

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH0142867
DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1975

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 Jonathan Fletcher House

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
283 High StreetCITY, TOWN
Medford

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7thSTATE
MassachusettsCODE
025COUNTY
MiddlesexCODE
017

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
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☒ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Frank & Charlotte A. ScuderiSTREET & NUMBER
283 High StreetCITY, TOWN
Medford

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts 02155

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of DeedsSTREET & NUMBER
208 Cambridge StreetCITY, TOWN
CambridgeSTATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the CommonwealthDATE
1974 ☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical CommissionCITY, TOWN
BostonSTATE
Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jonathan Fletcher House built in 1834-35, is situated on a deep half acre lot on High Street. A retaining wall of rock-faced and hammered granite blocks with square hammered granite gate posts surmounted by pyramid shaped tops defines the front of the lot line.

The building is a typical three bay by four bay side hall Greek Revival structure, with transitional elements from the Federal period. The entrance is in the gable end, which is perpendicular to the street, and an accented cornice at the gable gives a pedimented effect. The facade has one window centered in the gable end, three windows across the second story, and two windows and the entrance in the first floor. The side elevation which runs parallel to the street has regular fenestration, and two dormers, added in the late nineteenth century.

The building is shingled, and is painted deep red with white trim, as are all the ells and outbuildings. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Additions to the building include a rear ell attached to the northeast corner and a two story addition (1925) attached to the north side of the main structure. A porch was added to the first floor of the facade, and consists of six Tuscan columns supporting a roof which extends approximately fifteen feet eastward from the facade, and is two bays wide. A partially glazed porch, four feet deep, is attached to the main entrance, and is covered by a low sloping roof attached to the facade.

Worms are additions

LEBACH

0-18-75

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jonathan Fletcher House, built in 1834-35, is a significant example in Medford of the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival architectural styles, and contains many interior features taken from the designs of Asher Benjamin.

The house has both Federal and Greek Revival features. The entrance is in the gable end, a Greek Revival plan, but the gable is perpendicular to the street. A four bay side elevation, with sloping roof and dormers, is presented to the street. The tops of the second floor windows are close to the cornice, an early architectural feature, and the corners are sheathed with narrow cornerboards, also a Federal detail.

The main entrance to the house is an adaptation of entries shown in Plate 26 of Practice of Architecture, a book of Greek Revival designs published in 1833 by Asher Benjamin. The paneled dado, surrounds and interior shutters of the first floor windows are taken from Plate 43 of the same book. Some of the interior doors, including the sliding double doors of the first floor parlor are of a five panel type illustrated in Plate XXXIX of The Architect or the Practical House Carpenter, also by Asher Benjamin. Many of the elaborately molded surrounds of other doors and windows in the house were also taken from The Architect and reflect the builder's attempts at keeping up with current taste.

The land on which the Fletcher House stands was part of the industrial center dominated by the Brooks family. The land was the site of a tannery, a leather shop, and a slaughter house. A "dwelling house" is recorded on this lot as far back as 1795, but when Jonathan Fletcher bought the property in 1834, he built the present structure. There is some evidence that he used the older house as a rear ell for his new building; some extant raised panel details in the ell are earlier than the main house, and the location of the hearths around the central chimney in the ell suggest that it was built to serve as the central chimney of an earlier house.

Under Fletcher's ownership the property became residential, and paralleled the decline of industry and farming in the area. From the 1830's to the present the area has become increasingly residential, and is now a fairly high density suburban neighborhood. The Fletcher house is one of only four buildings in the area which have managed to retain their original large lots, and keep their rocky terrain. The granite retaining wall, granite gatepost, and stairs on High Street form an important part of the early nineteenth century streetscape of the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds
Benjamin, Asher, Practice of Architecture

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1/2 acre
UTM REFERENCES

A 19 325320 4698560
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Brian Pfeiffer, Medford

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE Historical Commission

May, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

40 Beacon Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Elizabeth R. Amador

DATE

5/28/75

TITLE

Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

6/23/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

JUN 23 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Gletcher, Jonathan House; Brooks, Jonathan House;
Property Brooks, Charles, House; Wade, John, House
Juddkins Square Historic District all resubmitted
State Mass Working Number 4.1.75.590 separately

TECHNICAL

Photos 6
Maps 2

Casting incorrect

CONTROL

cm
4.4.75

HISTORIAN

This is a very difficult area w/ ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
^{artificial & unusual} boundaries - visited fall '74 and was not convince
that this was a district. CONF. Huganue
4/4/75

THOSE 1927 HOUSES LOOK OLDER THAN THE
18TH C Houses.
I share Ward's reluctance.

