

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WLL.65
Historic Name:	Simonds, Col. Benjamin House
Common Name:	River Bend Farm
Address:	643 Simonds Rd Rt 7
City/Town:	Williamstown
Village/Neighborhood:	Williamstown
Local No:	215
Year Constructed:	1770
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Archaeology; Historic; Architecture; Exploration Settlement; Military; Politics Government
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (09/01/1983)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NRIND. 9/1/83

P1 - WHITE
USGS. W11

In Area no.

Form no.

215

JUN 73



Town Williamstown

Address 643 Simonds Road

Name River Bend Farm / COL. BENJA

Present use Private residence

Present owner M/M David J. Loomis

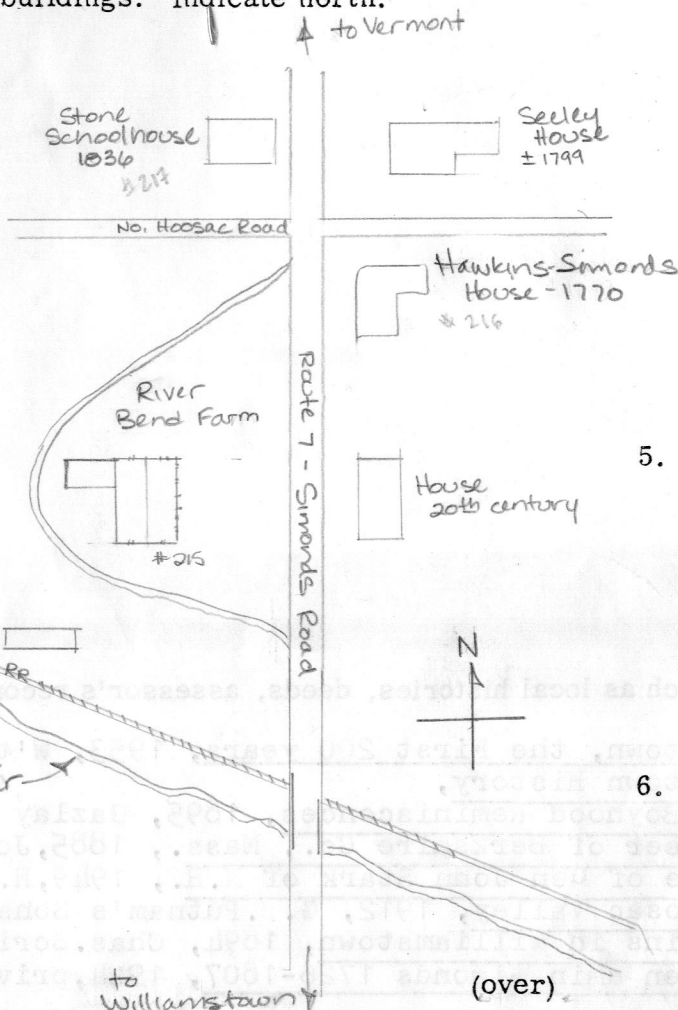
Description:

Date 1770

Source

Style center chimney colonial

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect

Exterior wall fabric original clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) barn (19th cent)

Other features

Altered Yes Date 1830-1850

Moved No Date --

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre 1.8

Approximate frontage 280'

Approximate distance of building from street

60'

6. Recorded by Murray D. Smith

Organization W'town Historical Comm.

Date September 1978

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OCT 30 1978

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7. Original owner (if known) Benjamin Simonds

Original use tavern-farmhouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residence to date

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)



10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Brooks, Robert R.R., W'town, the First 200 years, 1953, W'town, Ma.
 Brown, Wm. B., Williamstown History,
 Danforth, Judge Keyes, Boyhood Reminiscences, 1895, Gazlay Bros., N.Y.
 Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer of Berkshire Co., Mass., 1885, Journal Off. N.Y.
 Moore, H. Parker, A Life of Gen John Stark of N.H., 1949, H.P.M. pub., N.Y.
 Niles, Grace G., The Hoosac Valley, 1912, G.P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y.
 Perry, A.L., LL.D., Origins in Williamstown, 1894, Chas. Scribner, N.Y.
 Perry, Bliss, Colonel Benjamin Simonds 1726-1807, 1944, privately printed

In 1746 French soldiers and indians overwhelmed the colonists at Fort Massachusetts. Among the group of captives was young Benjamin Simonds, of Ware River, Massachusetts. On their march to Canada the prisoners stopped at the ancient Indian camp just where the Hoosac River makes a long bend northward. As the only surviving captive of that terrible journey to Canada, Simonds returned to that same stopping place several years later and built the central chimney, plank house known as the River Bend Farm. He was one of Williamstown's original 13 settlers, and the father of the first child born there. He became a prominent citizen of the town; a military and civic leader.

Ethan Allen and Seth Warner are among the prominent Revolutionaries entertained at the River Bend Farm by Colonel Benjamin Simonds. The large bake ovens supplied beans and bread to the American forces at the Battle of Bennington. Colonel Simonds led the Massachusetts contingent to their victory there.

Framed with chestnut and sheathed with very wide pine boards, the house stands today much as it did then. The central chimney with its 5 fireplaces, 2 bake ovens, huge ash pit, and attic smoke chamber still retains the simple grace which its builders indowed it with over 200 years ago.

The times change, however, and it gets harder to resist the economic and physical changes of our modern society. These genuine historic places of our country's past must be preserved and restored so that we do not lose sight of the skill and direction of American founders. River Bend Farm still remains as an outstanding example of the dedication and foresite of New Englands sturdy pioneers; an example that should be taken under the wing of the American pride and protected through the auspices of the National Register of Historic Places.

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OCT 30 1978

MASS. HIST. COMM.

copies: inventory form _____
 Town file(w/corresp.) _____
 Macris _____
 NR director _____

Community: Williamstown

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 3/7/91

Date Due: ASAP

Date Reviewed:

Type:

IndividualDistrict (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name:

* Inventory Forms

Address:

Simon's Road, from just south of House River to where river bends back to almost meet Rd.

Requested by:

C. Cusack

Action:

Honor

ITC

Grant

R & C

Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review:

C. Cusack

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**DISTRICTS**

- ☐ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

- ☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☒ More information needed

CRITERIA:

A

B

C

D

LEVEL:

Local

State

National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by

M. Cavanaugh

The survey for the area is incomplete

The Pres. Planning staff has previously recommended that the Williamstown HC prepare an area form for Simon's Road. This form would assist in evaluating the area.

See R&C for additional information.