

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NOR.123
Historic Name:	Holbrook, George E. House
Common Name:	Morse House
Address:	55 Fruit St
City/Town:	Norfolk
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	16-34-139
Year Constructed:	c 1784
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified; Stone, Uncut



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

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NOR.123

FORM B - BUILDING

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

Assessor's # 16-34-139 USGS Quad Medfield Area(s) Form # 123

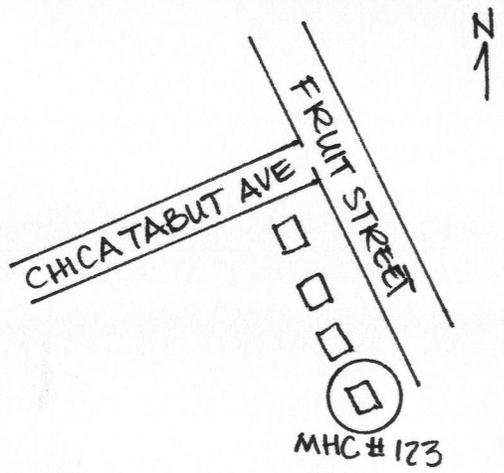
Town Norfolk



village)
55 Fruit Street
residential
residential
ca. 1784
plaque
eclectic

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



foundation stone
Wall/Trim clapboard
Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
attached garage (mid-20th century)

Major Alterations (with dates)

RECEIVED

FEB 24 2006

MASS. HIST. COMM

Condition good

Moved x no ___ yes Date

Acreage 33,363 square feet

Setting rural road with scattered contemporary suburban development

Recorded by Kathleen Kelly Broomer
Organization for Norfolk Historical Commission
Date (month/year) December 2005

BUILDING FORM**55 Fruit Street, Norfolk**

#123 NOR.123

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ___ *See continuation sheet*

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

The dwelling at 55 Fruit Street is unusual in Norfolk for its form, a 1½-story gross-gable house. The side-gabled main block is five bays by two bays and has a brick chimney on the ridge. The cross-gable over the center entry may be a later addition. There is also a shed dormer (mid-20th century) on the slope of the roof. Windows retain 2/2 wood sash that are probably late 19th-century replacements. Contemporary additions include the shed dormer on the rear (west) elevation, and the attached garage with enclosed connector, both of which are on concrete foundations. Ornament on the house is limited to the pilaster entry surround with narrow hood, and thin cornerboards.

The property retains a stone wall along the street frontage.

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.

The early history of this property, including the source of the ca. 1784 construction date, is currently unclear. Deed research is needed to identify owners of the property prior to the 1850s.

The Norfolk atlas of 1858 shows G. E. Holbrook as the owner of this dwelling, as well as a property across the street. George E. Holbrook and Silas P. Holbrook were sons of John E. Holbrook, a North Wrentham (Norfolk) native and "noted naturalist of the South." George Holbrook served on Norfolk's first Board of Assessor's in 1870, with additional terms in 1872, 1883, 1889, 1891, and 1899. [Fales, 37, 174] He was likely a farmer by occupation.

In the third quarter of the 19th century, Mrs. J. Morse owned the property, according to the 1876 and 1888 atlases. It is not clear which branch of the Morse family resided here; further research is needed. A John L. Morse was a Norfolk selectman in 1893 and 1894. [Fales, 172] The 1890 directory shows two members of the Morse family residing on Fruit Street: Addison P. Morse, a farmer, who owned the property at 41 Fruit Street (see form), and his son, George A. Morse, also a farmer. By 1902, the directory for that year showed that father and son had separate residences on Fruit Street, and were engaged in a business known as A. P. Morse & Son, milk dealers and cider manufacturers. Deed research would confirm whether George A. Morse was associated with this house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ___ *See continuation sheet*

Norfolk maps and atlases: 1858 (North Wrentham), 1876, 1888.

Norfolk directories: 1890, 1902, 1909, 1913.

Fales, Bertha. "A History of Norfolk." 1934.

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

NOR.123

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town Norfolk
Property Address 55 Fruit Street
Area
Form Number 123

