



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region 5/NWRS

RECEIVED

MAY 17 2011

MAY 13 2011

MASS HIST. COMM

RC. 50722

Ms. Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering acquisition of a property currently known as the Stott tract (PKR941) on the Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, Massachusetts, near Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. It includes a dwelling over 50 years in age that is in poor condition and will be proposed for demolition if we acquire the tract. We are, therefore, seeking your comment regarding the dwelling's eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as any effect that would result from its demolition. We have enclosed a set of photographs and maps to assist your review, as well as a compact disc containing the same documents and some additional photos.

The dwelling is not shown on the 1884 George H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, MA* or on any earlier maps. However, a building is shown at its location on the 1894 U.S.G.S. 15-minute *Newburyport-Exeter, NH-MA Quadrangle*. We believe that to be the dwelling, as its overall appearance, reflects a structure of the last quarter of the 19th century that has been insensitively altered. We have found no indication that any of its owners were historically noteworthy at local, State, or national level.

The main block of the dwelling is square, with a hip roof and cupola. Though overall form is indicative of Italianate design, the decorative exterior details common to that style are now entirely absent, likely removed during various modernizations. The single story back entry appears to be original, but the storage shed was likely added in the early 20th century and the deck within the last 50 years. The porch roofline appears to be original, though the turned posts and railings that likely formerly supported the roof have been entirely replaced by solid walls. Windows of the main block are predominantly six-over-two sash. Fenestration on the enclosed porches reflects mid-20th century styling indicative of the likely period of their enclosure. Siding of the main block is shingle, but pressboard on the porches.

Some interior details, such as oak interior woodwork (now universally painted off-white) doors having five horizontal panels, the form of the stair rail and newel, and presence of a butler's hatch (labeled "pass through" on the floor plan) are consistent with a construction date near the turn of the 20th century. A considerable number of insensitive interior modernizations have been made, including installation of several sliding doors. One such door is beside the now-blocked original front door, another leads to the deck, and two more lead to the unheated porches. It seems likely that the sliding doors replaced earlier windows or doors in the latter three locations. Bathroom fixtures are entirely modern and the kitchen was also heavily modernized using inexpensive cabinetry. Rooms contain a variety of late 20th century floor coverings, and some also have areas of modern wall treatment (one example being pine paneling above the fireplace).

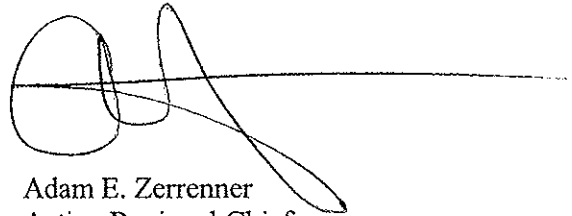
Condition of the dwelling is poor, with considerable rotting of exterior trim and very large holes in the wooden gutters. As one might expect from its location and condition, the basement holds standing water.

We have found no evidence that the building would be eligible for NRHP listing under Criteria A or B. As a result of considerable insensitive alterations within the last 50 years, coupled with its current deteriorated condition, we do not consider the dwelling eligible under Criterion C.

As the location of the dwelling may be sensitive for unrecorded pre-Contact archaeological sites, we propose to include the enclosed specifications in the scope of work for demolition of the building. We believe that its demolition would have "no effect" upon NRHP-eligible historic properties provided those measures to avoid potential effect on archaeological resources are performed.

We would appreciate your concurrence with the above findings within 30 days, as prescribed in the Regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR 800). If you have any questions, please contact John S. Wilson, Regional Historic Preservation Officer, at 413-253-8560, or by electronic mail, at john_s_wilson@fws.gov. We have provided a concurrence line for use if you have no detailed comments.

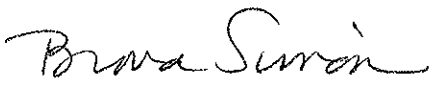
Sincerely,



Adam E. Zerrenner
Acting Regional Chief
National Wildlife Refuge System

Enclosures

The Massachusetts Historical Commission concurs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the undertaking described above will have no effect on National Register-eligible properties.



Signature

5/24/11

Date RC.50722