

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	10D-15



Leeds (Northampton)

Address Old Shepard Road

Use residence

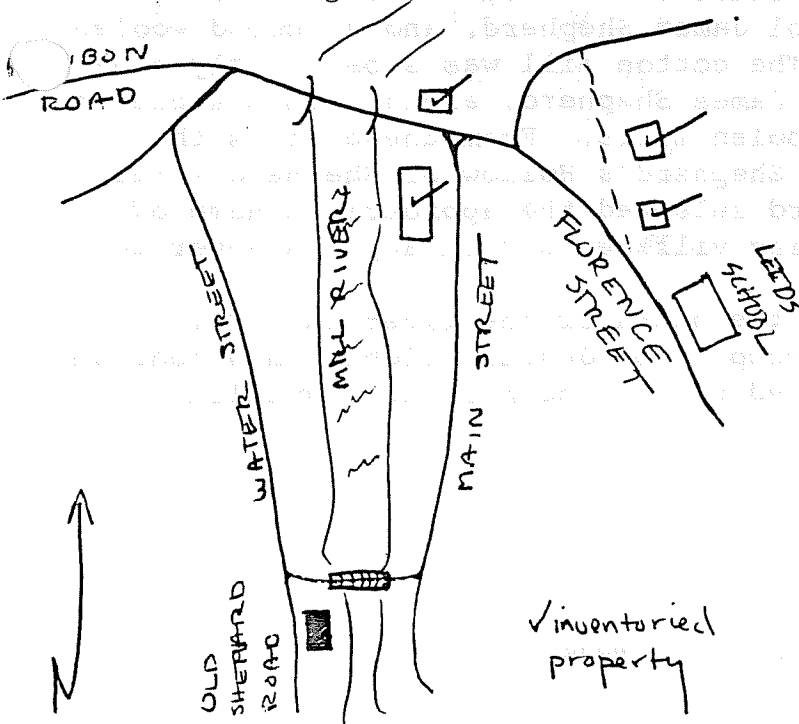
Present owner Albert LaRose

Description: late 18th or early 19th century

Source visual evidence

Style Colonial Saltbox

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



Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) barns

Other features 2 stories; five bays wide, 2 deep; ridge roof with central chimney; additions.

Altered additions Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 313 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 50 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date January 15, 1976

(over)

APR 5 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Original owner (if known) Col. James Shepherd

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates ---

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

This is reputed to be the first house erected in the village of Leeds. Leeds is located about 4½ miles west of Northampton center, in a narrow, deep gorge, on the banks of the Mill River. "The water power is excellent, no less than four mill privileges existing within a distance of half a mile." The first mill built here was a saw mill, erected in 1800 by Joseph Burnell. A cotton mill was built on the same site in 1808 by Job Cotton, a woolen mill in 1812 by Col James Shepherd, and a second woolen mill in 1813 by Sidney Brewster. The cotton mill was subsequently converted into a woolen mill, and Col James Shepherd, along with his cousins Thomas and Charles, operated two woolen mills. From these mills the village acquired its early name of Shepherd's Hollow or Shepherd's Factory. It is said that Col. Shepherd selected the appropriate name of Pleasant Valley for his manufacturing village, but it appears never to have been recognized.

This large house was built on the banks of the river in 1809. It was erected by Col Shepherd, and occupied by Justus Wright, as a boarding house. Later, the house was occupied by Col Shepherd as a dwelling.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1875-76 Northampton Directory and Historical Register