

FORM B -BUILDING

Assessor' number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard

Map:78 Parcel:100

Reading

80

ston, Massachusetts 02125

Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village)

Lower End

Address 107 Elm Street

Historic Name Nichols(?)-Tarbox Farmstead

Use: Present Private residence

Original Farm House

Date of Construction c. late 18th century; by 1795

Source Visual analysis and 1795 Nickerson Map

Style/Form Federal /L-shaped

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Field stone

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Former stable converted to guest house.

Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact

Condition Good

Moved yes no

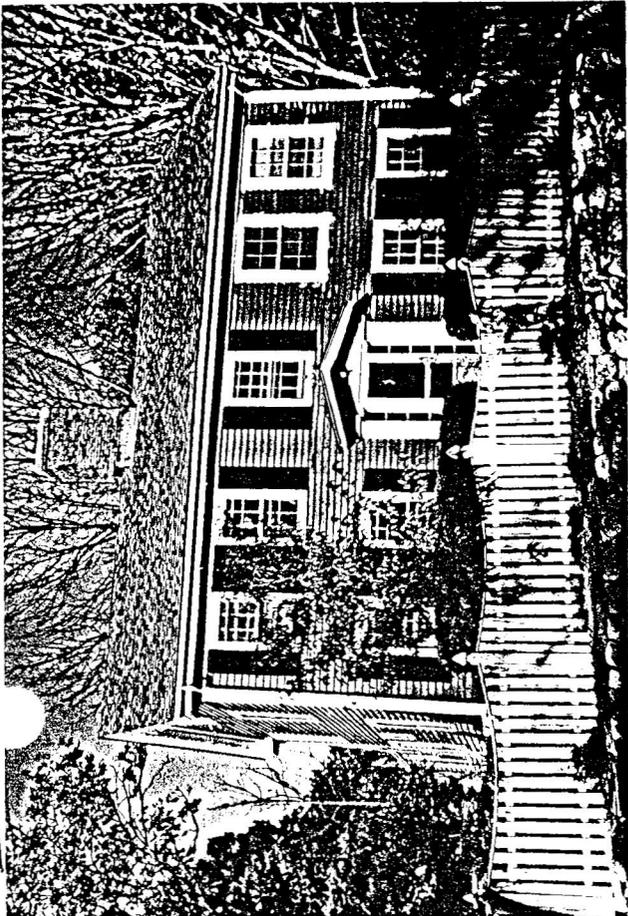
Acreage 1.95 acres

Setting Marks the entrance to a modern suburban

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon
North Reading Historical Commission
Organization

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

residential development bordering MacIntyre Drive. (Note: historically the name is variously spelled "McIntire" and MacIntire in directories.) Situated on a low rise overlooking Ipswich River conservation lands. Set back from street facing narrow front yard enclosed by a picket-fence-surmounted fieldstone retaining wall.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Community: North Reading, MA

Form No:

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

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

The origins of 107 Elm Street are unclear. The 1795 Nickerson Maps seems to indicate that a house was located here. Architecturally, the house exhibits the massing and elements of a Federal/ vernacular farm house dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Clad with clapboards, this L-shaped house rises two stories from a fieldstone basement to an asphalt-covered gable roof. Measuring five-bays-by-two-bays, this house's edges are set off by narrow corner boards. The center entrance features a front door flanked by five-pane sidelights and Doric pilasters. The front door is surmounted by a simple entablature, which, in turn, is surmounted by a shallow gable roof.

In general, double hung windows are fully enframed and contain 6/6 wood sash. Second story windows are flush with the plate. The plate is sheltered by a shallow wooden cornice. Rising from the center of the gable roof's ridge is a fairly substantial brick chimney. Projecting from the rear wall is a one-story ell.

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.

107 Elm Street is a key component in North Reading's important collection of eighteenth and early nineteenth century farm houses bordering the Elm/Park Street's corridor adjacent to the Ipswich River. 107 Elm Street provides a physical link with North Reading, then the North Parish of Reading, during the Federal Period (1775-1830). During this period, the economic base 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 is characterized by slow population growth from around 500 in 1790 to perhaps 800 in 1830.

107 Elm Street may have been extant as early as 1795, but further research is needed here. The house is indicated on the Hale's Map of 1830 and by the mid-nineteenth century was owned by Rachel E. Tarbox. In 1870, Mrs. Tarbox's farm contained 32 1/2 acres and was valued at \$1,810. Situated on a house lot of 3/4 of an acre, her house was valued at \$750 while the barn and shed were valued at \$250 and \$50, respectively. Her land encompassed a "Fore Field," "Back Field," "Barn Field," "Back Pasture," "Upper Pasture" and "Wood Lot."

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
MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report, North Reading, 1981

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

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

Community
North Reading

Property Address
107 Elm Street

Area(s)

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

Extant by 1795, the Nichols-Tarbox House is a Federal vernacular farmstead that retains integrity of siting, form, fabric, and elements. 107 Elm Street is a key component in the Lower End neighborhood / eastern Elm Street's intact collection of Colonial and Federal farmsteads .