

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Spencer-Pierce-Little House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Spencer-Pierce-Little House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Little's Lane  
CITY, TOWN  
Newbury  
STATE  
Massachusetts

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
6th

--- VICINITY OF

CODE  
25

COUNTY  
Essex

CODE  
009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mrs. Amelia Little (Has willed the house to the Society of Preservation  
of New England Antiquities)

STREET & NUMBER  
Little's Lane

CITY, TOWN  
Newbury

STATE  
Massachusetts

--- VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Salem

STATE  
Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of the house is a two-and-a-half story stone structure, built in the form of a cross, with a large central chimney. The walls, two feet thick, are comprised of granite interspersed with other kinds of field stone and brick, over which a thick overlay of plaster was placed. A two-story entrance porch projects from the center of the main (south) five-bay facade. There are two windows and a niche in the second story of this projection and the main entrance below is through an arched brick doorway. The entrance door, which has 24-inch wrought iron hinges, is divided into two sections like a Dutch door, and each section opens independently of the other. The upper portion of the door was at one time protected by a heavy inner shutter that was arranged to be lowered from the ceiling into place. The original hinges for this shutter are still in place and the marks of the pulley, through which ran the operating cords, are also still visible. The floor of the outer porch is formed of small square tiles. A second set of doors, fastened by a heavy bar, separates the outer from the inner entry. In the small inner central porch a wide stairway with elaborate woodwork winds up around the brick chimney in two turns to the second floor.

This section of the house has the typical two-room floor plan of a 17th century central chimney structure, with the parlor and original kitchen or hall located on either side of the central chimney. To the left of the inner porch is the living room (once the inner kitchen) and to the right, the dining room (once the parlor). Each room is about 20 feet square. The windows have interior shutters, and in the dining room there are deep window seats. The ceilings of both rooms are low, the heavy summer beams and girts are exposed, and there is some paneling. The same room plan is repeated on the second floor. A large two-story wing containing the outer (present) kitchen projects to the north from the center rear of the original house. This wing has a huge exterior brick chimney with a 10-foot-wide stone foundation at its northern end.

In 1797 Captain Offin Boardman, Jr. acquired the house and enlarged it by adding the present two-and-a-half story frame west wing. Built on the main axis, this wing ajoins the west end of the original stone house. Rooms in this newer section are paneled in the Georgian style.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1631-1701

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spencer-Pierce-Little House, erected at some date between 1631 and 1701, is the best preserved and least-altered of the very few stone houses that were built in New England during the 17th and 18th centuries.

## HISTORY

The exact date of construction is unknown: some authorities have attributed it to John Spencer the younger, and others to John Spencer the elder, thus placing the construction some time between 1631 and 1651. The property was acquired by Daniel Pierce in 1651 and documentary evidence definitely establishes that the house was in existence by 1701.

The property was bought by Nathaniel Tracy in 1778. In 1797 his heirs sold it to Offin Boardman.

The house has been in the possession of the Little family since 1861. There have been no exterior alterations and very few interior changes. Maintained in excellent condition, the house is still used as a residence.

### Addendum:

Since the house has been owned by the little family there have been almost no alterations. But the house is altered from its original form.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hale, Albert, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.  
 Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York, 1922.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.  
 Northend, Mary H. Historic Houses of New England, Boston, 1914.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,4,8,5,8,0	4,7,3,9,5,9,0	B	1,9	3,4,8,6,7,0	4,7,3,9,15,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	3,4,8,2,5,0	4,7,3,9,1,5,0	D	1,9	3,4,8,0,5,0	4,7,3,9,5,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Spencer-Pierce-Little House sits off the main road (High Road) on Little's Lane in the middle of a farm which has always been associated with the house. Over the years lots have been sold along Little's Lane near High Road and other land is leased for a small airport. For this reason the boundary has been drawn to include the Spencer-Pierce-Little House and surrounding farm buildings and an area of open farm land to maintain the proper environment associated with the

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 Patricia Heintzeman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project  
 original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street NW

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

## 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 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark (Public Law 89-665) Designated: <u>Nov. 27, 1968</u> date Boundary Certified: <i>Patricia Heintzeman</i> DATE: <u>June 1, 1978</u>
--

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(RELATIVE TO HISTORIC  
 MONUMENTS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET      Spencer-Pierce-Little House  
ITEM NUMBER      10      PAGE      2

---

house since its construction.

Beginning at a point on the northern curb of Littles Lane approximately 500' from the intersection of Littles Lane and High Road, proceed northerly approximately 1,000' to a point; thence east approximately 1,750' to a point; thence southwest-southeast approximately 1500' to a point; thence west approximately 875' to a point; thence north approximately 750' to the point of origin.