



## 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 were 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 August 21, 2023):**

- 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:** The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Sampson-White Joiner Shop in Duxbury, Massachusetts, as a National Historic Landmark.