NHL Executive Summary

Name of Property: Sampson-White Joiner Shop

City, State: Duxbury, MA

Period of Significance: 1785-1843

NHL Criteria: 1, 4

NHL Theme: Theme V. Developing the American Economy

Previous Recognition: Massachusetts Inventory Number DUX.698

National Historic Context: XVIII. Technology
D. Tools and Machines
XXX. American Ways of Life
B. Farming Communities

NHL Significance:
- The Sampson-White Joiner Shop is the only known surviving purpose-built, eighteenth-century woodworking shop in its original location and with its fixtures intact.
- Criterion 1 for embodying the early American woodworking trades that helped to build the young United States.
- Criterion 4 as an exceptional example of an early American joiners’ workshop, a distinct but rarely surviving architectural type.
Integrity:
- The Sampson-White Joiner Shop retains a remarkably high degree of integrity
- This shop is the only known survival of a purpose-built eighteenth-century wood worker’s shop in the entire country.
- Contained within the unexpanded walls of the building are original workbenches, tool racks, and other fixtures, all surviving with a remarkably high degree of integrity.
- During the period of significance, the second shop owner, Joseph White, made alterations to the building to sustain his woodworking profession.
- White retained most of Sampson’s earlier racks, benches, and other fixtures.
- The largest changes that occurred in the shop under White’s tenure was the insertion of a lathe and the addition of a third work bench.
- After its use as a shop, the structure transitioned to storage, thus preserving its interior and exterior.

Owner of Property: Lucretia Prentiss Bailey Trust of Massachusetts

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

Origins of Nomination: This nomination was initiated by the National Park Service as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics NHL nomination Task Agreement with the Organization of American Historians.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: There has been great enthusiasm for recognizing and preserving this property, particularly amongst members of preservation and architectural history organizations such as the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of May 11, 2022):
- Tag Carpenter, Chair; Ed Mayo, Vice Chair; Duxbury Historical Commission
- Jim Hartford, Interim Executive Director, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society
- Luci Scott, Friends of Luther Sampson-Joseph White Joiner Shop
- Anne Wing, researcher and author, South Hadley, Massachusetts

National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:
- Committee had no comments.

National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Sampson-White Joiner Shop in Duxbury, Massachusetts, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.
Advisory Board Recommendation: