

MAY 22 1989

606

AREA
E

FORM NO.
298

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

(Winchester M.R.A.)
Town WINCHESTER

Address 212-214 Main Street

Historic Name Deacon John Symmes House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1807

Source Chapman's History of Winchester

Style Federal

Architect anonymous

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage/NC

Major Alterations (with dates) Roof eaves

balustrade removed, date unknown.

Porch added to entrance, date unknown

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date _____

Acreage .30 acre 07-0041

Setting Suburban residential near

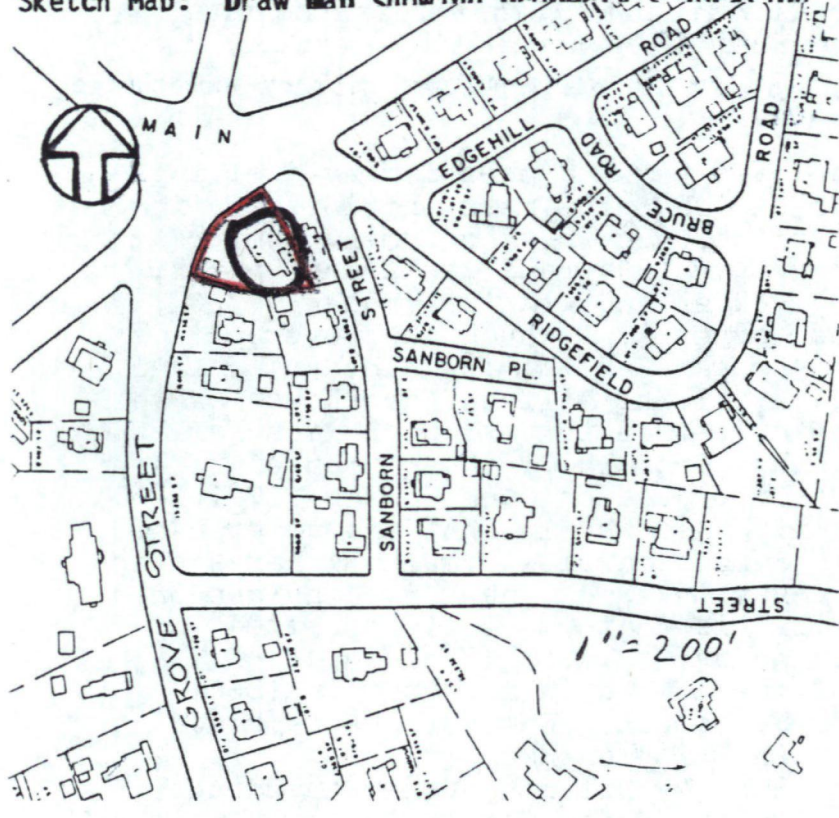
major intersection

Recorded by Bettina Cooper, Carol Ely

Organization Winchester Historical Comm.

Date 8/78, revised 10/87 by H. White

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location



UTM REFERENCE 19.3 24300, 4700790

USGS QUADRANGLE LEYINGTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Deacon John Symmes House is one of Winchester's most important and well-preserved Federal period dwellings, and it is associated with the Symmes family, whose members were among Winchester's earliest settlers. The Deacon John Symmes House therefore meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Deacon John Symmes House (c.1807) is a typical Federal period dwelling, of the type which dotted the countryside surrounding Boston during the early nineteenth century. The Deacon John Symmes House is one of two houses of this period associated with the Symmes family. The other is the Marshall Symmes House (#300), circa 1817, which stands nearby at 230 Main Street.

The Deacon John Symmes House is a two and one-half story, rectangular plan dwelling with a hip roof of low pitch, and double rear wall chimneys. It exhibits the characteristic boxy proportions of the Federal style. The five-bay facade is organized around a central entrance, which has been enclosed by a later entrance porch. The outer windows are paired with the center window aligned with the entrance. Other features of note include the wide corner boards and slightly projecting eaves.

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

The Deacon John Symmes House is one of several Symmes family dwellings located in the vicinity of Symmes Corner, the area near the intersection of Main Street, Bacon Street and Grove Street. The Symmes family members were among Winchester's earliest settlers. The Reverend Zachariah Symmes, minister of the Charlestown Church, received a land grant of roughly 300 acres centered around present-day Symmes Corner. Although the Reverend himself remained in Charlestown, his sons began farming the Winchester land soon after 1650, and by 1700 had erected a fulling mill and dye house as well.

The Deacon John Symmes House is the oldest of the extant Symmes family houses. It was built by Deacon John Symmes circa 1807, in an area of Winchester which was then still part of Medford. Deacon John Symmes (1781-1860) was a son of John Symmes, a local blacksmith and wheelwright and veteran of the Revolutionary War. The younger John Symmes married Pamela Richardson in 1804. In addition to continuing the blacksmith trade, he served as deacon of the Medford Congregational Church until his death. Pamela operated Winchester's first formal school in this house.

Symmes opposed the incorporation of the Town of Winchester in 1850, and refused to be appointed to the Board of Selectmen. However, he remained active in the town and church affairs of the city of Medford.

After his death, the house was inherited by his son Luther and daughter Mary. The house remained in the possession of Symmes family members until 1926.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds

Maps

History of Winchester, by Henry Chapman.

Files, Winchester Archival Center.

Winchester Star.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester M.R.A	Form No: 298
Property Name: Deacon John Symmes House	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Other Symmes family houses in Winchester include the Marshall Symmes House (#300) built circa 1817;

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MAY 22 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
51. Symmes, Deacon John, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
52. Symmes, Marshall, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
53. Symmes, Marshall, Tenant House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
54. Thompson, Abijah, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
55. Trowbridge--Badger House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
56. Vinton, Alfred, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
57. Wedgemere (H.D.) <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
58. White, S.B., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
59. Wildwood Cemetery <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Beth Savage 7-5-89</u> Attest _____
60. Wyman, George, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Symmes, Deacon John, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Winchester MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000606

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/5/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMS boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



38



Deacon John Symmes House
212 - 214 Main St. 1/88
Winchester, Ma. M.R.A.

MHC Inv. # 298

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303