

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elnathan Nye House (preferred)

other names/site number Solomon Nye House

2. Location

street & number 33 Old Main Road not for publication

city or town Falmouth vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02556

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon May 14, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain):

Edward H. Beall 6/27/02
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Elnathan Nye House
Name of Property

Barnstable, Massachusetts
County and State

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property

☒ private ☒ building(s)
☐ public-local ☐ district
☐ public-State ☐ site
☐ public-Federal ☐ structure
 ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non contributing</u>
2	buildings
	sites
1	structures
	objects
3	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, secondary structure

Agriculture: storage, field, outbuilding, windmill, animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: Georgian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: stone
Walls: wood shingle, wood clapboard
Roof: asphalt shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See Continuation Sheets

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**Elnathan Nye House
Falmouth (Barnstable County) Massachusetts**

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7. Narrative Description

Summary

The Elnathan Nye House is a 2½ story, wood-frame, Colonial era house of rectangular plan under a gable roof with side and rear ells and an enclosed front portico. The current two by five bay main block results from two building periods -- the first ca. 1735 and the second in 1772. Exterior materials include wood clapboard and shingle walls, an asphalt shingle roof, a stone foundation, and a brick center chimney. The interior retains many early features including fireplaces; three beehive ovens (one ca. 1735 and two 1772); plaster walls on riven lath; and wood paneling, floors, and door/window/cornerpost casings. The Elnathan Nye House is sited on a 1.55 acre lot on the east side of Old Main Road, south of the village center (North Falmouth National Register District: 1998). Embracing a barn and the remains of several stone walls in addition to the house, the property is an exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of a mid 18th century dwelling complex that has evolved over time. Despite cessation of agricultural activities ca. 1940 and the subsequent, gradual, loss of acreage, the remaining elements clearly reflect the property's 260-year history and also illuminate the development of both village and town.

Site and Setting

The Elnathan Nye House is located in North Falmouth which is one of several villages within the Town of Falmouth. The town as a whole occupies a large geographic area at the southwest corner of the Cape Cod peninsula with an unusually extensive 67 mile coastline along both Buzzards Bay (west) and Vineyard Sound (south). North Falmouth is the northernmost village on the Buzzards Bay coast above West Falmouth and Quissett/Woods Hole. The land surrounding the Nye House is used almost entirely for residential purposes. A prominent exception is a modern school on the west side of Old Main Road and well north of the Nye House; the school is not visible from the house. The lots in this area are large and several have woods and fields that harbor native flora and fauna. Several early stone walls associated with the former Nye farm remain on the surrounding properties, illustrating the historical connection to the land. Some of those walls run along Old Main Road and are highly visible. The most prominent man-made features in the area are three north-south transportation routes including the tracks of the former Old Colony Railroad and Route 28A, both of which lie east of the house, and Old Main Road which defines the western edge of the property. Old Main Road is shown on the earliest maps of the area and was part of the old road system that ran along the shore of Buzzards Bay to Falmouth Village. The land west of the property is upland forest with elevations ranging from 20 to 90 feet above sea level before it drops down to the ocean. Much of it was part of the farm through the early 20th century.

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The Nye House is set back approximately 60' from the east side of Old Main Road with the barn further back at approximately 200' (photo #4). Both buildings are accessed by an unpaved drive that enters the north side of the property and curves between the two buildings. An earlier grassy lane goes around the north side of the barn and continues beyond the current property line to the railroad tracks and a glacial pond that was known as Crowell Pond during the 19th century. Filling and construction activities by the railroad have reduced the pond to a vernal pool. Still in existence is a cattle pass (MHC #916) built by the railroad in 1871-1872, which allowed access under the tracks to water and pasture. The original granite structure has recently been removed and replaced with concrete. Remnants of stone walls continue to define portions of the north, south, and west sides of the Nye House property. Another stone wall on the east side of the railroad tracks also remains in place.

House Exterior

The Elnathan Nye House is an excellent and well-preserved example of 18th century architecture. The northern front portion was constructed ca. 1735, while the south and rear portions date to 1772. Typical of this time period, the resulting structure has a timber frame built on a five by two bay rectangular plan. Three later additions to the 18th century main block include an enclosed entrance portico (ca. 1850) which is slightly off center on the five bay west facade, a small one story gabled wing (ca. 1920) that extends south from the southwest corner of the west side elevation, and a larger 1½ story gabled kitchen wing (ca. 1850) that projects eastward from the southeast corner of the rear east elevation. Off the south side of the kitchen wing is a shed roof addition, which includes a screened porch and a laundry room. This addition probably dates to the first quarter of the 20th century but could be as late as the second quarter.

The main block rises 2½ stories from a foundation of large, mortared, random-laid, flat-faced, granite fieldstones to a gable roof with a red brick center chimney. There is a cellar under all of the main block except the original northwest corner. A stone well-type structure of unknown use or date is found in the corner adjoining the rear bulkhead entrance. There is also a massive central chimney base of fieldstone originally laid up in clay and limestone mortar which has been patched with cement mortar. A separate concrete block foundation was excavated beneath the ca. 1850 rear kitchen wing at an unknown date in the 20th century. There is no cellar under the ca. 1920 south side wing. The main block roof consists of early wide (15" - 20") underboards now covered with asphalt shingles in shades of dark gray to simulate the appearance of weathered cedar shingles, a typical early material. The additions are similarly

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shingled. All roofs are equipped with gutters and downspouts; those on the main block are aluminum. Wooden gutters appear on the wings. The chimney is original to the roofline. The upper portion was rebuilt in the early 1960s maintaining the same shape and materials.

The west facade is covered with wood clapboards while the other elevations are covered with weathered white cedar shingles. The clapboards appear to be original to the house. They average 4' - 6' in length, have beveled overlapping ends, and are held in place by 18th century hand-wrought nails with tapered sides and rounded hammered heads. The shingles have been replaced over time but maintain the original material. Trim consists of simple paneled cornerboards, fascia, facade cornice, and raked gable moldings without cornice returns. Unless otherwise specified, windows contain 12/12 double-hung wooden sash that typifies the 18th century. In this case however, most of the 12/12 sash result from a 1950s restoration. One original 12/12 sash remains in place above the main entrance and two were reused in the sides of the ca. 1850 entrance porch. Smaller attic windows contain 6/6 sash. The clapboards and trim are painted white, a color that dates to the 1920s.

