

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 6 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 13 1976

**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 Pitt Clarke House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

42 Mansfield Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Norton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Bristol

CODE

005

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 Herbert S. Phillips

STREET & NUMBER

42 Mansfield Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Norton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bristol County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

11 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Taunton

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth/H&BS

DATE

1969/1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission/ Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Boston/Washington D.C.

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 Pitt Clarke House, built in 1797, faces east on thirty acres of fields and woods a short distance from the town center. A two-and one-half story clapboarded Georgian structure, it has a five bay facade with a center entrance flanked by pilasters. Above the door is a fan light with a broken pediment. The fenestration, with twelve-over-twelve sash on the first floor and eight-over-twelve above, is regular with the exception of the south side where there is an extra window on the first floor. The ridge roof has two interior end chimneys. A single story ell housing the kitchen area is attached to the southwest corner; a wood shed extends from the kitchen with an entrance between the two. A third entrance is at the rear of the house. A two-story barn and single story shed comprise the outbuildings located behind the house. The plan of the interior is simple with four rooms flanking the central stairhall on the first and second floors. Each room has its own fireplace.

In 1950, the Pitt Clarke house was acquired by the present owners. As the house has been altered little, a minimal amount of restoration was done.

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 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 1797

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pitt Clarke House is significant architecturally to the community as an example of the early custom that required a community to provide the land and housing for its minister. The house was constructed in 1797 as a parsonage for the Reverend Pitt Clarke, third minister in Norton. The parishioners did the work of clearing the land and cutting the lumber for the construction of the house. They then built the house, dug the well, and put up the stone walls that still surround the house and fields. The house was used as a parsonage for the forty-two years that Reverend Clarke served as minister.

A graduate of Harvard and a well-known educator, Reverend Clarke shared his learning with the Norton community. He tutored Harvard students in his home, and prepared younger pupils for college. He served as the first librarian in Norton. Along with his ministerial duties and teaching services, he ran a productive farm.

In 1856 Nathaniel Freeman bought the house and fifty acres that went with it. The Freeman family held the property for ninety-four years and continued to farm the land. During their ownership the house was altered very little. In 1950 the present owners purchased the Pitt Clarke house and restored and preserved the interiors.

The house, with its simple Colonial lines and intact rural setting is an important visual reminder of Norton's past.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, George Farber, A History of the Town of Norton, Boston, 1859

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 31.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 | 318260 | 4648800
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 19 | 318400 | 4648600
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 19 | 318040 | 4648400

D 19 | 317980 | 4648600

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the northeast by the west side of Mansfield Avenue, on the south by the back lot lines of the properties on Pitt Clarke Road, on the west by the Norton Reservoir, and on the north by a line extending southwest from a point on Mansfield Avenue 600 feet north of the Pitt Clarke House to the Reservoir.

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

Jody Turner

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

3/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

7/13/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Jody Turner
Charles O'Connell

DATE

7-7-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 7/9/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 10 PAGE 1

7.

The physical evidence in the construction suggests that the ell and the shed to the rear of the house are original. An account written by Jennie Copeland, the grand-daughter of the second owner of the house, supports the physical evidence. She stated in an article in the 1950 summer issue of SPNEA's Old Time New England that "In addition to the wood needed for the nine fireplaces, he [Pitt Clarke] required it for fires to heat two brick ovens for baking, for the smoker room where he cured his meat, and also for the fire under the set boiler used on wash days and at butchering time." At present there are eight fireplaces in the house itself and one in the ell, the same number mentioned by Ms. Copeland in her SPNEA article. The brick oven and the set boiler are also still intact.

The house has only changed hands twice since it was built. Since the second owners, the Freemans, "Changed nothing and never failed to tell visitors that this was where Pitt Clarke lived" (Copeland's SPNEA article) and the present owners only undertook minor restoration and modernization, it seems probable that the ell is original.

10.

The property is bounded on the northeast by the west side of Mansfield Avenue, on the south by the back lot lines of the properties on Pitt Clarke Road, on the west by the Norton Reservoir, and on the north by a line extending northeast from point D on the shore of the reservoir (approx. 600 feet north of point C) to point A on Mansfield Avenue, approx. 600 feet north of the Pitt Clarke House.

Property

Bristol

State Mass

Working Number 4.6.76.3023

TECHNICAL

Photos 2
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 4.14.76

~~No justification for including that much land since the property is~~
Needs accurate north boundary.

HISTORIAN

CALL
Linsgood
5 May 76

dates of alleys + additions (S. Kitchen, wood shed)
boundary description needs to be reworked; I'd like to ask about cornice?
Someone has crisscrossed the areas of significance into one jumbled thought -
not important enough to get changed - just thought I'd mention it
Called - 6-1-76 will send info -

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Rec'd
6-22-76
Accept
Accept after info comes
M.A. Aubrey

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Call then Accept
W.P. Luce
5/7/76

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colz
7.1.76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hunt
7.9.76

National Register Write-up

8-3-76

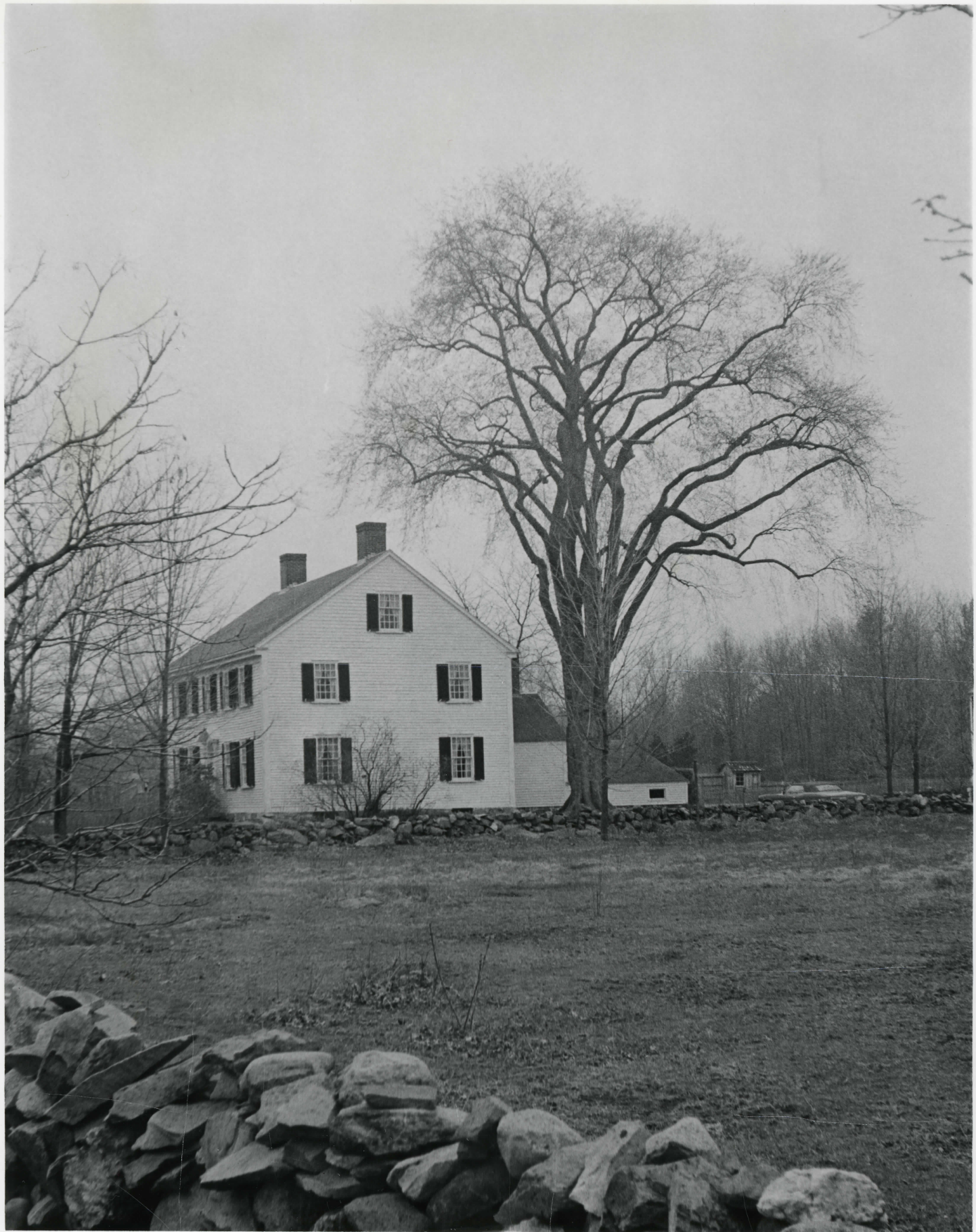
Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 13 1976

Federal Register Entry

INT:2106-74



1971

Pitt Clarke House, Norton, MA
David Hoyle 1971
Norton Historical Commission
looking south at west facade and north
elevation
photo #1

Bristol Co

APR 6 1976

JUL 13 1976
Doc

LOOKING SOUTH

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DAVID HOYLE



PITT CLARKE HOUSE

42 MANSFIELD AVE.

NORTON, MASS

Bristol Co.

DEC. 7, 1975, HOPE PHILLIPS

LOOKING WEST

Photo #2

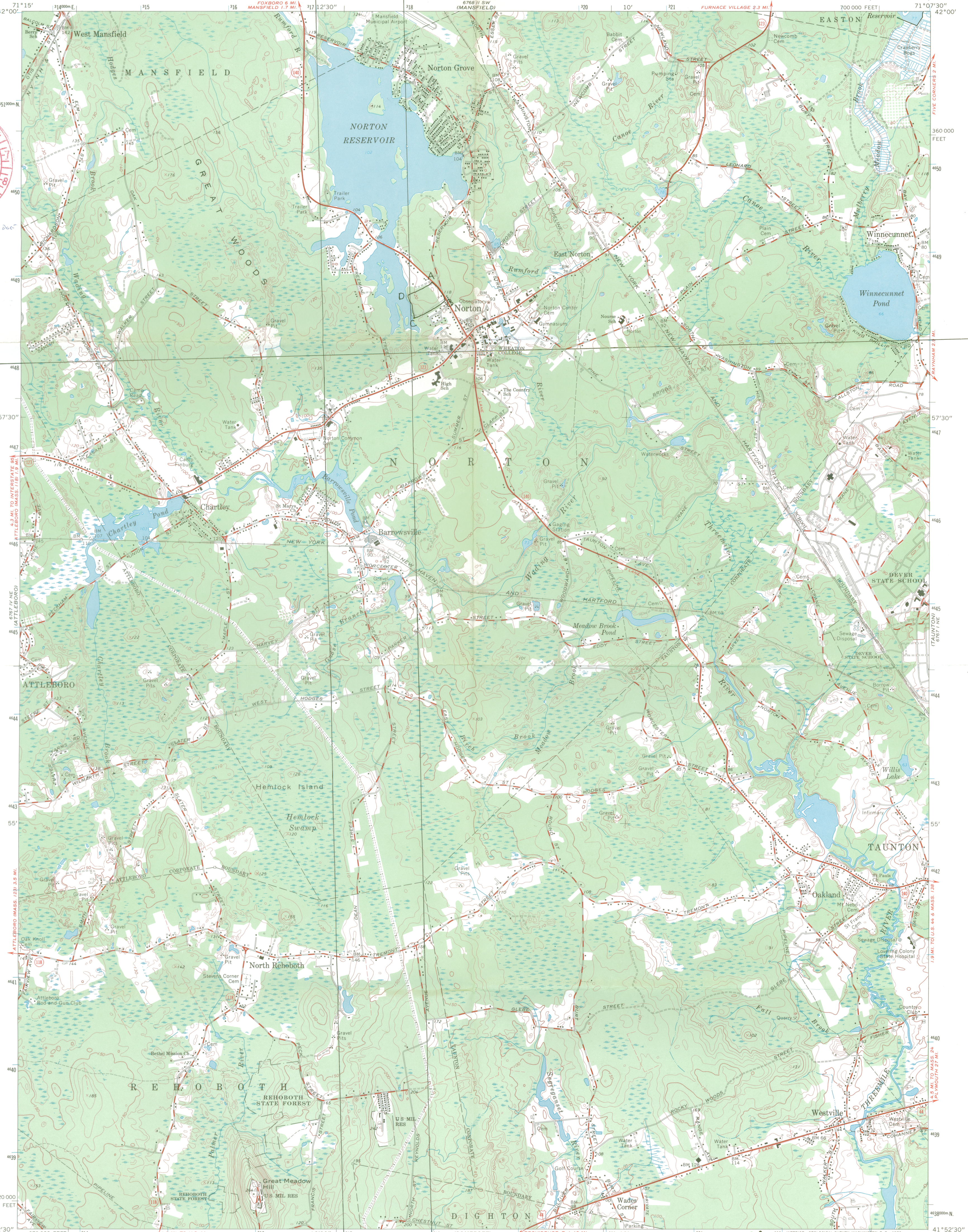
APR 6 1976

JUL 13 1976 *Doc*

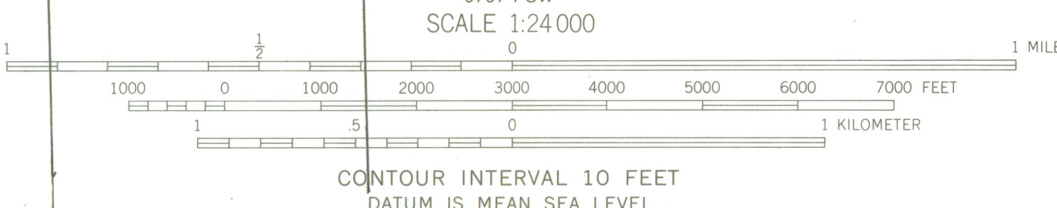
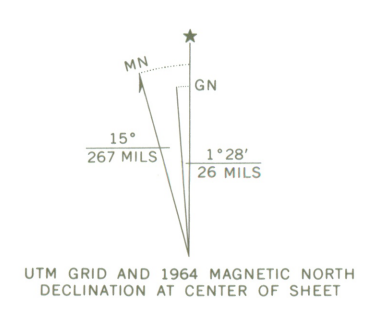
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Norton, Pitt Clarke
House
UTM references:
A - 19/318260/4648800
B - 19/318400/4648600
C - 19/318040/4648400
D - 19/317980/4648660



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1942. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

NORTON, MASS.
N4152.5-W7107.5/7.5
1964
AMS 6767 1 NW-SERIES V814



PAUL GUZZI

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary*

Massachusetts Historical Commission

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470*

June 15, 1976

Ms. Mickey Lutz
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mickey:

Enclosed is the additional information you requested for the Pitt Clarke House in Norton. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

I have also enclosed some pictures of the Locks and Canals Yards, in the Locks and Canals Historic District in Lowell. The Yards burned a while ago, but we would like to keep them in the district. Quite a bit of original fabric is left, and plans are being developed to stabilize the existing buildings. Would you give the pictures to the appropriate person? Thanks.

Cordially,

Christine Boulding
Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RECEIVED

AUG 27 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

SENTINEL
FRANKLIN, MA.
W. 3.000

Mass.

Fusk

Bristol

AUG 18 1976

New
England
Newsclip

Pitt Clarke House accepted in Register of Historic Places

NORTON - Pitt Clarke House at 42 Mansfield Ave., Norton, nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has been accepted.

State Secretary Paul Guzzi, chairman of the commission, was informed of the move by Gary Everhardt, director of the National Park Service in the United States Department of the Interior.

The house is significant architecturally to the community as an example of the early custom that required a community to provide the land and housing for its minister. The house was constructed in 1797 as a parsonage for the Rev. Pitt Clarke, third minister in Norton. The parishoners did the work of clearing the

land and cutting the lumber for the construction of the house. They then built the house, dug the well, and put up the stone walls that still surround the house and fields. The house was used as a parsonage for the 42 years that Rev. Mr. Clarke served as minister.

A graduate of Harvard and a well-known educator, Rev. Mr. Clarke shared his learning with the Norton community. He tutored Harvard students in his home, and prepared younger pupils for college. He served as the first librarian in Norton. Along with his ministerial duties and teaching services, he ran a productive farm.

In 1856, Nathaniel Freeman bought the house and the 50 acres of land that went with it. The Freeman family held the

property for 94 years and continued to farm the land. During their ownership the house was altered very little. In 1950, the present owners purchased the Pitt Clarke House and restored and preserved the interior.

The house faces East on 30 acres of fields and woods a short distance from the center of town of Norton. A two and a half story clapboarded Georgian structure, it has a five bay facade with a center entrance flanked by pilasters. Above the door is a fan light with a broken pediment.

The plan of the interior is simple with four rooms flanking the central stairhall on the first and second floors. Each room has its own fireplace.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **JUL 13 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Clarke, Pitt, House	Norton Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 7/22/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5-4-76
Reviewer INITIALS: ml
NR
DOE JUL 13 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Clarke, Pitt, House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: 42 Mansfield Avenue
CITY, TOWN: Worton
STATE: MASS VICINITY OF: 025

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10
COUNTY: Bristol code: 005

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER HARS

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

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- house

now- house

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: Georgian Federal

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Rev. Pitt Clarke
Nathaniel Freeman

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1797

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1797 - 1839; home of Rev. Pitt Clark

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 31.6

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Frame, clapboarding; 2 1/2 stories, L-shaped, gabled roof, 2 interior end chimneys, front-entrance entrance with fanlight set partially within pediment. Kitchen etc; rear entrance; 2-story barn, 1-story shed. Georgian Federal elements.

~~Equilibrium corner boards cornice with end returns.~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Good local example of G-F dwelling; illustrates local custom requiring community to provide land and housing for its minister; home of Rev. Pitt Clarke, prominent area clergyman, ~~also~~ teacher, and farmer.