

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mass.	
COUNTY: Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:	The Cushing Homestead
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East Street w of Cohasset on mass 128			
CITY OR TOWN: Hingham Cohasset vic.			
STATE Mass.	CODE 25	COUNTY: Plymouth	CODE 023

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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, Trustee	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 Franklin Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		
STATE: Massachusetts		

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Plymouth County Registry of Deeds	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025
STREET AND NUMBER: North Russell Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Plymouth		
STATE: Massachusetts		

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025
DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PH0026450
H/13
346 540
4677960
346 210
4677990
346 210
4677990
346 230
4678520

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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set against a backdrop of orchards and meadows, the Cushing house surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds whose 9.91 acre area is defined by low stone walls and orchards. The original door of this two-and-a-half story clapboard house is centered on its five-bay south facade and is enclosed within a one story pedimented porch. The original two-bay depth of the house has been extended and is covered by the long lean-to of the pitched roof. A large chimney rises from the ridgepole just off center of the facade,

There is clear and visible architectural evidence in the two front chambers and in the attic that the house was originally one-and-a-half stories high. It was raised a full story, probably before the end of the 17th century, but perhaps early in the 18th. Two interior rooms in the house contain an unusually high concentration of the 17th century interior detail of excellent quality and in excellent condition. In the original kitchen, located at the southwest corner of the house, two entire walls display the molded sheathing of that period. Here, too, early sponge painting has been preserved intact on the framed ceiling and walls. Elsewhere, in the house other details of the original trim are apparent.

To the west of the house lie the corncrib, forge and barn, the framing of which is perhaps the earliest extant in the state. Massive posts, at least four of which are gunstock, support the heavy cross beams in the framing of this long, pitched roof structure which is covered by shingled siding. This framing is believed to have come from Hingham's first meetinghouse.

Across East Street, beyond a large field flows the Wier River. At the west edge of the field a dam reaches from East Street to the River where a raceway is still evident. These structures, which have always been a part of the farm property, originally were part of an early mill site. Contiguous to, and just above the dam site, are the remains of an early Indian fishing station where numerous Indian artifacts have been located. This area comprises 5.35 acres.

The total area of the Cushing Homestead on both sides of East Street, consists of 15.26 acres.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian
☐ 15th Century

☐ 16th Century
☒ 17th Century

☒ 18th Century
☐ 19th Century
☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1678

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cushing House, built in 1678 by Daniel Cushing for his son Peter, belongs to the relatively small number of documented 17th century houses extant in Massachusetts. It has the distinction of being one of the very few in this group of houses for which title has been passed down in the male line over a period of three centuries and remains in the hands of the lineal descendants of the original builder. The house and its accompanying farm buildings have been certified as a Massachusetts Historic Landmark under the title of the Cushing Homestead.

The interior of the Cushing House preserves an unusually high concentration of 17th century architectural detail. This includes two entire walls of original 17th century molded sheathing and other elements of original finish trim. The framed ceiling of one room preserves intact its decoration of "sponge painting" in a pattern of yellow on black. This decorative technique, one of the earliest efforts to enhance the appearance of New England houses, was probably first used about 1700. Only a few examples of such work now survive in the Commonwealth.

The barn stands in close proximity to the Cushing House and in traditional relationship to other typical farm outbuildings, including a forge and an early corncrib raised on stone piers. This is the oldest framed barn within the New England area of which there is any knowledge. It is unquestionably of 17th century origin, and is believed to incorporate beams from the first meetinghouse in Hingham, which was torn down to permit construction of the Old Ship Church on the same site in 1681.

It is significant that the Cushing family has maintained for the Homestead its 15.26 acre unspoiled setting of open fields and stone walls against a wooded background. Indeed, the Cushing House is one of the very few 17th century farmhouses which remains the center of an active farm, whose fields are tilled annually and whose outbuildings still serve the purposes for which they were constructed.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cummings, Abbott Lowell. The Cushing Homestead. mss. 1967.
 Hingham Tercentenary Committee. Hingham Old and New. 1935.
 Old Colony Chapter, DAR. Hingham -- A Story of Its Early Settlements and Life, Its Ancient Landmarks, Its Historic Sites and Buildings. 1911.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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° 14' 36"	70° 51' 50½"				
NE	42° 14' 36"	70° 51' 37"				
SE	42° 14' 28"	70° 51' 37"				
SW	42° 14' 28"	70° 51' 50½"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15.26

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: Elizabeth R. Amadon State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission (617-727-8470) DATE: November 21, 1968

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 02108

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
JOHN F. X. DAVOREN, Secretary
of the Commonwealth, Chairman of
 Title the Massachusetts Historical
Commission

Date 4/30/73

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:

H. Bradford
Notary Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/31/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY

The Cushing Homestead STATE *Mass.**Plymouth*

WORKING NUMBER

5.17.73.2946

TECH REVIEW

Photos

2

Maps

*1**8/9/73*

CONTROL REVIEW

cm
5-24-
*73**OK*

HISTORIAN

Accept
5-24-73
e. Shull

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
KH
5-29-73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OK
5/31/73

KEEPER

OK
5/31/73

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

8-7-73

Re-submit

Entered

JAN 4 1973



Hingham
Cushing House

NPS Number 6.4.73

Title: The Cushing
Homestead

Loc. Plymouth Co., Mass. (1)
South and west facades
of the house

122

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Hingham

Cushing House - Barn

NPS Number

6. 4. 73

Title:

The Cushing

Homestead

Loc.

Dplymouth Co., Mass.

East and south facades
of the barn

(2)

122

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

72. 400

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

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

1. NAME

COMMON

The Cushing Homestead

AND/OR HISTORIC

Same

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

JUN 4 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Plymouth

TOWN

Hingham

STREET AND NUMBER

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. Cohasset Quadrangle

DATE

1961

SCALE

1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



CUSHING Homestead

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

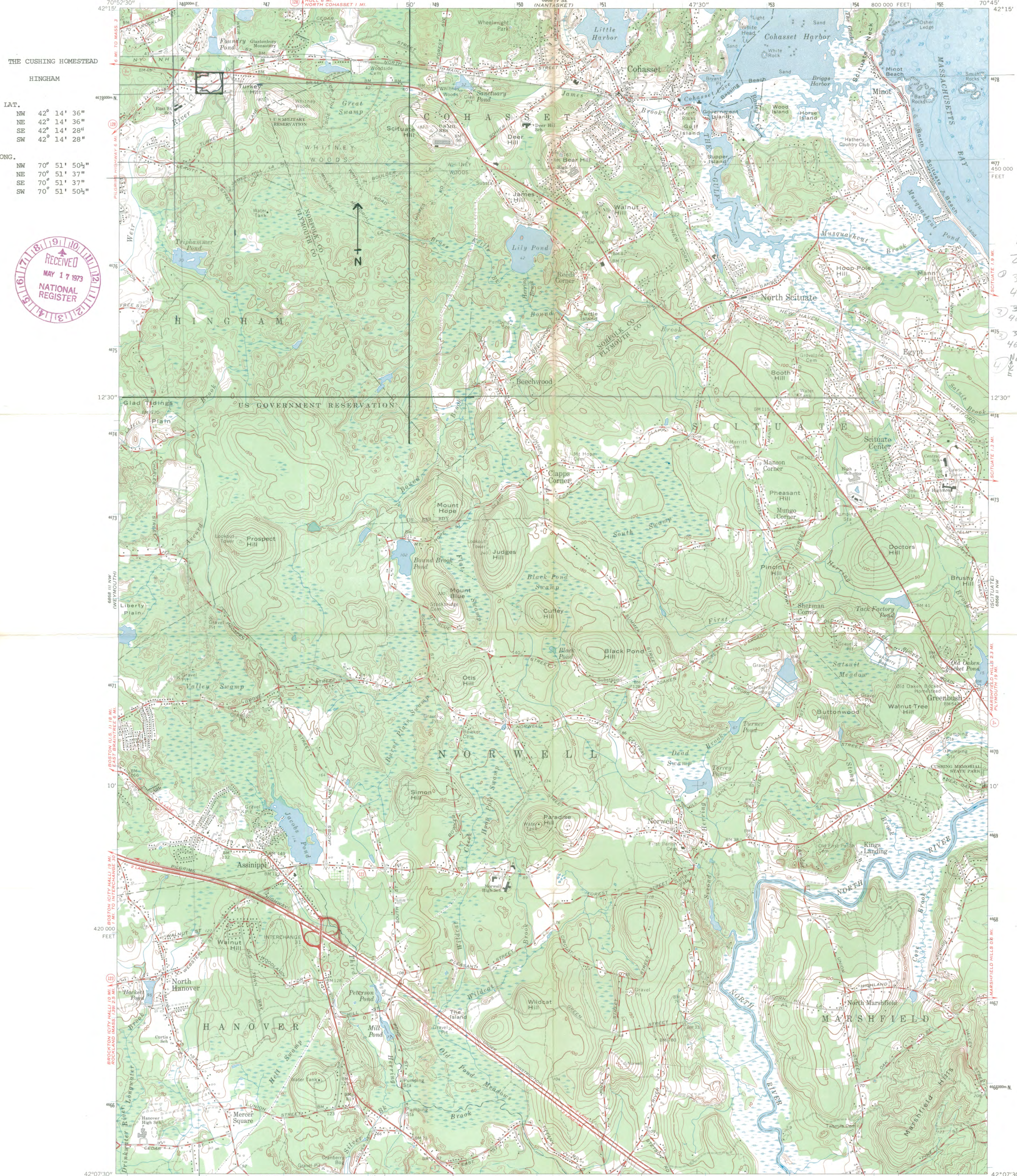
COHASSET QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

THE CUSHING HOMESTEAD
HINGHAM

LAT.
NW 42° 14' 36"
NE 42° 14' 36"
SE 42° 14' 28"
SW 42° 14' 28"
LONG.
NW 70° 51' 50.2"
NE 70° 51' 37"
SE 70° 51' 37"
SW 70° 51' 50.2"



H13
2nd
346540
467960
346210
467990
346210
4678240
4678220
346230



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs. Topography by planimetric surveys 1935-1936
Revised 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 244 (1960)
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 tidalwater areas from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 8.8 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ○

COHASSET, MASS.
N4207.5—W7045.7.5
1961
AMS 6868 III NE—SERIES V814

4

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **JUN 4 1973**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Arlington Street Church	Boston Suffolk County
The Cushing Homestead	Hingham Plymouth County
Jackson Homestead	Newton Middlesex County
Peabody Institute Library	Peabody Essex County
Wapanucket Site	Middleboro Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Hon. Robert Drinan
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler

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

Director, Northeast Region

PHR NRowland: pcl 6/12/73