The primary west facade faces Old Main Street. It is symmetrically organized, and is focused on a slightly off-center, enclosed, gable-roof entrance porch (mid 19th century) (photo #1). The center entrance bay is framed by two windows on each side. Five windows are aligned above the first story window and door openings. Facade windows display the distinctive, heavy, molded heads and sills that are typical of the mid 18th century. Second story windows are framed into the molded cornice. The entrance porch is covered with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards. It is enclosed by a pedimented, gable roof. A modern 1960s, two-light, paneled wooden door is set within a mid 19th century molded frame with plain cornerblocks. A large, native pink granite step fronts the entrance. Windows with reused, 18th century, 12/12 sash appear on both side walls of the porch. All five facade windows are equipped with modern, louvered, wooden shutters. Two shutters that pre-date 1880 are stored in the barn.

The north side elevation of the main block contains two vertically aligned windows at the first and second stories and one centered in the gable (photo #3). The first and second story windows display heavy, pegged wooden frames that project boldly from the wall surface. Some have plain aprons beneath the sill. On the south side, the western half of the first story is covered by the small 1920s wing while a pair of 12/12 windows are located to the east. Single 12/12 windows occupy the two second story bays. An extra and smaller 6/6 window was added next to the east window to light the relocated rear stair in the mid 20th century. The gable contains a single 6/6 window. Windows on this side display simple board frames with narrow molding strips around the outer edges that are flush with the wall. The southern third of the rear east elevation is covered by the rear wing. Elsewhere at the first story, there is

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a single window in the north bay and a modern paired casement window in the center bay adjacent to the wing. It rises directly above a slanted wooden bulkhead that provides access to the cellar. Three windows are evenly spaced across the northern two-thirds of the rear elevation; none are aligned with the first story openings. These windows have simple board frames that lack moldings and are flush with the wall surface.

As previously noted, two wings of one story height extend from the main block (photo #2). Although later in date, both echo the exterior wall materials, simple painted trim, and gable roof form of the main block. The smaller of the two was attached to the southwest corner of the south side elevation in the 1920s. It is a tiny one by one bay structure that rises one story. It contains windows on the south and east sides and a secondary entry on the west. The windows have plain frames and contain 12/12 double-hung wood sash. The entry is framed by fluted wooden pilasters and contains a wooden door with a paneled lower section surmounted by nine lights. Like the main entrance, it is fronted by a large granite block step. The second wing (mid-19th century kitchen) extends eastward from the southeast corner of the rear east elevation. It is somewhat larger than the south wing and the roof ridge rises to the cornice height of the main block. A single small square window is located at the west end of the north elevation while a modern, multi-pane bay window occupies the east gable end. A later shed roof extension (ca. 1920 - 1940) runs along the south side. The west end contains two small rooms while the east end serves as a screened porch in summer and a glazed sunroom in winter. The porch half consists of three windows on the east and a door and two windows on the south. All of these openings form a continuous strip. The exterior wall surface below the windows is covered with narrow, beaded-edge, vertical boards.

House Interior

The plan and interior detail of the Elnathan Nye House are typical of the second half of the 18th century in Falmouth. The plan consists of two large front rooms (ca. 1745 north hall) and (1772 south parlor) that frame a small entrance/stairhall that backs up to the center chimney. The original vestibule was doubled in size by the ca. 1850 porch. A large room is centered behind the chimney and was originally framed by smaller rooms to the north and south. These areas originally served as a kitchen (center), buttery (north), small bedroom, and pantry (south). Kitchen functions were transferred to the rear wing when it was constructed ca. 1850. The small southside rooms were opened to the former kitchen in the mid-20th century and the area now serves as a dining room. Rear stairs were relocated from an east-west orientation along the pantry partition wall to a north-south orientation along the rear wall in the mid-20th century.

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The small front vestibule contains the main stair which winds steeply upward in front of the chimney. It has an open string profile, decorative applied scrollwork on the riser ends that is nearly identical to that seen in other North Falmouth houses of the period, and turned balusters. A small two-panel door under the stairs allows entry into the area around the chimney stack and fireboxes where the back of the ca. 1735 beehive oven in the north front room can be viewed.

Interior finishes that are typical of the 18th century remain throughout most of the main block. They include horsehair plaster walls on riven lath; elaborate, raised-field, wood paneling on fireplace walls; a variety of raised-field, wood paneled doors (configured to match the wall paneling in the front main block rooms); wood door and window casings; heavy wood corner posts with beaded edge casings; wide wood floorboards; and some early hardware at the second story. The similarities suggest that the north half of the house was updated when the south half was added in 1772.

At the first story, the two large front rooms retain identical 18th century raised-field paneling that covers the entire fireplace wall. It consists of four rows of panels with small square panels in the second and top rows. The panels over the fireplaces consist of single boards over 26" wide. The north room fireplace has a molded surround and no mantel as is typical of the mid 18th century. The hearth consists of square terra cotta tiles. An elaborate mantel with Federal period motifs like oval medallions is found in the south room. It may be one of the features reused from the Falmouth National Bank which was demolished in 1926. All three first floor fireplaces remain in working condition. The 1772 kitchen fireplace has two beehive ovens, both on the rear wall. The fireplace in the north front room retains its original mid 18th century oven on the rear wall as well as a wrought iron cooking crane. The presence of a cooking fireplace in this location supports the theory of expansion from a ca. 1735 core.

The second floor plan generally mirrors that of the first with two large front (west) rooms and a central back room framed by smaller rooms to the north and south. The south rooms, which were originally storage rooms, presently accommodate a bathroom and the relocated (ca. 1955) rear stair. The door to the original back stair survives and is equipped with the only original Suffolk style wrought iron latch that remains in the house. There are two original H L hinges with their leather washers, in the south front bedroom. Evidence of similar hardware exists throughout the house. The south front bedroom retains 18th century paneling and a working fireplace. The paneling is very similar to that seen on the first floor fireplace walls but lacks the intermediate row of small panels due to a lower ceiling height. The door in this wall is paneled to match as at the first story. Similar paneling may exist beneath the plaster fireplace wall in the north front bedroom where the firebox remains enclosed as it was in the second half of the 19th century when the upstairs fireplaces were equipped with stoves. The door which now opens to the

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bathroom still bears a child's carving of a 19th century sailing vessel. Wide, feather-edged vertical paneling is found in some other parts of the second story.

Summary Evolution of Elnathan Nye Property

- mid 18th century "half-house" expanded southward to create full five by two bay Georgian house; 1772
- entrance porch added to main block west facade; ca. 1850
- kitchen wing added to main block, rear east elevation; ca. 1850
- barn moved to current location from across street; ca. 1850
- 12/12 window sash replaced with 2/2; mid 19th century, probably ca. 1850
- acreage sharply reduced as Crowell family heirs retain large land holdings on west side of Old Main Road, then increased as Brown added approximately 200 acres to the east; 1917
- small wing added to main block, south side elevation; ca. 1920
- south-side porch/sunroom added to rear kitchen wing; ca. 1920 - 1940
- second story bedrooms subdivided to accommodate summer visitors; ca. 1920
- lateral wings added to barn; ca. 1920-1940
- end of farming; start of subdivision process; ca. 1940
- mid 19th century 2/2 window sash replaced by 12/12; 1950s
- wall between original kitchen area and two small rooms on the south removed and rear stairs relocated; ca. 1955
- main block center chimney rebuilt above roofline, maintaining original size and materials; main entrance door replaced with current; 1960s
- rear wing added to barn; 1960s
- second story partitions removed and fireplaces reopened; 1980s
- cedar shingles on side and rear elevations replaced in kind over time;

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Barn

A large one story barn that may date to the 18th century is presently located at the rear (east) of the property, behind the house. It was moved to this site ca. 1850 from an earlier location across the street. It consists of a rectangular core that was subsequently expanded by lateral south (ca. 1920) and north (ca. 1950) wings, and to the rear (E) by a two part workshop wing (1960s) that is aligned with the core. As is the case with the house, the exterior walls of the barn are sheathed with cedar shingles over wide underboards and trimmed with simple cornerboards and fascia. Floors are 20th century concrete throughout (photo #5).

The core with its heavy timber frame rises 1½ stories from a foundation of large flat-faced fieldstones to a metal-clad gable roof. Remnants of early wood shingles appear on the roof and on what was originally the exterior south wall of the barn core. The west gable front of the core is centered on a modern overhead door surmounted by a wooden loft door and crane. It is framed by a window with 6/6 sash on the north and a pedestrian entry with nine lights above paired panels on the south. A hillside location creates a fully exposed basement story at the rear (E) of the barn where there is an overhang supported on two 18" square by 8' tall (approximate) stone columns. This overhang allowed a wagon to back under the barn where the muck could be shoveled directly into the bed and hauled away. This feature is now covered by the rear wing but remains clearly visible on the interior (photo #6).

The lateral wings are balloon frame construction. Both display double-leaf wooden doors with strap hinges that are set in slightly arched frames on the west front. The side elevations have small windows set directly beneath the eaves. A secondary pedestrian entry is located at the west end of the south wing. The south wing (ca. 1920) rests on a granite foundation and is enclosed by a metal roof. The north wing (ca. 1950) has a concrete block foundation and asphalt shingle roof. Remnants of earlier shingles that appear on what was originally the south exterior wall, along with wear from rubbing suggest that openings once existed for the feeding of animals, making it likely that the south shed was once open to allow sheltered feeding of livestock.

The 1960s rear workshop wing consists of two parts, both measuring two by three bays and both enclosed by flat roofs. The section closest to the barn is two stories and has a narrow stove chimney. The outer part is one story. Windows in both sections contain 6/6 double-hung wood sash (photo #6).

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Archaeological Description

While ancient Native American resources are not currently recorded on the Nye House property, sites may be present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile), north of the property bordering Cedar Lake. Environmental characteristics of the parcel indicate the presence of several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient Native American sites. The Nye House is located on an excessively drained, level to moderately sloping glacial outwash landform within 1000 feet of fresh water wetlands. Crowell Pond, a small kettle pond, was originally located approximately 150 feet behind the present location of the Nye barn. That pond has historically been reduced to a vernal pool by construction of Route 28A. During a recent reconnaissance survey of the Town of Falmouth conducted in 1995 by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, The Nye House locale was included along the eastern periphery of coastal locales reported as high-potential areas to contain ancient Native American sites. Native site potential was also reported in the vicinity of several kettle ponds along the western edge of the moraine east of Route 28A in this vicinity. The UMass study notes that in spite of the high site potential noted for the Silver Beach survey unit (Nye House vicinity), the potential for resources to be found in undisturbed contexts appears less promising. Historic development may have affected the integrity of potential archaeological resources in this area of Falmouth. Given the above information, the size of the property (1.55 acres) and historic land use in the area, a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Nye House property. Structural evidence and construction features may exist from the numerous renovations and additions to the house over its 260 year history. Structural evidence of a barn and outbuildings, no longer extant, may also survive. The barn now located behind the house may date to the 18th century and was moved to its present site in ca.1850. Archaeological evidence from other barns may also be present on the property. Outbuildings, no longer extant, were also reported on the property in 1798 when Solomon Nye sold several tracts of land to Captain Joshua Crowell. Archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also be present on the parcel. A presently unused well has been identified outside the door off the back porch. Brown family descendants have also identified a privy site approximately half way between the south side of the barn and the southern lot line. A potential trash pit has also been identified halfway between the barn and house where several late 18th and 19th century ceramic sherds have been found. Other artifacts indicating potentially significant archaeological deposits have also been found on the property including metal and leather artifacts behind the barn, parts of a harness and tools in the cellar, and half of a candle snuffer, a child's leather shoe, a 1732 coin and some other small items around the house foundation. Historic archaeological site predictions made for

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the Silver Beach survey unit during the UMass archaeological reconnaissance survey of the Town of Falmouth support the information presented above for the Nye House property. The UMass study identified a zone along both sides of Old Main Road and North Falmouth Highway as having the highest potential to contain residential and commercial sites of the Colonial through Industrial periods.

(end)

Elnathan Nye House
Name of Property

Barnstable, Massachusetts
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

☐ A owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes

☐ B removed from its original location

☐ C a birthplace or grave

☐ D a cemetery

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐ F a commemorative property

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Development

Period of Significance ca. 1735-1952

Significant Dates ca. 1735, 1772

Significant Person:

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architects/Builders (see continuation sheet)

Primary location of additional data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of Repository: Falmouth Historical Society

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Section 8: Significance

Criteria Statement

The Elnathan Nye House has a history of over 250 years that embraces several major themes that include 18th century settlement, long term agricultural use in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, and early 20th century summer tourism. To a lesser degree, it represents mid 19th century maritime pursuits, local industry, and women's history. Mid 20th century subdivision of former farms and woodlands, a pervasive process that has had a major impact on the historic landscape region wide, marks the close of the period of significance. In addition, the house has strong associations with two of North Falmouth's most important early families, the Nyes in the 18th century and the Crowells in the 19th century. The property thus meets criterion A.

In addition to its strong and multi-layered historical associations, the Elnathan Nye House has considerable architectural significance as a well preserved example of 18th century architecture that has evolved over time in a harmonious manner. The building fabric preserves a physical record of the changing tastes and needs of successive occupants along with the technologies available to them. Most elements date to the period of significance from ca. 1745 - 1952. Some post-1940 elements represent a restoration to the period of significance like the 12/12 window sash of the 1950s. Key early features include the heavy timber frame, center chimney plan, mid and late 18th century beehive ovens, 18th century facade clapboards, and interior finishes such as plaster walls on riven lath, wide wood floorboards, wood paneling and doors, and cornerpost casings. Later elements that continue the story of the house and its occupants include the mid 19th century kitchen wing and enclosed entry porch, and the early 20th century office wing. The history and physical presence of the Nye House is reinforced by the accompanying barn. The property thus meets criterion C.

The Elnathan Nye House, barn, and remaining 1.55 acres with stonewalls, survive as an important component of the North Falmouth village streetscape of former farms, providing physical evidence of what life was like during the 18th and 19th centuries. In particular, the property reflects the lives of its residents as part of the growing community and the key role that land played in the economy. The early inhabitants needed large tracts of land to support themselves. Their ability to produce an income from the property and their outside vocations is evident in the additions and improvements to the property. The Elnathan Nye House possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. The property is significant on the local level with a period of significance extending from the original construction ca. 1735 through 1952, the 50-year limit to most National Register properties.

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Historical Narrative

The Elnathan Nye House is part of the extensive 17th and 18th century Nye family holdings in the village of North Falmouth. The family progenitor, Benjamin Nye (1620-1704+), became the first settler in what was to become North Falmouth when he purchased 100 acres of land from Elizabeth Ellis around 1655. (*North Falmouth Bicentennial Guide*) His two sons, John B. (d. 1722) and Ebenezer (d. 1734), who were noted as living in the area shortly thereafter, were granted another 200 acres in 1669. (*The Nye Genealogy*)

Settlement of Falmouth, or Succanesset Plantation as it was originally known, commenced in the mid 17th century. Seventeenth century settlement was concentrated in Falmouth Village, but scattered development occurred in outlying areas like North Falmouth as well. The first division of land according to the Proprietor's Records was in 1661 and the town was incorporated in 1686. Most of North Falmouth Village (NRDIS 1998) was added to the growing town as part of the New Purchase of 1704. Nye family holdings increased in 1704 and 1712 as members received shares in the New Purchase.

Typically, agriculture and husbandry formed the economic base of the early Falmouth settlement (*MHC 1985: 6*) and continued to play a supporting role well into the 20th century. In the 17th century agriculture was supplemented by the area's rich fish and shellfish resources, available along the extensive Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound coastline. Over time, maritime industries became increasingly important, coming to dominate the economy in the first half of the 19th century before collapsing in the 1850s.

Successive owners of the Elnathan Nye House were prosperous farmers who illustrate the continuing role of agriculture in the local economy along with the need to supplement that base income with other ventures. As described more fully in the following narrative, a variety of documents shed some light on the evolution of the farm associated with the Elnathan Nye House. For example, deeds do not provide total farm acreage, but do demonstrate that land was bought and sold on a regular basis and that holdings embraced woodlots and saltmarsh tracts in addition to tillage and pasture. Timber was an important export in Falmouth and saltmarshes were valued as a ready source of hay, fish, shellfish, and game. Early 19th century state valuations confirm this mix and specify that 16 acres were devoted to rye and 30 acres to corn. An 1845 coastal map shows what appears to be an orchard across Old Main Road from the house and several fields lining the cartway that wound through upland and salt marsh to Wild Harbor. The specific history of the Elnathan Nye House reflects more general trends as described in the National Register form for the North Falmouth Village Historic District:

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"Agriculture played a strong part in the early economic development of Falmouth and North Falmouth. Photographs taken during the nineteenth century show wide expanses of cleared fields under cultivation or pasturage in North Falmouth. The Falmouth area's fertile, flat terrain had initially drawn settlers seeking agricultural opportunities in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, giving rise to and creating a fairly strong agricultural base, with goods shipped all over the world. Early attempts to grow wheat, rye, and oats, with which the settlers were familiar, were met with limited success, as the coastal climate did not support their growth. (*MHC 1987: 226*) While repeated experiments in wheat production were eventually successful, the major crop which sustained the area inhabitants was Indian corn, also used as a supplementary feed for cattle and poultry. Most Cape Cod farms were well under 100 acres in size, with only a small portion of this under cultivation. This created a situation in which most farmers on the Cape were not completely self-sufficient. Most had to rely on secondary jobs for support, especially during the winter, the most common of which were fishing, whaling, and other maritime pursuits. (*MHC 1987: 228*) Others supplemented their farm income by working in skilled crafts such as carpentry or boat building. While much of the produce of these farms was consumed locally, either by the families that produced it or through exchange with neighbors, some products such as grain and livestock were exported through the coasting trade.

"Entries in the Shubael Nye Account Book show that farmers in North Falmouth were enduring the same hardships as farmers all over Cape Cod. The account book keeps track of business expenses through three generations of Nyes, from 1768 through 1871. Rows of entries show farm products sold by the Nyes, such as wool, pork, salt hay, and corn. Also entered are 'imported products', such as turpentine, indigo, sugar, candles, rum, and molasses. To supplement his income, Shubael and subsequent Nyes also took on additional work for others. Records show payments for transporting farm animals to neighboring towns, as well as for 'farm jobs', such as breaking flax, chopping and moving wood, pasturing calves, and carting goods. (*Smith 1986: 297*) With the rise of offshore fishing and whaling, the need to provision vessels became another impetus for expanding agricultural production. This increase in demand, coupled with a desire for monetary gain, led to loss of soil fertility and arable fields."

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Between the time of incorporation in 1686 and 1776 the town of Falmouth as a whole grew rapidly from a population of about 100 (20-25 families) to 1,355. (*MHC 1985: 6*) Numerous events of critical importance to the establishment of a fully developed, independent community occurred as well. A government of selectmen was formed (1701), the First Congregational Church was formally organized (1708), a schoolmaster was appointed (1737), two school districts were created (1759), and all previously undivided lands were apportioned among the citizens (1739). While Falmouth Village remained the focus of activity, well-defined villages began to emerge at Woods Hole, West Falmouth, North Falmouth, and Hatchville as well. (*Smith 1985: 17-18*)

The Elnathan Nye House helps to document the early settlement and subsequent growth of the community and remains as one of the oldest dwellings in both town and village. It is believed that the Elnathan Nye House originated as a two story, three bay, "half house" in ca. 1735. The builder was Benjamin Nye's grandson Elnathan (1683/4-1772) who married Mary Wing in 1731 and inherited the southern half of his father Ebenezer's farm in 1739. His older brother Meletiah (b. 1682) inherited the northern half of the farm along with the family homestead making it likely that Elnathan constructed a new dwelling of his own in the 1730s. The early to mid 18th century construction date is also suggested by physical evidence as detailed in the architectural significance section below.

Having no children, Elnathan and Mary "adopted" Solomon B. Nye (b. 1721), the son of Elnathan's brother, Meletiah. This was good for Elnathan, good for Solomon who would inherit from Elnathan, and good for Solomon's brothers who would split their father's land two ways instead of three. It is believed that Solomon came to live with his aunt and uncle and help farm their property in the early 1740s. In 1748, Solomon married Mary Blackmore. They continued to live with Elnathan and Mary, raising eleven children at the farm. As the family and their wealth grew so did the size of the house and property. In 1772, after the settling of Elnathan's estate, Solomon expanded the house to the current five by two bay main block. He had that date and his initials inscribed on bricks that are presently in the fireplace hearth of the first story, south front room.

Like most early citizens, Elnathan Nye held several town positions. He was elected selectman of Falmouth in 1730 for one year, and twice his name is recorded in town meeting as a prominent dissenter to town expenditures, especially proposals to enlarge or rebuild the Congregational meeting house. Elnathan also served as town agent in 1734 and fence viewer in 1735. His nephew, Solomon, was chosen "Sovaor of Highwais" in 1774 (*Town of Falmouth Record Vol 11, 1750- 1838*), served as sheep yarder and warden, and was twice chosen for the appellate jury. Solomon is referred to as a yeoman in various documents of the period. Three of Solomon Nye's sons served in the militia during the Revolutionary War, mostly on the Elizabeth Islands. His second son Thomas (born 1763) was one of six Falmouth men sent to reinforce the Continental Army in 1780.

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In 1798, with his sons having relocated to Woods Hole, Falmouth Village and the neighboring town of Sandwich on property inherited by their spouses, Solomon sold several tracts of land, woodland, and salt marsh including his dwelling house, barn, and outbuildings to his neighbor, Captain Joshua Crowell (1767-1804) for \$2,900. Most of this land was west of the house, extending to Wild Harbor. Some additional acreage had been sold in the previous decade. During this time, Joshua and his brother Stephen were adding substantial acreage to their inherited family lands in West Falmouth which abutted portions of Solomon's farm on the south. Joshua had married Bathsheba Swift (d. 1843) of Sandwich in 1796, two years before purchase of the Nye farm and homestead. Captain Crowell was drowned during a powerful storm only six years after purchasing the property. His picture, painted in Primitive style, is a part of the Falmouth Historical Society's collection. He left the estate to Bathsheba, who was left to care for two young daughters (Lucy B. b. 1798 and Harriet B. b. 1799), and a son, Joshua B. II (b. 1802).

Little is known about Captain Crowell's seafaring life. It is most likely that he was involved in a coastal commercial venture and not in whaling which would have taken him away for long periods of time. He probably moored his ship in Wild Harbor at North Falmouth which formed the border of some of the Solomon Nye land he purchased. Crowell's participation in a maritime venture in addition to farming (various documents refer to him as yeoman) pursuits is not unusual as this sector of the economy led Falmouth into a period of unprecedented growth and prosperity in the first half of the 19th century. Shipping formed the heart of Falmouth's thriving maritime economy in the decades following the Revolution. The first records of Falmouth shipping date to 1802 (*Collections of the Mass. Historical Society Vol. VIII 1902: 128-129*). At that time, about 60 vessels hailed from Falmouth. "The vessels were said to have averaged approximately 55 tons each. Six were reported as fishing vessels: two going to the straits of Belle Isle, with four fishing the shoals. The remaining 54 vessels were coasters, with 30 carrying lumber and sail to the southern states and West Indies." (*MHC 1985: 8*) These 54 vessels outnumbered the combined fleet of the rest of the county.

Captain Crowell is mentioned in the 1804 Town Records as agent for the North Shore School District which had 63 scholars. It was October 9 of this same year that he and his Falmouth crew of three were drowned. According to an account published in the Boston Gazette, (*October 18, 1804, No. 15 of Vol. 17, page 2*) "The Late Storm... Schooner *Franklin* from Falmouth wrecked at 'High Pines' 100 tons two seamen dead inside, towed into Plymouth." Other accounts of the time further describe this wreckage and the many other vessels and lives lost during this storm. Captain Crowell and his crew were the first burials in the North Falmouth Burying Ground.

This cemetery lies behind the church that Crowell's wife, Bathsheba, helped to organize in 1833. Before that she had been involved in establishment of the Second Congregational Church in East Falmouth.

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Bathsheba's name, along with Nyes and Hatches, is mentioned in the Falmouth First Congregational Church records among those promoting and being given the right to organize the Congregational Society in East Falmouth in 1821. North Falmouth village grew large enough to support its own meeting house in 1832 and again Bathsheba lent her support for a church in their own community. No more would she and her neighbors have to make the seven mile trek to the Church on the Village Green (Falmouth Village Green Historic District NR: 1996) or the lesser but equally hard journey to East Falmouth. The establishment of village churches is one of the primary signs of Falmouth's growth and prosperity in the early to mid 19th century. Other signs of growth specific to North Falmouth include the opening of a post office in the Nye Tavern in 1817 and construction of two district schools in the 1830s. Townwide, a peak population of 2,621 was achieved in 1850. (*MHC 1985: 9, 12*).

Because she was a woman, Bathsheba was not allowed much involvement in secular affairs. Therefore her name is not listed in Town Selectmen or Town Meeting records. Nevertheless, according to Falmouth town and church documents along with Barnstable County records, Bathsheba was almost as involved and influential as contemporary male citizens. The 1804 and 1811 State Valuations credit her with, among other property: one fulling mill, dwelling house, two barns, nineteen other buildings, 4 acres of tillage land, 16 acres rye, 30 corn, 2 acres of English mowing hay, 6 of salt marsh, 31 acres of pasture 71 woodland...

Upon Bathsheba's death in 1843 the property passed to her son Joshua II. Several improvements were made ca. 1850 under Joshua's ownership including addition of a rear kitchen wing and a fashionable front entrance porch, and moving the barn from the opposite side of the street to a position behind the house. Another change of this same period was replacement of most of the 12/12 window sash with fashionable 2/2 lights.

Joshua Crowell turned half of property over to his son Albert F. (1836-1917) and his wife Charlotte Nye (b. 1840) in 1873 and sold the rest to him four years later, including the house and barn, for \$1000. Albert was noted as a contractor who built the road at Old Silver Beach in 1899 (*Falmouth Enterprise*) and most likely continued farming operations as well. Charlotte's brother, Capt. Alvin E. Nye (b. 1842) and wife Georgiana Phipps, boarded with the Crowell's in the last quarter of the 19th century, residing on the second story.

In 1872, Falmouth was finally linked to the wider world via railroad when the Cape Cod Railroad (later Old Colony Railroad) extended a Falmouth Branch southward along Buzzards Bay, through the towns of Bourne and Falmouth. This event had the long-term effect of stimulating summer resort development. Albert may have sold some of his land near Wild Harbor to accommodate development at Silver Beach

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in 1898. The railroad also had the immediate effect of payments to land owners whose property was traversed by the line. In the case of the Crowell's, the line passed close behind the house and barn and was accompanied by one of several cattle tunnels constructed by the railroad to allow passage from barn to pasture and water. (see Crowell-Bourne Farm NR: 1980)

When Albert died in 1917 his heirs sold the house and 11-12 acres of land on the east side of Old Main Road to Edwin F. Brown and his wife Martha Garrison Brown who lived here with their children until 1954. The Browns added 200 acres on the east side of Route 28A that was once part of Nye family holdings. They continued farming activities and added a cattle component. They supplemented their income by renting rooms to summer visitors who had become an established part of the local economy by that time. Mr. Brown, a man of many skills, was a plumber by trade. He partially finished the attic for use by his children and subdivided the second story into several additional bedrooms which were rented to tourists during the summer. He also installed a bathroom, water, and electricity, and built the small southwest wing as a home office which he referred to as his sunroom. The second story partitions did not involve structural or other major changes to the original house, and have since been removed. In addition, the Browns updated the interior with paneling salvaged from the Falmouth National Bank when it was renovated in 1926. Finding bricks labeled SN 1772 in the walls, Brown laid them in the fireplace hearth of the south front room at the first story. The house was painted white with green shutters and a new front door, also painted green.

Eventually the Browns gave up the tourist business and started a greenhouse. They built a greenhouse structure between the house and barn and also planted a variety of shrubs and flowers around the house and along the lot lines. Some of the plantings still remain, although the greenhouse is long gone. It was toward the end of the Browns occupation, ca. 1940, that the land south of the house began to be sold off. This was in part to provide the Browns with income but also in part because of the pressure at the end of World War II for housing. There were many young couples looking for land on which to build. Most of the nearby property was sold to their neighbor's young adult children or fellow villagers. Cessation of farming and subdivision of large holdings in the mid 20th century is typical of the village, town, and region, reflecting the general rise in population.

Everett and Lois McKinney, from upstate New York, purchased the house, barn, and seven acres of land from the Browns in 1954. They remained until 1959, primarily as summer residents. Howard and Margaret Shearer of Braintree purchased the house and 3.25 acres in 1959. Howard was a cabinet maker and Margaret was an elementary school teacher. They rebuilt the main chimney above the roofline the following year and also added the rear workshop wing to the barn to accommodate Howard's business.

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In 1985, the final subdivision of the property occurred when the house and 1.55 acres were sold to John and Karen Allen who ran the Village Print Shop from the barn from 1988-1994. Mr. Allen is also an airline pilot and Mrs. Allen has been an active member of the Falmouth Historical Commission and Falmouth Historical Society, and archivist of the First Congregational Church for seven years.

Architectural Significance and Integrity

There are no known architects, builders, craftsmen, or landscape designers associated with the Elnathan Nye House of ca. 1735/1772. Nevertheless, it possesses considerable design significance as a well preserved example of an 18th century dwelling house that was expanded and embellished in the 19th and 20th centuries. Significant spaces, features, and materials remain from throughout the period of significance ca. 1735-1940. They are blended into a harmonious whole that clearly documents the history of the house and its occupants in physical form. The significance of the house is complemented and enhanced by its location on the southern fringe of North Falmouth village (NR: 1998) and by retention of an early barn and stone walls on the property itself. As a whole, the property illustrates the changing needs, architectural tastes, and available technologies of successive occupants, along with more general population and economic trends in the village, town, and region.

Like many early houses in the village, town, and region, the Elnathan Nye House started as a smaller dwelling and was enlarged over time. In this case, it is believed to have originated ca. 1735 as a one by three bay, two story structure that was expanded to a full two by five bay Georgian house in 1772. Typically, the 1772 plan consisted of two large front rooms on the north (hall) and south (parlor) sides of a central chimney, a small stair hall in front (W) of the chimney, and a kitchen (E) behind the chimney framed by a bedroom (N) and a smaller bedroom and pantry (S). The north front section is the oldest. The ca. 1735 date is based on an analysis of the fireplace and beehive oven in the first story north front room undertaken by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in the 1960s. It is supported by examination of the attic and cellar framing by the present owners. The slightly asymmetrical west facade is another physical clue that often points to expansion of an early house. Elnathan's marriage in 1731 and inheritance of the half of his father's farm that did not include the family homestead in 1739 also lend credence to a 1730s construction date.

The 1772 date is provided by a brick marked SN 1772, now in the parlor fireplace, and is consistent with the general appearance of the house. Characteristic 18th century features include its heavy timber frame construction, large brick center chimney, fieldstone foundation, symmetrical five bay facade with center

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entrance, wood clapboard and shingle covered walls, and molded cornice. The double-hung windows with richly molded caps and sills that are aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows are also typical as are the 12/12 lights although they most result from a 1950s restoration of the 18th century appearance. One original window remains in place at the second story above the main entrance and two others were reused in the 1850s entrance porch. Interior finishes that date to the 18th century include several fireplaces; three beehive ovens at the rear of two of the fireplaces (one ca. 1735 and two 1772); the main staircase; plaster walls on riven lath; wide wood floorboards; wood paneling on the fireplace walls in the front rooms; and wood casings around doors, windows, and cornerposts.

The Elnathan Nye House is one of 22 documented 18th century houses in North Falmouth and 145 in the town as a whole. It is the fourth oldest dwelling that survives in the village and one of nine 18th century Nye family houses. There were once over 24 Nye Houses and at least 14 still remain on Old Main Road and Nye Lane. (*Smith: 300*) The specific features that characterize the Nye House are typical of the village, town, and region. The 2½ story height of the Nye House is not unusual in Upper Cape communities like Falmouth, but is less commonly encountered in the region as a whole which is dominated by the 1½ story "Cape Cod" cottages that bear its name.

The Nye House continued to evolve in the second half of the 19th century under the ownership of Joshua Crowell II and his son Albert. During that period a rear kitchen wing provided additional space while several other changes updated the exterior appearance. Fashionable new features included an enclosed pedimented porch at the main entrance, 2/2 window sash, and louvered window shutters. Historic photographs and contemporary paint evidence reveal that the clapboards were painted tan while the trim was dark brown. All of these changes appear in a ca. 1880 photograph and are typical of Falmouth houses. On the interior, two of the three second story fireplaces were closed to accommodate heating stoves. The pattern of enlargement and embellishment that characterizes the Nye House is widespread and reflects the regional prosperity that followed the Revolution.

The house underwent another transition ca. 1920 after passing from the Crowell family to Edwin F. Brown and his wife Martha Garrison Brown in 1917. At that time, the shutters were painted green and a new wood paneled front door painted in the same green was installed. The facade and trim were painted white. In addition, a small office wing was added to the south side of the main block and a shed-roofed sun room/screened porch was added to the south side of the rear kitchen wing. The south front room was embellished with trim that was thriftily salvaged from the Falmouth National Bank when it was renovated in 1926.

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Few notable changes have affected the house since the close of the period of significance. During the 1950s, 12/12 window sash replaced the 2/2 lights of the mid 19th century. They closely match the three remaining original windows and represent an effort to restore the late 18th century appearance of the house. In the 1960s the green shutters were removed and stored in the barn where two still remain and the old green door was replaced by another wood door, painted white, with two lights in the top panels. Also at this time, the chimney was rebuilt above the roof, the original back stairs were moved from the south kitchen/pantry wall to the southeast rear wall, the two small rooms in this area were opened to the 1772 kitchen, and a bay window was installed at the rear of the ca. 1850 kitchen wing. Shutters that resemble the originals were installed in 2001 and the doors were painted Colonial red.

The timber frame barn is significant as a rare surviving example of an 18th century outbuilding. The gable roof form of the original barn remains clear even though it is now flanked by two shed roof wings of balloon construction that date to ca. 1920 and ca. 1950. The barn had its stalls removed and is a large open area with a half loft. Evidence remains on the side walls where cattle and/or horses rubbed away part of the wood around where a feeder must have been. The barn now has a concrete floor instead of dirt. There is also a ca. 1960 workshop attached to the back (East) side of the barn and the facade has a garage door.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in Falmouth and in the Upper Cape in general are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. While archaeological research has been active throughout much of the Cape during most of the 20th-century, the Upper Cape, including Falmouth has been neglected during this effort. Limited amateur artifact collections are available for the town, and, when present often lack locational and contextual information reducing their value for understanding the nature of settlement and change within the town. Limited numbers of professional archaeological surveys in the town have also rarely included substantial excavations and have focused on their immediate area with little interpretation of the role of local sites and issues of regional prehistory. The above information indicates the systematic study and interpretation of any surviving sites in the town can be important in better understanding the prehistoric settlement and subsistence in Falmouth and in the Upper Cape locale. Prehistoric sites in the Falmouth locale can contribute information relating to a number of potential research topics, many of which are directly related to the town's location in a coastal area and its glacial history. Cape Cod's human settlement history of approximately 11,000 years combined with sea levels considerably lower than today following deglaciation created an environment in which human populations adapted to changing resources at first characterized by an inland area which increasingly became coastal as sea level rose until it basically stabilized approximately

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5,000 years ago. Prehistoric sites in the Falmouth area can contribute information relating to the ways Native settlement and subsistence systems adapted to this change and modified through time.

Prehistoric sites in the area can also contribute information relating to Native tool technologies and the effects of raw material availability. The lack of bedrock lithic source areas on the Cape and in Falmouth resulted in Native peoples trading for raw materials or adapting to cobble technologies and exploitation of lithic sources available in local glacial outwash. Prehistoric sites on the Solomon Nye House property may contain information indicating the extent to which locally available outwash deposits were used as source areas for local tool manufacture. Evidence may also be present in the area indicating the extent to which locally available lithic sources associated with Buzzard's Bay Moraine deposits were utilized and important to Native peoples.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document the social, cultural and economic characteristics that typified the evolution of a Cape Cod farmstead from the 18th through 20th centuries. The above information may contribute important details on the role the Nye Farmstead played in Falmouth's growth from a seacoast community dominated by agriculture and maritime trades in the 18th century to a village which became the historical core of a new local summer resort development in the 19th and 20th centuries. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help trace the evolution of the farmstead complex that was active on the Nye property until agricultural activities ceased in ca. 1940. Historical and archaeological research may contribute important information on the early settlement of the farmstead and town in the 18th century, during a less documented period than the later 19th and 20th centuries. Structural evidence indicating renovations to the farmhouse and the locations of barns, outbuildings and some occupational related features (wells, privies) may document the evolution of long term agricultural use of the farm and the extent that other trades, services and industries supplemented the agricultural base of Nye House owners/inhabitants over time. The above information might indicate the extent that self-sufficiency characterized different periods of the farm economy. The location and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features may also contribute important information relating to the lives and activities of the Nye House inhabitants. Privies, wells and trash pits may contain important information that documents various aspects of the social lives of the inhabitants and the extent of their success as farmers and in other occupations. For example, most ceramic fragments found to date have been identified to represent everyday type ware from the 19th century, however, English imports dating to the early to mid 18th century have also been found. This information might represent a measure of the overall prosperity or different social and/or economic status of individuals occupying the house from the 18th to 19th centuries. Detailed analysis of occupational related features from the period of occupation associated with Bathsheba, wife of Captain Joshus Crowell may contain important information related to women's history during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Bathsheba was an influential woman, involved in town affairs as much as contemporary male citizens at that time.

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Elnathan Nye House
Name of Property

Barnstable Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.55 acres

UTM References Pocasset Quadrangle Scale 1:25,000
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

See continuation sheet

1.	19	365080	4610380	3.		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting Northing
2.				4.		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification See continuation sheet
(Describe why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen B. Allen, and Candace Jenkins, Historic Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 2002

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Karen B. and John J. Allen, Jr.

street & number 33 Old Main Road telephone _____

city or town North Falmouth state MA zip code 02556

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**Elnathan Nye House
Falmouth (Barnstable County) Massachusetts**

Section number 9 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the attached Town of Falmouth assessors sheets #5 and 12, section 6, lot 2.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property coincides with current ownership and includes the house, barn, stonewall remnants, and 1.55 acres of land. Together, these elements reflect the agricultural heritage of both village and town. The property stands south of the North Falmouth Village NRHD (1998), but was not included in the district due to the number of intervening dwellings that date to post-1952. Several of those dwellings stand on farmland that accompanied the Nye House prior to the partitioning of the farm in 1917, and initiation of gradual subdivision activities beginning in the 1940s.

The North Falmouth Village District nomination states that the district excludes some "early and historically related properties south and west of its boundaries, due to changes in land use and intervening new construction which have severed the visual connection between these properties and the core of the district. In particular the Elnathan Nye House and Cow Pass (*MHC #307 and 916*) ... deserve further consideration for National Register listing and may be individually eligible." (*NR section 7, page 2*)

The 1872 cattle pass under the railroad tracks is excluded because it is under separate ownership and because it has recently been rebuilt with concrete.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Elnathan Nye House
Falmouth (Barnstable County) Massachusetts**

Section number _____ **Page** _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: John Allen, November, 1999
Negatives in possession of photographer

1. Front façade, looking NE
2. Rear and side elevation, looking W
3. Rear elevation, looking SW
4. View from street, looking E
5. Barn, looking NE
6. Rear view of barn and house, looking SW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Nye, Elnathan, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 5/17/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/03/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/19/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/01/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000697

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/27/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Elnothan Nye House
33 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA
Barnstable Co

John Allen

11/20/99

North Falmouth, MA

Leaking W.

2/6



Elm Nathan Nye House and Barn

33 Old Main Rd

North Falmouth, Barnstable Co, MA

John Allen

11/20/99

N. Falmouth, MA

Looking NE

11/6



Elmsthan Nye House
33 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA
Barnstable Co.

John Allen
11/20/1999
North Falmouth, MA

Leuking S.W.

* 3/4



Elnothas Nye House and Barn
33 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA
Barnstable Co

John Allen

11/20/1999

North Falmouth, MA

Looking E

4/6



Elnathan Nye House - Barn
33 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA
Barnstable Co.

John Allen
11/20/1999

North Falmouth, MA

Looking E. NE

4/5/6

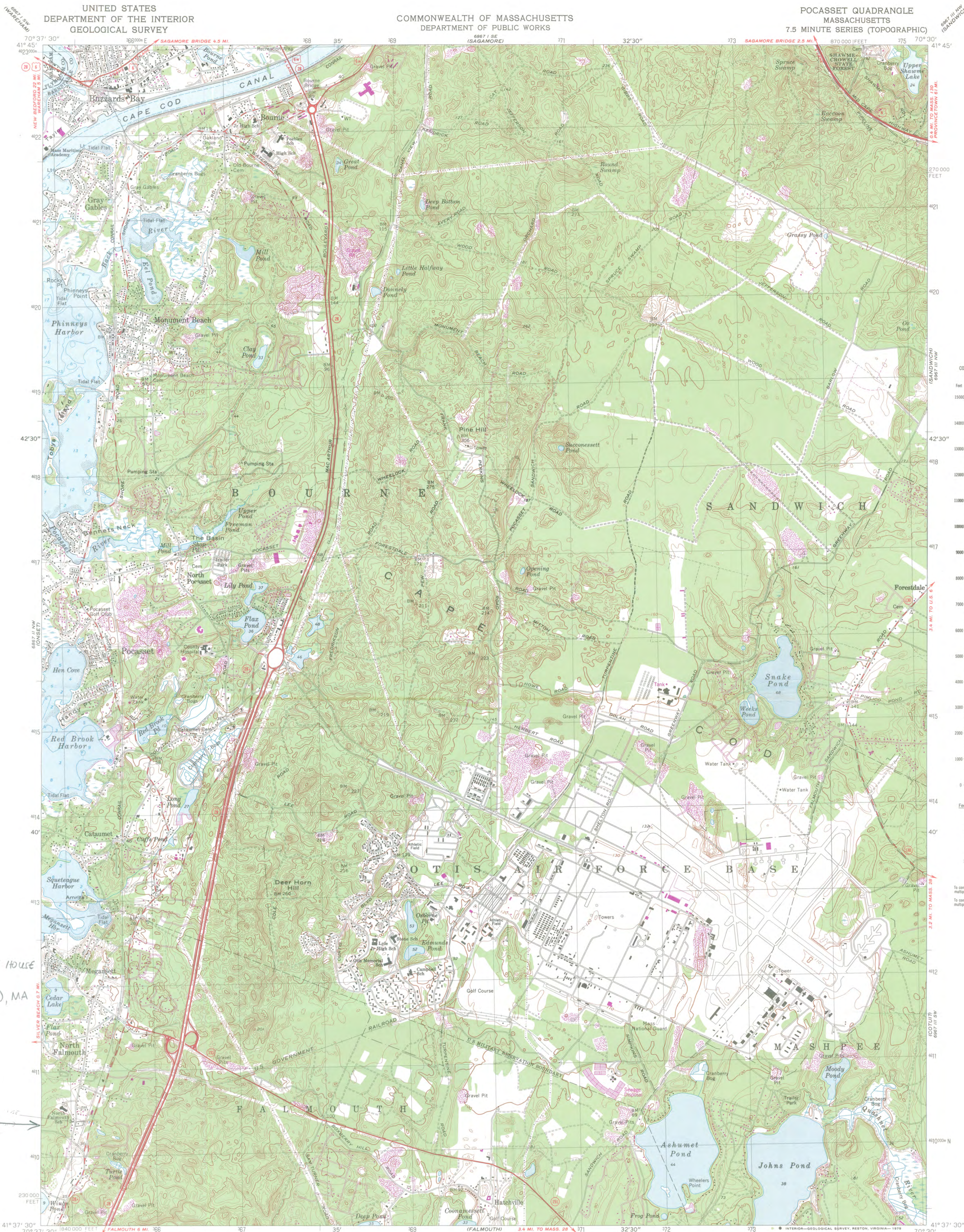


Elmington Nye House and Barn
33 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA
Barnstable Co

John Allen
11/20/1999

North Falmouth, MA
Looking W. S.W

#6/6



CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
1500	450
1400	420
1300	390
1200	360
1100	330
1000	300
900	270
800	240
700	210
600	180
500	150
400	120
300	90
200	60
100	30
0	0

Feet Meters

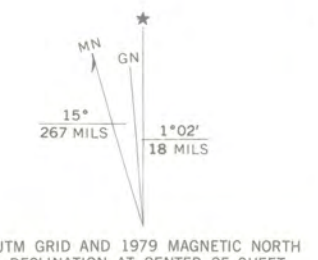
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.305
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

ELNATHAN NYE HOUSE
FALMOUTH
(BARNSTABLE), MA

ZONE 19
E 365080
N 4610380

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1934, 1935, and 1938. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 251 (1966)
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
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



SCALE 1:25 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U.S. Route
State Route

POCASSET, MASS.
N4137.5—W7030/7.5
1967
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6867 II NE—SERIES V814

930 120
\$ 4.00



Scale 200 feet to an inch

TOWN OF FALMOUTH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION

FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY
Not to be used for deed descriptions
Nor scaled for land surveys

CORRECTED TO JAN. 1999

SHEET 5



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 14, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Elnathan Nye House, 33 Old Main Road, Falmouth (Barnstable), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the Certified Local Government community of Falmouth were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Karen & John Allen, owners
Candace Jenkins, Preservation Consultant
Ann Sears, Falmouth CLG Coordinator
Mary Pat Flynn, Board of Selectmen
Brian Currie, Planning Director