

PH0006131

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Claflin-Richards House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION Congressional District #6

STREET AND NUMBER:
132 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Wenham

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025 COUNTY: Essex CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wenham Historical Association and Museum Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
132 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wenham STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Essex South Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary

STREET AND NUMBER:
3 Joy Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

HB 305140
2119 4918200

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Claflin-Richards House is situated in the center of Wenham on approximately one-half acre of land and is surrounded by lawns and planting enclosed by a white picket fence. Set with the northwest gable end to the street and the front entrance facade facing southwest, it stands well back from the main road (Rte. 1A). The house property is flanked on the southwest by an extensively landscaped private home and on the northeast by the Wenham Twon Hall (1853). The property faces the remnant of the old Town Green beyond which are three fine clapboard structures: the Wenham Tea House (1913), the Hobbs House (17th century, added to in 18th century) and the First Congregational Church (1842). This town center is the focal point of Wenham's recently established Historic District.

The 2 1/2 story Claflin-Richards House is a four-room, center chimney dwelling with a late (1925) salt-box addition on the rear half of the northeast side. the house when built in 1661 consisted of two rooms and attic with the large chimney on the rear, southeast facade. It was enlarged to the present four rooms in 1673 by the town for the use of the new minister, Reverend Joseph Gerrish.

Its exterior is now brown stained clapboard but in 1661 it may have been covered by the 1" thick pine planks ranging from 14" to 25" in width which were fitted vertically into grooves in the ground sills and second story girts. These planks were discovered during the 1925 restoration and have been removed. At the second story the same vertical planking remains today under the present clapboards.

The high and steep shingled pitch roof, extending from northwest to southeast, is interrupted on the front half of its southwest slope by a typical 17th century gable. The northwest facade has a second and third story overhang while the southwest facade has only a second story overhang, extending approximately two-thirds of the wall to the southeast, just beyond the entrance way.

The first story windows have diamond-shaped leaded mullions set in triple casement windows, one centered on each of the northeast, northwest and southwest facades of the original house area. A single window with the same diamond shaped mullions is to the right of the entrance door with a duplicate in the southwest gable and on the rear, southeast facade. The second floor and both southeast and northwest gable windows are characteristically 18th century small paned, 8 over 12, on the second floor and 6 over 6 in the gable, with four window openings on the southwest, one on the northwest, two on the northeast and one on the southeast. The lean-to addition has an entrance door and is irregularly fenestrated.

The interior of the 1661 first floor room has been restored to its original character with framing exposed and the fireplace, with its typical rear wall oven, opened up. Outstanding are the ogee corner braces, extending out and up from each corner post to the girts. This type of brace has been found in three Wenham houses and nowhere else in New England. The room above this has been left as it was when remodeled in the 18th century.

In the first floor room of the 1673 addition the framing is oak. A beam runs across the center of the room parallel to the fireplace wall and no corner braces were used. The original curved hearth has been uncovered and the fireplace restored.

[see Continuation Sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

7. Clafin-Richards House, Wenham

The chamber above this room has also been left as a typical example of 18th century remodeling.

Connected to the house on the far end of the southwest wall is the one-story Pickering Library, built in 1952. At the rear of the house an entrance foyer connects the house to a one-story museum wing which in turn is connected to an auditorium. Two small, one-room shoe shops, c. 1850, are on the grounds of the present complex. The Winslow Shop houses Wenham farm and ice tools. It was in this building that Sidney Winslow, founder of the United Shoe Machinery Company, learned the rudiments of shoemaking. The Merrill Shop, moved to the westerly front yard in 1930, is preserved intact as it was when used prior to 1869 by Israel Trask. All buildings have been placed on the property so as not to detract from the original house.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8. Clafin-Richards House, Wenham

repeatedly elected to the legislature and was appointed in 1700 to keep a school in town. As it was the custom for the schoolmaster to keep school in his home, it is believed that the Clafin-Richards House was the first school building; there are no records to the contrary.

Deacon Jonathan Kimball was the next owner, followed by Captain Uzziel Dodge (1815), who was the second postmaster. While Captain Dodge owned the house, Miss Elizabeth Shaw taught a private school in one of its rooms, and also held a Sabbath school there, the first in town. She married Reverend Mr. Nichols and went as a missionary to India.

