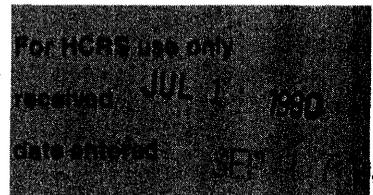


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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** Central Village, Ipswich, Massachusetts Multiple Resource Area  
Historic Resources of the Central Village, Ipswich, Massachusetts  
historic (partial inventory) historic and architectural

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Multiple not for publication

city, town Ipswich vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
<input type="checkbox"/> multiple	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> resource		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple--see attached continuation sheets

street & number

city, town Ipswich 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 Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets of  
title the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date May 1978 - January 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

- A) Physical Description
- B) Architectural Description
- C) Archaeological Description
- D) Nominated Districts
- E) Nominated Individual Properties
- F) Methodology

#### A) Physical Description

Ipswich is located on a generous ocean margin of sand and salt marsh in Essex County on Massachusetts' North Shore. Town Hill marks the northernmost boundary of Ipswich Village\* and the banks of the Ipswich River define the eastern border. These two topographical features form two sides of a rough triangle and most early settlement was confined to this area. The earliest colonial structures were built along both sides of the river, and within the shelter of Town Hill. Two early town greens-- Meeting House Green (Area E) and South Green (Area J)--provided manmade focal points for settlement within the confines of Town Hill and the Ipswich River.

High Street (Area K) was a locus of both residential growth and commercial establishments (i.e., inns, taverns, and workshops) related to the road, which was part of the main route north from Boston. Shipping, ship building, and fishing interests dominated the neighborhood that developed through the 17th and 18th centuries along the north bank of the river, from the Cove to Town Wharf, and northerly to Town Hill. The "East End" was an early designation of this neighborhood (Area M). Map IV-B (in Accompanying Documentation) identifies the topographical and manmade features that shaped the neighborhoods of Ipswich Village, and the four districts that correspond to these early neighborhoods.

From the 17th century to the 20th, Ipswich Village generally remained within the triangular bounds of the river and Town Hill. The series of historical maps IV-C, IV-D, and IV-E (Accompanying Documentation) dating from 1832 to 1884 illustrate Ipswich's 19th century development. After the Revolutionary War the town's population dropped and expansion came to a standstill. By the second half of the 19th century increased industrialization along the river above and below Choate Bridge (Map IV-B) (National Historic Landmark), and a growing population led to a filling-in of the settled area and development of the marsh land south of High Street. Areas of industrial development were not thoroughly surveyed, however, and are not included in this nomination.

---

\*19th century maps of Ipswich usually identify the central, settled area as "Ipswich Village." (See Map IV-C of 1832). By the early 20th century and to the present day, some residents have applied this same name--"Ipswich Village"--to the area around Route 1A near neighboring Rowley (i.e., T.F. Waters' Ipswich Village and the Old Rowley Road, 1917). Throughout this nomination the earlier usage is followed, and the terms "Ipswich Village" or "the Village" refer to the central, densely settled part of the town.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Today Ipswich Village is densely settled around a central business district. Most of the buildings in the Village are single family houses, closely spaced with shallow setbacks from the street. Rear lots tend to be deep, and considerable open space is provided by the Greens and the winding river.

This nomination is based on a Cultural Resources Survey of a target area defined for the town's Dept. of H.U.D.-funded Housing Rehabilitation Program of 1977 and 1978. That area coincides with the old "Village" portion of the town, and generally extends from the Newmarch St.-Jeffrey's Neck Road intersection on the east, to the County Road (Rt. 1A)-Essex Road (Rt. 133) intersection on the south, to the railroad bridge on High Street on the north. A more detailed description of the boundaries of this two square-mile area is included as Section 10 of this report, and the boundaries are clearly shown on Map IV-A.

Ipswich Village illustrates a history, that the individual houses show in detail, of long continuous use and slow organic development. Ipswich retains quality 17th, 18th, and 19th century houses in quantity, providing a concentrated historic resource of unique depth and richness.

### B) Architectural Description

Ipswich is an unusually rich town in which almost every style of American domestic architecture is represented. The town's most notable resource is the abundance of colonial and Federal period houses. Later 19th century architecture including Greek Revival and various Victorian styles--Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Stick, Second Empire, and Shingle--augment the town's architectural assets, forming an extraordinary assemblage of structures that span three centuries.

In general, the early buildings are conservative in design and represent the solid craftsmanship of country builders. During the third quarter of the 19th century, Ipswich enjoyed increased prosperity, and more elaborate Victorian houses reflect this thriving period. By and large, Ipswich buildings rise no more than three stories and are of modest dimensions. Exterior building fabric is generally clapboards, and there is an abundance of slate roofs.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Many of Ipswich's streets were laid out in the 17th century. These ran along the river, skirted Town Hill, linked pastures, and avoided marshes. The few streets that were built during the 19th century tend to be straighter, showing less response to topographical features. Settlement patterns changed little over time. New roads filled-in rather than spread beyond the basic triangular area. The Village remains overwhelmingly residential in character. No more than 5% of the structures are primarily commercial, and most of those are located in the central business district on Market and Central Streets. With the exception of a very few industrial, religious, educational, and civic buildings, the rest are residences, and most are single family.

The first buildings in Ipswich tended to be closely spaced with shallow setbacks, giving the town an urban aspect. New construction followed this model until late in the 19th century, when prosperous citizens sometimes bought two or more lots for a new mansion and large garden. Today streetscapes vary. Some, like upper Summer St. (in the East End--Area M), still retain their 18th century aspect, while others, like Central Street (not included in this nomination), which was laid out in 1871, have larger lots and houses. Many Ipswich streets combine both patterns. High Street (Area K) is a good example of this, where the streetscape of closely spaced 17th and 18th century houses is peppered with more generous lots of Victorian houses.

Ipswich Village is fortunate in having an abundance and wide variety of open space. Two greens (Areas E and J), two cemeteries (one on High St. in Area K, the other at South Green in Area J), and two house museum parks (around the Whipple and Heard Houses in Area J) provide the foundation of manmade open space. The Ipswich River and its banks and undeveloped Town Hill are ample areas of open space as well. Wild vegetation along several stretches of the river contrasts with the trimmed grass of the greens, parks, and cemeteries, and the lawns and gardens of private homes.

### C) Archaeological description

The variety of habitats within the town of Ipswich, including salt and fresh marshes, seashore, riverine, and uplands accommodates rich flora and fauna, which in turn have attracted settlers to Ipswich for over 10,000 years. Artifacts from the archaeological site at Bull Brook in Ipswich (outside the area of this survey) were dated as that old, and numerous other sites throughout the prehistoric and contact periods have been identified within the town and central Village. Ipswich and its Village also contain a substantial number of historic

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

archaeological sites dating from the 17th through the 19th century which, like the town's Colonial and 19th century buildings, have remained extant. A survey of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources of the whole town has been conducted concurrently with this historic and architectural survey by a team from Boston University, and that Mass. Historical Commission-funded survey has been filed at the Commission's Boston office.

### D) Nominated Districts

Four discrete potential National Register districts were identified within the surveyed area, based on historic neighborhoods and differentiated by topographical and manmade features and by patterns of use. These are the Meeting House Green, Area E; South Green, Area J; High St., Area K; and the East End, Area M. Map IV-B shows the boundaries and relative positions of these districts.

Area E - Meeting House Green has been an active religious and commercial area for three centuries. Some of the town's most notable 18th and 19th century houses line North Main Street, the principal road in this district.

Area J - The South Green was the center of education and military training in early Ipswich. In the 19th century religious and civic functions were added, with the construction in the 1830's of the South Parish House at the north head of the green and the Unitarian Church about a block northwest. The latter was converted to its present use as Town Hall in the 1860's; the former burned in 1977. Today most of the houses facing the green date from the 18th and 19th centuries. A notable exception is the mid-17th century Whipple House behind its famous historic herb garden near the north end of the green. In addition to the green itself, this district contains key open spaces at the northern end along the river and around Town Hall, the Whipple House, and the Heard House.

Area K - High Street was cut out of wilderness in 1634. Ancient 17th century houses still line the street, recalling the earliest days of settlement. The largest concentration of first period structures in town is found in this area, and they shape its character.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

Area M - The East End, which focuses on the river, tells the story of Ipswich's economic growth through its buildings. Ranging from 17th century seafarers' dwellings to Victorian mansions of 19th century industrialists, the buildings trace the town's lean and prosperous years.

Areas E, K, and M abut one another, and Area J is not far to the south. Consideration was given to forming a single district of the whole Village area, but this approach was rejected on two positive bases--historical and visual, and one negative--intrusions. The four districts or neighborhoods differed in historic development and use. Meeting House Green was the religious and commercial heart of town, and a location of large and prestigious houses. South Green was a distinct religious and residential center and a traditional location of schools. The flat expanse of South Green provided the militia with a training ground that hilly, rocky Meeting House Green did not. High Street was and is the main road in and out of town to the north, and has been shaped by this fact. East End focuses not on the town center, but rather on the river, and beyond it the sea.

Closely related to the historical distinctions between the areas are their current visual differences. The two greens and High St. all have their own sense of place, unique visual characters based on the combinations of topography and use. The East End is more varied, but all of its streets lead down toward the River, which ties that district together.

In addition, drawing four districts allowed the omission of certain intrusions that seemed not to warrant National Register status. To link the South Green to the other three districts, a gas station and two modern cement-block industrial buildings would have to be included, along with several commercial buildings that currently do not make a positive contribution to the visual character of the town.

Some properties within the districts, generally 19th century houses, are of lesser architectural or historical interest than their neighbors. Some have synthetic siding or are in poor condition. Although these structures do not make a substantial contribution to their district (in contrast to the fully surveyed properties), they are nonetheless supportive in scale and setback, and the districts would be poorer without them. These properties, termed "secondary contributors," and other properties generally not eligible for individual National Register listing are described and justified on the separate area forms.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

### E) Nominated Individual Properties

Ten significant structures are located outside the boundaries of the four Ipswich Village districts. These buildings are notable examples of 17th, 18th, or 19th century domestic architecture. The Rust House at 83 County Road (Form 16) was built about 1690 and still displays the austere beauty of the 17th century timber frame. Handsome Georgian details adorn the interior of the picturesque Heard-Lakeman House at 2 Turkey Shore Road (Form 167), built about 1776. Brown's Manor, a large brick mansion with a mansard roof at 119 High St. (Form 148) and the Shingle/Colonial Revival style Bailey House at 40 Market St. (Form 187) that looks over the business district demonstrate Ipswich's response to 19th century ideas of siting and architectural style.

### F) Methodology (including Mapping)

The survey of Ipswich Village was conducted by Margaret E. Welden, who has earned a master's degree in Preservation Studies at Boston University, and Edward F. Zimmer, a doctoral candidate in American Studies at Boston University. Concurrently a separate archaeological survey of the whole town was conducted by another team, the results of which are filed at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston.

The area of the Cultural Resources Survey coincided with the target area of the H.U.D.-funded Housing Rehabilitation Program of the Ipswich Historical Commission. Those boundaries were drawn to include the central town area with the most pressing need for housing rehabilitation assistance, but that section matches the historic "Ipswich Village" closely. (Compare Maps IV-A and IV-D.) The environmental review clearance for that Program required the completion of this survey, and the Program funded half of the cost, along with a grant-in-aid from the Department of the Interior through the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Past surveys associated with local efforts to form a local historic district (from 1963-1965, in 1967 and in 1968) and the H.U.D.-funded Ipswich Demonstration Project in Historic Preservation identified and provided considerable information on almost all pre-1832 structures in the town, which number about 180. Only a few dozen of those structures are outside the bounds of the Cultural Resources Survey.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	SEP 17 1979

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 6

The Cultural Resources Survey commenced in May, 1978 with a thorough overview tour of the whole area by Welden and Zimmer, to identify areas and individual structures that warranted inventorying. Ten areas and two hundred individual structures were chosen, including all the 17th and 18th century structures. Those 19th and early 20th century structures which in degree of survival of period material seemed to represent well their type and period were also surveyed, though less intensively. Condition and siting were also weighted in this selection process, but were regarded as less crucial than survival of period material. The surveyors attempted to develop and apply a locally based criterion to their survey selections, choosing Ipswich's best examples, rather than structures meeting some broader standards of importance in their period and style.

The previous surveys and the Cultural Resources Survey indicated that Ipswich's most significant historical resource is its concentration of 17th and 18th century houses. On that basis, Areas E, J, K, and M were selected for National Register nomination. Other areas were identified which are of local value, especially for understanding the full range, chronologically, architecturally, and socially, of Ipswich in the historical period. However, those areas were not nominated to the National Register, as they were too altered or were in too poor condition or were not sufficiently distinct in the townscape or distinctive in representing the characteristics of their period and style to meet National Register criteria. Two areas relating to Ipswich's late 19th century industrial history were not nominated as that period was not thoroughly researched within the scope of this survey.

Most of the structures nominated individually to the National Register are outstanding examples of 17th and 18th century architecture. The rest are 19th century structures that are significant representatives of their particular periods, such as Brown's Manor (Form 148). The individual 19th century nominees are well-preserved, and anchor key sites in the townscape (Forms 34 and 187).

Within the four nominated districts, all structures not originally chosen for individual inclusion in the survey were inventoried as "secondary contributors." Many are appropriate to their district in scale or siting, but by their condition or period contribute less

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY		
RECEIVED	<b>JUL 1</b>	1980
DATE ENTERED		

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

to the district than the fully surveyed structures. The survey forms for the secondary contributors include a photo, map, and basic information on the property, but do not contain the detailed research of the rest of the survey. Secondary contributors' forms are indicated by an "x" in the form number.

The survey was conducted using Mass. Historical Commission Survey forms. Further research was undertaken in the Ipswich Room of the town library. Other resources included maps and atlases, information from the previous surveys listed in Section 6, and the Essex County Registry of Deeds in Salem. Specific sources consulted are listed in Section 9.

Maps were drawn on individual survey forms which locate the surveyed structure, the nearest cross street, surrounding structures, and include a north arrow. The surveyed building is circled on the map, and marked with its form number. Other surveyed structures in the area of the map are also circled.

District maps include all surveyed buildings, including secondary contributors. Each structure in the district is circled and numbered, and secondary contributors can be identified by the "x" in their form numbers. Rough boundaries of the district are outlined in red. For exact boundary lines see the assessor's maps included in the Accompanying Documentation as Map IV-G. Each district has been assigned a separate letter.

The boundaries of the survey area are shown on Map IV-A. Map IV-F locates this area within the town. The nominated districts, and individual nominees outside the districts are shown on Map IV-B.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ipswich is a pleasant, small town with a central village surrounded by salt marshes, fields, and forests, and bisected by a tidal river. The varied habitats of the area have supported human settlement for over 10,000 years, and attracted European colonists in the early 17th century. Throughout the town, valuable evidence of the many centuries of habitation remains below the ground. (See Section 7-C.) Within the central town area covered by this survey, a particularly rich reservoir of houses remain, defining the town's development over the past three and a half centuries. The pattern of 17th century development, and the town's growth and adaptation through the 18th and 19th centuries are reflected in an unparalleled concentration of 17th century houses, and a multitude of 18th and 19th century structures. The quantity of early dwellings in Ipswich determines the town's peculiar significance as a record of American architecture, settlement patterns, and town development from the 1630's to the present. It is considered to be of national significance for that reason.

## Colonial Ipswich

Agawam was the Indian name for this region when, in 1614, Captain John Smith reported, "This place might content a right curious judgment, but there are many sands at the entrance of the Harbour, and the worst is, it is imbayed too farre from the deepe sea."

Boston itself was only three years old when the Governor and Council of the Massachusetts Bay Colony resolved to "hasten the planting of Agawam." John Winthrop, Jr., the Governor's brilliant eldest son, led the expedition in March of 1633. The first houses were "wigwams, huts, and hovels" built against the hillside near what is now the Town Wharf. (Subsequent development between this portion of Town Hill and the river and along both banks of the river is represented in this nomination by District M, the East End. See Map IV-B). By order of the General Court, dwellings had to be within one half mile of the Meeting House at Meeting House Green (area E). Outlying lands were for tillage, pasture, and woodlots. The settlement prospered. On August 4, 1634, the Court of Assistants changed its name to "Ipswich" in acknowledgement, they said, "of the great honor and kindness done to our people who took shipping" in that ancient English port.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED 7 17 1980

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

To this outpost came the most extraordinary of pioneer groups. "The peopling of the town is by men of good rank and quality, many of them having the revenue of large lands in England before they came to the wilderness." Winthrop was shortly joined by Thomas Dudley, Simon Bradstreet, Samuel Symonds and Richard Saltonstall--two governors, one deputy-governor, and one magistrate. With them came America's first poetess, Anne Bradstreet, and her sister Patience, wife of Daniel Dennison, who was to become commander-in-chief in King Philip's War. These luminaries' houses are gone, but homes of their contemporaries still stand along High and East St., and elsewhere in Ipswich.

"Glorious," Cotton Mather wrote, "was the Church of Ipswich." First and most brilliant of its scholar-ministers was Nathaniel Ward, lawgiver, wit, preacher and poet, who drew up the Body of Liberties, our first code of fundamental laws. His meeting house has been replaced several times, but on its site stands the present modern First Church in Ipswich, at the head of Meeting House Green. Always the religious and residential center of town, and long the commercial hub as well, that Green is Area E of this nomination.

### Early Trade

By 1646 the population is thought to have been close to 800 inhabitants--146 families. Twenty or more ships bearing immigrants were arriving each year along the shores of the Bay Colony and the pressure to find suitable places for settlement increased steadily. Ipswich expanded along High St., which also was a key route to the more northerly towns. The street became a commercial and residential axis of the town, and still retains houses, shops, and taverns dating from the mid-17th century to the present (Area K).

The town prospered along with the colony. Wharves were built and warehouses; land was set aside for the fishing trade; flakes for the drying of fish, dwellings for fishermen, and an acre of land for cultivation by each boat's crew were provided. Many of these activities centered in Ipswich's "East End" (Area M). The exportation of salt hay from Ipswich by barge was to continue for more than 250 years. Hunting and trapping diminished in importance; fishing and lumbering steadily increased, as did ship building. Staves, clapboards, masts and pre-cut timbers for houses were exported. This mercantile success of the colony, of which Ipswich was a part, became a source of concern back in England.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Britain's determination to impose limiting regulations on commerce was ill-received in Ipswich. As early as 1687, the town had distinguished itself by public protest against taxation without representation. Governor Andros, in response, imprisoned three town leaders in what became known as the Andros Rebellion. Commemorating this incident, the Town Seal of Ipswich bears the words "Birthplace of American Independence." Col. Appleton was a participant in that Rebellion, and his house stands at the foot of Meeting House Green (#92). In 1766, the town representative in the colonial legislature was replaced because his votes did not strongly enough reflect the bitter feelings of town meetings; dissention grew as the decade passed. Ipswich minutemen were marching toward Lexington and Concord by late afternoon on April 19, 1775. Their training field was the South Green (Area J). One of the many colonial homes that flank the green is Col. Nathaniel Wade's (#14), to whom Washington gave command of West Point when Benedict Arnold deserted.

### Post-Colonial History

After the eight years of war, the plight of the old town was acute. So many men had been away that agriculture suffered; markets for fish were lost; shipping diminished to the vanishing point; the war debt of the town was enormous and greatly complicated by currency and monetary chaos; relief of the poor was a staggering problem. The southwest Hamlet Parish thought it could manage better apart from impoverished Ipswich and so withdrew to become the town of Hamilton in 1792; with it went the richest farms. When the southeastern Chebacco Parish withdrew in 1819 to become Essex, the shipbuilding revenues were for the most part lost to Ipswich. (Map IV-F shows the relative locations of Ipswich, Hamilton, and Essex). Population figures for Ipswich tell the story. In 1790 in the first federal census, Ipswich showed nearly 5,000; by 1820 the town registered 2,550.

### Economic Quietude

The sandbar at the mouth of the Ipswich River, observed by Captain John Smith long ago and marked today by the line of breakers about a half-mile off Crane Beach, may be considered the single most important reason for the survival of so many old houses in Ipswich. Most Ipswich families in the early 1800's had a seafaring member, but he shipped out of Boston, Salem, Beverly, or Newburyport--all blessed with deeper harbors. Prior to the building of the Newburyport

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Turnpike after 1803 (now Route 1), all overland communication between Boston and Newburyport, Portsmouth, and Portland was through Ipswich. The turnpike, although not in itself immediately successful, certainly helped to make Ipswich the quiet town it became. The new road bypassed Ipswich to the west, diverting the north-south traffic through neighboring Topsfield.

In 1790 there were 600 men, women, and children making pillow-lace in Ipswich, but apparently this was a subsistence activity of an impoverished population, rather than a lucrative craft. With the nineteenth century development of lace machines, the market for Ipswich's hand-made produce disappeared.

The Industrial Revolution brought to Ipswich several small and fitfully prosperous textile mills, and with the incorporation of Ipswich Mills Co. in 1868, an extensive hosiery factory. To man this enterprise came new settlers from Nova Scotia and Quebec and, a generation later, from Greece and Poland. Today, though the hosiery mills have ceased operation, the town population has been increased by metropolitan commuters and numbers 12,000. It supports two local newspapers, nearly a dozen churches and a score of clubs and societies. In the 20th century as in the 17th, the citizens of Ipswich excel in many fields, and as before, they center their lives within the boundaries of river, sea and salt marsh.

### Restoration Activities

The richness of Ipswich's resource of historic houses reflects a fortuitous combination of the two key forces for preservation-- economic quietude and local historical awareness. The latter replaced the former as the prime preserver late in the 19th century, when the thorough research of Thomas F. Waters, an Ipswich minister, traced the histories of almost all the old houses in Ipswich. Building on this solid foundation, the local historical society has preserved two major houses, the John Whipple House and the John Heard House (#40 and 41) as house museums. A regional preservation organization, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, owns three additional house museums in town, the Matthew Perkins House (#55), the Lakeman-Johnson House (#54), and the Howard House (#171), and has owned others (Preston Foster House, #174). Private efforts have preserved and restored many other historic Ipswich houses.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

A need to preserve a greater number of threatened buildings than was practical through the house museum concept lead to the formation of the Ipswich Heritage Trust in 1962, under the aegis of the Ipswich Historical Commission. The Trust has purchased several threatened buildings in town, and resold them with restrictive covenants to protect the key historic and architectural features. These properties have been restored by their purchasers, in accord with their covenants. More covenants are in effect in Ipswich than in any other Massachusetts community due to this program.

From 1963 to 1965, and again in 1967 and 1968, concerted efforts were made to establish a local historic district in the Ipswich Village area. Four attempts were made and all failed. A key factor in these failures may have been the very quantity of historic houses in Ipswich, which prompted the drawing of a large district that proved politically unachievable.

In 1969 the Ipswich Historical Commission and the Ipswich Heritage Trust commenced an innovative project with Federal and local funds to apply the concept of restrictive preservation covenants in a broader and more systematic manner. All pre-1832 buildings in town were surveyed, and 22 were selected on which Preservation Agreements were sought. Agreements were eventually reached with almost all the owners, inserting preservation easements into the deeds of those properties.

In 1977, Community Development Block funds were obtained from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Housing Rehabilitation/Historic Preservation Program in Ipswich, serving the central village area. The project received a second grant in 1978 and terminated in May, 1979, after helping about 60 low and moderate income homeowners rehabilitate their houses. Many of the houses involved are of historic value, and the work on those homes has followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation Projects. That project has also generated about ten additional Preservation Agreements.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 1500

Quadrangle name Ipswich

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

199	348420	4728370
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

19	350750	4727790
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

19	350320	4726100
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

19	349460	4725350
Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

19	348920	4725410
Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

19	348100	4727240
Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets and attached maps

### 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 Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator with Edward Zimmer  
 (Ipswich Historical Commission)  
 organization Massachusetts Historical Comm. date April 1980  
 street & number 294 Washington 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Patricia L. Westmoreland* date 6/24/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

For HCRS use only

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

*Patricia L. Westmoreland* date 9/15/80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patricia L. Westmoreland* date 9/15/80  
 Chief of Registration