

PH0365980

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 27 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Harrington House
AND/OR COMMON "The Homestead"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 555 Wellesley Street

CITY, TOWN Weston

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
fourth

STATE Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
MiddlesexCODE
017**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 ___ MUSEUM
___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
___ MILITARY ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME David and Marjory Blaney

STREET & NUMBER
555 Wellesley StreetCITY, TOWN
Weston

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts 02193**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of DeedsSTREET & NUMBER
208 Cambridge StreetCITY, TOWN
CambridgeSTATE
Massachusetts 02141**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE
June, 1975___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical CommissionCITY, TOWN
BostonSTATE
Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Harrington House (c. 1710) is located on about four acres of land in the southwest corner of the town of Weston.

The Harrington House is a handsome Colonial period farmhouse. The main house is four bays wide and two stories high, with six-over-nine sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second. The front door has five bull's eye lights and is not centered, but is located in the second bay from the left. There are two chimneys. A two-story, two-bay wide ell was added to the east side of the main structure in the early nineteenth century. This section has a central chimney. The ell contained the kitchen, of which the old fireplace and brick oven still remain.

The structural evolution of the Benjamin Harrington House is quite complex. According to Abbott Lowell Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, "It is perfectly clear that the front rooms of the house to the right and left of the front entrance represent two different structures. The room with its original chimney bay on the right is the earlier, . . . and it remains only to be determined whether the room at the left was a subsequent addition or a second frame brought up and butted to the house. The lean-to at the rear of the house is another period altogether, probably early nineteenth century, and it seems fairly clear that the present roof over the main portion of the house . . . may date to that time when the two front portions achieved their present form. The most radical later change was the removal, probably in the early years of the nineteenth century, judging from the architectural trim, of the original central chimney. Two later chimneys were then constructed at the rear of the two earliest rooms, with the result that most trim here and in the lean-to is of this Federal Period."¹

Several architectural details trace the house to once having been two distinct houses. Though still quite early, the framing in the west side of the house is not as heavy as in the right side. At the left of the front door are two supporting posts where normally there is only one. In the attic there are two types of rafters. Some are shorter in length and have a hole for a peg at one end, indicating the narrower span of the original house. Also, the floor boards in the garret run in different directions in the two sides. There is a cellar only under the easterly 2/3 of the main house.

In 1908 the house was restored. It was not altered or modernized, except for the east ell which had a high pitched roof overtopping the main ridge. At that time the roof of the ell was lowered to its present level.

On the shed to the rear of the house is a wooden weathervane, built by Henry McIntire c. 1820 when he lived and worked on the Harrington farm.

Near the house and towering above it is a huge elm tree which is believed to have been planted here in 1697 and is said to be the oldest elm tree in Massachusetts.

¹Abbott L. Cummings, Report of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, August 14, 1974.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES d. 1710

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benjamin Harrington House is significant as an example of early eighteenth century architecture and for its evolution from two houses to one.

The land on which the Benjamin Harrington House stands was originally part of "Sir Richard's Plantation," a parcel of land given to Sir Richard Saltonstall and his Puritan followers in 1630. In all, 23,456 acres were included. "Watertown Farms" or the "Farmers' Precinct of Watertown" occupied 10,732 acres by 1754 and in 1713 became the "Town of Weston." Within this parcel, Robert Harrington was allotted 642½ acres of farmland when he emigrated to America in 1634. Over the years the boundaries of the farm have been diminished from time to time. Today the house sits on a parcel of 3.9 acres.

Robert Harrington died in 1707, leaving ten children. His will mentions division of his land into 16 lots, with the homestead left to his youngest son Edward. In succeeding years the house was owned by Stephen Harrington, a grandson of Edward, who did much of the remodeling and adding of the east ell in the first part of the nineteenth century. During his occupancy, the central chimney was removed and the plan opened up. Two chimneys were constructed for the main section of the house. The present staircase was built and the hall walls, mantels and trim in most rooms were added then. Henry McIntire lived here during these years and as a young boy crafted the charming rooster weathervane which is on the shed.

Throughout the years, the members of the Harrington family living on the homestead played an active role in the commercial and social affairs of the town of Weston.

The architectural construction methods of the house illustrate some building techniques of the eighteenth century. The extra supporting post, varied length of rafters, different thicknesses of framing and the change in direction of the garret floor boards -- these details help explain the manner in which two houses were joined into one.

The property is also significant because an elm tree planted here in 1697 is today the oldest elm in Massachusetts. The house itself is believed to be the fifth oldest house remaining in Weston and an important legacy of the Harrington family.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cummings, A.L., Report of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, August, 1974

Lamson, Daniel S., History of the Town of Weston, 1631-1890, 1913.

Wales, George C., Notes on the House of Dwight Blaney, 1908.

Weis, F.L., Early Generations of the Family of Robert Harrington of Watertown, MA, 1958.

Weston, Town of, Records and tax lists of the First Precinct, 1897.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.9

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 309600 4688480
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margo Webber, Editorial Assistant and Erlund Field, Weston Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

April 14, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 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 X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

4/23/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/22/76

ATTEST:

DATE

6.18.76

Acting

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

State Mass

Working Number 4.27.76.3157

Middlesex**TECHNICAL**

map correct

Photos 1
Maps 1**CONTROL**OK pl
5.13.76**HISTORIAN**Accept
E. Smith
6-1-76

*I don't think "the evolution of the house from two houses
to one" makes the house significant. OK as example of architr.*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANAccept
arcolg
6.3.74**ARCHEOLOGIST****OTHER****HAER**Inventory Review OK as evolution**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**Accept
K Cole
6/8/76**BRANCH CHIEF****KEEPER**Amey
6.18.76National Register Write-up Send-back Entered JUN 22 1976Federal Register Entry 8-3-76Re-submit

INT:2106-74



The Harrington House
Weston, MA
Erlund Field
1975

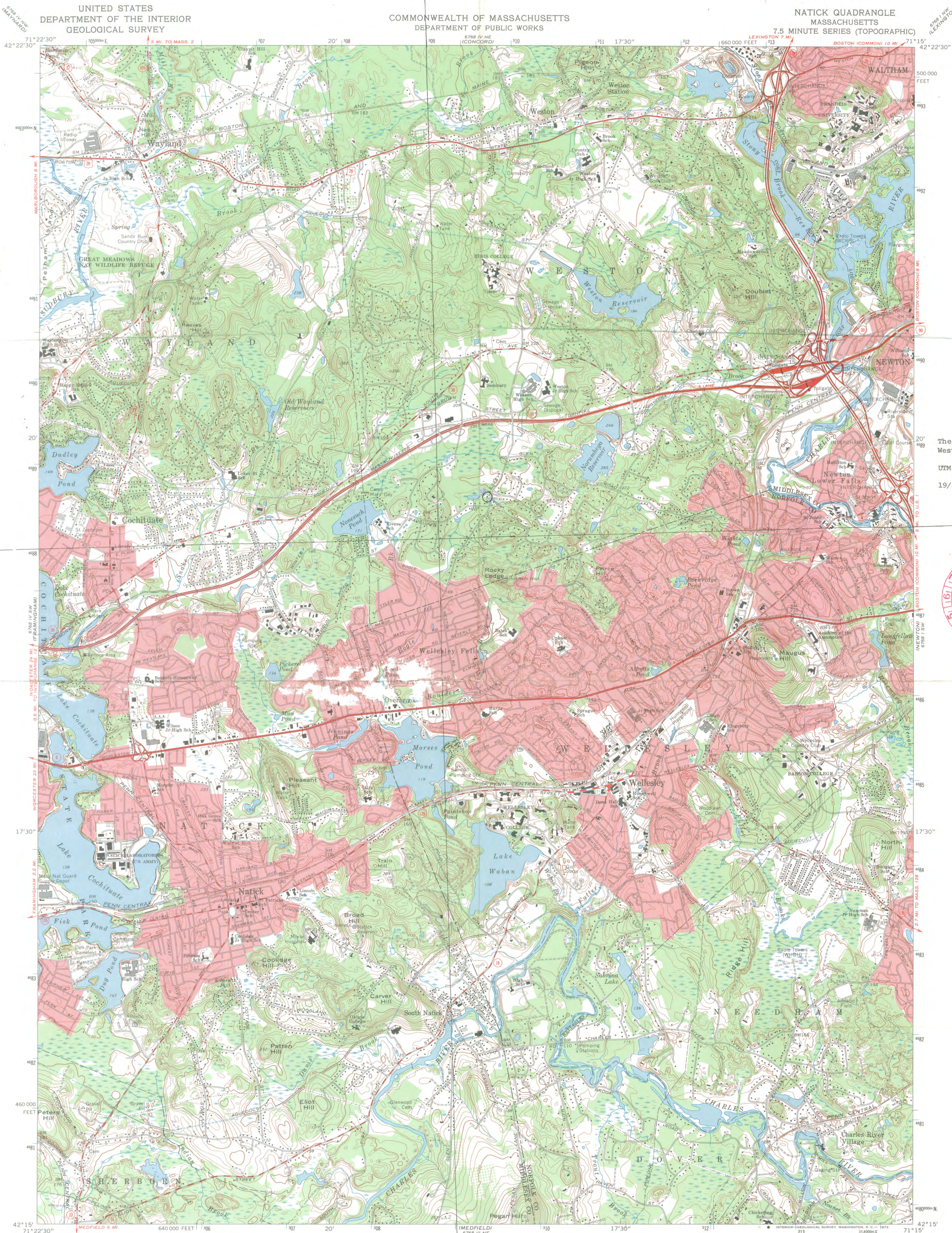
APR 27 1976

Weston Historical Commission, Weston, MA
Middlesex County, Mass.
Main facade from south.

Photograph #1 *41*

JUN 22 1976 *DOE*

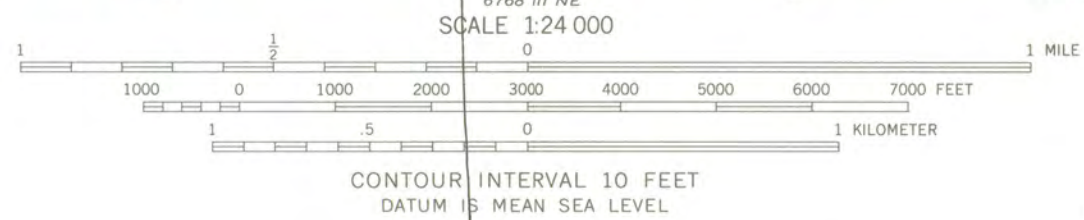
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Harrington House
Weston, MA
UTM Reference:
19/309600/4688480



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

NATICK, MASS.
N4215-W7115/7.5
1970

AMS 6768 IV SE-SERIES V814



*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470

April 23, 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find a nomination form for the following property:

Weston: The Harrington House

This property has been reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Review Body) and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Reed Amadon.

Also enclosed are nomination forms for the following properties which were returned for further information:

Salem: Derby Waterfront District
Salem: Essex County Court Buildings Complex

Included with these forms are continuation sheets, additional photographs and cover sheets.

Sincerely yours,

Pat

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director

PLW/mw
Enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 22 1976

Name

Location

Harrington House

**Weston
Middlesex County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Robert F. Drinan

cc: Regional Director,
North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

✓ PR:MMott:cam:6/29/76

not
cm
5m

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 6-1-76
Reviewer INITIALS: ELL
NR
DOE JUN 22 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

①
The Harrington House
Sec.

OTHER NAMES:

The Homestead

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

555 Wellesley Street 5th

CITY, TOWN

Weston

STATE

Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

025

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Middlesex

COUNTY

4th

code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-1
☐ unknown - 4
☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-2
☐ unknown - 3
☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

- ☒ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 6
☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

- ☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

- ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED
☐ Unexcavated

- ☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED
☐ Reconstructed
☐ Excavated

- ☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED
☐ Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- House

now- House

SIGNIFICANCE:

3
4
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

- AGRICULTURE

- ARCHITECTURE

- ART

- COMMERCE

- COMMUNICATIONS

- CONSERVATION

- ECONOMICS

- EDUCATION

- ENGINEERING

- EXPLORATION

- INDUSTRY

- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- LAW/Gov't/politics

- LITERATURE

- MILITARY

- MUSIC

- PHILOSOPHY

- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION

- SCIENCE

- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

- TRANSPORTATION

- OTHER (SPECIFY)

- entertainment

- health

- recreation

- settlement

- socio/cultural

- urban & commun
planning

Claims

"first?" YES NO

"oldest?" YES NO

"only?" YES NO

Supposedly oldest elm in Massachusetts.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1710

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1710 - Present

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

3.9

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 story, four bay wide brick building with gable roof and two interior chimneys. A two story two bay wide ell with central chimney is attached to the east side of the main structure. Attached to the ell is a one story shed.

Brick, 2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof, 2 interior chimneys, front center entrance; ell added, early-19th C.; smaller original structure enlarged and altered numerous times.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) throughout the 19th C.; restored, 1908; nearly elm planted in 1697 is reputedly the oldest elm in Massachusetts. Colonial and Federal elements.

The Benjamin Harrington House is significant as a local example of 18th century architecture and for its evolution from two houses to one. An elm tree on the property may be the oldest elm in Massachusetts, said to have been planted in 1697. Interesting example of 18th C. dwelling with 19th C. alterations.