

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0505943

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 18 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAR 29 1978

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 Ezra Weston II House

AND/OR COMMON

King Caesar House (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER King Caesar Road, Powder Point

CITY, TOWN

Duxbury

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
PlymouthCODE
023**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

The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Box 176 Snug Harbor Station

CITY, TOWN

Duxbury

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02332

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Russell Street

CITY, TOWN

Plymouth

STATE

Massachusetts 02360

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

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

The King Caesar House is located on King Caesar Road in Duxbury. The house sits on a slight elevation on Powder Point overlooking Duxbury Bay and the Weston Wharf. A low stone wall and white picket fence separates the house property from the road. The posts of the center gate are topped by urns. The 1¼ acres of land surrounding the building are meticulously maintained. The grounds include tall shade trees, fir trees, topiary shrubbery, sloping lawns and formal gardens. The wharf lies directly south of the house, across King Caesar Road on the Bay. It includes 3/4 of a acre of additional property, also well landscaped. The surrounding area is residential, consisting primarily of large lots with summer and year round homes.

The Federal style, brick-end house was built in 1808 by Ezra Weston II, known as "King Caesar." The original T-plan structure is two stories with a hip roof and four tall inside end chimneys, two on each side elevation. The south facade, rear elevation, and ells are sheathed in clapboards painted yellow. The trimwork is painted white. Cornerboards are wide and plain. Fenestration is 6/6 with slightly projecting lintels and sills, all framed by louvered shutters. The original T-plan form was added on to sometime ago with ells on the rear (north) elevation.

The five bay wide, symmetrical facade faces south. Stone steps lead to the three panel wooden door. It is flanked by leaded glass sidelights, and headed by a leaded glass fan with keystone. Directly overhead on the second story is a 6/6 window with sidelights. The west elevation is four bays deep with a slightly off center door topped by a shaped lintel.

The north elevation has a gabled dormer with nine lights on either side of the original two story ell. An early two story addition extends from this ell and presently houses a museum. The ridge roof of the addition carries a small, white steeple and a bell which is said to have been brought to Duxbury on a Weston vessel. The vessel allegedly overcame a privateer which had stolen the bell from a Caribbean mission. A one story enclosed shed runs along the west elevation of the addition. It has a door at the southern end by the summer kitchen ell. The central space of the porch has two 6 light casements which are separated by a stained glass window. Projecting from the west elevation of the addition is a one story, ridge roofed ell. This ell houses the summer kitchen. The ell is also connected to the original house by a small glass porch. The ell facade has an entrance at the western end and a small 6/6 window at the eastern end. The center of the ell facade is occupied by a large, multi-light, segmentally arched window with balustrade. The west (rear) elevation of the ell has a window at its northern end and two windows above in the gable. There is a small end chimney overhead. The north elevation of the ell has an eastern end door flanked by a single window to the east and triple windows to the west. A flat roof dormer with two windows rises overhead. A triangular gable rises from the roof above.

The interior of the house retains fine wood detailing: ornate molding, carved and convoluted ballusters, and interior shutters. The spacious rooms have high ceilings. One of the front parlors retains original Dufour wallpaper, "Les Incas"; the other parlor has original "Le Parc Francais" wallpaper attributed to Jaquemart and Barnard. The gracious staircase in the center hall rises to a balcony on two sides of the upper hall

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET King Caesar House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

which serves the bedrooms. The public rooms are furnished with period pieces, many of which belonged to the Weston family. Paintings of members of the family and of other prominent people associated with the area and times hang on the walls.

The original barn stands to the rear of the house and serves as a meetinghouse for the museum. The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society Inc. acquired the property in 1965 by public subscription. The house serves as the Society's headquarters and is opened to hundreds of visitors each summer.

