

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.405
Historic Name:	Hubbard, Dea. Thomas - French, Judge Henry House
Common Name:	Abbott, Mary Ogden - Hollis, Thomas House
Address:	342 Sudbury Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Hubbardville
Local No:	G10-473
Year Constructed:	c 1787
Architect(s):	French, Daniel Chester
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian
Use(s):	Agricultural; Dairy; Photography Or Art Studio; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Art
Area(s):	CON.AL: Hubbardville CON.DZ: Hubbardville Historic District CON.EA: Hubbard - French Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (04/27/1998); Preservation Restriction (12/29/1998); Nat'l Register District (06/15/2000)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:27: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G10-473

CONCORD

AL

405

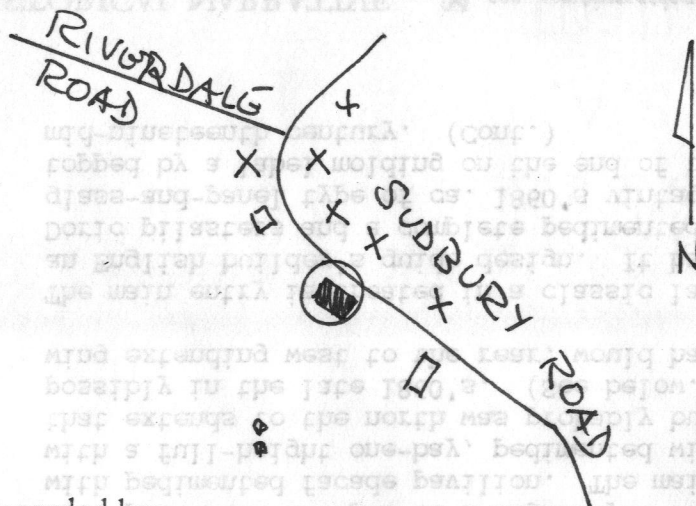
Town CONCORD(neighborhood or village) HubbardvilleAddress 342 Sudbury RoadHistoric Name Dea. Thomas Hubbard HouseJudge Henry French HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1787Assessment Wheeler. Visual assessmentStyle/Form Late GeorgianArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone and graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures two shedsMajor Alterations (with dates) 20th c:some casement windows; garageatt. at north end of wing.Condition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 2.02 acresSetting In residential area, at curveof Sudbury Rd. Flanked by 19th- andcentury houses; modern houses oppositeopposite. Decorative picket fence with stone retaining wall at front.

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by

A. Forbes

Organization

research by Cathie Sur

for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date (month/day/year)

May, 1991

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

#342 Sudbury Road, the only building of its type in Concord, is an extremely well-preserved example of a high-style late Georgian central-chimney, hip-roofed house with pedimented facade pavilion. The main house is two stories high and five bays wide, with a full-height one-bay, pedimented wing on the south end. A long two-story wing that extends to the north was probably built somewhat after the rest of the house, possibly in the late 1860's. (See below.) Its northern end, which is abutted by a long wing extending west to the rear, would have been added in the twentieth century.

The main entry is treated in a classic late Georgian manner, and was probably based on an English builder's guide design. It has a double-leaf 8-paneled door, surrounded by Doric pilasters and a complete pedimented entablature. Other doors include a two-light glass-and-panel type of ca. 1860's vintage in the north wing, and a pair of French doors topped by a label molding on the end of the south wing, which probably date to the mid-nineteenth century. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house has been of historical significance at several periods during its long history. It was built for Deacon Thomas Hubbard (1766-1835) in 1787 on the occasion of his marriage to Rebecca Wheeler, daughter of Ephraim and Sarah Wheeler. Said to have been the richest farmer in town in his time, Dea. Thomas became the epitome of the successful Concord farmer--experimental in his farming methods, generous, religious, and a prominent citizen who served on important town committees. He was a Selectman from 1801 to 1803, and Deacon in the "old" church from 1812 until his death. During the Deacon's time the former barn on the property provided shelter to Indians on their annual trips to Concord, and on at least one cold night, they slept on his kitchen floor. Rebecca Wheeler died in 1803, and Dea. Thomas subsequently married Rebecca Prescott. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

- Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
- Town Directories.
- Keyes.
- Wheeler House File.
- Jarvis, Edward. "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-1820." 1882.
- Wetherbee, Rebecca Hubbard. "Cyrus Hubbard," in Social Circle Memoirs, 1891.
- Newspaper article 3/3/38.
- Hoar, Samuel. Social Circle Memoirs: "Dea. Thomas Hubbard."
- Richardson, Concord Chronicle. P. 26.
- Scudder. P. 271.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDDea. Thos. Hubbard
House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The windows of the main house are mainly tall 6-over-6-sash with projecting casings and molded lintels. Those on the south wing have different, molded surrounds, indicating that the south section may be an addition of the nineteenth century. Other architectural trim on the main house is all in the highest Georgian style, with quoined corners and a compound-molded cornice with dentil course below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After Thomas Hubbard's death the house came into the ownership of his son **Cyrus Hubbard** (b. 1791; see #368/374 Sudbury Road,) who died in 1865. Cyrus was both a farmer and surveyor, eventually giving up his surveying business to Henry David Thoreau when his health failed. He was Captain of the Concord Light Infantry for a number of years.

After two generations under the Hubbards, in 1865 the property entered a new era, when it was purchased by **Judge Henry F. French**, who moved his family here in 1867. While carrying on a law practice in Boston, he appears to have run it as a "gentleman's farm," growing some of the best asparagus in town. One of the most respected lawyers of his day, he argued for the Town of Concord the lawsuit against a group of Billerica mill owners who had raised the height of a dam, allegedly damaging meadows in Concord. In 1876 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and moved to Washington, but returned to the farm when his term expired, shortly before his death. During the years the family were in Washington the house was rented out. Among the tenants was a Mr. Barnes, a chemist, and his wife, who were living there in 1885.

Judge French was the father of the noted American sculptor Daniel Chester French. Recognizing the young man's talent, the judge encouraged and supported his artistic development, and may have financed the studio built for him next door at #324 in 1879. (See Form # .)

During the Judge's ownership a front porch was added (later demolished), along with one of the ells, used as a kitchen. The judge's widow is shown on maps as the owner in both 1889 and 1893. The property was apparently bought by **Thomas Hollis**, a young relative of the Judge's, in the early 1890's. His wife died in 1912, and he spent some of the next years running a hotel at Lake Sunapee, NH. He remarried in 1915, and sold much of the land and barns, (but apparently not the house,) to Dr. **Shattuck** of Boston. The house was later bought by historian **Samuel Eliot Morison**.

By 1937 #342 was the home of painter and sculptress **Mary Ogden Abbott**, who owned the house through the middle of this century. Her grandmother, Mary Ogden Adams, widow of Charles Francis Adams, (grandson of John Quincy Adams,) lived here during her later years.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
342 Sudbury Road

Area(s) Form No.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually ☐ District ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A	B	C	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

#342 is unique in Concord as an extremely well-preserved example of a high-style late Georgian central-chimney, hip-roofed house with pedimented facade pavilion, and as such meets Criterion C for individual listing on the National Register. It also qualifies under Criterion A as the home of two of Hubbardville's most prominent citizens, Deacon Thomas Hubbard, its first owner, and Judge Henry French, Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Concord

342 Sudbury Road
Dea. Thos. Hubbard Hse.

Area(s)
AL

Form No.
405

Additional material by Anne McCarthy Forbes, March, 1997:

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The exterior appearance of this house is essentially unchanged since 1991. A study of historic photographs in the Concord Free Library photo collections has chronicled some of the changes to the building over the years. A photograph of ca. 1890 shows that by that time the south end of the original hip-roofed, center-chimney block of the house had acquired a one-story rectangular bay, which had a large double window with label molding, similar to the French doors that are presently on the end of the south wing. The same photo shows a line of attached sheds and barns extending to the rear. Another photo of about the same time shows the north end of the original house block, with two-bay fenestration, and what appears to be a two-story rear wing. A later pre-1921 photograph shows the rear north window of the main block converted to a door. Another photograph shows that by 1938 the present two-story south extension had been built, and the house had a one-story garage addition on the north.

By the latter part of the nineteenth century, Daniel Chester French's handwork graced the interior of the house, where he built a china cabinet for his mother.

The house at 342 Sudbury Road stands on a property that is composed of two parcels that remain from the venerable Hubbard Farm--Concord Assessor's #s G10-473 and G10-475. Although a large free-standing barn that was located to the northwest of the house is gone, a remarkable root cellar (MHC #) still occupies part of the back yard near the house. With a mounded roof covered with earth, it is an underground structure of massive cut-granite blocks. The pieces which support the roof are single granite slabs, approximately 10 feet long and 1 1/2 to 2 feet thick. The cellar dates to at least the 1870's or 1880's, and had a door that was adorned with a sculpture of a horse and rider by Daniel Chester French.

In 1875-76, while under Judge French's ownership, two rows of pine trees were planted on the premises to commemorate the country's centennial. Many of them, now over 100 feet tall, remain--in a line along the rear north boundary of Parcel 473, and in another row along the rear west boundary of Parcel 475. Two extremely large American Ash trees, 48 and 54 inches in diameter, and at least 100 to 150 years old, remain on the property, as well. Susan Hubbard, in her 1891 memoir of her father, mentions ash trees that were large then that had been planted by her grandfather, Dea. Thomas Hubbard. If either of these trees is one of those, it would pre-date 1835, when the Deacon died.

RECEIVED

MAR 7 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Concord

342 Sudbury Road
Dea. Thos. Hubbard Hse.

Area(s)
AL

Form No.
405

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

French ownership

Judge Henry Flagg French became President of the new Massachusetts Agricultural College (later University of Massachusetts) in Amherst in 1865, but apparently was living here in Concord by 1867. He died in 1885, and his widow, Pamela Prentiss French, lived on in the house until her death in 1895.

Research which has been carried out in the 1990's on Daniel Chester French and his family by French biographer Michael Richman, the staff of Chesterwood, and other scholars, has revealed a close connection between this house and the sculptor's early professional work.

Before he designed and built his own studio just north of his father's house in 1879, most of Daniel Chester French's early sculpture, including the formative stages of the *Minute Man*, was made here at 342 Sudbury Road. His father speaks of watching workmen do casting in the barn, and it is likely that the young Daniel had a place in the house where he created nearly all 27 of his initial small decorative works, including the models for the eight groups of Parianware that brought him some early income. Most of the fifteen more serious portrait busts and reliefs of family members and friends that date to between 1867 and 1873 were also probably executed here in the house.

Abbott ownership

For more background on the Abbott family, see Form #759-761 for "Holderness", the Abbott estate at 675 Sudbury Road. Mrs. Abbott and her two children, Mary Ogden Abbott (1894-1981) and John Abbott (b. 1902), who became a doctor, moved to 342 Sudbury Road in the late 1920's. Mary Ogden Abbott, like Daniel Chester French, received nationwide commissions for sculpture. Her work includes doors in the Department of the Interior in Washington and the Essex-Peabody Museum in Salem, and she created an altarpiece with St. George in cowboy chaps for St. Andrews Church in Nogales, Arizona. She was one of the most prominent members of the Concord Art Association.

She did much to perpetuate the name of her ancestors, Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. At the time of her death, she was president of the Adams Memorial Society which oversaw the restoration of the Adams mansion in Quincy, and in 1980 she restored the Adams family memorials in Quincy's Old Hancock Cemetery. An accomplished rider, in 1977 she gave her riding stable and 3 1/2 acres of land behind the house to the Town of Concord (Parcel G10-476.) In the early 1990's, the stable was demolished, and the material reused in the construction of the additions to the Concord Museum at 200 Lexington Road. Miss Abbott had been a great admirer of Daniel Chester French, and donated his statue, *Endymion*, to Chesterwood.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Concord

342 Sudbury Road
Dea. Thos. Hubbard Hse.

Area(s)
AL

Form No.
405

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Concord Free Library: Obituary files, Pamphlet files, Photograph files.

Cresson, Margaret French. Journey into Fame. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1947.

Hubbard, S. "Memoir of Cyrus Hubbard." 1991.

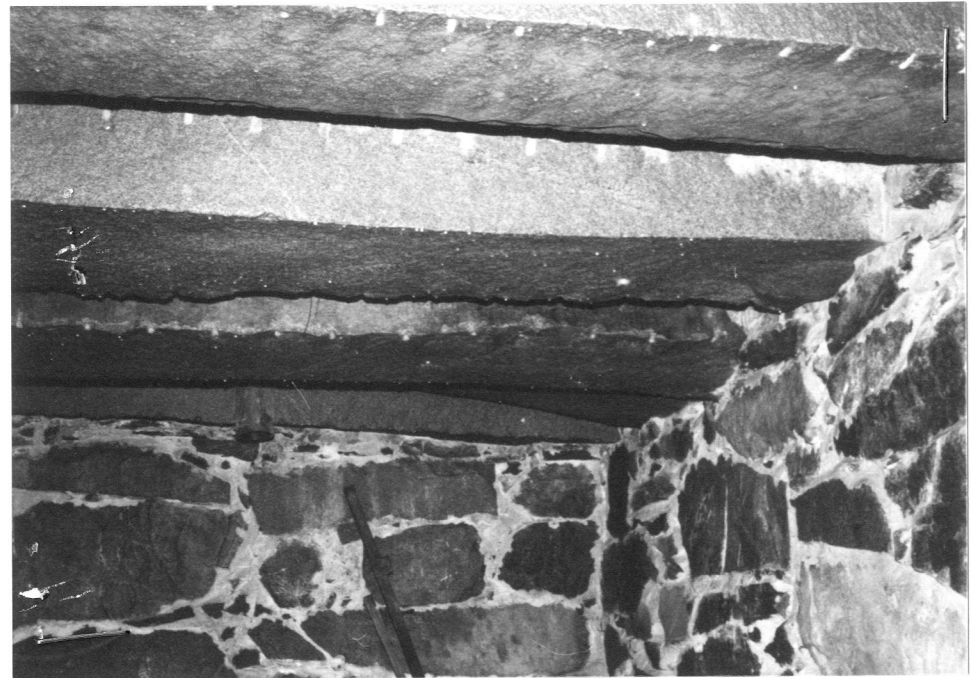
Richman, Michael. Daniel Chester French: an American Sculptor. New York: Metropolitan Museum, 1976.

_____. "The Early Public Sculpture of Daniel Chester French." American Art Journal, Nov. 1972.

_____. A Statement for the Concord Planning Board. December 5, 1995.



February 1997



Root cellar 1996



Root cellar 1996

CON. 405

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

342 Sudbury Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

AL

DZ

Form No.

405; 997

Additional information by Anne Forbes, November, 2000:

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

See National Register Nomination for Hubbard-French District, 1999.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

See National Register Nomination for Hubbard-French District, 1999.

Additional information on **Thomas Hollis**, owner of the property from 1899 to 1916, is to be found in his biographical entry in *Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle*, Vol. V, pp. 362-376, which includes several quotations from his diary. The nephew of Daniel Chester French, he was the son of the sculptor's older sister and her husband, a New Hampshire quarry owner. As a young man he entered the stone-cutting business in 1883, but in the winter of 1885, on his uncle's invitation, he came to Concord to study drawing in Boston. Discovering that he "did not have the gift he [Daniel Chester French] had, that he saw things I could not see," he returned the next year to his father's granite quarry in West Concord, NH. He subsequently worked in the office of the Granite Railway Co., Quincy, MA, of which his grandfather Hollis was President. He left the granite business for good after spending a short time in the midwest with his uncle William French, Director of the Art Institute of Chicago. He then went to Kentucky for awhile, where he was Secretary of the Grand Rivers Lumber Company on the Cumberland River. He and his young family moved back east in 1894, where they lived in Milton, MA, for three years before moving to the Hubbard-French Farm on Sudbury Road in the spring of 1897.

In Mr. Hollis's words, "Mary, the two boys, and I came over here from Milton to try life on the farm this summer with the idea of buying it and settling here if we like it. It seems too bad to allow it to go out of the family, it is such an attractive place." While working in Boston with the bond brokerage of Faelzer & Walker, he paid part of his rent in kind by doing repairs on the property. It is not known what work the repairs entailed, but a fire destroyed a good part of them, and he redid the work, finishing in April, 1898. He purchased the farm in January, 1899, saying "My plan is to give up going to Boston and to see if I can't work off my dyspepsia raising chickens and running the farm."

Although he also continued to raise asparagus as Judge French had done, (in 1905 he was chosen Secretary of the new local Asparagus Growers Association), Mr. Hollis became something of a poultry specialist, branching out into several related business enterprises. In 1901-02 he was New England manager for an incubator company with offices in Boston, and invented a thermostat for incubators. In 1904 he was associated with Pollard & Park in a store on Canal Street which sold poultry supplies.

He also continued to operate the farm as a dairy farm, and began to deliver milk in Concord in 1902. In 1904 he started selling butter and eggs as well. His dairy was never profitable, however, and in 1906 he sold his last twelve cows.

Mr. Hollis's interest in the farm gradually declined over the next several years. In 1912, he reported "John Madsen ran the farm on shares in 1910 and got all the share there was. Last year I rented it to Arthur Wheeler. . . The arrangement is renewed this year." His wife died that year, and after becoming involved in some interpersonal conflicts related to his positions as a member of the Concord School Committee and as Water and Sewer Commissioner, he moved permanently back to New Hampshire in 1915, where for the next several years he was involved in the development of property at Lake Sunapee.

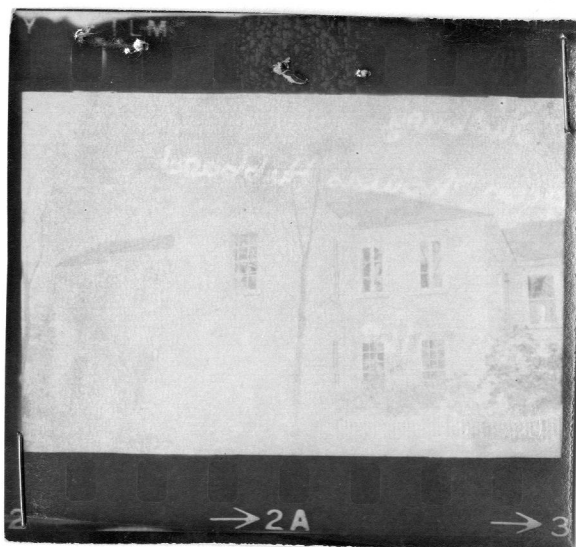
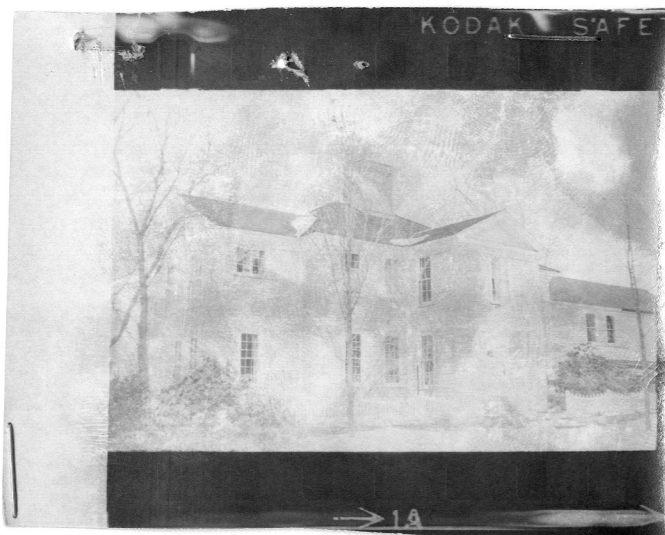
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MASS HIST. COMM

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. 405



FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Is this structure historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Structure has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

<u>Agriculture</u>	Commerce/Industry
<u>Architecture</u>	Science/Invention
<u>Art/Sculpture</u>	Travel/Communication
Education	Military Affairs
Government	Religion/Philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	<u>Development of Town/City</u>

2. Town Concord
Street 342 Sudbury Rd
Name Deacon Thos. Hubbard
Original Use _____
Present Use _____
Present Owner abbott
Date 1766 Style Georgian
additions + alterations
Source of Date _____
Architect _____

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered I think so
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low? Material: cut stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 story wing additions barns + garages N heaven knows what is back!
Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony 2 story entrance porch Recessed _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard ridge roofs on both wings + ent. porch.
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: heavy entablature pediment, pilasters

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied heavy cornice 1st floor - see photos

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured _____

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING well landscaped

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 10'
Property has over 50 feet frontage on street

Recorder Cune Dandurill

For MHC

Photo III - 1A-68-454
2A-68-455 2-09 065-1-009
3A-68-456

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

building + wing -
20' deep

H-2

A-3?

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

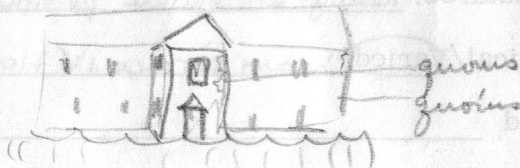
GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Built by Hubbard (1766-1835)
 Selectman 1801-03
 experimental farmer
 1865 Judge French (Father DC) bought farm (lawyer)
 early years of DCF
 1915 - occupied by SS Morrison. (Harvard historian)

Studio nearby where DCF worked now a house
 Mary Abbott - painter and sculptress lived here now

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

newspaper, the wheel 3/3/38



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds