

PH0142859

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 4 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUN 26 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Jonathan Brooks House  
AND/OR COMMON same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2 Woburn Street  
CITY, TOWN Medford  
STATE Massachusetts  
VICINITY OF CODE 025  
COUNTY Middlesex CODE 017  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Eleanor L. Brooks  
STREET & NUMBER 2 Woburn Street  
CITY, TOWN Medford  
STATE Massachusetts  
VICINITY OF CODE 02155

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER 208 Cambridge Street  
CITY, TOWN Cambridge  
STATE Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth; HABS  
DATE 1974  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission; National Park Service  
CITY, TOWN Boston, Massachusetts  
STATE Washington, D.C.  
X FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jonathan Brooks House is located at the junction of High Street and Woburn Street, facing Judkins Square. Built c. 1781-91, it is one of the oldest houses in the area and was part of the eighteenth and nineteenth century rural area which grew up west of the larger settlement at Medford Square.

The house, a 2½ story structure with a gambrel roof, is covered with gold/brown wooden shingles on the facade and north and west elevations, (originally added in the mid-nineteenth century) and with aluminum siding of the same color on the south elevation. The steeply pitched gambrel roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has three shed dormers symmetrically placed on the roof facade. The house rests on a stone and brick foundation, covered with stucco.

The facade is five bays wide, with regular fenestration and 6/6 windows behind modern storm windows. A one bay enclosed central entrance porch has a gable facing the street. The front door is flanked by pilasters and topped by four modern bull's eye lights.

The interior of the house retains many of its original features, including the raised panel walls in two of the second floor bedrooms and in the first floor room in the southwest ell. There are many original six panel doors, some brass hardware, and the original window seats in the northeast parlor.

The house has two ells; a 1½ story structure set on a foundation of stuccoed stone to the southwest, and a 1 story shed attached at a forty-five degree angle to the northwest corner of the main structure. The structure and details indicate that it may have served as a passage to a connecting barn or other out building, since demolished.

Alterations to the house in the early nineteenth century include a number of panel doors in the southeast parlor, the rebuilding of two kitchen fireplaces in the ells, and the addition of two Federal mantels in the front parlors. Both mantels are decorated with stucco garland and swags and reeded moldings.

There is some evidence that the south wall of the house was the facade of a 1 or 1½ story central chimney cottage built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The framing of the south side, the evidence of an early large kitchen fireplace in the southwest ell and the excessive width of the south chimney, with its stone base half supported by brick piers, give credence to this theory. The brick piers probably replaced half of the stone base when the present house was constructed, to match the other chimney set on a brick arch. The south elevation is now covered with aluminium to protect the original fabric underneath, which was being destroyed by pollution caused by its close proximity to the street.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1781-1791

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jonathan Brooks House is significant as one of the few remaining eighteenth century houses in Medford, and for its long association with the Brooks family, who dominated Medford history throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The house was somewhat altered in the mid-nineteenth century but retains most of its original fabric, both exterior and interior, though the former is now covered.

Various local sources assign dates as early as 1692 to the oldest part of the house, though this has not been verified. It is known that in 1768 when Jonathan Bradshaw, Jr., sold the property to Jonathan Patten, a "Frame covered with Boards" built by Bradshaw, stood on the property. This frame stood on the site of the south side and southwest ell of the present house. In 1781 Patten sold the property to Thomas Brooks III. Between 1781 and 1791 Thomas Brooks III sold the property to Thomas Brooks, Jr., who in turn, sold it to his son, Jonathan, in 1791. The 1791 deed specifically mentions a house and barn on the land, suggesting that the house, as it now stands, was built between 1781 and 1791, onto the existing cottage.

Jonathan Brooks was a member of the wealthy Brooks family, who owned most of West Medford in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Jonathan owned a tanning yard near High and Canal Streets until his marriage in 1791 to Elizabeth Albree. After his marriage he moved his tannery to Whitman Road, where his wife's brothers, John and Samuel Albree, had run a tanning yard since the 1780's. Brooks kept his business at this location until 1837 when he sold both his house and the "Tanyard Place" to his son Charles. Jonathan continued to live in the house until his death in 1847, even though it belonged to his son.

Because of the house's location and its associations with the Brooks family, and especially with Charles Brooks, a local historian and educational reformer, the Jonathan Brooks House is a well known landmark in Medford. In the mid-nineteenth century, it was illustrated in the History of Medford, published in 1855 and again in 1886. The house is still owned and occupied by members of the Brooks family and has not passed out of the family since it was purchased by Thomas Brooks III in 1781.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, Charles, and Usher, James., History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Boston, 1886  
 Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA  
 Interview: Mrs. Eleanor Brooks, May 1975, Medford, Massachusetts

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7,370 square feet

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,2,5,2,6,0	4,6,9,8,5,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Brian Pfeiffer, Medford

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

40 Beacon Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth R. Amador*

TITLE

Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/28/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*A. Worcester*

DATE

6/26/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. H. [Signature]*

DATE

JUN 25 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Brooks, Jonathan, House

Middlesex

State Mass.

Working Number 6.4.75.1042

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK <sup>cm</sup> 6.5.75

*A number of changes, but*

**HISTORIAN**

*accept*  
*W.R. Luce*  
*6/17/75*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
*Seborch*  
*6-13-75*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

*Doc has been altered.*

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Cole*  
*6/25/75*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Wh*  
JUN 25 1975

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUN 26 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 26 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jonathan Brooks House

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Medford

\_\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

MA

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Brian Pfeiffer

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Medford Historical Commission

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

1

#181  
east facade of Jonathan Brooks House

#181  
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1975

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jonathan Brooks House

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Medford

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. Boston North quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

