

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

(Type all entries, complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Essex
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 17 1974

1. NAME	
COMMON: The Fowler House	
AND/OR HISTORIC: same	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 166 High Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Danvers (Danversport)		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th	
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object ☒ Building ☐ Structure	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☐ Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered ☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY		
OWNER'S NAME: The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities		
STREET AND NUMBER: 141 Cambridge Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Essex County Registry of Deeds, South District		
STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Salem	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS		
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1974	☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE: 025



STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Essex
ENTRY NUMBER SEP 17 1974
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 four-square brick Fowler House, built in 1810, is located on a 1½ acre lot bounding on the intersection of High Street and Route 35 in Danversport. The area is high-density residential and the intersection is busy. A truck-stop cafeteria and 19th c. church are on corners adjacent to the Fowler House; a house stands on the opposite corner.

The southwest side of the lot, bounding on Route 35, is outlined partially by a wooden spail fence, and partially by a black iron spail fence directly in front of the house. No fence separates the lot from High Street on the southeast, although a wooden split rail fence runs along the northeast bound, and a wooden picket fence separates the lot from the neighboring house to the northwest.

Samuel Fowler, Jr. purchased his house in 1799, in the part of Danvers then known as New Mills. In 1810 he contracted with Stephen Whipple and Levi Preston to have the house built, measuring 44' long and 40' wide. The ten room house was to be of brick and was to have four outer doors. The hip roof was to rise to a flat top, measuring 10'x14'. Many of the rooms were to have interior folding shutters with window seats, or just window seats. The contract was dated Jan. 31, 1810, and the 13 member Fowler household moved in on Oct. 29 of the same year.

The Fowler House today is not significantly different from the specifications in Whipple and Preston's contract. It had remained in the possession of the Fowler family until 1912, when ownership was transferred to William Sumner Appleton, founder of SPNEA. At that time, Sarah Fowler noted that the house had "never been altered or changed, several of the rooms have original wall-paper, handcarved fireplaces, wainscotting and other carvings." Since the house has been in SPNEA's ownership, necessary repairs have been made to the house, a modern hood over the Liberty Street entrance has been removed, and the later additions of wooden sheds and outbuildings forming the ell have been altered inside and out, for use as overseer's quarters.

The southwest facade and the two side elevations of the two story house all have five bays and regular fenestration of 6/6 windows, which have plain surrounds. The entrances to these elevations are all centrally placed and have wooden door shutters. The facade entrance is ornamented with a 7-pane fanlight and 4-pane sidelights; the southeast and northwest doors are ornamented with 5-pane fanlights.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Essex	
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(Number all entries)

The Fowler House, Danversport, Massachusetts

7. Physical Description (Cont'd) -2-

There are four windows on the first story of each elevation, and five on the second.

The shingled hip roof is truncated as specified in the 1810 contract; a widow's walk is located on the top. There are four end chimneys; one each to the south of center on the southeast and northwest roof planes, and two regularly placed on the northeast roof plane. The foundation is granite.

A smaller, two-story, two-bay brick ell, probably dating to the nineteenth century, is attached to the back, northeast elevation of the house. It has a flat roof, and end chimney, and its fenestration of (6/6) and (3/6) windows is regular. Yet another two-story addition, probably twentieth century, with a north-east-southwest ridge roof, and irregularly placed (6/6) windows is appended to the northeast elevation of the brick ell. The exterior of this addition is both clapboarded and shingled.



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)

1810

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☒ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☒ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fowler House is architecturally significant since it has remained substantially unaltered since its construction in 1810, and it is a good example of Country Federal period architecture. The house served as the homestead for Samuel Fowler, Jr., an important commercial figure in Danvers during the first half of the 19th c. The civic involvements of Fowler and his children make the property an important one in local history and government.

Documentation relating to the construction of the house, including Fowler's contract with Stephen Whipple and Levi Preston, the builders, as well as Fowler's own accounts, are included in the collection of Fowler's papers located at the Essex Institute. Original and unusual wallpapers exist in the house today, the prime example being the hand-blocked "Pompeian Medallion" design in the front hall. Hand carving worthy of note includes egg-and-dart mouldings, scrolls, reeding, finger fluting, and spiral carvings in the first floor rooms.

Some of the original Fowler family furnishings are on view at the house today; of note are family portraits and needlework examples.

Samuel Fowler Jr. (1776-1854) began his commercial ventures in 1799, in that area of Danversport then known as New Mills, with the purchase of 1/36 part of two corn mills, an old saw mill, and a dam. He added to his holdings so that, by 1821, he applied for insurance on his currier's shop, his grist mill, his bark mill and house, his large building for sawing marble, and his pulverizing mill. He was one of eight men who financed the construction of the Liberty Bridge across Porter's River. Fowler is also credited with the introduction of the tanning industry into this part of Danvers. His account books and papers at the Essex Institute are an important source of information on the leather and mill businesses from the late 18th c. to about 1850.

Fowler served as a private in the 1812 "alarm list" at Danvers New Mills, when the Frigate CONSTITUTION, driven into Marblehead by the English, was sighted by residents of New Mills.

cont'd



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Collection of Samuel Fowler, Jr.'s papers at the Essex Institute.
2. "Essex Institute Historical Collections", Vol. IXVII, Jan. 1931.
3. Stickney, The Fowler Family, Salem, 1883.
4. History of the Town of Danvers, J.W. Hanson, Danvers, 1848.
5. Tapley, Harriet, Chronicles of Danvers, Old Salem Village 1632-1923, Danvers Historical Society, 1923.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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° 33 ' 22 "	70° 55 ' 29 "	
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:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
For Elizabeth Amadon, State Survey Director, By Barbara Chapin, SPNEA

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: 5/7/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

617-727-8470

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Date 6/11/74

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

A. R. Montross
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/17/74

ATTEST:

Chack Abney
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-18-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 17 1974	

(Number all entries)

The Fowler House, Danversport, Massachusetts

8. Significance (Cont'd) -2-

He was also a captain of the Danvers Light Infantry. He served his community as Danvers Selectman from 1835 through 1840, and was twice its Representative to the General Court, in 1837 and in 1839.

Fowler's third eldest son, Henry, whose daughters, the Misses Sarah and Adelaide Fowler, were to offer the Fowler House to SPNEA, grew up in the house. In 1826, Henry Fowler set off with William Endicott and Leonard Poole, on an expedition to the Fiji Islands aboard the Ship GLIDE. They were shipwrecked on an island reportedly occupied by cannibals. Henry was the only one of the three who lived to tell the tale, and he arrived home in Danvers from his adventure in 1830. In 1838, he married Sally Putnam, the first white child to have been born at New Mills. Henry went on to serve as Danvers Selectman in 1844 and in 1845, and was on the committee which oversaw the division of Danvers into north and south portions in 1855.

Fowler's fourth eldest son, Augustus, who also grew up in the Fowler House, acted as Danvers Selectman in 1855, in 1856, and in 1862.



PROPERTY *The Fowles House*STATE *Mass.*WORKING NUMBER *6.19.74.984**Essex*

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS *1*MAPS *1**74006367*

CONTROL REVIEW

*Access is missing**cm
6.19
74*

HISTORIAN

*#7 weak - #8. "political" not really justified
but Accept
W. R. Luce
8/5/74*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*What's a "spail" fence?
I called Mindy Arbo - she wks - look in Webster's NewCo
I spoke to Mr. Hayes (sp?), supervisor of properties for SPDEA - he wks.**Accept
JCT
8/7/74*

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
COB
9/12/74*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Henry
for Muntz
9.13.74*National Register Write-up *October 24, 1974*

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry *11/5/74*

Re-submit _____

Entered _____

SEP 17 1974



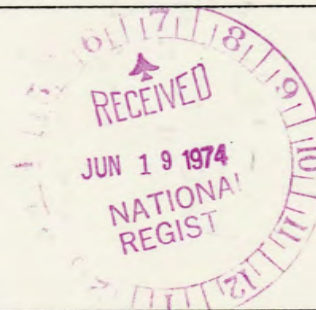
FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

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)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
The Fowler House	The Fowler House	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Essex	Salem
STREET AND NUMBER		
166 High Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
SPNEA	1935	SPNEA
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Southwest facade		



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

H-1471 B

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
The Fowler House	same	SEP 17 1974

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Essex	Danvers

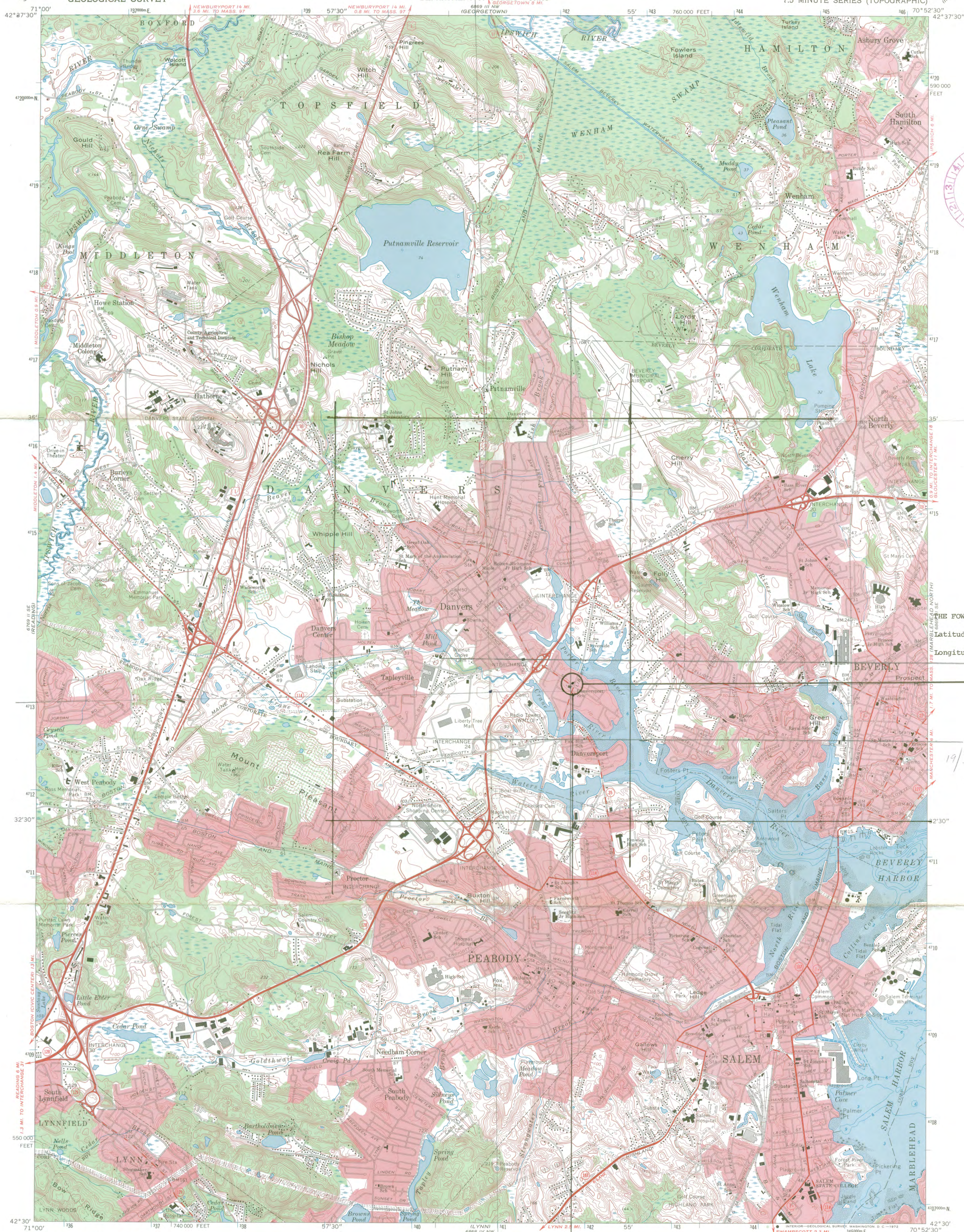
STREET AND NUMBER
166 High Street

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. Salem, Mass.	1970	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

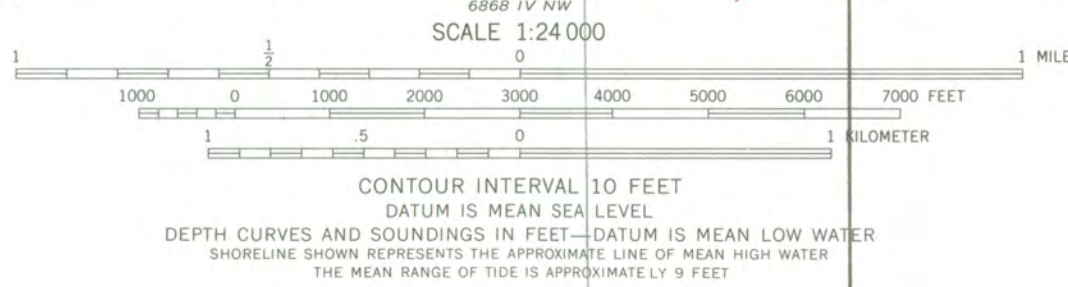
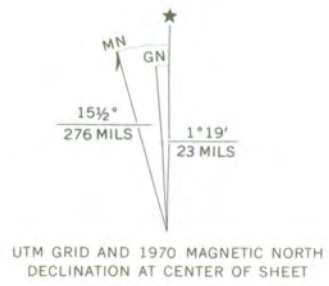




THE FOWLER HOUSE, DANVERS
Latitude 42° 33' 22"
Longitude 70° 55' 29"

UTM
19/341 960
4713 090
CD

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240 and
241 (1970). 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 tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5

1970

AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered SEP 17 1974

Name

Location

~~The~~ **Fowler House**

~~Danvers~~ **(Danversport)
Essex County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

PR MMott/row 9/20/74

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108