

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC PAUL REVERE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON NAME Paul Revere House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 19 North Square

CITY, TOWN Boston VICINITY OF EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Suffolk CODE 025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Paul Revere Memorial Association

STREET & NUMBER 19 North Square

CITY, TOWN Boston VICINITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Suffolk Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street

CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1941  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress/ Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Paul Revere House stands on the western side of North Square (numbered at 19) in Boston, Massachusetts. The small lot on which it was constructed is now part of a larger, irregularly shaped parcel containing the Revere House to the northeast, the Moses Pierce-Hichborn House (also a national historic landmark) to the south, and landscaped grounds between and to the rear (west) of the buildings. The Paul Revere Memorial Association owns both houses (as of 1970) and operates them as a unit.

The oldest portion of the Revere House was constructed shortly after the Boston fire of 1676, probably c. 1680. The two-and-a-half story frame house featured a steeply-pitched gabled roof, second story overhang with corner pendants, and leaded casement windows. The deeply recessed fireplace at the northern end of the hall has a bake oven, indicating that the house followed the typical 17th century one-room plan. A small entrance porch and winding stair are located in front of the chimney. Two summer beams span the large hall. The two-story frame kitchen ell, set at an angle to the main house to fit the irregular lot, is probably an early addition since it also carries a bold overhang at the second story level. When Paul Revere moved into the house in 1770, the structure had already been raised to a full three stories.

By the late 19th century, the Revere House had deteriorated into a tenement and store and was considerably altered. In 1907 the Paul Revere Memorial Association purchased the house for the purpose of preserving it and, in 1907-08, the structure was extensively restored and reconstructed under the direction of Joseph Everett Chandler. The structural skeleton of the house is original, but all exterior surfaces, including pendants, quarreled windows with shutters, front door, and roof shingles, and all interior treatment are reconstructions. The later third story has been removed. The front (east) elevation of the five-bay house retains its overhang supported by the three main crosswise timbers--the chimney girt and two summers. Wall studs are covered by "parallel" rather than feather-edged clapboards, beaded at the lower corners.

Both the structural and stylistic elements of the Revere House appear to be in excellent condition. The first floor has been restored to 17th century style, but the second story bedroom is fully plastered, cased, paneled, and painted as it might have been during Revere's residence there. A few small Revere items have been returned to the house, largely in the kitchen, but the majority of the furnishings are "of the period". The kitchen chamber contains a display of Revere's copperplate engravings, five drawn from the original plates, the remainder reproductions.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY*	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

\* War for Independence

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1680; 1770-1800; 1908. BUILDER/ARCHITECT Probably John Jeffs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Restored by Joseph Everett Chandler

This small wooden house of 17th century medieval design was, from 1770 to 1800, the home of the Revolutionary patriot and noted silversmith and engraver, Paul Revere. It is also one of downtown Boston's few surviving buildings of 17th century design. The house, located at 19 North Square, was two stories high when constructed, but had been raised to three stories by the time Revere lived there. In 1907 the Paul Revere Memorial Association was formed to acquire and preserve the house; the following year the building was returned to its original height and extensively restored. Maintained by the Association in excellent condition, the Paul Revere House is now open to the public from 9 to 3:45 daily except Sundays and holidays.

## HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The original portion of the Paul Revere House was probably built by John Jeffs, a mariner, soon after the Boston fire of 1676. The small, irregularly shaped lot on which it was erected had been the site of the parsonage occupied by Increase Mather as minister of Boston's Old North Meeting House. Architectural investigation indicates that the house was initially of the simple, one-room type.

By the time Paul Revere moved into the house in 1770, a kitchen ell had been added and the structure had been raised from two to three full stories. It was probably through the rear door in the kitchen ell that Revere departed on the night of April 18, 1775, to warn the towns of Middlesex County that the British forces stationed in Boston were about to begin their march to Concord. The front door would not have been safe since Redcoats were assembling in North Square, then only one block from the waterfront, and no civilians were allowed to enter or leave the area.

Revere and his family left the North Square home in 1800. By the end of the 19th century it had deteriorated into a tenement and store and was considerably altered. When the building was condemned as unsafe in 1907, the Paul Revere Memorial Association was immediately formed to acquire and preserve it. The following year Boston Architect Joseph Everett Chandler supervised an extensive restoration of the house. Since that time the Paul Revere Memorial Association had maintained the house in excellent condition and opened it to the public on a regular basis.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9
ZONE	

8	3	0	8	3	0
EASTING					

4	6	9	1	9	8	0
NORTHING						

B 

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING					

C 

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING					

D 

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING					

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project

Original forms prepared by C.E. Shedd, Jr. (8/1/60) and Charles W. Snell (11/30/67).