Mr. Samuel Dodge, son of Captain Dodge and the next owner (1827) was invited by a town committee to settle here as physician and surgeon. Captain Edmund Kimball of Marblehead bought the house from the widow of Dr. Dodge in 1836 and rented it to the family of Jabez and Mary Ann Richards.

Mrs. Richards, widowed in 1840, purchased the house and it remained in the Richards family until 1921, when it was purchased by the Historical Committee of the Wenham Village Improvement Society. Mary Ann's daughter, Elizabeth, who grew up in the house, graduated with the first class from the State Normal School at Salem. She founded the famous restaurant chain, Thompson's Spa, was the inventor of Union Underwear suits and was one of the three founders (1877) of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union in Boston, an early organization founded to promote the cause of Women's Lib. She also founded the International Doll Collection which earned over \$50,000 for charity. (Her collection formed the nucleus of the collection now housed in the museum wing of the Wenham Historical Association.)

Among letters of Elizabeth Richards Horton are reminiscences of tales told by her mother of Washington and Lafayette stopping at the house and she herself remembered Kossuth, the Hungarian statesman, drinking at the well and Alcott, Emerson and Thoreau spending the night there when they came to deliver "Lyceum Lectures."

Thus the Clafin-Richards House, named for its first known and last private owner, has been an integral part of the life of the town center since 1661. Restored in most of its original exterior detail it is a fine example of a 17th century dwelling house. In 1952 it became the property of the Wenham Historical Association and Museum Inc. and as part of an excellent museum/library/meeting hall complex, it serves over 8,000 visitors a year.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1661; 1673; 1840; 1921

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Claflin-Richards House is the oldest house on Main Street, Wenham, and is perhaps the oldest in the town. For over 250 years this house has escaped fire and decay and has survived improvements. It has been continuously occupied from at least as early as 1661, with a long ownership by ministers, schoolmasters, doctors, and men of importance in civil and military matters.

In 1642 Samuel Smith and John Fiske gave to the Town of Wenham, out of their grants, 10 acres each on either side of the Meeting House to be divided into two-acre lots for the encouragement of tradespeople to come to the town. In 1661 Robert MacClaflin was granted two acres of this land at the same time he was accepted as a townsman. It is not known whether he built the house or whether it was already standing on his land. MacClaflin and his family lived in the house for approximately ten years. In 1672 the town of Wenham exchanged with MacClaflin his house and land for property elsewhere in Wenham.

Robert MacClaflin, a Scot, was captured at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650 and sold into indenture to the master of the Iron Undertaking at Saugus before coming to Wenham. MacClaflin served under Sir Edmund Andros and his eldest son, Robert, died fighting under Sir William Phips in 1690. He was a surveyor for the town and owned a bark mill, tan vat and brick yard before his death c. 1690. The "Mac" was dropped from the name shortly after 1700 by his children. Among his eminent descendants was Lee Claflin, a member of the Massachusetts Senate in 1868 and founder of the first coeducational college for black students, Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina. Lee's son, William, was Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts from 1866-68, Governor in 1869-71 and later representative to the U. S. Congress.

In July, 1673, the Town of Wenham, after the exchange of property with Robert MacClaflin, voted to build a "howse of 18 foott square and 13 foott stud to be added to Roberts howse..." The resulting four room house was for the use of the town's new minister, Reverend Joseph Gerrish, and was used by Gerrish as a dwelling house for the next 21 years. Money for glass and nails for the ministry house was appropriated in 1673 and the next year it was voted to cover the "old house with boards." Reverend Gerrish was pastor in Wenham for 40 years, over half of which were spent in the present Claflin-Richards House. He was one of the ministers who took a firm stand against the witchcraft persecutions in 1692.

Captain Thomas Fiske, next owner (1693) was the leading military man of the town, leading the Wenham company in 1675 against King Philip. He was

[see Continuation Sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Appleton, William Sumner, "A Description of Robert McClafin's House," in Old Time New England, SPNEA Bulletin, Vol. XVI, No. 4, April 1926, pp. 157-167.

Cole, Adeline P., Notes on Wenham History 1643-1943, Wenham Historical Association, V. I. S., 1943.

Cole, Mrs. E. B., "The Claflin-Richards House, Wenham, Mass.!" SPNEA Bulletin, Vol. XVI, No. 4, April 1926, pp. 153-156.

Wenham Town Records, 1642-1683, Vol. I, published by Wenham Historical Association, 1927.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		42° 36' 14"	70° 53' 16"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. one half acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Anne Wardwell, Survey Director (Elizabeth R. Amadon)

ORGANIZATION: DATE:
 Massachusetts Historical Commission April 3, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 3 Joy Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
 Boston Massachusetts 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Title: Commission

Date: April 11, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert G. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/3/73

ATTEST:
Wendell M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-26-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED. DATE: 2/28/73
NAME OF PROPERTY Clayton-Richards House

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- 1. Name. _____
- 2. Location. _____
- 3. Classification. _____
- 4. Owner of Property. _____
- 5. Location of Legal Description. _____
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
- 7. Description. _____
- 8. Statement of Significance. _____
- 9. Bibliography. _____
- 10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____
 - b. Acreage. _____
- 11. Form Prepared By. _____
- 12. Certification. _____
- Photographic Coverage. _____

Map Coverage. Map is too light. Latitude is incorrectly computed. corrected + returned 3/8/73
phw.

Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: Leopold R. Gray

PROPERTY CLAFLIN-RICHARDS HOUSE STATE Mass.

Working number 7.17.72.1063

TECH REVIEW
Photos 2
Maps 2

Essex

DB 73000853

REVIEW *Map is too light; latitude is incorrectly computed on map*
Corrected 3-14-73

*map
10-1-72*

HISTORIAN

*2-22-73
C
O.K. Shull*

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

*OK KH
2/12/73*

BRANCH CHIEF

*OK [Signature]
3/26/73*

EDITORIAL REVIEW

KEEPER

*[Signature]
3/26*

National Register write-up _____

Acknowledge 7/17/72

Federal Register entry 6-5-73

Send-back 2-28-73

Re-submit 3-13-73

Register no. APR 3 1973



NPS Number 4/3/73

Title: Claflin-Richards House

Loc. Essex, Mass.

#427 - West corner

①
**ALL RIGHTS OF REPRODUCTION
RESERVED BY**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

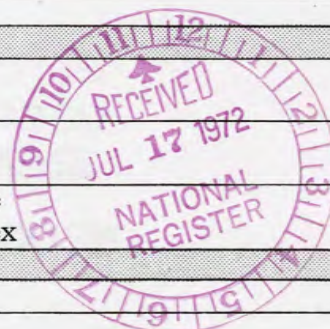
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1973

PROPERTY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Claflin-Richards House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 132 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wenham			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: H. W. Booth Royd			
DATE OF PHOTO: 3/27/71			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Inc., 132 Main Street, Wenham			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. #427 -- west corner, NW & SW facades			





NPS Number 4/3/73

Title: Claflin-Richards House

Loc. Essex, Mass.

#430 -- north corner

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RESERVED BY

②

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

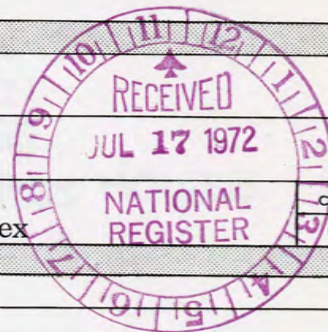
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1973

1. NAME			
COMMON: Claflin-Richards House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
132 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Wenham			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Essex	009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: H. W. Booth Royd			
DATE OF PHOTO: 3/27/71			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Inc., 132 Main Street, Wenham			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
#430 -- north corner, NE & NW facades			



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 3	DATE 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Claflin-Richards House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
132 Main Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Wenham

STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U. S. G. S. Salem, Mass.
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SALEM QUADRANGLE
 MASSACHUSETTS - ESSEX CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6869 III NE
 (IPSWICH)



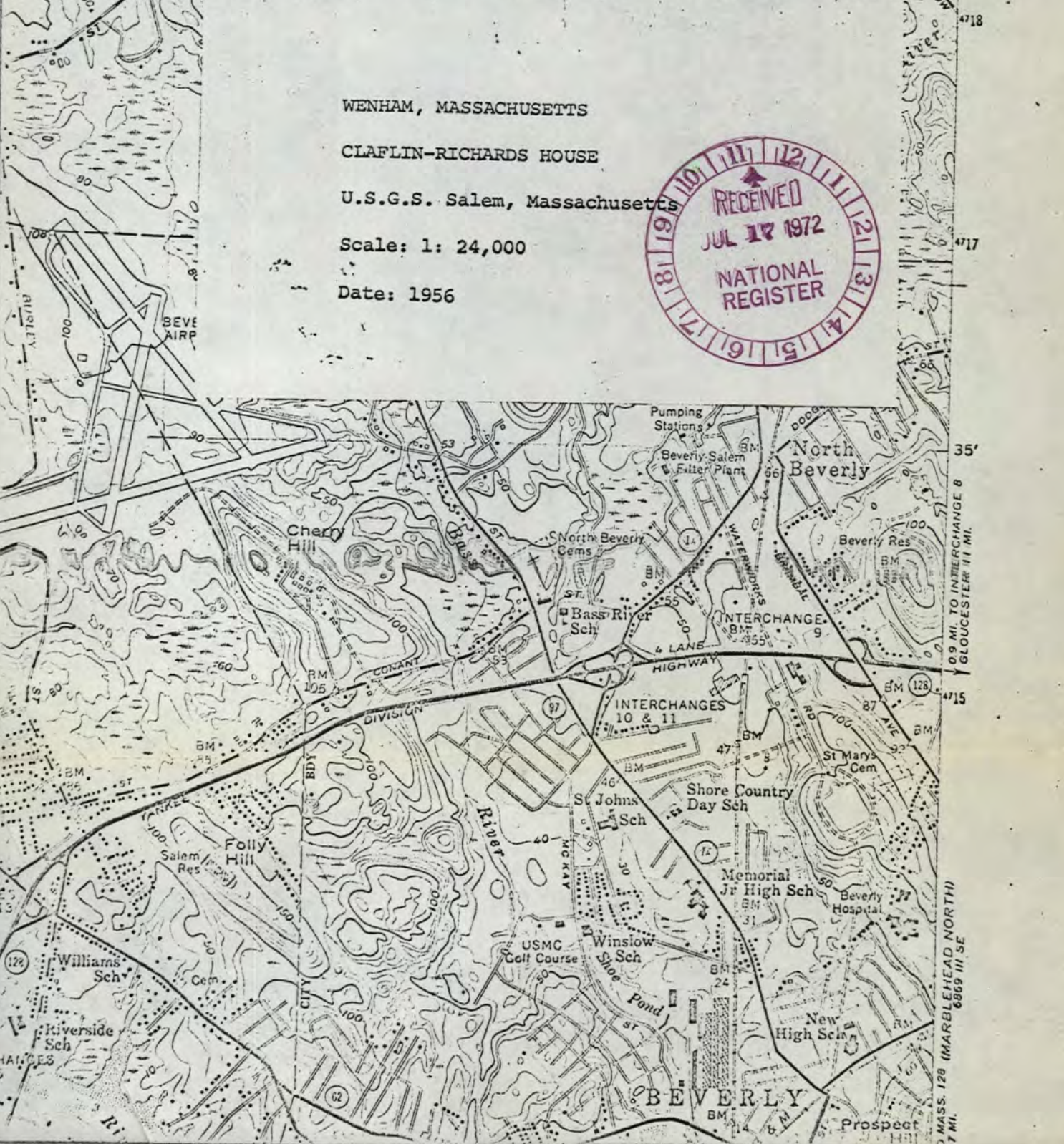
WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

CLAFLIN-RICHARDS HOUSE

U.S.G.S. Salem, Massachusetts

Scale: 1: 24,000

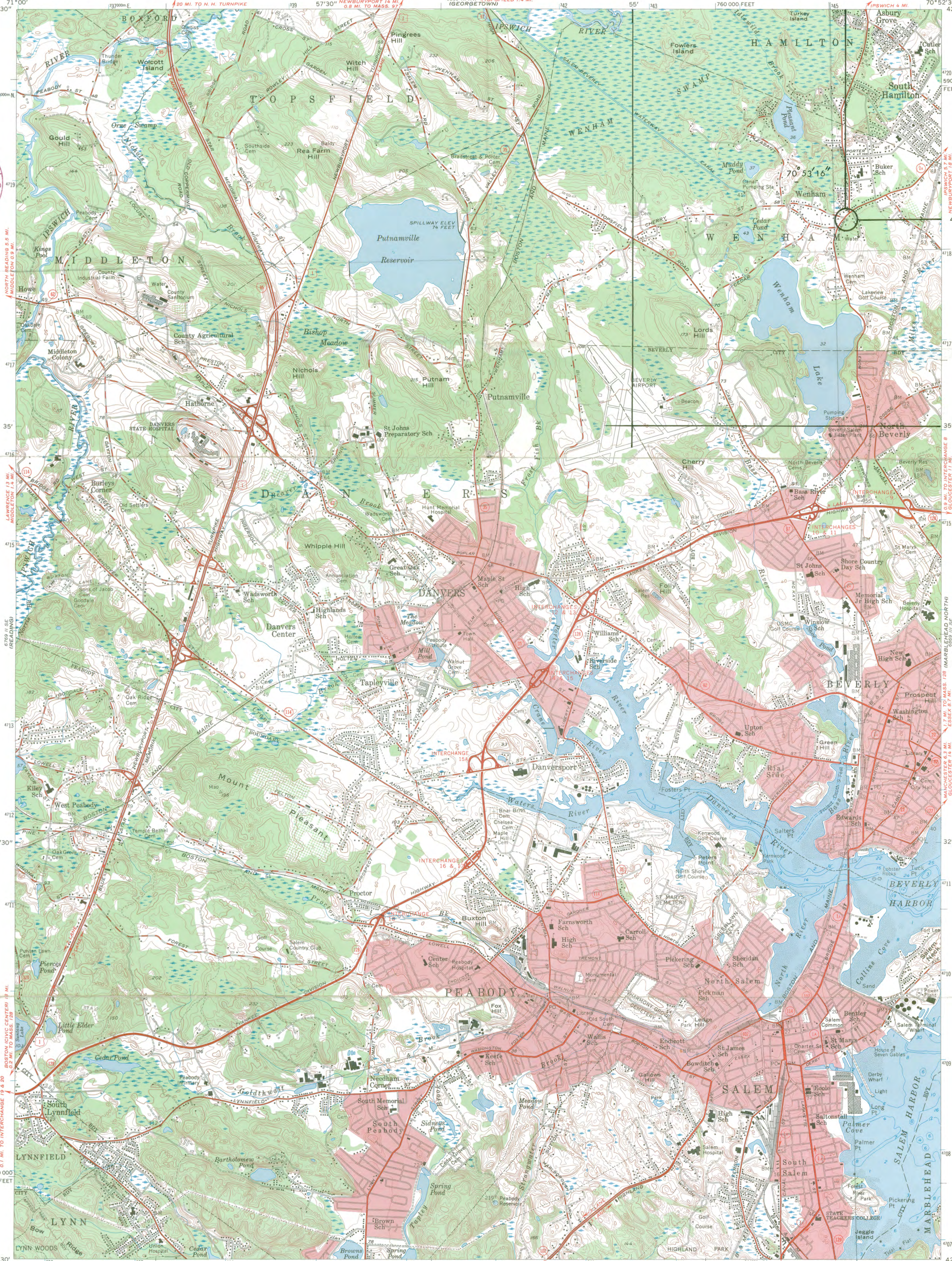
Date: 1956



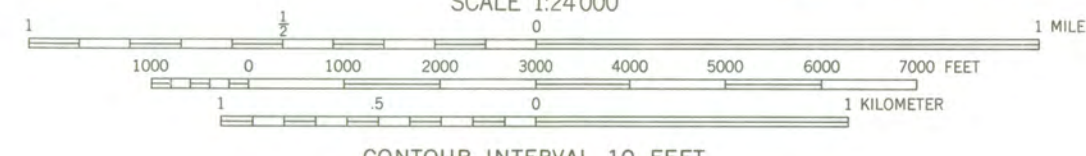


H15
Zn19
345140
4718350

CLAFLIN-RICHARDS HOUSE
WENHAM



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planetable surveys 1942
Culture revised by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1955. Field check 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 240 (1956)
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5

1956
AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

127

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 3 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
City Hall	Salem Essex County
Lenox Library	Lenox Berkshire County
Mechanics Block Historic District	Lawrence Essex County
Bowe Village Historic District	Boxford Essex County
Clafin-Richards House	Wenham Essex County
Mohawk Trail	vicinities of Charlemont, Florida, and Savoy Berkshire and Franklin Counties
Fort Washington	Cambridge Middlesex County

4/11/73

NRowland:mm

PHR

Director, Northeast Region

Also Notified

- Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
- Hon. Edward W. Brooke
- Hon. Michael J. Harrington
- Hon. Silvio O. Conte
- Hon. Paul Cronin
- Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer
 Hon. John F. X. Davoren
 Secretary of the Commonwealth
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Commission
 40 Beacon Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108