

NOV 20 1985  
JAN 3 1986

AREA	FORM NO.
	117

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

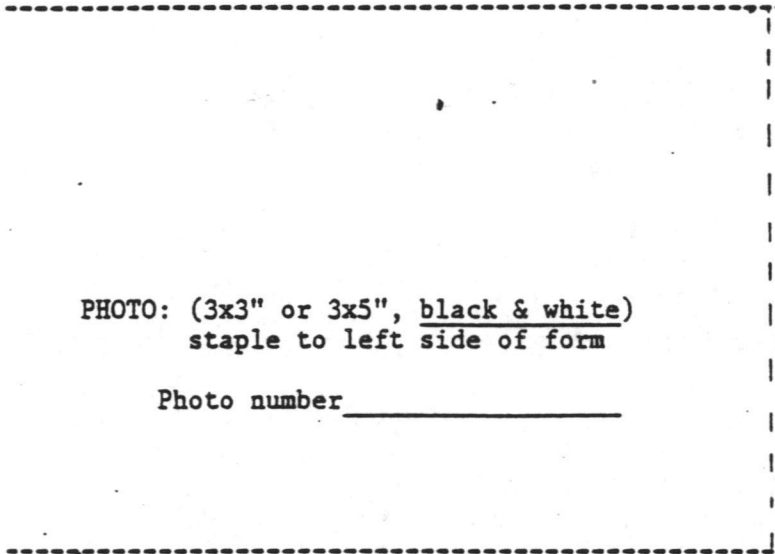


PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

**SKETCH MAP**

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg  
Organization Mass. Historical Commission  
Date May 1985

Town Sherborn

Address 32 Pleasant Street

Historic Name Joseph Twitchell House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

**DESCRIPTION:**

Date ca. 1710, possibly 1690

Source V/A

Style First Period

Architect N/A

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings Barn, Sheds, Guesthouse

Major alterations (with dates) North wing added ca. 1800

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting The Twitchell House is located in the more rural portion of western Sherborn.

UTM reference: 19 301820 4678110

(Staple additional sheets here)

scale 1:25,000 Holliston Quadrangle

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Joseph Twitchell House is one of half a dozen Sherborn residences that may be First Period structures. The building retains a distinctive saltbox profile. It possesses a single-pile, central-hall plan, two and a half stories in height, with an integral rear lean-to. Its main facade is three bays wide, and centered on the ridge is a large brick chimney. The roof was probably raised at one time; two sets of rafters remain in the attic, the lower set of which is fastened together without a ridge pole. Also visible on the interior

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

The Twitchell House has seen continuous use since it was first constructed in the early 18th century. Like most of Sherborn's surviving early dwellings, the Twitchell House was located originally in relative isolation. Despite a 1690 date painted on its chimney, the house was probably built by farmer Joseph Twitchell, Jr., on his father's land ca. 1710. The First Period dwelling was enlarged and the roof raised in the mid 18th century by Twitchell descendants. Its use as a farm continued into the 20th century; today it is a "gentlemen's farm," the estate of a well-to-do landowner. The house retains its rural setting, and is located in a relatively undeveloped area of western Sherborn.

**CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

The Joseph Twitchell House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, as well as a continued association with agricultural life in Sherborn. In its present form, Twitchell House is a well-preserved example of the evolution from First Period to Georgian-style structures, and thus fulfills Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. Although the total acreage currently associated with this property is quite large (approximately 80 acres), only the area immediately surrounding the house and outbuildings is being nominated.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES** (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875, and 1889.  
Margaret Dowse Buntin's research  
Anne C. Shaughnessey, A Guide to Sherborn, 1974.

Harriet Forbes, "Some 17th Century Houses of Middlesex County, MA",  
Old-Time New England, Jan. 1939.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Sherborn	Form No: 117
Property Name: Joseph Twitchell House	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

is the beveled-edge summer beam.

A Georgian-style center entryway, a mid 18th century addition, is topped by a six-pane transom. The door enframingent is composed of decorative pilasters supporting a narrow, flat entablature. In the early 19th century, an end-gabled ell was added to the building's western wall. It is three bays wide, and a broad wood string course defines its two stories. A large barn, crowned by a cupola, stands near the house. It was built in the mid 19th century. Both house and barn have been recently restored. The guest house is a recent addition to the property.

MAP KEY

- A = House
- B = Guesthouse
- C = Barn
- D = Sheds

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 11/20/85  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 13

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Sherborn Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Sanger, Richard, III, House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register  
Attest

*Selma Byers* 1/3/86

22. Sawin-Bullen-Bullard House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register  
Attest

*Selma Byers* 1/3/86

23. Twitchell, Joseph, House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register  
Attest

*Selma Byers* 1/3/86

24. Vaughn, H. G., House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register  
Attest

*Selma Byers* 1/3/86

25. Ware's Tavern

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register  
Attest

*Selma Byers* 1/3/86

26. Woodland Farm-Leland House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register  
Attest

*Selma Byers* 1/3/86

27.

Keeper

Attest

28.

Keeper

Attest

29.

Keeper

Attest

30.