ARCHEOLOGIST

Conference
Lebowich
4-8-75
OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

conf. return

Called state to tell
them we are

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back 4.18.75

Entered JUN 23 1975

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit 6.4.75

INT:2106-74

Property Fletcher, Jonathan, House

State Mass.

Working Number 6. 4. 75. 1043

2nd. Control
Sheet
Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1

Casting off

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 6.5.75

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Leacock
6-13-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

Rotten photos - bldg. seems significant
for its detailing of which we see nothing
in pix.

OTHER

ACCEPT Huxford
6/17/75

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
6-17-75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

[Signature]
JUN 23 1975

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 23 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 4 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 23 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Jonathan Fletcher House

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Brian Pfeiffer

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Medford Historical Commission

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

South facade of Jonathan Fletcher House on High Street
(first house on left)

PHOTO NO.

#1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jonathan Fletcher House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Brian Pfeiffer

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Medford Historical Commission

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

East facade

PHOTO NO.

#2

2082

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

2082

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1975

JUN 23 1975

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jonathan Fletcher House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Medford

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S., Boston North quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

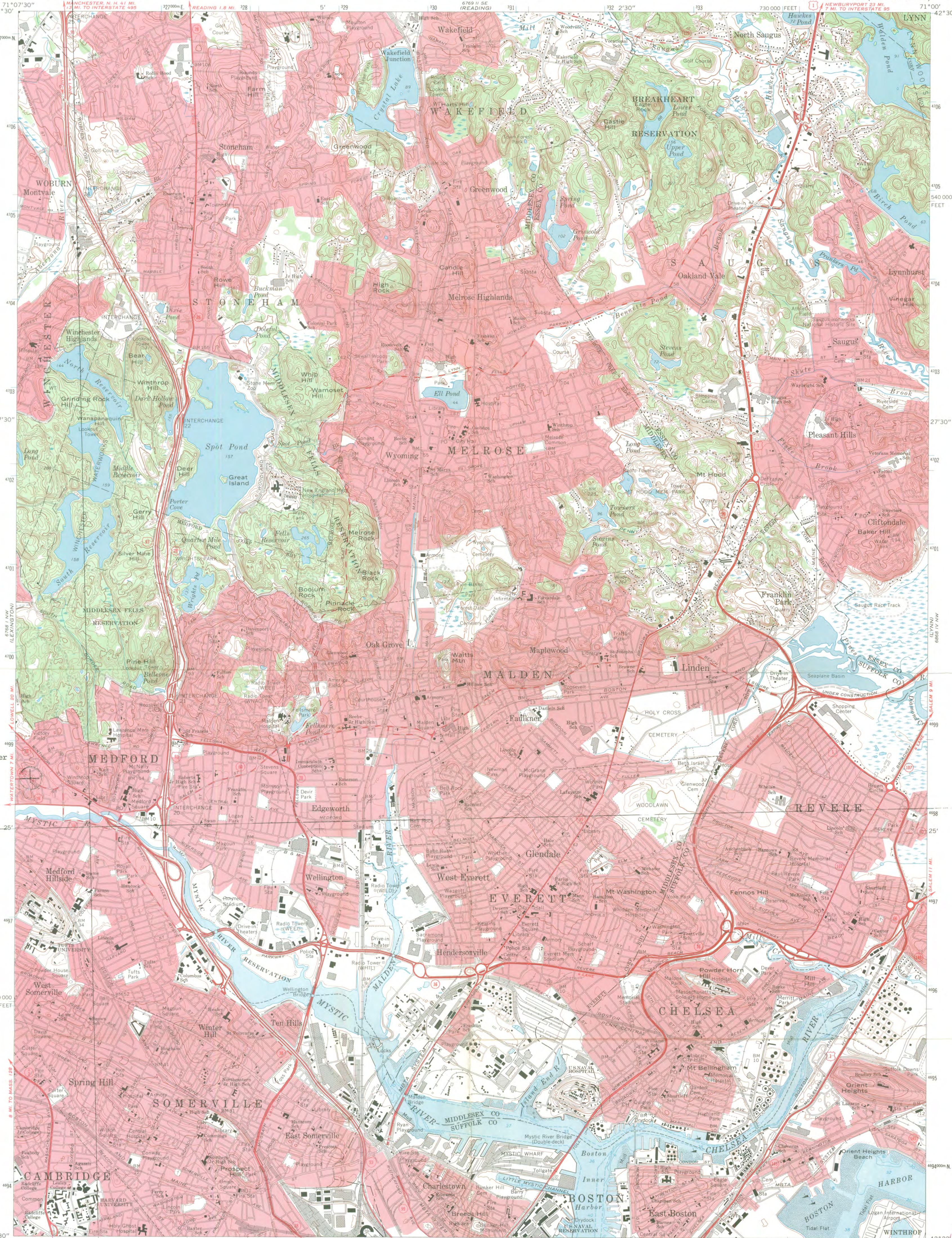
DATE

1971

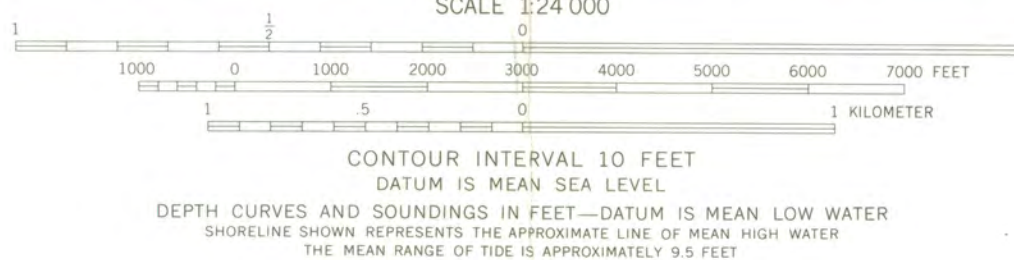
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 23 1975

Name

Location

Fletcher, Jonathan, House

**Medford
Middlesex County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR

MMott/row

6/24/75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/22/77
 Reviewer INITIALS: *goff*
 NR DOE June 23, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Fletcher, Jonathan, House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 283 High Street

CITY, TOWN Medford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex code 017.

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

☒ Substantially intact-1
☐ unknown - 4
☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

☒ Substantially intact-2
☐ unknown - 5
☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

☒ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 6
☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED
☐ Unexcavated

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED
☐ Reconstructed
☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED
☐ Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted ☒ No access Unknown

historic district? YES ☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES ☒ NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES ☒ NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES ☒ NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- private residence
 now- SAME

SIGNIFICANCE:

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☒ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☒ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW/Gov't/politics

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

☐ planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: GREEK REVIVAL ELEMENTS

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal - ASHER BENJAMIN - 18TH-19TH C. Designer - published
architectural designs to be used by builders

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1835

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

1925

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/2

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

CLAPBOARDING
FRAME, SHINGLING; 2 1/2 STORIES, L-

SHAPE, GABLED ROOF WITH DORMERS, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS, OFF-CENTER

GABLE-END ENTRANCE WITH SIDE LIGHTS, SMALL PARTIALLY GLAZED

ENTRANCE PORCH, ^{flanking} PEDIMENTED SIDE ENTRANCE PORCH; 2-STORY

ELL ADDITION, 1925; DORMERS AND SIDE PORCH ADDED: GREEK REVIVAL ELE-

MENTS. INTERIOR DETAILS COPIED FROM DESIGN BOOK PUBLISHED 1833 BY

SIGNIFICANCE:

(maximum two sentences)

ASHER BENJAMIN; UNUSUAL PLAN WITH MAIN

FACADE PERPENDICULAR TO STREET.