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

12/8/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

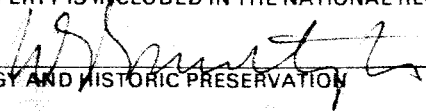
N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: 

DATE

4/3/78

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Paul Revere House, Boston, Massachusetts  
Bibliography

"Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress  
of the United States" (Boston, June, 1960).

Forbes, Esther. Paul Revere and the World He Lived In (Boston, 1942).

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Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).

Van Derpool, James G. "Historical Development of Architecture in the U.S.A.,  
1632-1912" (Ms., National Park Service, 1966).

Works Progress Administration, American Guide Series. Massachusetts: A Guide  
to Its Places and People (Boston, 1937).

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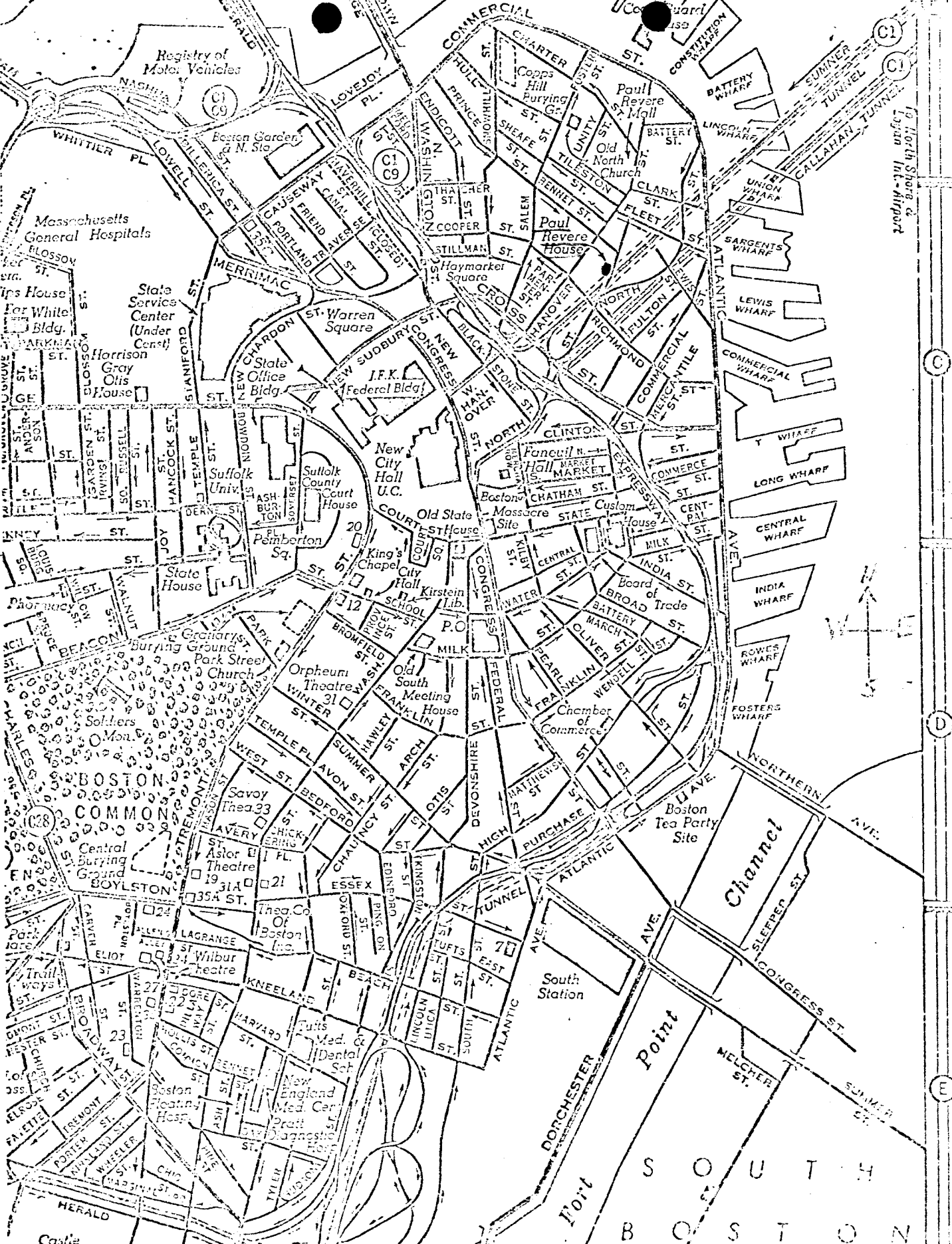
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CONTINUATION SHEET

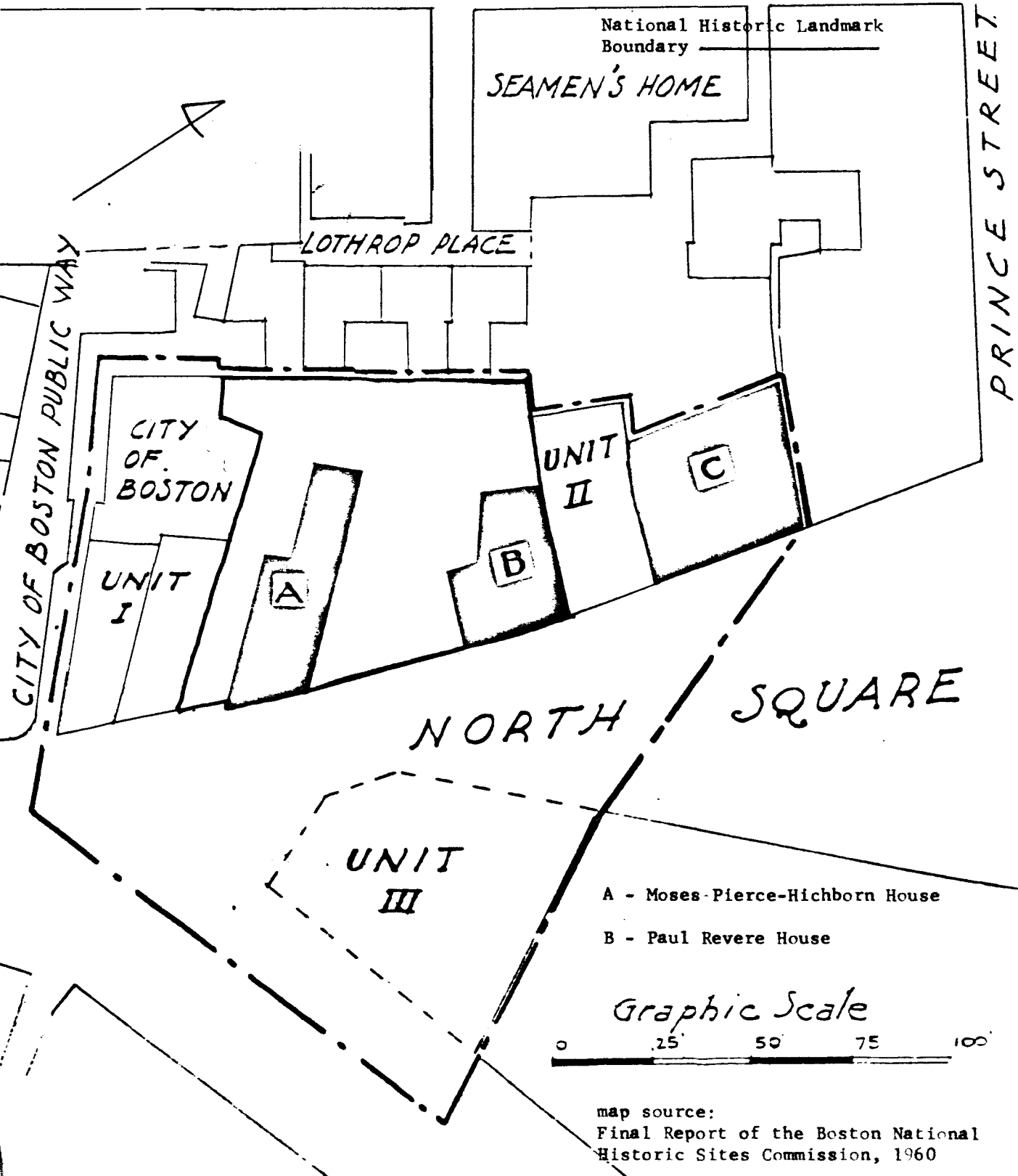
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The boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for the Paul Revere House, Boston, Massachusetts, include both that building, located at 19 North Square, and the adjacent Moses Pierce-Hichborn House, at 29 North Square. The latter building is a national historic landmark in its own right and, like the Revere House, is owned by the Paul Revere Memorial Association. Specific boundary lines, including the two landmark buildings on some 6,841 square feet of land, are shown in red on the accompanying sketch map, a photocopy of a plan prepared for the "Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States", dated June, 1960.



PAUL REVERE HOUSE  
Boston, Massachusetts

HANOVER STREET



National Historic Landmark  
Boundary

SEAMEN'S HOME

LOTHROP PLACE

PRINCE STREET

CITY OF BOSTON PUBLIC WAY

CITY OF BOSTON

UNIT I

A

B

UNIT II

C

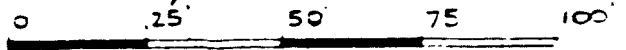
NORTH SQUARE

UNIT III

A - Moses Pierce-Hichborn House

B - Paul Revere House

Graphic Scale



map source:  
Final Report of the Boston National  
Historic Sites Commission, 1960