

PH 0500763

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 9 1977NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fiske House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1 Billerica Road

CITY, TOWN

Chelmsford Center

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

01824

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

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☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Edward Redstone

STREET & NUMBER

c/o The First Bank and Trust Co., 44 Central Square

CITY, TOWN

Chelmsford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts, 01824

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds (North District)

STREET & NUMBER

Gorham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

STATE

Massachusetts, 01852

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey
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 _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fiske House built in 1798, occupies a prominent location in the center of Chelmsford, on the corner of Billerica Road and Chelmsford Street. The house faces west toward Central Square. The 1 3/4 acres of house lot is well landscaped. To the south of the house, the grounds are terraced down. A delicate low wooden fence built in 1839 separates the house from the road on the north and west sides. The area surrounding the house is mixed residential and commercial buildings of the town center.

The Fiske House is a square plan, brick ended, 2 1/2 story ridge roof house with gables to the side. There is a continuous dentilated cornice and plain wide cornerboards. There are four end chimneys. Fenestration is 6/6 with projecting cornices and sills, framed by shutters. The facade is five bays wide with a center entry. The bays are defined by graceful, tapering pilasters with plain blocks above the molded capitals. The eight panel center entry door is framed by side lights and shutters and topped by a fanlight and molded round arch with key, a highly unusual entrance treatment in New England.

The side elevations are three bays deep and are relieved by a projecting brick belt bisecting the first and second stories. There are two windows on the attic story gable pediment which is separated from the second story by an overhanging entablature. On the south elevation is a center entry capped by a projecting flat cornice. On the north elevation, a center entry is crowned by a fanlight with key and headed by a wide dentilated cornice.

Extending from the center of the rear (east) elevation is a one story ridge roofed ell with a slight extension at the second story level.

The roof is slate. Original clapboarding on the facade and gable pediments has been covered with vinyl siding.

The interior retains old wallpaper, handsome dados, and hand-carved "ball and tassel" molding in the livingroom. There are nine fireplaces, one in each room plus one (which was originally used for cooking) in the basement. Large beams are exposed throughout the house. A beehive oven in the kitchen was removed by an earlier Fiske.

Outbuildings consist of a barn with cupola, a one story well house with chimney, and two sheds. A portion of the barn has been converted to a garage.

The property has recently been purchased by the First Bank and Trust Co. of Chelmsford, which is located directly southwest of the Fiske House on Chelmsford Street. Changes that are to occur include the removal of the 1839 fence, a stone wall to the east of the house, and an existing stone balance wall which supports a southern slope terrace garden. The bank will be paving three entrance/exits to their parking lot to the southeast of the Fiske House. These drives are:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Fiske House

7

1

one from Chelmsford Street between the bank and the Fiske property, and two from Billerica Road between the Fiske House and barn. The house and outbuildings are to remain and may be converted for commercial use. The extensive landscaping and sensitive planning and design work will preserve the integrity of the Fiske House and property.

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 1798

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fiske House is significant as one of the first Federal style houses in Northern Middlesex County, for its prominent position in the center of Chelmsford, and for its 137 years of association with the Fiske family of Chelmsford. The house also has an interesting ownership history.

The Fiske House occupies the site of an earlier house owned and occupied by Major John Minot. In 1784 Major Minot deeded to William Bridge $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land and buildings located south of the present house. The well of the Bridge House may still be seen on the terrace just south of the Fiske House.

In 1784 Simeon Spaulding, Jr., merchant bought the Minot land and in 1798 built the new house. Because of its high cost, he was forced to mortgage it in 1807 and sell it in 1812. He repurchased it in 1818, however, and kept it until 1830, when he sold it to his brother. He is said to have loved the house and was anxious to keep it in the family to be handed down to posterity. There were then frequent changes in ownership.

In 1835 Thomas Moore bought the house and ran it as the Lafayette House. The bar has been replaced in the bar-room (S.W. room) by the present owners. In 1839 Mr. & Mrs. John Minot Fiske visited Chelmsford intending to buy his great-grandfather's old house. Mrs. Fiske admired the Tavern where they were staying, the Lafayette House, and Mr. Fiske bought it instead. The rail fence in front of the house was built at this time. The house remained in the Fiske family from that time until 1977.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Waters, History of Chelmsford, 1917.

Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850, Essex Institute, 1914.

1831 Map and 1875 Beers Atlas.

William Northrop & Frances Andrews: Notes.

Conversations with Nancy M. Fiske.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1 3/4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 307050 4718480
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
(Edward S. Redstone, President, First Bank and Trust Co., Chelmsford)

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE May 4, 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 5/31/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Property

Fiske House

State

Mass.

Working Number

7.12.77.1125

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos

5

Maps

2

CONTROL

OK 7.14.77

HISTORIAN

I do not concur with removal of 1839 fence for a parking lot!
Is this "sensitive planning" to "preserve the integrity"? How old
are walls? Should CALL on this!

accept
J. L. Brown
12/15/77

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Brasham
11.30.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

Mass will try to do something
about fence.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
Belovich
12/15/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Huntington
12.7.77

KEEPER

W
12/9/77

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

DEC 9 1977

Federal Register Entry

2.7.78

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Middlesex County

Fiske House
Chelmsford, Mass.

1977

C.H. Palmer

Photo Media Four, Chelmsford, Mass.

#1 25

West facade and south elevation.

DEC 9 1977

JUL 12 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex Co.
DEC 9 1977

Fiske House
Chelmsford, Mass.
1977

C.H. Palmer

Photo Media Four, Chelmsford, Mass.

#2 085

North elevation and addition to east
elevation.

JUL 12 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex Co.

Fiske House
Chelmsford, Mass..
1977

DEC 9 1977

C.H. Palmer

Photo Media Four, Chelmsford, Mass.

#3 *085*

Looking southwest toward house, barn,
and shed.

JUL 12 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County

Fiske House
Chelmsford, Mass.
1977

DEC 9 1977

C.H. Palmer
Photo Media Four, Chelmsford, Mass.
#4 085
North and west elevations of shed.

JUL 12 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County

Fiske House
Chelmsford, Mass.
1977

DEC 9 1977

C.H. Palmer
Photo Media Four, Chelmsford, Mass.
#5 85
North and west elevations of barn.

JUL 12 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FREDERICK J. KILMARTIN

MERCADO REALTY TRUST

AREA: 3.3 AC.±

CREIGHTON M. HAMILTON

PARKING AREA
REVISED MAP,
1977- SEE
SHEET 1

PETER B. HOSMER

NOTE:

CAPE COD BERM TO BE PROVIDED AROUND
ENTIRE EDGE OF PAVEMENT EXCEPT ON
EDGE OF PAVEMENT ADJACENT TO THE
RETENTION AREA WHERE PRECAST BUMPER
STRIPS ARE TO BE PROVIDED IN ORDER TO
ALLOW RUNOFF TO FLOW DIRECTLY INTO THIS AREA.

136 PARKING SPACES PROVIDED (SEE SH. 1)

① REFERS TO SIGN NUMBER IN
PROPOSED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS
BOOKLET

B. & P. REALTY TRUST

FIRST BANK & TRUST CO.

BOSTON ROAD

ACTON ROAD

LEGEND:

- EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN
- ⊙ PROPOSED SHADE TREE
- ⊙ EVERGREEN TREE
- SINGLE LIGHT FIXTURE
- DOUBLE LIGHT FIXTURE
- ▬ PROPOSED RETAINING WALL

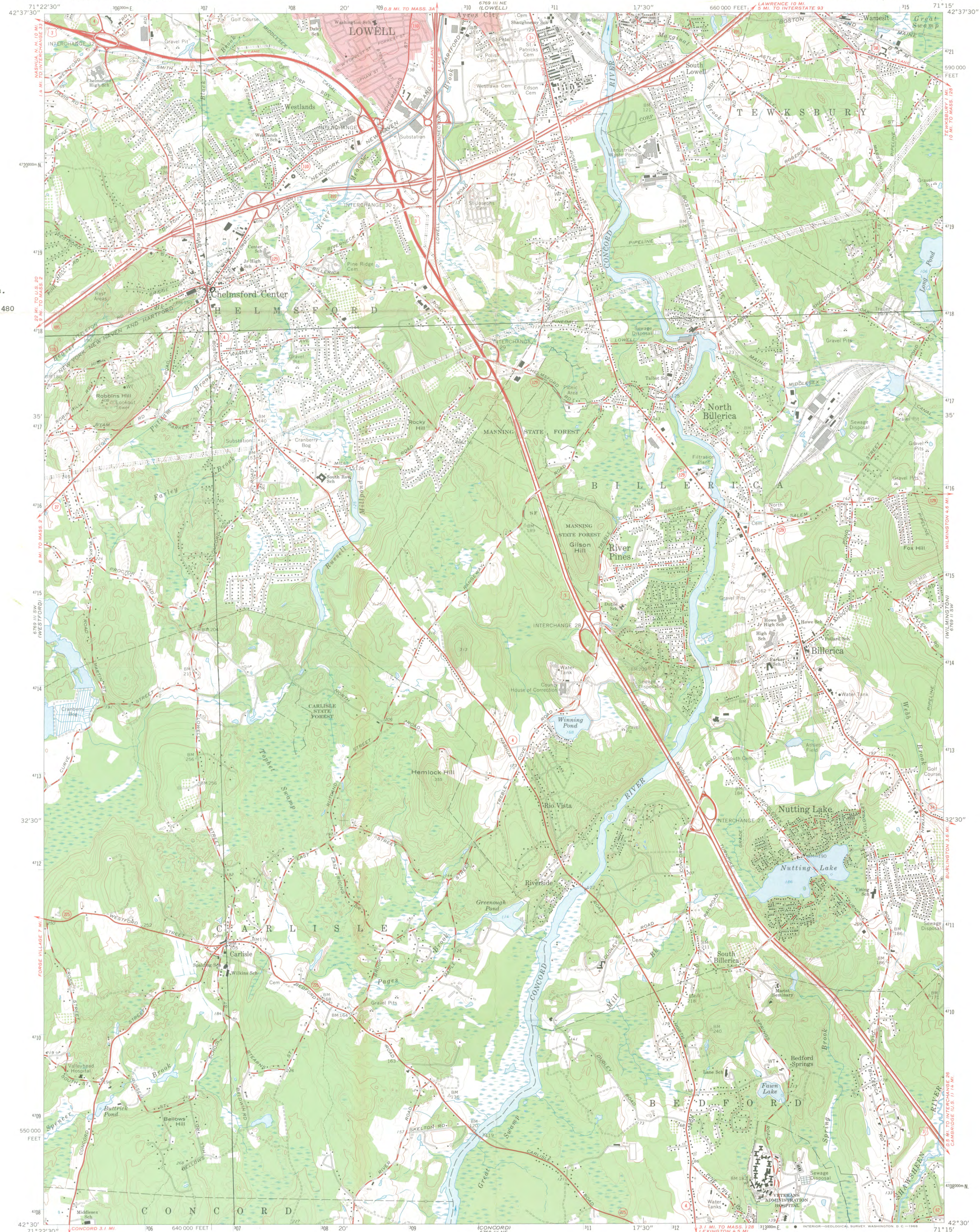
FISKE HOUSE
CHELMSFORD, MASS.

PROPOSED SITE PLAN
IN
CHELMSFORD, MASS.
PREPARED FOR
THE FIRST BANK & TRUST CO.
SCALE: 1/4" = 30 FEET JAN., 1977
EMMONS, FLEMING & BIENVENU, INC.
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
BILLERICA, MASS.

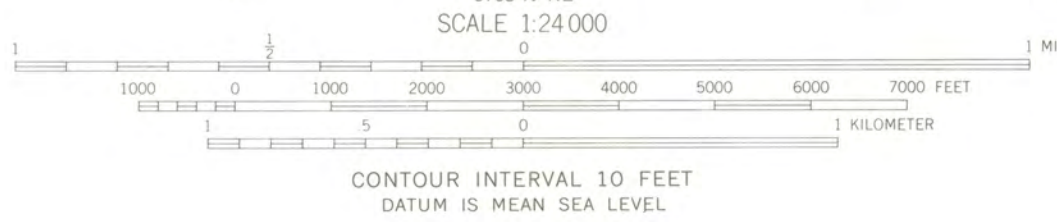
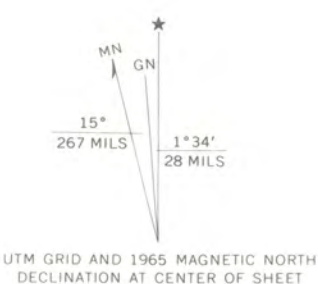
DEC 9 1977



Fiske House
Chelmsford, Mass.
UTM Coordinates:
19/307 050/4718 480



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939. Revised 1965
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



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

BILLERICA, MASS
N4230—W7115/7.5
1965
AMS 6769 III SE—SERIES V81



DEC 9 1977

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 9 1977

Name

Location

Fiske House

Chelmsford Center
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Paul Tsongas

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

880

Mott/js

12/16/77

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



MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
SECRETARY OF STATE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Secretary of State

Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(617) 727-8470

January 26, 1979

Charles Herrington
Chief
National Register Branch
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Fiske House
Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Herrington:

On December 30, 1978 the Fiske House, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 9, 1977, was damaged by fire. The fire, which started in the attic, destroyed the slate roof on the west elevation and damaged one third of the east roof, primarily along the ridge. All the structural members are intact though charred. The second story windows on the facade were lost and of course there has been some water damage.

As the local building inspector has declared the building structurally sound and it retains its major features, we do not feel that it should be removed from the Register. Also, the building is in a local historic district, so any restoration plans will be reviewed by the Historic District Commission.

We will keep you informed as to the status.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding

Christine Boulding
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CB/CJ/ts

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	JAN 29 1979
INDIVIDUAL RES	(continued)
INFORMATIVE M	(continued)
TELEPHONE C	(continued)
C W TAKEN	
IS	

25% cotton

Gilbert bond

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Fiske House			2 OTHER NAMES:			3 date of entry: DEC 9 1977		4 county code: 17	
5 LOCATION street & number 1 Billerica Rd.		city / town Chelmsford Center		vicinity of		state MA		county Middlesex	
6 NPS REGION: NA						7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)			
8 EXISTING SURVEYS ☒ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		9 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		10 CONGRESS DISTRICT 5th		11 SOURCE OF NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL		12 ADMINISTRATOR:	
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		15 ACREAGE		16 LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION			
17 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair		18 deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated		19 altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated		20 original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown		21 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-8	
22 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown			23 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO			24 SAVED? ☐ YES		25 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no	
26 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5			☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10			☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20			
			☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25			☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)			
27 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:			28 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:			29 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐			
30 architectural style(s):			31 architect:			32 master builder:			
33 landscape architect/garden designer:			34 interior decorator:			35 artist:			
36 builder/contractor:			37 artisan:			38 engineer:			
39 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:									

40 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

HABS-1937