

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

22-12

Weymouth

HNV.52

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

Town/City: Hanover

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Hanover Center

Photograph



Photo 1. 733 Main Street, view northeast.

Address: 733 Main Street

Historic Name: Joseph House—Abisha and Frances Soule House

Uses: Present: Single-family Dwelling

Original: Single-family Dwelling

Date of Construction: 1712, ca. 1833

Source: Barry 1853; Dwelley and Simmons 1910

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Multiple outbuildings at the rear of the building that were unable to be identified from the public right-of-way

Major Alterations (*with dates*): 1712 building was possibly moved and expanded circa 1833; Porch 1970

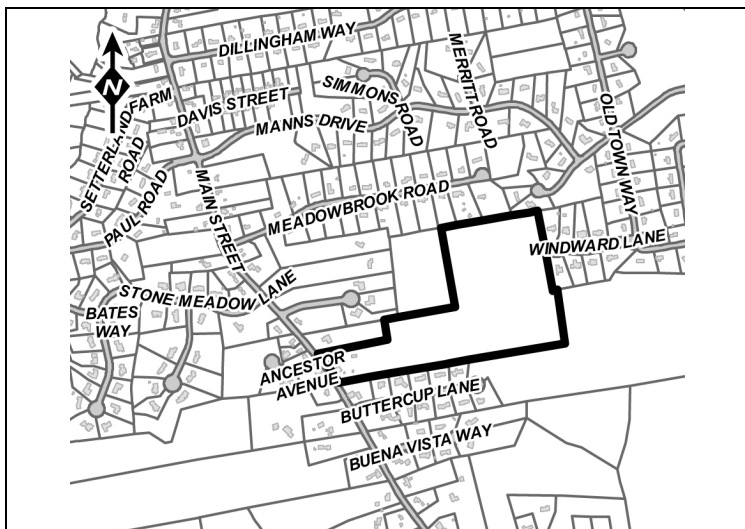
Condition: Good

Moved: no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:** Ca. 1833
(unconfirmed)

Acreage: 28.72 acres

Setting: The building faces west in a residential section of town, north of Hanover Center. The building is set back from the street on a large L-shaped parcel. Mature trees dot the property line. A stone wall with mature plantings marks the west boundary. The yard is primarily made up of manicured lawn with hedges at the building's foundation.

Locus Map



Recorded by: E. Totten, J. Chin, M. Andrade, V. Adams; PAL

Organization: Town of Hanover

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANOVER

733 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

HNV.52

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

This form is an update to an Inventory Form B created in 1984 (Morgan 1984). This updated documentation expands the description and history of the building and discusses alterations made to the property since the original form was created.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Joseph House–Abisha and Frances Soule House, 733 Main Street (1712, ca. 1833, HNV.52) is a west-facing, two-story, L-shaped, wood-frame building. Two five-bay-by-two-bay wings meet at the southwest corner to form the L-shape, and a two-story three-bay addition and a one-story three-bay enclosed porch infill the interstice of the two wings. The construction date of the house is contested with credible sources dating the building to ca. 1833 and other sources dating the rear wing's construction to 1712 and the front wing to ca. 1833. Regardless, the building was constructed or altered to resemble the Federal style.

The house has a hip roof clad in asphalt shingles. The walls are surfaced in wood clapboard with wood corner boards and rest on a granite foundation. Paired interior-end chimneys pierce the front wing's north and south slopes. A single chimney pierces the ridgeline of the rear wing. The facade (west) elevation of the front wing is a symmetrical center hall plan, with a central entrance flanked by two windows. Five windows are set in the second story of the facade. The entrance consists of a wood surround with wide pilasters supporting a wood entablature and is filled with a three-panel wood door and aluminum storm door. The doors are framed by operable wood shutters and are reached by a single granite step. The south elevation contains a three-bay wood porch, with two windows to the west, and five windows in the second story. The north elevation contains a single window in each story. The two-story rear wing contains one window at each story and a single-story enclosed porch is to the east of this addition. Fenestration consists primarily of six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows in wide wood surrounds with rectangular sills and modern, metal storm windows. The windows have operable louvered wood shutters.

There are numerous outbuildings at the rear of the property. Three are partially visible from the public right-of-way. Two of the buildings are one-room buildings clad in wood shingles. One has a front-gable roof and the other has a gambrel roof. The other visible building is a two-car garage that appears to be an altered barn.

The house has undergone some alterations since its construction; however, it remains a good example of a Federal style building in Hanover. A structure that originally occupied this parcel was built in 1712. It is unclear if part of this building still remains. The front wing is attributed to Abisha Soule, who purchased the property in 1833. Outbuildings are included in the description of the property when it transferred in 1827 and 1833. An L-shaped building and one outbuilding are included on an 1879 Atlas (Walker 1879). By 1903, the two-story addition and three additional outbuildings had been constructed (Richards 1903). The side porch was added in 1970 (Barker et al. 1976). According to Barker et al., the family that purchased the property in 1965 restored the property, but the details of the restoration are unknown (Barker et al. 1976).

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Hanover was formally established as a town from parts of Abington and Scituate in 1727, with the earliest European settlement in southeast Hanover in the Four Corners area. The town developed as a rural agrarian community with industries focused in the south and east portions of town along the North River (southern town boundary) and Third Herring Brook (eastern town boundary). Settlers established a grist mill, sawmill, and shipyard on these two main waterways by the early 1700s. By the 1800s, Hanover's economy was based on shipbuilding, tack making, and shoemaking along the North River and other waterways (MHC 1981:6). In the mid-nineteenth century, shipbuilding in Hanover declined, and with the establishment of the railroad from Rockland to Hanover (1870, with Four Corners as the end of the line) other industries, such as shoe and tack making, rubber reclamation, and machine making, including tack machines and cotton gins, became the leading industries (MHC 1981:7–9). Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Hanover lacked a singular, cohesive town center, instead developing a handful of nodes where industry, commerce, and civic and religious life were focused, including those at South Hanover, Four Corners, and Hanover Center, all of which are in the southern portion of town. Areas outside these clusters,

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANOVER

733 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

HN.52

especially in the north section of town, retained an agrarian development pattern, with later suburban overlay, into the twentieth century (MHC 1981; Barker et al. 1976).

The Joseph House—Abisha and Frances Soule House, 733 Main Street (1712, ca.1833, HN.52) has a conflicting history, where reputable secondary sources provide conflicting information about the history of this house. Both histories will be discussed herewith. The rear ell of the house at 733 Main Street is referred to as the Joseph House House from 1712. The front of the house is referred to as the Abisha and Francis Soule House, who purchased the property in 1833.¹

Dwelley and Simmons attribute the rear of the house to Joseph House, who was a ship building and worked at Colonel John Bailey's shipyard. Joseph House was born in 1696 and married Lydia Curtis in 1716. According to Dwelley and Simmons, Joseph House constructed the rear building around 1712. They claim that "He [Joseph House] sold it to John Bailey, who was, in early life, also engaged in shipbuilding. Calvin Bailey, the son of John, resided here until his removal to Maine, and the house was then purchased by Abisha Soule, and has since been owned by him or by one of his descendants. The original house, which was two stories high with the end to the street, was moved back from its original location by Mr. Soule and enlarged" (Dwelley and Simmons 1910:255).

This account conflicts with Barry's 1853 history of the town. According to Barry, John Bailey did live on Main Street and he also "kept a tavern, on Curtis St. near where Abisha Soule resides" (Barry 1853:200). Barry also states that Abisha Soule (in 1853) "lives on Main St., in the house which stands where stood the Jno. Bailey homestead" (Barry 1853:377). This indicates that the home of Abisha Soule is not the same building that Joseph House built and that the Bailey family occupied. It is unclear how Dwelley and Simmons determined that Abisha Soule relocated the 1712 Joseph House House. Further research would be necessary to determine if the rear ell is in fact the 1712 Joseph House House, including an examination of the interior framing by an expert in early building practices in the region, in order to more closely pinpoint the date of construction. It is not contested that the parcel of land is the former Bailey homestead.

Colonel John Bailey Jr. (1730–1810) married Ruth Randall (1730–1820) in 1750. John and Ruth had eight children: John, Luther, Ruth, Lucinda, Calvin, Lebbeus, Sage, and Betsey. Early in his career, Colonel John Bailey owned a shipyard in Hanover. John Bailey Jr. served as a colonel in the Revolutionary War. His son, Luther, served as a major in his regime (Dwelley and Simmons 1910). John and Ruth's sons John, Calvin and Lebbeus were clockmakers. Their clocks still exist today and are highly valued. John (III) apprenticed his brothers and many other local clockmakers. He was the most prolific of the Bailey clockmakers. The brothers had a clock shop on Main Street, but the location is unknown (Barry 1853:154). Calvin Bailey (1761–1835) resided at the 733 Main Street until 1827, when he sold the 27-acre parcel, buildings, and 10-acre woodland parcel to his son, Henry Bailey (PCRD 1827:161/130). In 1828, Calvin and his wife, Sarah Jacobs (1764–1846) moved to Maine (Dwelley and Simmons 1910).

In 1833, Lemuel Dwelley Jr. acting as Guardian to Henry Bailey sold "the dwelling house, outbuildings, and about twenty five acres of land being the late homestead of Calvin Bailey formerly of Hanover..." to Abner Curtis, who that same year, sold the property to Abisha Soule (1805–1873) (PCRD 1833:178/90, 1833:179/214).² Henry Bailey and his wife moved to Quincy, where they resided as of 1853 (Barry 1853). According to Dwelley and Simmons, Abisha Soule moved the existing building back and constructed a new building on the front, thus creating the L-shaped building that exists today. As discussed, this claim is unsubstantiated and requires further investigation. Abisha Soule married Frances Hobart (1807–1902) in 1825. The couple had three children: Sibyl, Caroline, and Maria (1833–1917). Abisha worked as a shoemaker and lived at the property until his death (U.S. Census 1850, 1860). In 1879, the property is denoted as belong to the A. Soule's "Hrs" (heirs). By 1903, H.W. Percival lived at the property (Richards 1903). Henry W. Percival (1851–1944) was the son of Maria E. Soule and Henry C. Percival (1829–1852), who died a year after their marriage. After her husband's death, Maria married Silas B. Jones and moved to California. Henry W. Percival married Ella M. French (1851–1929) and the couple lived at the property until their deaths. Henry W. worked as a laster in a shoe factory or as a shoemaker. Ella M. French kept house and the couple had a boarder, Mary E. Glover, in 1900 and 1910 (U.S. Census 1900, 1910). In 1944, the property was sold to Stuart and Helen Dimock. The property was sold in 1965 to Richard and Shirley M. Whiting. The property is still held by the Whiting family through a trust (Hanover Assessors 2020).

¹ On all records Abisha is spelled as such. On his tombstone, the spelling is "Abishai."

² Lemuel Dwelley Jr. was married to Sarah J. Bailey, Calvin Bailey's daughter.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANOVER

733 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

HNW.52

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	HNV.52
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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2: 733 Main Street, view southeast.



Photo 3: 733 Main Street, view east.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANOVER

733 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	HNV.52
--	--------



Photo 4: 733 Main Street outbuildings, view east.