

PH0366111

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 12 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

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

Nichewaug Hill, (Negus Hill)

AND/OR COMMON

Gay Farm (Preferred) ↓ Use this

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

30 of Petersham

Gay Drive, South Street off Nichewaug Rd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Petersham vic

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
01366

COUNTY
Worcester

CODE
027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Corinne Howe Babbitt

STREET & NUMBER

Gay Drive, South Street off Nichewaug Road

CITY, TOWN

Petersham

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts, 01366

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE
Massachusetts, 01608

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1976

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE
Massachusetts, 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gay Farm is located off Nichewaug Road in Petersham on a town road known as Gay Drive. A beautiful old stone wall lines the property in front of the house along the road. The house is set on a slight rise in a well landscaped lawn. The property originally encompassed 96 acres, 30 of which remain. The other 60 acres comprise a wildlife sanctuary given to the Town of Petersham by Corinne Howe Babbitt in memory of her husband Lewis Hall Babbitt, a naturalist.

The two story house with ell was built between 1740 and 1742. It is a gambrel roofed structure with a central stone chimney and a stone foundation. The original wide shiplap boards on the exterior walls remain, but were entirely covered with shingles in about 1880. Sections of the sheathing were reshingled after 1926, and in the process the shiplap was exposed, but retained. The corner boards are plain.

The facade faces east toward Gay Drive. A simple wooden door is placed slightly off center, and is no longer used. One window to the left of the door and two windows to the right are 12/12 framed by simple flat architraves. There is a simple molded cornice on the overhanging eave. The second story contains three shed roof dormers with 8/8 fenestration.

The south elevation contains the present main entrance in the west end bay. This entrance is covered by a shallow gambrel roofed porch with open lattice work sides. There is a small bay window in the east end bay and a large small paned window directly to the left of the entry porch. In the second story there are two symmetrically placed 12/12 windows.

The west, rear elevation has two 8/8 shed roof dormers above two 12/12 windows and one horizontal window. An ell in the north end of the rear elevation has a plain wooden door, twelve paned casement windows on the first story and twelve paned square windows on the second story.

A large woodshed on the west end of the ell shows a plain wide wooden door with a 12/12 window directly to its right, and two 8/8 windows in the second story.

The interior of the main house is typical of the center chimney entry hall floor plan, with two rooms on both north and south sides. The first floor contains three fireplaces. The dining room fireplace retains a brick oven. In 1846 the stairway from what is now the dining room was moved to the front of the house. At that time the second floor consisted of a simple loft around the huge plastered chimney. At a later date, the upstairs was converted to a four bedroom plan. One bedroom has a fireplace.

The ell was originally a summer kitchen. In about 1940 this summer kitchen was panelled with wide hurricane boards and was protected by a new floor to insure warmth and convenience in the newly converted kitchen, bathroom and pantry (once a part of the original buttery). The second story of the ell has 1 bedroom and storage space.

Near the house is a deep well and set to the south of the house is a 200 year old barn. There are two sheds on the property behind the house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Between the house and the barn is a hill which contains an old cistern, which for many years was the only water supply to the house. Most of the drinking water was brought from a spring in the woods west of the house. The cistern is approximately thirty feet deep, and is constructed of bricks. It is filtered with sand at the bottom.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 1740-1742

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Negus

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gay Farm is significant as the oldest remaining house in Petersham and as a building which housed the same family, the Negus family and descendants, for 234 years.

The house was built between 1740 and 1742 by William Negus, who had come to Petersham during the 1730s. His son Joseph, born in Worcester in 1742, was deeded the house and 96 acres in 1769.

Joseph was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His regiment left Petersham in April, 1775 en route to camp at Cambridge. He was stationed at General Washington's Hudson River headquarters and superintended the building of Fort Clinton at West Point. After the Battle of Bennington, August 1777, he joined Captain Wing Spooner's Company which participated in the taking of British posts on Lake George in September 1777. Joseph was commissioned Captain by Governor John Hancock in 1789 and Major by Governor Samuel Adams in 1794. He was the father of five daughters and four sons.

Joseph deeded the farm to his son Joel who was a Militia Captain, Justice of the Peace, Town Clerk, school teacher, land surveyor, appraiser, builder of hand looms, designer, decorator, painter, and master of hand lettering.

Joel's eldest daughter, Arathusa Negus, was married to Jonas Howe. The couple lived in the Joel Negus home in town. When their son Thomas grew up and married, he moved back to his great-great grandfather William Negus' property. Here Thomas' daughter, Elizabeth Arathusa Howe, was born. She inherited her father's home and, upon her death in 1926, willed the property to Lewis Hall Babbitt whose widow Corinne Howe Babbitt still lives in the house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

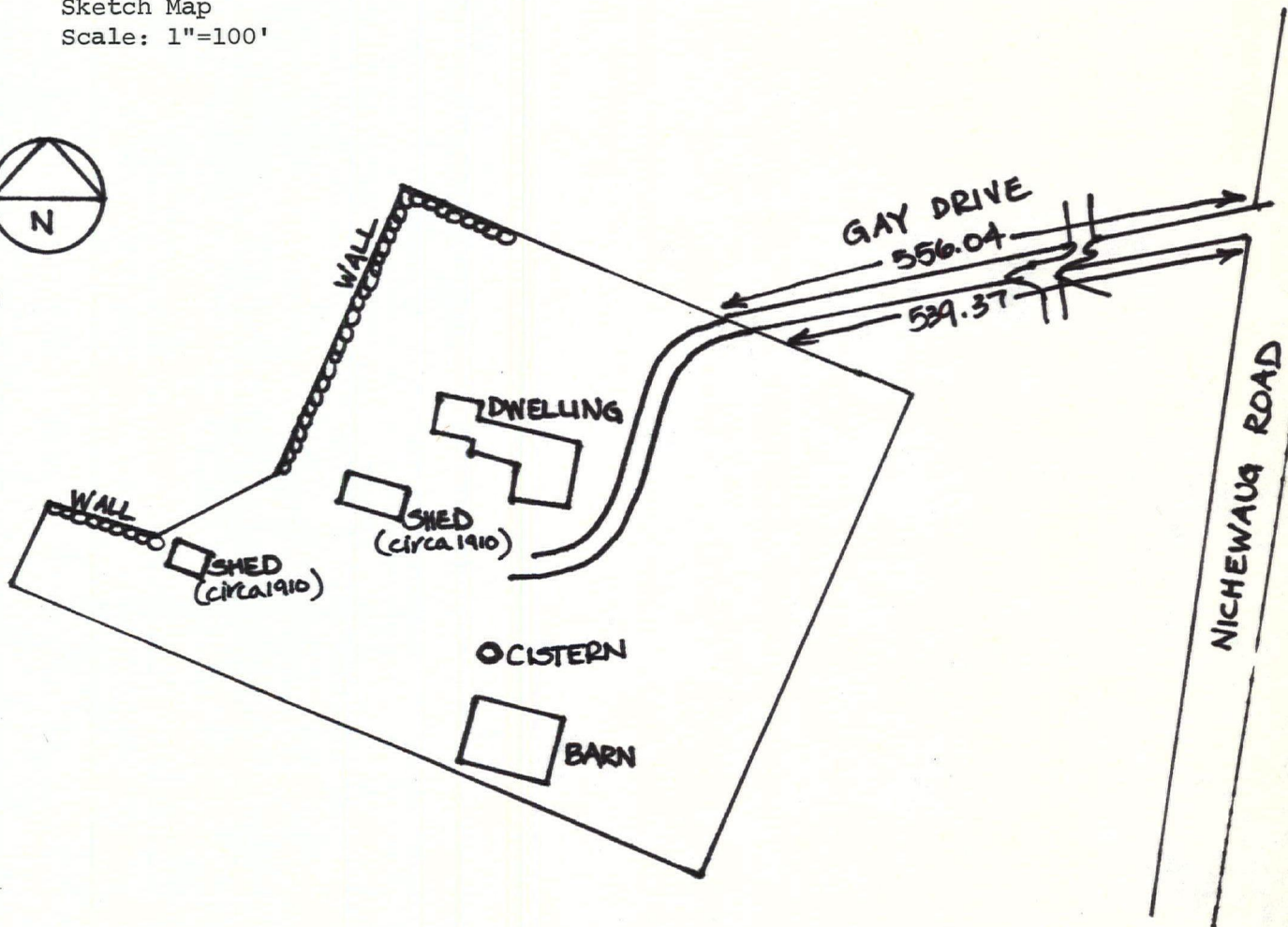
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
Sketch Map
Scale: 1"=100'



Property Gay Farm (Negus Hill)

Worcester 77000201

State Massachusetts Working Number 4.12.77.578

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 5
Maps 1

Acres include barn + outhouses

HISTORIAN
*Accept
Franklin
7.7.77*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
Lebovich
5.25.77*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
9.19.77*

