

FORM B - BUILDING

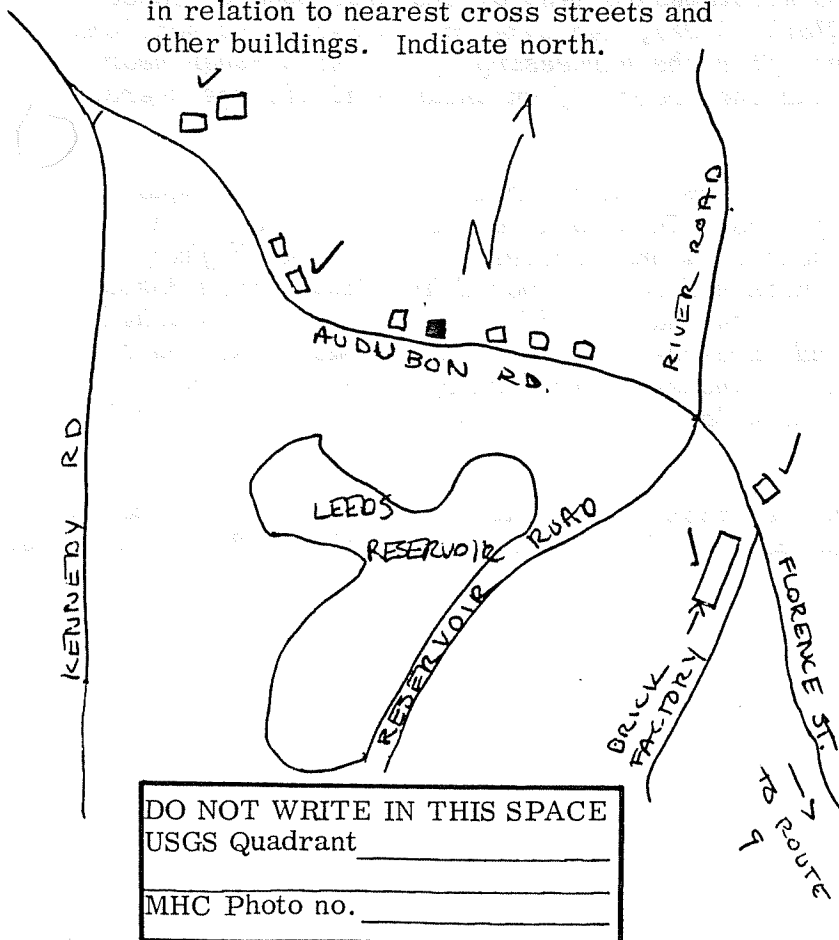
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	5-16



1 Leeds (Northampton)  
 Address 123 Audubon Road  
 City -  
 State -  
 Present use Residence  
 Present owner Robert & Patricia MacLachlan  
 Description: 18th century  
 Source visual evidence  
colonial

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



Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric wood clapboards  
 Outbuildings (describe) barn  
 Other features 2 stories; 3 bays wide, 1 deep (plus lean-to); central chimney.  
 Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:  
 One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 125 feet  
 Approximate distance of building from street 50 feet  
 6. Recorded by C. Dubie  
 Organization Northampton Historical Commission  
 Date March 15, 1976

✓ other inventoried property (over)

RECEIVED

APR 5 1976

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The house has a three-bay facade with central entrance, nine over six sash windows and a large, central chimney. The entrance is capped by a simple, projecting cornice. The sides have three nine over six sash windows atop each other, and a lean-to, seemingly original, which gives the house its "saltbox" shape.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

According to Solomon Clark (;882) this is the first homestead established in the Rail Hill area. During the last decade of the 18th century three families established themselves along the road to Williamsburg west of the Mill River. These were James Smith (1787- 1790), Calvin Clark (1792), and Luke Day (1794). The settlement was called Rail Hill, and in later years after the harnessing of the Mill River near its junction with Roberts Meadow Brook and the growth of an industrial village there, became part of Leeds.

A title search has shown that James Smith obtained 55 acres of land in the "Long Division" in 1793 for 50 pounds. This land was bounded easterly on "Rail Hill River" (now Mill River) and southerly and westerly on the "town highway" from Northampton to Williamsburg. Mr. Smith had earlier moved his family from Boston to Williamsburg, but soon decided to settle on "Rail Hill". He may have established himself here as early as 1787 or 1790 and purchased the land later, but as no house is mentioned in the deed it is assumed that the house dates from after his land purchase in 1793. In any event this is one of the three late 18th century houses built on Audobon Rd., all of which are still standing.

The property remained in the Smith family until 1860, but half of the land had already been sold off. This process continued throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1831 Town Map.

1860 County Map.

1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.

Registry of Deeds: Bk. 441-P. 194, 238-79, 189-64, 47-168, 6-480.

Antiquities, Historical and Graduates of Northampton, S. Clark, 1882 pp. 162-165.