

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WSN.98
Historic Name:	Smith, Josiah Tavern
Common Name:	
Address:	358 Boston Post Rd
City/Town:	Weston
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	1757
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian;
Use(s):	Business Office; Meeting Hall; Other Governmental or Civic; Other Road Related; Tavern;
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Politics Government;
Area(s):	WSN.K
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (02/11/1983);
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard;
Demolished	No



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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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* Wood Register	K	SENT A NLSA NATION
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Location Weston
 Street address 358 Boston Post Rd
 Name Josiah Smith Tavern
 : original & present Domestic Tavern, Museum
 Present owner Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
 Open to public Yes
 1757 west
 1763 east Style Georgian
 Source of date Usual - also see references below

Architect Unknown

Architectural reason for inventorying:
oldest building on Weston Town Green ✓ Quality OR part of Area # Town Green Historic District

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added at back - South Barn (c. 1830) moved in

4. DESCRIPTION

Building extended to east 1763 - with kitchen, taproom and ballroom above

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material _____

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard Asbestos
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate largeSTORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed and Barn moved in

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 8 1/2' wide North and East elevations PORTICO _____ Balcony _____

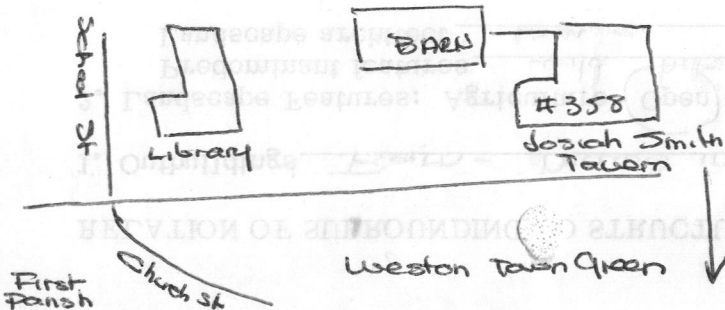
FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament Dentils at eavesEntrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: 2 excellent dentilled georgian doorwayWindows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied except for 1763 additionCorners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 9'
 Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder Nathan S. Stewart / (H. Floyd)For Weston Historical CommissionPhoto # _____ Date 1971 - May

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings Barn - moved in 1830 (C.)
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture (Open) Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal Open to West.
 Predominant features wild hillside to South with Dingle path.
 Landscape architect None
3. Neighboring Structures
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern Mixed
- Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

See attachments.

This is an excellent example of 18th century architecture located on the Western Town Green.

one of the most important buildings in Weston. has been in the center of transportation, activity, politics etc.

From its initial building prior to the Revolution

Dwight: West end built in 1757. - restored in 1952-53 by SPINZA, Town, and individual contributors at a cost of about \$40,000.

Trees in front of Tavern planted in 1861.

at time of Revolution, Josiah Smith was an ardent Liberty man. He referred the British spy, Sgt. John Howe, to the Golden Ball Tavern because of its Tory leanings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1. Train, Arthur, Puritan's Progress, Sampsons, P. 53.
2. Mann, Horace, Natick Historical Records,
3. Russell, ^{Rev.} Frank, First Parish of Weston p. 137.
- H. Lamson, Daniel History of the Town of Weston Mass, 1913, pp. 187, 192, 52,
- F. Dwight, Richard - lecture on Weston's Old House 5/22/63

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: Josiah Smith

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, Middlesex Registry of Deeds

JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

Marian Stewart, May 1972

1. Weston profited from being situated back on the Worcester turnpike, the highway to New York and on the freight haul from Vermont and the Connecticut Valley.
2. The Post Road was the most important road of the 18th Century for the coaches to Conn. and New York.
3. 1709-1750 during Russell's ministry, there were about
 - 150,000 in all New England
 - 15,000 in Boston
 - 500 in Weston
 Boston was only 30 times greater, and New England was only 300 times greater. Boston 300 times great in 1898...easy to see relative importance.
4. Around 1830 many small trades appeared: a brewery or malt house, groceries and dry goods store, clock makers, hatters, straw braiders, grist mills and saw mills, machine shop, pottery, cabinet making, wheelwright, shoe making, tannery and apothecary shop.
5. Tavern thrived with traders. Russet cider. Two other taverns in Weston.
6. Josiah bought land in 1756. Opened for tavern in 1757.
7. In 1763 J. Smith added a much larger kitchen on the south, and a taproom on the east side where coaches and carriages stopped, and a wide doorway leading to a low-ceilinged hall with a broad stairway. On the second floor J. Smith had built several chambers and a long, high ballroom.

Miss Ellen Jones said, "When addition was made on the east side, the upper story consisted of a hall (the ballroom) running the whole length of the house from N. to S. with two windows at each end and eight on the side - heated by two fireplaces."
8. Tavern changes hands - Dr. Laska, page 8. Town meeting held there. Miss Alice deed 1947. Miss Ellen 1950. Willed to SPINEA. 1952 Partitions removed from ballroom, and other repairs.
9. Porch ripped off of older part and left intact on newer part, 1952. Town also removed addition and partition at the end of the east porch. In 1951, Town of Weston leased offices and meeting rooms. Four rooms reserved for Historical Society. Documents of historical interest stored.

Conclusion: Throughout 210 years, the Jones House has served the people of Weston with hospitality and amusements during the tavern days, and with meeting rooms and a small museum in our time. It is understandable that the town should be concerned with the preservation of this historic house, for from it is reflected the flavor of Weston as it was during the hustling period in the late 1700's and early 1800's. No matter to what degree the people of Weston have changed or will change, the essential flavor of the town can be found in such historic landmarks as the Jones House.