

7. Original owner (if known) Theodore Burt

Original use Farm

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Northampton Association

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> x </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> x </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> x </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Community development	<u> x </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This property is interwoven with the early history of Florence and has been of importance in later years.

The farm includes the first tract of land granted to one of the original proprietors of Northampton within the territory now known as Florence. In 1657 John Broughton received the grant of a tract of this meadow land. Although it remained in Broughton's possession only 18 years, the name persisted and it was known as Broughton's Meadow for nearly 200 years.

In 1675 Broughton sold his grant to Joseph Parsons, probably Cornet Joseph Parsons, who built the house on Bridge Street, now the Northampton Historical Society, for Cornet Parsons' son, Samuel Parsons, was one of four men granted a permit in 1861 to erect a saw mill near Broughton Meadow, and the site chosen was near the silk mill dam.

In 1798, Gaius Burt of Northampton moved to Broughton's Meadow and bought 30 acres. He built a house a few rods east of the present homestead which was built about 1830 by his son, Theodore Burt.

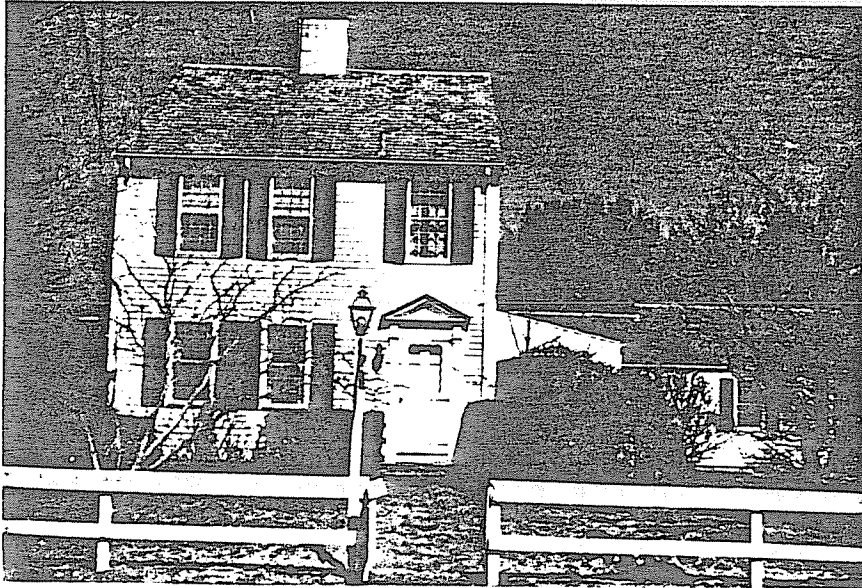
In 1835 the property was purchased by Samuel Whitmarsh, pioneer in the silk culture here. He planted 15 acres of this meadow land to choice cuttings of mulberry trees. The collapse of the mulberry craze in the late 30's threw the property on the market. The property was bought by Samuel Hill, Joseph Conant, William Coe, and George Benson, for the projected Northampton Association of Education and Industry. After this had been given up, the land was bought by Austin Ross and remained in the Ross family until 1927. After 1927 the farm was operated by different tenants when it was purchased by Henry W. Marsh of Hatfield. It was purchased by the Blauvelts in 1927.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) Raised on this land, mulberry trees, tobacco, potatoes.
Daily Hampshire Gazette Residents.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	22B-66



Florence (Northampton)

Address Meadow Street

Site Ross Farm

Present use Residence

Present owner Theodore Blauvelt

Description:

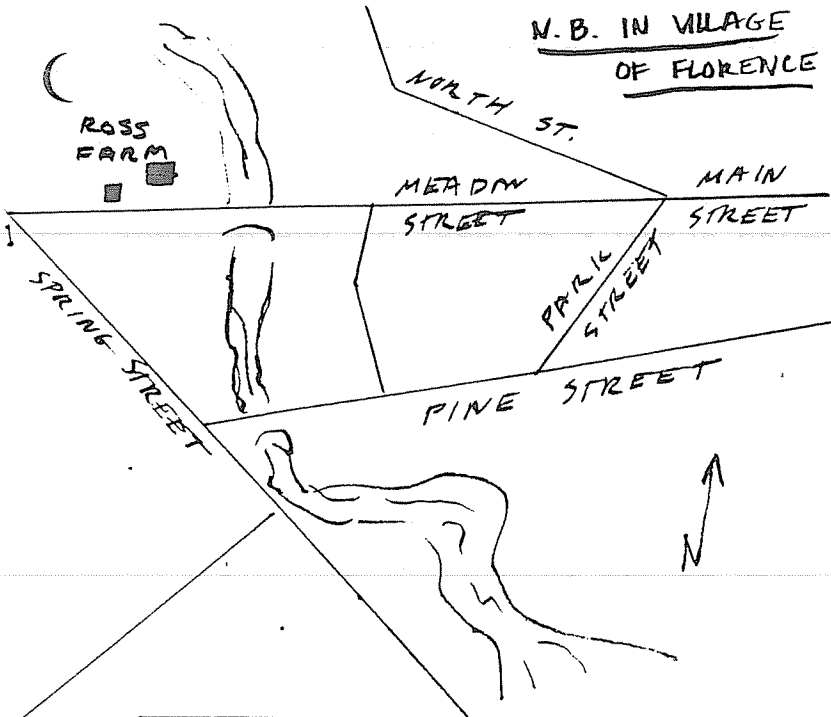
1830

Source Gazette 1953

1/2 house; later barn

Architect unknown

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) Barn

Other features house 2 1/2 stories with original fireplaces, additions.

barn with cupola

Altered additions Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 500 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

40 feet

6. Recorded by Agnes Shea

Organization Northampton Historical

Commission

Date September, 1974

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

MAY 5 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.