

PH 0686018

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 14 1978

**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 John Alden House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 105 Alden Street  
CITY, TOWN Duxbury VICINITY OF 12th  
STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Plymouth CODE 023  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Alden Kindred of America  
STREET & NUMBER 105 Alden Street  
CITY, TOWN Duxbury VICINITY OF Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Plymouth County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Russell Street  
CITY, TOWN Plymouth, STATE Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #38  
DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN 294 Washington Street, Boston STATE Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 John Alden House is located on 2½ acres of land in the town of Duxbury. It faces south and its setting is predominantly rural. The nominated property includes a modern caretaker's cottage and shed so that it may also include the archeological site of an earlier Alden House. The 2½ story ridge roof house has a large central chimney, simple cornerboards and is sheathed in shingles. Fenestration consists of simply framed double-hung 12/12 sash throughout most of the house. The attic windows and those of the facade's second floor have 6/6 sash.

The four bay facade has an off-center entrance in the second bay from the west. Side elevations are two bays deep. A modern cellar bulkhead is attached to the east elevation while a 1 story ridge roof ell with interior chimney, containing a kitchen and buttry is attached to the north (rear) elevation.

The present hosue is believed to have been built in 1653. An archeological survey conducted in 1960 by Roland Robbins uncovered the foundations of the original house which had been built in 1627. The dimensions of that early foundation correspond exactly to those of the ell presently attached to the 1653 house and may confirm the traditional belief that the original house was moved and incorporated into the newer building.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1653

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Alden

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Alden House was built in 1653 for John and Priscilla Alden both of whom had crossed from England to America in 1620 in the Mayflower. They originally settled in Plymouth, then moved to Duxbury in 1627 when they received a grant of land there. The Aldens lived in Duxbury during the summer planting season but returned to Plymouth for Sunday worship and for the winter months. The Aldens move to Duxbury was part of the general northward expansion of the Plymouth colony. The acquisition of land grants provided the settlers with fertile land for crops and cattle enabling them to increase their chances for survival.

In addition to its historic associations, the Alden house is also a valuable archaeological resource. During subsurface testing of the original house location, features and artifacts representative of early to mid-17th century were uncovered. Features discovered included the house foundation, possible site of chimney base, and root cellar. Artifacts recovered included building materials (nails, tiles, glass, brick, tacks), domestic trash (pottery, knives, spoons, brass kettles), clothing items (buckles, buttons, hooks, pins, pipestems) and economic debris (fish hooks, oar locks, gunforks, and horseshoes). (See attached plan). The site was undisturbed.

The site is significant as an undisturbed 17th century domestic site characterizing the initial seventeenth century settlement of Duxbury. Further investigation of the site and analysis of materials could provide information of the 17th century Duxbury lifeways which has not been recorded in historic documents. Since the original house site was occupied for only c. 25 years, the remains provide us with a 17th century time capsule depicting how the Alden family adapted to the Massachusetts frontier. Archaeological investigation of the 1653 house (which has not been conducted) could provide a data base with which to contrast early 17th century adaptation to the New World environment represented by the early house with the patterns of adaptation characteristic of the later 17th century established settlement. The differences in refuse patterns would represent both the change in economic life of the Aldens, but also would reflect broader development of "civilizing" the frontier. The two components are clearly separated horizontally, so fine tuned control over temporal contexts (unavailable when dating is dependent solely on artifact seriation) could be interpreted with confidence.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robbins, Roland Wells, "Pilgrim John Alden's Progress", Archeological Excavations in Duxbury. Plymouth, The Pilgrim Society, 1969.  
 Etheridge, George, copies & Copy of the Old Records of the Town of Duxbury, Mass. from 1642-1770, Plymouth, Avery and Doten, 1893.  
 Wentworth, Dorothy. Settlement and Growth of Duxbury 1628-1870. Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 1973.  
 Winsor, Justin. History of the Town of Duxbury, Mass. Crosby & Nichols, Boston

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.36 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 360470 4655940  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached plat map which is taken from the Duxbury Assessor's Maps and represents lots 401-000 and 401-001.

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

William Nash  
 Duxbury Rural & Historical Society

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 6, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Patricia S. Weselowski*

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

9/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

12-14-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Anna ...*

DATE

12/13/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Finally, an interesting footnote to the significance of the site is that during the 1960 archaeological testing, prehistoric Indian artifacts (including projectile points, pendants and pottery) were recovered among the 17th century debris. Although the artifacts were not analyzed, they appear to date to the Late Woodland or Contact period. It is interesting that the European settlement was located either on top of or in association with a late period Native American settlement. A problem which could be answered with additional testing or analysis is whether the Alden family settled on the site because the area was cleared by Indians for a planting field, or whether the location was selected for the Aldens because of its environmental situation and the presence of the Indian site is an unrelated coincidence, or alternatively, whether the mixture of artifacts represents some kind of exchange between the two groups.

Property Map Form

The John Alden House

105 Alden Street, Duxbury Mass  
Plymouth County

original  
film



Traced from Assessors' Map, Duxbury, Mass.

Revised to JAN. 1, 1976

Alden Lots: 401-001  
401-000

DEC 14 1978

Property Map  
The State of New York  
County of ...  
Town of ...

OUTLINE  
SECTION



Town of ...  
County of ...  
State of New York



All elevations relate to Town of Duxbury datum.

The sod surrounding and including the house site area was excavated in the 10'x10' squares as shown and numbered on the Master Plan. Artifacts found in the sod bear the Master Plan numbers.

The house site was divided into 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 squares. Numbered squares denote the house interior. Lettered squares denote the foundation remains. The letter F preceding the numbers and the letters refers to this foundation.

The root cellar was excavated as a separate unit in three levels, each level recorded with Roman numerals (C-I, C-II, C-III)

**LEGEND**

**HOUSE SITE**

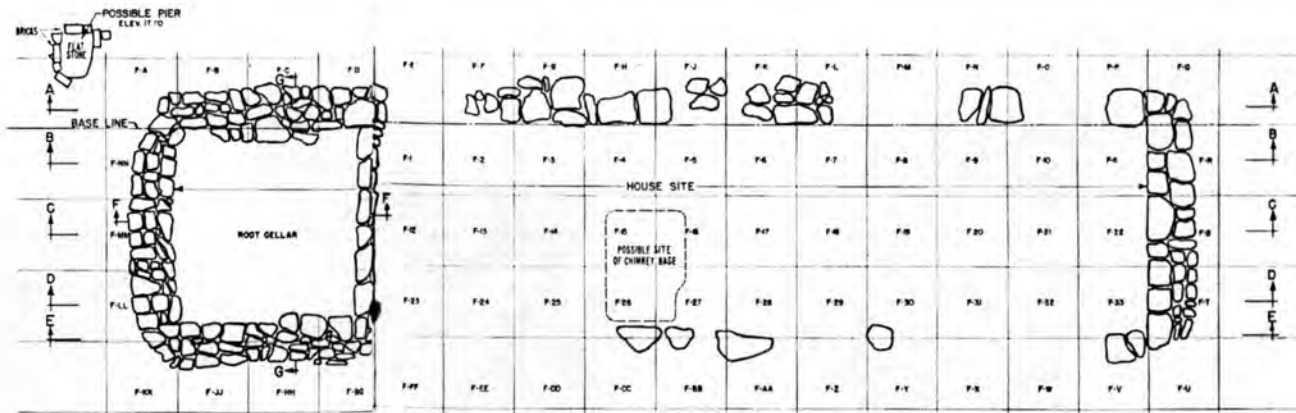
- SOD AND LOAM
- RUBBLE FILL
- NATURAL SANDS

**ROOT CELLAR**

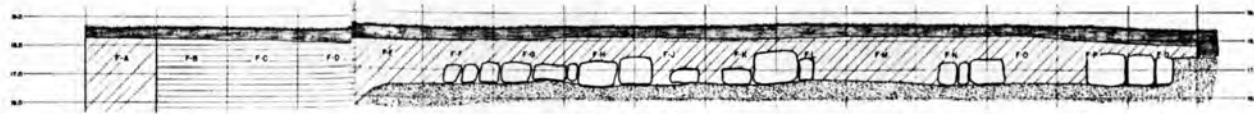
- RUBBLE FILL LEVEL C-I
- RUBBLE FILL LEVEL C-II
- RUBBLE FILL LEVEL C-III

H. B. Fridy - Engineer

Roland W. Robbins - Archaeologist



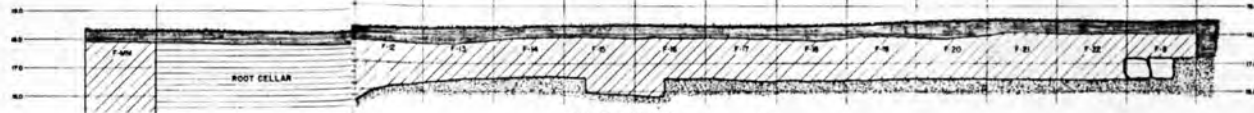
PLAN



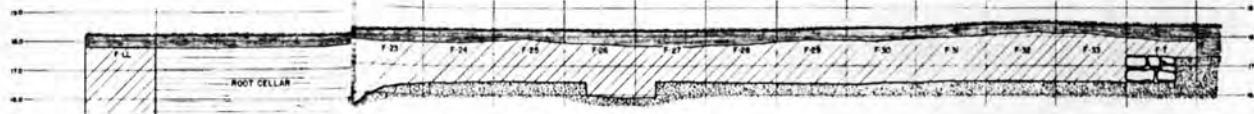
SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B



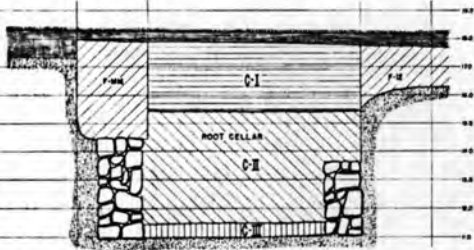
SECTION C-C



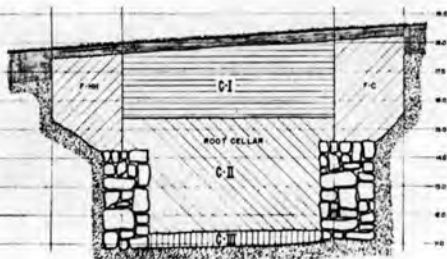
SECTION D-D



SECTION E-E



SECTION F-F



SECTION G-G



DEC 14 1978



This site located on Town of Duxbury property.

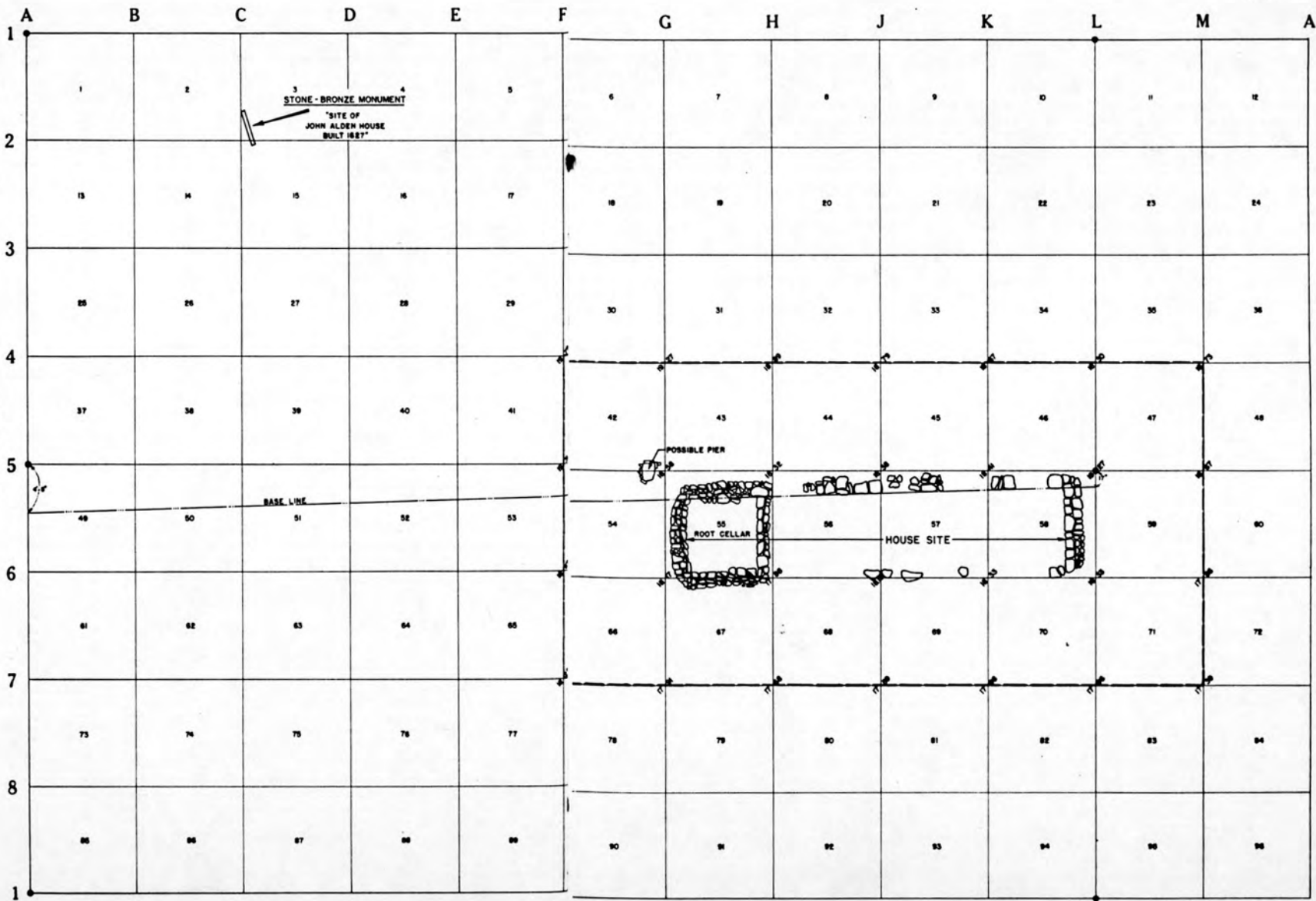
Grades shown hereon recorded before sod removal and relate to Town of Duxbury datum.

**LEGEND**

--- Limits of sod removal when the house site was excavated in the Summer and Fall of 1960.

● Denotes galvanized pipe.

Roland W. Robbins - Archaeologist  
H. B. Fridy - Engineer



Property Alden, John, House  
State Mass. Working Number 10.12.78.4251

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 3  
Maps 1, sketch

**CONTROL**

OK 10.12.78

**HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
12-05-78

Joe Towner

*My first mayflower!*

*This 1653 house replaces the Aldens' 1627 house; both the site & extant bldg. are significant in the ~~1627~~ outward movement from Plymouth of the original colonists.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Archaeological remains have potential to yield important information on changes in economic status, refuse dumping behavior, and intra-site patterning of same family in two related locations. Possibility of investigating possible tracking relationships and/or ~~related~~ site location decisions as related to aboriginal presence is very intriguing.

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

Accept  
Jay Bush  
12-5-78

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

ACCEPT  
BRENDA DUGAN  
12/17/78

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 14 1978

INT:2106-74



#1  
John Alden House  
Alden St., Duxbury  
F.T. Potter 1977  
Duxbury Historical Commission  
Town Hall

DEC 14 1978

OCT 12 1978

#1  
Southeast elevation

John Alden House

South (Front) and  
East Elevation



John Alden House

Alden St., Duxbury

F.T. Potter 1977

Duxbury Historical Commission

Town Hall

#2

South elevation (facade)

DEC 14 1978

OCT 12 1978



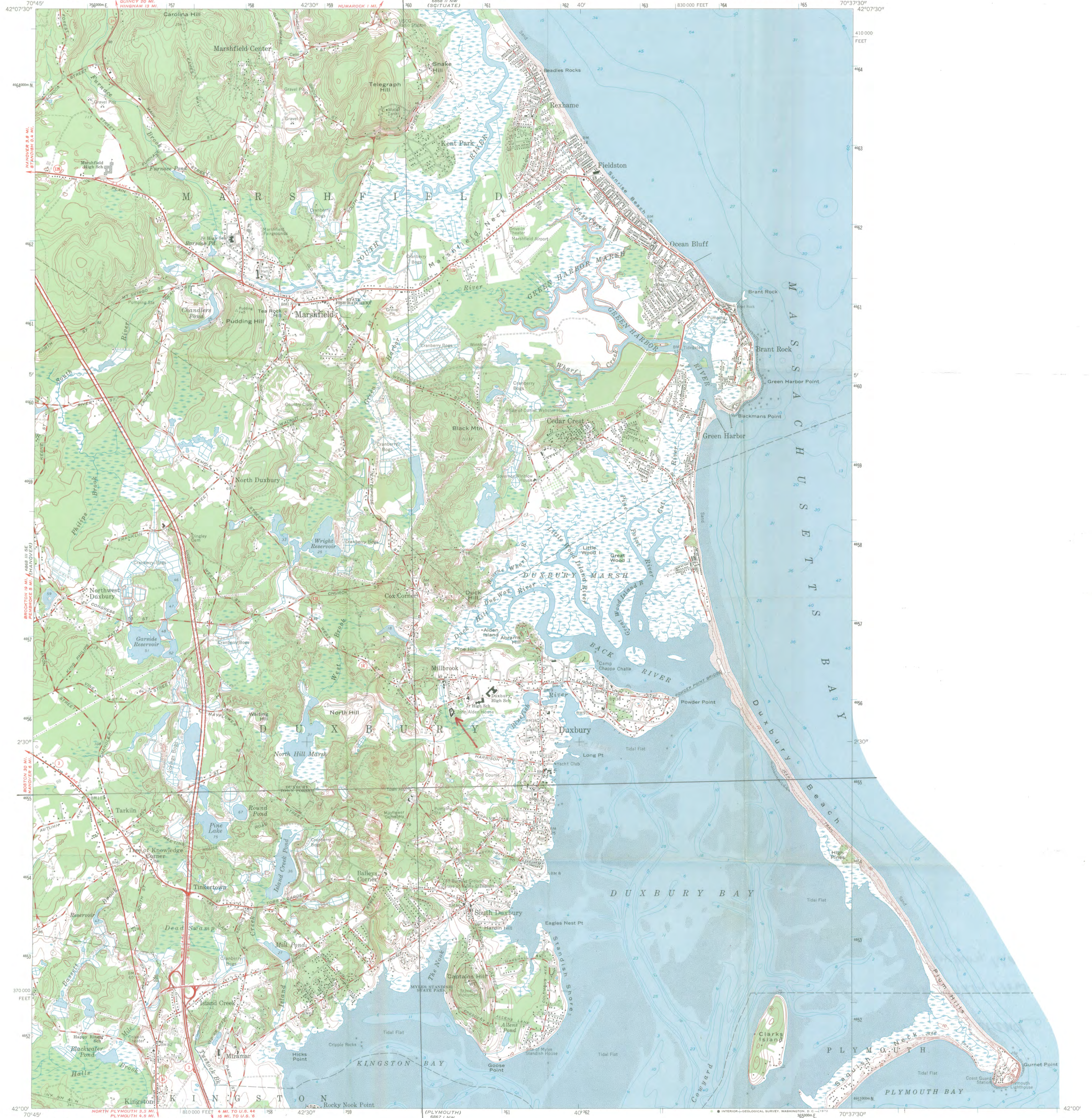
John Alden House  
Alden St., Duxbury  
F.T. Potter 1977  
Duxbury Historical Commission  
Town Hall

#3

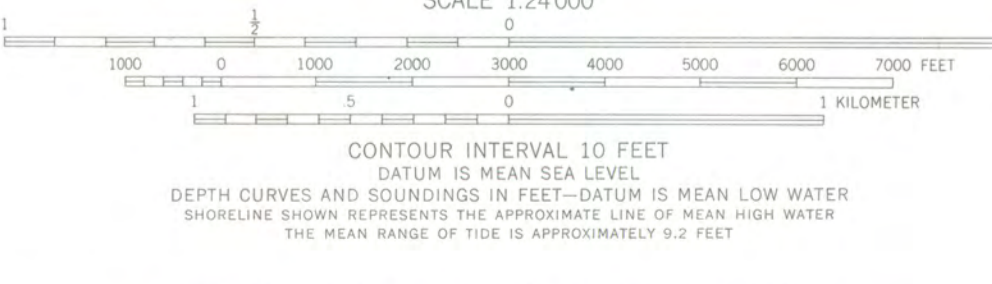
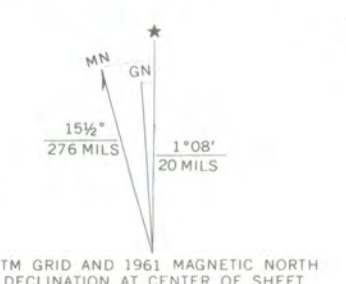
North elevation and ell

REC 14 1978

OCT 12 1978



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 planetable 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



John Alden House  
105 Alden Street  
Duxbury, MA  
UTM COORDINATES:  
192360470/4655940

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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWS REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.2 FEET

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



DEL 14 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 14 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Martha's Vineyard Campground	Oak Bluffs Dukes County
Methuen Memorial Music Hall	Methuen Essex County
Alden, John, House	Duxbury Plymouth County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Paul G. Tsongas  
Honorable Gerry E. Studds  
Honorable James M. Shannon

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Alden, John, House  
 ② OTHER NAMES:  
 ③ date of entry: DEC 14 1978  
 ④ county code: 023

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 105 Alden St.  
 city / town: Duxbury  
 vicinity of: MA  
 state: MA  
 county: Plymouth  
 ⑥ NPS REGION: N Atlantic

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name)  
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  NABS  HAER  NHL  
 ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO  
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 12  
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME:  NO  
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME:  NO  
 ⑮ ACREAGE:  LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  
 excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  
 good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  
 fair  unexcavated  excavated  
 ⑰ features:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
 NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-0  
 UNKNOWN-4  UNKNOWN-5  
 NOT APPLICABLE-7  NOT APPLICABLE-8  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO  
 ⑳ SAVED?  YES  
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS / GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  MUSIC-19  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20  TRANSPORTATION-25  
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:  
 ㉕ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:  
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):  
 ㉘ architect:  
 ㉙ master builder:  
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:  
 ㉜ interior decorator:  
 ㉝ artist:  
 ㉞ artisan:  
 ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP