecticut River meadows by ca. 1650.

Throughout the Colonial period, Agawam, along with West Springfield, was a key agricultural area in the Connecticut River valley. Settlement expanded considerably from the original riverfront community, scattering to the north and far west. Originally a native trail, Main Street, the road on which the nominated property lies, would become the site of Agawam's civic center by the early 19th century (the location was and is north of the Purchase-Ferre House).

Agawam citizens attended meeting in Springfield and West Springfield until 1760, when the Agawam Parish built its first meetinghouse west of Main Street. This event occurred after considerable resistance by the parent community of Springfield. Once separation took place, Agawam continued to maintain close commercial and industrial ties to Springfield, as well as to adjacent Connecticut towns. Agawam would remain an agricultural community into the 20th century. In recent decades, Agawam has become a suburban residential community linked to metropolitan Springfield, with strip development along Main Street. However, agricultural enterprises continue today in outlying areas.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ferre Family Papers (privately held manuscripts & photographs).

LaFrancis, Edith, Agawam, Massachusetts: Agawam, MA; 1980.Swift, Esther M., History of West Springfield; West Springfield, MA; 1969.

United State Census Bureau - Population Schedules (Agawam & West Springfield, MA), 1790-1900.

Atlases & Maps:

1831 Map of West Springfield, Massachusetts (Lathrop).

1855 Map of Hampden County, Massachusetts (Henry F. Walling, pub, by H.A. Haley, Boston).

1870 Atlas of Hampden County, Massachusetts (F.W. Beers & Co., New York).

1870 "Farm Belonging to James H. Ferre, Esq." surveyed by Palmer Gallup.

1894 Atlas of the County of Hampden, Massachusetts (L.J. Richards & Co., Springfield).

1912 Atlas of the County of Hampden, Massachusetts (L.J. Richards & Co., Springfield).

☐ See continuation sheet**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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:☒ State historic preservation office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ Other**Specify repository:**Massachusetts Historical Commission**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property 3.35 acres**UTM References**A

1	8
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6	9	7	2	5	0
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4	6	5	7	8	4	0
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Zone Easting

Northing

B

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6	9	7	3	4	0
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4	6	5	7	8	4	0
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Zone Easting

Northing

C

1	8
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6	9	7	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	5	7	7	9	0
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D

1	8
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6	9	7	2	5	0
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4	6	5	7	7	9	0
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☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nomination are those of the single parcel on the east side of Main St. in Agawam, Massachusetts, owned by Barbara and Frances Adams, as outlined on the attached Assessor's Map from the Town of Agawam.

☐ See continuation sheet**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nomination enclose the entire 3.35 acre remnant of the original Ferre farm, which has descended in the family since 1799. The parcel includes the main house and related outbuildings, as well as the lawns, trees, and other landscaped elements described in the body of the nomination.

☐ See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gregory Farmer, Senior Planner with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
 organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 1990
 street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470
 city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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Purchase - Ferre House,
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The nominated property, a two-story, timber-frame house was built in 1764 by Jonathan Purchase, a farmer. A beam in the roof structure is inscribed with the date of the raising (May 19, 1764). How the building passed from Purchase to Ferre is unclear, but tradition holds that the property went from Purchase to "Mr. Bowls of Hartford," who built a tight board fence picketed at the top around the front of the land. Eli Ball was reportedly the next owner and he sold the house to Moses Ferre of Hartford, a chaise maker, in 1798, though the specific transfer of the Purchase house to Moses Ferre has not been identified. Records in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds show a transfer of 16 1/2 acres from Joseph Lewis of West Springfield to Moses Ferre of West Springfield for ninety pounds (October 10, 1798). That parcel was bounded on the north by Jonathan Purchase's land. A second deed records the transfer of seven acres from John Munroe of Springfield, Husbandman, for seventy dollars (January 23, 1800). The seven acres were bounded on the south by land of Moses Ferre, east by the Connecticut River, north by Eli Ball, and west by the new Highway leading to Suffield (Connecticut). (It should be noted that neither of these transactions seems to jibe with family tradition, although the parcel on which the house stands did originally run from the main highway on the west to the Connecticut River on the east.)

Moses Ferre (b. 1752) was the son of Gershom Ferre of Springfield. He served in the Revolutionary War as a member of Captain Abner Prior's Company No. 2, Colonel Erastus Wilcox Regiment. He was among the troops who wintered at Valley Forge in 1775. His company reached Boston in late January 1776 and remained there for six weeks. Colonel Wilcox's (or Wilcott's) regiment formed a part of the detachment that enlisted again early in 1777 as an artificer under Captain (later Major) Painter and served for five years. Under orders of Captain Baldwin, Ferre took charge of a company of twenty men and went to New Windsor, Connecticut, to repair carriages for the use of the army. He suffered from smallpox in 1778, which caused the loss of sight in one eye. This and other infirmities resulted in his discharge in the winter of 1779. Moses married Jerusha Easton in 1780 and purchased the house in Agawam (West Springfield) before 1800. He applied for a government pension in 1826 and died in 1832.

In 1819, Moses Ferre conveyed ownership of the property to his oldest son, Jonathan Easton Ferre (b. 1781). Jonathan had married Lydia Hanmer of Hartford in 1804 and the couple probably shared the house with Jonathan's parents, Moses and Jerusha. The 1831 Lathrop map of West Springfield still showed the house as the property of Moses Ferre.

Jonathan Easton Ferre was known as a builder of town scales and traveled to other towns (including Brookline, Massachusetts) to build scales. He served in the local militia, although a surviving note from the company surgeon asks that he be excused from military duty on account of "a weakness at his breast attended with a cough and raising of blood by turns" (April 24, 1810). He was

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Purchase - Ferre House,
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expelled from the Northampton Church (July 3, 1833), probably because of a leaning toward unitarianism. A letter from Warren Bird of Foxboro to Ferre (March 16, 1847) rejoices at his (Ferre's) acceptance of the "New Church" after buying a book at auction "a year ago." Much of the surviving correspondence relates to Jonathan's attempts to secure the remainder of his father's Revolutionary War pension for the benefit of his mother (1836, 1843).

Agriculture was the major enterprise of the Ferre family. A single letter from Jonathan Ferre to his son, Captain James H. Ferre, in Wethersfield, Connecticut, provides some insight to the operation of the family farm:

"June 11, 1832: I began hoeing Friday--on the South side planted nearly one half over on first eight rows, remainder not so bad--it has not grown any since it come up until within 48 hours. Maryland tobacco plants continue to come up daily, but yet the supply will be very small. I have worked two days on the roads and more tax is due yet. No shad of any consequence."

Like many other families in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts, the Ferres maintained close ties with the Hartford/Wethersfield area and strengthened the kinship network through visits and marriages. The general decline of New England agriculture in the 1820s and 1830s led to the search for new cash crops in the Connecticut Valley, like the tobacco planted by Jonathan Ferre. At the same time, the legendary shad runs on the Connecticut River began to decline, removing another traditional source of income.

In 1831, Jonathan Easton Ferre conveyed title to the farm to James Hamner Ferre, his oldest son (b. 1805). James H. Ferre married Emily Porter of Agawam (West Springfield) in 1840. While the 1855 Hampden County wall map still shows the house occupied by J. E. Ferre, the 1870 Beers Atlas of Hampden County identifies J. H. Ferre as owner of the property.

James H. Ferre served in the local militia. He was appointed a Corporal (May 28, 1824), a Sergeant (April 30, 1825), then an Ensign (March 15, 1827). He received a Lieutenant's Commission (April 10, 1829) and advanced to the rank of Captain (March 14, 1831) before he was honorably discharged (November 7, 1831). On April 1, 1839, James H. Ferre was elected Constable at the West Springfield Town Meeting. On September 18, 1839, he was a delegate to the Hampden County Convention to nominate a Democratic Senator. Ferre was appointed as Justice of the Peace in Hampden County for a term of seven years (beginning May 4, 1858). He was elected a Representative to the General Court (November 9, 1859) and was appointed a Judge in Hampden County (August 1, 1865).

James Hamner Ferre carried out an ambitious program to improve the farmstead, which he recorded in his diary. He took down the old board fence and erected a white picket fence around the house. He sowed grass seed in the yard and

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Purchase - Ferre House,
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planted a number of maple and pine trees (ca. 1840). He changed the color of the house from red to white (except in the rear) and replaced the folding interior shutters with exterior blinds. He painted the woodwork in the house a soft blue-green. The diary of James Hammer Ferre is useful in documenting specific changes to the house and farm:

- 11/13/1836: Finished plastering chamber.
- 2/9/1837: Sold...303 lbs. broom corn.
- 2/18/1837: Went to Suffield after brick.
- 9/21/1837: Cut up broom corn.
- 11/3/1837: Began chimney in South room.
- 2/7/1838: Went over to Heumistons after clapboards, plankin for door.
- 4/14/1838: Finished outside of the house.
- 5/14/1838: Bought oil and lead to paint house.
- 5/29-30/1838: Painting house.
- 11/17/1838: Carpeted stairs.
- 1/29/1839: Dug a plan to make a greenhouse in side hill east of house.
- 3/21/1839: ..a lot of silk worms hatched out to stay.
The eggs have remained in the garret all winter, have leaves enough in hot house to feed them on until seedlings put out.
- 7/22/1839: ..silk worms pretty much wound up..
- 6/19/1840: finished shingling south roof, put up lightening rod on house.
- 8/28/1840: Moved old hatchway to east side yard for tool house.
- 5/29/1841: Silk worms hatch.
- 6/3/1841: Painting fence.
- 1/18/1842: Cut a hole through from North room to bed room for door.
- 3/14/1842: Painting window blinds.
- 3/19/1842: Bought green paint for window blinds.

In addition to recording physical changes to the farmstead, the diary clearly illustrates the continuing crisis in New England agriculture. The wheat and corn market was dominated by the large farms of upstate New York and the Ohio Valley. Tobacco, which had seemed like a promising cash crop for the Connecticut Valley, depleted the soil rapidly and proved to be a very fickle market. In addition, many families had strong moral objections to producing tobacco. The cultivation of broom corn was introduced in the Valley in the 1820s and supplied material for the hand-tied brooms and brushes produced in many local shops throughout the 19th century. The dream of a New England silk industry in the 1830s and 1840s led to a brief craze for silkworms and mulberry trees in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Unfortunately, domestic production of raw silk proved economically unfeasible.

A survey of the Ferre property conducted by Palmer Gallup in the 1870s showed 12 acres of pasture and woodlot in the west side of Main Street and 28 acres of houselot, pasture, and woodlot on the east side between Main Street and River Road.

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Purchase - Ferre House,
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Upon the death of James in 1887, the house passed to his youngest (unmarried) daughter, Ida Hammer Ferre (b. 1849). The 1894 Richards atlas of Hampden County shows the house occupied by Miss Ida Ferre (L. Button to the north, L.L. Whitman to the south), as does the 1912 Richards atlas. A large, two-story, wood-frame barn that stood northeast of the house burned in 1914 and was never replaced. The barn ran east-west and had horse stalls and a large hayloft.

When Ida died in 1914, the house went to her older sister, Alice Maria Ferre Spears, who conveyed it to her daughter (and only living child), Florence Emily Spears (b. 1875). When Florence died (unmarried) in 1959, she left the house to Barbara and Frances Adams, the unmarried daughters of Florence Spears' cousin, Mary E. Ferre Adams. The house remains in their hands today (1990).

