

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET
NOV 22 1977

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAR 29 1978

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

Ephraim Cutter House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4 Water Street

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
MiddlesexCODE
017

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

Century Publications, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

4 Water Street

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02174

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts 02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1973

FEDERAL ☒ STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1915

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ephraim Cutter House is located at 4 Water Street in the commercial area of Arlington. The house lies directly across Massachusetts Avenue from the town library, in close proximity to the Town Hall and Post Office. The house originally sat on a $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot facing Massachusetts Avenue. The Cutter House figured prominently in early views of West Cambridge (Arlington) as it was one of four buildings which served as cornerstones of the center area. Two of these survive. In 1915 the house was turned 90 degrees and moved back 75 feet to face Water Street, which was early known as Mill Lane. Water Street led to Ephraim Cutter's mill, the oldest watermill in the area. The now less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of property is separated from the street by a low picket fence.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, rectangular Federal style structure was built in 1803-04 by Ephraim Cutter. It rests on a high stone foundation headed by a beveled wooden watertable. The house is sheathed in clapboards painted red. Cornerboards and entablature are plain. The hip roof carries two large chimneys. Fenestration is 6/6. The shouldered architraves and plain sills are painted white, as is all the trimwork. The partially exposed basement level has three light casements.

The five bay wide facade faces southeast toward Water Street. The center bay open entrance porch was added c.1915 when the building was moved. Three steps lead to the six panel door flanked by sidelights and headed by a fanlight with keystone. The entrance is shielded by a molded, modillioned, open triangular pediment supported by two fluted columns. A latticed wooden rail runs from each of these columns along the sides of the porch to a fluted pilaster on either side of the door. Two shed dormers rise from the roof above. Each contains a 3/3 window.

The northeast elevation is four bays deep. The rear elevation was extended prior to 1915. The original entrance to the house is located in the original center bay of the elevation. It is a six panel H-L hinged door which retains one of the two original bull's eye glass panes. The door is flanked by fluted pilasters which give rise to the wide molded frieze and dentiled cornice. The door is headed by an 8/12 window on the second story. The one bay deep addition at the northern end has a small window on the second story and a one story, flat roofed enclosed porch on the first story. This porch has a three horizontal light window on its southeast and its northeast elevation and wraps around the corner to continue along the northern end of the northwest (rear) elevation.

The northwest elevation has been much altered. The enclosed porch from the northeast elevation has a series of four, three horizontal light windows. This porch is headed by two 1/1 windows on the projecting second story. A second center projection has a 4/4 window, a 6/6 window and a modern door on the first story and a single original 6/6 window on the second story. The third projection, located at the western end of the elevation, includes a six panel door partially below foundation level. Two roof dormers are connected by an extension.

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. 1804

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ephraim Cutter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ephraim Cutter House is significant for its association with the Cutter family and as one of the few houses of its period remaining in Arlington Center.

In 1637 a privilege on Mill Brook was granted to Captain George Cooke by the town of Newtowne (Cambridge). This was the first watermill in Cambridge, and farmers came from distant communities to grind their corn there. In 1690 the mill site and privilege were passed on to the Cutter family who had been among the first families to acquire land in Menotomy (Arlington) and who had owned five of the six privileges on Mill Brook for many years.

Eight year old Ephraim Cutter watched the British march through Menotomy on their way to Lexington on April 19, 1775. His 52 year old father, Ammi Cutter, joined the old men of Menotomy in an attack on British supply wagons that lagged behind the column of regulars.

Ephraim was the ninth of Ammi Cutter's twenty children (by three wives). In 1795 Ephraim inherited his father's grist mill and five years later built a new dam and mill below the old 17th century one. He prospered as a miller, and in 1804 built himself the elegant house in the center of town. In an early history he was remembered as having "the best livestock, the best orchard, and the best filled barn of the neighborhood." A thrifty and public spirited man, he became the Deacon's assistant and was later elected Deacon himself, serving the First Parish Church until his death in 1841. According to a family genealogy, Ephraim Cutter never enjoyed educational advantages, but "by assiduous endeavor attained good standing among his townsmen." Said to be a man of unpretentious manners, he ascribed his success in life under God to the judicious manner of his wife, Deborah Locke. She was "a person interesting in manners and conversation" who, despite her 300 to 400 pound weight, was "remarkably agile and her footsteps noiseless and graceful." She died in 1823.

