

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA B FORM NO. 85

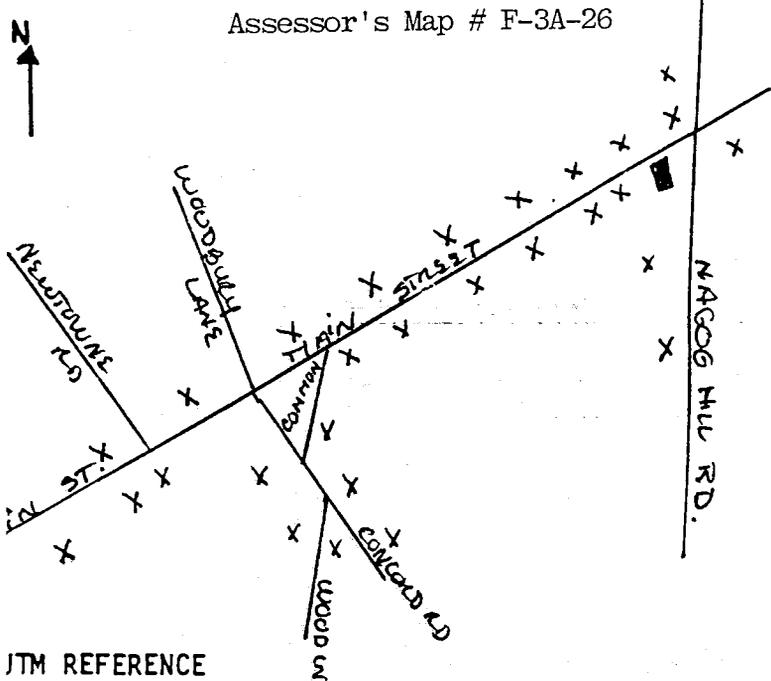
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 30 BOYLSTON STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02116



City ACTON
 Address 507 Main Street
 Historic Name Central District School
 Present single family residential
 Original educational

DESCRIPTION
 Date 1798 / 1845
 Architect Phalen / Nylander
 Style Greek Revival - vernacular
 Architect unknown
 Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard
 Outbuildings none

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



Major Alterations (with dates) dormers, rear ell and porch

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Southwest corner of Main St. and Nagog Hill Rd. - near edge of village with mixed 19th century residential and institutional buildings.

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date March 1990

UTM REFERENCE _____
 USGS QUADRANGLE _____
 SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER IN 1983
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.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases / Birdseye, Maps: 1851, 1856, 1871, 1875, 1889, 1892.
Fletcher, Acton In History, 1890.
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-85
Property Name: 507 Main St.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 507 MAIN STREET

The present Greek Revival building form and style is representative of the 1845 moving date for the former 1798 central district school. With its gable end to the street the 1 1/2 story cottage rests on a granite block foundation and retains its clapboard siding. The 5-bay west side is the main entrance facade. From the east side on Nagog Hill Road the house appears to be 3 stories due to the topography. There is a 1 1/2 story rear ell which is incorporated into the 5-bay facade and only discernable from the south and east sides. A raised screened porch is added and rests on a concrete foundation.

From Main Street the cottage displays a temple gable end facing the roadway with three bays of 6/6 sash set in plain projecting frames with corner blocks and flanked by louvered shutters. The Greek Revival architectural trim is articulated by the wide corner posts with molded capitals supporting a wide frieze and the enclosed pediment with boxed cornice. There are two 6/6 windows with shutters in the pediment. The entrance facade on the side has 5 bays with a center entrance approached by large granite stepping stones and an iron rail. The Greek Revival door surround has pilasters similar to the corner posts supporting a plain entablature which has a projecting lintel. The replacement door with aluminum storm door is flanked by 1/2 side lights. The windows on this side have 6/6 sash with shutters. There is a full length shed roof dormer with paired sash on the ends and a single 6/6 window above the center entrance. The shed roof of the rear screened porch and steps leading to it are partially visible from the roadway.

The south and east sides are visible from Nagog Hill Road. The roadway is set below the house which is built into a substantial slope. The side of the main block appears to have been raised due to the appearance of the corner posts. It has three bays with 6/6 sash and shutters. The corner posts resemble those described above from the first story up. The corner boards of the raised basement section, which has an overhead garage door and one 8/12 window, are narrow and reinforced with brick on the front side. The rear ell, which is easily seen from this side, is recessed from the main block exterior wall and has two 6/9 windows at two different levels. The rear gable end wall of the main block, part of which is obscured by this ell, has an irregular window pattern with a 2/2 window in the basement level, 6/9 at the first story, and in the gable peak a 6/6 sash, a small single light square, and a small 4-light window at the peak. All windows on the south and east side have small square blocks in the corners of the window frames. The added raised porch has a large multi-light window at the basement level and a tongue and groove vertical board door. The screened porch is raised well above the road level.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: B-85
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HISTORICAL STATEMENT - 507 MAIN STREET

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.

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 as the Central District Schoolhouse on Nagog Hill Road, this building was moved to its present site in 1845 and converted to a residence at that time. Owners included Samuel Walker (Map: 1851), Mrs. Holden (Map: 1856, 1870, 1875) and by the 1880s Cryus S. Hale, farmer, lived here.

When a schoolhouse, the building had a square plan and was painted red. It was arranged in the traditional schoolhouse fashion with a center high desk and rows of double desks.

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