

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received MAY 13 1980

date entered JUN 16 1980

1. Name Grafton Inn

historic HASSANAMISCO HOUSE

and/or common GRAFTON INN (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 25 Central Square not for publication

city, town Grafton vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

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 Mr. Paul Roy

street & number Eight Sibley Street

city, town Grafton vicinity of state Massachusetts 01519

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester Court House

street & number 2 Main Street

city, town Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, Boston state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site		
☒ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved	date	
☐ fair	☐ unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grafton Inn (Hassaminisco House) is a rectangular three storey, free standing structure, which dominates the eastern side of the Grafton Common and is comprised of two parts. The western section, facing on the common and erected 1805/6 is a Federal structure of considerable design distinction. An ell, equal in size to the original structure completely obliterates the eastern elevation.

The major 5 bay facade faces west and, rising above a low granite foundation, is presently augmented by a two storey Italianate style porch, which was added sometime after the fire which in 1863 destroyed the Warren Block and Town Hall and the Baptist Church to the north. At the first storey the porch extends across the full five bays of the facade, while at the second storey it occupies only the center three. At both levels it is supported by chamfered posts with elaborately carved brackets.

The symmetrical and high style western facade is articulated by a projecting central bay, the pediment of which rises above the eaves. This pediment breaks forward from a typically Federal, low hipped roof (now surfaced in asphalt shingle), which rises from all four sides to a central monitor. Originally, a parapet, comprised of turned balusters similar to those (now also missing) which once decorated the central, domed belvedere, originally ornamented the joint of the monitor.

The western facade is surfaced in clapboard, while the north and south elevations, incorporating four symmetrically located, chimneys, are executed in brick. The eaves of the inn are decorated with mutules, a rope molding and dentiles and are thus identical to those found on many contemporaneous works by Charles Bulfinch, such as the Third Harrison Gray Otis House at 45 Beacon Street in Boston, of the same date. The central pediment is pierced by a lunette window with a swelling sill and radial glazing. Elsewhere the fenestration is grouped in ranges of decreasing height from sill to eaves. The spacing of these windows and their comparatively heavy and simple surrounds lack the elegance of execution which Bulfinch himself had begun to develop by this date. Likewise the grouping and linking of the vertical articulation of the fenestration found in the Boston architect's best known contemporaneous work is lacking.

The original fenestration, glazed 6/6 originally, has now been modified with later, larger panes of 2/1 glass, although the integrity of the openings themselves remains unaltered on other than the first floor at the entrance. Here the original door, centrally located under a one storey porch, and probably incorporating a fanlight, has been augmented with two lateral openings containing paired paneled doors which appear to date from the addition of the porch. The central window on the second floor has been enlarged to form an Italianate door, with round arched glazing in etched glass, to allow access to the upper level of the porch. Simple cornerboards are placed at the extremes of the western elevation where clapboard abuts brick.

The southern elevation, which was earlier obscured by adjacent building, once incorporated an arched door with fanlight, now blocked up, and the northern elevation was essentially identical to it. Here the windows are grouped in three rows to allow for the chimney bases to run the full height of the elevation within the exposed brick walling, now painted white. These openings, like those on the other elevations, originally had shutters and echo the arrangement of the western facade in terms of vertical placement, although their horizontal spacing differs. The eastern elevation has been entirely obscured by the addition of an ell in the Civil War period, which is equal or greater in size than the original Federal structure. In this process openings were introduced in the eastern wall of the earlier part.

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/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☒ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1805/06 **Builder/Architect** Samuel Wood (builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grafton Inn possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and strong associations with the development of Grafton Common. Its primary significance derives from the high quality of its Federal period design. It's cubical form enclosed by a low hipped roof with monitor and octagonal belvedere typify the best of the period. The finest feature is the cornice which incorporates, dentiles, mutules and a rope molding.

The Hassanamisco House (now the Grafton Inn) was named after the Indian tribe which first occupied the area, and today still have a reservation in the Brigham Hill Road area of Grafton. The Inn, on the Grafton Common, was strategically located at the intersection of Route 122 (Worcester to Providence) and an old Indian trail which had been used by white men as early as the 17th century when, Thomas Hooker led his migration following this trail 160 miles southwest from Cambridge to found Hartford, Connecticut in 1636. This central mail coach stop and cross roads was by-passed only a few years after the Inn was erected in 1805/6 due to the building of the Worcester Turnpike from Boston (Route #9).

Samuel Wood, who built the Inn, was from Hopkinton (Woodville) born in 1761 and moved early in life to Grafton, where he joined many other members of the Wood family, including his brother, Dr. Joseph Wood, who first employed him on his farm and store. Known for his energy, Samuel Wood built the Grafton Inn in 1805/6 and was its proprietor and the principle hotel keeper of Grafton until his death in 1813. The high style building, and its obvious relationship to the designs of Charles Bulfinch and Asher Benjamin is supported historically by known connections of Samuel Wood to Boston. Rope moulding similar to those in the Inn were made in Grafton in 1815 in the cabinet shop of Ezekiel Brigham.

The Inn was owned by Samuel Wood from 1805/6 to 1813. It passed then to his son Hon. Samuel Wood (b. 1793) the only one of his four children to reach adulthood. Hon. Samuel Wood had four daughters and married Sarah Bruce (d. 1817), then Hannah P. Adams. Born in Grafton, he spent almost all his life there and was one of the most outstanding men in the area. He held all the town offices (clerk, selectman, etc.) continuing to the state house of representatives under Governor Griggs as representative from the Worcester District.

Lowell Baker acquired the Inn in 1826 and ran it until his death in 1857 when it passed to his son Lowell Baker, Jr. In the late 1860's the Inn was operated by Colonel Cogswell, while Lowell Baker was residing in Worcester. In 1879 A.J. Kerby acquired the Inn, which was then called The Kirby House. He still owned it in 1894 when the pictorial map of Grafton was made. During the 20th century the building, now known as the Grafton Inn was operated as such until the 1940's. Present plans are to restore building and return it to use as an Inn.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Pierce, Frederick C., History of Grafton (Grafton: Author, 1879).
Nason, Rev. Elias, N.A., Gazetteer of Massachusetts (Boston: B.B. Russell, 1874).
Barber, J.W., Sandroft, I., Peabody, E., Massachusetts Towns :An 1810 View (Barre, Barre Publ., 1963).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 23,250 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Grafton

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Westerly (front) facing Grafton Common: 100.25

Northerly: 197.32'

Easterly: 85.53'

Southerly: 249' along Upton Street

Please refer to the attached:

Grafton Assessor's Maps plot #74

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

Margaret H. Floyd
Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date February 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national

☒ state

☒ local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert L. Westroski

Executive Director

title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 4/30/80

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 6/16/80

Attest:

Patrick Andrews

date 6/12/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 13 1980

DATE ENTERED

101 1 6 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

#9 Major Bibliographical References (cont.) Anderson, Forbush, Interview (Grafton, 17 November, 1979).
Woodford, Map of Grafton (1855).

Property

Grafton Inn

State

Ma - Worcester

Working Number

5-13-80 1323ref no 80000675**TECHNICAL**

Photos

3

Maps

2**CONTROL**

Built in 1805-6 this building is eligible for architecture as a high quality example of Federal style architecture. Built at a strategic intersection the building thrived as an inn from 1805 until the 1940's. A Civil War era ell nearly doubles its size. Important elements of the inn are its richly detailed cornice, fanlight, belvedere and an intimate 2 story Italianate style porch.

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrews
6/12/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**ARCHEOLOGIST****OTHER****HAER**Inventory Review **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF****BRANCH CHIEF****KEEPER**National Register Write-up Send-back Entered JUN 16 1980Federal Register Entry 2381Re-submit



Grafton Inn
25 Central Square
Grafton, Mass.

Worcester Co.

Richard White 1979
Architectural Conservation Trust
45 School Street, Boston

Photo #1 of 3

north and west elevations facing
southeast

JUN 16 1980

MAY 13 1980

taken by Richard White

for ACT 10/79



Grafton Inn
25 Central Square
Grafton, Mass.

JUN 16 1980

Worcester CO-

C. Pearlman 1979
Architectural Conservation Trust
45 School Street, Boston

Photo #2 of 3
Porch detail

MAY 13 1980



Grafton Inn
25 Central Square
Grafton, Mass.

JUN 16 1980

Worcester Co.

C. Pearlman 1979
Architectural Conservation Trust
45 School Street, Boston

Photo #3 of 3
cornice detail

MAY 13 1980

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Grafton Inn
25 Central Square
Grafton, Mass.
UTM REFERENCES:
19/278300/4675960

GRAFTON QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—WORCESTER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

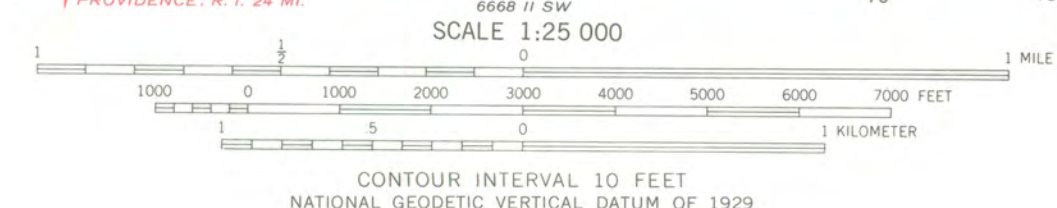
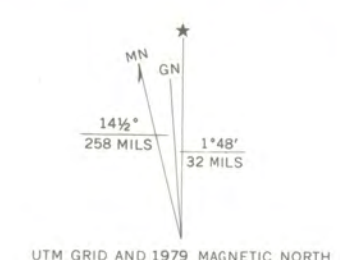
6668 I SE
(MARLBOROUGH)



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone.
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19.
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked.
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to
controlled inundation by West Hill Dam.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map.



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

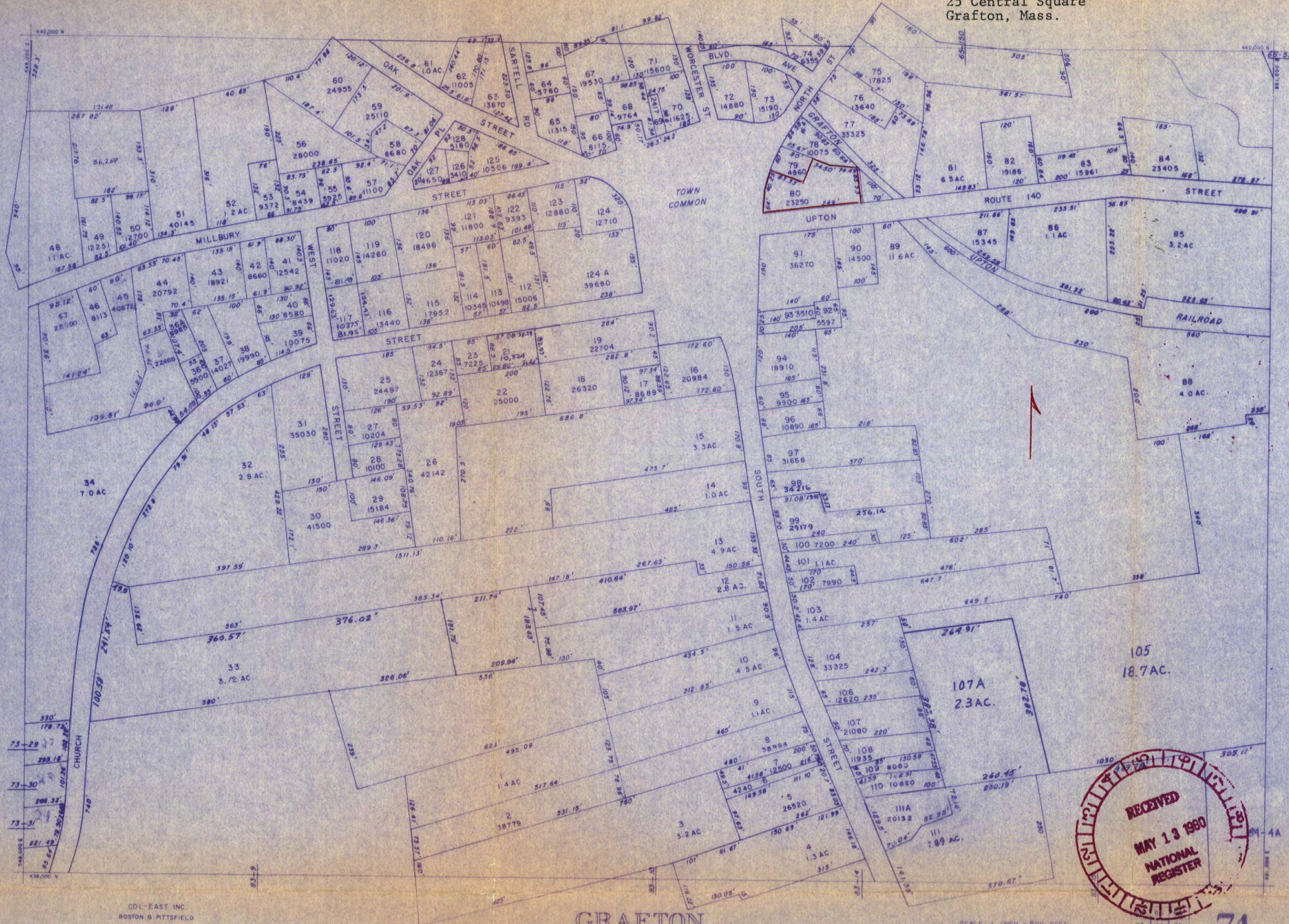


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

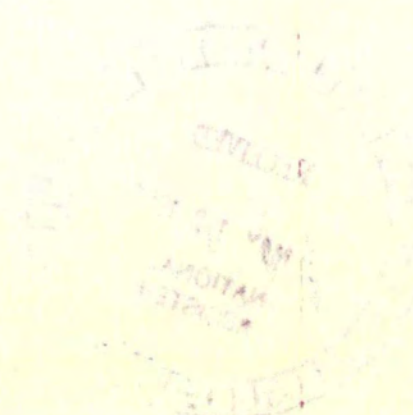
GRAFTON, MASS.
N4207.5—W7137.5/7.5
1969
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 II NW—SERIES V814



Grafton Inn
25 Central Square
Grafton, Mass.



JUN 16 1980





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

April 29, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
Registration Branch
Heritage, Conservation &
Recreation Service
440 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20243



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston: R.H. Stearns Building (local)

Boston: All Saints Church (national)

Boston: Charles Playhouse (national)

Cambridge: Sarah Foster Colburn House (state)

Grafton: Grafton Inn (state)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding

Christine Boulding
Survey Director

CB:dr

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 16 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Colburn, Sarah Foster, House	Cambridge Middlesex County
Charles Playhouse	Boston Suffolk County
All Saint's Church	Boston Suffolk County
Stearns, R. H., Building	Boston Suffolk County
Grafton Inn	Grafton Worcester County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul Tsongas
Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Joseph D. Early

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Byers/mjd

6/27/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.