

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**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

John Whipple House

AND/OR COMMON

John Whipple House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

53 South Main Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ipswich

\_\_ VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts

25

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

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ipswich Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

53 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Ipswich

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)

DATE

1940

FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress/Annex Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE  
D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE 1927

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of the house, now the west half, was constructed as a typical one-room, two-story structure with entrance door, high end chimney and a stairway to a large sleeping chamber on the upper floor. This room may have originally been divided by a partition to form two sleeping chambers. This first building was the Whipple House during the lifetime of the first John Whipple who was living there by 1642.

In 1670, Captain John Whipple, Jr., made a large addition to the east, more than doubling the size of the original house. This enlargement gives the exterior the familiar central chimney appearance, here flanked by two gabled peaks which form dormers in the attic story. These gables are as symmetrically placed, as are the casement windows and entrance door. In adding the new section, two hewn or false overhangs were introduced, one for each story at the eastern end of the new addition. These overhang beams are chamfered and carved with lambs tongues in the same manner as the interior beams, and have small decorative brackets.

The house took its final form when the next owner added a lean-to of considerable size across the rear of the house, sometime after 1700.

The original restoration took place in 1892 when the Ipswich Historical Society purchased the house. At the time modern ceilings were removed and casement windows installed. A fine eighteenth century corner cupboard was left in place and the fireplace wall was paneled in a style similar to the cupboard. During the 1950's this paneling was removed and replaced with some patterned after a fragment found under the door. During this period the first casement windows with wooden calmes were replaced with leaded calmes. Necessary structural work was also undertaken at this time under the direction of William C. Perry, who also restored the pair of gables in the front roof. A full photographic record of the structural evidence for the restoration and of the structural stabilization is in the possession of the Ipswich Historical Society.

When the house was enlarged it was constructed as a separate unit with new corner posts and end beams. The rooms of this addition were unusually fine, containing triple light windows, beautifully molded framing timbers and the rare use of summer beams crossed at right angles. The fireplace wall paneling is original but in the upper chamber it is a replacement.

The house was moved from its original position in 1927 from the other side of the river, a distance of approximately one block. The grounds of the house cover several acres to the west of the town's South Green. In 1968 an ell from the original 17th century Bradstreet House on Rowley Street was moved onto the lawn south of the Whipple House and is used as a garden center for a collection of twelve varieties of gallica or damask roses. A small herb garden in the front dooryard of the Whipple House itself, planted with materials documented in chronicles, diaries and inventories is maintained by the Ipswich Garden Club.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 c1642, 1670

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the earliest New England houses, probably built around 1640, the Whipple House and its later additions reflect growth and prosperity through several generations.

The Whipple House is a remarkable example of the development of a 17th century dwelling over a span of many years. In its three distinct units are reflected the evolution of workmanship and architectural detail as the Whipple descendants grew away from their English origins. Although the original portion of the house may have been built as early as 1638, the date is conjectural. The earliest documented date for the house is 1650, when its earlier sale from one John Fawn to John Whipple is confirmed. Whatever the precise date of its construction, the house constitutes an exceptional record of New England settlement in the early Colonial period.

## HISTORY

The John Whipple House was probably built around 1640. A document of 1650 confirms the earlier sale from John Fawn to John Whipple of the land where the house stands. Whipple had been in the house for a while by 1642, or at least on the land, for there is a record of his reimbursement by the town dated 1642 for a fence he built between his house and a neighbor's.

The first John Whipple was a leader in the settlement of Agawam, later Ipswich, as well as in the Massachusetts Colony. He served as deputy of the General Court in Boston, and held the office of selectman, deacon and later ruling elder of the church in Ipswich. The elder Whipple's son, also named John, continued the family's tradition of public service, serving as a representative to the General Court and as an officer in the bloody King Philip's War of 1675-76. It was this second John Whipple who added a second unit to the house in 1670, more than doubling its size. The third John Whipple added a lean-to at the back sometime after 1700 giving the house its present day form.

On the death of Captain John Whipple, son of the original builder, the Whipple House, with two and one half acres of land, kiln and outhouse was appraised at 300 pounds, indicating that even in the early period the house was considered an unusually valuable property.

The house was acquired by the Ipswich Historical Society in 1898. It was moved to its present location in 1927 from a site next to the railroad, where sparks from

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York, 1922.  
 Lathrop, Elise, Historic Houses of Early America, New York, 1926.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.  
 Pierson, William H. Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and Neo-Classical Period, Garden City, New York, 1970.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	34,9	5,2,0	4,7	2,6	2,8,0	B				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
C							D				

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary has been drawn to include enough land around the house to secure its proper setting, which is very similar to its original, but excluding the other structures on the Historical Society grounds. (See Sketch map): South Main Street makes a right degree turn to the right and becomes South Village Green Road. The Whipple House fronts on South Village Green Road. At the point marked "X" on the sketch map, proceed west along the southern curb of South Main Street to the ~~eastern edge of the first driveway; thence south along the eastern edge of the~~

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project  
 original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Historic Sites Survey	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1100 L Street NW	523-5464
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Washington	D.C.

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark Designated	DATE
October 1968	
Boundary Certified	DATE
George Penney	APRIL 11, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 11/24/88
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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the trains presented a hazard. It now has a good location on the Ipswich Green on land donated by Richard Crane, the Chicago Plumbing fixtures magnate. He was a summer resident in the area and became interested in the preservation of the house. A small seventeenth century garden has been planted in front of the house which is operated as a house museum.

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Waters, Thomas F., "The John Whipple House," Publications of the Ipswich  
Historical Society, No. 20, 1916.

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driveway to a row of hedges that form a yard area of about 50 feet south of the house; thence east along this row of hedges to the western curb of South Village Green Road; thence north along the western curb of South Village Green Road to the point of origin.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Boundary

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continuing in a straight line to the road, (South Village Green) then north along the road to the point of beginning as shown on the sketch map.