

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 4 1987

date entered JUN 2 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Sprague House

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 59 Endicott Street N/A not for publication

city, town Danvers N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☒ N/A in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ronald and Patricia S. Hodgdon

street & number 59 Endicott Street

city, town Danvers N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Inventory of the Historic Assets of
the Commonwealth #600 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission, 80 Boylston Street

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Sprague House, Danvers, Massachusetts

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 Sprague House, built in the Danversport section of Danvers in 1810, is located on a small, triangular corner lot at the intersection of Endicott Street and Needham Road. The property is located upland from the Waters River with the Cranes River to the east; both are tributaries of the Danvers River. Endicott Street today is a busy main road, while Needham Road, the original Endicott Road, is a lane running along the north side of the house. The Federal-style house faces south and overlooks the Waters River. It sits elevated approximately 30 feet from Endicott Street on its south side and approximately 14 feet from Needham Road to the north. The property is fronted by a stone wall and is framed by deciduous and evergreen trees, as well as low plantings. The 1/3-acre lot is slightly sloping. The surrounding area is highly developed commercial and industrial property, with only a very small 20th century residential section located to the east.

The main section of the house is 2 1/2 stories tall, while two wings, extending from the east and west sides, are only one story high. The main block is five bays wide, with a central entrance. Three chimneys are located at the end walls, two just in front of the gable ridge and one just to the rear of the ridge.

The clapboard-sheathed building rests on a foundation of granite blocks, which has not been rebuilt. Only the main section of the house has a full basement. The shallow gable roof with narrow returns, originally covered with wooden shingles, is now sheathed with fiberglass shingles.

The house is trimmed with simple corner boards and a narrow cornice throughout. Windows have simple architraves. Several retain their original blinds. Double-hung 6/6 sash survives as well.

The main block's south-facing facade is five bays wide with a central entrance. This central entry retains its original pediment, elliptical fanlight, and reeded pilasters with only the door itself being a 20th century replacement. An early 19th century louvered storm, not in use at the present time, also survives. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash and have plain architraves and louvered shutters.

The north, Needham Road elevation of the main block is also five bays wide with a central entrance. The north entry consists of an entablature, elliptical fanlight, plain pilasters, original door, and 19th century louvered storm door. All windows are again 6/6 sash, but with no shutters present. There is one basement window located to the west of the entry.

The east side of the main block is three bays deep; a small wing is attached to the northwest corner of the building. Fenestration is somewhat

continued

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Continuation sheet Sprague House, Danvers, Massachusetts
Item number

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asymmetrically arranged, due to the presence of the wing. There are two windows on the first story placed directly below two windows located on the second story, while a third window is installed between the wing and the centrally placed first floor window. The gable peak holds a single third-story window. All are 6/6; the gable window is obscured by closed blinds. The east side also contains a window and stairway into the basement. The steps appear appear to have been built at the same time as the foundation, and are of the same granite block, but the wooden bulkhead is a 20th century addition.

The main block's west elevation, three bays deep, has a wing attached to its northeast corner. Again, the arrangement of fenestration is rather asymmetrical, with two windows on the second story located directly above two windows on the first floor, and a third window on the second story placed above the wing. The gable window is identical to the one on the east elevation.

The gable-roofed east wing formerly two bays wide and two narrow bays deep, today displays a single window on its south side and a blank wall on its north side. Only the outline of former window openings remain. A modern door is set off center on the wing's eastern, gable end.

The western wing, of similar size and roof profile, has likewise received alterations. A door is situated in the center of the south side, and a 20th century window combination has been installed on the north side of the west wing. The west, gable-end side displays a blank wall.

The building's interior plan is that of a traditional center-hall residence with two rooms to each side. The single-story wings provide one more room to each side on the first floor. The south stairway retains round newel posts, plain, square-cut balusters and carved decoration on the outside string, very similar to the carving of Samuel McIntire in the Gardner-Pingree House in Salem, Massachusetts. (Any association with McIntire is unsubstantiated.) The dining room contains a Federal-period mantle with applied decoration in the Adamsque style. The parlor contains a Samuel McIntire-style carved mantle with rope carving and receded pilasters. The kitchen retains its original fireplace complete with hearth and beehive oven. All rooms on the first floor contain wide board horizontal wainscotting with the exception of the west wing. The dining room, parlor, and south hall have additional decorative molding in the wainscotting. All but one of the rooms on the first floor of the main structure contain "pocket" shutters with raised panels.

On the second floor, there are four bedrooms: two to each side of the hall with modern bathrooms added in between. One bedroom contains a mantle very

continued

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similar to that which is in the southwest bedroom of the Gardner-Pingree House. This room is the only room on the second floor to have pocket shutters and wainscotting. Other original interior finishes include raised paneled doors with brass latches throughout, ceiling hooks, and the original north entry door complete with its nineteenth century brass rimlock and key.

Alterations have been minimal and include the addition of the 2 1/2 baths, replacement of all exterior doors except the north entry, replacement of most of the 6/6 sash with the same, and the inconspicuous addition of heating ducts.

The property also contains an early 20th century garage, measuring 12 by 19 feet, located approximately 27 feet west of the house, 18 feet from Needham Road, and 37 feet from Endicott Street. It is a wood frame structure with asphalt roof and concrete floor.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites may be present. Artifacts reportedly have been found in the vicinity of the house, and several known sites are located nearby. Situated on a tongue of land between two tidal rivers, Crane and Waters, the area would have been attractive to prehistoric people. However, given the intensive development in the area (including the removal of rock outcrops on the Sprague House property), it is unclear whether any significant remnants survive.

There is also a potential for historical archaeological resources. Occupation related features (trash pits, privies, wells) are likely around the house. Controlled testing and excavation of these features can provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns which characterized this prosperous Danvers family during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

8. Significance

Sprague House, Danvers, Massachusetts

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)

Specific dates ca. 1810 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sprague House, Danvers, possesses integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the Sprague family, a wealthy and influential family in nearby Salem who built the nominated property as a summer house in 1810. This well-preserved country residence is one of the few surviving Federal-style houses in Danvers. Its particularly well-detailed interior finishes are especially notable. The property therefore meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

The Sprague farmhouse is one of the earliest and most notable structures in Danversport, in the southeastern section of Danvers. This area saw development from farmland to shipbuilding to, in the 20th century, industrialization and suburbanization. (Today the house stands essentially isolated by 20th century highway and commercial construction.) Its location on a slight rise between two tributaries of the Danvers River made it an ideal site for a summer residence. The land on which the farm, eventually totaling 112 acres, stood was originally part of Governor John Endicott's estate.

The most prominent owners of the property were its original owners, Major Joseph Sprague and his son, Joseph Jr. Joseph Sprague was born in Medford in 1739 and in the late 1760s, moved to Salem from Newburyport. A successful merchant, distillery owner, and citizen, Sprague was a member of the Salem Committee of Safety and distinguished himself during the Revolutionary War. Partial owner of a number of ships, Sprague also owned a large estate in Salem. In 1787, he purchased a 96-acre farm in Danvers from the estate of John Felt, and during the next few years purchased an additional 19 adjoining acres from Joseph Endicott, the land being part of the original 1632 land grant of Gov. John Endicott between the Crane and Waters Rivers. Major Sprague died in 1807. His estate, valued in excess of \$86,000, was divided among his son, Joseph Jr., and his daughter, Sarah White Stearns. Joseph Jr. purchased the Danvers farm, buying his sister's share for \$3,080.

Joseph Jr., a graduate of Harvard, was born in Salem in 1771. Like his father, he was a merchant; he also served as a representative to the General Court. During the War of 1812, Sprague improved his fortune through privateering. In 1807, he had a fine townhouse built for himself in Salem, designed by Samuel McIntire.

In 1810, Joseph Jr. built the nominated property, a large 2 1/2 story Federal-style house with stylish entrance ornamented with pediment, fanlight, and pilasters. In July 1911, noted Salem minister and diarist William Bentley wrote that he "was received by Mr. Sprague in his new House built last year. The whole farm appeared to enjoy a prosperous year and everything as a most flourishing condition with joyful hopes. Joseph Jr. used the house as a summer residence, and did not occupy the property year-round until after

continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Salem

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	9
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3	4	1	7	6	10
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4	1	7	1	2	4	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached assessor's map. The boundaries coincide with those of the present ownership.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission, with Patricia Hodgson

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1987

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state 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 Valerie A. Talmage

title State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 22, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 7-2-87

for Melvyn Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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date entered

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Page 1

1822. His was one of several summer houses erected in the Danversport area by Salem merchants in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

In 1833, three years before his death, Joseph Sprague Jr. sold the farm to Edmund and Margaret Needham for \$6,000. Needham, a farmer born in 1786 in Salem, sold the property to Nathan and Mary Page in 1837. The Pages owned the farm for 46 years until they sold it to their daughter, Lydia Page Whipple, and her husband George Whipple. The property then passed through many owners and was acquired by Ronald and Patricia S. Hodgdon in 1984. Its land area substantially diminished over time, the now-2 1/2 acre property is no longer farmed. Instead, the Hodgdon's run an antiques business from their home.

The Sprague House is architecturally significant as an excellent example of a Federal-style country residence, a rare remnant in Danvers. Its braced frame construction, multiple chimneys, rectangular center-hall plan, entries, and interior details are typical of a fashionable residence of the period. The nominated property retains a remarkable amount of its original fabric and details. Although modest in its exterior finishes, its stylish and essentially unaltered interior embellishments add to its distinction.

The interior carvings resemble those of architect and artist-carver Samuel McIntire (1757-1811) in Salem, particularly in the Gardner-Pingree House. McIntire is known to have done work for both Major Sprague (whose Salem house, designed by McIntire, survives at 380 Essex Street and was listed in the National Register as part of the Chestnut Street Historic District in 1973), and Joseph Jr. in Salem. The resemblance between the carving of the Sprague House in Danvers and those of McIntire's residences in Salem suggest that the well-known artisan/architect may have had some association with the nominated property. This association is hypothetical in nature and has not been substantiated in any way.

COUNTING RESOURCESCONTRIBUTING

Buildings 1

NONCONTRIBUTING

1

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Continuation sheet Sprague House, Danvers, Massachusetts 9

Page 1

Diary of William Bentley, V. 4, Peter Smith, Gloucester, Mass.

The Danvers Historical Society, Danvers Historical Society Collections, V. 7,
Danvers, Mass., 1919.

The Sprague Family file at the Danvers Archival Center.

Essex County Registry of Deeds, V. 257, 1, 220, V. 298, 1. 72, Salem, Mass.

Kimball, Fiske, Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver. The Architect of Salem, Peter
Smith, Gloucester, Mass. for The Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1966.

The Essex Institute, Essex Institute Historical Collections, V. 64, p. 5-7,
Salem, Mass.

The Essex Institute, Vital Records of Danvers, printed by Newcomb & Gauss for
The Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1910.

The Essex Institute, Vital Records of Salem, printed by Newcomb & Gauss for
the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1910.

James Duncan Phillips, Trustee of the Essex Institute, Salem in the Eighteenth
Century, printed by the Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass., for the Essex
Institute, 1969.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sprague House
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

JUN 4 1987

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 8/2/88

Date Due: 7/2/87 - 7/19/87

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-2-87

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____



The Sprague Farm
59 Endicott Street
— Danvers, MA

Photographer: Patricia Hodgdon
59 Endicott Street, Danvers

Photo # 1 of 2

View: Rear (north) elevation showing
entry and east and west wings.

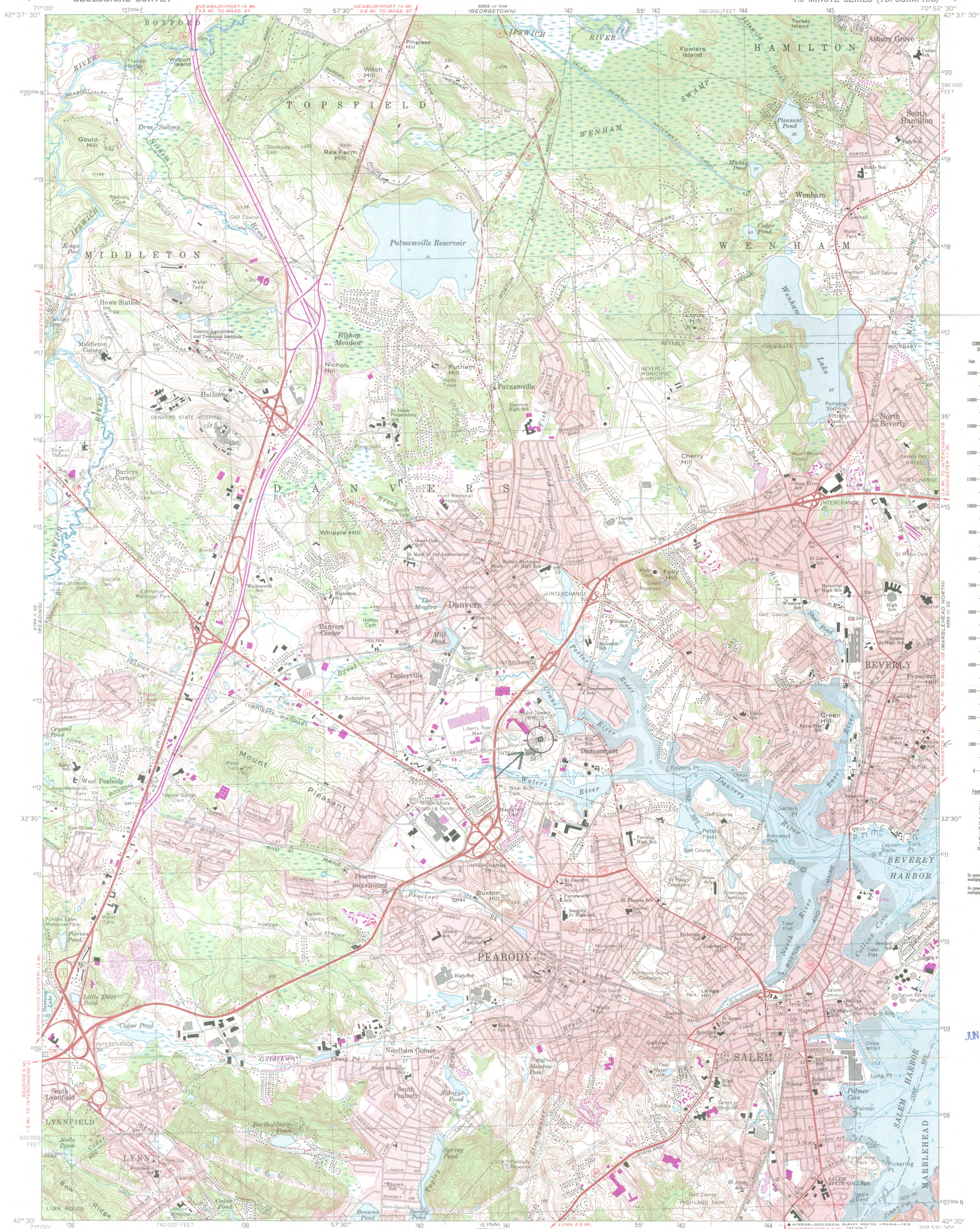
JUN 4 1987



The Sprague Farm
59 Endicott Street
Danvers, MA

Photographer: PATRICIA HOBGBOW
59 Endicott Street, Danvers
Photo # 2 of 2

South (Front) and west elevations
showing main entry, garage
and Endicott Street.



CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters

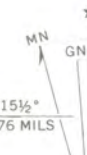


Feet Meters
1 3048
2 6096
3 9144
4 12192
5 15240
6 18288
7 21336
8 24384
9 27432
10 30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

JUN 4 1987

Maped, 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,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:25 000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

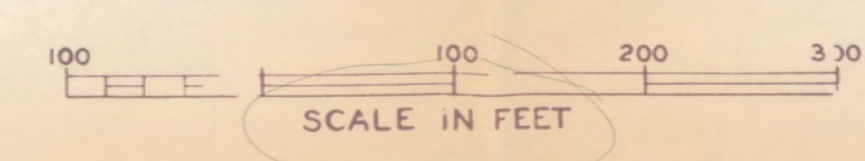
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY
NOT FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCES

COL - EAST INC.
BOSTON & PITTSFIELD

ASSESSORS MAP
DANVERS



NO PARCEL 57,59

58	59	60
63	64	65
66	67	



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Danvers, Sprague House, 59 Endicott Street.

Pittsfield, Providence Court, 379 East Street.

The properties have been voted eligible by the State Review Board. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nominations forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

VT/dr

Enclosure

Carol Shull

May 18, 1987

NRHP
Dept of Interior, NPS
P.O. Box 37127
Washington D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Danvers, ^{the} SPRAGUE HOUSE, 59
Endicott Street

Pittsfield, Providence Court, 379
East Street

renew

→ This should
be on
Glossary,
now!

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

~~Candace Jenkins~~
Registration Director

~~Sarah Zimmerman~~ Betsy Friedman

COO