BRANCH CHIEF

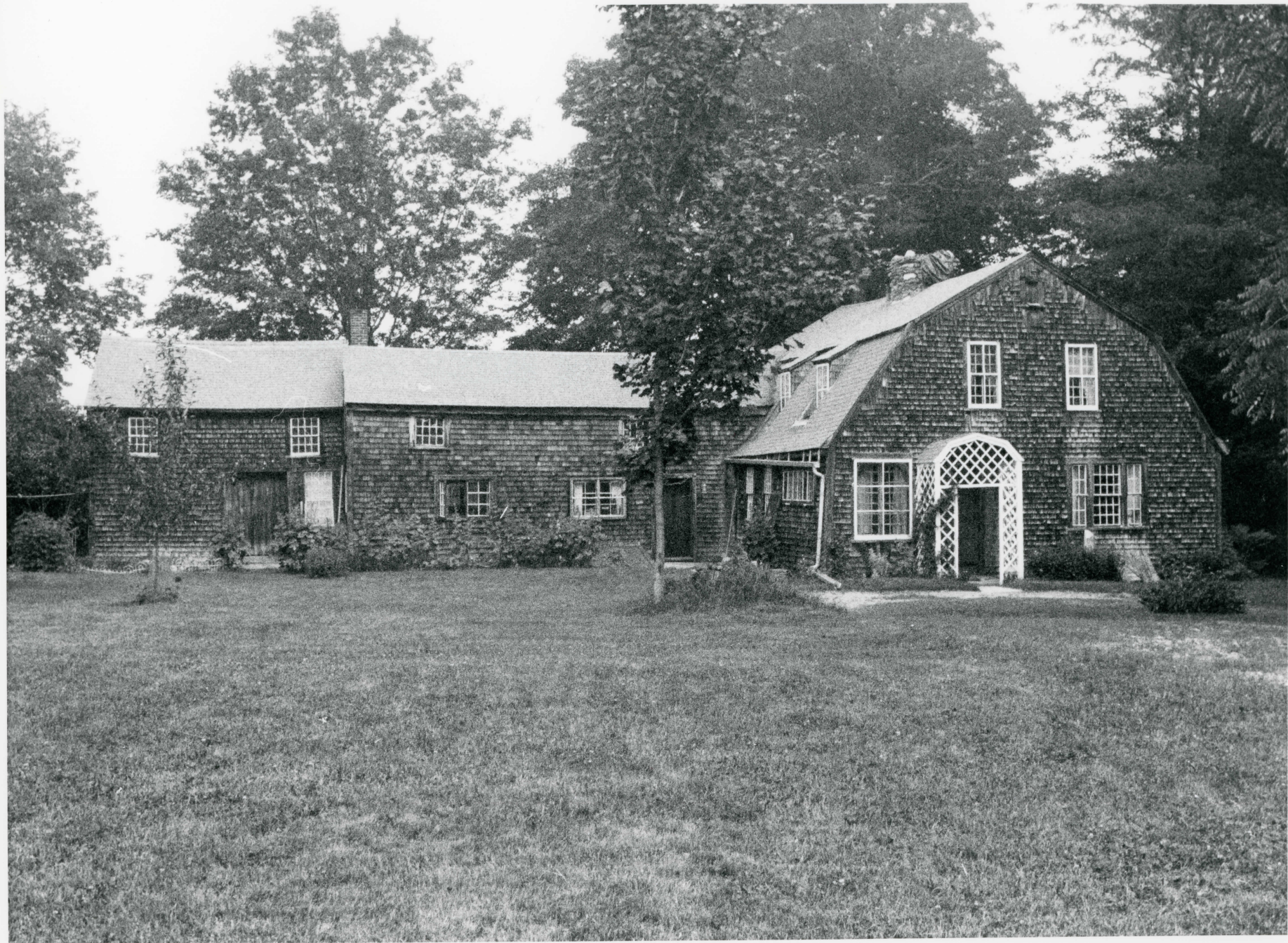
KEEPER

*Hennington
7.22.77*

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____
Federal Register Entry 11-1-77 Re-submit _____

Entered SEP 22 1977

INT:2106-74



Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
1976

APR 12 1977

SEP 22 1977

Corrine Howe Babbitt
Gay Farm, Petersham, Mass.

#1 035

South and West elevations showing ell and
attached shed.

Worcester County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
1976

APR 12 1977

SEP 22 1977

Corrine Howe Babbitt
Gay Farm, Petersham, Mass.