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) Shipping and Shipbuilding
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The King Caesar House is significant for the quality of its architecture and as the home of a prominent local family. It is the finest Federal style structure in Duxbury. The builder, Ezra Weston II, was a leading American shipbuilder. The house occupies an attractive location and faces south towards the Weston's harbor.

Ezra Weston acquired the name "King Caesar" because of his business acumen and success in shipbuilding and shipping. The Weston family were farmers originally. Weston was engaged in shipping by 1764, and after serving in the Revolution, he returned to the growing trade. Duxbury developed as a shipping center during the years 1764-98, and Weston's affluence grew with the fortunes of the town. With his success he purchased more land in and around Duxbury to increase his shipbuilding complex. In 1798 Weston's son, Ezra II, joined as a partner in Ezra Weston and Son. The partnership continued until the father's death in 1822. Ezra II inherited the large holdings, an active business, and the nickname "King Caesar." He proved well educated in shipbuilding and shipping affairs. "King Caesar" married Jerusha Bradford, a member of another prominent Duxbury family, and the sister of several successful local shipmasters. Weston was one of the founders of the Duxbury Bank and served as the first president of this bank in 1833; his son, Gershom, was the second.

The Weston holdings included farms for ships' provisions, a ropewalk, a forge shop for tools and ship hardware, a cotton mill for sailcloth, a sail loft, and a ten acre shipyard. Ninety-nine vessels were built and owned by the Westons between 1800 and 1842. Among them was "Smyrna", the first American ship to enter the Black Sea. "Hope" was Weston's largest vessel. Built in 1841, it measured 159' long and weighed 880 tons.

Captain Arthur H. Clark, a reliable maritime historian, claimed, "Ezra Weston was the most famous of the old-time Boston shipowners - the Westons were easily the largest shipowners in the U.S." Daniel Webster, while a resident of nearby Marshfield, referred to Ezra Weston II as "...the largest shipowner, probably in the United States. During the past year he has made what might suffice for two or three fortunes of moderate size." One of Mr. Webster's tall clocks now stands in the hall of the King Caesar house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wentworth, Dorothy, Settlement and Growth of Duxbury 1628-1870, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 362240 4653920
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor
Frederick T. Potter, Duxbury Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

September 19, 1977

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, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

9/28/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Wentworth

DATE

3-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-16-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

King Caesar House

State

MA.

Working Number

*10.18.77.1656**Phymouth*

TECHNICAL

Photos

3

Maps

2

CONTROL

OK 10.19.77

HISTORIAN

*See phone sheet on wharf - its inclusion
is appropriate. Important property*

*Shafy
1-30-78
accept*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
1.30.78*

*Brabham
12.6.77*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
2/16/78 Leborich*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

2/29/78

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

MAR 29 1978

Federal Register Entry

5.2.78

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



King Caesar House
Duxbury, Massachusetts
1977
Frederick T. Potter
Duxbury Town Offices, Duxbury
#1 23
South facade
Plymouth County

OCT 18 1977

MAR 29 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



King Caesar House
Duxbury, Massachusetts
1977

Frederick T. Potter
Town Offices, Duxbury

OCT 18 1977

#2 & 3

South facade, west elevation, &
summer kitchen

Plymouth County

MAR 9 1978
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



King Caesar House
Duxbury, Massachusetts
1977

Frederick T. Potter
Town Offices, Duxbury
#3 43

North (rear) elevation of summer
kitchen and west elevation of early
two story addition.

Plymouth County

OCT 18 1977

MAR 29 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DUXBURY QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—PLYMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

King Caesar House
Duxbury, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
19/362 240/4655 920

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs. Topography by planimetric surveys 1935-1936
Revised 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS charts 245 (1958)
and 1208 (1960). 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

SCALE 1:24,000

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 9.2 FEET

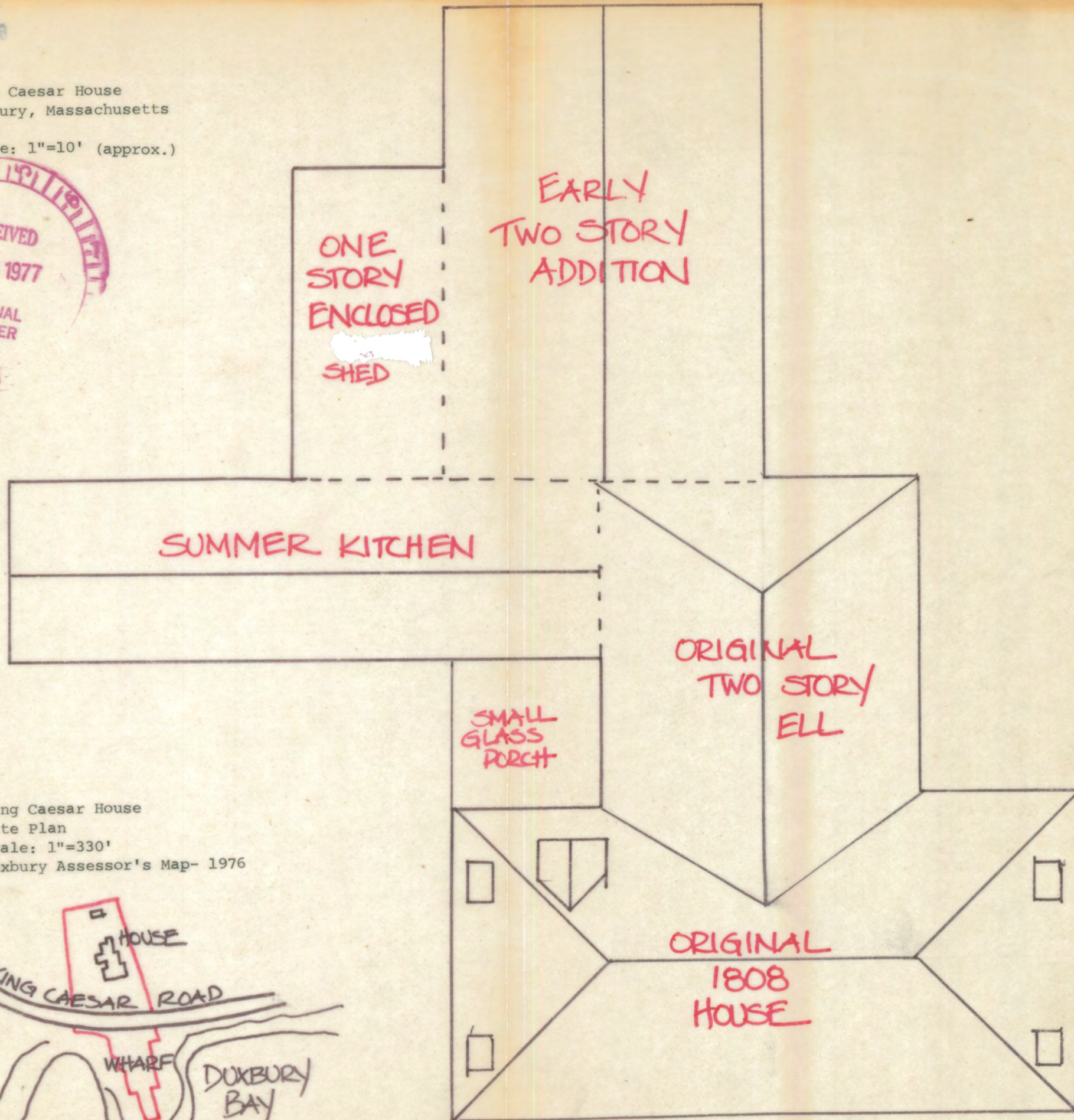
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route

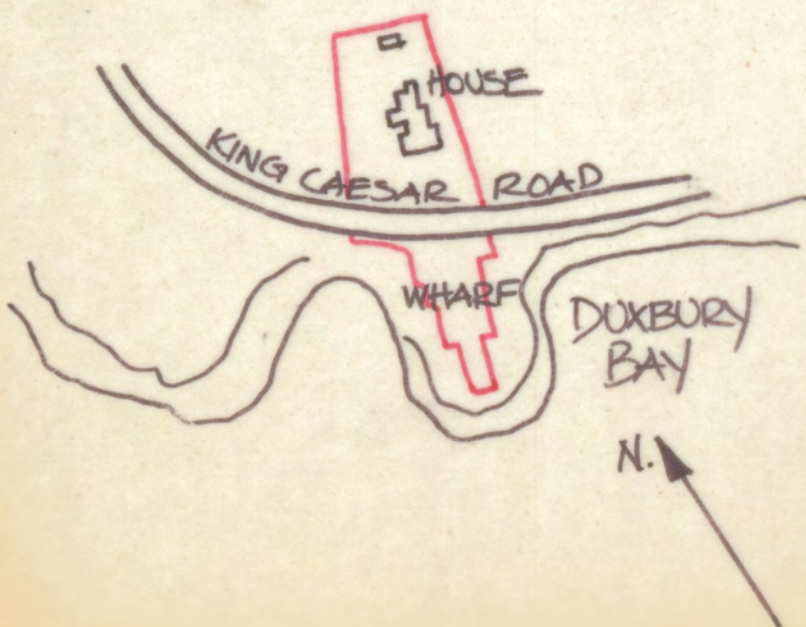
DUXBURY, MASS.
N 4200—W 7037.5/7.5
1961
AMS 6868 II SW—SERIES V814

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REGISTER
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King Caesar House
Duxbury, Massachusetts
Plan
Scale: 1"=10' (approx.)



King Caesar House
Site Plan
Scale: 1"=330'
Duxbury Assessor's Map- 1976





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470*

October 11, 1977

Mr. Charles Herrington
Registration Branch
National Register
OAHP, National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find nomination forms for the following properties:

1. Bedford, Nathaniel Page Homestead
2. Cambridge, Harvard Lampoon Building
3. Duxbury, King Caesar House

These properties have been reviewed and voted by the State Review Board and signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/ed
enc.

1 - 30 - 78

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Joe Orfan

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

King Caesar House

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

yes - wharf is included
what is left of it is little bit of land full
siding of house very important - across from Weston's
major wharf - huge land area covered
with sheds.
stone marker on it - but no buildings

save - ownership - historical society

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Sherry

TITLE

OFFICE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 29 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cottage Farm Historic District	Brookline Norfolk County
Worcester City Hall and Common	Worcester Worcester County
Cutter, Ephraim, House	Arlington Middlesex County
Bixby Block/Home Bank Building	Brockton Plymouth County
Dalton House	Newburyport Essex County
Page, Nathaniel, House	Bedford Middlesex County
King Caesar House	Duxbury Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Robert F. Drinan

Hon. Joseph D. Early

Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

Hon. James A. Burke

Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Hon. Paul Tsongas

Hon. Jerry E. Studds

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon

Executive Director, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

294 Washington Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: King Caesar House		2 OTHER NAMES: Weston, Ezra II, House		3 date of entry: MAR 29 1979	4 county code: 23
5 LOCATION street & number King Caesar Rd.		city / town Duxbury	vicinity of MA	state MA	county Plymouth
6 NPS REGION: NA					
7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12th	
12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?		13 ACREAGE			
14 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		15 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ fair ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated		17 features: ☐ original site ☐ altered ☐ moved ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown		18 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO	
19 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no	
22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-18 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25	
23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		25 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐	
26 architectural style(s):		27 architect:		28 master builder:	
29 landscape architect / garden designer:		30 interior decorator:		31 artist:	
32 artisan:		33 builder/contractor:		34 engineer:	
35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:					
36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP					