

PH 006 4998

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FEB 24 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Benjamin Abbot House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9 Andover Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Andover

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Essex

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frank Demers

STREET & NUMBER

9 Andover Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Andover

VICINITY OF

Massachusetts 01810

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

381 Common Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

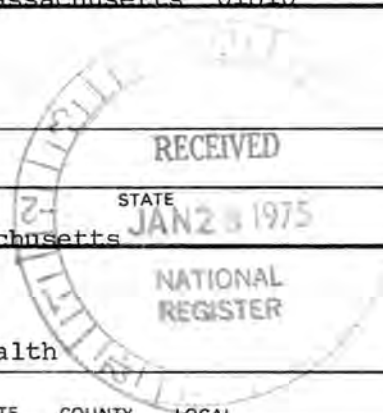
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

40 Beacon Street

STATE

Massachusetts



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 Benjamin Abbot House, c.1685, is situated in the Shawsheen River Valley, slightly southwest of the center of Andover. The structure faces due south and at one time commanded a view of the rolling farmland along the river's edge. Today the scene has changed. Progress has brought a widened road that literally curves around the southeast corner of the house. A graded and elevated section of the Boston and Maine Railroad blocks its northern view to the river. The roadway that was once a seldom travelled dirt path has been transformed into a busy thoroughfare connecting the center of Andover with the present interstate highway system.

The changes in its immediate vicinity bear witness to the fact that the Abbot House has seen its share of progress, yet the weathered clapboard facade with its garret overhang remains in a remarkably original state (Figure 2). The house was built before 1720 and the traditional date of 1685 may be accurate.

The building that remained in the Abbot family until 1933 grew to its present configurations in four distinct stages (Figure 1). The first stage can be defined as a one-room house with end chimney built on the west side of the Shawsheen River in the Old South Parish of Andover (Figure 1, Sketch A). The exposed frame is heavy with simple flat chamfer and 'lamb's tongue' stops. The ceilings are white washed and the chamber floor is supported by 3"x5" joists at two-foot spacing and attached to a 14"x11" pine summer beam by means of cog joints. Front and rear girts and plates measure 9" square and are also made of pine. The chimney and end girts measure 15"x9" and are made of oak as are the shouldered corner posts. The summer beam is joined to the chimney and end girts with a double tusk and tenon joint, common to structures built before 1720.

The first floor hall (Fig. 3 and 4) and the second floor chamber (Fig. 5 and 6) measure 19' square with their peripheral covering supported by two story oak studs at two-foot spacing. The interior walls of the first floor hall are covered with mud and straw over lath with a final coat of white wash. The focal point of the hall is a great fireplace measuring 9' wide and 4.5' high.

The second story chamber also displays the primitive mud on lath wall covering. However, the fireplace wall is covered with unusual raised field panels applied to boarding and outlined by early 18th c. moulding (Fig. 5 and 6). (Two other houses in the Andover area contain panelling identical to that in the second story chamber, probably the work of the same joiner). Originally the chamber ceiling was white washed, but today it is covered with plaster which was added during the first quarter of the 18th c.

The roof is of the typical late First Period purlin and rafter construction with ridge pole. Rafters are oak and purlins are pine. Across the front of the house is a garret overhang framed by the second story tie beams which ride over and are joined to the front plate by full dovetail joints. This overhang is probably the most significant architectural feature of the house, elevating it from the ranks of a simple farmhouse in terms of joinery and style. The front garret overhang is also complemented by a diminished gable overhang at the garret floor level. This overhang is formed simply by a projection of the second story end tie beams.

cont'd

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The second (pre-1720) stage in the development of the Abbot House was complete with the addition of a two-room, two story structure to the west of the first addition (Fig.1, Sketch B). The major members are finished with a flat chamfer with lamb's tongue stops and the structure is framed in much the same manner as the first stage house. The major construction differences between the first and second stage structures lie in the size of the structural components. Floor joists measure 3x4" on 22" spacing. The first floor summer beam and the second story tie beams measure 10x12". All structural components except posts, braces and studs are of pine.

The rooms of the second stage addition measure 19x16'. The first floor hall has been modified by the addition of late 18th c.-early 19th c. plaster ceilings and plaster walls, with wainscotting and window seats added within the walls of the First Period room. In addition, the original great fireplace opening has been reduced in size and a 19th c. fireplace and mantel have been introduced (Fig.7).

The second story chamber retains much of its original fabric. Interior walls are covered with unpainted sheathing (Fig.8) while the floor boards retain the rose headed nails used to attach them to the second floor joists.

The second stage addition also displays the front garret and gable overhangs and the framing is nearly identical to that of the first stage building (Fig.9). The walls of the second stage are filled with brick nogging as are the walls of the first stage.

During the last half of the 18th c., the Abbot House was again expanded. The addition of a single story lean-to off the back or north side of the building and a small extension to the east of the original house completed the third stage of development (Fig.1, Sketch C).

The lean-to incorporates two narrow rooms across the back of the house, each with a corner fireplace. The room to the east of the chimney has plaster walls and a simple 18th c. fireplace mantel (Fig.10). The room to the west of the chimney served as a kitchen and the fireplace contains a large beehive bake oven. The walls are covered with horizontal feather edge sheathing.

The small extension to the east of the first stage was added to allow access to the well without leaving the building. This access is obtained through a unique half-door at the end of the small addition.

The 19th c. house brought still another series of changes to the Abbot House (Fig.1, Sketch D). The single story lean-to was raised to a story and a half, thereby gaining important head room at the second floor level. A barn was added to the west of and connected to the main house by an ell which at one time served as a laundry room and carriage shed.

The walls of the second floor of the lean-to are covered with primitive feather-edge sheathing, while the ell contains some beaded sheathing and batten doors.



8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1685?

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benjamin Abbot House, 1685?, is significant as an extremely well preserved First Period house and as the earliest extant home of the locally important Abbot family.

Standing on the west side of the Shawsheen River in the Old South Parish of Andover, the house is believed to have been built for Benjamin Abbot at the time of his marriage to Sarah Farnum in 1685. Benjamin Abbot was a farmer and fence surveyor in the town. He was also one of a number of people who testified against Martha Carrier, who was hanged as a result. The building remained in the Abbot family until 1933 and today represents the earliest standing house of the most prolific family of the settlement period of Andover (1646- early 1700's). The Abbot family claimed more males on the town tax lists between 1705 and 1767 than any other family. Almost every family in town was related to the Abbots in some way. Because of its size, the Abbot family serves as a good example of the type of closely knit social world common to and necessary for the growth and development of an inland farming community in the 17th c.

The house is architecturally significant because it retains most of its original fabric, which is extremely uncommon for a building nearly 300 years old. The framing techniques, particularly the garret overhang, the unusual early 18th c. panelling, the early mud and plaster walls and the great fireplaces and original flooring all present a complete and original picture of early Colonial architecture.



Property Abbat, Benjamin, House

ESSEX

State Mass.

Working Number 1-28-75.135

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 9
Maps 1

OK pl
1.30.75

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
1-31-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

ACCEPT
H. J. ...
2/11/75

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
COLE
2-11-75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

George ...
W. J. ...
2/20/75

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered FEB 24 1975

Federal Register Entry 4-1-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Benjamin Abbot House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Andover

— VICINITY OF

Essex

COUNTY

Massachusetts

STATE

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Frank Demers

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

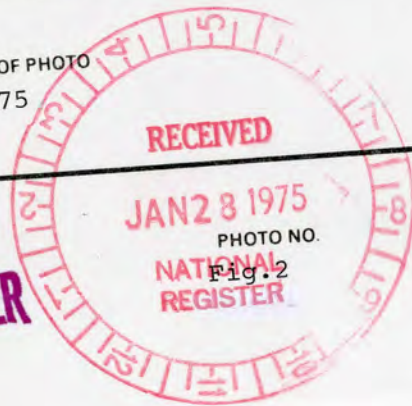
NEGATIVE FILED AT

same

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

South facade



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1029



FIGURE 10

Benj. Abbot

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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1 NAME

HISTORIC Benjamin Abbot House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Andover VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT M. McCue

DATE OF PHOTO

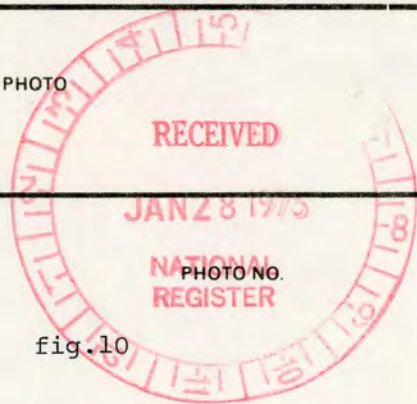
NEGATIVE FILED AT same

1975

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

lean-to room east of chimney



2 of 9

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



FIGURE 3

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Essex

STATE

Massachusetts

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PHOTO CREDIT

M. McCue

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1975

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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First floor hall

3 of 7





FIGURE 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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First floor hall

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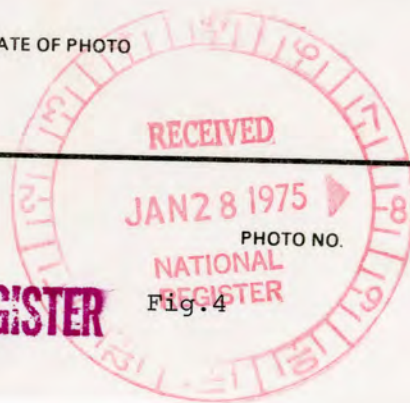


Fig. 4

4049



FIGURE 5

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M. McCue

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same

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

5 of 9
second story chamber

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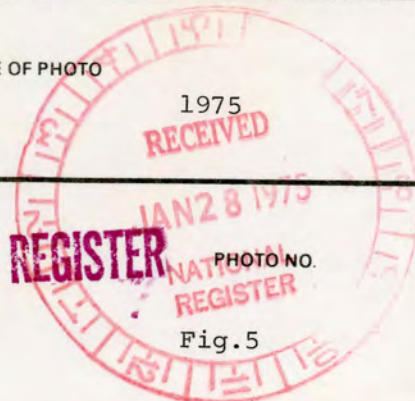




FIGURE 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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M. McCue

NEGATIVE FILED AT

same

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

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

second floor chamber

#6 of 9

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

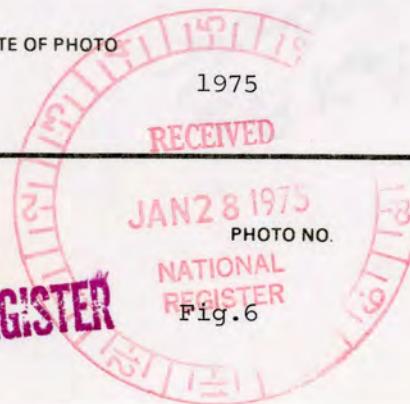




FIGURE 7

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PHOTO CREDIT

M. McCue

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

same

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

first floor hall of second stage addition

7 of 9

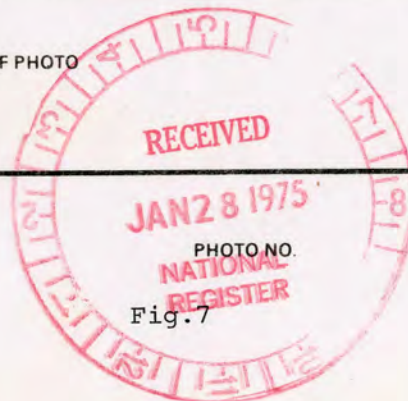


PHOTO NO.
Fig. 7

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

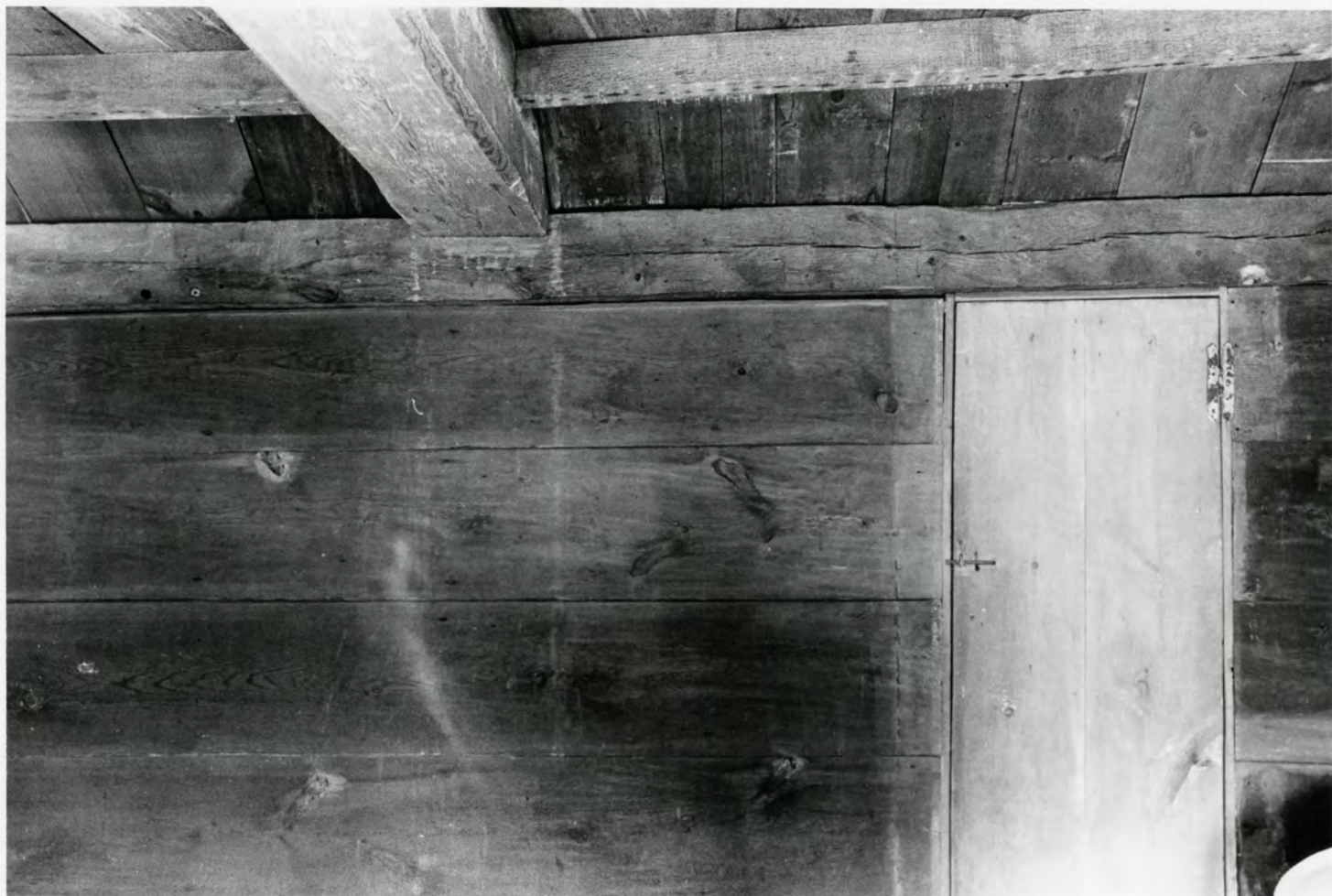


FIGURE 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Essex

STATE

Massachusetts

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PHOTO CREDIT

M. McCue

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

same

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

second stpry chamber of second stage

8 of 9

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

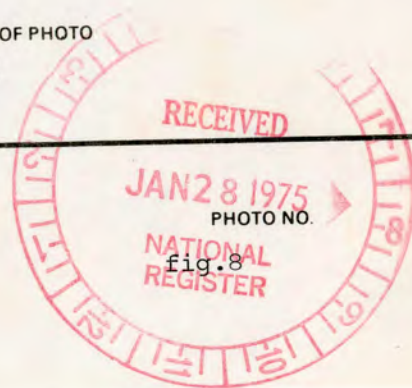




FIGURE 9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PHOTO CREDIT

M. McCue

1975

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NEGATIVE FILED AT

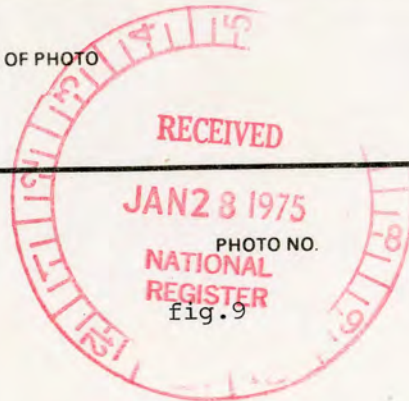
same

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

second stage addition- garret overhang

7029



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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Andover

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Essex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

sketch page - Fig.1

SCALE

DATE

1975

4 REQUIREMENTS

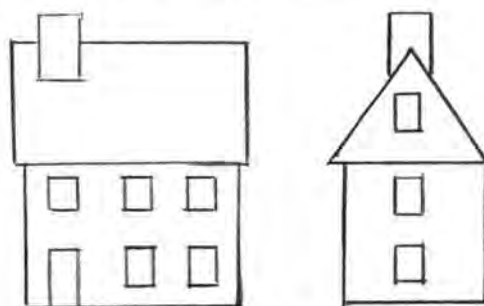
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



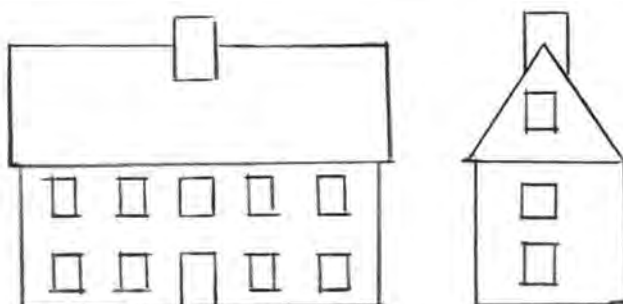
FIGURE 1
ABBOT HOUSE DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE 1720



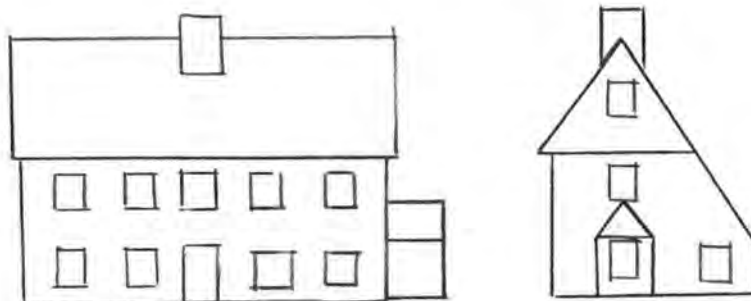
SKETCH A

BEFORE 1720

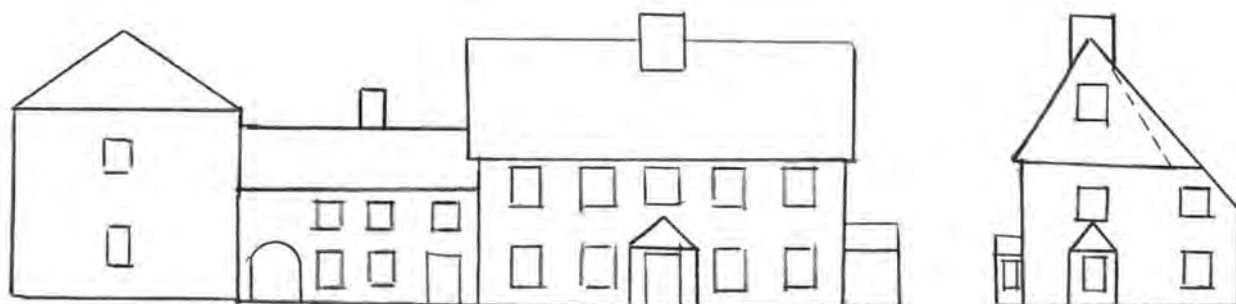


SKETCH B

BEFORE 1800



SKETCH C



BEFORE 1900

SKETCH D

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CITY, TOWN

Andover

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Essex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE 1966

4 REQUIREMENTS

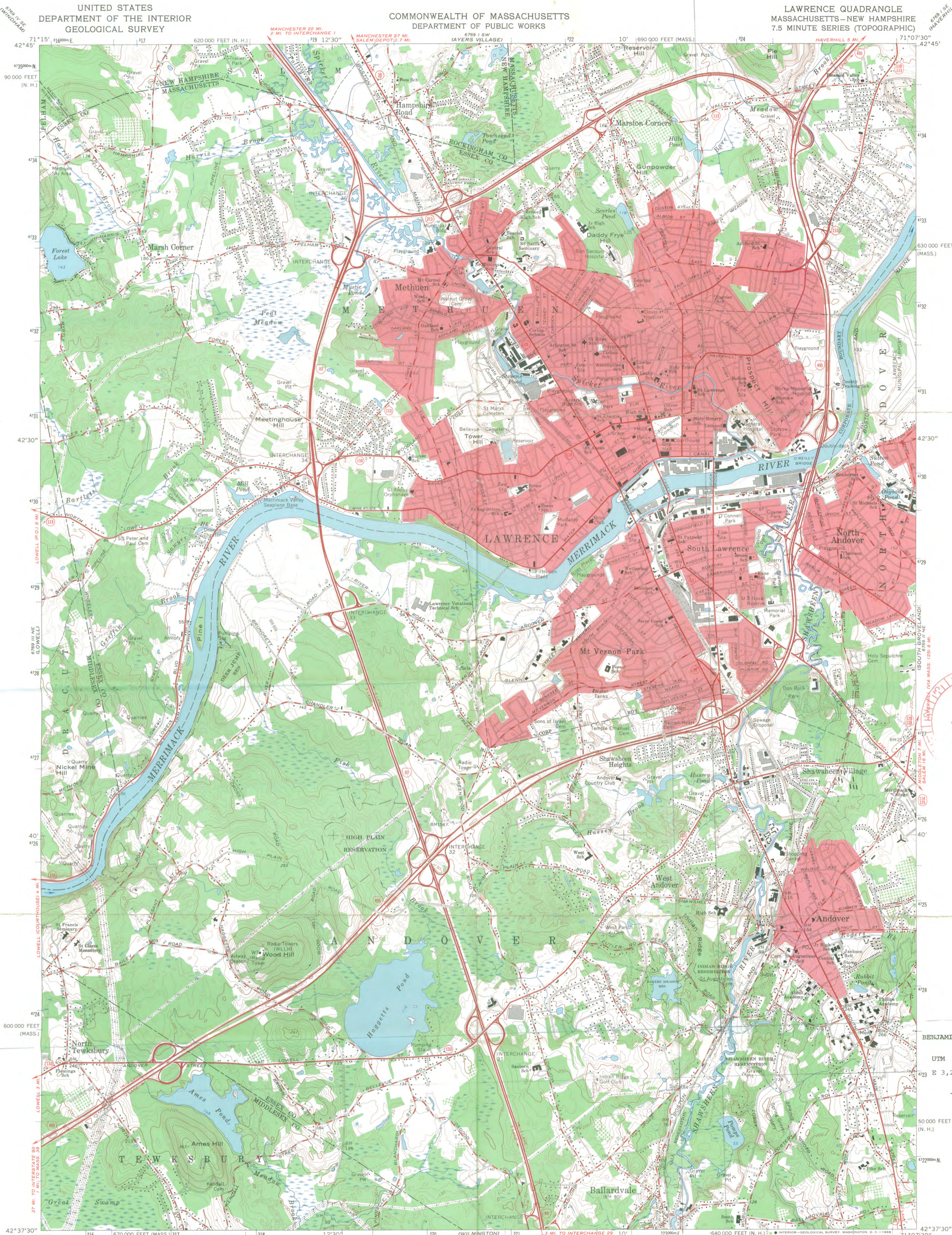
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

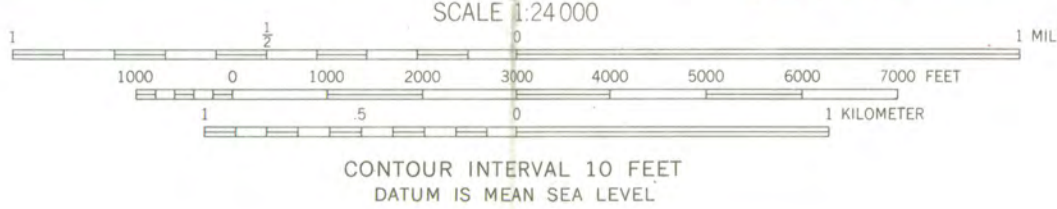
RECEIVED

JAN 28 1975

NATIONAL
REGISTER



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetab surveys 1941 and 1942. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	State Route

BENJAMIN ABBOT HOUSE,
ANDOVER
UTM Z19
E 3,23,528 N 47,23,580
HR
UTM
OK

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

LAWRENCE, MASS.—N. H.
N4237.5—W7107.5/7.5
1966
AMS 6789 II NW—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

727-8470

22 January 1975

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attention: Charles Herrington, Chief of Register

096883
CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Charles:

Enclosed are four National Register submissions for the following properties:

1. Medford, Bigelow Block, Middlesex County,
2. Milton, Governor Hutchinson's Ha-Ha, Norfolk County,
3. Wilmington, Harnden Tavern, Middlesex County,
4. Andover, Benjamin Abbot House, Essex County.

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Elizabeth R. Amadon, as State Historic Preservation Officer.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions are to be included in our 1976 apportionment warrant. Therefore, we would appreciate your processing these nominations promptly. Please let us know if any other information is needed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty".

Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ERA:pj
Encl.



2

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered

FEB 24 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bigelow Block	Medford Middlesex County
Abbot, Benjamin, House	Andover Essex County
Harwich Historic District	Harwich Barnstable County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Hon. Terbert H. MacDonald	Executive Director
Hon. Paul E. Tsongas	Massachusetts Historical Commission
Hon. Gerry E. Studds	40 Beacon St.
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR

MMott/row

2/25/75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/18/77
Reviewer INITIALS: gjojo.
NR DOE Feb. 24, 1975
12-24-75

✓ NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Abbot, Benjamin, House
OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:
✓ STREET & NUMBER 9 Andover Street
✓ CITY, TOWN Andover
✓ STATE Massachusetts
VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th
✓ COUNTY Essex code 009

✓ OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER
ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:
INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown -5 - unknown -6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9
- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ~~EXCELLENT~~ DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO
WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:
WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- private residence
now- private residence

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: NEW ENGLAND COLONIAL

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal (1) Benjamin Abbot - owner - farmer/fence surveyor

events

institutional

✓ DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

✓ c 1685

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/4

✓ COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

FRAME, CLAPBOARDING; 2 1/2 STORIES PLUS

~~THIS~~ RECTANGULAR WITH SIDE WINGS, GABLED ROOF, CENTER CHIMNEY, PROJECTING FRONT CENTER GABLED VESTIBULE WITH paneled door; EXCELLENT 17th - AND 18th C. PERIOD INTERIORS INTACT; ORIGINAL 1-ROOM HOUSE WITH ~~END CHIMNEY~~ EXPANDED ^{BY} 2-STORY ADDITION, PRE-1720; REAR LEAN-TO ADDED, ^{late} LAST HALF 18TH C. NEW ENGLAND COLONIAL. UNUSUAL EXAMPLE OF SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) BUILDING PROGRESSIVELY THROUGH CONTINUAL ADAPTATION; EARLIEST EXTANT DWELLING OF THE LOCALLY IMPORTANT ABBOT FAMILY.