

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA

FORM NO.

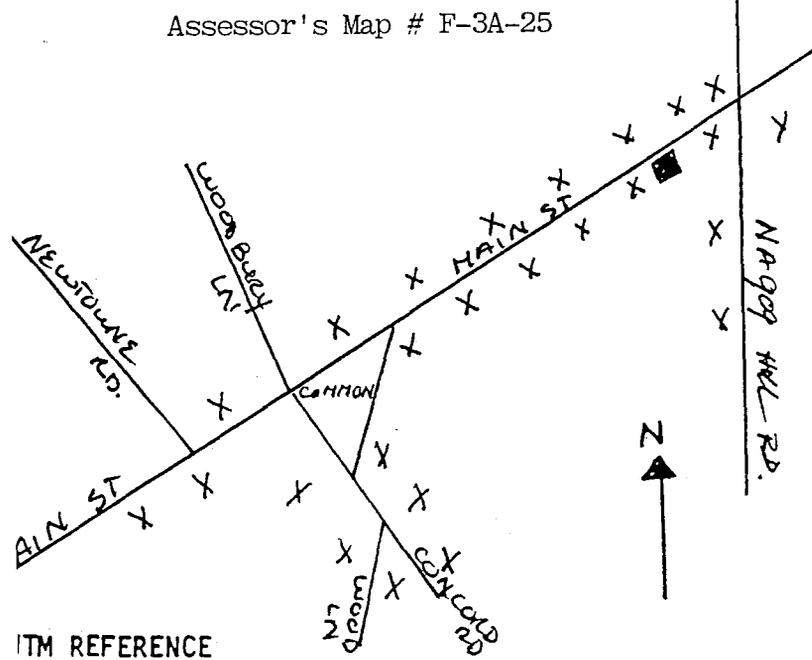
B 86

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116



Location ACTON
Address 505 Main Street
Historic Name Tuttle / Robbins
Present single family residential
Original single family residential
Description
Date ca. 1840
Source Nylander / NR nomination
Style Greek Revival , vernacular

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



Architect unknown
Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard
Outbuildings none
Major Alterations (with dates) 2-story ell addition, porch - both late 19th c.
Condition good
Moved no Date n/a
Acreage less than one acre
Setting At village center - south side of main auto route - among early to mid 19th century dwellings
Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler
Organization Acton Historical Commission
Date March 1990

ITM REFERENCE _____
SGS QUADRANGLE _____
SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER IN 1972
ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Acton Centre, once known as Acton Village, developed as the civic and institutional center of the large sprawling town which has several 19th century village centers. Acton Centre took on its suburban institutional form around an elongated Common from 1806 when the Second Meeting House was built and several local citizens bought surrounding farms and laid out house lots and built an hotel and some commercial buildings around the Common. The only industrial site was a shoe factory (no longer extant) opposite the Common. Most Acton industrial properties were located in South and West Acton due to the water power and location of the railroad in 1844 both of which bypassed Acton Centre. Subsequent development included the Evangelical Church, the Town Hall replacing the Second Meeting House, and finally the Library as well as many mid-19th century Greek Revival houses for artisans and professionals. Acton Centre is the approximate geographic center of Acton and appropriately remains the civic center.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases / Birdseye / Maps: 1851, 1856, 1871, 1875, 1889, 1892.
Phalen, History of the Town of Acton, 1954.
National Register Nomination, MHC, 1983.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
ACTON

Form No:

B-86

Property Name: 505 Main Street

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 505 MAIN STREET

Built at the same time as #503 Main Street, this house is positioned with the gable end facing the street and a porch on the long side leading to the entrance which is located in the corner of a 2-story side ell. The house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with wood clapboard siding.

The north and west sides of the L-shaped building are readily visible from the public way and display two 2/2 sash at the first story level in the gable-front portion of the cottage and two at the second story level and two 2/2 windows on the long side which is covered by an open shed roof porch with turned posts. The early 20th century glass and wood panel door is located in the corner of the 2-story ell at the end of the porch where it is attached to the side ell. The side ell has two 2/2 windows at the second story level. The roofline of the ell appears to be 1 1/2 story where it meets the gable-front block and then 2 story for the extension of the ell. A tall 2-story ell and porch are shown in the 1892 Lithograph indicating that these features were part of the early changes to the dwelling.

Large radio antennae dominate the roof of the dwelling.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT - 505 MAIN STREET (continued)

Main Street has always been a main route through Acton serving as an early native trail and later a carriage route. From the early 1800s when Acton Centre developed into the civic center the section of Main Street from west of Concord Road to Nagog Hill Road was two carriage lanes separated by a long narrow greensward strip that was part of the Common. In the late 1800s Main Street was known as Elm Street for the rows of elms and other trees planted by the Committee established to beautify the Town Common. The 20th century highway improvement of Route 27 resulted in the shift of Main Street to a two lane road north of the Common.

Built by Francis Tuttle (1791-1877) this is one of two modest houses built by Tuttle who was active in real estate and worked as a storekeeper in Acton Centre and South Acton. Members of the Tuttle family lived in these houses until 1846. Later residents include M. Robbins (Map: 1851, 1856, 1870, 1875) and Mrs. G. Livermore (1889).

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

