

FORM C – OBJECT

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

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

Town Northborough

Place (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph

Insert here or on a Continuation Sheet a digital photograph (either color or black and white).

*A paper photographic print (3½x5¼" or 4x6" must **also** be attached to the form in this space or to a Continuation Sheet. Prints, from a photo-quality inkjet printer, must use brand name paper and inks approved by MHC. Attached photographs should be clearly identified with town name and property address. See MHC's Guidelines for Inventory Form Photographs.*

Address or Location West of the Pheasant Hills Property housing development

Name Mary Goodnow Site

Ownership Public Private

Type of Object (*check one*)

- statue
- monument
- bust
- milestone
- group composition
- marker
- religious shrine
- boundary marker
- other (*specify*)

Date of Construction 1889

Source Goodnow Family Association

Designer/Sculptor Unknown

Materials Granite

Alterations (*with dates*)

Condition Good

Moved no yes **Date**

Acreage less than one acre

Setting The site is next to a housing development near a forested area.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by Pauline Chase-Harrell

Organization: Boston Affiliates, Inc.

Date (*month / year*) October 2007

OBJECT FORM

DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.

The Mary Goodnow site is marked by a granite monument with a wide base and square upper portion. A recessed oval is carved in the center with the inscription "In memory of Mary Goodnow who was killed by Indians on this spot August 18, 1707. Erected by the town of Northborough, 1889." Surrounding the site is a wooden post fence with an opening directly in front of the small monument. The site is on a small hill with a mulched path leading up to it and a large field just to the north. Off to the west is a wooded path, which winds through the woods and past the large field and terminates at the parking lot of the Pheasant Hills Property, located on Main Street near the Northborough/Marlborough town line.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.

Although the first colonial settler, reputedly John Brigham, arrived in 1672, and other grants were taken up at the same time, there was general removal during King Philip's War. After that war, people drifted back and a garrison-house was built on Stirrup Brook., but the area was not safe until after 1713 and the end of attacks connected with Queen Anne's War.

As Mrs. Mary Fay and Miss Mary Goodnow were gathering herbs in the meadow not far distant from the family home, and within several rods of Stirrup Brook, on the 18th of August, 1707, a party of Indians, later described as being over twenty in number, burst out of a nearby woods and began chasing the two women. Mrs. Fay made her escape to the garrison-house and aided the sentinel in defending it until the men at work in the field came up and drove away the Indians. Young Mary Goodnow, however, who is described as "lame," could not outrun her pursuers, and, as an 1890 article in Nason and Varney's, *Massachusetts Gazetteer* described it, "In a hard conflict in Sterling the next day nine Indians were killed, and in one of their packs was found the scalp of the unfortunate Miss Goodnow."

The monument marking the spot where Mary Goodnow was killed was erected by the Town in 1889, a period when the early history of the area was being explored and celebrated.

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION *(if applicable):*

"In memory of Mary Goodnow who was killed by Indians on this spot August 18, 1707. Erected by the town of Northborough, 1889."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Hopkins, G. M., *Map of the Town of Northboro, Worcester County, Mass*, 1855.

Kent, Josiah Coleman. *Northborough History*. Newton, Mass.: Garden City Press, 1921.

Map Plate 5, *Part of the Town of Northborough, Part of the Town of Shrewsbury*, 1898.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report: Northborough*, 1983.

Mulligan, William H., Jr. *Northborough During the American Revolution*. Northborough: Northborough American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1975.

"Reflections on the Life and Tragic Loss of Mary Goodnow, 1673-1707," Goodenow Family Association, 2007.
<http://www.goodenowfamily.org/ghosts.htm>.

Valentine, Gill, *Map of Northborough, Worcester County, Mass*, 1830.

Worcester County Atlas, page 68: *Northborough*; page 70, *Northboro Centre*, 1870.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NORTHBOROUGH

West of the Pheasant Hills
Property housing development

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	NBO.918
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PHOTOGRAPHS



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PHOTOGRAPHS



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MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community
NORTHBOROUGH

Property Address
MARY GOODNOW SITE

Area(s) Form No.

	NBO.918
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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 Pauline Chase-Harrell

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Mary Goodnow site possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and appears to meet Criteria A for listing individually on the National Register at the local level.

Under Criterion A, the site and its monument, which commemorates the attack on Mrs. Mary Fay and Miss Mary Goodnow as they were gathering herbs here on the 18th of August, 1707, by a party of Indians, are eligible for their association with a major event in Northborough's early history, and with the rediscovery and reinterpretation of that history in the late 19th century.

Although the first colonial settler arrived in 1672, and other grants were taken up at the same time, many fled during King Philip's War. After that war, people drifted back and a garrison-house was built on Stirrup Brook, but the area was not safe until after 1713 and the end of attacks connected with Queen Anne's War.

Mrs. Mary Fay and Miss Mary Goodnow were gathering herbs here in the meadow not far distant from the family home, and within several rods of Stirrup Brook, when a party of Indians, later described as being over twenty in number, burst out of a nearby woods and began chasing the two women. Mrs. Fay made her escape to the garrison-house and aided the sentinel in defending it until the men at work in the field came up and drove away the Indians, but young Mary Goodnow could not outrun her pursuers, and was killed.

The monument marking the spot where Mary Goodnow was killed was erected by the Town in 1889, a period when the early history of the area was being explored and celebrated, often spurred, in cases like this, by the emergence of tourism. An 1890 article in Nason and Varney's *Massachusetts Gazetteer (A Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts with Numerous Illustrations)* by the Rev. Elias Nason, M.A.; revised and enlarged by George J. Varney) described the event in compelling detail, including how "the scalp of the unfortunate Miss Goodnow" was found in the pack of an Indian slain the following day in Sterling. The same Gazetteer also described the Deerfield Massacre, which was also attracting much interest, and acquiring the title of "Massacre," in the same period.