

MAY 23 1989

699

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

B

147

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

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

Town WakefieldAddress 15 Nahant StreetHistoric Name Michael Sweetser HomeUse: Present dwellingOriginal dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date pre 1775 (Or 1755?)Source Morrison, "Wakefield's Old Houses"Style Georgian/Greek RevivalArchitect AExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) 2 story rear ell; 2 story Beverly-jog, east; 1800s entry enclosed (this century)

Condition _____

Moved from southeast corner Main and Nahant Streets Date c. 1930

Acreage less than one acre

Setting parallel to old road, faces north

UTM REFERENCE 19/329950/4706860USGS QUADRANGLE Boston, North, Mass.SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
Organization Wakefield Historical Commission
Date March 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Sweetser House is a well preserved example of local Georgian Vernacular house design and belongs to one of Wakefield's prominent families. A 19th century occupant of the house was Paul Hart Sweetser, one of the founder's of the Massachusetts Teacher Association and very active in town affairs. The house retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets ~~exception~~ B, & C of the NRHP.

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

This is an excellent example of the local Georgian Vernacular house. The door surround of paneled pilasters supporting a simple entablature and framing long sidelights appears to have been added during the Greek Revival period, about 1830-1850. Five bays long and 2½ stories high, the clapboard house had a gable roof framed with a boxed cornice. Wide cornerboards and paired end windows are typical of local building patterns, as is the conservative central chimney. The Beverly jog, the two story addition with a shed roof, is infrequently found in Wakefield, but is common further north of Boston. The house was moved a short distance from its original site on Main and Nahant Streets.

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

The land on which the house stands was part of the original Smith farm, which was purchased from local Native Americans, and stretched from Crystal Lake to the border with Malden. Michael Sweetser, who built this house about 1755, was the first of the respected clan of Sweetsters. His wife was a Smith, so it is likely that he purchased the land from his father-in-law. A later descendant, Paul Hart Sweetser, was one of 19th century Wakefield's most respected town figures. Like most local boys he trained as a shoemaker, but he attended the South Reading Academy when it opened in 1828. He became a teacher in Boston and Charlestown, helped to establish the Massachusetts Teacher Association, and was editor of its journal. He was a longtime member of the Wakefield School Board, and wrote many of its annual reports. He was also active in the Abolition movement, held almost every local public office, and was twice a Middlesex County Commissioner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps 1765, Michael Sweetser
1795 Thomas Sweetser

Eaton, Chester, and Eaton, Warren, Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient town of Redding. Reading, 1896.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Massachusetts State Armory
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

72. Richardson, Dr. S.O., House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

73. Simpson, Dr. Thomas House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

74. South Reading Academy
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

75. St. Joseph's School
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

76. Stimpson, William, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

77. Sweetser, Daniel, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

78. Sweetser, Michael, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

79. Temple Israel Cemetery
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

80. Tilton, D. Horace, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byan 7/6/89

Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000699

Date Listed: 07/06/89

Sweetser, Michael, House
Property Name

Middlesex
County

MA
State

Wakefield MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Beth L. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

7/6/89
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Clarification of Criteria:

The property is listed for significance under criterion C only, as a Georgian vernacular house.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, Acting national Register Director, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sweetser, Michael, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000699

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 7/6/89 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
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



B 147

15 Nahant St.

Sweetser, Michael, House

Wakefield MA, Ma

15 NAHANT ST

19



SCALE: 1" = 80'

IE
3.74 A
TOWN



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300