

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Massachusetts

COUNTY:

Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

SEP 6 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

Spofford-Barnes House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Kelsey Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Boxford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

6th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

Yes:

- ☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Loren Wood

STREET AND NUMBER:

Kelsey Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Boxford

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Essex County Courthouse

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:

1966

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

STATE:
MassachusettsCOUNTY:
Essex

ENTRY NUMBER

SEP 6 1974

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spofford-Barnes House, built in 1749, is located on a narrow rural road in East Boxford, midway between the Howe Village and Boxford Village Historic Districts. It faces south towards mixed field, wood, and lowlands. The general area is suburban-residential. Although the area is fully developed, the nearby houses are widely spaced in response to the prevailing two-acre zoning minimums. The old barn, 100 feet west of the house, was the home of the Kelsey Nursery from 1928-1952 and is surrounded by an arboretum of mature trees and plantings, mostly hybrid rhododendron and azalea, many of which are rare. The Spofford-Barnes House, owned by the Kelsey family from 1926-1961, is also well planted. On the north is an open field backed by woodland.

The symmetrical 2½-story Colonial house is of center entrance, center chimney design, and is covered with white painted clapboard. It is five bays wide and two deep. The wood shingled ridge roof is interrupted by a massive center chimney forward of the peak. The 2½-story ell, three bays long and two wide, extends from the northeast end and has a small chimney in the gable end at the ridge peak. The low foundation of the house is of field stone. The front (south) center entrance has a modest hip roof "sentry box" vestibule which was added shortly after the Civil War. The door is of appropriate double-crossed construction, and flanked by narrow vertical lights. The east and west facades have entrances off-center to the north of the peak, with single-crossed modern doors containing lights in the upper half. The ell has two similar modern doors.

The windows are regularly spaced, double-hung, with a mix of sash (6/6, 6/9, and 8/12) and have simple wooden lintels and sills. On the facade, there are a pair of windows on each side of the front door; four windows are set evenly above on the second floor and a fifth is set over the door. On the west elevation the windows on the first and second floors are set two above two, with a single window under the peak on the third floor. The east elevation is like the west except for two additional windows, a small one to the north on the third floor and one to the north on the first floor adjoining the ell. Windows in the ell are 6/6, with the first and second floor windows on the east elevation set two above two. On the north elevations there are two bays on the second floor and a small one on the third floor under the peak, and on the west elevation there are two on the first floor and one on the second. The north elevation of the main house has two windows on the first floor and two offset on the second.

The house was originally built in the classic salt box configuration. The known changes are chronologically listed hereafter. In 1792 the west parlor paneling was brought from the old Aaron Wood House, and the clock recess made in the east room ceiling. In 1852 the back of the house was raised to two full stories (this accounts for the chimney being forward of the roof peak, having been at the peak of the original salt box roof). In 1860 Indian shutters were removed from the west parlor and all new windows installed in the house. Shortly thereafter, the "sentry box" entrance was added to the front. In 1877 the ell (old summer kitchen) was raised to two full stories and the west end door cut in with an open porch that was later removed. About 1928 the house (in grave disrepair) was restored with new clapboards and windows, although some windows in the ell appear to date back to 1877. West side flooring is

cont'd

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

disrepair

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER SEP 6 1974	DATE

(Number all entries)

Spofford-Barnes House,Boxford

7.DESCRPTION

old wide pine; the ell second floor is wide pine; but the east side flooring was replaced with oak in 1928. In the late 1950's the ell kitchen was modernized and a screen porch added. The cellar stairway at the front is made of old hand-hewn boards and timbers (possibly original).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1749, 1789.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☒ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spofford-Barnes House is significant for two reasons. First, it was the home of Lydia Warren (Spofford), 1745-1839, who, in 1775, had single-handedly taken the first prisoner in the Revolutionary War. She resided in the house for the last 47 years of her life. Lydia's husband, Benjamin Spofford, was significant to town history as the key figure in the traumatic formation of the Third Congregational Church in Boxford. Although the house was built in 1749 by Paul Pritchard, a house-wright, it is more properly named for the family which lived in it for 124 years, from 1789 to 1911. (Benjamin Spofford's daughter, Sally, married Phineas Barnes in 1807).

LYDIA WARREN SPOFFORD (1745-1839)

Benjamin Spofford was the third owner of the Spofford-Barnes House. In 1792 he married Lydia Wood, a neighbor. Lydia was the widow of Aaron Wood, who was a representative from Boxford before and during the Revolutionary War, a justice of the "Peace and Quorum" under King George, and later a Senator and member of the Governor's Council. Lydia's first husband was David Barnard of Watertown, a Minute Man in the Revolution. It was at that time that Lydia was confronted with events that led to her capture of a "Red Coat" on April 19, 1775. Thus she is known for taking the first prisoner of the Revolutionary War. She died in Boxford in 1839 and was buried a short distance from the house in Harmony Cemetery beside her second husband, Aaron Wood.

BENJAMIN SPOFFORD (1752-1836)

Benjamin Spofford bought the house from Amos Perley about a year or two after Spofford's first marriage in 1786, and he lived there until shortly before his death, when, due to infirmities of age, he went to Georgetown to be cared for by his daughter. It was in 1808 that Boxford's famous "sheep case" started, with Benjamin Spofford being the key person involved. While strictly a local matter, this minor incident escalated in importance, until, in 1825, it split the local church, caused the formation of the Third Congregational Church of Boxford, and was probably the single most disruptive factor in the town's history from the time of the War of 1812 to the Civil War.

The house also contains many notable architectural features. It is a well-preserved center entrance, center-chimney Colonial, a fine example of its period. Despite the inevitable modifications and enlargements that have taken place on the original salt box configuration, much of the original fabric remains. However, it is the interior, the original four front rooms, which qualify as especially significant.

cont'd

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Perley, Sidney, Dwellings of Boxford, Salem, 1893.
2. Parkhurst, Winnifred, History of the First Congregational Church, Boxford.

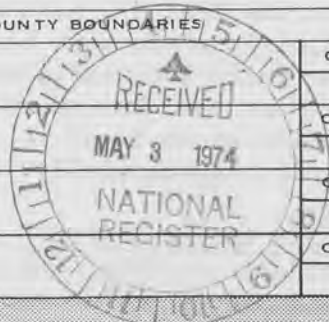
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	42°	41'	01½"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	70°	59'	06½"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 5½ acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
For Elizabeth Amadon, State Survey Director, By Mindy Arbo
 ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: 3/12/74
 STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Boston 617-727-8470 STATE: Massachusetts 02108 CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Honorable John F.X. Davoren
 Title: Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: 4/24/74

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

A.R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/6/74

ATTEST: Charles A. [Signature]

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5-6-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 6	1974

(Number all entries)

Spofford-Barnes House, Boxford

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Most notable is the fireplace wall paneling in three of the four front rooms. Upstairs, the west bedroom has raised rail and stile paneling, and the east bedroom has vertical full length wainscot. Downstairs, the west room (parlor) has raised rail and stile paneling with vertical fluted pilasters. The east room has a false fireplace and papered walls. There is evidence of a large old lintel, but it has not been determined whether the old paneling remains underneath.

It is the west parlor that is of greatest interest. This paneling was sought by the Metropolitan Museum in New York, in the 1930's, as an "outstanding New England example". (Harlan P. Kelsey, the owner at that time, declined the sale). Lydia Spofford brought the paneling to the house from her previous home, in 1791.

The interior reflects the hand of Lydia Spofford more than any other single influence. Because of a broken hip, she used to sit in a rocking chair at the front window in the east room during the last years of her life. In a corner of the room was a tall clock which was so tall that a recess had to be made in the ceiling. Lydia purchased the clock when she came to the house as a bride in 1791. It continued to remain there as long as the old home was occupied by the family. The ceiling recess remains today.

Also significant to the Spofford-Barnes House is its landscaping. From 1926-1961, the Kelsey Nurseries, located on the property, supplied the estates of the North Shore with the finest trees and plantings. The nurseries' show grounds, now mature, contain a unique and valuable collection of trees and shrubs, and give considerable character to the Spofford-Barnes property.



PROPERTY	<i>Spofford - Barnes House</i>		STATE	<i>Mass.</i>
WORKING NUMBER	<i>5.3.74.697</i>			
TECH REVIEW	PHOTOS	<i>1</i>		
	MAPS	<i>1</i>		

Essex

CONTROL REVIEW	<i>Could use a front view</i>		<i>cm</i>
			<i>5.8.</i>
			<i>74</i>
HISTORIAN	<i>otherwise OK</i> <i>What is Boxford's famous "sheep case" (see Sect. 8)??</i> <i>ACCEPT Huggan</i> <i>7/19/74</i>		
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN	<i>Is the woodwork in the west parlor still in the house or not?</i>		<i>Accept</i> <i>JCT</i> <i>7/15/74</i>
ARCHEOLOGIST			
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF			
BRANCH CHIEF			
KEEPER			<i>accept</i> <i>Huggan</i> <i>for Muntz</i> <i>9.6.74</i>

National Register Write-up *Oct 23, 1974*

Federal Register entry *11/5/74*

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered *SEP 6 1974*



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)

1. NAME COMMON		AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Spofford-Barnes House		same	SEP 6 1974
2. LOCATION STATE		COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts		Essex	Boxford
STREET AND NUMBER			
Kelsey Road			
3. PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT		DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Loren Wood		11/73	photographer
4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			

Northeast corner of the facade

1 of 1



GPO 932-009

Spofford Barnes Hse, Boxford

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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	DATE
	SEP 6 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Spofford-Barnes House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Kelsey Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Boxford			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Essex	009
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. GEORGETOWN, MASS. 1966			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1966			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





SPOFFORD-BARNES HOUSE,
BOXFORD

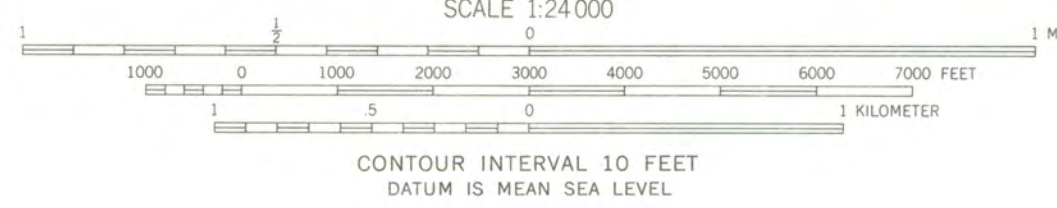
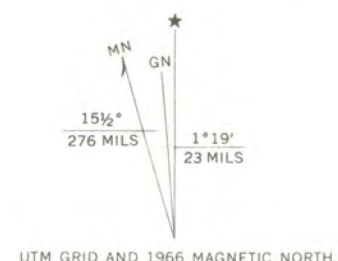
Latitude 42° 41' 01½"

Longitude 70° 59' 06½"

UIM
19/32/366
4727380
CD



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised 1966
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



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

GEORGETOWN, MASS.
N4237.5—W7052.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1966
AMS 6869 III NW—SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **SEP 6 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adams Academy	Quincy Norfolk County
Abbot Hall	Marblehead Essex County
Parson-Barnard House	North Andover Essex County
Wayland Center Historic District	Wayland Middlesex County
The Gov. Bellingham-Cary House	Chelsea Suffolk County
Spofford-Barnes House	Boxford Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Hon. James A. Burke	Secretary of the Commonwealth
Hon. Michael J. Harrington	Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Hon. Robert F. Drinan	Commission
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald	40 Beacon Street
	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

PR

MMott

9/10/74