

Simeon Alexander House  
188 Main Street  
East Northfield  
Franklin County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-662

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MASS  
6-NORTH  
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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

## SIMEON ALEXANDER HOUSE

Location: 188 Main Street, East Northfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts. (On West side of Main Street, a short distance South of Pine Street).

Present Owner: Dr. Ansel B. True

Present Occupant: Dr. Ansel B. True

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: One of the oldest remaining houses in Northfield, built for a Captain in the Revolutionary War.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

Built for Captain Simeon Alexander, a blacksmith. It remained in the Alexander family until 1946, when it was purchased by Dr. Ansel B. True.

## 2. Date of erection:

Said to be about 1776.

## 3. Original plans, construction, etc.

None known to be in existence.

## 4. Notes on alterations and additions:

Said by Mrs. Priscilla Colton Carroll, East Northfield, Mass. to have been greatly restored since 1946. No information available on alterations before that date.

B. Sources of Information: Leaflet, Open Houses and Museums in Northfield, Mass., 1958. (One copy in files of National Park Service, EODC, Historic Structures Section, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia, Pa.)

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: This structure, along with others in Northfield and vicinity, has been the subject

of study by Miss Elsie S. Scott, Northfield, Mass., who has already looked into likely sources.

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

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A simple, Colonial type, quite early for this location, containing some original wood paneling and wrought iron hardware. Rectangular, two-story structure with center-chimney plan.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent, having been greatly restored and repaired in recent years.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: Very low.
2. Wall construction: Heavy timber wood frame, clapboards (apparently replacements).
3. Chimneys: Central, brick. Portion visible above roof appears rebuilt.
4. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Very simple main entrance, 6-panel door with transom.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung 6/6, simple trim, no shutters. Sash appear to be replacements.
5. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, wood shingles (new).
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Box cornice with mouldings across front.

### C. Technical Description of Interiors

#### 1. Floor Plans

- a. First Floor: Two main rooms at front, with small entry-stairway between; large main room across rear.

- b. Second floor: The second floor has two main rooms at front.
2. Stairways: Small three-flight stair in entry, with square newel post and rail, turned balusters. It has the appearance of a modern restoration.
3. Flooring: Wide boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: In some rooms, ceiling is exposed under surface of floor above, with exposed joists and summer beam. Some ceilings plastered. Interior partitions paneled (NE room, second floor and rear room, first floor) and of vertical boards with beaded joints; some walls plastered.
5. Doorways and doors: Some doors two-panel; some secondary doors board and batten.
6. Trim: extremely simple.
7. Hardware: Much of door hardware said to be original. Several kinds of wrought iron hinges:-strap, H, HL, and butterfly. Wrought iron latches.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces east to village street. Simple lawn.
2. Enclosures (fences, etc.): Not enclosed.
3. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Simple, informal.

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*Harley J. McKee*