

**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
0079	1974

1. NAME	
COMMON: The Jason Russell House	
AND/OR HISTORIC: same	

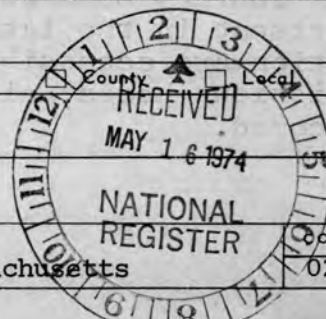
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7 Jason Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Arlington Congressional District- 8th			
STATE Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) HQ, Arlington Historical Soc.
☐ Comments caretaker lives on premises			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: The Arlington Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7 Jason Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Arlington	STATE: Massachusetts	02174	CODE 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Registry of Deeds, East Middlesex Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 128 Third Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge	STATE: Massachusetts	02141	CODE 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 ☐ Federal ☒ State			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	025	CODE 025



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jason Russell House is a well-preserved and carefully maintained example of an 18th century Massachusetts farmhouse—one of only two remaining houses in Arlington of the Revolutionary period. Built about 1740 by Jason Russell, it is a two-story, gray-painted, frame structure with a windowed attic, shingle roof, brick chimney, and clapboarded sides. Situated on a large corner tract at Massachusetts Avenue and Jason Street, it sits well back from both thoroughfares in a large lawn landscaped with trees, shrubs, flowers, and a flagstaff. The front door, facing Jason Street, is approached by a narrow brick walk. The property is bounded by a low stone wall along the two street sides. A granite-slab monument stands at the curb edge of the sidewalk on Massachusetts Avenue, with an inscription summarizing the significance of the site in connection with the events of April 19, 1775.

The house began as a two-room "half house" with two windows on the ground floor and three above (front elevation), and with door, stair, and chimney at the north, or right, end. About 1750, Russell doubled the house by adding two more rooms at the north end, making it a full house, five windows across, with door, stair, and chimney now in the middle. There was also a sizeable one-story ell to the south. About 1814 the front door was protected by adding a small enclosed porch. A lean-to dates from about 1850, and a large two-story ell from about 1863, both additions being made on the west side, or back, of the house. The Arlington Historical Society acquired the building in 1923 and did extensive restoration the following year.

The interior of the house is of great interest, the kitchen in particular, with its large fireplace and unplastered white-washed ceiling, decorated with evenly spaced black spots known as sponge-painting, considered the earliest form of interior painting in New England. From the kitchen a stair leads down into the cellar, where several Minutemen took refuge during the fighting of April 19, 1775, and held British troops at bay. Bullet holes are still to be seen in the woodwork from the action.

The rooms are furnished with a variety of 18th and 19th century furniture, which belonged mainly to the Russell and Teel families, major occupants of the house, and a number of other artifacts and furnishings from both periods. The house contains the Historical Society's collection of 17th, 18th, and 19th century memorabilia. The resident caretaker occupies an apartment in the later two-story ell. The house and its collection are accessible to the public at stated times without admission charge, although contributions toward its upkeep are welcomed.

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)

1740,

1775

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Italian☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Jason Russell House lies first of all, in its dramatic relationship to the opening moments of the American Revolution. Past it rode Revere and Dawes to arouse the countryside. Past it marched the British troops on their way to Lexington and Concord, and past it they returned toward Cambridge, harried by the patriot militia. Jason Russell himself, builder of the house, lost his life there, along with eleven Minutemen, when they were surprised by a British flanking party. Marks of the fighting are still preserved in the house itself.

Secondly, the house is a beautifully preserved example of the home of a well-to-do mid-18th century Massachusetts farmer. Furnished with many household articles of the period, the house is a marvelous teaching tool and a museum, of value both to schoolchildren and adults.

It is visited each year by thousands of local residents and tourists, and undoubtedly will become even more popular as the Revolutionary Bicentennial approaches.

Pertinent quotations from the Interim and Final Reports of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission (House Documents 57 & 107):

"The house is remarkable not only in its own right, but also because it is one structure out of many that stood in the path of the Redcoats that has not succumbed entirely to the dictates of utility and change. The old house is a monument both to Arlington's Colonial and Revolutionary past . . . one of the most significant yet least known survivals from the first day of the War of the Revolution." (H.D. 57, pp.103-104)

"A few Minute Men . . . were posted in back of the Russell House and waiting for the British column to come up the road, when they were surprised by the flanking party in their rear and driven toward the house, where they were caught between the flankers and the main body. There followed the most famous fight at close quarters during the eventful day and the bloodiest encounter associated with any house in the Revolution."

(H.D. 57, p.59)

"It is sufficient to say that the Jason Russell House is creditably maintained as an historic site as well as headquarters for the Arlington Historical Society, . . . and that the structure merits recognition and certification of a fitting order from the Nation to signify its place in American history." (H.D. 107, p.58)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, Samuel Abbot West Cambridge, 1775 Boston, 1864 pp.37-39

Nylander, Robert H. Jason Russell and His House in Menotomy, in "Old-Time New England", Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, vol. LV, No. 2, Fall, 1964, Serial No. 198, pp.29-41

Sarles & Shedd Colonials and Patriots, vol. VI, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Washington, 1964, p.204

Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission, 87th Congress, 1st Session, House Document 107, App. B, pp57-8

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	42 °	24 ' 58 "	71 ° 09 ' 32½ "
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: For Elizabeth R. Amadon, State Survey Director
by Rev. Charles Wesley Grady, Arlington Historical Society

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston 617-727-8470

STATE: Massachusetts 02108

CODE: 025

DATE: 5/7/74

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: John F. X. Davoren
Honorable John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Title: Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

5/8/74

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

A. P. Martlessee
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

10/9/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. Herring
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date

10-7-74

PROPERTY <u>Russell, the Jason, House</u>		STATE <u>Mass.</u>
WORKING NUMBER <u>5.16.74.806</u>		
TECH REVIEW	PHOTOS <u>1</u>	Middlesex
	MAPS <u>1</u>	
CONTROL REVIEW		am 5.22 74 OK
HISTORIAN		
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN		Accept Huganell 7/31/74 Accept JCT 7/3/74
ARCHEOLOGIST		
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF		Accept Cole 9/12/74
BRANCH CHIEF		
KEEPER		Accept Herrington for Munsingh 10.2.74
National Register Write-up <u>Nov 18, 1974</u>		Send-back _____
Federal Register entry <u>12/3/74</u>		Re-submit _____
		Entered <u>OCT 9 1974</u>



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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

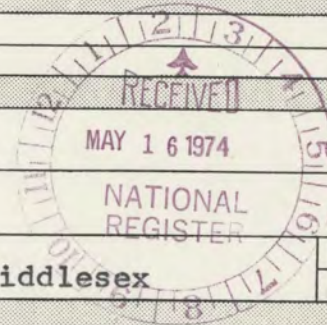
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE OCT 9 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Jason Russell House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7 Jason Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Arlington			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 205	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Bruce Taylor			
DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arlington Historical Society, 7 Jason Street Arlington, Mass.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. General exterior of Jason Russell House, looking from east, from corner of Jason Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Front of house faces Jason Street, southeast.			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

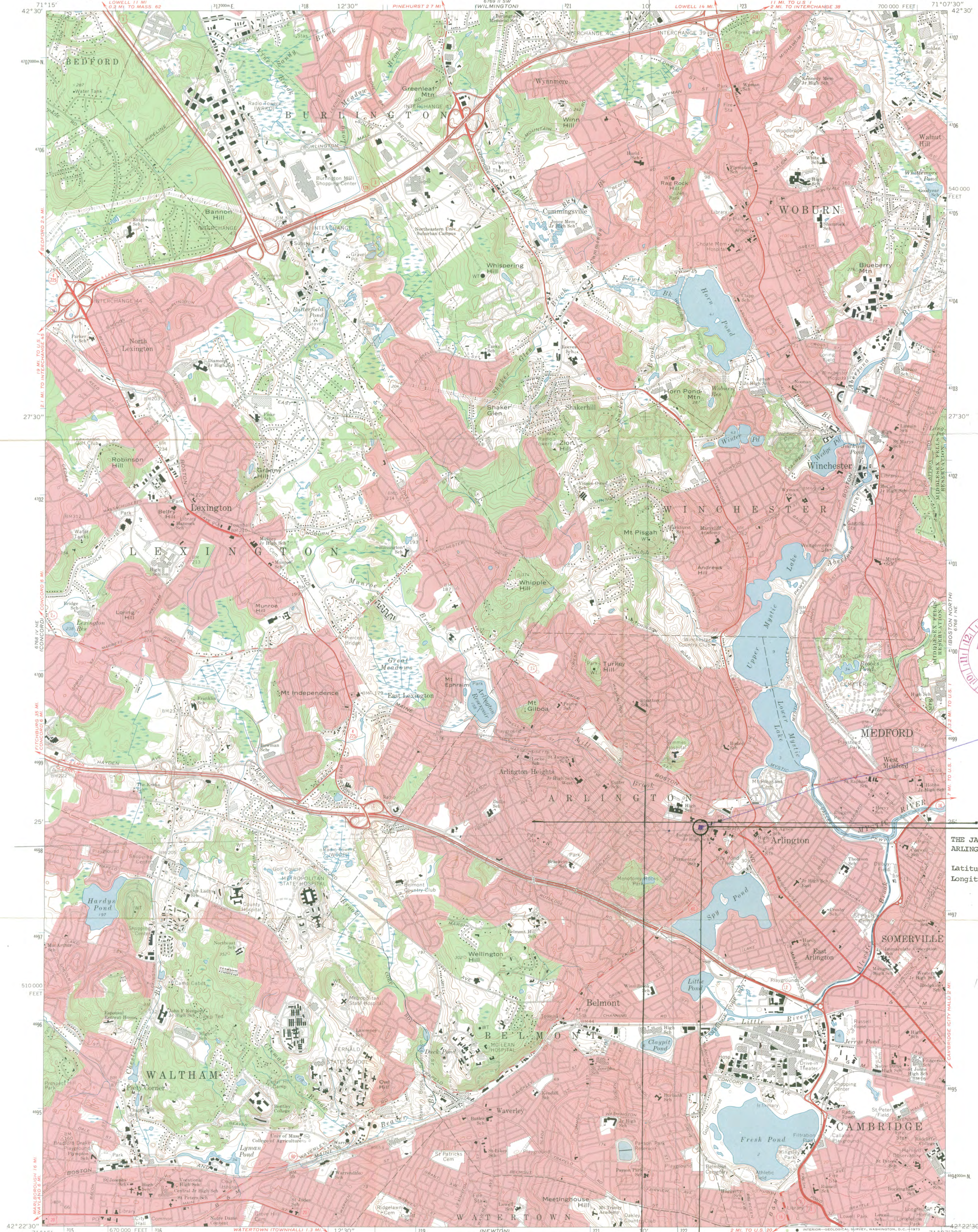
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 9 1974	DATE

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1. NAME			
COMMON: The Jason Russell House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7 Jason Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Arlington			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey, Lexington Quadrangle, Mass.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1971			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

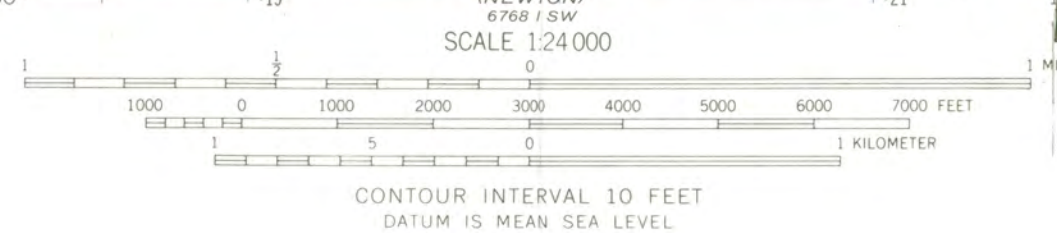
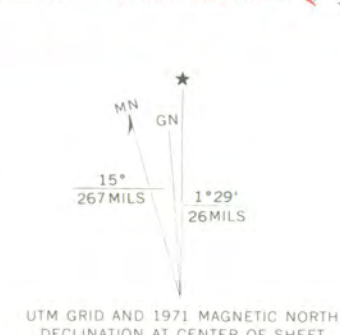




THE JASON RUSSELL HOUSE,
ARLINGTON
Latitude 42° 24' 58"
Longitude 71° 09' 32"

UTM
19322 360
4678 020
00

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 planetable 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



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



LEXINGTON, MASS.
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5

1971
AMS 6768 I NW—SERIES V814

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

4

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **OCT 9 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Russell, The Jason, House	Arlington Middlesex County
Hale, Rev. John, House	Beverly Essex County
The 1790 House	Woburn Middlesex County
Sparrow, Richard, House	Plymouth Plymouth County
Howland, Jabez, House	Plymouth Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108