#2 *obs*
East facade and North elevation showing ell.

Worcester County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Worcester County

Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
1976
Corrine Howe Babbitt
Gay Farm, Petersham, Mass.
#3 *075*
East facade.

APR 12 1977

SEP 22 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
1977

APR 12 1977

SEP 22 1977

Robert E. Hunt
Gay Farm, Petersham, Mass.

#495

Looking northeast toward south elevation
of barn.

Worcester County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO TAKEN

Jan 22-1977

AT

Lewis Babbitt Est.

BY

Robert E. Hunt

HAMES PHOTO SHOP & STUDIO
527 MAIN ST. - ATHOL, MASS. 01331



Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
1977

Robert E. Hunt
Gay Farm, Petersham, Mass.

#5 *9.5*
Looking southeast toward north and west
elevations of barn.

APR 12 1977

SEP 22 1977

Worcester County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO TAKEN

Jan 22. 1977

AT

Lewis Babbitt Est.

BY

Robert E. Hunt

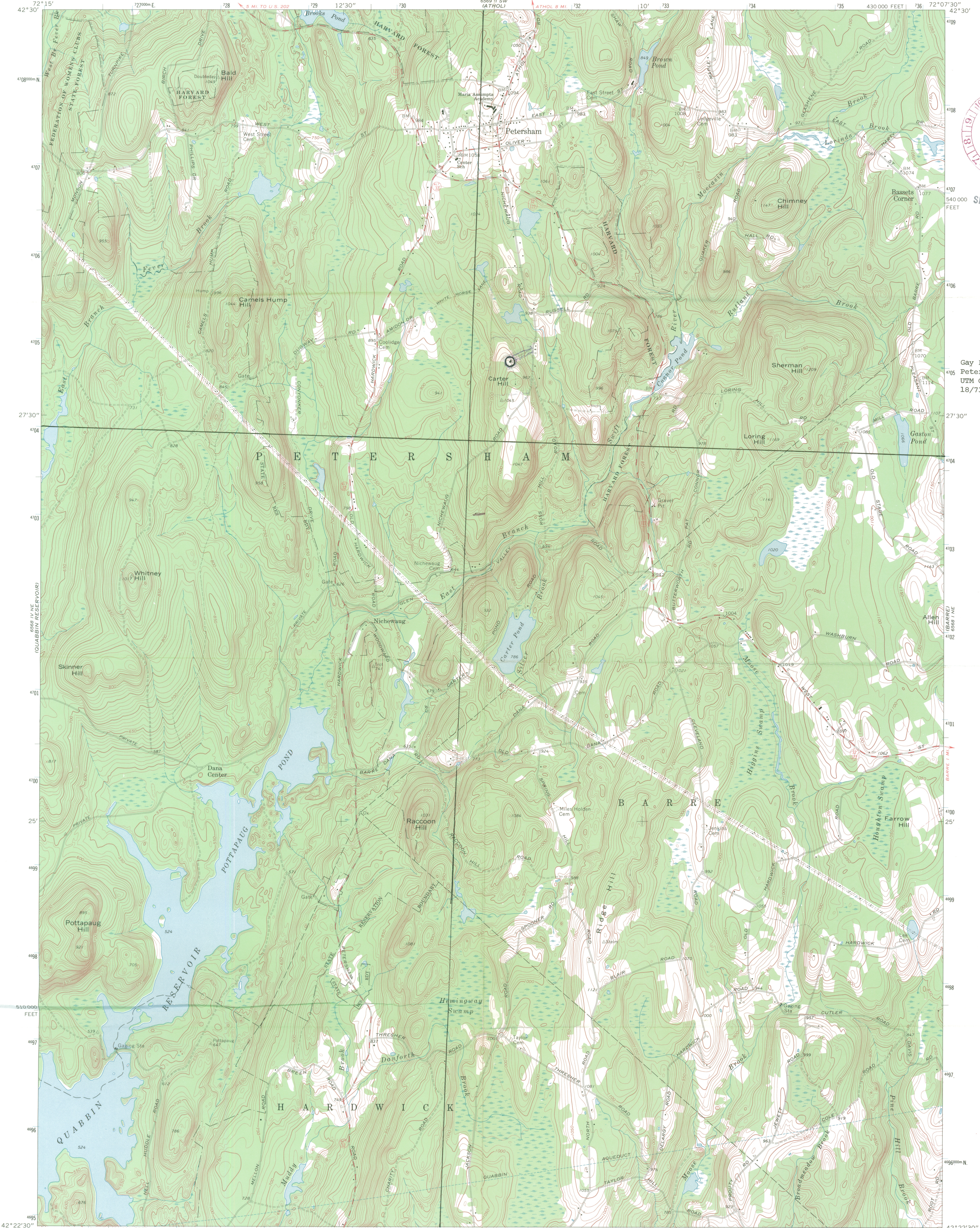
HAMES PHOTO SHOP & STUDIO

527 MAIN ST. - ATHOL, MASS. 01331

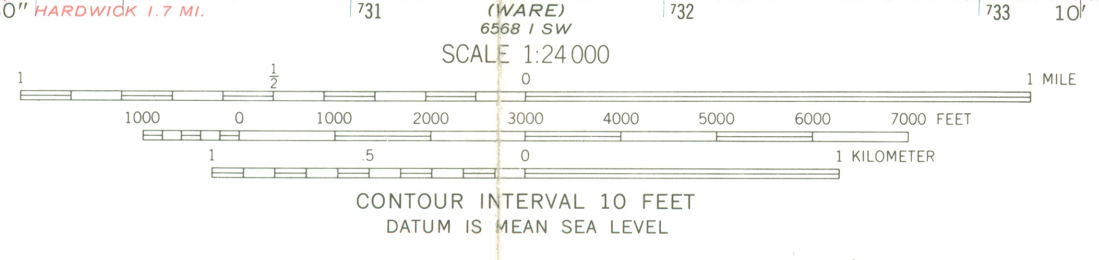
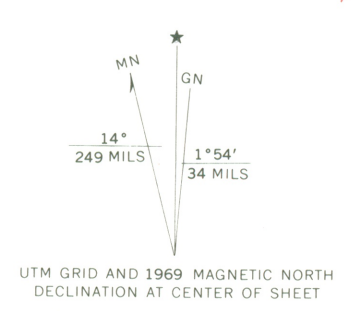


SEP 22 1977

Gay Farm
Petersham, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
18/731 450/4704 910



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943-1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969
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 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
	State Route

PETERSHAM, MASS.
N4222.5—W7207.5/7.5

1969
AMS 6568 1 NW—SERIES V814

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

WASO-166
(August 1971)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATE

April 14, 1977

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL
3:25

XXXXXX
PM

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Joseph Orfant

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

617-727-8470

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Gay Farm (Negus Hill)

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Inquired about origin of preferred name. Charles M. Gay lived in house from 1846 or 1847 until 1926 and it is still known by that name.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

N. Rowland

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE

Date Entered SEP 22 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Barton, Clara, Homestead	North Oxford vicinity Worcester County
Milford Town Hall	Milford Worcester County
Gay Farm (Negus Hill)	Petersham vicinity Worcester County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Edward P. Boland

Hon. Joseph D. Early

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon

Executive Director, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

294 Washington Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

880

Mott

9/27/77

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: **Gay Farm (Negus Hill)** ② OTHER NAMES: **Nichewaug Hill** ③ date of entry: **SEP 22 1977** ④ county code: **27th**

⑤ LOCATION street & number: **S of Petersham off Nichewaug Rd.** city / town: **Petersham** vicinity of: **Petersham** state: **MA** county: **Worcester** ⑥ NPS REGION: **NA**

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) _____ ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: _____

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS HARS HAER NHL ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT **2nd** ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL
if state who prepared form? _____

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME _____ NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME _____ NO ⑮ ACREAGE **2.3** LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION deteriorated altered original site features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 excellent ruins unaltered moved NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5 UNKNOWN-6
 fair unexcavated excavated NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑰ ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown ⑱ ADAPTIVE USE YES NO ⑲ SAVED? YES NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

⑳ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS/GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25

㉑ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉒ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: _____ CURRENTLY: _____ ㉓ dates of initial construction: _____ major alterations: _____ historic events: _____ ㉔ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION _____

㉕ architectural style(s): **Colonial** ㉖ architect: **WM. NEGUS** ㉗ master builder: _____ ㉘ engineer: _____

㉙ landscape architect / garden designer: _____ ㉚ interior decorator: _____ ㉛ artist: _____ ㉜ artisan: _____ ㉝ builder/contractor: _____

㉞ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL: **Negus Family**
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㉟ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP
Frame, 1 1/2 story, rectangular, gambrel, with perpendicular rectangular bldgs.
Outbuildings (barns) etc
oldest remaining house in Petersham, in same family continuously