

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received DEC 5 1985

date entered JAN 9 1986

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 Joseph Stone House (preferred)

and or common Potter Acres

2. Location

street & number 35 Stone Street n/a not for publication

city, town Auburn n/a vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

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	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	N/A being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name George and Elizabeth Furst

street & number 35 Stone Street

city, town Auburn N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester District Registry of Deeds

street & number Main Street

city, town Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate April 1981 #101 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston Street, Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Joseph Stone House, Auburn, Massachusetts

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered
1790, 1886, 1946

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph Stone Farm is set back about 100 feet from Stone Street in the southern part of Auburn, Massachusetts. The house sits on the crest of a flat-topped low terrace, on a five-acre lot. The land within 100 feet of the house is level and supports substantial tree growth. The lot's eastern boundary is marked by a steep drop off, with a 50-foot change in elevation. The southern and southeastern parts of the lot gradually drop off into Stone Brook Valley, about 60 feet below the house site. The western boundary is about 25 feet from Stone Brook, which flows 200 feet below the edge of the property line.

The house is a five-bay, 1 1/2-story cottage with a central entrance. A large chimney is set on the ridge of the steep-pitched gable roof. The house was built in 1729 as a three-bay half house with side entrance and end chimney; the two southern bays were added in 1790. A seven-bay ell extends to the west at a right angle to the main block. Believed originally to have been a lean-to, added in 1790, the ell was altered in 1886 and enlarged in 1946.

The house rests on a fieldstone foundation, and has a below-grade basement. The basement extends completely under the house, with the exception of the central chimney area, which is underlain by a 15 by 20 foot unexcavated stone-walled area. The building's exterior fabric at present is cedar shingles applied in a scallop pattern, ca. 1873, and is now painted. Asbestos shingles cover the roof.

The main elevation, which faces east (at a right angle to the present roadway), is dominated by the simply enframed center doorway; the door itself, which includes a fanlight, is a Colonial Revival-style 20th century alteration. The four flanking bays of 6/6 windows are asymmetrically placed, reflecting their different construction dates. The southern portion of the main block is significantly larger than the building's earliest portion.

The main block's northern elevation contains two 6/6 windows located toward the northeastern corner of the building. (A third bay, which would have balanced the fenestration, may have been removed in 1790.) The gable holds a single 2/2 window. On the southern elevation, three bays on the ground story consist of: a long 9/6 window at the rear corner (a 1981 replacement of an 18th century window); a secondary entry, simply enframed and topped by a shallow hood; and a 6/6 window similar to those on the main facade. Again, a 2/2 attic window is tucked high up into the gable peak.

Continued

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The shed-roofed ell, believed to have been formed from a 1790 leanto addition, was converted to a kitchen, bath, and glass-enclosed sunporch in 1886. It is only a single bay deep. In 1946, a six-bay-deep, single-story saltbox-style addition was extended from the original ell; it now contains an apartment. Together the 1886 and 1946 ell cover all but a single southwestern bay of the 18th century block.

The house retains some of its original interior features, including raised panel doors, mantelpieces, and wainscoting. The enclosed staircase in the northwestern corner of the 1729 portion of the building was added in 1790.

The lot also includes an 18th century shed, the one-story remains of a late 18th/early 19th century barn that was partially destroyed in the hurricane of 1938, and a summerhouse, children's playhouse, and two garages added ca. 1945 and considered noncontributing.

ARCHAEOLOGY

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is highly likely that sites are present. One site (19-WR-265) has been recorded in close proximity. The terraces and knolls overlooking the adjacent wetlands and tributaries of Stone Brook would have been attractive for prehistoric settlement, and given the large lot size and limited amount of disturbance, sites are likely to have survived. Any remaining sites would be significant since the patterns of prehistoric occupation in Auburn are poorly documented.

There is potential for occupation-related features (trashpits, privies, and wells) around the house. Archaeological testing and examination may provide the means for documenting the major building and alteration episodes of the house, the barn, and other structures or outbuildings no longer extant. To some degree, this historic archaeological potential may have been compromised by the construction of several new buildings during the mid 20th century. Any surviving historic archaeological resources would be significant in documenting and defining the social, cultural, and economic patterns of this house's occupants over nearly two and a half centuries.

8. Significance Joseph Stone House, Auburn, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
— prehistoric	X archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
— 1400–1499	X archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
— 1500–1599	— agriculture	economics	— literature	sculpture	
— 1600–1699	X architecture	education	— military	social/	
X 1700–1799	— art	engineering	X music	humanitarian	
— 1800–1899	— commerce	exploration settlement	— philosophy	theater	
— 1900–	— communications	industry	— politics government	transportation	
		invention		— other (specify)	

Specific dates 1729, 1790 Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph Stone House, Auburn, retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. The building is architecturally significant as an intact colonial-period cottage whose present form reflects two stages of 18th century architecture in the vernacular. Its earliest portion was built ca. 1729, and is believed to be the oldest surviving residence in Auburn. The building was enlarged in 1790 by a lean-to, altered in 1886 and enlarged again in 1946. Among the building's many owners was Joseph Stone, who owned the house from 1785 to 1826, and was a prolific composer of psalmody (the choral setting of sacred texts). The Stone House thus fulfils Criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Auburn was incorporated as the town of Ward in 1778 (renamed Auburn in 1837), and little information exists on its earliest settlement by Europeans. The first white settled arrived in the 1720s and included a man named Lord who is believed to have built the nominated property on a 52-acre plot ca. 1729. In the late 17th century, the area was the site of the native American village known as Pakachoag (its center was located two miles from the nominated property), and local history has it that the Stone House sits by an early trail that led from the Nipmuck village at Pakachoag Hill to the earliest Auburn settlement. This belief is unsubstantiated.

Mid 18th century Auburn was sparsely settled, a peripheral agricultural area with Woodstock Road, leading from Woodstock, Connecticut, to Worcester, as one of the few roadways through the town.

On the eve of the Revolutionary War, the house may have been owned by a Tory, Theophilus Lilly, who left his family for Boston in April 1775 and, eventually, Nova Scotia, where he later died. In 1785, during dispossession of Loyalist property, Joseph Stone, the town clerk for Ward, took legal possession of the property from Lilly's wife, who ten years later tried but failed to repossess the property through the Worcester court system. The legal battle over the property was apparently a fierce one. Stone was responsible for enlarging the three-bay half house to its present five-bay, central entry configuration in 1790. Stone's 1794 map of Ward is one of the few extant early surveys of the town.

Stone (1754–1837) is best known as one of most prolific American-born composer in the tradition of psalmody, the setting of psalms to music. Psalmody was a musical form whose roots were in New England. It was usually written solely for local consumption. Stone wrote music in this idiom—one whose contrapuntal style and form were strictly dictated—from 1786 to 1836, long after his contemporaries had abandoned the idiom. Psalmody had lost popularity in New England by 1810, although its influences spread southward

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See attached sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Worcester South

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing								

C

Zone			Easting				Northing								

D

Zone			Easting				Northing								

E

Zone			Easting				Northing								

F

Zone			Easting				Northing								

G

Zone			Easting				Northing								

H

Zone			Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The property occupies parcel 31 on Map 57 of the town of Auburn and includes five acres of land. See attached assessors and sketch maps. The property is also described in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Bk. 113, plan 69.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission, with George Furst, President, Auburn Historical Society.

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 1985

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. Tealmege

title Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/25/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 1-9-86

for Melissa Byrne
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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and, as shaped note singing, remains popular in the Southern Appalachians to this day. By 1836, Stone had composed over 2,000 songs. Forty-five of his works were printed in The Columbian Harmony, a tunebook that he compiled with Abraham Wood of Northborough in 1793. His fuguing tune, "Grafton," was one of the liveliest examples of the genre, and enjoyed much popularity in its day, being reprinted over forty times. Stone's influence on music literature as a composer has not been greatly felt but the unusually precise documentation with which he accompanied his compositions has made his work a valuable resource for musicologists.

By 1865, the house had come into the possession of James Alger, an engineer who traveled daily six miles to his job in Worcester, where he worked as an engineer for the Boston and Albany Railroad. In order to reach his job, Alger had to travel to Worcester on the Providence and Worcester Railroad, which ran through Auburn and whose tracks passed close by the Stone Farm. When he retired in 1895 at the age of 71, Alger was one of the oldest engineers of the B & A Railroad. He had begun his railroad career in 1845, working on the railroad in West Needham (now Wellesley). He was given his first passenger engine in 1852, and took over the Boston/Worcester run in 1864. It was during these years that he gained a reputation for always having his trains run on time and for never having a serious accident. Alger's status as a commuter was unusual in Auburn; for most of the 19th century, the town remained an agricultural community, supporting a few small industries. The arrival of an Auburn junction for the B & A Railroad in 1885 and the 1900 opening of electric streetcar service to Worcester would drastically alter this situation, making Auburn a major Worcester suburb, which it remains today.

Several changes of ownership occurred in the 20th century. Owners in the 1940s--Richard Potter, Director of the Worcester Natural History Museum, and his wife--built several substantial outbuildings on the property.

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Continuation sheet Joseph Stone House, Auburn Item number 9 Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Auburn history

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"Auburn, the Town that had no beginning." Worcester Sunday Telegram, June 20, 1937.

A History of the Town of Auburn, Works Progress Administration - Writers Project, 1937. Auburn Library.

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Joseph C. Stone

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Joseph Stone, Survey of Auburn, 1794, State Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.

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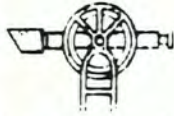
Resources of American Music History (University of Illinois Press, 1981) under University of California at Los Angeles, Special Collections Department, A-1713 University Research Library: "Joseph C. Stone (1758-1837, Boston poet and musician), 3 boxes of holograph music mss, as cited in William Salloch (antiquarian bookdealer), catalogue 237 (Oct. 1966), item 18"

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Worcester Telegram, January 3, 1897, "Veteran Among Railroad Men."

Worcester Sunday Telegram, July 11, 1897, "Veteran of Throttle".



THOMPSON-LISTON ASSOCIATES, INC.

Civil Engineers - Land Surveyors

430 PARK AVENUE - WORCESTER MASSACHUSETTS 01610 - AREA CODE 617 752 758

TAPE SURVEY

NAME George Furst SCALE 1"=100'
LOCATION 35 Stone St.
Auburn, Mass. DATE Sept. 18, 1976

THIS TAPE SURVEY WAS NOT MADE FROM AN INSTRUMENT SURVEY, IS APPROXIMATE AND IS FOR BANK PURPOSES ONLY. NO REPRESENTATIONS AS TO ITS ACCURACY ARE MADE OR IMPLIED BY THE BANK. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS THIS TAPE SURVEY TO BE USED FOR THE LOCATION OF FENCES, WALLS, HEDGES, ETC.

Joseph Stone House
35 Stone Street
Auburn, MA

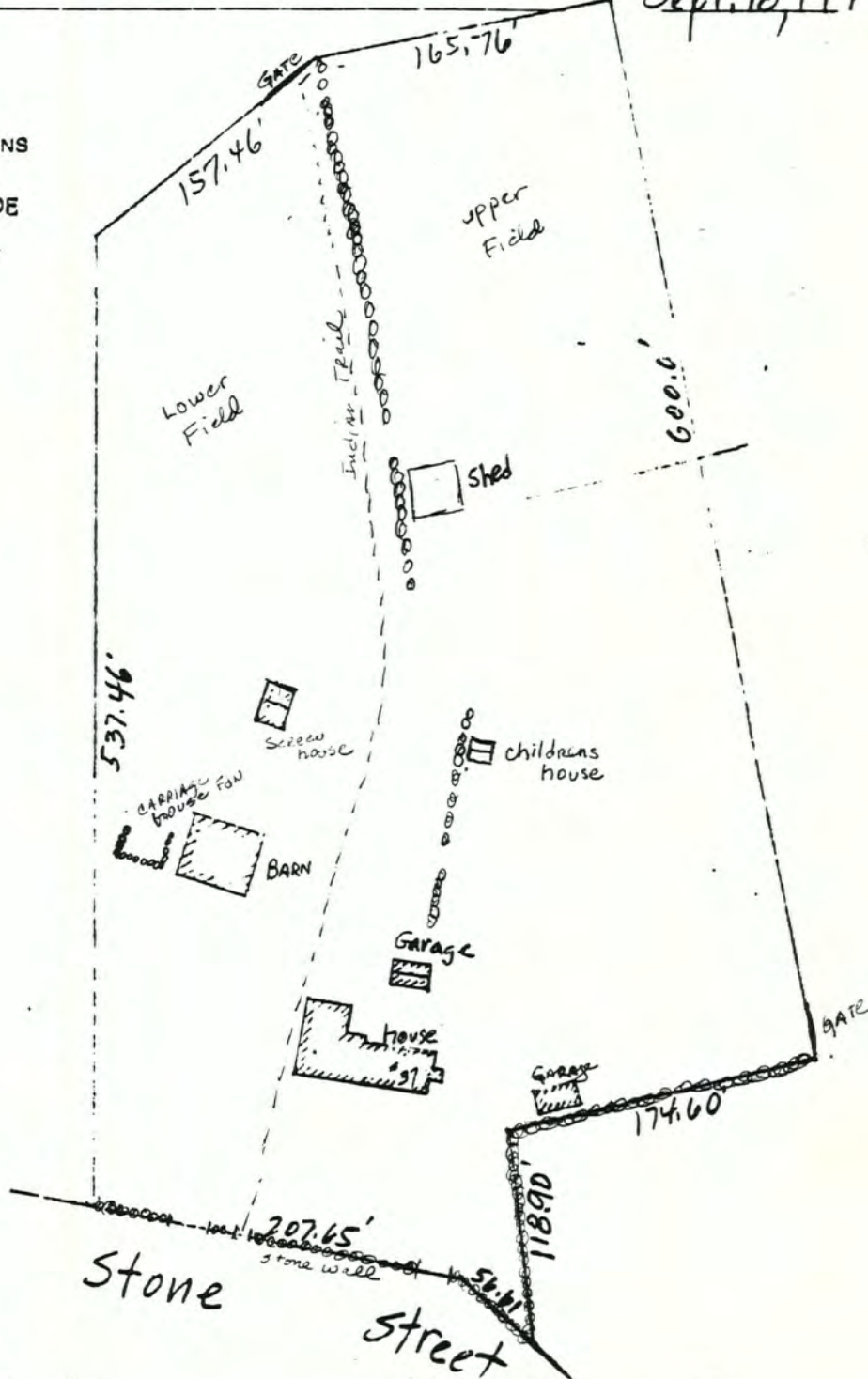


figure 2

86000028

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Stone, Joseph, House
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC 5/1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: #2 4/3/86 - 1/19/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-9-86
☐ RETURN
Entered in the National Register ☐ 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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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 Joseph Stone House
35 Stone Street
Auburn, MA
George Furst, Auburn Historical Society
George Furst Photo File
September 16, 1983
Front elevation facing east
Camera direction NW
Photograph No.1



The Joseph Stone House
35 Stone Street
Auburn, MA
John Belding
September 4, 1983
John Beldings File
North Side Elevation
Camera direction SSW
Photograph No. 2



barney's
266 Park Ave.
Worcester, MA 01609
617-757-3754

2 Stratham Road
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173
29 October 1985

Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage:

At the request of George Furst, I am writing in support of his application for the nomination of the Joseph Stone Farm, 35 Stone Street, Auburn, to the National Register.

Quite apart from the Stone house's intrinsic merits as an exceptionally interesting example of early American architecture, with the various stages of its expansion and alteration through the years clearly visible and the entire structure in a remarkably fine state of preservation and careful restoration, this property is highly unusual and important for the succession of creative and influential individuals who have lived there. Perhaps the most significant of these is Joseph Stone himself.

As a scholar specializing in the sacred choral music of early America--my dissertation is a collective biography of the c. 300 individuals identified as composers or compilers in the pages of sacred tunebooks printed in this country before 1811--I feel qualified to state that on the basis of my research, Joseph Stone was not only one of the most gifted composers active on these shores during this period, but easily the most prolific. In addition to the 66 compositions by Stone known to have been printed--including the 45 he included in his and Abraham Wood's Columbian Harmony, published in 1793--there are many hundreds, possibly thousands, of unpublished pieces in a remarkable group of manuscripts he left us, most of which are presently housed in the library of the University of California at Los Angeles. To date, scholars have been largely unaware of this treasure trove of early American music, or have given it only the most cursory of glances. My own work with these materials, though brief, convinces me that there is quality in Stone's output to match--probably to surpass--his quantity.

The quality of Stone's music aside, however, it seems to me that among the many arguments for the Stone Farm's inclusion in the National Register, surely one of the most compelling is that this house was home to the most prolific American composer of the eighteenth century, and that it still bears several marks of Stone's tenancy--for example, in the clay-backed closet which Stone himself fashioned, and which is an excellent example of its kind.

I urge you to give Furst's application the careful consideration it deserves.

Best wishes,

Nym Cooke
Nym Cooke

✓
BF

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1985

John H. Belding Meredith Weiss-Belding
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL CONSULTING

216 Brigham Hill Road - North Grafton, Mass. 01536

617/ 839-6220

MASS. HIST. COMM.

9 November 1985

Valerie Talmage
State Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage;

This letter is in reference to the property at 35 Stone Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, which will be the subject of a hearing concerning a National Register nomination on Wednesday, 13 November 1985. As historical consultants hired by the Town of Auburn in 1980, we did research on the property and became acquainted with the owners, George and Betty Furst.

It is our opinion that this property warrants nomination to the National Register for the following reasons:

1] HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR AUBURN: The earliest portion of the house was first constructed in 1729 by a "Frenchman" named Lord. This is the oldest known standing structure in Auburn. By Revolutionary times, it had been owned by a Tory, Theophilus Lilly who was forced to flee the town on April 18, 1775. Joseph Stone then took the house and land during the widespread dispossession of abandoned Loyalist property that occurred after 1776.

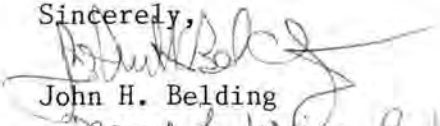
2] ASSOCIATION WITH SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL FIGURES: Joseph Stone held a number of town offices in Auburn, but is best known as a composer of hymns and his collection of early American music. During the later half of the 1800's, the house was owned by James and Sarah Alger. A well-respected local citizen, Alger was, for many years, an engineer on the Boston and Albany railroad, and aided many a local boy in obtaining employment on the line. A comprehensive diary was kept by Mrs. Alger which documented their years in the house. Later, the property was purchased by Lucius Warren Briggs, a renowned local architect who designed a number of municipal and commercial buildings.

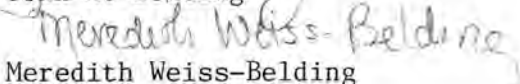
3] ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR AUBURN: This house is representative of the original housing stock of Auburn (half-Cape and Cape). The 18th century section of the house is well restored. Most other houses built during this time period have been either dramatically altered (for example, 36 Merriam Street, 708 Oxford Street) or destroyed (for example, 430 South Street). Further, the site itself has excellent integrity, reflecting the landscape and features common in the 18th century.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support the property's nomination to the register. Thank you for your time and attention.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


John H. Belding


Meredith Weiss-Belding