Three of Deborah and Ephraim Cutter's 14 children died in September 1802 in an epidemic of fever and dysentery that almost tripled the town's death rate that year. One son, Dr. Benjamin Cutter, founded the Middlesex County Medical Society and was a pioneer in temperance reform. His research into local genealogy and history became the basis for the first published history of Arlington, co-authored by his son William R. Cutter.

Today the house is the home of the Arlington Advocate, the town's oldest newspaper, operating continuously since 1872.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arlington Vital Records to 1850, New England Genealogical Society, Boston, 1904.
Cutter, Benjamin & William R., History of the Town of Arlington, David Clapp & Son, Boston, 1880.
The Ephraim Cutter House, Century Publications, Inc., Arlington, 1975.
Paige, L., History of Cambridge, Mass. 1630-1877, H.O. Houghton, Boston, 1877.
Parker, Charles S., Town of Arlington, Past and Present, C.S. Parker & Son, Arlington, 1907.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 322660 4698040
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 Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor
Marianne Balazs, Arlington Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE October 20, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington 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 Reed Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE 10/31/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Walter C. Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3.25.78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3.26.78

Property Cutter, Ephraim, House

State Mass.

Working Number 11.22.77.1976

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 7

CONTROL

OK pl
11.28.77

HISTORIAN

Local history

Sheffy
2-13-78

accept

Moved in 1915

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Brahan
1.11.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

See above

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

despite Arlington is very early settlement, it has
few historical resources

Accept
Labovich
3/16/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Ames
5/24/78

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry 5.2.78

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered MAR 29 1978

INT:2106-74



Ephraim Cutter House
Arlington, Massachusetts
1976

NOV 22 1977

Edward Jacoby
Arlington Historical Commission
Town Hall, Arlington

#1 + 4

Southeast facade and southwest elevation.

Middlesex County

MAR 29 1978

Ephraim Cutter House
4 Water St., Arlington, Mass.
South East facade + SW elevation

APG

Architectural Photography Group

All reproductions of this
Photograph must be credited

To: EDWARD JACOBY

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ARL. HIST. Comm 3-76 C-305



Ephraim Cutter House, 4 Water Street, Arlington

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ephraim Cutter House
Arlington, Massachusetts
1977

NOV 22 1977

Arlington Historical Commission
Town Hall, Arlington

#2 ~~4~~

Southeast facade and northeast elevation

Middlesex County

MAR 29 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ephraim Cutter House
Arlington, Massachusetts
1977

NOV 22 1977

Arlington Historical Commission
Town Hall, Arlington

#3 84

northeast and northwest elevations

Middlesex County

MAR 29 1978



Ephraim Cutter House, 4 Water Street, Arlington

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ephraim Cutter House
Arlington, Massachusetts
1977

NOV 22 1977

Arlington Historical Commission
Town Hall, Arlington

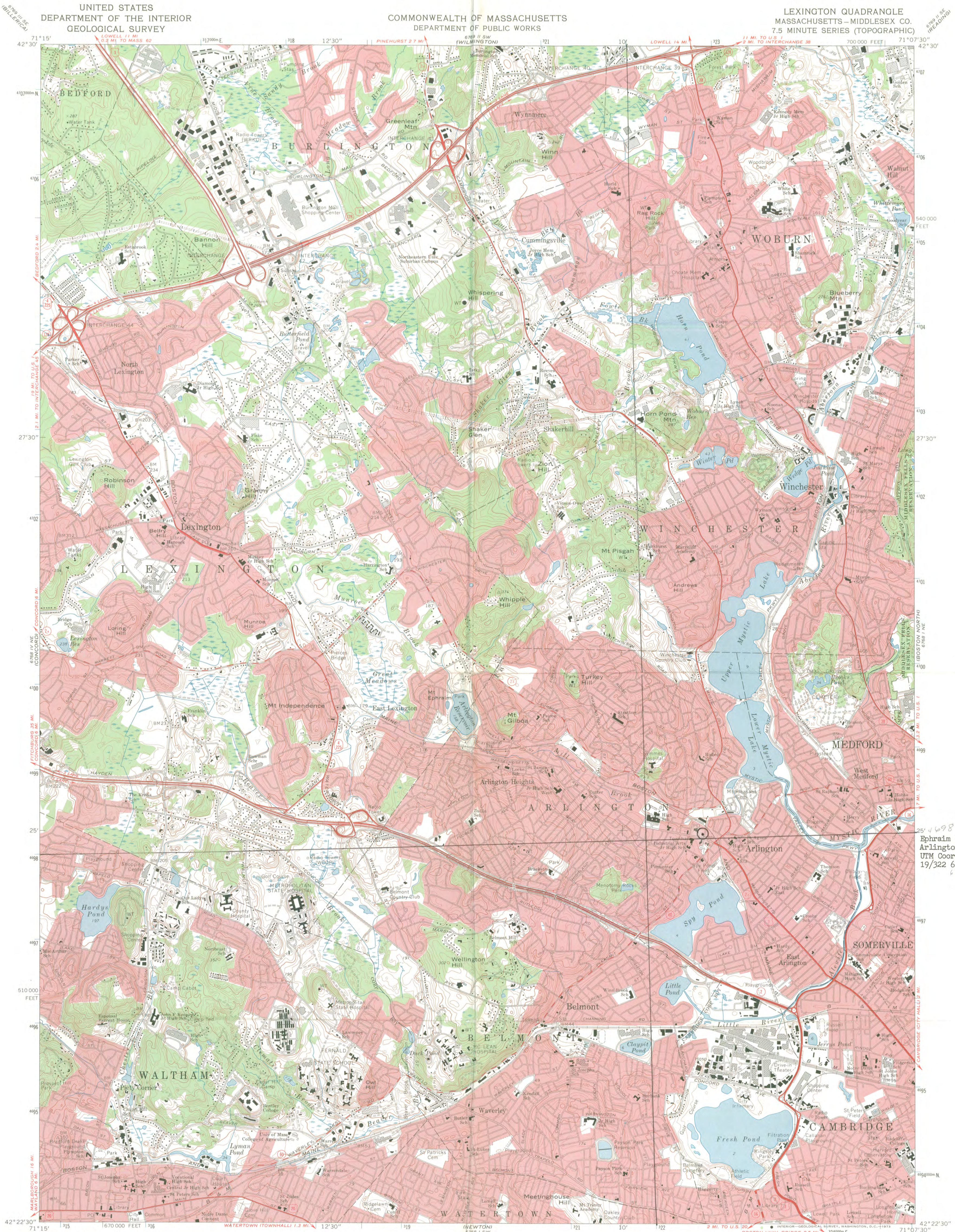
#4 84

Entablature over original door on
northeast elevation

Middlesex County

MAR 29 1978

(1 door)



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts
Geodetic Survey

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by plane-table surveys 1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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

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 ———

LEXINGTON, MASS
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5

1971

AMS 6768 I NW—SERIES V81



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 29 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cottage Farm Historic District	Brookline Norfolk County
Worcester City Hall and Common	Worcester Worcester County
Cutter, Ephraim, House	Arlington Middlesex County
Bixby Block/Home Bank Building	Brockton Plymouth County
Dalton House	Newburyport Essex County
Page, Nathaniel, House	Bedford Middlesex County
King Caesar House	Duxbury Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Hon. Joseph D. Early
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. James A. Burke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Paul Tsongas
Hon. Jerry E. Studds

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Cutter, Ephraim, House				2 OTHER NAMES:		3 date of entry: MAR 29 1978		4 county code: 17	
5 LOCATION street & number 4 Water St.		city / town Arlington		vicinity of		state MA		county Middlesex	
6 NPS REGION: NA									
7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)						8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 8th						12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?			
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO						14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO			
15 ACRES						☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION			
16 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☐ altered ☐ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated						17 features: INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9			
18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown						19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO 20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO			
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)						22 CLAIMS; explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐			
23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:						24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:			
25 architectural style(s):						26 master builder:			
27 architect:						28 engineer:			
29 landscape architect / garden designer:						30 interior decorator:			
31 artist:						32 artisan:			
33 builder/contractor:									
34 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:									
35 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP									