

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard

Map: 59 Parcel: 12

Reading

66

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village) Old Salem Road

(segment of Chestnut Street east of Haverhill Street)

Address 1 Chestnut Street

Historic Name Flint-Smith-Bartlett Farmstead

Use: Present Private residence

Original Farm house

Date of Construction c.1800; by 1830

Source North Reading GIS Map & 1830 Hale's Map

Style/Form Federal/ rectangular

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Granite block

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact. Small one story shed added to the rear wall at an undetermined date.

Condition Good

Moved yes no

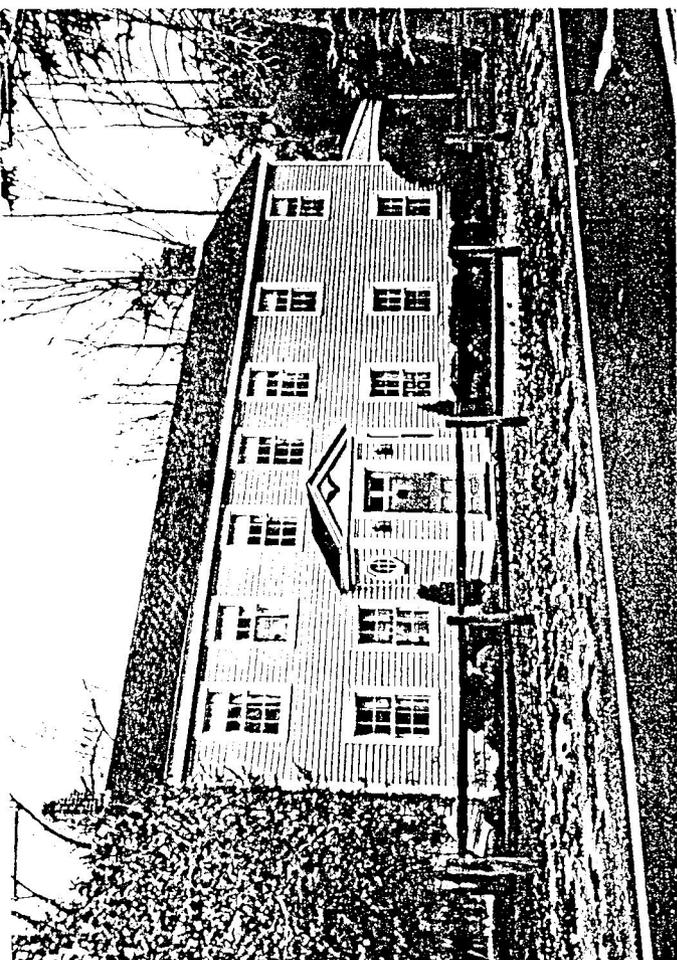
Acreage 0.32 acres

Setting Located at the North Reading/ Lynnfield line.

Located close to the street facing south. Surrounded by modern suburban residences.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon
Organization North Reading Historical Commission

Date(month/day/year) 17/10/2001



BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

Situated close to the street, facing south, 1 Chestnut Street is surrounded by modern suburban residences. 1 Chestnut Street is an extremely plain example of a Federal vernacular farm house. The six-bay length of its main facade is unusual. More typically, Federal houses exhibit five bays with an entrance at the center of the main elevation. A sixth bay may have been added at an undetermined date. Built around 1800 and extant by 1830, this house is clad with clapboards. Essentially rectangular in form, an off-center enclosed one-bay-by-one bay entrance porch projects from the center of the main elevation. Projecting from the rear wall is a one-bay-by-one-bay shed while an open porch of fairly recent origin projects from the east wall.

Rising two stories from a granite block foundation to a gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles, this six-bay-by-two-bay main block may have originally had a center chimney. Currently, narrow, late nineteenth century chimneys rise from either end of the roof's ridge. The main facade's enclosed entrance porch exhibits small oval windows at its side walls and is crowned by a pedimented gable roof.

In general windows exhibit simple, raised wooden surrounds and contain 6/6 wood sash. The main facade culminates in a simple, unadorned cornice.

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.

1 Chestnut Street represents a physical link with North Reading during the Federal Period (1775-1830). During this period, the economic base of North Reading, then the northern precinct of Reading, was subsistence farming. By 1820 boot and shoemaking was a key cottage industry, but figures are unavailable. Three mills operated by the Flint family were located on the Ipswich River. The period in this area is characterized by slow population growth, from around 500 in 1790 to perhaps 800 in 1830.

At the time of its construction around 1800, 1 Chestnut Street, located at the southeastern corner of community, was considerably removed from the principal focus of economic activity in West Village (Park/Mill Streets) and the civic focus at North Reading town common. A branch of the Flint family was in residence at 1 Chestnut Street by at least the 1850s. Flints settled in North Reading as early as the late 17th century. By 1870, this property's occupant, Annie Flint, presided over a 37-acre tract which included the house, valued at \$600, a barn valued at \$100, as well as a 5-acre "front field," a one-and-one-half acre parcel within Bare Meadow, 7 acres of Cedar Swamp and 23 acres of pasture and wood lots.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

North Reading Maps/Atlases: 1795,1831,1857,1875,1889,1906; Town of North Reading Street List, 1966
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
Eaton, Chester W., & Warren Eaton, eds. Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Town of N.R.
Le Page, Samuel M. A History of North Reading, Tercentenary Ed., 1944

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: 1 Chestnut Street	

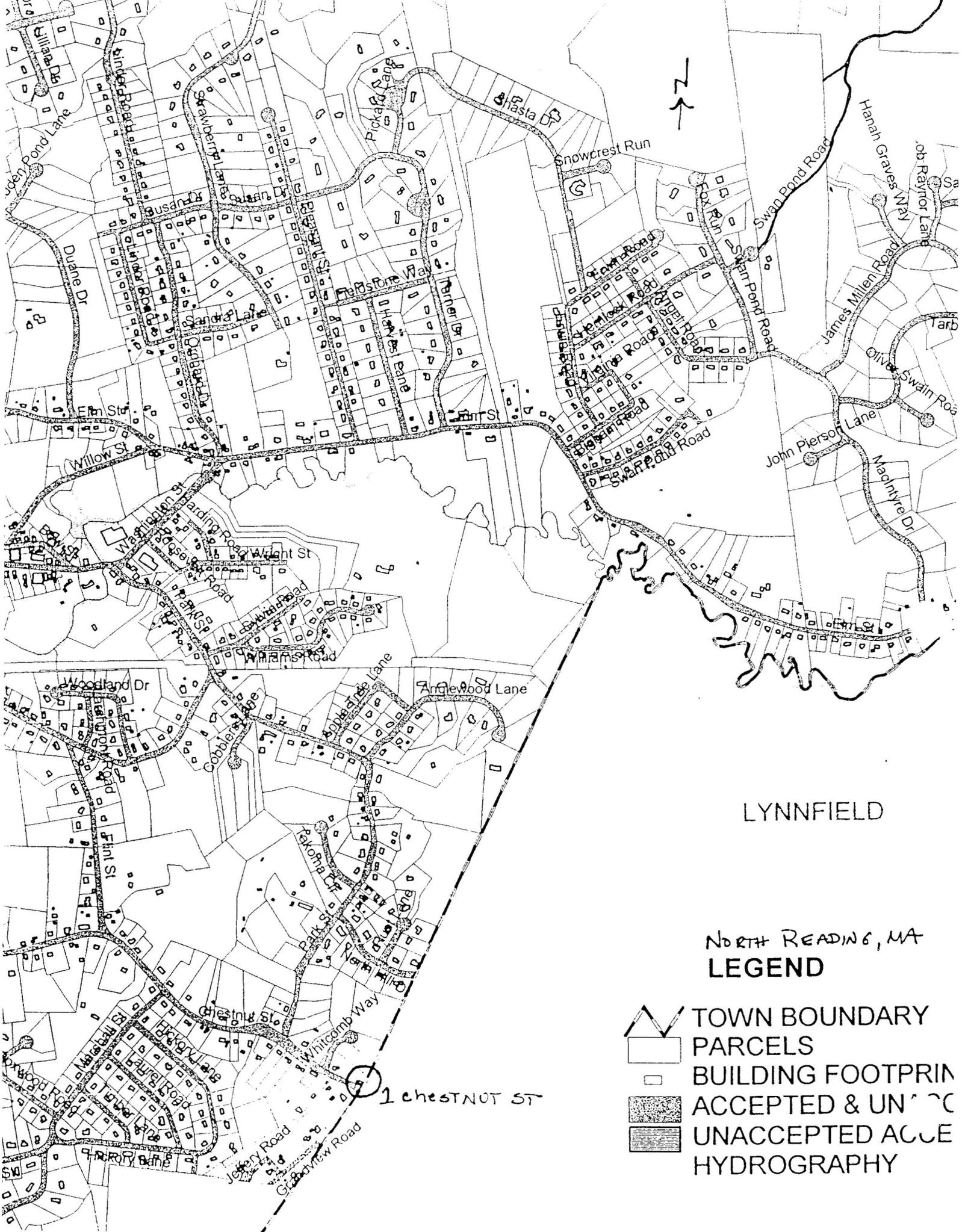
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Narrative continued

At some point during the 1880s, a G.S. and Rachel Smith acquired this farm from the Flints. In 1890, Rachel Smith owned the house, by then valued at \$775, a barn valued at \$250 as well as meadow, pasture, swamp and woodlands.

From 1898 until at least the early 1940s, 1 Chestnut Street was owned by Sarah B. and William F. Bartlett, farmer. The Bartletts' purchase included 1 Chestnut Street, on the North Reading side of the town's eastern boundary as well as 34 acres in Lynnfield and North Reading (Middlesex Registry of deeds, vol. 2708, page 37). By 1930, the Bartlett farm encompassed 35 1/2 acres, including the house valued at \$1700, the barn valued at \$300, other buildings valued at \$200 as well as 35 1/2 acres of land valued at \$1800.

By 1966, the George B. and Barbara S. Elliott family is listed at this address. Mr. Elliot was a general agent. The Elliott children, James B. and Peter W. Elliot are listed as students.



LYNNFIELD

NORTH READING, MA
LEGEND

-  TOWN BOUNDARY
-  PARCELS
-  BUILDING FOOTPRINT
-  ACCEPTED & UNACCEPTED
-  UNACCEPTED ACCE
-  HYDROGRAPHY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
DOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community
NORTH READING

Property Address
1 CHESTNUT STREET

AREA:

FORM NO.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible only in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Edward W. Gordon Preservation
consultant

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Flint-Smith-Bartlett House is a well-preserved example of an early nineteenth century farmstead. Exhibiting characteristics of the Federal vernacular style, the earliest identified owner was a Flint, a family that traces its roots in the North Parish of Reading back to the late seventeenth century.