

COL. JOSIAH DWIGHT HOUSE  
8-10 Howard Street  
Springfield  
Hampden County  
Massachusetts

HABS MA-405  
*MA-405*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## COL. JOSIAH DWIGHT HOUSE

HABS No. MA-405

Location: 8-10 Howard Street, Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

Materials: Field notes include measurements and a questionnaire (historical data gathered at the site) completed by field members Max R. Hippell and J. E. Hermes in 1940.

Questionnaire (transcribed from the handwritten field notes):<sup>1</sup>

1. Date of finishing work in book 334. Start – 20 February 1940. Last.
2. Name of building: Dwight Old Home.
3. Present location: 8 and 10 Howard Street.
4. Measured by: J.E. Hermes, 12 Harwich ... and Max R. Hippell, 121 State St., Spr.
5. Date built: 1764.
6. Former location: Fronting Main St. where the Parson ... stand now.
7. Original owners: Col. Josiah Dwight. After his death in 1768 it became the ... his son Col. Thomas Dwight who died in 1819. And it stayed in the Dwight family until sold and moved for speculative building on Howard St.
8. Highlights of the Dwight Family: The Dwight family was of illustrious ancestry of English descent and became prominent people in Springfield most of them [sic] officers in the War of the Rebellion. Lawyers of note member of Congress and Senate, most of them members of the Old First Church still standing in Court Square as a memorial of the good people of Old Springfield.  
  
The Dwights have a brilliant [sic] place in New England history between the second half of 1700 and in 1800. Most all of them were [sic] wealthy, building fine homes in Springfield and financing churches, holding prominent places in the city, serving the country as soldiers and statesmen. Generous and of pleasing social qualities, ... and respected in the community as one of the best families in Springfield, Mass. One of the Dwight[s] was one of the founder[s] of the American Antiquarian Society of Boston. They extended foreign trade, imported manufacturing establishments, helped railroads, created or endowed institutions of charity and education.
9. Architect & builder: Unknown.

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<sup>1</sup> Spellings, punctuations, etc., are the same as the original; the ellipse [...] is used when the text was too faint to read. - vbp

10. Materials. Basement: Front part brown stone. Basement walls. Back part red brick. Other floors: wood construction. Very interesting outside details. Corners of the house. Nice old clapboards and window framing. Front part of outside walls thickness covering corner posts that are showing on the second floor plan. House in fair condition except woodwork exposed covered thick with paint. Hiding beautiful mouldings.

11. Research notes: The Dwight House. First location. Main St. Where the Parson's block now is. House built in 1764. and moved in [blank]. Changed into a double tenement losing the front door entrance and the staircase. These were sold by contractor and no trace found of where they are. But they still are in existence, and the original door as sketch below. [They] are reputed to be mostly interesting and by far the best detail of the house. The nice moldings of the exterior windows evidently where [sic] created on ... in the framing of the door way. Note: (I will make further research and may be able to locate the present location of the door itself and the stairway). McMurphy Real estate agent is trying to locate same, may be found Long Island Sound Conn. It was sold by the contractor and we are trying to find him. (No luck so far. May 28<sup>th</sup>)