

| | |
|------|----------|
| Area | Form no. |
| | 35-51 |

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Town Uxbridge
 Address 147 South Main Street
 Historic Name Bazaleel Taft, Jr. House and Law Office
 Use: Original residence
 Present residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Bazaleel Taft, Jr.

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
 Staple to left side of form
 Photo number _____

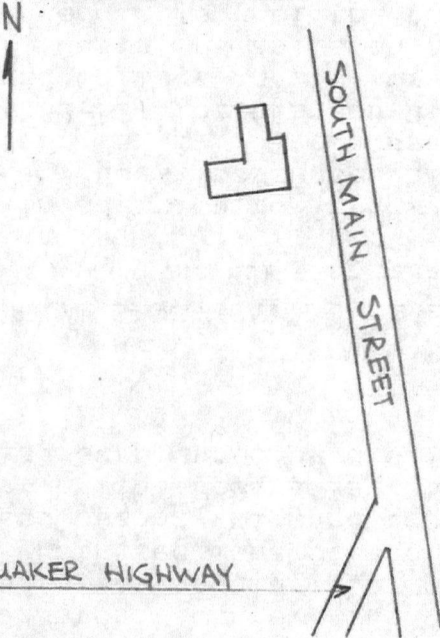
Roll 5 frames 9-11

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1807
 Source H.G. Taft Biography
 Style Federalist
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings one-storey brick law office
 (see separate Form B-#35-51)
 Major alterations (with dates) 6/6 sash and Doric porch added (19th century)
 Moved no Date N/A
 Approx. acreage less than 1/4
 Setting located on major north-south route; area west largely undeveloped fields and woods; east-residential development.



Recorded by B.R.Pfeiffer
 Organization Uxbridge Historical Commission
 Date May 1981

UTM: Quad BL 19 282910 4660320

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Bazaleel Taft, Jr. House is an outstanding local example of Federalist period architecture. The house is a two-storey timber-frame building consisting of a rectangular plan main section with twin interior chimneys and a north ell. Both sections of the house rest on foundations of hammered granite and are enclosed by pitched roofs. The facade (east) is symmetrical, having at its center a fine Federalist style doorway consisting of a six-panel door (sunken panels) surmounted by a semi-circular transom and framed by fluted pilasters.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

In addition to its high-quality Federalist architecture, the Bazaleel Taft Jr. House possesses historical associations with four generations of the Taft family. The house was built in 1807 by the Hon. Bazaleel Taft (see form #33-53) for his son Bazaleel, Jr. (1780-1846), who had graduated from Harvard College in 1804 or 1805 and who had been admitted to the bar around 1807. Having established himself as a lawyer in Uxbridge, the younger Taft succeeded in many of the political posts previously held by his father. Bazaleel, Jr. served as a state senator, member of the state Executive Council and representative to the General Court; in addition, he was active in the establishment of the public Lunatic Asylum at Worcester in the 1830's. Taft was also active in founding the Blackstone National Bank of which he was president from 1829 until 1846.

Upon the death of Bazaleel Taft, Jr., the house passed to his son Henry Gordon Taft (1832-1903), who operated a farm, owned a hardware business and served nearly continuously as a County Commissioner from 1876 until 1903. Following the death of H.G. Taft, the house became the property of George S. Taft (b. 1859), a lawyer who served as the private secretary of U.S. Senator George Hoar (1883-1887), and as a District Attorney (1883-early twentieth century).

The Bazaleel Taft, Jr. House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling, as well as historical associations with Bazaleel Taft, Jr., a local attorney and member of one of Uxbridge's most prominent families during the nineteenth century.

The Bazaleel Taft, Jr. House meets criteria A, B and C of the NRHP.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Proceedings at the Meeting of the Taft Family at Uxbridge, MA, August 12, 1874.
 Uxbridge: Spencer Bros., 1874 pp 44-48
 Blackstone Bank 1925: 24
 Old Home Week Souvenir 1908: no page number (biographies of Geo. S. & H.G. Taft)
 Chapin 1881: 50-52, 112-115, 172

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Community: Uxbridge | Form No: 35-51 |
| Property Name: B. Taft Jr. House | |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

These pilasters support a broken cornice decorated with triglyphs and a pediment with dentilled mouldings. Window frames project from the facade and a cornice decorated with channels extends the length of the facade. An asymmetrical garden facade (south) contains a second entry consisting of a six-panel door surmounted by a transom and framed by fluted pilasters supporting a pediment. Original sash remains in the gables (9/6) and on the north wing (12/12). Other decorative trim consists of a Doric porch and a cornice with channelling on the east elevation of the north wing. A view of the house in its present condition appears at the border of the 1855 Map of Uxbridge. Located on the same lot as this house is the Bazaleel Taft Law Office (Form #35-51).

OWNER

Frederick M. and Elmberta Palmer
South Main St.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

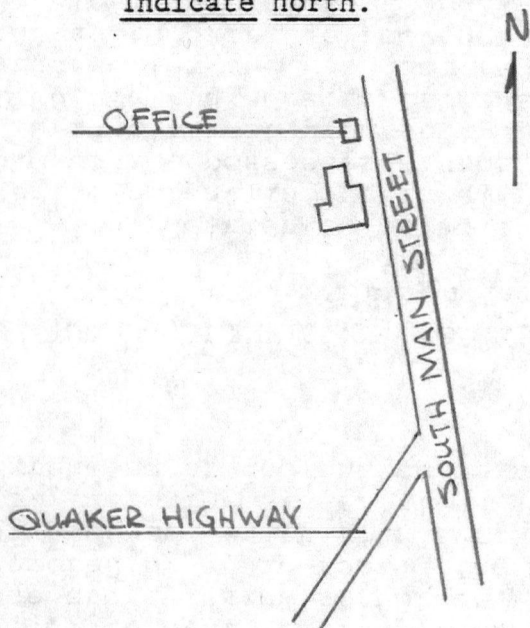
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
 Staple to left side of form
 Photo number _____

Roll 5 frame 12

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



Town Uxbridge

Address 147 South Main Street

Historic Name Bazaleel Taft Law Office

Use: Original law office

Present vacant (?)

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Bazaleel Taft, Jr.

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1807

Source secondary sources

Style Federalist

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick-common bond

Outbuildings located on same lot as B. Taft Jr. House (Form #35-51)

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date N/A

Approx. acreage less than 1/4

Setting located on major north-south route; largely undeveloped fields and woods; east, residential development.

UTM: Quad BL 19 282900 4660360

Recorded by B.R.Pfeiffer

Organization Uxbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Taft Law Office is a unique local example of Federalist commercial architecture. Unaltered from its original appearance, the building is a one-storey brick structure, built on a foundation of hammered granite and covered by a hip roof. The facade (south elevation) is symmetrical, consisting of a center entry with a six-pane door (raised panels) flanked by two windows (12/12). The street elevation (east) also contains two windows (12/12). Extending around the building is a moulded cornice.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

In addition to being one of only two commercial buildings of the Federal Period extant in Uxbridge (the other is Rogerson's Block-form #47-B), the Taft Law Office possesses historical associations to Bazaleel Taft, Jr., one of Uxbridge's most prominent citizens of the early nineteenth century. Born in 1780, Taft graduated from Harvard College in 1804 or 1805, after which he studied law and was admitted to the bar prior to 1807. Around 1807, Taft returned to Uxbridge, moved into the house built for him by his father, the Hon. Bazaleel Taft (form #35-51) and set up a law practice which he carried on until his death in 1846. In addition to his law practice, Taft was active in local politics, succeeding his father to several public offices including state senator, representative to the General Court and membership on the state's Executive Council. The younger Taft also promoted the establishment of a public Lunatic Asylum at Worcester and served as president of Uxbridge's Blackstone National Bank from 1829 until 1846. After Taft's death, his law office passed into the ownership of his son, H.G. Taft, and subsequently, his grandson, George S. Taft (see Bazaleel Taft Jr. House-form #33-51).

The Taft Law Office possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling, as well as historical associations with Bazaleel Taft, Jr., a local attorney and member of one of Uxbridge's most prominent families of the nineteenth century. The Law Office also remains as a unique local example of an early commercial building.

The Law Office meets criteria A, B and C of the NRHP.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Proceedings at the Meeting of the Taft Family at Uxbridge, MA, August 12, 1874
 Uxbridge: Spencer Bros., 1874 pp. 44-48
 Blackstone Bank 1925: 24
 Old Home Week Souvenir 1908: no page number (biographies of Geo. S & H.G. Taft)
 Chapin 1881: 50-52, 112-115, 172

OWNER: Frederick M. and Elmberta Palmer
 South Main St.
 Uxbridge, MA 01569

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 8/20/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area

State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Whipple, A., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

42. Williams, N., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

43. Taft, Aaron, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

24/ 44. Taft, Bazaleel, Jr., House
and Law Office

Substantive Review

for Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 10/7/83

Attest

45. Taft, Hon. Bazaleel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

46. Taft Brothers Block

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

47. Taft, George, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

48. Taft, Moses, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

49. Taft, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

24/ 50. Taft, Zadock, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 10/7/83

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Taft, Bazaleel, Jr., House and Law Office
(Uxbridge MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. AUG 26 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 9/22/83 - 10/10/83
Action: ACCEPT 10/7/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The Bazaleel Taft, Jr. House and Law Office are locally significant resources for their architecture and associational importance to the Taft family who were ~~active~~ active in the political and social life of Uxbridge.

Recom./Criteria Accept ABC
Reviewer Bushong
Discipline Historic
Date 10/10/83
_____ 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"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | |

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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

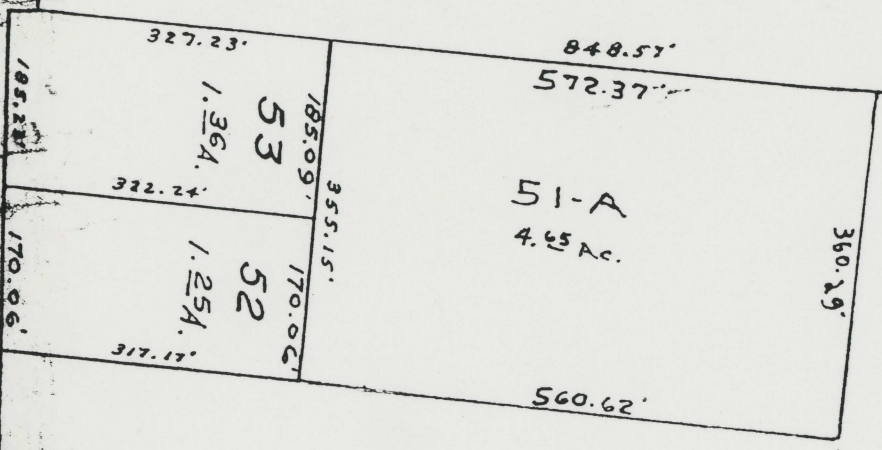
- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

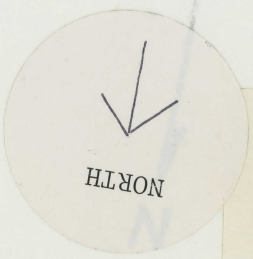
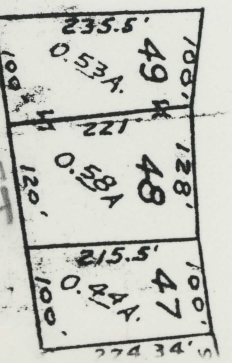
147-15-2-Edison St., Hux & Law Office, Bridgeport, Ma





51
50.20A.

SOUTH MAIN ST



Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area
 Bazaleel Taft, Jr. House & Law Office
 147 South Main Street
 Map #35 Lot #51

Uxbridge Assessors
 1" = 200' 1983

50
23.85

519.90'

385

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000299