

R1720/1

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

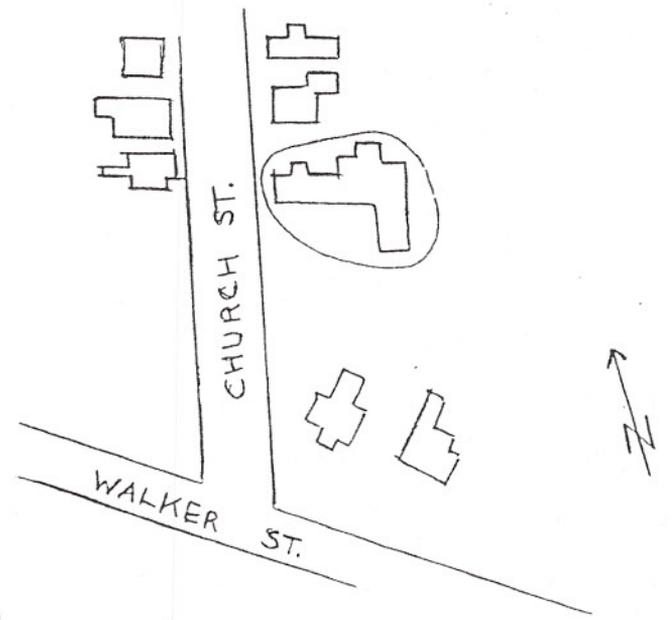
NJ684  
WBS

AREA	FORM NO.
HD	42



City Lenox  
 Address 16 Church Street  
 Historic Name Whitlock Farm  
 (Village Inn)  
 Present Inn and restaurant  
 Original farmhouse  
 Description c. 1771  
 Source Registry of Deeds  
 Style Federal/19th century vernacular  
 Architect unknown

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



Exterior Wall Fabric siding over clapboard  
 Outbuildings barn (attached to house c. 1900)  
 Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Condition good  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acreage 23,828 square feet  
 Setting Oriented with its side gable to Church St., in a residential/commercial area  
 Recorded by Marcia Beals Brown  
 Organization Lenox Historical Commission  
 Date November 30, 1984 (updated January

UTM. REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Originally a simple farmhouse, this building has been altered and enlarged many times. The late-Victorian renovations are the most clearly visible element of the structure, although the restrained nature of the detailing has preserved a Federal quality. The origin of the rear portion can be seen in its barn-like form.

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

The original two-room structure was the farmhouse of John Whitlock, an early settler in Lenox whose farmlands occupied much of what became Lenox village. In the late 1770's Whitlock opened his house as an inn, following the pattern of many Berkshire householders who supplemented their farming income by providing lodging for stagecoach travellers. Whitlock sold off his farmland in the late 18th century, including the land for what was to become Church St., purchased by the town in 1815. This house and lot eventually came into the possession of Lemuel Parsons, a wagon-maker, who returned it to use as a private home. Around 1890 Graham Root purchased the property and greatly enlarged the house by attaching two barns. He then opened it once again as an inn, officially named the Graham Root Inn but generally known as Grey House. Today it operates as the Village Inn.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Registry of Deeds, Pittsfield, MA 55.448, 64.137