

Wells-Thorn House  
Southeast corner of Old Deerfield  
Street and Memorial Road, on Lot 26  
Deerfield Village  
Franklin County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-653

HABS  
MASS  
6-DEER  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## WELLS - THORN HOUSE

HABS  
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10-

Location: Deerfield Village, Franklin County, Massachusetts. (Southeast corner of Old Deerfield Street and Memorial Road, on Lot 26).

Present Owner: Mrs. Thorn, Deerfield, Mass.

Present Occupant: Mrs. Thorn.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: One of the older houses remaining in Deerfield.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Ebenezer Wells. Said to have remained in the Wells family until 1917, when it was purchased by Dr. Thorn. Inherited by Mrs. Thorn, at her husband's death. (1) (2) (3)
2. Date of Erection: About 1717. (2)
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Unknown.
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known to be in existence.
6. Notes on alterations and additions: Various alterations which cannot be documented were made to the rear wing during the 19th century, when it was used as a law office, store, post office, and tailor's shop, at various times. (1) After about 1917, Dr. Thorn attempted some restoration in this portion of the house; it is not known whether this restoration was accurate or not. (3)

- B. Sources of Information: (1) George Sheldon, History of Deerfield, Mass., 1636-1886, E. A. Hall & Co., Greenfield, Mass., 1896. V. 1, pp 616-617. (2) Chamberlain & Flynt, Frontier of Freedom, Hastings House, New York, 1957. p 136.

(3) Interview with Mrs. Thorn, August 1959.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service - August 26, 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: An early Deerfield example, showing the transition from the 17th century New England house type to the 18th century type. Rectangular two-story house with rear wing.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: Brick. Wooden water table.
2. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame; clapboards on front, shingles on other sides.
3. Chimneys: Brick. One in center of main section; one, apparently modern, in center of wing.
4. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Front entrance has Roman Doric pilasters, entablature, transom light. Six-panel door.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung sash, 12/12. First-floor windows have well-developed cornices, with pulvinated frieze and dentils. No exterior shutters.
5. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof; some surfaces covered with wood shingles and some with asphalt shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice with modillions across front.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plans: First floor:-Small entry with stairway, central chimney, one principal room on each side. A large room on south side of rear wing (ell). Shed at east end of the ell.

MASS.  
G. DEER

2. Flooring: Wide pine boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Outside walls plastered, interior partitions paneled. Front room ceilings plastered. Fine mantel and paneling in north front parlor. Notable corner cupboard in south front room. Vertical boarding in rear wing has been restored.
4. Trim: Windows have paneled interior shutters.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces west to village street.
2. Enclosures (fences, etc.): Not enclosed.
3. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal.

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*Harley J. McKee*