

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received FEB 12 1980

date entered

1. Name

historic Edward Oakes House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 5 Sylvia Road

___ not for publication

city, town Medford

___ vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Middlesex

code 019

3. Classification

Category

___ district
☒ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership

___ public
☒ private
___ both
Public Acquisition
___ in process
___ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
___ unoccupied
___ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
___ yes: unrestricted
___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture
___ commercial
___ educational
___ entertainment
___ government
___ industrial
___ military
___ museum
___ park
☒ private residence
___ religious
___ scientific
___ transportation
___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Frederick and Janet Knox

street & number 5 Sylvia Road

city, town Medford

___ vicinity of

state Mass. 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

Inventory of the Historic Assets

title of the Commonwealth #32

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ☒ no

date 1974

___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
☒ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site	
☐ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☒ moved	date 8/5/77
☐ fair	☐ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at the southeast corner of Sylvia Road and Main Street, the Edward Oakes House is a rectangular-plan, timber-frame building, two-and-one-half stories high with a massive central chimney. The house rests on a new foundation of poured concrete and is enclosed by a steeply pitched gambrel roof to which an eighteenth-century lean-to extension has been added. The house's exterior is covered with unpainted, stained clapboards and is trimmed with undecorated corner boards. Windows throughout contain double-hung 6/6 sash.

The house's facade (north) is symmetrical containing a center-entry flanked by two windows on each side at the first storey and five windows at the second storey. The heads of second-storey windows are set into the base of the cornice. The entry is approached from a modern, brick stoop. The entry surround is a modern restoration and consists of two pilasters which support a wide entablature and moulded cornice with dentils. Set within this surround are two three-pane side lights, each of which is set above a panelled base. Set between the side lights is a raised-panel door with six panels. This entry replaced an extensively altered Greek Revival style doorway of which only the side lights and stiles, but no decorative trim or door, remained.

Endwalls (east and west) contain five windows each. These windows are of varying sizes and are arranged asymmetrically, two at both the first and second stories and one centered beneath the ridge pole at the attic storey. The house's rear (south) elevation has been completely reconstructed, as it had been covered by a twentieth-century brick addition until 1976, when this addition was demolished in preparation for moving the house.

The Oakes House's interior retains many eighteenth-century features. Especially fine are the raised panel room ends of the house's front (north) four rooms (first and second stories). The house's entry hall contains a narrow staircase which rises in stages in front of the central chimney. At the rear of the central chimney (south) is a massive kitchen fireplace which may contain an even larger fireplace behind its current facing bricks. Elsewhere, the house has two fireplaces at both the first and second stories.

The Oakes House was moved to its present site on August 5, 1977 from its original site at 460 Riverside Avenue where commercial development plans would have required the house's demolition. Its new site is opposite the Isaac Royall House (N. R.) in a residential neighborhood.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☒ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1728-1729

Builder/Architect

Builders unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although moved from its original site, the Edward Oakes House possesses integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The house's simple exterior, central chimney, gambrel lean-to roof and interior woodwork mark it as Medford's best preserved example of vernacular eighteenth century architecture. Although this vernacular house-type enjoyed a wide local popularity during the eighteenth century, most other examples have been destroyed, leaving the Oakes House and the slightly later Jonathan Brooks House (2 Woburn Street, ca. 1781-91) as Medford's best examples of the type.

The Oakes House is believed to have been built in 1728 or 1729 by Edward Oakes, the son of Thomas Oakes and Sarah Tufts of Malden. In 1720, Edward Oakes married a woman named Joanna (last name not given) and by the late 1720's, the couple seems to have moved to Medford. In 1730, Oakes is listed as a taxpayer in Medford; subsequently, in 1733-1734, Oakes was town constable and a fenceviewer. During this period, Oakes' brother, Thomas, also became active in town affairs, serving as a selectman, woodcorder and constable. Upon Oakes's death in 1753, his house was divided between his widow who occupied the western half and his son, Samuel, who occupied the eastern half. Locally prominent descendants of Edward Oakes include Jonathan Oakes, a Revolutionary War soldier and one of Medford's fifty-nine minutemen who set out for Lexington in 1775; Jonathan Oakes is mentioned in local histories as having lived in an "old house" on Riverside Avenue between the original site of the Edward Oakes House and the Peter Tufts House.

Originally located at 460 Riverside Avenue on land which Edward Oakes bought from Peter Tufts, the Oakes House stood between the Peter Tufts House (ca. 1678) and the Malden town line on "the highway leading from Medford to Blanchard's Farm," in a section of Medford which remained largely undeveloped until the late nineteenth century. During the nineteenth century, much of the former Oakes property was used as a claypit by the New England Brick Company. When brick-making ceased, land surrounding the house was left as an exposed, partially flooded pit which remained unsuitable for building purposes until it was filled in the mid-twentieth century. Now one of the largest undeveloped parcels in Medford, this land is owned by a construction company which had planned to demolish the Oakes House and to develop the property. As it was impossible to preserve the house on its original site, it was moved across the Mystic River and Route 93 by its current owner in 1977 to a site immediately east of the Isaac Royall House (ca. 1750). The new site, in a quiet residential neighborhood, complements the character of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
Hooper, John H. "Some Old Medford Houses and Estates." Medford Historical Register.
Volume VII, No. 3, July, 1904.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1/9 acre (4,814 square feet)

Quadrangle name Boston, North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 19 326300 4697460
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached massessor's map. The boundary is delineated in red.

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	Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant with	Patricia J. Lawrence Medford Historical Commission
organization	Massachusetts Historical Commission	date November 1979
street & number	294 Washington St.	telephone (617) 727-8470
city or town	Boston	state Mass. 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia J. Lawrence 1/24/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 4/9/80

Attest:

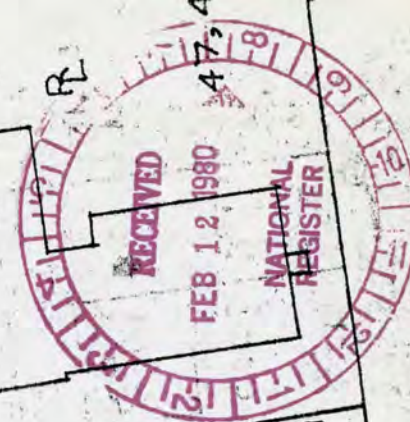
Patrick Andrews

date 4/7/80

Chief of Registration

Edward Oakes House
5 Sylvia Road
Medford, Mass.

Assessor's Map
#P-9, lot #55

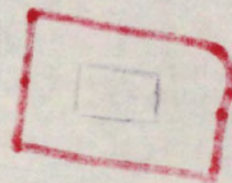


EDWARD OAKES HOUSE
5 SYLVIA ROAD

(FROM MEDFORD ASSESSORS MAPS P-9)

APR 9 1980

P-9



Property

Oakes, Edward House

State

ma - middletown

Working Number

2-12-80 463**TECHNICAL**

Photos

3

Maps

2**CONTROL**

This building is eligible for architecture - built c. 1728 this two and 1/2 story frame building is Medford's best preserved example of 18th cent. vernacular architecture. The house retains its simple symmetrical facade, massive central chimney, much original interior woodwork and its gambrel/lean-to roof. The entrance and rear elevation are reconstructions, the house was moved to prevent destruction, less than 1 acre.

HISTORIAN

accept

Patrick Andrew

4/2/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**ARCHEOLOGIST****OTHER****HAER**

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**BRANCH CHIEF****KEEPER**

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

APR 9 1980



Oakes, Edward House

APR 9 1980

Edward Oakes House
5 Sylvia Rd.
Medford, Mass.

Middlesex Co.

Patricia Lawrence August 1978
Medford Historical Commission
Medford, Mass.

Photo #1 of 3
north side (facade) and west end wall

FEB 12 1980

north side [facade] & west end wall

Edward Oakes House

Medford, MA, Middlesex Co

by: Patricia Lawrence August 1978

negative at: Medford Historical Commission

Photo #1



Edward Oakes House
Medford Middlesex MA

by Pat Lawrence August 1978
neg at: Medford Historical Comm.
north (facade) ^{side} & central door

Photo #4

Oakes, Edward House

Edward Oakes House
5 Sylvia Rd.
Medford, Mass.

APR 9 1980

Middlesex co

Patricia Lawrence August 1978
Medford Historical Commission
Medford, Mass.

Photo #2 of 3
north side (facade) & central door

FEB 12 1980



Edward Oakes House

Medford Middlesex MA.

by Pat Lawrence August 1978

neg at Medford Historical Commission
north side (facade)

Photo #3

Oakes, Edward House

Edward Oakes House
5 Sylvia Rd.
Medford, Mass.

APR

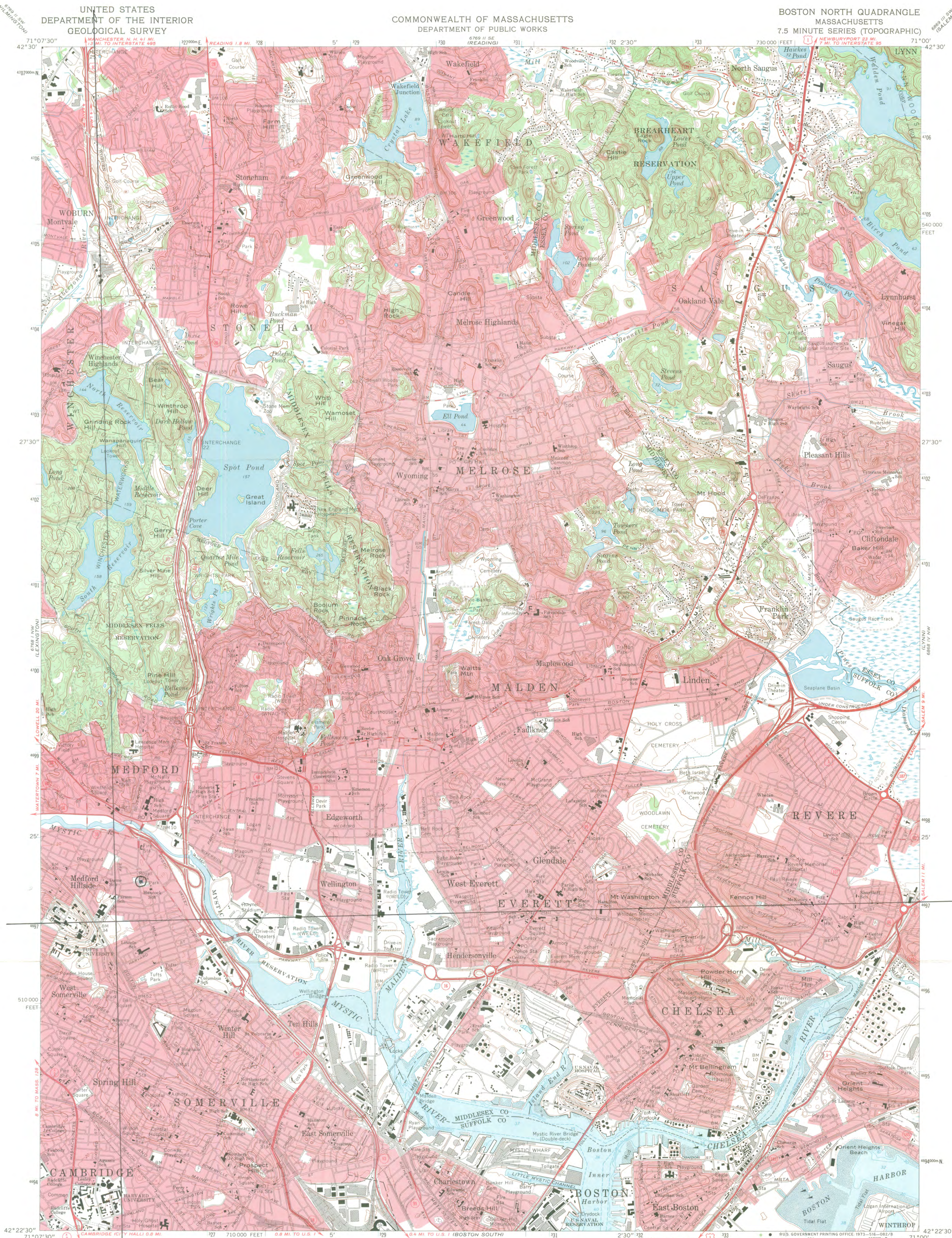
9 1980

Middlesex Co

Patricia Lawrence August 1978
Medford Historical Commission
Medford, Mass.

Photo #3 of 3
North side (facade)

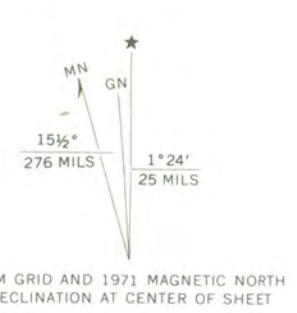
FEB 12 1980



Edward Oakes House
5 Sylvia Road
Medford, Mass.

UTM REFERENCES:
19/326300/4697460

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
1000-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.
N4222.5-W7100/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 I NE- SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered

APR 9 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Echo Bridge	Town of Needham, City of Newton Norfolk and Middlesex County
Swetland-Pease House	East Longmeadow vicinity Hampden County
Rice, Capt. Peter, House	Marlborough Middlesex County
First Baptist Church	Framingham Middlesex County
Oakes, Edward, House	Medford Middlesex County
McGill, John H., House	Medford Middlesex County
Dillaway School	Boston Suffolk County
Berger Factory	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Robert F. Drinan
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Joseph D. Early
Honorable Edward J. Markey

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Byers/bjr 4/17/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.