

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hancock-Clarke House (John Hancock Boyhood House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hancock-Clarke House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
35 Hancock Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: COUNTY: Middlesex CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. G. Warren Butters, President (862-8885)
Lexington Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 31A 111

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 02173

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: East Cambridge STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (2 photos). (drawings, 1964)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941, 1964 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE:

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COUNTY:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hancock-Clarke House consists of two parts, which were erected at different times. The small one-and-a-half-story gambrel-roofed frame ell, containing a common living room or kitchen and a tiny parson's study downstairs and two low-ceiling chambers above, was built in 1698 by the Reverend John Hancock, grandfather of the renowned Signer of the Declaration of Independence. The main or front part is a two-and-a-half story frame structure, with a large central chimney and two rooms on each of the two floors. This section was added in 1734 at the expense of Thomas Hancock, second son of the clergyman and a very successful Boston merchant.

The Reverend John Hancock lived in the house for 55 years and his successor, the Reverend Jonas Clarke, for 50 years. The Lexington Historical Society bought the house and moved it across the street from the original site in the fall of 1896. In 1902 a brick addition was made at the rear of the house with a fireproof vault to protect the more valuable possessions of the Society. The house has been carefully restored to its 18th century appearance and is well maintained. The structure serves as headquarters for the Society and is also open to visitors.

The Society has recently purchased the original site of the Hancock-Clarke House on which can be seen the early foundations.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **April 18, 1775 (1744-1751)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hancock-Clarke House was for seven years (1744-1750) the boyhood home of John Hancock and is the only extant structure which can be associated with this Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Massachusetts. John Hancock and Samuel Adams were guests in this house on the eventful night of April 18, 1775; awakened by Paul Revere, the two patriots were hustled away from Lexington to avoid capture by the approaching British force. In 1896 the house was moved across the street from its original site in order to save the structure from demolition.

History

The house was built by John Hancock's grandfather, the Reverend John Hancock, and on the death of the boy's father at Quincy in 1744, the seven-year old lad came to live here with his grandparents. The future signer was adopted by his childless uncle, Thomas Hancock, the wealthiest merchant in Boston, and graduated from Harvard College in 1754.

When the Revolution broke out John Hancock still had strong ties with the Hancock-Clarke House, for his cousin Lucy Bowes, the wife of the Reverend Jonas Clarke, was living in the parsonage. Clarke was an outstanding preacher and patriot and his house became a meeting place and refuge for leaders of the revolutionary cause. On the night of April 18, 1775 John Hancock, his relative by marriage, and Samuel Adams were guests in his house, which is located about a quarter of a mile from the Lexington Green. At midnight or soon after Paul Revere arrived at the Hancock-Clarke House. Sergeant William Munroe of the Lexington Minute Men was stationed on guard at the front door and refused to let Revere pass, stating that the family had retired and did not wish to be disturbed by any noise around the house. Whereupon Revere cried out, "Noise! You'll have noise enough before long. The Regulars are coming out!" About 12:30 a.m. on April 19 William Dawes, Jr. also arrived from Boston with the same warning. About 2:30 a.m. Hancock and Adams were taken by chaise to Burlington to avoid capture by the approaching British. Later that morning the two patriots were joined at Burlington by Hancock's betrothed, Dorothy Quincy, and his aunt, Mrs. Thomas Hancock, who had also been guests of the Reverend Jonas Clarke.

Threatened by demolition in 1896, the Lexington Historical Society acquired the Hancock-Clarke House and moved it across the street to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. VIII, 218-219; article on John Hancock by James T. Adams; Vol., 95-101, article on Samuel Adams by Carl L. Becker.
Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States (June 16, 1960), 438-439.
 Frank B. Sarles, Jr. and Charles E. Shedd, Colonials and Patriots (Washington, D. C., 1964), 203-204.
Massachusetts, A Guide to its Places and People (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 259.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 27' 08"	71° 13' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		42 27 13	71 13 44	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian Revised 6/15/71

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and** DATE
Historic Preservation, National Park Service 3/3/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
801-19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **D. C.** CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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STATE Massachusetts	
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Hancock-Clarke House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance:(1)

its present site. The cost, including repairs and the new lot, was \$3200. The house has been restored and is open to the public. The Historical Society has recently acquired the original foundations of the house are still extant.

Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission Pertaining to the Lexington-Concord Battle Road, 86th Congress, 1st Session, House Document No. 57 (D.C.,1959), 29, 32, 35, 68,- 70.