

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

57-135

Marlborough

K

203

Town Marlborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

"Methodist Village"

Address 15 Front Street

Historic Name _____

Uses: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca 1853-54

Source Maps; style

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown



203

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim asbestos shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

door and window sash replaced: 20th C.;

Queen Anne porch added, 1890's

Condition good

Moved no yes Date N/A

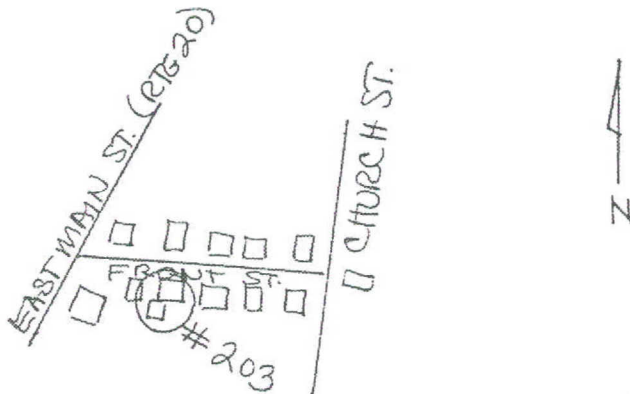
Acreage less than one acre

Setting In cluster of mid-19th C. houses on

short side street between Church and E. Main.

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Forbes

Organization for Marlboro Hist. Comm

Date 9/15/94

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

15 Front Street, one of the original group of eight houses built near the Methodist Church between 1853 and 1857, is one of the best-preserved illustrations of the Greek Revival style in the Church Street area. It is an excellent example of the two-story, three- by two-bay side-gabled house with pedimented ends. It is attached via a series of southwest wings and ells to a large barn, making it one of the few "extended farmhouses" in the Church Street area. A pair of narrow chimneys rises from the roof ridge, and a pair of rectangular bay windows project from the first story facade. Although the windows and the main center entry have been replaced, the house retains its molded, boxed cornice and wide, paneled corner pilasters. The facade-width porch with turned posts, square balusters and frieze screen was added in about 1890.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [] *see continuation sheet*

Explain 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.

Map evidence indicates that this house is significant for its connection with the man acknowledged to be the major founder of the Methodist Church in Marlborough, **Solomon Weeks**. In 1853 the First Methodist Church (see Form #97) was built at 52 Church Street on land belonging to him. Shortly thereafter he also donated the parsonage at 50 Church Street (MHC #567,) and later its land, to the church. Both "Uncle" Solomon Weeks (1785-1866) and his wife, "Aunt" Sally (Warren), who lived on the old Weeks family farm on Concord Road, were true benefactors of the church in more than monetary terms. Solomon was the original clerk of the Methodist Society when it was formed in 1821. It is said that the first Methodist camp meetings, years before the first church was built on "Gospel Hill" in 1828 at Feltonville, were held in a grove on their farm, and that their home was a way station for all "itinerant Methodists" in the area. (Bigelow.)

This house was one of the first small group of Methodist residences built near the church between 1853 and 1857. Since the Weeks apparently did not live here, it may have been a rental property, possibly a boarding house or multi-unit dwelling. By 1871 both this house and the later #9 Front Street were owned by a member of the Witt family, probably **Samuel D. Witt**, who had served with Co. I of the Massachusetts 13th Regiment during the Civil War. From at least 1875 through 1879 the owner was **Adolphus Parmenter**. He owned considerable property at Marlborough center, and like Solomon Weeks, he also apparently did not live here. By 1889, however, the house is shown under the name of his son-in-law, **Charles Willard**, another Civil War veteran.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] *see continuation sheet*

Bigelow. Historical Reminiscences of Marlborough... 1910

Hudson.

Maps and atlases: 1857, 1871, 1875, 1878 (birdseye), 1889; Sanborns.

Marlborough directories.

[] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*