

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WSR.32
Historic Name:	Westford Town Farm
Common Name:	Poor Farm - Westford Home - Westford Infirmary
Address:	35 Town Farm Rd
City/Town:	Westford
Village/Neighborhood:	Forge Village
Local No:	132, 24-23, 38
Year Constructed:	1837
Architect(s):	Francis, Henry Martyn; Hartwell, Daniel W.
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival; Italianate
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Administration Office; Agricultural; Dairy; Fire House; Nursing Home; Other Educational; Penal Institution; Police Station; Poor House or Almshouse; Poultry Farm
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Health Medicine; Law; Politics Government; Social History
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (03/14/2008)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Granite; Vinyl Siding; Wood; Stone, Cut Foundation: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7:41: AM

NRIND
3/14/08

FORM B - Building

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Map and Lot # 24-23 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 32

Town Westford
Place (neighborhood or village)

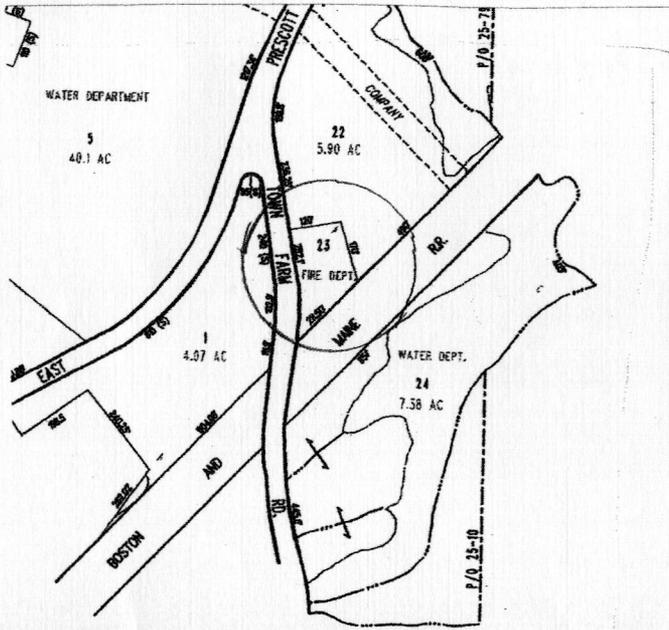
Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

Sketch Map

North Toward Top



Recorded by Sanford Johnson
Organization Westford Historical Commission
Date (month/year) 2/05

Address 35 Town Farm Road
Historic Name Town Farm/Westford Home
Uses: Present School Dept. Offices
Original Town Farm
Date of Construction 1837

Source Town Report
Style/For Greek Revival
Architect/Builder Daniel W. Hartwell, builder

Exterior Material:
Foundation Split granite
Wall/Trim Brick
Roo Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)
North side addition, late 19th c; front porch, c. 1900;
addition re-sided with vinyl, late 20th c.

Condition Fair
Moved no yes Date
Acreage .9
Setting Rural

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2006

MASS. HIST. COMM

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 former Town Farm is a 6x5-bay, 2 1/2-story, front-gabled brick building with elements of the Greek Revival style
- * Wood frame additions with gabled and shed roofs have been made to the north side elevation; a shed roofed addition has been made to the rear
- * A 2-story porch was added, possibly in 1900, and covers the entire width of the façade
- * Gabled dormers and a brick chimney occupy the roof of the main block
- * Decorative elements include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade and side elevations
- * Windows are 9/6 double-hung sash with stone lintels and sills
- * The off-center entry has simple trim and a five-pane transom
- * A secondary entry at the north side of the main block has a modern gabled entry hood
- * The gable-roofed addition at the north side has a gabled dormer and Victorian entry hood with carved brackets
- * The cellar contains the former town lockup which consists of two barred jail cells

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheets

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.

The town of Westford bought the farm of John Read in 1824 for use as a poor farm. The former Read farmhouse was replaced on the same site in 1837 with the current brick building, built by Daniel W. Hartwell. The building committee recommended a 2-story, 39'x40' building with a buttery and well-room in the shed. The existing lockup in the cellar may have been installed at this time. The total cost of the house and shed was \$3002.45. A wood frame addition was made in 1839-40 according to entries in the town report concerning a second Town Farm building committee. Twenty-one ill or indigent people were housed in the building in 1838. The number of inmates remained steady through the 1830s and declined to an average of around 10 by the late 1800s. A gable-roofed barn was built north of the house in 1893. A second ell was built onto the north side of the house in 1900, probably to replace the one from 1840. A woodshed and ice house were also built, mainly from lumber from the old ell according to town reports. Town reports also indicate that running water, steam heat and a fire escape were added around the turn of the 20th century. The fire escape mentioned in the town report may be the existing porch based on a 1903 photo which shows it in place. Silos were built in 1913 and in 1928, indicating the presence of cows and dairying operations. Poultry are also mentioned in town reports of 1931. The name of the facility was changed by vote at the 1919 town meeting from Town Farm or Poor Farm to Westford Home. The 1893 barn burned as a result of arson in 1920 and was replaced in 1922 at a cost of \$3000. The 1959 town report indicates "On April 3, 1959, the last patient at the Westford Infirmary was transferred to Tewksbury Hospital and the home was officially closed. The remaining cattle were disposed of in September. Until other arrangements are made, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Rooks will remain at the home as caretakers". Mr. and Mrs. Rooks had served as the Superintendent and

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES continuation sheet

Research by Westford Museum employee, Marilyn Day; Town Reports; Hodgman's town history, 1883; Interview by Marilyn Day with retired fire chief George Rogers, 12/02; Collection of historic photos by Quincy Day, c. 1903; Research by WHC member Bob Oliphant

**** All properties mentioned in bold type with ** are individually inventoried resources**

- 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
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Town
Westford

Property Address
Town Farm Road

Area(s)

Form No.

WSR. 32

Matron of the Westford Home for 10 years. A fire in the farmhouse burned part of the interior in 1952. The 1920 barn was demolished and burned c. 1970. Subsequent occupants of the Town Farm house included the Fire Department and the Police. It has been occupied by the School Department since the 1970s.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Town
Westford
Property Address
Town Farm Road

Area(s)
Form No.
32

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: Sanford Johnson

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

The former Westford Town Farm at 35 Town Farm Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. This is an Early Industrial period building that was built in order to provide public support to the indigent. A vote at town meeting in 1837 allocated funds for builder Daniel Hartwell to construct the brick house. It served as the Town Farm from 1837 until 1959 which is longer than most other town farms in the region. The building's associations with historic trends in public support of the poor through farming establish its significance under Criterion A. The rhythmic fenestration, brick and stone construction and broad floor plan with gabled roof are evidence of Greek Revival style design which makes the property eligible under Criterion C. The building retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.

JAN 02 2003

MASS. HIST. COMM

FORM B - Building

**Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

Map and Lot # 24 23 USGS Quad Billerica Area(s) Form Number 32

Town Westford
Place (neighborhood or village)

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

Address 35 Town Farm Road
Historic Name Town Farm/Westford Home
Uses: Present School Dept. Offices
Original Town Farm

Date of Construction 1837

Source Town Records

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder Daniel W. Hartwell, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

North side addition, late 19th c; front porch, c. 1900;
addition re-sided with vinyl clapboards, late 20th c.

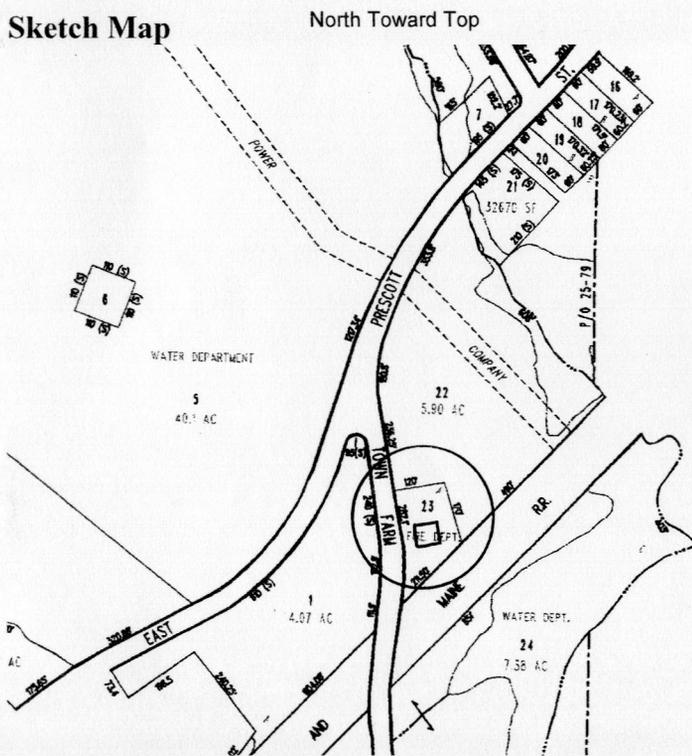
Condition Fair

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .9

Setting Rural

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Westford Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 1/03

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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 former Town Farm is a 6x5-bay, 2 1/2-story, front-gabled brick building with elements of the Greek Revival style
- * Wood-frame additions with gabled and shed roofs have been made to the north side elevation; a shed roofed addition has been made to the rear of the brick block
- * A 2-story porch was added, possibly around 1900, and covers the entire width of the façade
- * Gabled dormers and a brick chimney occupy the roof the main block
- * Decorative elements include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade and side elevations
- * Windows are 6/9 double-hung sash with stone lintels and sills
- * The off-center entry has simple trim and a 5-pane transom
- * A secondary entry at the north side of the main block has a modern gabled entry hood
- * The gabled addition at the north side has a gabled dormer and Victorian style entry hood with carved brackets
- * The cellar contains the former town lock-up which consists of two barred jail cells

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheets

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.

The town bought the farm of John Read in 1824 for use as a poor farm. The Read farmhouse was replaced on the same site in 1837 with the current brick building, built by Daniel W. Hartwell. The building committee appointed at town meeting recommended a 2-story, 39' x 40' building with a buttery and well-room in the shed. The existing lockup in the cellar may have been installed at this time. The total cost of the house and shed was \$3002.45. A wood framed addition was made in 1839-40 according to entries in town reports concerning a second Town Farm building committee. Twenty one ill or indigent people were housed in the building in 1838. The number of inmates remained steady through the 1830s and declined to an average of around 10 by the late 1800s. A detached gable-roofed barn which burned in 1920 was built north of the house in 1893. The existing ell was built onto the north side of the house in 1900, probably to replace the one built in 1840. A woodshed and ice house were also built in 1900, mainly from lumber from the old ell according to town reports. Town reports indicate that running water, steam heat and a fire escape were added around the turn of the 20th century. The fire escape mentioned in the town report may be the existing porch based on a 1903 photo depicting it in place. Silos were built in 1913 and 1928, indicating the presence of cows and dairying operations. Poultry are also mentioned in town reports of 1931. The name of the facility was changed by vote at the 1919 town meeting from Town Farm or Poor Farm to Westford Home. The 1893 barn burned as a result of arson in 1920 and was replaced in 1922 at a cost of \$3000. The 1959 town report indicates: "On April 3, 1959, the last patient at the Westford Infirmary was transferred to the Tewksbury Hospital and the home was officially closed. The remaining cattle were disposed of in September. Until other arrangements are made, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Rooks will remain at the home as Caretakers." Mr. and Mrs. Rooks had served as the Superintendent and

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES continuation sheet

Research by Marilyn Day; Town Reports; Town History, Hodgman, 1883; Interview by Marilynn Day with retired fire chief George Rogers, 12/02; Historic collection of photos taken by Quincy Day; Research by Bob Oliphant;

**** All properties mentioned in bold type with ** are individually inventoried resources**

- 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
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Town Westford ³⁵ **Property Address** Town Farm Road

Area(s) **Form No.**
32

Matron of the Westford Home for 10 years. A fire in the farmhouse burned part of the interior in 1952. The 1920 barn was demolished and burned c. 1970. Subsequent occupants of the Town Farm house included the Fire Department and the Police. It has been occupied by the School Department since the 1970s.



12/102



3/104



3/104



3/104

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Town
Westford

Property Address
Town Farm Road

Area(s)

Form No.

32



12/'02



12/'02

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

A-FORGE
USGS- WEST
SELTA

In Area no. <u>6</u>	Form no. <u>30132</u>
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32

Town Westford, Massachusetts

Address Town Farm Road

Name _____

Present use School Administration
Offices

Present owner Town of Westford
2 1/2 story building with

Description: porches up and down attached
2 1/2 story ell.

Date 1837

Source History of Westford P 181

Style Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Brick & Wood

Outbuildings (describe) Large Barn

Other features _____

Altered E11 addition Date ?

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage over 200'

Approximate distance of building from street

50'

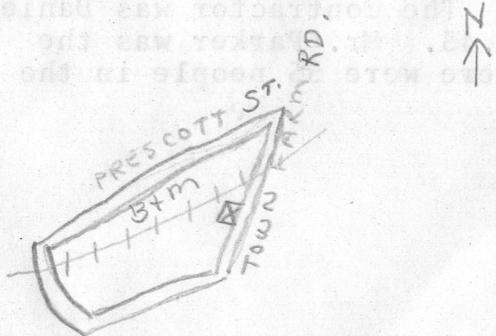
6. Recorded by M. Breton

Organization Westford Historic District
Study Committee

Date 8/75



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

483



7. Original owner (if known) Town of Westford

Original use Poor House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Offices 0 1960's

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural | <input type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/
settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/
invention | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/
humanitarian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Community development | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

On Page 178 in the History of Westford it states: "April 5, 1824 - Voted that the town purchase John Reads farm for the sum of \$2500. The committee to purchase it were Eliaham Hutchings, Samuel Richardson, Zaccheus Read and John Abbot. They had been appointed at a previous meeting to divise the best means of maintaining the poor, and upon their recommendation the town passed the vote cited above and authorized them to buy the farm and stock it. The first master was Jonathan Hosmer and the second Otis Haywood.

April 3, 1837 - Voted to choose a building committee of five persons to superintend the building of a poor house. They recommend the erection of house 39' x 40' two stories high with buttery and well-room in the shed. It was built in the summer and autumn of 1837. The contractor was Daniel W. Hartwell and was built for the sum of \$3002.45. Mr. Parker was the master and between March 1839 and Feb. 1840 there were 55 people in the poor house. (P-181)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- 1855 Map
- P. 178-181 History of Westford

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
Copies: Inventory form
Town file(w/corresp.)
Macris
NR director _____

Community: *Westford*

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 1/2/03

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 1/8/03

Type: Individual X

District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Westford Town Farm

Inventory Form: WSR.32

Address: 35 Town Farm Road

Requested by: Westford Historical Commission

Action: Honor X ITC Grant R & C Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review: AL

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DISTRICTS

Eligible
 Eligible, also in district
 Eligible only in district
 Ineligible
 More information needed

Eligible
 Ineligible
 More information needed

CRITERIA: A X B C X D

LEVEL: Local X State National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The former Town Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion A at the local level for its associations with the history of public support and services to the indigent from the early 19th century into the 20th century. The property also meets criterion C at the local level as an example of 19th century masonry construction with Greek Revival elements and later, early 20th century additions.