While many post-1800 farmhouses remain in present-day Agawam, 18th century properties are far rarer, making the Purchase-Ferre House a rare survivor. Only a handful of Colonial-period residences exist in the town today. Of these, fewer than five, including the nominated property, are full-scale houses; the rest are small cottages. The Purchase-Ferre House, like its contemporaries, is simply detailed on the exterior, its gable roof and five-bay facade dominated by a large, central chimney. The Purchase-Ferre House retains its double-leaved doors, though no longer in situ; they are now in use turned outside in, covering the cellar bulkhead. Interior finishes are well detailed and in fine condition. In its remarkably intact condition, complete with furnishings and papers of the present owners' ancestors, the Purchase-Ferre House remains a rich vestige of Agawam's agricultural past.

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Purchase - Ferre House,
Agawam, Massachusetts

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Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Agawam are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area offer the potential for a study of upland settlement and subsistence along the Connecticut River and its secondary drainages. Sites in these areas also offer the potential for a study of riverine versus upland settlement in the Berkshire mountains.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life on a Connecticut Valley farm from the 18th through 19th centuries. Structural remains and occupational-related features can provide information on individuals who occupied the farm as well as agricultural and manufacturing activities that occurred on the farm. The relationship and importance of wheel- and harness-making activities to agriculture can be a potentially significant research topic.

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Purchase - Ferre House,
Agawam, Massachusetts

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PURCHASE-FERRE HOUSE (Built 1764)
1289 MAIN ST., AGAWAM, MA

FERRE FAMILY GENEALOGY

- I. Gershom Ferry
b. north end of Springfield, 17--
m. Margaret Burt, 17--
d.

Children of Gershom Ferry & Margart Burt:

Margaret, b. 1748
Margaret, b. 1750
Moses, b. 1752
Aaron, b. 1754
Moses, b. 1756
Azuba, b. 1759
William, b. 1764

- II. Moses Ferre (Gershom & Margaret)
b. 1756
m. 1780 to Jerusha Easton (b. 6/9/1754, d. 9/23/1843).
d. 3/9/1832 (ae. 76)

Jerusha Easton had two sisters: Elizabeth (1755-1809), Mary (1758-1763).
Jerusha's father, Jonathan Easton, had been a sea captain. An old sea chest
and several of his journals survive in the family.

Moses purchased Agawam house in 1799.

Children of Moses Ferre & Jerusha Easton:

Jonathan Easton, b. 1781 in Conn., m. 1804 to Lydia Hanmer of Hartford, d.
1859.
Mary, b. 1782, d. infancy
Patience, b. 1782, d. infancy
Daniel, b. 1784, d. 1802 (unmarried)
Catherine, b. 1785, m. 1812 to Martin Sikes (Children: Martin Luther,
Nancy, Catherine, Lester)
Mary, b. 1787, m. Francis -
Nancy, b. 1790, m. David Sikes of Suffield
Rebecca, b. 1792, m. 1819 to Luther Bliss of Springfield

- III. Jonathan Easton Ferre (Moses & Jerusha)
b. 9/17/1781

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Purchase - Ferre House,
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m. 1804 to Lydia Hanmer (b. 1/3/1784, daughter of James & Elizabeth of Hartford, d. 4/25/1885)
Acquired Agawam house in 1819. Federal census of 1850 lists his occupation as farmer.
d. 2/13/1865

Children of Jonathan Easton Ferre and Lydia Hanmer:

James Hanmer, b. 10/18/1805 in Mass., m. 1840 to Emily Porter of Agawam, d. 8/27/1887.

Henry, b. 1807, m. 1833 to Laretta Goodrich of Wethersfield, 2nd m. 1849 to Mrs. Harriett Smith, d. -

Julia, b. 6/30/1809, m. 1840 to Horace D. Braman of Springfield, d. 12/18/1891.

IV. James Hanmer Ferre (Jonathan e. & Lydia Hanmer)

b. 10/18/1805 in Massachusetts

Acquired Agawam house in 1831.

m. 11/26/1840 to Emily Porter (b. 4/13/1812, daughter of Elijah & Lucy, d. 4/17/1879, ae 67) of Agawam.

Elijah & Lucy, d. 4/17/1879, ae 67) of Agawam.

Federal census of 1850 & '70 list his occupation as farmer.

d. 8/27/1887 (ae 81)

Children of James Hanmer Ferre & Emily Porter:

Adelaide Emily, b. 6/3/1842, m. 10/25/1871 to John Edgecomb of Mystic, CT, d. 1/15/1907

Charles Doughty, b. 10/12/1844, m. 5/1/1867 to Fannie C. Fisher of Springfield, d. 3/31/1904

James Porter, b. 6//24/1846, m. 5/6/1868 to Mary Francis Grinelle of Springfield, d. 6/18/1880

Alice Maria, b. 12/10/1847, m. 10/23/1872 to John Evarts Spears of Agawam, d. -

Ida Hanmer, b. 8/17/1849, unmarried, d. 1915.

V. Adelaide Emily Ferre (James H. & Emily Porter)

b. 6/3/1842

m. 10/25/1871 to John S. Edgecomb of Mystic, CT.

d. 1/15/1907

Children of John Edgecomb & Adelaide Ferre:

Charles Ferre, b. 9/8/1872

Arthur Braman, b. 9/16/1874

Helena Julie, b. 11/14/1877

George Sanborn, b. 6/10/1881

Margaret (?)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Purchase - Ferry House,
Agawam, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 8

- V. Charles Doughty Ferre (James H. & Emily Porter)
b. 10/12/1844
m. 5/1/1867 to Fannie C. Fisher of Springfield
CDF ran a dry goods store in Springfield.
d. 3/31/1904 (ae 59)

Children of Charles D. Ferre & Fannie Fisher:

James Fisher, b. 2/4/1871
Mary Edith, b. 1/8/78 Springfield, m. Scott Adams of Agawam

- V. James Porter Ferre (James H. & Emily Porter)
b. 6/24/1846
m. 5/6/1868
d. 6/18/1880 (ae 34)

Children of James P. Ferre & Marry F. Grinelle:

Franklin Braman, b. 4/16/1871, d. 11/30/1873 (ae 2 yrs., 7 mos.).
Harold Porter, b. 10/10/1879, d.

- V. Alice Maria Ferre (James H. & Emily Porter)
b. 12/10/1847
m. 10/23/1872 to John Evarts Spears of Belchertown (d. 10/1897)
d. 5/30/1928

John Spears ran the National Book Co. on Canal St. in NYC. He manufactured books for travelling salesmen.

Children of Alice M. Ferre & John E. Spears:

Winthrop Everts, b. 6/2/1874, d. 5/29/1880 (ae 6) of diphtheria
Florence Emily, b. 12/31/1875, acquired Agawam house in 1915 from Ida H. Ferre, d. 10/10/1959 (ae 83)

- V. Ida Hanmer Ferre (James H. & Emily Porter)
b. 8/17/1849
Acquired Agawam house in 1887, practiced as self-taught artist.
d. (unmarried) 9/13/1915.

- VI. Mary Edith Ferre (daughter of Charles & Fannie)
b. 1/8/1878 in Springfield
m. --- to Scott Adams of Agawam (b. 3/25/1874)
d. 11/24/1965

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Purchase - Ferre House,
Agawam, Massachusetts

Scott Adams was an attorney in Springfield. He served as City Solicitor during the construction of the Municipal Group and also served as a representative in the state legislature.

Children of Mary E. Ferre & Scott Adams:

Scott Adams, Jr., b. 11/20/09, m. (1) 6/29/35 to Barbara Winn of Arlington, MA (daughter Susanna Adams b. 1/16/1942), m. (2) 1974 to Joan Titley of Louisville, KY (b. 1/20/1931, d. 10/25/1986), d. 10/3/1982.

Frances Adams, b. 6/10/1904.
Barbara Adams, b. 2/5/1911.

