

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

MAR 18 1982

date entered

APR 15 1982

1. Name

historic George O. Stacy Houseand/or common same

2. Location

street & number 107 Atlantic RoadN/A not for publicationcity, town GloucesterN/A vicinity of congressional district Sixthstate Massachusettscode 025county Essexcode 009

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 Gerald E. and Geraldine Mullerstreet & number Niles Point Roadcity, town GloucesterN/A vicinity ofstate Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deedsstreet & number 32 Federal Streetcity, town Salemstate Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

title

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1979☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commissioncity, town Bostonstate Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George O. Stacy House occupies a prime location on Atlantic Road, the eastern shore road on the Eastern Point peninsula. The building faces the Atlantic Ocean on the east, overlooking Bass Rocks across the street, and Thatcher Island with its twin lighthouses off in the distance.

The Stacy House was built in 1899 according to the designs of the well-established Gloucester architects, Phillips and Holloran. This firm was responsible for most of the city's prominent buildings early in this century, including numerous summer "cottages" on Eastern Point, the Eastern Avenue School, and the Tavern restaurant on Stacy Boulevard. Although all of these buildings were constructed in the then-popular Shingle and Colonial Revival styles, the Stacy House is the most classical in form.

The 2½-story building is nearly cubical in shape, with a balustraded hip roof. The walls are sheathed in clapboard. The north and south walls of the main block extend westward into 2 asymmetrical wings (original or by 1912), each with continuous stylistic treatment. An early or original 1-story porch, and 2 small mid-century additions of 1 story each, are also located at the rear of the building. A 1-story porch (original or by 1912) extends across the entire north wall of the building.

The facade of the building is rigidly symmetrical and formal. It is distinguished by a Doric-columned portico and Palladian window at the center. The portico has a low roof balustrade with small carved floral ornaments on the center panel of each of its 3 sides. The doorway itself has a fanlight and sidelights, with geometric tracery repeated in the elaborate Palladian window above. Fluted corner pilasters with Ionic capitals, and an elaborate entablature with dentils, triglyphs, and modillions, are repeated on the side and back walls, and are echoed on the portico, porches, and dormer windows. On the front (east) and left (south) side, the taller 1st floor windows have pronounced cornice moldings.

The side (north and south) and back (west) elevations are asymmetrical and dissimilar. The south elevation has 2 secondary doorways with pilasters and classical entablatures, and a small balustraded deck. On the north elevation, the recently (1957) glass-enclosed porch has Doric columns connected by a low balustrade, a roof balustrade with louvered fan and floral grill panels, and an asymmetrical doorway. The rear (west) elevation of the main block contains a simplified Palladian window which lights the interior stairhall. The northwest wing has two small oval windows with keystones on the first floor, rear. The roof of the building is punctuated by 3 original pedimented dormers (2 on the facade and 1 on the south elevation); a large flat-roofed dormer which wraps around the north and west elevations was added between 1912 and 1946.

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)
				Recreation, Community Development
Specific dates	1899	Builder/Architect	Phillips & Holloran	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stacy House was built for George Odiome Stacy (c. 1860–1928), a dominant Gloucester figure early in this century who was known locally for his keen involvement in real estate and development, and famed nationally as an enthusiastic hotel man. Stacy's ambitious dreams were housed in the grandest of structures, and the George O. Stacy House is one of the finest and few surviving designs recording this remarkable career. The Stacy House thus meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Stacy was a pioneer in the summer hotel business in Gloucester. He quickly worked up from Kitchen employee at the Bass Rock House to owner of four of the most celebrated and successful hotels on the North Shore. This quartet included the 200-room Hawthorne Inn (begun in 1886 & the only survivor today); the Magnolia Hotel, accommodating 300 (dates unknown); the 130-room Moorland Hotel (1897, burned 1958) on Bass Rocks; and most spectacularly, the 300 room Colonial Arms (1904, burned 1908). These hotels were not only centers for Gloucester's prominent summer colony, but also were instrumental in the upbuilding of the whole East Gloucester area.

The Stacy House on Atlantic Road was one of the first houses in the new resort development at Bass Rocks. The house was built in 1899 from the designs of Phillips & Holloran, prominent local architects responsible for most of Gloucester's major buildings in this period. Like Stacy's hotels and other developments, this building uses the Colonial Revival style. It stands apart, however, as one of the highest refinements of the style in the city. Perhaps its unusual delicacy was influenced by deed restrictions on the property. These provisions included a minimum building cost, and reserved for the land-trust grantee the authority for approving building plans.

Because of the building's color and form & the fact that Stacy was married earlier in the year of its construction, the building has also been known as the Wedding Cake House. Ironically, the Stacys never occupied this showpiece themselves. According to local tradition, Mrs. (Jane Parker) Stacy refused to live in this isolated, seasonally abandoned location. The house was subsequently rented out and then sold to "summer people," and is now used as offices for a large modern inn next door.

Stacy's other building activities were widespread. At his death in 1928, Stacy was reported to be the largest owner of residences in Gloucester, and one of the city's largest individual taxpayers. In fact, a friend's eulogy characterized Stacy as "a builder constantly building. He touched no property which he did not improve."¹

Stacy is best remembered, however, for the creation of the esplanade at Western Avenue--called Stacy's "crowning achievement"² and "the most important public improvement in this generation."³ Officially named George O. Stacy Boulevard, this major public park with the symbolic Man-at-the-Wheel Statue was conceived and advocated by George Stacy. He contributed privately by buying and removing existing houses along the harbor side Western Avenue, and was involved publicly in the project as a Park Commissioner, from 1908 until his death in 1928.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brooks, Alfred M., "To the Lookout," Cape Ann Historical Association, Scrapbook, No. 28, p.55.
Garland, Joseph E. Eastern Point. Peterborough, NH: William S. Bauhan, Noone House, 1971.
"George O. Stacy." Cape Ann Shore, July 5, 1929, pp. 2 and 16.
"George O. Stacy." Gloucester Daily Times, December 10, 1928, p. 1. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 16,600 sq. ft.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Gloucester, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A 19 365960 4718390
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The property is located on the westerly side of Atlantic Road. It is bounded on the east by Atlantic Road, 152.1 feet; on the north by Lot 206 on a plan of land belonging to the Estate of Henry Souther, dated August 1897 (Plan Book 11, Plan 15), 150 feet; on the west by Lot 260 on the above plan of land, 79 feet; and on the south by Lot

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

(con't.)

state MA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date December, 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national

☐ state

☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Peter L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 2/25/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the

National Register

date

4/15/82

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Contemporaries remarked on Stacy's extraordinary vision, perserverance, generosity, public spirit, and humor. "He had, in fine, the quality which makes a delightful companion and leaves an enduring memory."⁴ The George O. Stacy House is an architectural treasure of itself, and well represents this rare combination of qualities which made the man such an asset to his city.

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- 1 "Unveil Tablet to Memory of George O. Stacy," Gloucester Daily Times, August 14, 1930, p. 5.
 - 2 "George O. Stacy," Cape Ann Shore, July 5, 1928, p. 16.
 - 3 "The Western Avenue Esplanade," Cape Ann Shore, July 5, 1924, p. 6.
 - 4 Alfred Mansfield Brooks, "To the Lookout," Cape Ann Historical Association Scrapbook No. 28, P. 55.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holloran, Robert T. (59 North St., Georgetown, MA). Telephone interview. 10/11/79.

Muller, Gerald E. (Niles Pond Road, Gloucester, MA), Private interview, 9/19/79.

"Unveil Tablet to Memory of George O. Stacy." Gloucester Daily Times, August 14, 1930, p. 1 & 5.

"The Western Avenue Esplanade." Cape Ann Shore, July 5, 1924, pp. 607.

Assessor's Records, 1899-1911. Gloucester City Hall, Gloucester, MA.

Deeds: 3438/205; 3336/174; 2878/591; 1576/387. Essex County Registry of Deeds, Salem, MA.

Vital Statistics, 1899. City Clerk's Office, Gloucester City Hall, Gloucester, MA.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

208 on the above plan of land, 150 feet.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82004963

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Stacy, George O., House
State, County: MA, Essex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3.18.82.810
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 4-15-82 / 5-2-82

- ____ resubmission
____ nomination by person or local government
____ owner objection
____ appeal

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/15/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Entered in the _____
National Register _____
photos ☒
maps ☒

Substantive Review: ____ sample ____ request ____ appeal ____ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ____ technical corrections cited below
____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	☒ Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ____ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
____ excellent	____ deteriorated	____ unaltered	____ original site
____ good	____ ruins	____ altered	____ moved date ____
____ fair	____ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ____ summary paragraph
____ completeness
____ clarity
____ alterations/integrity
____ dates
____ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



GLOUCESTER, MA
George O. Stacy House

East and North
Elevations

Photo by
Wendy Frontiero,
1979

Negative filed with
photographer,
5 Franklin Sq, Glouc.



CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters

15000 4500
14000 4000
13000 3500
12000 3000
11000 2500
10000 2000
9000 1500
8000 1000
7000 500
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0

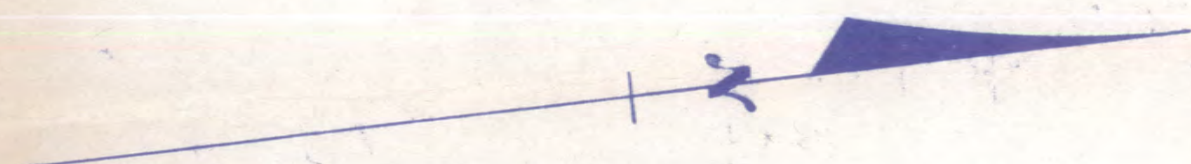
GLOUCESTER, MA
George O. Stacy House

UTM Reference:
19/365960/4718390

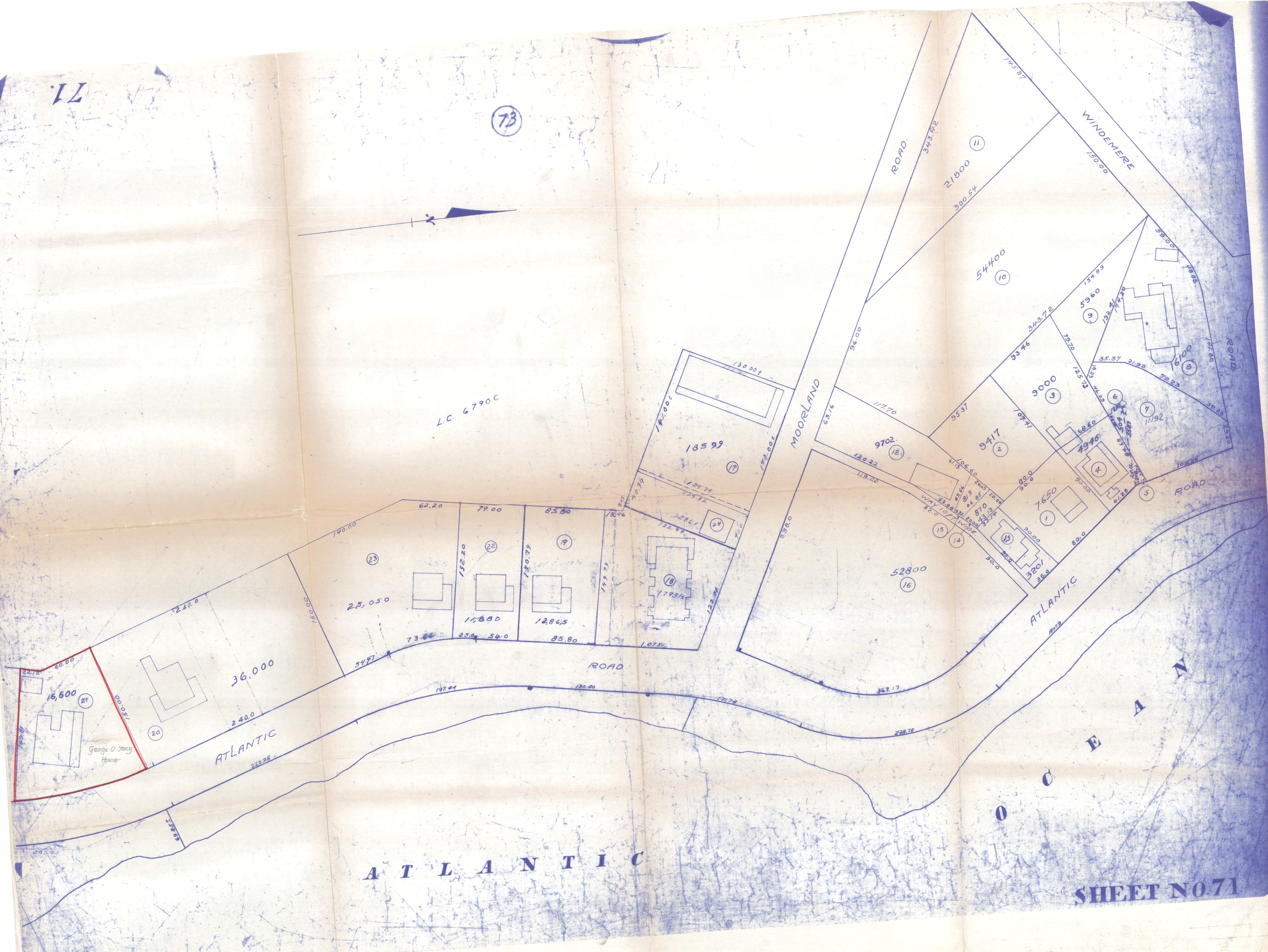
To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3.048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.281

73



L.C. 6790C



ATLANTIC

SHEET NO. 71

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 15, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Gleason Building	Lawrence Essex County
Kimball, C. Henry, House	Chelsea Suffolk County
Stacy, George O., House	Gloucester Essex County

Notified

Honorable James M. Shannon
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS

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