

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

34-007

Natick

WAY.111

**Town:** WAYLAND

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)

## Photograph



**Address:** 126 Old Connecticut Path

**Historic Name:** Reeves, Jacob Sr. House  
aka Reeves Tavern

**Uses:** Present: single-family residential

Original: single-family residential and tavern

**Date of Construction:** 1762-1763

**Source:** Deeds, Tavern record

**Style/Form:** Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Large New England barn, sheds connecting barn and house

**Major Alterations (*with dates*):** roof raised in rear – ca. 1875; windows – early 20<sup>th</sup> C.; enclosure of one section of shed with added bay window and removal of greenhouse – 1982; removal of east entry – late 1970s.

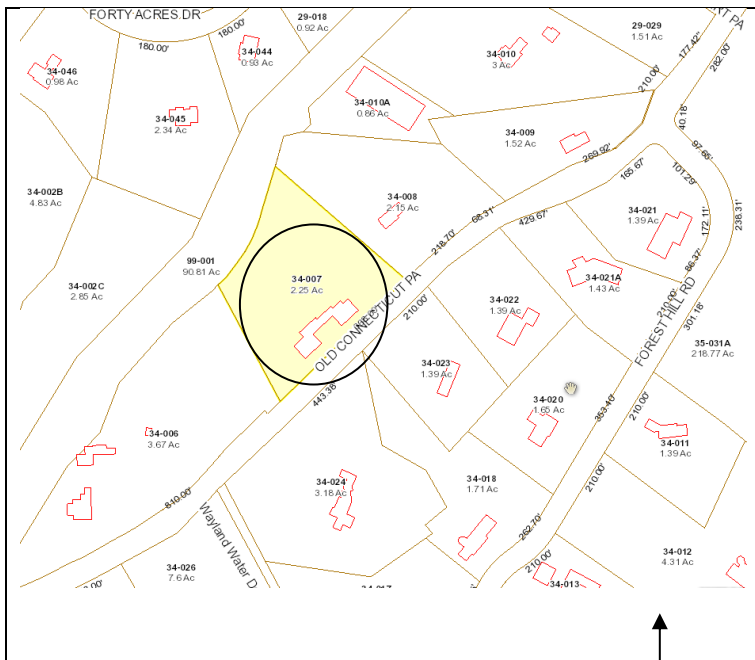
**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no | x | yes | | **Date** n/a \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 2.25 acres

**Setting:** House/barn complex close to road with old stone wall along frontage. Tall hemlocks on southeast corner of house, landscape gardens set off by stone walls behind house and rolling terrain descending to aqueduct that runs behind property on north.

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Gretchen G. Schuler

**Organization:** for Wayland Historical Commission

**Date (*month / year*):** February 2013

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WAYLAND

126 OLD CONN. PATH

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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  x   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.*

Situated close to the road is this Georgian-style farmhouse with sheds that connect the house and large mid-19<sup>th</sup> century New England Barn. A stone retaining wall with mile marker lines the road frontage along the length of the house. It is topped by a tall hemlock hedge planted in ca. 1980. Three large hemlock trees that were planted in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century loom over the southeast corner of the house. The six-bay, two and one-half story dwelling rests on a stone foundation with some parging, has wood clapboard siding (some of the ship-lapped clapboards remain on the west end) and has a wood-shingled roof on the front roof slop and asphalt on the rear roof slope. The six-bay façade includes one bay on the east end that was the original two-room house (one up and one down) and the addition of a traditional five-bay center hall house built around two interior chimneys. The center-hall entry is in the third bay from the southwest corner and consists of a paneled door set into a plain casing with a transom light above. A modern, wood, glazed storm door covers the entry. Windows have 6/9 sash set in plain flat casings. The west end of the house has three first-story window bays, two second-story bays that are aligned with the end first-story bays and one in the gable peak. The first-story rear bay on this west end is a set of two 6/9 windows set in one frame (1982) replacing short kitchen windows that had been installed in the early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The east gable end of the house has two sets of three sash in one frame, with three single windows above evenly spaced and one in the gable peak. Attached to the northwest corner of the house is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century single-story rear ell with a flat roof. Across part of the rear elevation there is a screened porch that was updated in the late 1980s and expanded in 2012. Architectural trim is minimal and includes narrow corner boards, a flat fascia lining the eave with no overhang in the gable ends, and a boxed eave with narrow returns across the front of the house. Twin chimneys rise above the ridge and are evenly spaced on the five-bay part of the house. The interior retains eight fire places (one with a Franklin front) raised field paneling, bolection molding on one fireplace wall, two and four paneled doors, Norfolk and Suffolk latches and strap hinges. There are also two hinged walls – one to be lifted to form a ballroom in the tavern days and one to create smaller or larger rooms across the rear of the house. The attic also has telltale signs of the former saltbox roof – raised in ca. 1875.

The large six-bent New England barn has large herringbone patterned sliding doors on interior tracks, hay loft, water tank on a raised platform, and an understory accessible from the road. Sheds are enclosed forming a wood shed bay, two car bays, workshop, storage shed and interior mudroom (1982).

**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.*

In the early 1700s when Wayland was still part of Sudbury, two brothers Nathaniel and Matthew Hasey located their small houses close to the Old Connecticut Path. This house is reported (by James Sumner Draper in "Location of Homesteads," 1891) to have been started by Matthew Hasey and his brother Nathaniel built his dwelling in about the location of 68 Old Connecticut Path. Matthew Hasey's modest two-room house (one up and one down) was the eastern most bay of the existing dwelling. Some architectural details substantiate a pre-1720 date including an extremely large stone chimney base for the eastern most chimney; chamfered, exposed timbers in the room on the east end of the house, gunstock posts in the upper room, and notches in timbers under the floorboards on the west side that likely would have carried the stairs to the cellar. In addition

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there is speculation that the existing stairs (relocated) to the cellar were the original stairs for the pre-1720 house as they are large triangular solid wood wedges laid on two stringers.

First built as a one-up/one-down house probably before 1720 by Matthew Hasey, the house was enlarged to its present six-bay, two and one-half story form in 1762-63 when Jacob Reeves, Sr. (1720-1794) purchased the small farm and established Reeves Tavern on the road to Connecticut. In 1762 Jacob Reeves, Sr., listed as a "heelmaker" of Roxbury, purchased two parcels of land in Sudbury from Grindley Jackson. Combined they included a dwelling house, barn and about four acres. Reeves turned the tiny house into a tavern which was up and running by 1764. Reeves and his family had moved to Sudbury by 1763 as his son Jacob, Jr. was born here. It is not known whether the family moved into the small house and began construction or finished the construction first, but it is known that the tavern was in business by 1764. Proof of the tavern date is found in a complaint filed by Reeves with the local constable in 1764 that someone had stolen a silver spoon from his tavern. Reeves was active in his new community immediately serving as a highway surveyor in 1768 and 1769, overseer of the poor in 1771, selectman of Sudbury in 1776 and 1777, and was among the first five selectmen elected in 1780 when East Sudbury was granted permission to incorporate as a separate town from Sudbury – Reeves was a signer of the petition requesting of the General Court that East Sudbury be set off as a separate town. East Sudbury would not be renamed Wayland until 1835. During Jacob Reeves, Sr. proprietorship John Adams (1735-1826), second President of the United States (1797-1801), stopped at the tavern when traveling back to Boston from the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Adam's diary entry for November 9, 1774 stated that he "break fasted at Reeves in Sudbury."

Jacob Reeves, Jr. (1763-1846) was born in Sudbury probably in this house on January 31, 1763. He was the fifth child of Jacob and Abigail, the first four of whom were born in Roxbury before the family came to East Sudbury. In 1783 Jacob, Jr. married Elizabeth Robinson (1758-1849). In 1816 Jacob and Elizabeth Reeves were admitted into the First Parish Church by the Reverend John B. Wight. He served in many local offices including Town Clerk and was the representative to the General Court for a short time. Squire Jacob, as he was called, died (January 1, 1846) intestate and eventually the house and farm passed to his son, **Walter Reeves** (1791-1872) who had married [E]Almira Griffin in 1820 and lived here with his parents. It was at about the time of Walter's and Almira's marriage that Reeves Tavern was discontinued and the family resorted to farming as the primary sustenance. As Walter and his family had lived here with his parents, so did his son Charles W. and his family share the homestead with his parents.

According to James Sumner Draper's 1891 Location of Homesteads, **Charles Walter Reeves** (1825-1894) enlarged the house in ca. 1875 by raising the saltbox roof to form a large second-story room across the rear of the house. Charles had married Harriet E. Hill (1829-after 1910) and they had four children. Charles W. continued as a farmer here on 80 acres that also had included land on the south side of Old Connecticut Path. In 1870 Charles W. had five cows and produced 100 bushels of corn, 40 of potatoes, 13 of peas and beans, 30 tons of hay and 100 lbs. of butter. Of the 88 farms listed in the agricultural census of that year his was in the top quarter in size and top third in value. Only a few farms had more than 100 acres. Charles and Harriet's children included a son, **Walter Edwin Reeves** (b. 1861), who eventually inherited the place from his father; a daughter Harriet E. Reeves, also born here, who went on to become a physician specializing in nerve disease; a son Jacob; and a daughter Elizabeth who married Harry Rutter from a nearby Wayland family. Dr. Harriet Reeves had a private practice in Boston and later returned to Wayland where she began her research as a nerve specialist, eventually establishing an institute in Medford and later Melrose for treating mental and nervous diseases. Walter was married briefly however his wife, Sarah died in 1890 after which he lived here with his widowed mother until he sold the property out of the family for the first time in 144 years. At that time his mother moved to Medford with her daughter, Dr. Harriet Reeves.

In July 1906 **Marion R. Hubbard**, wife of **Dr. Joshua C. Hubbard** (1869-1934), purchased Reeves Tavern from Walter E. Reeves. Hubbard was a surgeon at the Boston City Hospital and lived on Bay State Road in

*Continuation sheet 2*

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Boston. They purchased this house as a summer retreat where they brought their three children to spend the summers away from the city. One child, Marion Hope Hubbard, was born in the house during the summer of 1911. By 1929 the Hubbards had moved to Wayland permanently and Dr. Hubbard had retired by 1931 as he was no longer able to practice due to Parkinson's disease. The Hubbards also had a summer home on the North Shore in Magnolia. During the Hubbards time at Reeves Tavern very few changes were made. Following Dr. Hubbard's death, his widow remained here until her death in 1948. Before that son, **Richard Hubbard** (1903-1986) had lost his first wife, and remarried so that he, his new wife **Priscilla Hubbard** and Richard's two young daughters moved in with Richard's mother. Richard and Priscilla remained here in the house until July 1976 when Richard and his siblings, Joshua C. and M. Hope, sold the house to the Schulers who continue to make Reeves Tavern their home.

Joseph Seabury, well-known locally for studying old houses, which he documented in his book *New Homes Under Old Roofs*, lived next door (140 Old Connecticut Path) and included this house in his book. The photographs included in Seabury's book showed the old house close to the road with small 6/9 windows set in slightly projecting casings and the barn with vertical board siding. The second photograph showed larger window openings with 2/2 sash and wood louvered shutters and the barn with clapboard siding. At the end of the text Seabury stated: "When the original windows are reproduced and reinstated the restoration will be complete." The Hubbards did reinstate 6/9 windows in the larger openings that had been enlarged for the 2/2 sash.

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible      ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district      ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ **A**    ☐ **B**    ☒ **C**    ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations:    ☐ **A**    ☐ **B**    ☐ **C**    ☐ **D**    ☐ **E**    ☐ **F**    ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_ Gretchen G. Schuler \_\_\_\_\_  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Jacob Reeves House, better known as Reeves Tavern, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as one of Wayland's best preserved surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century dwellings built as a tavern, mentioned in John Adams diary, and retaining high level of integrity and early form. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association.