May 5, 2012

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Christopher C. Skelly
Director of Local Government Programs
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Commission:

The joint Study Committee made up of members of the Longmeadow Historical Commission, the Longmeadow Historic District Commission and local residents is pleased to submit for your consideration our “Preliminary Study Report on the Expansion of the Longmeadow Historic District.” As you will see, with the endorsement of seven excited homeowners, we are proposing adding seven additional historic homes to the existing District.

In accordance with your published guidelines, this Report will provide you with the specifics of our proposal and with our reasoning behind it.

I am also sending you the Study Report electronically so that the MHC can easily access the photographs, surveys, map or any other parts of the Report that you might wish to share with others.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information. We are thrilled to see this project, now almost three years in the making, come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Susan Hall
Chair, Study Committee
259 Longmeadow St.
Longmeadow, MA 01106
susanjhall42@gmail.com
(413) 567-3690
PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT ON THE
EXPANSION OF THE
LONGMEADOW HISTORIC DISTRICT

Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Report Preparation

Residents of the Proposed Homes
Members of the Longmeadow Historic District Commission
and
the Longmeadow Historical Commission
May 1, 2012

Summary Sheet

Contact Person:  Susan Hall, Longmeadow Historical Commission

susanjhall42@gmail.com  (413) 567-3690
259 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA  01106

Study Committee:

Susan Hall, Chair, representing the Longmeadow Historical Commission

Andrew Lam, representing the Longmeadow Historical Commission and Longmeadow Historic

  District Commission

Denise Collins, homeowner, 37 Birnie Road

Betsy McKee, homeowner, 60 Williams Street

John Robbins, homeowner, 1028 Longmeadow Street

Date of Public Hearing:  Sept. 12, 2012

Date of Town Meeting:  Fall, 2012 (usually in November)

Total Number of Properties in Proposed District Expansion:  7 homes
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INTRODUCTION

The way in which one views the Town of Longmeadow today is the result of many historical developments over the 368 years since settlement. In 1644 Longmeadow was settled in the meadows along the Connecticut River as part of the Town of Springfield. As a result of difficulty with the Indians in 1675, a flood in 1695 and the distance from church and school, the inhabitants petitioned the Town of Springfield that they be permitted to build on the higher land to the east. This was granted in a town meeting on March 9, 1703, and a committee was appointed to divide the land. On February 10, 1713, the Great and General Court granted a petition for a separate precinct for Gospel Ministry to be established. It became the second precinct of Springfield.

At this time a Highway or Country Road (now Longmeadow Street) was laid out twenty rods wide from Pecowsick Brook to the North to the Enfield boundary south. Between the years of 1703 and 1708 a large portion of the lots along this Highway were assigned to the meadows settlers. Longmeadow Street today still continues as one of the widest, most beautiful village streets in America.

In 1973 the local Historic District was established. The current district encompasses fifty-one buildings in the immediate vicinity of the Green. Included are forty-three residences, the Town Hall, the Community House, First Church of Christ, Center School (K-5), the oldest portion of the Burying Yard, two monuments and one historic marker. In 1982, this same district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As early as 1975 expanding the current Historic District was discussed. In 1987-88 the Longmeadow Historical Commission, the Longmeadow Historic District Commission, and the Longmeadow Historical Society worked in collaboration with the Boston University Studies Program to survey the remaining historic properties in Longmeadow. Upon completion of the surveys, Boston University professor Richard M. Candee and two of his graduate students prepared and published “Longmeadow: A Plan for Historic Preservation.” (This report is available through a link on longmeadow.org and is on file at the MHC.) It was recommended in this report that plans be initiated to assess public sentiment for expanding the local Historic District north and south along Longmeadow Street and extending it along Williams and Parkside Streets, Colton Place and Birnie Road.

There are seven individual properties currently being proposed for inclusion into the Longmeadow Historic District. They are:

- 573 Longmeadow Street
- 577 Longmeadow Street
- 1028 Longmeadow Street
- 37 Birnie Road
- 56 Williams Street
- 60 Williams Street
- 114 Williams Street
METHODOLOGY

Conversation about expanding the local Historic District began shortly after the creation of the original district in 1973. In 2005 an informal public meeting was organized by the Longmeadow Historic District Commission to gauge interest. Several owners of historical homes who were present at that meeting expressed interest, but, unfortunately, the meeting was dominated by two or three members of the public who were vehemently opposed. In 2009 the Historical Commission, as part of a periodic review of the recommendations set forth in the 1988 “Longmeadow: A Plan for Historic Preservation,” decided to pursue the idea of expanding the district in earnest. A joint meeting with the Historic District Commission was held in the spring of 2009 and volunteers from each Commission formed a study committee.