Francis & Barbara Adams inherited the house in 1959 through the will of their mother's cousin, Florence Spears.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Purchase--Ferre House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 10/30/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/13/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/29/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/14/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001805

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 11/29/90 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
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



1
Photo 1: View of west (front) elevation, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing southeast (November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House.

1289 main St.

Agawam, MA

Hamden Ct

View of W. elevation



2

Photo 2: View of east (rear) elevation, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing northwest (November 1988).

Purchase-Ferre House

1289 Main St

Agawam, MA.

Sampson &

View of E. elevation.



3

Photo 3: View of garage, shop, and well, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing southwest (November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House

1289 Main St. *Dumplings*
Agawam, MA.

Garage, Shop and well



4

Photo 4: "View of Ferrefields, looking northwest." Oil on board, painted by Ida Hammer Ferre, late 19th c. (Photo November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House
1289 Main St
Agawam, MA

Hampden Co

Oil painting - "view of Ferrefields"



5
Photo 5: Detail of one of the original (1764) pair of entrance doors, now on the rear bulkhead, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA (November 1988).

Purchase-Ferre House

1289 Main St

Agawam, MA *Hampden Co*

Detail of original entrance door



6
Photo 6: View of fireplace wall, north parlor, Purchase-
Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing
southeast (November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House
1289 Main St
Agawam, MA Hampden Co
North Parlor



7

Photo 7: View of north parlor, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289
Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing northwest
(November 1988).

Purchase-Ferre

Purchase - Ferre House
1289 Main St.
Agawam, MA.

North Parlor



8
Photo 8: Detail of shell cupboard, north parlor, Purchase-
Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA (November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House

1289 Main St

Agawam, MA

Kumpinski

Shell Cupboard, North Parlor



9
Photo 9: View of fireplace wall, south parlor, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289 Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing northeast (November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House
1289 Main St Hampshire
Agawam, MA

South Parlor



10

Photo 10: View of old kitchen, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289
Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing northwest
(November 1988).

Purchase Ferre House
1289 Main St. Hampden Co.
Agawam, MA.

Old Kitchen



11
Photo 11: View of north chamber, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289
Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing southwest
(November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House

1289 - Main St.

Agawam, MA.

Humphreys

North Chamber



12 -

Photo 12: View of north chamber, Purchase-Ferre house, 1289
Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing northwest
(November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House

1289 Main St.

Agawam, MA

Humphreys CW

North Chamber



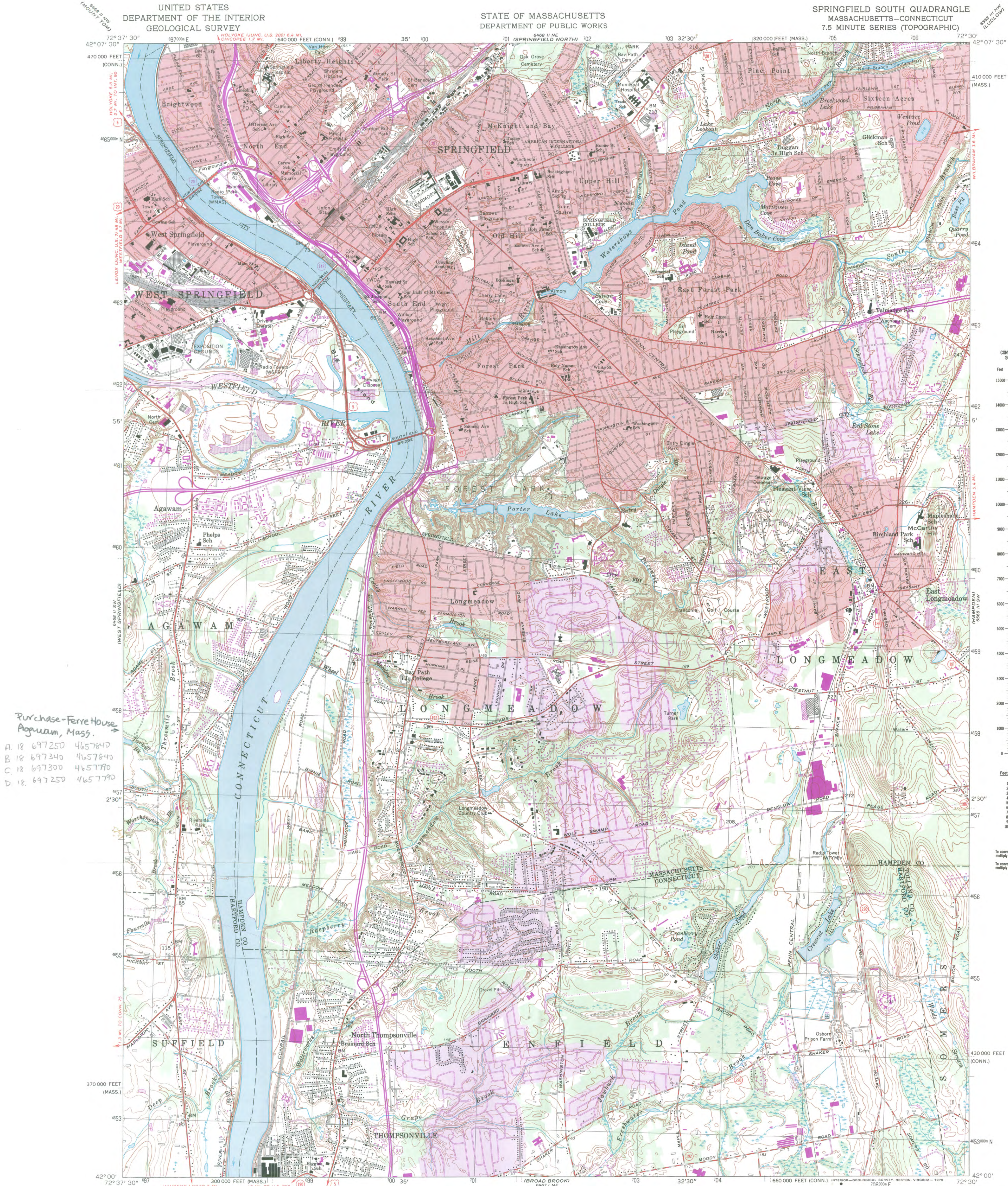
13

Photo 13: View of rear (east) chamber, Purchase-Ferre house,
1289 Main St., Agawam, MA. Photographer facing southwest
(November 1988).

Purchase - Ferre House
1289 main St
Agawam, MA

Pumpkin

East Chamber
Pumpkin Co MA



Purchase-Ferre House
Agawam, Mass.

A. 18 697250 4657840
B. 18 697340 4657840
C. 18 697300 4657790
D. 18 697250 4657790

CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4267
13000	4000
12000	3703
11000	3413
10000	3048
9000	2743
8000	2438
7000	2134
6000	1829
5000	1524
4000	1219
3000	914
2000	609
1000	305
0	0

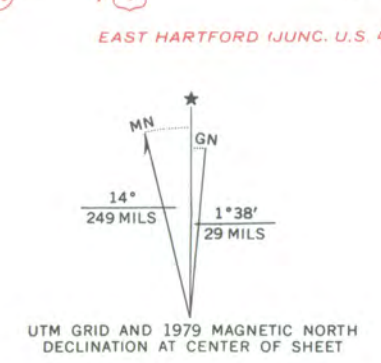
Feet Meters

1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3.048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1933 and 1942
Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958
Polyconic 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,
zone 18
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



SCALE 1:24,000

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route
Interstate Route	

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, MASS.-CONN.
N4200 - W7230/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814

Purchase - Ferre House
1269 Main St
Agawam, MA



61990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

October 22, 1990

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Schull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

Purchase-Ferre House, 1289 Main Street, Agawam (Hampden County), Massachusetts 01001.

There has been no owner objection for the property listed above.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has 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 form.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure: