

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 HCRS use only

received FEB 8 1980

date entered

APR 9 1980

ref no 90000640

1. Name

historic John H. McGill House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 56 Vernon Street

not for publication

city, town Medford

vicinity of

congressional district 7th

state Massachusetts

code

025

county

Middlesex

code

017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☒ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Michael and Josephine Nackel

street & number 56 Vernon Street

city, town Medford

vicinity of

state Mass. 02155

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 208 Cambridge Street

city, town Cambridge

state Mass.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth #24has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1974

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository 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 John McGill House stands at the northwest corner of Vernon and Mystic Streets, facing Hastings Heights Park. The house is a two-and-one-half storey Colonial Revival style structure of balloon-frame construction. The house is rectangular in plan and rests on a foundation of square granite rubble. The building's exterior is covered with painted wooden shingles and enclosed by a pitched roof covered with asphalt shingles. Chimneys are placed asymmetrically, one rising through the roof's ridge near the house's east end, another through the slope of the roof on the interior of the west wall and a third through rear slope of the roof near the center of the house.

The facade (south elevation) is symmetrically arranged and is divided into three sections by four Ionic pilasters which rise to acanthus-panels at the cornice. At the facade's center is an open porch, framed by Tuscan columns which support an entablature with modillioned cornice. At the rear of the porch is the main entry which consists of a panelled oak door with an oval light. Flanking the front door are two windows, the upper halves of which contain leaded glass. Set above the entry, at the second storey, is a tri-partite window each section of which is double diamond and lancet lights over a single pane. Beneath the center of these three windows is a wooden panel. Flanking the facade's center bay are two identical two-storey bow windows. At the first storey each bow window contains three 1/1 windows with curved glass. These windows are separated by pilasters which support an entablature and cornice. Second storey windows of each bay are identical to those at the first storey, except that their entablatures are surmounted by the decorated cornice at the eaves. The facade's roof contains three dormers. The center dormer has a single window set in an eared frame and surmounted by a broken scroll pediment and applied swag ornament. The outer two dormers each contain paired windows in eared surrounds, pedimented gables, and ball finials. All sash in the dormers is made up of a single lower pane and upper section with ten small panes forming a geometric pattern.

The house's east end elevation is symmetrically arranged, except at its first storey. At its first storey is an open porch set on a high granite base and bowed on its east side. The porch has a railing of vase-turned balusters set into Tuscan columns which support an entablature, and nearly flat roof. Set at the first storey are a group of four elongated 1/1 windows (south) and three 1/1 windows (north). At the second storey two 1/1 windows with moulded surrounds flank a smaller window with a moulded cap and geometrically decorated casement. The gable is framed into a pediment by a decorated cornice, above which are three windows like those of the facade dormers. In the peak of the gable is an oculus with a quoined surround.

The house's west elevation is asymmetrically arranged. At the first storey, there is a porch and kitchen entry near its northwest corner. South of this porch are a double casement window and two double-hung windows, all in moulded surrounds. At the second storey are four windows of varying sizes, all in moulded frames with caps. From north two south second storey windows consist of one large double-hung window, one small fixed light with diamond panes, and two double-hung windows of identical size. The gable is framed into a pediment by a decorated cornice, above which is a Palladian window framed by pilasters, an entablature and modillioned cornice. Except for the lower panes, the sash of this window consists of small lights framed into geometric patterns.

The rear (north) elevation rests on a high granite basement and is asymmetrically arranged, possessing a variety of window types. The elevation's most distinctive features are its decorated cornice and a rectangular-plan oriel with leaded casements set near the house's northeast corner.

8. Significance

Medford - John McGill House

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 1902

Builder/Architect Robert Coit of Boston

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John McGill House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and associations with Medford's late nineteenth century development as a Boston suburb. It is particularly significant for its high architectural quality and is one of the finest representatives of its period in Medford. Designed by Robert Coit of Boston, its symmetrical plan is enhanced by such elements as Ionic pilasters, Palladian windows and a broken scroll pediment.

Built for John H. McGill, a grindstone manufacturer in South Boston, the McGill House occupies a prominent corner lot opposite Hastings Heights Park in an area which was laid out for development as early as 1855, but which was built-up primarily around the turn of the century when much of West Medford became a middle and upper-middle class suburb of Boston. Locally, McGill was believed to have been a millionaire, a rumor which may have been encouraged by the large scale and ornate exterior of the McGill House. Interior fittings of the house include carved limestone fireplace surrounds, wooden panelling and other high-quality features which serve to substantiate McGill's wealth. At present, virtually all of the house's features remain as they appeared in the original plans, which are in the possession of the current owner.

The architect of the McGill House, Robert Coit, maintained an office in Boston from 1893 to the late 1930's, although he lived in Winchester, a town near Medford. Coit's known work consists of large-scale suburban houses, six of which were illustrated in the American Architect and Building News and in The American Architect. Most of Coit's known work is located in Winchester and Brookline, with the McGill House being his only identified design in Medford.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 13,976 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Lexington

ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 9 3 2 4 9 2 5 4 6 9 8 8 8 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached assessor's map. The boundaries are delineated in red.

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 Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant, with Patricia J. Lawrence, Medford Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date November, 1970

street & number 294 Washington Street,

telephone (617) 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 X 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 Patricia L. Weslowksi 1/23/80

title Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

date

For HCRS use only

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

for
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/9/80

Attest: Patrick Andrews

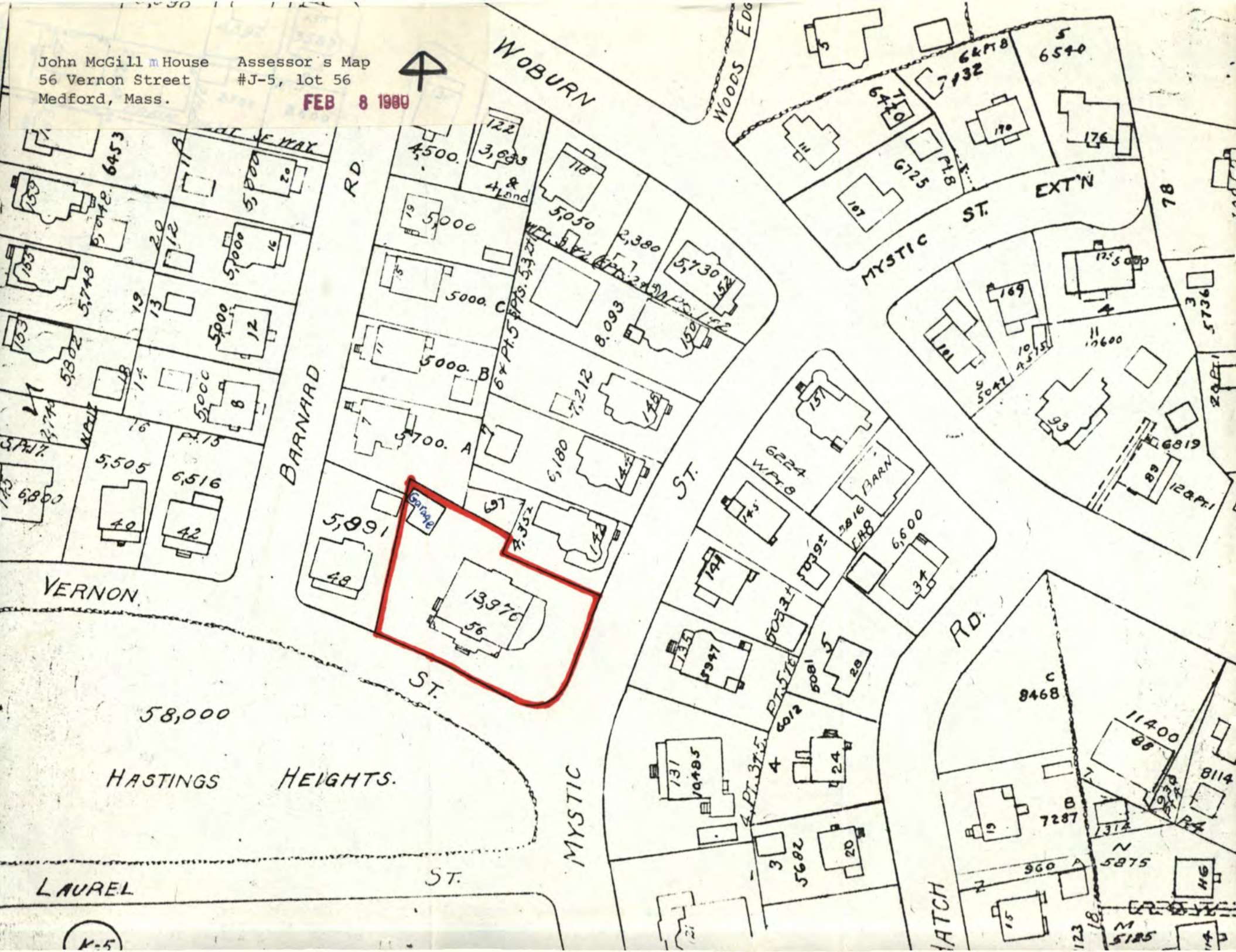
date 4/4/80

Chief of Registration

John McGill m House
56 Vernon Street
Medford, Mass.

Assessor's Map
#J-5, lot 56

FEB 8 1990



JOHN MCGILL HOUSE
56 WERNON STREET

(FROM MEDFORD ASSESSORS MAPS J-5)



Property McMill, John H. House

State ma - middletown Working Number 2-8-80 441

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 2

CONTROL

This house is eligible for architecture - Built in 1902, this 2 1/2 story wooden home is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style architecture. Its high architectural quality is shown in its careful attention to detail. The house is virtually unaltered and appears as it did when it was built for an upper middle class manufacturer.

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrews
4/4/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 9 1980



John H. McGill House
Medford Middlesex MA

by: Patricia Lawrence

Sept 78

Medford Historical Commission

neg at:

facade (south side) & east piazza

Photo #2

John H. McGill House
56 Vernon Street
Medford, Mass.

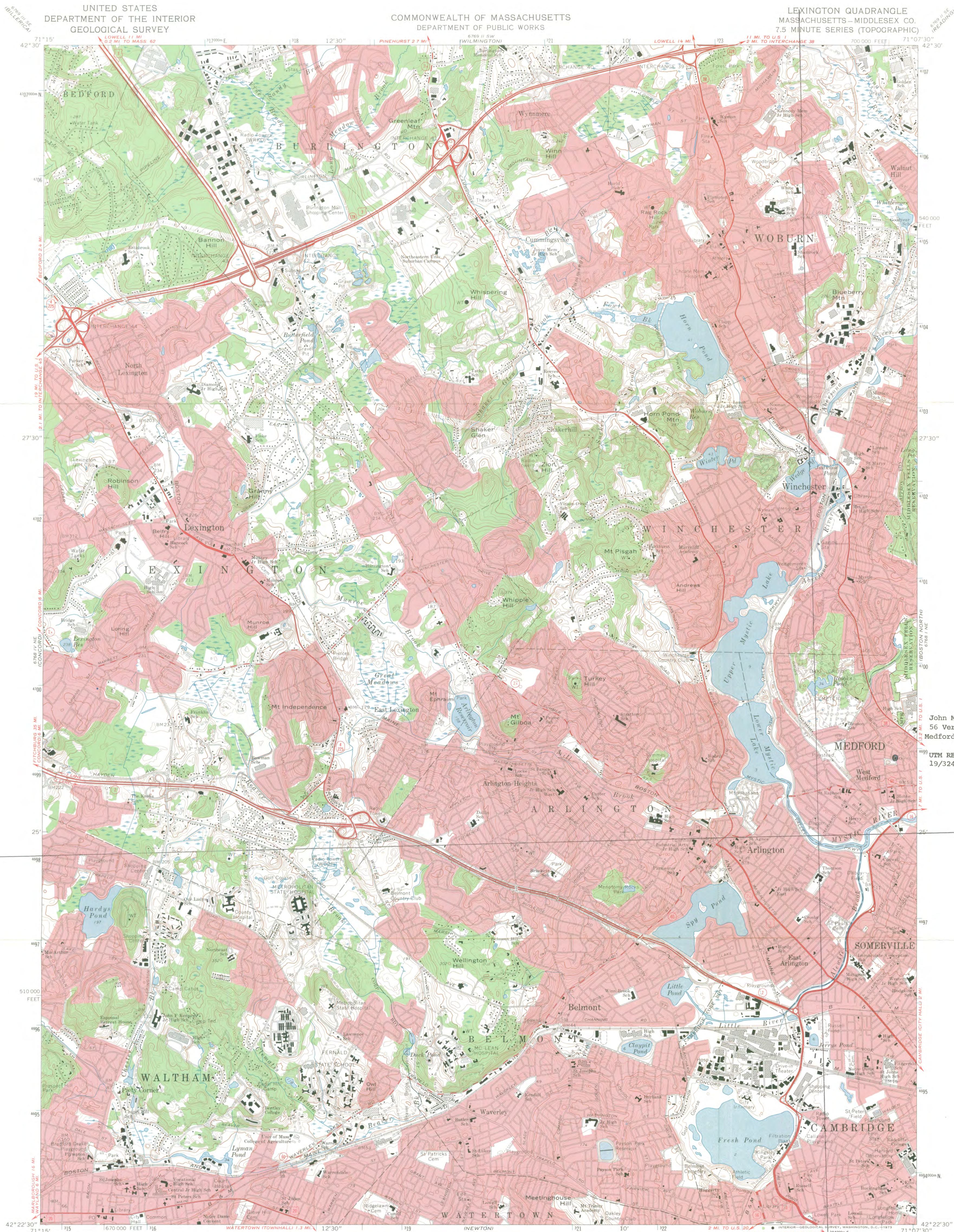
APR 9 1980

Middlesex Co.

Patricia Lawrence September 1978
Medford Historical Commission
Medford, Mass.

Photo #1 of 1
facade (south side) & east side piazza

FEB 8 1980



John McGill House
56 Vernon Street
Medford, Mass.

UTM REFERENCES:
19/324925/4698880

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 planimetric surveys 1943

Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,

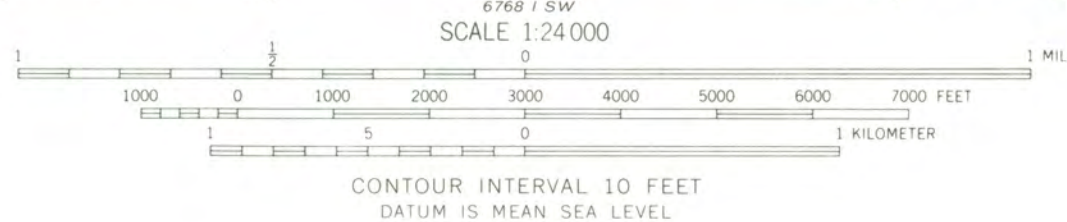
mainland zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,

zone 19, shown in blue

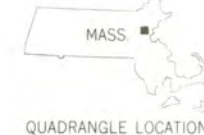
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark

buildings are shown



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20542
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



LEXINGTON, MASS.
N4222.5-W7107.5/7.5

1971

AMS 6768 1 NW—SERIES V814



4P - Place photos
w/nom. 4-9-88

McGill, John H. House
2-15-80

(MA)

56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA. 02155
February 29, 1980

Middlesex
Co.

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Dept. of the Interior, Pension Building
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

(Att: NOM)

Dear Miss Schull:

We are very pleased to hear that our home has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and hope that this nomination will be acted on favorably.

We are deeply committed to the cause of preservation and are distressed when we see so many beautiful, old homes with architecturally unique features on these historic structures altered and many times demolished.

We do have the original plans for our late Colonial Revival house and would like you to know that this home is unaltered from the plans. The house was designed by Robert Coit of Boston for J. H. McGill. We are enclosing six different snapshots for your convenience in evaluating the many unique architectural qualities of this Colonial Revival House.

Sincerely,

Michael Nackel
Josephine Nackel

Michael and Josephine Nackel

enc. 6 snapshots

Michael and Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA. 02155

RE: McGill, John H. House

DATE REC'D MAR 4 1980

INITIALS



Michael & Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA. 02155

RE: McGill, John H. House
Middlesex Co.

APR 9 1980

17047901343

POLAROID®



Michael & Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA 02155

RE: McGill, John H. House
Middlesex co.

APR 9 1980

17047901343

POLAROID®



Michael & Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA. 02155

RE: McGill, John H. House
Middlesex co

APR 9 1980

170479013

POLAROID®



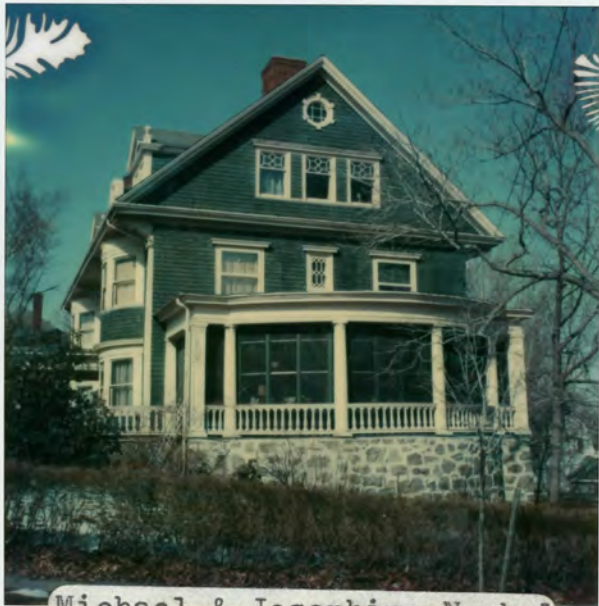
Michael & Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, Ma. 02155
RE: McGill, John H. House

Mc Gill, John H., House
Middlesex Co

APR 9 1980

17047901343

POLAROID®



Michael & Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA 02155

RE: McGill, John H. House
Middlesex Co.

APR 9 1980

17047901343

POLAROID®



Michael & Josephine Nackel
56 Vernon Street
Medford, MA. 02155
RE: McGill, John H. House

Mc Gill, John H. House

Middlesex Co. APR 9 1980

17047901345

POLAROID®

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

4/4/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☐ TO: ☒ FROM (Name)

Candy Jenkins

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Mass. SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

John H. McGill

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

In response to my call of 4/3/80 she checked on the identity of the outbuilding that shows up on the map behind the house. It is a small 20th century garage.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 9 1980

Name

Location

Echo Bridge	Town of Needham, City of Newton Norfolk and Middlesex County
Swetland-Pease House	East Longmeadow vicinity Hampden County
Rice, Capt. Peter, House	Marlborough Middlesex County
First Baptist Church	Framingham Middlesex County
Oakes, Edward, House	Medford Middlesex County
McGill, John H., House	Medford Middlesex County
Dillaway School	Boston Suffolk County
Berger Factory	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Robert F. Drinan
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Joseph D. Early
Honorable Edward J. Markey

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

NR

Byers/bjr 4/17/80

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