

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 23 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Abiel Stevens House

and/or common Stevens House

2. Location

street & number 280 Salem Street N/A not for publication

city, town North Andover N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert C. and Joan E. Forget

street & number 280 Salem Street

city, town North Andover N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Lawrence District Court House

street & number Common Street

city, town Lawrence state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic
title Assets of the Commonwealth, # 110 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Abiel Stevens House, North Andover, Massachusetts

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Abiel Stevens House is a late First Period house (1710-19) in the rural, southern section of North Andover. Containing 3/4 of an acre of land, the property is located at the intersection of Dale Street and Salem Street - the latter once being a main thoroughfare to the coastal city of that name.

The building is a 2½ story, center chimney structure of timber frame construction. As usual with early dwellings, the Stevens House faces south. Clapboard covered walls are framed by plain, unmolded corner boards and fascia; the gable ends do not return.

All of the main windows on the south, east, and west elevations have 9/6 sash set in molded frames. Some of the glass panes, if not original, are very old crown glass. The broad, five-bay facade contains paired windows and a center porch (added in 1795) with fully pedimented gable and 4/4 side windows. The west elevation has three windows aligned vertically; the east elevation is similar but has an additional second story window. Attic windows have 4/4 sash.

In 1791 a shed-roofed leanto was added to the north side of the Stevens House; the original clapboarding is still to be seen along what is now an interior wall. The addition is nine feet shorter than the main structure, allowing space for two 9/6 sash to penetrate the uncovered north wall of the latter. The leanto is lighted principally by four 6/6 windows in plain frames which are symmetrically arranged along its north wall. Six-pane sash in unmolded frames light either end of the leanto's second story loft. Typical of the late 18th century, the doors on the leanto ends feature two crossed layers of ship-lapped wide boards hung by large strap hinges. The east door still retains its large box lock in place as well as a bar.

The interior of the Abiel Stevens House retains considerable original and early detailing. The first floor exhibits quirked molding on girts and summer beams, a three-panel door with feather-edged boards, and in the east room, feathered wainscoting and a tall cupboard. In 1795, housewrights Daniel Page and Abijah Fuller replaced original feathered panelling in the second story chambers with fine late Georgian panelling, including, for all four windows in the west chamber, sliding panelled shutters.

Outbuildings and other structures on the property are several. The west door of the leanto opens onto a small brick terrace on which is located a well which served the early occupants. The well opening is now covered by a small box-like wooden structure. Adjacent to the house, on the east side, stands a shed-like L-shaped structure of indeterminate age. Some of the interior timber framing seems to date from an early period, possibly late 18th century, while other parts of the building are obviously of much later construction. The sheathing of this outbuilding is of periods consistent with those of the framing. Now used mainly for storage, this structure may be the result of fire or of a dismantling of other structures on the property.

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Abiel Stevens House,
North Andover, Massachusetts Item number 7

Page 1

The remaining building is a two-stall garage of cinderblock construction. Interestingly enough, however, an abandoned filled-in well is located 14 feet to the south of this garage. Possibly an excavation of this well could provide additional historical information about the Stevens homestead.

With the several early exceptions noted above, the Abiel Stevens House has preserved most of its exterior form intact since it was built during the early decades of the 18th century.

8. Significance

Abiel Stevens House, North Andover, Massachusetts

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1710-1719 **Builder/Architect** Builder unknown; possibly Abiel Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Abiel Stevens House is significant as an intact example of late First Period architecture and as a symbol of the early development of North Andover. Retaining integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and setting, the property meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

The Abiel Stevens House, alone of the six First Period two-room central chimney houses in North Andover, has preserved most of its original exterior form and detail intact. The house was built between 1710, the year of Stevens' marriage to Deborah Barker, and 1719, when the dwelling is known to have been standing and owned by Abiel Stevens (Andover Proprietors Records, First Book).

Born in Andover in 1681, son of John and Esther Stevens, Abiel probably lived a typical farm boy's existence until March 15, 1698, when he was captured in the last Indian raid on Andover. Feigning lameness, he managed to escape, although fired upon by his captors.

Stevens' occupation was listed in most records as husbandman, but a 1718 deed calls him a "joyner," which raises the possibility that he may have been responsible for the house's original interior carpentry, much of which is still visible, particularly on the first floor.

In 1719, the Selectmen's accounts show that Abiel Stevens held the position of Clerk of the Market, responsible for the accuracy of the merchants' weights and measures. Other than this minor post, Abiel probably led the uneventful life of a hard-working Colonial farmer until his death in 1778. Approximately 10 acres of land originally accompanied the house, along with outlying farmland,

Abiel Stevens Sr. left the property to his son Abiel, Jr., who sold it in 1778 to one Samuel Carlton. In turn, Carlton sold it in 1787 to James Bridges, who opened a small store on the property. At Bridges' death in 1790, an inventory showed that the establishment had sold staples such as rum, molasses, sugar, salt, raisins, cloth, crockery and other sundries. Although the exact site of this store is not known, archaeological investigation could well yield information about it and other aspects of eighteenth century life.

From about 1790 until 1875, the dwelling and its surrounding acreage seems to have been rental property. After 1875, the property was in the possession of frequently changing owners, none of whom distinguished themselves in town history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Standard History of Essex County, Boston, 1878, C. F. Jewett & Company.

Bailey, Sarah L. Historical Sketches of Andover, Mass. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin Co., 188
(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3/4

Quadrangle name South Groveland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	2	7	9	3	0	4	7	2	7	2	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Refer to sketch map enclosed.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Robert C. Forget, North Andover
name/title Historical Society

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 1982

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 Patricia L. Weslowski

State Historic Preservation Officer,
title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 4/28/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

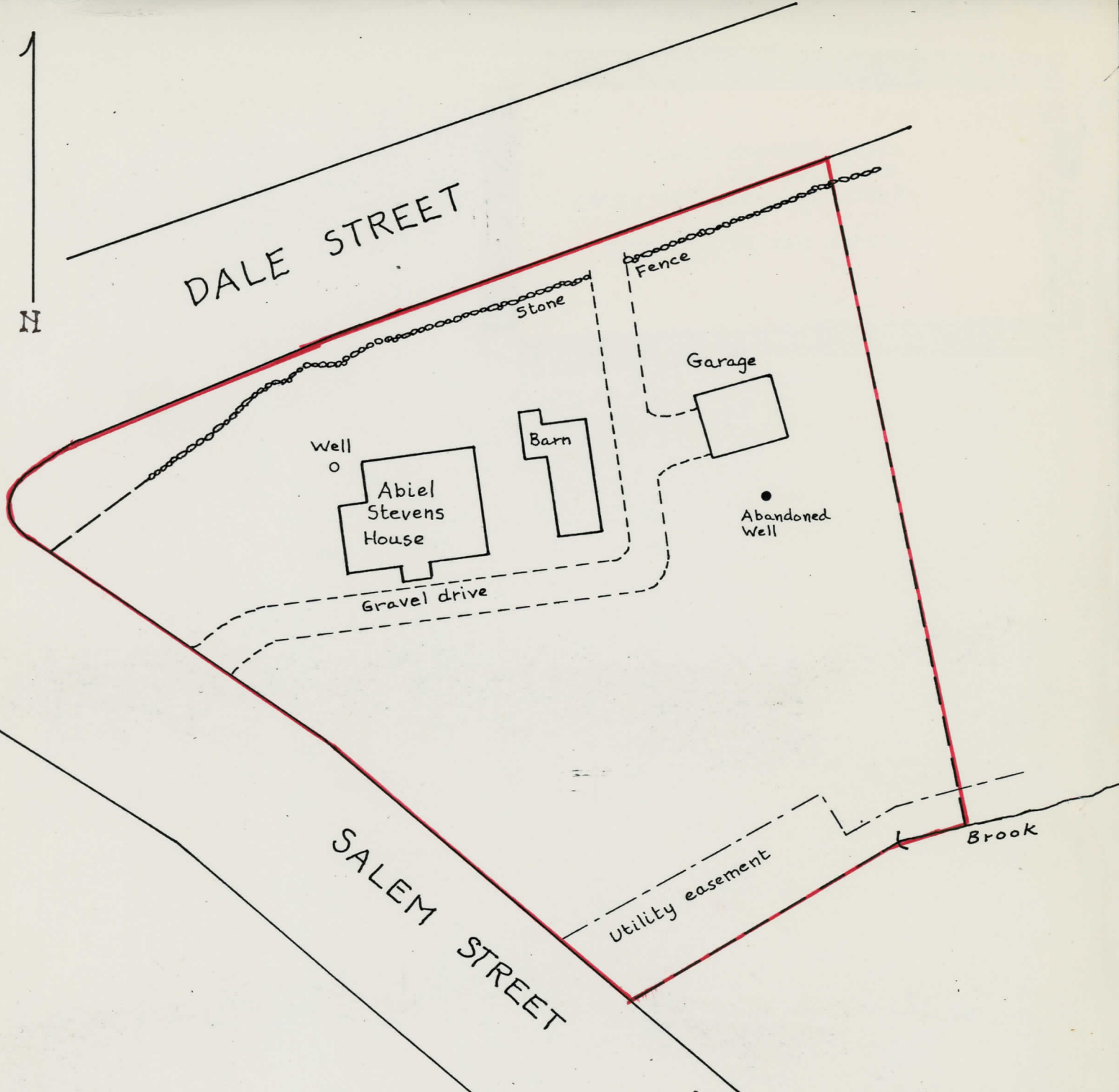
date 6/23/83

for Allorist Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

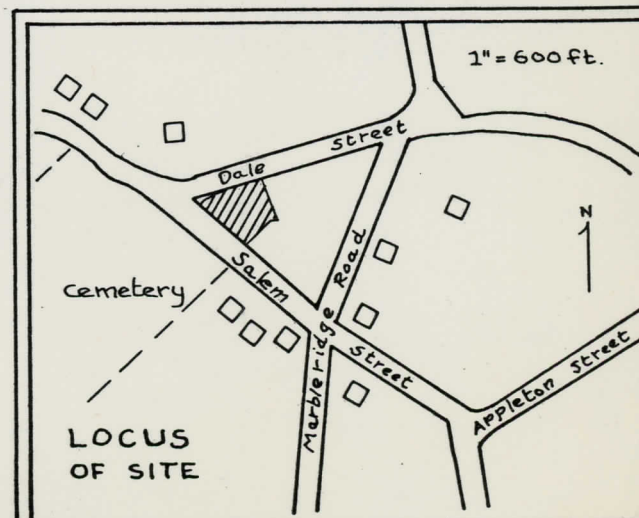
Chief of Registration



ABIEL STEVENS HOUSE
NORTH ANDOVER, MA.

