

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Holyoke-French House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Holyoke-French House

2. LOCATION

(Congressional District - 6)

STREET AND NUMBER:

Elm Street and Topsfield Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Boxford

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☐ Government | ☐ Park | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Comments |
| ☐ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☐ Private Residence | ☐ Other (Specify) | |
| ☒ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | | |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☒ Museum | ☐ Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

The Boxford Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boxford

STATE:

Massachusetts 01921

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Essex County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts 01970

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: December, 1966 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

Office of the Secretary, State House

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
MassachusettsCOUNTY:
EssexENTRY NUMBER:
APR 26 1972

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Holyoke-French House, built in 1760, is located on a broad, tree-lined street in Boxford Center, a quiet village with a common, church, old houses, town hall and a country store. It faces south toward a small triangular green. The contiguous property is fairly open with some planting and shade trees. The grounds surrounding the house have informal gardens and landscaping. On the north where the land rises, the property is bounded by a stone wall which continues on the east and on a small section of the south side. From there a picket fence completes the boundary to the southwest corner.

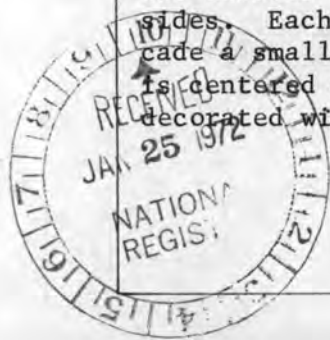
The symmetrical, 2½ story late Colonial house is covered with clapboard siding, now painted a pale yellow. The ridge of the gambrel roof is interrupted by a pair of chimneys set in from each end about eight feet. The front (south) center entrance has an appropriate double crossed door; directly above but within the door frame, are five lights. It is flanked by two graceful fluted pilasters which support an entablature and unbroken pediment. The west and north facades also have center entrances. The overall width of the west (side) entrance is narrower than the south and has a double crossed door of an earlier period. This entrance has architectural features similar to those surrounding the main door, although the pilasters are slimmer and more elongated. A four light transom is located between the door and entablature. The north entrance is similar but carries no pediment.

The house is five bays wide and three deep. The shuttered windows, regularly spaced, are sash with 9-over-9 small panes and have simple wooden lintels and sills. At one time, possibly in the 19th century, two dormer windows were added on the front (south); these were removed in 1961 when the Boxford Historical Society did extensive restoration work. On the main facade there are a pair of windows on each side of the front door; four windows are set evenly above them on the second floor and a fifth is centered over the door. On the east facade the windows of the first and second floors are set three above three. On the third floor, there are two with the window toward the north set directly above the end window below; the window toward the south is set in slightly. The west facade is identical except that a door replaces the center window. On the rear (north) facade, one window is set east of the entrance and three windows on the second story are set one above the first floor window, one above the entrance and the third above the ridge of the ell.

The 1½ story ell extends from the north side. It is simple Gothic Revival in style, is covered with wide brown vertical siding and has a steep pitched roof with a gingerbread bargeboard and one chimney. Like the main house, the facades and plan are symmetrical, with central doors on the west and east sides. Each door is flanked on either side by a window. On the north facade a small window is set on either side of the center one, and one window is centered above them on the second floor. Above each opening a cornice decorated with small raised diamonds is supported by brackets.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

Between the ell to the north and the house proper an area about six feet deep (north to south) and fifteen feet wide, containing a pantry and bath, is attached to the house from its rear west corner to the north entrance. The roof on this area is several feet lower than that of the ell, thus dividing, architecturally, the one structure from the other.

To the north of the main house is a cobbler shop (10' by 10') moved from the old Chadwick place in West Boxford in the 1950's. About 100 feet to the northeast is a 1½ story barn, c. 1900, built into a small rise in the ground, of wide board siding and simple design.

Except for the ell (built c. 1890) to the rear, the Holyoke-French House remains today much as it was when built and is one of the most important structures in the Boxford Village Historic District.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1760

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☒ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Conservation | ☒ Music | ☐ Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holyoke-French House, probably the least altered early house in Boxford, was built in 1760 by Samuel Holyoke, a Boston merchant. It replaced a house built in 1701/2 for the first minister of Boxford, Reverend Thomas Symmes. This 1701 house was sold in 1759 to the Reverend Elizur Holyoke, whose father, Samuel, tore it down and the following year had the new one built on the same site. Reverend Elizur Holyoke was a nephew of Edward Holyoke, president of Harvard College, and a great-grandson of Elizur Holyoke of Springfield for whom Mount Holyoke College was named.

Reverend Elizur Holyoke's son, Samuel, was a composer and publisher. His works include "Harmonia Americana", "The Instrumental Assistant" and "The Columbian Repository of Sacred Harmony."

The house remained in the Holyoke family until purchased in 1866 by Elvin French, described in Perley as a "well known musician." His son rented the house summers and used the ell to live in. Both French and his son did considerable and apparently skillful restoration on the house, "in such a manner as to allow all that is interesting in it to remain."¹

The last family resident, Miss Gertrude French, lived in the ell (the house proper had no heat) and spent her later years there alone until her death in 1940. She bequeathed the building to the Boxford Historical Society to house the Society's collections; thus it came to the Society directly following the ownership of only two families. The house is now open for educational tours.

The Holyoke-French House is architecturally important because of its stylistic purity; its historical significance derives from connection with the esteemed Holyoke family.

¹ Perley, Sidney, Dwellings of Boxford, Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1893



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perley, Sidney, Dwellings of Boxford, Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1893
 Chamberlain, Samuel, Open House in New England, Bonanza Books, New York, 1948

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		42 39 40	72 59 51	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Miss Anne Wardwell		DATE 1/11/72
ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: State House		
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE Massachusetts	CODE 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 Title: Secretary of the Commonwealth,
 Chairman of the Massachusetts
 Historical Commission

Date: January 15, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/26/72

ATTEST:
William M. Stoughton
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: APR 26 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM
 Zone 19
 E 336300
 N 4724920

Essex County

Nahyoke - French House

PROPERTY

STATE

Mass

DATE OF RECEIPT

1/25/72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

APR 26 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

RESUBMIT

1/25/72



Tech 3/23/72 dju

OK means 4/19/72

Okay, Seiler 4/5/72

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers 4-5-72

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR

OK Maurice 4/10/72

CHIEF, OAHF

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Registry Entry

6-6-72

Annual Edition Entry

LOGGED

4-26-72

CARD

4-26-72

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

1.25.72.143

CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

46



Pix[#] I

Holyoke French House (1760)
Boxford, Mass.

South (Front) Facade

December, 1971 (Restoration in Progress)

NPS Number 4-26-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON: Holyoke-French House

AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Elm Street and Topsfield Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Boxford

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Boxford Historical Society, Inc.

DATE OF PHOTO: December, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

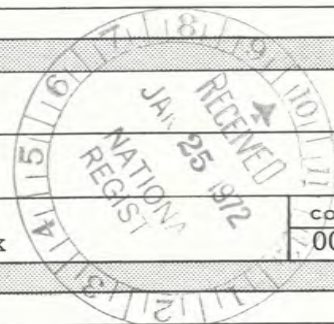
Boxford Historical Society, Inc.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

I - South facade, taken from Topsfield Road

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





Pix # II

Holyoke-French House (1760)
Boxford, Mass

Site, showing:

House: South & East facades
Barn: South Facade

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

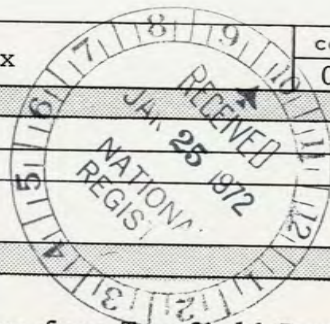
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	

1. NAME			
COMMON: Holyoke-French House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Elm Street and Topsfield Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Boxford			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Boxford Historical Society, Inc.			
DATE OF PHOTO: December, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boxford Historical Society, Inc.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. II - South and east facades; barn on right; taken from Topsfield Road			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 26 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Holyoke-French House

AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Elm Street and Topsfield Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Boxford

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. - Georgetown, Massachusetts

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

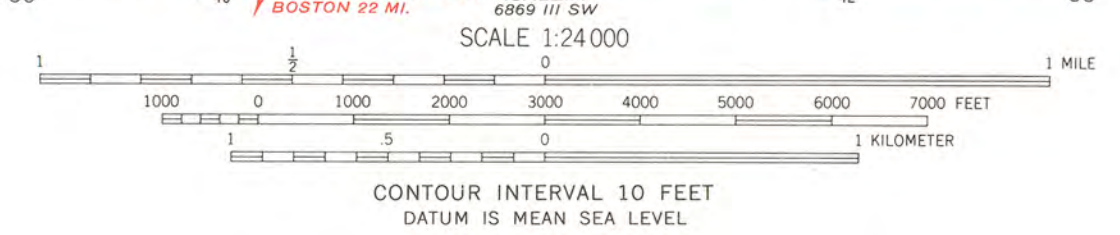
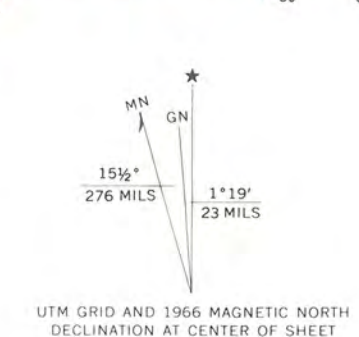


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

GEORGETOWN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-ESSEX CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

GEORGETOWN, MASS.
N4237.5—W7052.5/7.5

1966

AMS 6869 III NW—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ZONE 19
E 336300
N 4724920

OTM
ZONE 19
E 336300
N 4724920
LOM
9-11-75

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 26 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Loring-Greenough House	Boston (Jamaica Plain) Suffolk County
Holyoke-French House	Buxford Essex County
Old Town Hall	Pittsfield Berkshire County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Louise Day Hicks
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Silvia O. Conte
Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

HR NRowland:mm 4/25/72

NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-AID ACTION

1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER

73070340

2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)

3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency

Department of the Interior

b. Organizational unit

National Park Service

c. Administrative office - (1) Name

Division of Grants

(2) Address - Street or P.O. Box

18th and C Streets, NW.

City

Washington

State

D.C.

Zip Code

20240

4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER:

a. Code

b. Title

25-74-00072-00

Holyoke-French House Development

c. Purpose Project work will include the installation of a burglar and fire alarm systems and the correction of inadequate perimeter drainage.

5. GRANTEE: a. Name

Massachusetts Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Exec. Dir., MA Historical Commission

b. Address - Street or P.O. Box

40 Beacon Street

City

Boston

State

MA

Zip Code

02108

6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable box)

a. State ☒ b. Inter-state ☐ c. County ☐ d. City ☐ e. School district ☐ f. Special unit ☐ g. Community action ☐ h. Sponsored organization ☐ i. Other ☐

7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE

Year Month Day
75 10 20

8. ACTION DATE

Year Month Day
75 11 10

9. EFFECTIVE STARTING DATE

Year Month Day
75 11 10

10. ENDING DATE

Year Month Day
78 11 09

11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to this action)

a. New grant ☒ b. Continuation grant ☐ c. Supplemental grant (identify agency in item 16) ☐ d. Change in existing grant (1) Increase in duration ☐ (2) Decrease in duration ☐ (3) Cancellation ☐ (4) Increase (\$) ☐ (5) Decrease (\$) ☐

12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

a. Federal - (1) basic \$ 2,000 (2) Supplemental \$

b. State

\$ 2,085*

c. Local

\$

d. Other

\$

13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)

a. Program Number

15.904

b. Supplemental Program Number

14. AUTHORIZATION

a. Federal Budget Accounts 10-58-1040-0-1-405

b. Public Laws

PL Title Sec.
89 665

PL Title Sec.

PL Title Sec.

c. U.S. Code

16 U.S.C. 470

15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only)

a. City Elm St. & Topsfield Rd., Boxford

b. County

Essex

16. REMARKS

*Boxford Historical Society, Inc.