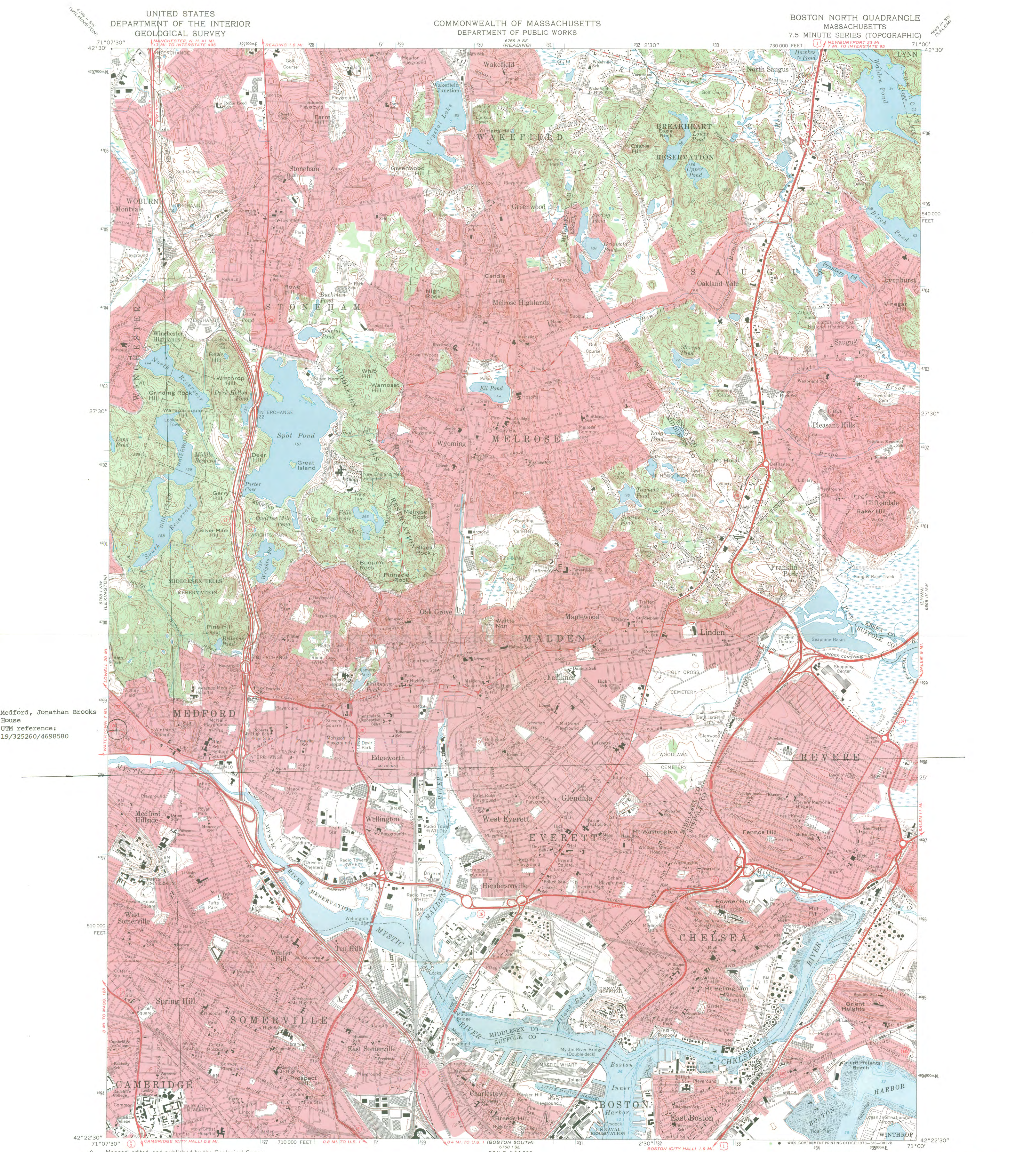
DATE

1971

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

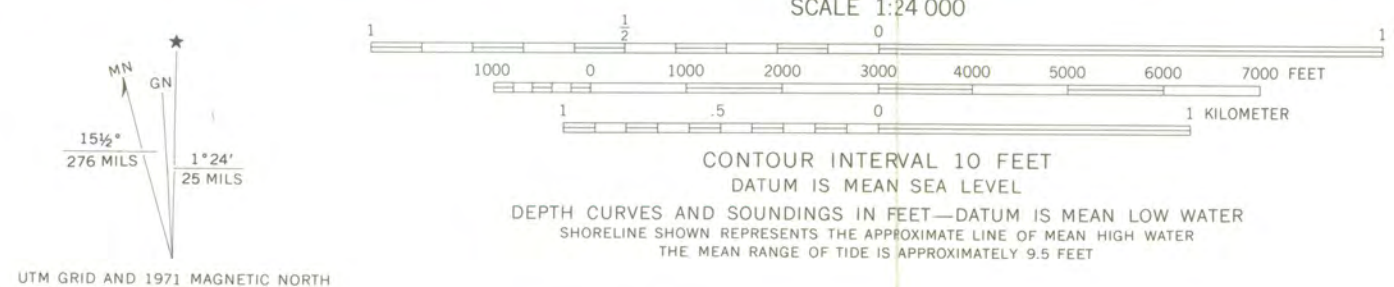
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Medford, Jonathan Brooks House  
UTM reference:  
19/32526/469850

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
R4222.5—W7100/7.5  
1971  
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 26 1975

Name

Location

Brooks, Jonathan, House

Medford  
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Torbert H. Macdonald  
Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
40 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 6/26/75

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/21/77  
Reviewer INITIALS: *jeff*  
NR DOE June 26, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Brooks, Jonathan, House

OTHER NAMES:

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 2 Woburn Street

CITY, TOWN Medford

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th

COUNTY Middlesex code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
- Substantially intact-1	- Substantially intact-2	- Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4	- unknown - 5	- unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7	- not applicable - 8	- Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  
- GOOD  
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED  
- RUINS  
- UNEXPOSED  
- Unexcavated

- UNALTERED  
 ALTERED  
- Reconstructed  
- Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE  
- MOVED  
- Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *private residence*

now- *same*

## SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
 AGRICULTURE  
 ARCHITECTURE - 4  
 ART  
 COMMERCE  
 COMMUNICATIONS

- CONSERVATION  
- ECONOMICS  
- EDUCATION  
- ENGINEERING  
- EXPLORATION  
- INDUSTRY - 13  
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
- LAW/Gov't/politics  
- LITERATURE  
- MILITARY  
- MUSIC  
- PHILOSOPHY  
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION  
- SCIENCE  
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
- TRANSPORTATION  
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

- entertainment  
- health  
- recreation  
- settlement - 29  
- socio/cultural  
- urban & commun  
- planning

## Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ~~Colonial~~ Georgian.

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal JONATHAN BROOKS - owner of house/member of Brooks family, prominent Medford residents.  
events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): ~~18c.~~ 1781-91

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: ~~was~~ early 19th C.

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

7.370 sq. feet

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) FRAME, SHINGLING; 2 1/2 STORIES,

RECTANGULAR WITH <sup>angled</sup> SIDE AND REAR WINGS; GAMBREL ROOF WITH SHED DORMERS, 1-STORY FRONT CENTER GABLED VESTIBULE WITH TRANSOM

~~1-STORY ANGLED WING, 1/2 STORY REAR ETC;~~ INTERIOR ALTERATIONS, EARLY

19TH C.; MAIN FACADE COVERED WITH ALUMINUM SIDING, 20TH C. <sup>Georgian.</sup> ~~COLONIAL.~~

ONE OF FEW REMAINING ~~EXAMPLES OF~~ 19TH C. STRUCTURES ~~REMAINING~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) ~~is~~ IN MEDFORD; RESIDENCE OF JONATHAN

~~BROOKS~~ OF THE <sup>Locally</sup> PROMINENT BROOKS FAMILY & since 1781. <sup>Construction</sup> #ABS.