

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0086631

DATA SHEET

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAR 10 1975

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

HISTORIC

Lawrence Light Guard Armory (use for publication)

AND/OR COMMON

Armory

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

90 High Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Medford

\_\_ VICINITY OF

7th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE  
025

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

Veteran's Association of the Lawrence Light Guard

STREET &amp; NUMBER

94 George Street

CITY, TOWN

Medford

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02155

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 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 Lawrence Light Guard Armory, built between 1900 and 1902 on a lot sloping down to the Mystic River, is an imposing "T" shaped eclectic structure facing northeast on High Street, west of Medford Square. The property also includes two mid-20th c. one story brick sheds west of the main structure.

Topped by a hip roof, the Armory is a large rectangular 3-story structure with a 2-story ridge roof ell. The masonry and steel structure is faced with beige brick and is extensively trimmed with rock-faced granite ashlar. The thick first story brick bearing walls slant outward to the granite foundation to accommodate the weight of the upper stories. A recessed center entrance with an elaborately hinged wooden double door is situated in a low arch of granite voussoirs with a prominent keystone. The entrance is flanked by the coursed granite bases of two bowed and crenellated bays. Flanking each side of the entranceway, and embellished with voussoirs and keystones, are three windows, one of which is centrally located in each of the bowed bays. Massive granite quoins, alternating in height and length, rise to the cornice. A granite belt course surrounds the building between the first and second stories. Identically symmetrical window placement occurs at each floor, although taller windows are present on the first story. In addition, two windows are contained within each circular bay at the second and third stories and there are small windows between the granite corbels on the eastern side of the building. On the side elevations there are three windows on each floor except the third. Coursed granite masonry surrounds the facade windows between the bays and culminates at the cornice in a carved rectangular stone plaque of an eagle. The granite cornice is supported by massive granite corbels and the hip roof is faced with copper sheets. The three brick chimneys with granite trim are irregularly placed.

The 2-story ridge roof ell projects from the center rear of the main structure. The ell's distinctive architectural features include a thick rock-faced granite belt course between the second and third floor, a series of large semi-circular drillroom windows on the second floor, and engaged square masonry turrets at each corner of the rear elevation. The ell is topped by a red tile roof; massive wooden double doors (similar to the main entrance) are located on the east and south elevations.

The Armory's interior retains its original functional space arrangement, architectural woodwork and fittings. The basement contains a boiler room, rifle range, gymnasium and kitchen (with original iron stove and soapstone sink). The building has an hydraulically powered elevator and a dumb waiter. The second floor of the Armory includes a library and a number of offices, all of which have carved oak panelling of fine quality. There is also a balcony on the second floor overlooking the drill floor which opens off the marble pillared main lobby. A luxurious white and gold ballroom occupies most of the Armory's third floor. A balcony overlooks the 2-story ballroom from the smaller fourth floor. Not used for many years, the third and fourth floors are in a state of disrepair.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lawrence Light Guard Armory is significant because of its relationship to Samuel Crocker Lawrence, Medford's first mayor (1893-1894) and an important citizen, and because it was designed by the prominent Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, successors to H.H. Richardson from 1886 to 1915.

Built in 1900, the Armory's massive proportions and rock-faced granite detailing recall Richardson's Romanesque architecture, but the symmetry and generous fenestration are less Richardsonian. While Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge also designed the North and South Gate Houses to Spot Pond in Medford, their major local commission and only known military architecture is the Lawrence Light Guard Armory.

Gen. Samuel Crocker Lawrence financed the Armory's construction for \$226,395. Lawrence managed Medford's world renowned rum distillery between 1867 and 1905 with his father, Daniel Lawrence. Always interested in military affairs, Samuel joined the Massachusetts State Militia while a student at Harvard and by 1860 had become Colonel of the Fifth Regiment which distinguished itself in the Civil War at the First Battle of Bull Run. From 1893 to 1908 Lawrence was a director of the Boston and Maine Railroad. He was active in local civic affairs as trustee of the Medford Public Library and Commissioner of Sinking Funds.

The Winchester Light Guard was renamed in memory of Daniel Lawrence when the company moved to Medford in 1855. The Lawrence Light Guard served as Color Company at the Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861 and was the only militia company in Massachusetts to volunteer in the Civil War. Its service included picket duty on the shores of the Potomac, provost guard in Washington D.C., and participation in the Battle of the Wilderness and the Southern Surrender at Appomattox. The Guard also served in the Spanish American War and in 1916, joined the American Border Service. Infantry divisions of the Guard distinguished themselves in both WWI and WWII.



WRITE-UP COMMENT  
SHEET  
(leave attached to nomination)

PROPERTY: Lawrence Light Guard Armory

If there are comments (negative or positive) which will affect the write up, please indicate them below.

NAME:

LOCATION:

DESCRIPTION: E11 is basement + 1<sup>st</sup> story. Belt course is bet. basement & 1<sup>st</sup> story (ground drops off steeply behind Armory bldg.). Armory is 3 1/2 story.

STYLE OR CULTURE:

DATE AND INSTIGATOR (builder, architect, group, engineer, etc.):

PRESENT CONDITION (altered, covered, ruins, deteriorated--archeological):

SIGNIFICANCE (specify paragraph or line):

SURVEY RECORDS (is form correct?):

COMMENTS:

Property Lawrence Light Guard Armory  
State Massachusetts Working Number 2, 19, 75, 273

Middlesex

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK pl  
2-21-75

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

There seems to be some confusion in # of stories + floors.  
2/24 Pat W. w/ clarification. Ell: basement + 1st floor, belt course  
is bet. basement + 1st floor. Armory is 3 1/2 story bldg.

Accept  
Thorman  
2-24-75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

ACCEPT  
LEBOVICH  
2-25-75

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Cole  
2-25-75  
Accept

**BRANCH CHIEF**

accept  
Henry D  
3-3-75

**KEEPER**

Wm  
3/5/75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 5-6-75

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAR 10 1975

INT:2106-74



6-7  
Armory, Medford  
Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

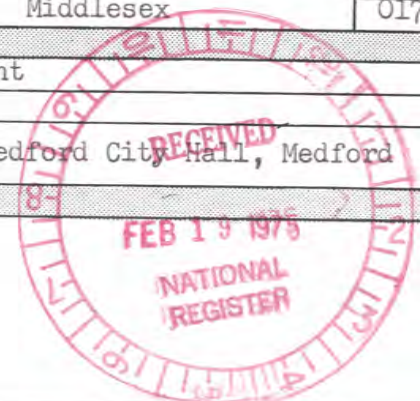
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 10 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Armory,	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Lawrence Light Guard Armory	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
90 High Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Medford			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Massachusetts		025	Middlesex
			CODE
			017
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Department of Community Development	
DATE OF PHOTO:		1975	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Dept. of Community Development, Medford City Hall, Medford	
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
North facade			
#102			



☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#102



Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

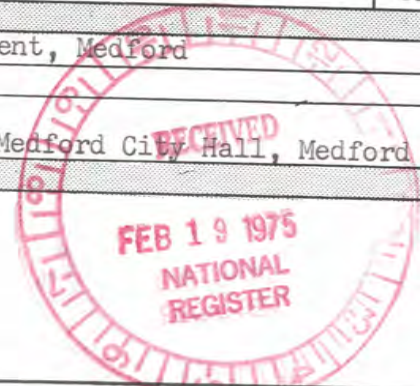
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 10 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:	Armory		
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Lawrence Light Guard Armory		
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 90 High Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Medford			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT:	Department of Community Development, Medford		
DATE OF PHOTO:	1975		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Dept. of Community Development, Medford City Hall, Medford		
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North and west elevations			
#282			



☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#282

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 19 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAR 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC      Lawrence Light Guard Armory (use for publication)

AND/OR COMMON

Armory

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Medford

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

Middlesex

COUNTY

STATE

Massachusetts

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE      USGS Boston North, Mass.

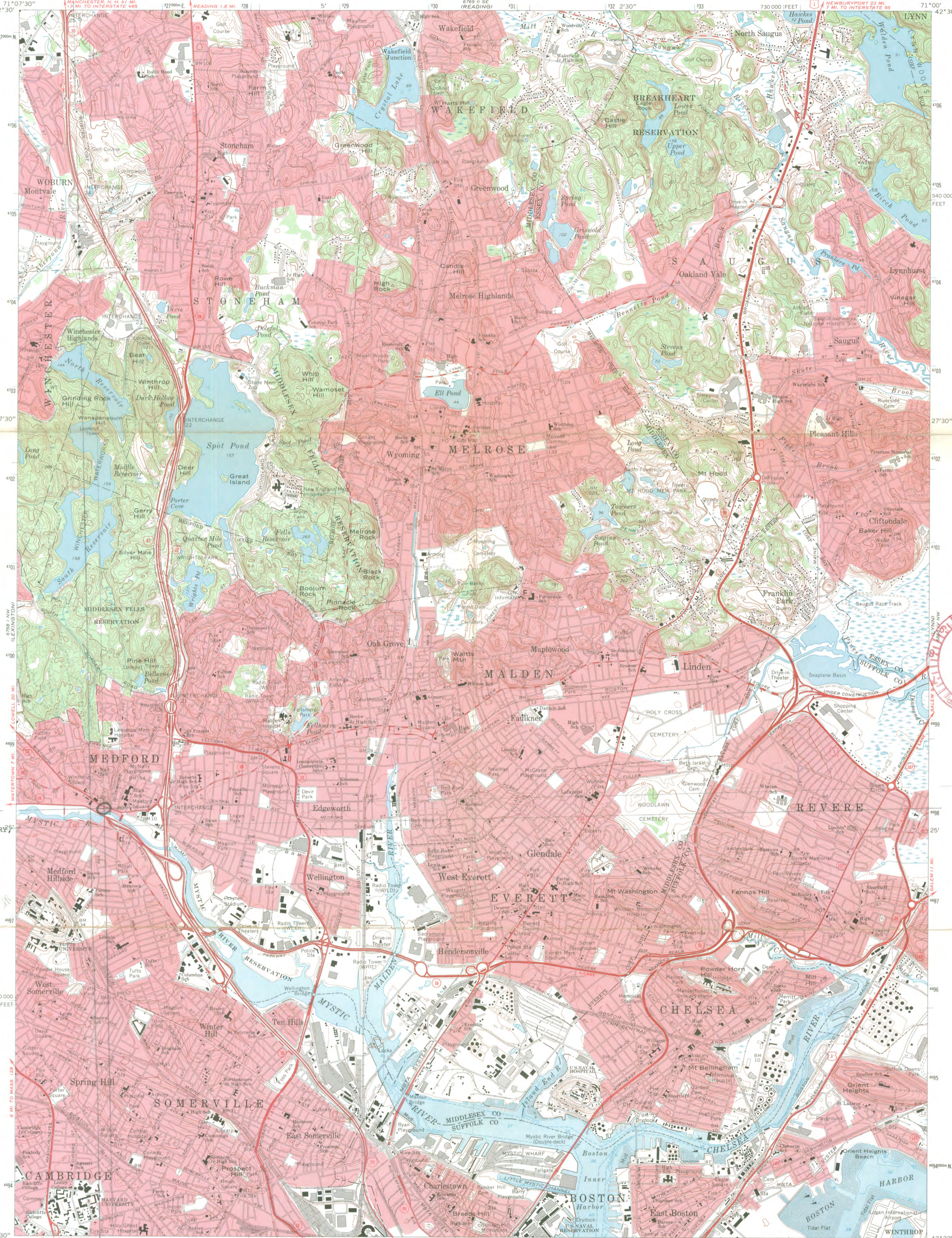
SCALE      1:24,000

DATE 1971

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

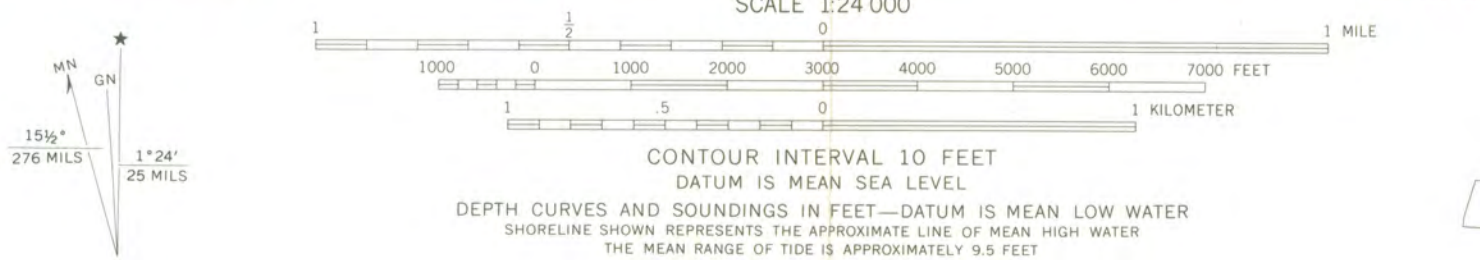
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



LAWRENCE LIGHT GUARD ARMORY,  
MEDFORD  
UTM Z19  
E 03,26,150 N 46,98,200

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
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  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

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

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7100/7.5  
1971  
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 10 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Charter Street Historic District	Salem Essex County
Leonard, Captain Charles, House	Agawam Hampden County
Lawrence Light Guard Armory	Medford Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington  
Hon. Silvio O. Conte  
Hon. Torbert H. McDonald  
Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
40 Beacon St.  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/22/77  
Reviewer INITIALS: *gwp*  
NR DOE March 10, 1975  
*(3-10-75)*

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: 1 Lawrence Light Guard Armory

OTHER NAMES: Armory, MA (sec)

### LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 90 High Street  
 CITY, TOWN Medford  
 STATE Massachusetts  
VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th  
COUNTY Middlesex code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER  
*not accessible*

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):  
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS  
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3  
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6  
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9  
- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED Unexcavated UNALTERED ALTERED Reconstructed Excavated ORIGINAL SITE MOVED Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)  
then- *military*  
now- *SAME*

### SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

### Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ECLECTIC

✓ architect/m.builder: <sup>2</sup> SHEPLEY, RUTAN, AND  
landscape/garden designer: COOLIDGE  
interior decorator:

engineer:  
artist/artisan:  
builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal  
(label role  
&  
appropriate date)  
events

institutional

✓ DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1900<sup>19</sup>-02  
DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:  
HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY  
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) less than 1

✓ COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) BRICK, ROCK-FACED GRANITE; 3 1/2 STORIES,  
T-SHAPED <sup>d</sup> ~~SHALLOW~~ <sup>THESE</sup> HIPPED ROOF, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS, FRONT CENTER  
SEGMENTAL-ARCHED ENTRANCE PORTAL WITH 3-STORY FLANKING  
SEMICIRCULAR CRENELATED TOWERS <sup>S</sup>, PROMINENT CORBELED CORNICE  
WITH ATTIC OPENINGS, FLAT-ARCHED LINTELS WITH <sup>COMPOUND</sup> ~~DOUBLE~~ KEYSTONES,  
BELT COURSE, QUOINS, <sup>REAR</sup> 3-STORY RAILED IRON PORCH, ~~GABLED~~ REAR  
SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) ELL WITH ENGAGED CORNER TURRETS AND  
2ND-STORY SEMICIRCULAR WINDOWS; ORIGINAL INTERIOR WOODWORK, AND  
<sup>sothic outbuildings.</sup> ECLECTIC. WORK OF PROMINENT BOSTON FIRM OF SHEPLEY,  
RUTAN, AND COOLIDGE.