

Col. Thomas Nixon House  
Framingham, Massachusetts

Middlesex Co.

HABS No. MASS-247

HABS  
MASS.

9-FRAM

3

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM TO  
COL. THOMAS NIXON HOUSE  
881 Edmands Street  
Framingham  
Middlesex County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-247

HABS  
MASS  
9-FRAM,  
3-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

*Address: 881 Edm.*  
COLONEL THOMAS NIXON HOUSE

HABS  
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HABS No. MA-247

Location: 881 Edmands Road, Framingham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Significance: Built at a mid-seventeenth-century crossroads leading from Old Connecticut Path to Marlborough, the Nixon House location ties it to Framingham's early development as a town. Stylistically, the house represents rural interpretations of Georgian period (1714-1837) architecture. The house dates ca. 1787.

Description: The Nixon House follows a five bay, central chimney plan. The house is two stories. Its exterior is clapboard. The frame structure has a gambrel roof, that is pierced by three dormer windows (six-over-six lights) in the front (south) facade. The dormers have shed roofs. The first floor windows are six-over-nine sash. In the central bay is the entrance door; it is made of eight panels, flanked by fluted pilasters, and approached by a single stone step. The west facade is pierced by two windows, one per floor, centered in the gable end. The north facade has been altered by the rear lean-to, and an ell projecting from the west end. On the south side of the lean-to, the first level is accessed by two side entrances, one per end, balanced by a window on the second floor. These side entrances are six paneled doors set in simple surrounds.

Inside, the southwest room mantel piece features eared architraves surrounding two glazed cupboard doors in the chimney breast, capped by a dentilled cornice. The cornice extends around the entire space. Ca. 1790 decorative stenciling appears here, in the front stairhall, and both chambers. The stenciling in the east room was added in the twentieth century. The present owner restored the house in 1922.

Outbuildings on the property are a nineteenth-century guest house and a barn (ca. 1838). The barn burned in 1939; the owner replaced the barn with a structure moved from Powder Mill Road in Concord, Massachusetts. The pointed arch window in the front gable end was spared from the 1939 blaze due to repairs; once returned, it was inserted into the present structure. The nineteenth-century barn had vertical siding and was not painted.

History: Colonel Thomas Nixon inherited the property from Thomas Stearns, Nixon's father-in-law. Though Nixon acquired the property in the mid-eighteenth century, his son is thought to have built the house. Colonel Thomas Nixon, as well as his brother, General John Nixon, and his son, Thomas Nixon, Jr., served in the Revolutionary War. Thomas Nixon's grandson, Warren, became a teacher and surveyor. Warren Nixon drew the 1832 atlas map of Framingham. The house remained in the Nixon family until 1915, when the Welch family bought the property.

Sources: Historic Buildings of Massachusetts, edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.

Inventory Form, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1979.