The study committee identified 30 properties in close proximity to the Green deemed to have historical and/or architectural integrity as to warrant inclusion into the Longmeadow Historic District. The Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission endorsed the study committee’s recommendation that the owners of these properties would be invited to consider inclusion in the District, but only with their support and consent would their properties be listed in the final proposal.

Personal phone calls were made to each of the 30 property owners in the fall of 2010. The advantages to becoming part of the Historic District were discussed, as was the historical significance of the homeowner’s individual home. Homeowners were encouraged to go the Historic District Commission’s webpage to learn more about the advantages and rules and regulations of the local District. Each homeowner had the opportunity to ask questions and was invited to an informational meeting to be held in January, 2011. It was made clear that the homeowner was under no obligation and his/her property would only be included in the proposed expansion with her/his consent.

All 30 potential property owners received a letter outlining the proposed District expansion and inviting them to attend the informational meeting, to be held on January 12, 2011. Unfortunately, due to a huge snowstorm, that meeting was postponed until spring. Homeowners were informed of the new meeting in a follow-up letter. The meeting was held on April 12 in the public meeting room of Storrs Library. 12 property owners were in attendance. The agenda included a PowerPoint presentation by a Historical Commission member outlining the individual and community advantages of inclusion in a local historic district as a means of historical preservation and community education. A member of the Historic District Commission outlined the rules and regulations associated with the Longmeadow Historic District; then most of the meeting was devoted to discussion, questions and answers. Homeowners were encouraged to contact members of the Study Committee with further questions after the meeting and were told that they would be contacted by the end of May, 2011, to ascertain their decision.
Members of the Study Committee again made phone calls to each of the 30 property owners and followed up with letters as necessary. Results were that 7 homeowners were definitely interested in pursuing inclusion in the District. (Reasons for not wanting to join at this time included plans to sell their house in the near future, concerns about restrictions on possible additions, roof and window replacements, etc, and lack of interest. Several homeowners who declined for now expressed interest in perhaps reconsidering in the future.)

A second informational meeting was held on Oct. 6, 2011, in the public meeting room of the Fire Station. Six of the 7 interested homeowners were in attendance. The seventh was unable to attend, but confirmed her commitment by telephone. This meeting outlined the MHC process to be followed leading up to a vote at the Fall, 2012 Town Meeting. Copies of MHC survey forms were distributed to each homeowner and the Study Committee asked to be informed of any additions or corrections to be made to the surveys before they are submitted with the Preliminary Study Report.

The Town Manager has been kept up-to-date as this process has moved along and meeting minutes have been posted on the Town website. Next steps will be to hold a public hearing, scheduled for September 12, 2012. We will then petition the Select Board to place the expansion of the District on the Fall, 2012, town warrant. Fall town meeting is usually held in November.
SIGNIFICANCE

Once permission was granted in 1703 to move the Longmeadow settlement “up on the hill”, land was divided and construction of homes began. By 1720 the village, though still a precinct of Springfield, had built a school on the Green and received the right to have its own Meeting House. Stephen Williams, known as “the Boy Captive of Deerfield”, was chosen as its minister, a position he held for nearly 69 years.

Early residents were farmers, merchants and small tradesmen, including brick makers, tailors, cooper and millers. Early maps show that life in Longmeadow revolved around the Green, with most homes located primarily along Longmeadow Street and on side streets in close proximity to the Green, such as Williams Street. The 1894 L.I. Richards and Co. map shows that there were only about 130 homes in existence in Longmeadow. The seven homes proposed for inclusion in the expanded Historic District all date from that time and, in most cases, much earlier.

“Longmeadow: A Plan for Historic Preservation,” along with MHC inventories, and extensive research by the Longmeadow Historical Society, Longmeadow Historical Commission and others (cited in Appendix D as sources) concur that the homes proposed for inclusion into the Longmeadow Historic District are significant for their historical, architectural and/or cultural integrity and should be preserved and protected for future generations. The “Plan” states that

“Longmeadow has taken important steps in preserving its heritage... The inventory and creation of a local and National Register Historic District in the Town’s center launched historic preservation as a formal municipal planning element... Now that such groundwork has been laid, more progress can be and needs to be made... Based on the survey completed in Longmeadow during the summer of 1987, several areas of the town were deemed to have such historic or architectural integrity as to warrant inclusion in the local historic district. From 1703 until the 1890’s Longmeadow Street was the primary residential area of the present town of Longmeadow... The current local and National Register Historic District should be expanded to include Longmeadow Street north and south of the Green... The Old Hale House at 37 Birnie Road... should also be included in this nomination... Upon completion of the pre-1940 inventory, a certain area, immediately east of and adjacent to the Green was deemed to be an illogical exclusion from the local historic district. This area comprises the north side of Williams Street up to the intersection of Falmouth Road... The Williams Street extension includes #56 (1855) and #60, the Simeon (Hermo) Newell House (circa 1801)... Six additional properties range in date from 1810 to the turn-of-the-century. Stylistically they generally comprise a representative sampling of nineteenth century architecture from Greek Revival to vernacular Victorian farmhouses, including 114 Williams (c. 1890)...
The seven homes that are being proposed for inclusion in the Longmeadow Historic District are:

- **573 Longmeadow Street**, The Silcox House (circa 1831) MHC#20 – This farmhouse was built by William Silcox, son of Robert Silcock who was the only known British soldier of the American Revolution to be buried in Longmeadow’s Old Burying Yard. Records of the original deed for this house are rather confusing, but it appears that the land on which this house sits was granted to Robert Silcock in 1794. The grant measured 100 feet long and 30 feet wide, “ten rods north of the Hatter’s Shop as a homelot.” It is an historically significant representative of early agriculture in Longmeadow, as an outlying farm built slightly north of the Green.

- **577 Longmeadow Street**, The Samuel Booth House (1821) MHC#21 – This home was built by Samuel Colton Booth, a successful farmer, on land slightly north of the Green. It is probably constructed from bricks built in the brickyards along the banks of the Connecticut River. Of particular note is Mary Allard Booth, daughter of Samuel, who was born in this house. She was one of the early photomicroscopists and received several medals from the New Orleans Exposition in 1885, St. Louis Medical Convention in 1904 and the San Francisco Science Conferences of 1907-09 and 1915. These awards all recognized her landmark work towards eliminating bubonic plague.

- **1028 Longmeadow Street**, Captain Gideon Colton House (1794) MHC#75 – This elegant Georgian home was built by Capt. Colton, who served in the Revolutionary War as one of the “home guards” at the young age of 16. Its particular architectural significance was recognized by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and meticulously documented line drawings are now on file in The Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

- **37 Birnie Road**, The Old Hale House (also known as the Thomas Hale House) (circa 1705) MHC#71 - This house originally stood on Longmeadow St, on the corner of Birnie Road, one of the 20 or more relocated dwellings that once gave Longmeadow the nickname “The Town of Walking Houses.” It served as the home of brothers Hezekiah and Jonathan, Jr., both of whom served in the Revolutionary War. Hezekiah was part owner of a powder mill that supplied gunpowder to troops in the War. Of particular note is that inside, a fireplace surround and a beautiful hand-carved corner cupboard once belonged to the now demolished Marchant Colton House, a room from which is housed in the Smithsonian collection.

- **56 Williams Street**, The Merriam-Dumon-Moynihan House (circa 1855) MHC#41 – This classic Greek Revival farmhouse was built by Homer Merriam, brother of the founder of G&C Merriam Publishing Company. It remained a working farm until the 1940s. Sold to James Moynihan in 1900, it has been lived in by descendents ever since.

- **60 Williams Street**, The Hermon Newell House (circa 1801) MHC#42 – This house was originally located on Longmeadow St. and was moved sometime after 1855 to its present location to make room for Center School. Hermon Newell, and later his son Simeon, were respected and prolific gravestone carvers. Many of their stones can be seen in cemeteries up and down the Connecticut River Valley and, of course, in the Longmeadow Burying Yard. This was a working farm up until the 1960s.

- **114 Williams Street**, The Ravey House (circa 1890) MHC#1527 – This vernacular farmhouse once had a large barn and extensive property behind it. It is another good example of the agricultural lifestyle of many 19th and early 20th century Longmeadow residents.
JUSTIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARIES

These seven properties, dating from the early 1700s to the late 1800s, are all in close proximity to the existing boundaries of the Longmeadow Historic District and Longmeadow’s historic Green. The early owners of these properties were part of the 130 or so residences making up the small, predominately agricultural, village of Longmeadow. These seven property owners have voluntarily chosen to become part of the existing Historic District and are excited for the recognition and protection this designation will afford.
Section 2-805, paragraph (c) of the Longmeadow Town By-Laws will need to be amended to reference the newly created map that the Town Engineer has drawn up showing the 7 additional homes being added to the District. The amendment language, approved by Town Counsel David J. Martel, Esq., is as follows:

“To see if the town will vote to amend Section 2-805(c) of the general bylaws by changing the reference to the map which establishes the boundaries of the Historic District to “Map dated June 2012 prepared by the Town Engineer”, or take any other action relative thereto. “

This will require a 2/3 affirmative vote at Town Meeting.

Additionally, Rules and Regulations of the Historic District Commission, 1986, will have to be amended to (a) include a copy of the new map and (b) amend Section II page 1 Location of the Historic District to change the date of the referenced map to June 2012. Town Counsel has advised on this as well and states that “Under General Laws Chapter 40C, Section 10(c) Historic District Commissions have the power to adopt and amend regulations. These amendments only require Commission action and not town meeting action.”

For your information, the current Town By-Law referencing the Longmeadow Historic District reads as follows (the section that will be amended is highlighted in blue):

H:\By Laws\General Town By-Laws Updated 3-15-2012 copy.doc 31

2-805. Longmeadow Historic District Commission.
(a) The purpose of this By-Law is to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings, their architecture and places significant to the encouragement of design compatible therewith.
(b) There is hereby established under the Historic District Act, General laws, Chapter 40C, as amended by Chapter 359 of the Acts of 1971, with all the powers and duties of an historic commission a Longmeadow Historic District commission consisting of seven (7) members to be appointed by the Select Board, all being residents of Longmeadow, including one (1) member, where possible from two (2) nominees, one of whom shall be submitted by the Chapter of American Institute of Architects covering Longmeadow, and one (1) member, where possible from two (2) nominees of the Board of Realtors covering Longmeadow. Two or more of the foregoing shall be residents of the Historic district established in Longmeadow pursuant to the Historic District Act. When the Commission is first established, one member shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, three shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and three shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three (3) years. The Select Board may appoint one alternate member for a term of one (1) year and two alternate members may be appointed for a term of three (3) years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three (3) years. No member may serve on the Commission for more than two consecutive three year terms, nor more than three consecutive terms if either of the first two terms is for less than three years.
(c) There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic District Act, as amended, an historic district to be known as the Longmeadow Historic District, bounded as shown on a map entitled “Plan Showing Longmeadow Historic District, Longmeadow, Massachusetts”, H:\BY dated May 1, 1973, prepared by the Town Engineer, attached to and made part of the by-Laws, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk.
CONCLUSION

The owners of these seven historic properties believe that their homes deserve the recognition and protection that becoming part of the Longmeadow Historic District will provide for them.

“Yonder is fair street, extending north and south. The stately mansions are placed on its carpet of verdant grass, and a long flight of steps descends from every door to the pavement. Ornamental trees, the broad-leafed horse-chestnut, the elm so lofty and bending, the graceful but infrequent willow, and others whereof I know not the names, growing thrivingly among bricks and stone. The oblique rays of sun are intercepted by these green citizens and by the houses, so that one side of the street is shaded and a pleasant walk.”

From “Sights from a Steeple” Tales and Sketches by Nathaniel Hawthorne
APPENDIX A
Maps of the Proposed Historic District Expansion
Prepared by Longmeadow Town Engineer
June 2012 and February 2012

The first map shows (in orange) the existing boundaries of the Longmeadow Historic District and (in black) the boundaries of the 7 proposed properties.

The second map shows the current Historic District (gold) and the 7 properties proposed to expand the District (green).
PLAN SHOWING LONGMEADOW HISTORIC DISTRICT LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF LONGMEADOW ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
APPENDIX B

Property Data List, including MHC surveys of proposed expansion properties

Recent research has made it necessary to update the surveys for 573 Longmeadow Street, 37 Birnie Road and 60 Williams Street. The updated survey forms are included on the next few pages, as are all seven original survey forms. These original survey forms are also on file at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph

Locus Map

See original survey

Insert here or on a Continuation Sheet a map clearly showing the location of the property including the name of the nearest road or street and at least one other intersecting road or feature.

Assessor’s maps are preferred, but other forms of detailed plans such as an excerpt from a USGS topographic map or an aerial or satellite photo clearly marked are also acceptable. See MHC’s Guidelines for Inventory Form Locational Information.

Recorded by: Margaret Stoler/Susan Hall
Organization: Longmeadow Historical Commission
Date (month/year): original survey 1977/updated 4/2012

Assessor’s Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
462/429/14 Long. [ ] [ ] 20

(updated from original 1978 survey – LHC)

Town/City: Longmeadow
Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 573 Longmeadow Street
Historic Name: The Silcox House
Uses: Present: dwelling
Original: dwelling
Date of Construction: circa 1831
Source: homeowner, Storrs Library, Registry of Deeds
Style/Form: raised Cape
Architect/Builder: William Silcox
Exterior Material:
Foundation: clapboard
Wall/Trim: plaster
Roof:

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates):
Several alterations over time – dates unknown

Condition:
Moved: □ no □ yes □ Date:

Acreage: 17,000 sf
Setting: 4 lots north of the Green

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.
Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Early 19th century farmhouse, cape cod style, second floor and garage, porches later additions

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community. This house was built around 1831 by William Silcox, son of Robert who was the only know British soldier of the American Revolution to be buried in Longmeadow Cemetery. Records of original deed for this house are rather confusing, but it appears that the land on which this house sits was granted to Robert Silcox in 1794. The grant measured 100 feet long and 30 feet wide "ten rods north of the Hatter's Shop a a homelot." In 1840 William built another house beside the "homestead" for his sister Julia. In 1913 Julia's house was torn down to make way for the construction of Greenacre Avenue. Williams' son Robert Spenser Silcox was a broom maker by trade. A financial crash in 1837 forced him, at age 19, to move to Ohio for employment. In his diary he writes of his journey, commencing in Thompsonville, CT, including this passage: "on December 4, 1837, my Uncle Walter Bliss took me and my truck to Thompsonville. On this morning I bid my parents goodbye. . . . I took the steamboat Massachusetts that ployed the Connecticut River from Springfield to Hartford. We ran over the falls in the Connecticut River just below Thompsonville, how I do not know, for in these years 1893 presently) no boat can go over them as there is a dam across the river to throw water into a canal that furnishes water power at Windsor Locks."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES
Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA
Longmeadow Historical Society
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, MA
**FORM B - BUILDING**

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

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<tr>
<td>Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Lester Thomas</td>
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<td>Architect</td>
<td>Robert Silcox - Builder</td>
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5. Lot size:

- One acre or less
- Over one acre

Approximate frontage
Approximate distance of building from street

6. Recorded by Margaret Stoler
Date: 1977
7. Original owner (if known) ________________________________ Robert Silcox

Original use ________________________________ Dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates ________________________________

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal _______ Agricultural _______ X Conservation _______ Recreation _______
Architectural _______ X Education _______ Religion _______
The Arts _______ Exploration/ _______ Science/ _______ invention _______
settlement _______ Industry _______ Social/ _______
Communication _______ Military _______ humanitarian _______
Community development _______ Political _______ Transportation _______

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

In 1794, land was granted to Robert Silcox, measuring 100 feet long and 30 feet wide, ten rods north of the Hatter's Shop, as a "homestead."

In 1840, his son Robert Silcox built a house beside the "homestead" for his sister, Julia.

In 1913, one of the Silcox houses was torn down to make way for the construction of a "road east off Longmeadow Street" (Greensage Avenue).

No records show whether the house standing now is the original Silcox house or the one built in 1840.

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

Storrs Library, Longmeadow, Ma.
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, Ma.
FORM B - BUILDING

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

own Longmeadow

dress 577 Longmeadow Street

ime Samuel Booth House

esent use Dwelling

esent owner Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Brown

cription:

e 1821

ource Federal

rchitect Alexander Coomes

terior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe)__________________________

Other features_______________________________

Altered Room Added Date 1900

Moved ___________________________ Date

lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre

Approximate frontage________________________

Approximate distance of building from street _______________________

6. Recorded by Margaret Stoler


Date 1977

(over)
7. Original owner (if known)  
Sammel Colton Booth

Original use  
Dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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</table>

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

This house was built in 1821 by Samuel Colton Booth. Inscribed over the front door is "A Coomes 1821" and on a stone in the basement is carved 1820. Samuel Booth was a successful farmer.

Mary Allard Booth, daughter of Samuel Booth was born in this house. She was one of the early photomicroscopists and received several medals from the New Orleans Exposition in 1885, St. Louis Medical Convention in 1904, and the San Francisco Science Conferences in 1907-1909 and 1915, for her work on eliminating the bubonic plague.

In 1909, the house belonged to Edward S. Decker, a successful business man.

He owned the Dwight Street Lumber Company in Springfield.

In 1914, the house was bought by August Pritzlaff, who held extensive properties in the city. His son, August Pritzlaff, Jr., was well known for his excellent cabinetmaking and for the many cocktail bars he made for the Springfield area lounges.

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

Registry of Deeds, Court House, Springfield, Ma.
Longmeadow Town Offices, Assessor's Department, Longmeadow, Ma.
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. 75

Street Longmeadow

Type 1026 Longmeadow Street

Use Captain Gideon Colton House

Sent Use Dwelling

Sent owner Mrs. William Barnard

Description 1794

Source Storrs Library

Style Georgian

Architect Gideon Colton - Builder

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features Fan light pediment, fluted columns, and the second floor hall window glass is original.

Altered Date

Moved Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre

Approximate frontage

Approximate distance of building from street

6. Recorded by Margaret Stoler


Date 1977

(over)
7. Original owner (if known)  

Captain Gideon Colton

Original use  

Dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal  
Agricultural  
Architectural  
The Arts  
Commerce  
Communication  
Community development

Conservation  
Education  
Exploration/settlement  
Religion  
Science/invention  
Industry  
Military  
Political  
Recreation  
Social/humanitarian  
Transportation

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

This beautiful old Georgian home was built in 1794 by Captain Gideon Colton who served in the Revolutionary War as one of the "Home Guard" for he was only sixteen years old. He took great pleasure in overseeing the construction of the house, choosing the trees on his own property to be used as beams. The house has five entrances, the front door having fluted columns, Grecian pediment and a large fanlight. A spacious hall ran from the front entrance through the house with another large door in the rear. The door sills and steps were solid stone.

Upon the death of Captain Colton in 1849, the house was sold to Bela Coomes, a successful farmer whose family settled in the area in the early 1700's. The Coomes occupied the house until 1850 when it was sold to Mr. Charles Birnie.

Mr. Birnie was a wealthy land developer who is credited with the planning and developing of most of the southern part of Longmeadow from Birnie Road to Maple Road, referred to as the "Birnie Estates" in the late 1800's.

The present owner of the house is Sarah Barnard, widow of William Barnard who operated a large foundry in Springfield in the 1940's and 1950's.

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

Mrs. Sarah Barnard, 1028 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, Ma.
Storrs Library, Longmeadow, Ma.
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, Ma.
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph

Locus Map

See original survey
 Insert here or on a Continuation Sheet a map clearly showing the location of the property including the name of the nearest road or street and at least one other intersecting road or feature.

Assessor’s maps are preferred, but other forms of detailed plans such as an excerpt from a USGS topographic map or an aerial or satellite photo clearly marked are also acceptable. See MHC’s Guidelines for Inventory Form Locational Information.

Recorded by: Margaret Stoler/Susan Hall
Organization: Longmeadow Historical Commission
Date (month/year): original survey 1977/updated 4/2012

Assessor’s Number  USGS Quad  Area(s)  Form Number
78/33/22  Long:  
(updated from original 1978 survey – LHC)

Town/City: Longmeadow
Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 37 Birnie Road

Historic Name: The Thomas Hale House
Uses: Present: dwelling
Original: dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1703-1705

Source: homeowner, Storrs Library, Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: center chimney colonial

Architect/Builder: Thomas Hale

Exterior Material:
Foundation:
Wall/Trim: clapboard
Roof:

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates):
Extensive alternations around 1894 when the house was moved back from Longmeadow St. to its present location

Condition:
Moved: no □ yes XX  Date: circa 1894

Acreage: 33,000 SF

Setting: one lot west off the Green, residential

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.
Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.
The house is now a classic center chimney colonial. Old photo shows that at one time it had a mansard roof, long since removed.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community. This house originally stood at the corner of Longmeadow Street and Booth Road (now Birnie Road). Records show that land was granted to Thomas Hale in 1703. Construction of the house began soon afterward. Thomas's son Jonathan purchased the house from his father in 1750. Jonathan was prominent in town affairs, serving many years as a church elder. One of his sons, Ezekiah, served in the Revolutionary War; another son, Hezekiah, along with David Burt, owned and operated a gun powder mill in Springfield and supplied the Colonial Army with ammunition until the mill blew up in 1779. The house was moved to its present location around 1894. At that time major alterations were made to the building, including removal of a mansard roof, at that time the only house of this architectural type in Longmeadow. The front rooms of the house still show the original pine paneling and the second floor has the original wide pine floor boards. The dining room has a butterfly corner cupboard and fireplace that were salvaged from the old "Marchant" Colton house when it was demolished. A room from the Marchant Colton house, once located between Crescent Road and Longview Drive on Longmeadow Street, is currently in the collection of the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES
Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, MA
Longmeadow Historical Society
Anne Emerson Papers, Storrs Library
In relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric: Clapboard
Outbuildings: (describe)
Other features

Altered: Extensively Date: 1902
Moved: X Date: 1902

Lot size:
One acre or less: _____ Over one acre: X
Approximate frontage:
Approximate distance of building from street:

Recorded by: Margaret Stoler
Date: 1977

(over)
7. Original owner (if known) ____________________________ Thomas Hale

Original use ____________________________ Dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates ________________________________________

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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<td>Exploratory/</td>
<td>Science/</td>
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<td>settlement</td>
<td>Invention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community development</td>
<td>Political</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

This house originally stood on the corner of Longmeadow Street and Birnie Road and was built in 1736 by Thomas Hale. His son, Jonathan Hale, purchased the house from his father in 1750.

Jonathan was prominent in town affairs, serving many years as a church elder. One of his sons, Ezekiah served in the Revolutionary War; another son, Hoseakiah, along with David Bart, owned and operated a gun powder mill in Springfield and supplied the Colonial Army with ammunition until the mill was blown up in 1779.

In 1892, the property was sold by John Coomes to Charles Birnie, a real estate developer. Mr. Birnie moved the house to its present site. He also demolished the rear ell, probably the oldest part of the house.

In 1902, Birnie sold the house to Frank and Nellie Mason who farmed the adjoining land until 1912 when the farm was purchased and developed.

The wood paneling in the kitchen and south front room is original. A fine corner cabinet, retrieved from the Marthad Samuel Colton house (circa 1760), sits in the southwest corner of the north front room.

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

Storrs Library, Longmeadow, Ma.
Anne Emerson Papers, Storrs Library, Longmeadow, Ma.
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, Ma.

Architect Homer Merriam - Builder
Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) One barn (small) and one original shed, also quite small
Other features

Altered Date
Moved Date

5. Lot size:
One acre or less Over one acre
Approximate frontage
Approximate distance of building from street

6. Recorded by Margaret Stoler
Date 1977
7. Original owner (if known)    Homer Merriam

Original use    Dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal
Agricultural    X
Architectural    
The Arts
Commerce
Communication
Commun. development

Conservation
Education    X
Exploration/
settlement    X
Industry
Military
Political

Recreation
Religion
Science/
invention
Social/
humanitarian
Transportation

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

    Originally, the land belonged to the Church Ministry. In 1855 the Church Committee, made up of Lucy Colton, William Sheldon, Walter Bliss, and Dimond Chandler, was put in charge of selling the Ministry lands. The first lot sold was the one on which this house stands. The lot was sold to Homer Merriam, brother of George and Charles Merriam, founders of the G. & C. Merriam Publishing Company which is now an international corporation.

    Homer Merriam farmed the land until 1864 when he sold the house and farm to Leon Duson who continued to farm the land.

    In 1900, the house was sold to James Moinihan, grandfather of the present resident, Catherine Moinihan who has lived all her life in the house and is seventy-five years old.

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

    Storrs Library, Longmeadow, Ma.
    First Church of Christ, Longmeadow, Ma.
    Registry of Deeds, Springfield, Ma.
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor’s Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
780/9/16 Long. 42
(updated from original 1978 survey – LHC)

Town/City: Longmeadow
Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 60 Williams Street

Historic Name: The Hermon Newell House

Uses: Present: dwelling

Original: dwelling

Date of Construction: 1801

Source: homeowner, Storrs Library, Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: center chimney colonial

Architect/Builder: Hermon Newell

Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: clapboard

Roof:

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Small barn, circa 1850

Major Alterations (with dates):

Addition circa 1850 of a small room, perhaps for the hired man. Garage addition early 21st century.

Condition:

Moved: no □ yes XX□ Date: circa 1850

Acreage: 35,000 SF

Setting: 3 home lots east of the Green, residential

Recording by: Margaret Stoler/Susan Hall

Organization: Longmeadow Historical Commission

Date (month / year): original survey 1977/updated 4/2012

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.
Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.
Classic center chimney colonial

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community. This house was built by Hermon Newell, a prolific and talented local gravestone carver. His work can be seen up and down the Connecticut River Valley as well as in the Old Burying Yard in Longmeadow. Later his son, Simeon, lived in the house and continued the gravestone carving tradition of his father. The house originally stood on Longmeadow Street at the site of Center School. It was moved to its present location sometime between 1850 and 1855. The Newell family farmed the property. Thereafter it saw a series of owners, including Gad Olcott Bliss and Joseph Dion, a blacksmith. Thomas Murray bought the property in 1887. The Murray family continued the farming tradition until the early 1960's. This was one of the last active farms in Longmeadow. The small barn is the only remaining of several once existing farm buildings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES
Stors Library, Longmeadow
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, MA
Longmeadow Historical Society

Continuation sheet 1

Form B - Building

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. 42

Street: Longmeadow

60 Williams Street

Use: Dwelling

Owner: Mary Murray

Date: 1831

Source:

Architect: Simeon Newell - Builder

Exterior wall fabric: Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe): Barn

Other features:

Altered Date

Moved Date

Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage:

Approximate distance of building from street:

Recorded by Margaret Stoler


Date: 1977
7. Original owner (if known) Simeon Newell

Original use Dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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<tr>
<td>Community development</td>
<td>Political</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

This lovely little farmhouse originally stood on Longmeadow Street where Center School stands today. The house was built in 1830 by Simeon Newell, a farmer.

In 1855, when the ministry lands, which included much of the land on both sides of Williams Street, were sold by the Church Trustees, the Newell house was moved to where it stands today.

Upon the death of Simeon Newell, his son, Nathaniel Newell, inherited the farm and the house. His descendants remained in the house until 1893 when Thomas Murray purchased the house and the farm. Mr. Murray farmed the land until the early 1900's when all but the homelot was sold to real estate developers. The Murays remained in the house, and today Miss Mary Murray still resides there.

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

Storrs Library, Longmeadow, Ma.
Registry of Deeds, Springfield, Ma.
APPENDIX C

Photos and Slides
Following are photographs of the 7 homes being added to the Longmeadow Historic District as well as streetscape views to illustrate the relative locations of each home.

573 Longmeadow Street – The Silcox House
577 Longmeadow Street – The Samuel Booth House

1028 Longmeadow Street – The Captain Gideon Colton House
37 Birnie Road – The Old Hale House

56 Williams Street - The Merriam-Dumon-Moynihan House
60 Williams Street - Hermon Newell House

114 Williams Street – The Ravey House
From North end of The Green looking north to 573 & 577 Longmeadow Street

573 & 577 Longmeadow Street – looking south towards The Green
From Historic District marker at south end of The Green looking south to 1028 Longmeadow St.

From 1028 Longmeadow Street looking north to The Green
From Corner of Longmeadow St. and Birnie Road, looking west to 37 Birnie Road

From The Green looking west to former location of The Old Hale House (corner Birnie & Longmeadow St.)
From First Church, looking east up Williams St. to #56, 60 and 114

From front lawn of 114 Williams looking west toward The Green and First Church
APPENDIX D

Bibliography of Sources

“The Historic Homes of Longmeadow” Susan and Chris Hall, Nancy and Jeff Hayes, 1988, Longmeadow Historical Society publication


Various historic maps – 1831, 1870, 1894