Researching Whately's Past, from your house to the Milk Bottle
RESOURCES

- Mass. Historical Commission inventory forms
- National Register Historic District reports
  - Town Center
  - West Whately
- Town histories
  - James Crafts (1899)
  - Ena Cane (1972)
- Whately Historical Society collection
  - photos, objects, letters, books
RESOURCES

- Historic Whately maps (family locations, street names)
- Franklin County Registry of Deeds
- Whately building permits
- findagrave.com (name, dates, family members, photos)
- Whately cemetery records
MHC inventory forms: background

available for

- Areas (neighborhoods or farms)
- Buildings
- Structures (the Pound, bridges, mill sites)
- Objects (Milk Bottle, Stockade memorial)
- Cemeteries

located

- in print at the Historical Society
- on line at Mass Historical Comm. (MACRIS)
MHC inventory forms: background

provide information on
- dates of note
- historical information
- builders or people of note

for buildings, information also provided on
- architectural style
- historical structural information
- history of use and ownership
MHC inventory forms: the online database

Just Google “MACRIS”.

mhc-macris.net

Click to begin search and acknowledge disclaimer.
MHC inventory forms: the online database

1. Pick the town

![Massachusetts Towns dropdown menu](image)
MHC inventory forms: the online database

2. Enter the address, if you know it

Click on “Next”.
MHC inventory forms: the online database

2. or pick the type of form you’d like to see
MHC inventory forms: the online database

3. the data base search results: **area form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inv. No.</th>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SR</th>
<th>NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHA.A</td>
<td>Whately Center Historic District</td>
<td></td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td></td>
<td>SR</td>
<td>INV NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHA.B</td>
<td>Morton, Oliver Farm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INV</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHA.C</td>
<td>Claverack</td>
<td></td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHA.D</td>
<td>Crafts, Thomas Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District, neighborhood or building group

On State Register

National Register write-up available

WHA + letter

Inventory form available
MHC inventory forms: the online database

3. the database search results: **other form types**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inv. No.</th>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHA.105</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Chestnut Plain Rd</td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td>r 1875</td>
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<td>WHA.106</td>
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<td>17 Chestnut Plain Rd</td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td>c 1800</td>
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<td>WHA.107</td>
<td>Frary, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Farmhouse</td>
<td>32 Chestnut Plain Rd</td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td>c 1773</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHA.108</td>
<td>Frary, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Shed</td>
<td>32 Chestnut Plain Rd</td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td>r 1850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHA.109</td>
<td>Frary, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Shed</td>
<td>32 Chestnut Plain Rd</td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td>r 1850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHA.110</td>
<td>Frary, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Hay - Horse Barn</td>
<td>32 Chestnut Plain Rd</td>
<td>Whately</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MHC inventory forms: the online database

4. Click on [INV] to open or download the form.
Supplemental information

from the Crafts history (available online and searchable)

Leisure, Samuel, from Warwick, came in 1828. He built the house and his store, about 1850, on the east side of Chestnut Plain street, near the site of the John Crafts house.

p. 101

Intoxicating liquors, until about 1828. Eunotus Morton came about that time, 1828, and associated with him was Samuel B. White at the center, east of the old meeting-house. They kept an assortment of merchandise, including spirits. William W. Sanderson sold dry goods and groceries. Samuel Leisure the same.

p. 261
In 1830 Levi Bush was appointed postmaster, and in 1841 he was succeeded by Samuel Lesure who occupied the office from that year, with the exception of four years that Dennis Dickinson held the office, until his advanced age compelled his resignation, after which his daughter, Mrs. Samuel B. White, was appointed. She attended to the principal office work, while Mr. Lesure continued to pass out the mail, until his memory of faces and names seemed to fade away. Everyone respected and
Supplemental information

Historical Society (photos, documents and objects)

Arlene Rup & friends, 1900-1910
Supplemental information

Historical Society (photos, documents and objects)

Simon Smikes, 1970
Supplemental information

Historical Society (photos, documents and objects)

Make a Difference Day Program, 1995
Volunteer day for refurbishing Smikes House for affordable housing

Program for Simon Smikes House, Housing for the Elderly ribbon cutting ceremony, July 17, 1997 at 5pm

Historic Whately Maps

Information on old street names, topographical names

1830 Cooley map as redrawn by Don Sluter
Historic Whately Maps

Information on location of families, businesses, town buildings

Whately Center, Walling, 1858
Registry of Deeds

Google Franklin County MA registry

masslandrecords.com/franklin/
Registry of Deeds

Search by
• name
• book
• property
• recorded date
• grantor or grantee index (1663-1974)

Tutorial available on home page
Wrong street, explains why property search failed.
findagrave.com

Links at whatelyhistorical.org and whatelycemeteries.wordpress.com
Potential Research Pitfalls

- Not all sources are 100% accurate.
- Spelling of names can change over time.
- Confusion over two people with the same name.
- Roads may be renamed
  - Claverack to State Road
  - Straits Road to Long Plain Road
  - part of Chestnut Plain to North Street
- Streets are renumbered.

But it’s still fun and worthwhile.