Keeper

Attest

86000510

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Twitchell, Joseph, House (Sherborn MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. NOV 20 1985

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

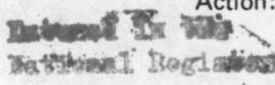
Date Due: 12/19/85 - 1/4/86

Action:  ACCEPT 1-3-86

RETURN

REJECT

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

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Condition</p> <input type="checkbox"/> excellent<br><input type="checkbox"/> good<br><input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated<br><input type="checkbox"/> ruins<br><input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | <p>Check one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered<br><input type="checkbox"/> altered | <p>Check one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> original site<br><input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
|---|---|---|--|

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

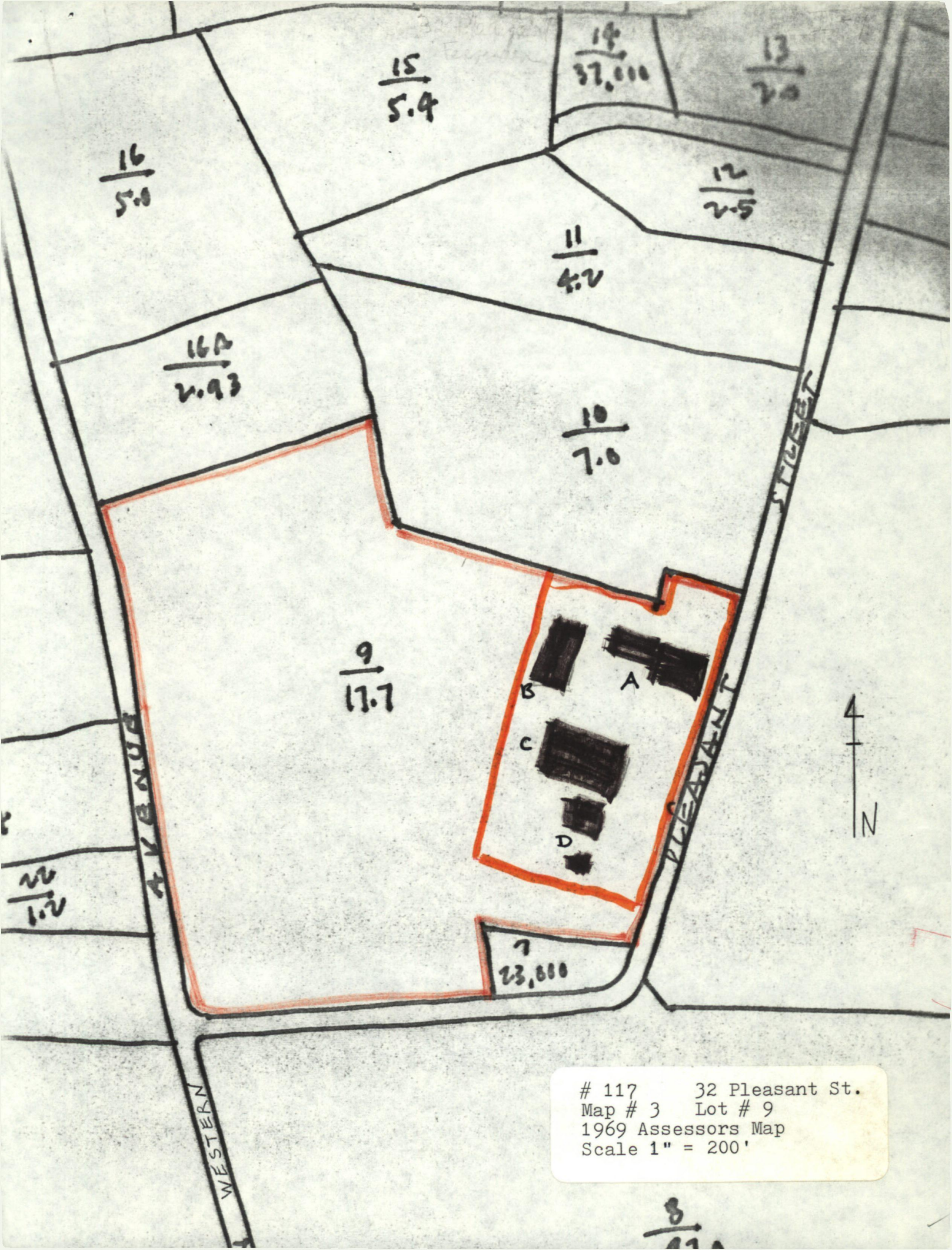
- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Twitchell, Joseph, House  
Shobern NRA, Ma



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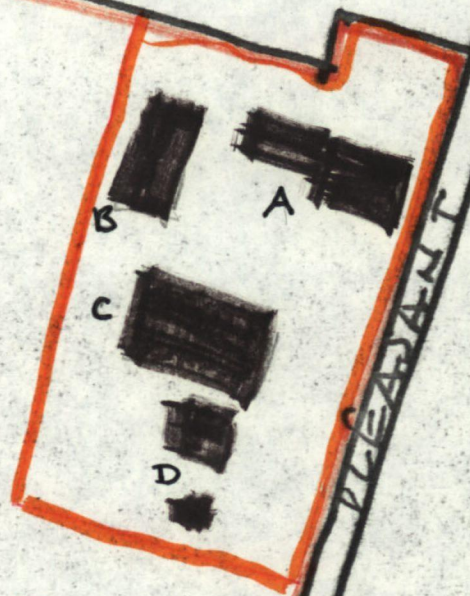
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9  
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23,800

20  
1.2



WESTERN AVENUE

PLEASANT STREET

# 117      32 Pleasant St.  
Map # 3    Lot # 9  
1969 Assessors Map  
Scale 1" = 200'

8  
1.1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000293