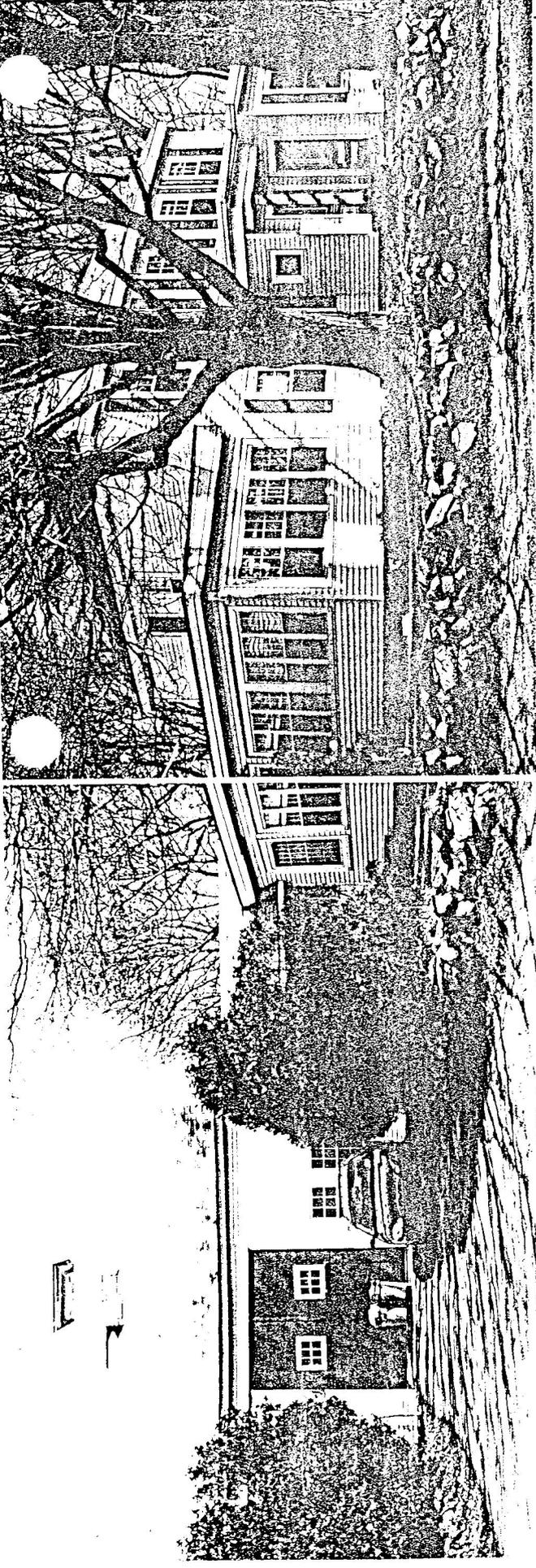


Massachusetts Historical Commission

Map: 35 Parcel: 6

Reading

138, 139



Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village) Meadowview

Address 5 Winter Street

Historic Name Garvin-Weeks Farmstead and Barn

Use: Present Private residence

Original Farm house and barn

Date of Construction c. 1780 to 1795

Source 1795 David Needham Map

Style/Form Late Georgian/ irregular

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Field stone and granite block

Wall Vinyl

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Substantial barn

Major Alterations (with dates) Enclosed porches added to main, west facades at undetermined date.

Condition Good

Moved yes no

Acreage 2.79 acres

Setting Situated close to street behind low rubblestone wall.

Pair of substantial old trees in front of main facade. Low rubble stone wall to left of stable entrance. Across Winter Street is a linear development of modern suburban houses.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

5 Winter Street is a Late Georgian vernacular house that provides a glimpse of a Reading/North Reading farmstead that was probably built between 1780 and 1795. Over time it has been enlarged by open and enclosed porch additions. Currently covered in vinyl siding, the house was originally sheathed in wooden clapboards. The nucleus of the house is a hip-roofed rectangular main block that is the equivalent of the typically Georgian five-bays-by-five-bays. Also noteworthy is the large barn which is linked to the house via an enclosed "breezeway."

The porches were probably added by the Weeks family during the early 1900s and may have been originally open. The porch at the main elevation obscures the original center entrance. Two doors open on to a small recessed porch at the southwest corner of the front porch. At this corner, a Tuscan column rises from a low brick platform accessed by a short flight of brick steps. A small square window set high on the west wall speaks to the probable early 1900s origins of the front porch. The west porch exhibits a bank of four windows at its street elevation while its west wall is pierced by a bank of seven windows. In general, windows contain 6/1 wood sash.

Particularly noteworthy is the substantial, clapboard-clad barn located to the west of the house. This structure may be classified as an English barn. Typically measuring about thirty feet by forty feet, this barn type features a gable roof with a pair of large hinged doors on the front eaves-side wall. Rising to a height of two-and-one-half-stories and measuring four-bays-by-two-bays, a small one story ell projects from its west gable. The barn rises from a field stone retaining wall to a gable roof. Of particular interest is the opening in the foundation wall at the barn's southwest corner which provides access via a dirt ramp to the manure basement.

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) t' owners/occupants played within the community.

Edward J. Leary in North Reading Excerpts at Random, (1971) in a section called "Names You Hear No More" states that the neighborhood around the intersection of Park and Winter Street was called "Meadowview." Winter Street's origins are evidently linked to the 1806 opening of the Andover and Medford Turnpike, providing a short cut between the new toll road and eastern Park Street. The present Main Street (Route 28) in North Reading follows the path of the old Turnpike. 5 Winter Street is located just to the west of the Park/Winter Streets crossroads. Assessors records list 5 Winter Street's construction date as 1730 but judging by the main block's appearance, this boxy, hip-roofed house was more likely built during the late eighteenth century.

5 Winter Street is evidently shown, unlabeled on the 1795 David Needham Map of Reading and on the 1830 Hale's Map of Middlesex County. The original owner of 5 Winter Street is unclear. By the 1850s, Edward Garvin, farmer is listed here. The 1870 North Reading Property Valuation indicates that Garvin's land holdings were not very extensive, encompassing only 5/8 of an acre. The possibility remains that Garvin was a tenant farmer on a larger landholder's farm. In 1870, Garvin's house and land was valued at \$375.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

North Reading Maps/Atlases: 1795,1831,1857,1875,1889,1906;
Town of North Reading Street List, 1966; Interview with Patricia Romeo
North Reading Directories (Wakefield): 1896-97;1905;1907;1911-12; 1919-20;1931-1932;1941
Valuation of Real and Personal Estates, Town of North Reading: 1870;1890;1910;1920;1930
Leary, Edward J., North Reading Excerpts at Random, 1971
Massachusetts Historical Commission North Reading Reconnaissance Survey, c. 1980

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Community: North Reading, MA	Form No:
Property Name: 5 Winter Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION continued

According to Thomas Durant Visser, "one of the first major innovations in barn design adopted by New England farmers between the 1830s and 1850s was the manure basement. By raising the barn onto a dry-laid stone foundation, manure could be easily collected in the basement by shoveling it through a hole in the floor. Under cover, the nutrients were protected during the long winters. If the barns were sited on sloping ground, farmers could easily remove the manure from the basement of the barn with an ox-drawn manure cart."

Returning to the architectural description of the barn, it should be noted that tall and wide barn doors rise two stories near the center of the main elevation. Above the centers of the doors are small, six-pane windows. In general, the barn's windows contain 6/6 wood sash. The barn's attics culminate in louvered openings set within narrow raised, triangular boards. Rising from the center of the roof ridge is a small belvedere with a pair of solid, small square panels on each of its sides.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE continued

By 1890, the former Garvin farm was owned by Mrs. Seymour (Mary) T. Weeks. Between 1870 and 1890 her farm had grown from 5/8 of an acre to six acres. Mrs. Weeks' property encompassed a house worth an estimated \$1150. The large size of the barn is reflected in its valuation of nearly \$400. In addition, a shed and three hen houses with a combined value of \$115 were located on the premises. The four-acre house lot was worth an estimated \$300 while the two-acre pasture was valued at \$50. By 1911, Mrs. Weeks is listed as a boarder of this house while the owner of the farm is listed as William W. Weeks, a Boston real estate agent. By that time, 5 Winter Street had become a vacation home which may have still functioned to some degree as a working farm. The value of the Weeks' property had risen from \$1990 in 1890 to \$2,950 by 1910. Evidently only one or two sheds had been added to the property while the acreage remained constant at six acres.

Reportedly Mrs. Weeks had a colorful career as the manager of a Boston club that catered to an exclusively male clientele. 3 Winter Street reportedly served as a country retreat for the hotel's female employees. Said to have been the child of one of her employees, Mrs. Weeks' adopted son William left a sizable amount of money to the town to establish a library. The Town purchased the Damon Tavern for that purpose, hence the name Weeks Memorial Library.

The Weeks are not listed in the 1920 Property Valuation but William Weeks is listed in the Valuation of 1930. At this time his property encompassed a house on Winter Street valued at \$5,000 while the barn was worth an estimated \$450. A garage and "other buildings" had a combined value of \$550. 5 Winter Street's 7 3/4-acre tract was valued at \$1,800.

By the mid-1960s, Mary C. Baird and Edward T. Baird, salesman are listed at both 3 and 5 Winter Street.



Ipswich River

READING