

White-Field House  
Northeast corner of Main Street and Maple Street  
Northfield  
Franklin County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-655

HABS  
MASS  
6-NORTH  
4-

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

## WHITE-FIELD HOUSE

HABS  
MASS  
6-NORTH  
4-

Location: Northeast corner of Main Street and Maple Street, Northfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: In 1931, owned by Joseph Field.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: A representative house of the late 18th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Ebenezer White; sold to Samuel Field in 1787. In possession of the Field family as of 1931.
2. Date of erection: 1784.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None known to be in existence.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Presumably some alterations in late 18th century, when used as a tavern; restored in early 20th century.
6. Sources of Information: Typewritten manuscript by John Phelps, Joseph Field House, April 25, 1931. In the Northfield (Mass.) Historical Society.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: In 1812, Captain Elisha Field used a front room in recruiting a company of soldiers, called the "Sea Fencibles", who were stationed at Fort Independence, Boston. /Herbert Collins Parsons, A Puritan Outpost: A History of the Town and People of Northfield, Massachusetts. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1937. page 239/.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: In the opinion of Miss Elsie S. Scott, Northfield, Mass., Mr. Phelps had exhausted the likely sources of information.

MASS  
C. N. H.PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A dignified, well-proportioned house with well-detailed entrances, cornice and interior paneling. Squarish-shaped, two-story house with low wing.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

## B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Wall construction: Wood frame, clapboards.
2. Chimneys: Two in main section, interior. One near center of wing. Brick.
3. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Two entrances, with fluted pilasters carrying a full entablature; pulvinated frieze, dentils and modillions. Nine-panel doors and transom.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung sash <sup>6</sup>/<sub>6</sub>; heavily projecting trim with small cornice; louvered shutters.
4. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Hip roof over main section; gable roof over wing.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Box cornice with bed and crown mouldings; two dentil courses.
  - c. Dormers, cupolas: None

## C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor plans: Central hall plan, main section.
2. Stairways: Main stair central, straight flight; square newel post; square balusters set diagonally, each with square base.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Ceilings plastered. Walls plastered and papered, some paneled.
4. Trim: Moulded trim around doors.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Fronts on West and South.
2. Enclosures: Not enclosed.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service - August 23, 1960

*Harley J. McKee*