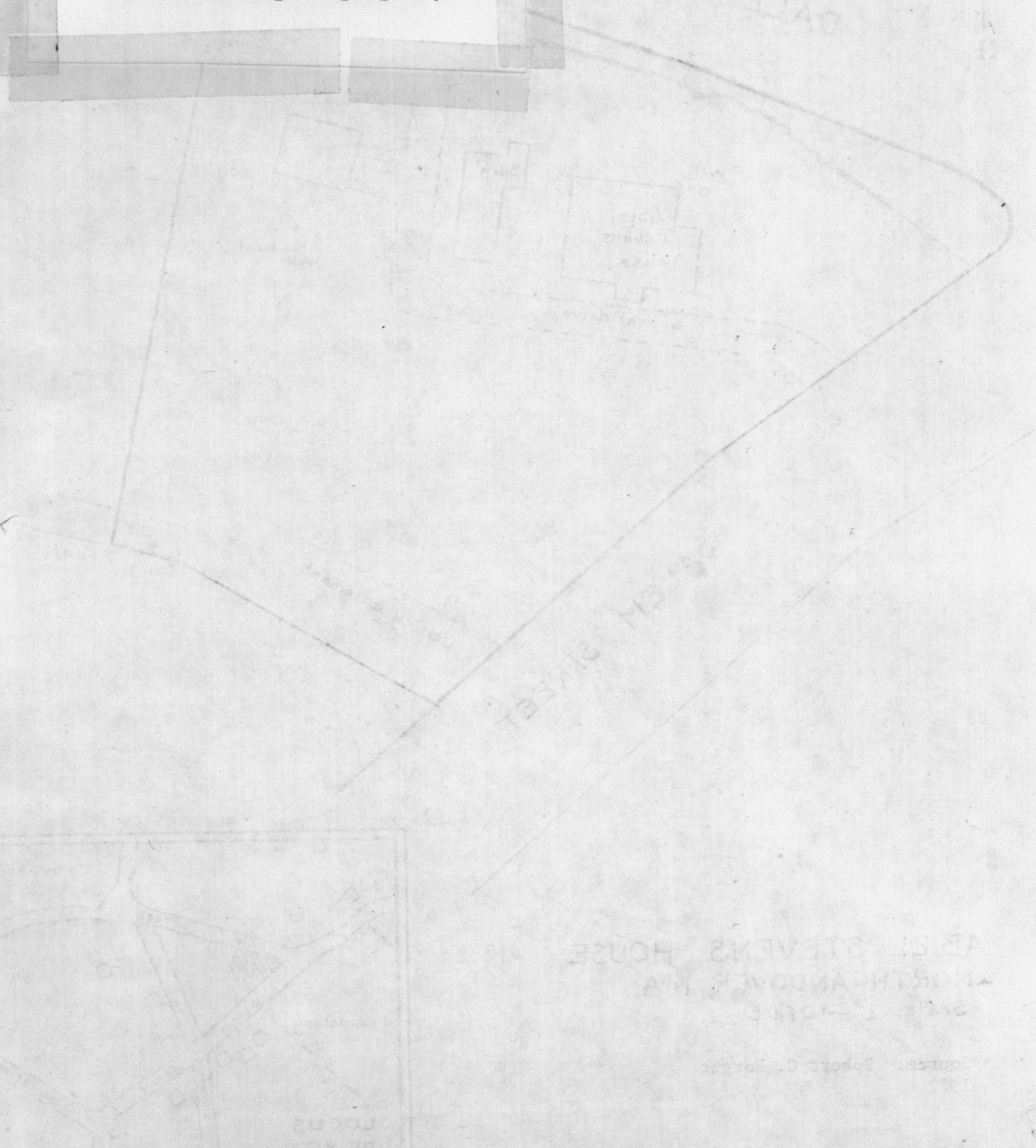
Scale: 1" = 40 feet

Source: Robert C. Forget
1982



Abiel Stevens House
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma. 01845

Sketch map of property



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Stevens, Abiel, House
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 23 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 6/23/83 - 7/7/83

Action: ACCEPT 6/23/83
 RETURN
 REJECT

Entered in the
National Register

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
 Reviewer _____
 Discipline _____
 Date _____
 _____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unrepaired		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Abiel Stevens House
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma. 01845

Robert C. Forget 1982
Negative in owner's possession

Photo # 1 of 6
Front elevation, camera facing North



Abiel Stevens House
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma. 01845

Robert C. Forget 1982
Negative in owner's possession

Photo #2 of 6
Rear elevation, camera facing South



Abiel Stevens House,
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma., 01845

Robert C. Forget
Negative in owner's possession

Photo #3 of 6
West elevation, camera facing East



Abiel Stevens House
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma. 01845

Robert C. Forget 1982
Negative in owner's possession

Photo #4 of 6
East elevation, camera facing
Northwest



Abiel Stevens House
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma.

Robert C. Forget 1982
Negative in owner's possession

Photo # 5 of 12
Southwest view, camera facing
North east



Abiel Stevens House
280 Salem St.,
North Andover, Ma., 01845

Robert C. Forget 1982
Negative in owner's possession

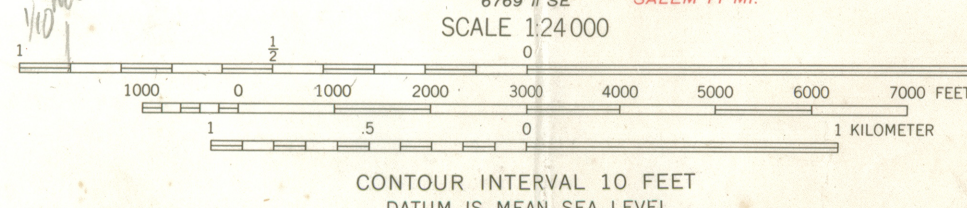
Photo # 6 of 6
Detail of West entrance,
camera pointing East



ABEL STEVENS HOUSE
280 Salem Street
North Andover, MA
UTM: 19/327930/4727260

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942. Revised 1966
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
State Route ○

SOUTH GROVELAND, MASS.
N4237.5—W7100/7.5