

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Boardman House

AND/OR COMMON

Boardman House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Howard Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Saugus

— VICINITY OF

7th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts

25

Essex

009

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

— DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
— STRUCTURE  
— SITE  
— OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

— PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
— BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

— IN PROCESS  
— BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
— UNOCCUPIED  
— WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED  
— YES: UNRESTRICTED  
— NO

**PRESENT USE**

— AGRICULTURE  MUSEUM  
— COMMERCIAL  PARK  
— EDUCATIONAL  PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
— ENTERTAINMENT  RELIGIOUS  
— GOVERNMENT  SCIENTIFIC  
— INDUSTRIAL  TRANSPORTATION  
— MILITARY  OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET &amp; NUMBER

141 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (2 photos, 1 sheet)

DATE

1940, 1945

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress/Annex Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The original form of the present house was the characteristic two room, central chimney plan, two-and-a-half stories high with a cellar under only one-half of the building. The rear lean-to was a later addition.

There is evidence in the framing that the house once had a projecting front porch, two large cross gables, and possibly a third gable over the porch.

The original windows were triple casements in front and double casements on the ends. In its present form, however, the house is typical of a large number of 17th century houses with unbroken roof slopes. The simple and symmetrical five-bay facade is made dramatic by the bold framed over-hang and the roof is topped by a large central chimney shaped by pilasters on front and back. The rear roof has a long downward slope of slightly broken pitch, as was common on houses with added lean-tos.

Many of the interior features--wainscot, batten doors, unplastered ceilings in the second story, garret stairway, and chimney--are original. On the ground floor are two rooms, the parlor on the west and the hall or kitchen to the east. Above each of these rooms, also on either side of the central chimney, is a sleeping chamber. When the house was acquired by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in 1914, it was found that the hall had been divided to make two rooms, and a later partition was also found in the chamber over the parlor. Other minor changes have occurred over the years, but these did little to disturb the original interior fabric of the house. The heavy units of the original frame were still exposed in the rooms on each floor. Of special interest was the fireplace wall in each chamber. These retained their entire original shadow-molded sheathing, which was disclosed by the removal of later wallpaper.

The present exterior of the house, including the clapboards, underboarding, roof covering, windows, and front door, date almost entirely from the 18th century.

In recent years it has become necessary to replace the clapboarding on the front below the overhang of the second story and windows on the second floor have received replacements for disintegrating casings. The Society treats the structure as a documentary house and places great emphasis on saving original fabric. The roof covering the back of the house and lean-to is in good condition indicative of the fact that it had to be reshingled not too long ago. The wooden shingles of the roof in front of the ridge have begun to curl badly and will soon have to be replaced. In the attic, where the central chimney is so large that separate stairs exist to reach each half, the purlins have been shored in several places to prevent failure of the roof. The new clapboarding on the front has been treated with a preservative coating and there is evidence of fairly recent use of a preservative elsewhere on the exterior. The house is unrestored but the fine carved detailing on the fireplace beams can be seen. The fireplace in the west chamber is plastered up but the original paneling on the walls is still in place. Half-timber construction can be studied under the old clapboarding on the inside wall of the lean-to.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1687

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boardman House, probably built around 1687 is a classic example of a New England colonial saltbox house of medieval design. Because of the survival of so much original fabric in an unspoiled condition, the Boardman House is an outstanding monument and an important historical document for the study of early American architecture.

## HISTORY

The exact date of the house's construction is not known. For many years it was accepted that the house had been constructed to house Scottish prisoners captured by Cromwell at the Battle of Dumbarton, September 13, 1650, and transported to America to labor in the iron works at Saugus. Recent scholarship has changed this tradition, suggesting that the present house stands near, but not on the site, of the original "Scotch" house, and has satisfactorily illustrated that the present house was built for the Boardman family when they acquired the land in 1687. Architecturally the plan of the house supports this recent theory, for it follows the normal plan for a typical family dwelling of the period and would not have been large enough to house a large number of prisoners. Also the house's fine decorative detail would hardly have been included on prisoners' quarters.

In view of this definitive research, the Society has dropped "scotch" from its name and now refers to it simply as the Boardman House.

The formal restoration of the Scotch-Boardman House between 1915 and 1918 was expertly carried out. Little was done to change the condition in which the structure was found, for fear of damaging the integrity of its original finish, so much of which, happily, had survived. Since this restoration only repairs necessary to preserve and upkeep have been undertaken.



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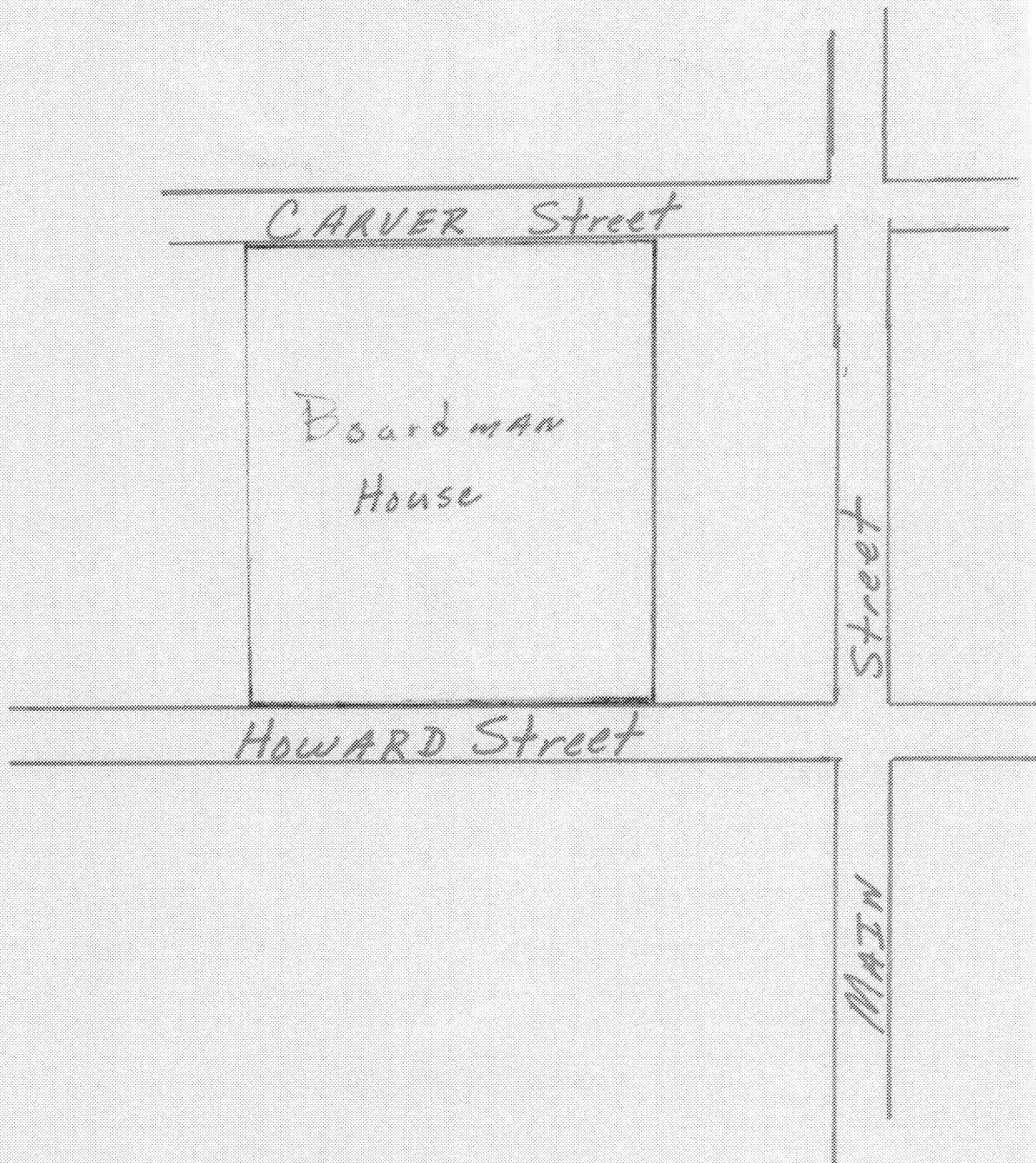
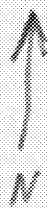
CONTINUATION SHEET Boardman House

ITEM NUMBER 7

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The house is set very close to what was once a country road but is now a suburban street with heavy traffic. A yard to the west of the house is separated from the street by a stone wall and one to the east by a rail fence.



Not drawn  
to scale