

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 5 SEP 1979
NOV 14 1979
DATE ENTEREDNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

First Minister's House (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Kuniholm House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

186 Elm St.

CITY, TOWN

Gardner

n/a VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

027

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

Harry Kuniholm

STREET & NUMBER

186 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Gardner

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #27

DATE

1977

☐ 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 First Minister's House is a free standing late Georgian house of square plan located on a rise fifty feet back from Elm Street. It is located in the center of town and is surrounded for the most part by residential buildings of later period and lesser quality. The structure stands on a granite foundation, and its timber frame is sheathed with white clapboards. It is two stories tall and has a low hipped roof pierced by two interior end chimneys.

The symmetrical facade is five bays in width with a central entrance which is its focal point. The doorway is framed by light Ionic pilasters which carry fragments of a pulvinated frieze and a triangular modillioned pediment. The door is headed by a molded semi-circular arch with a keystone which contains a transom. The windows flanking the door are richly treated with pulvinated friezes and heavy dentilled caps. The three-bay side elevations continue the detail of the facade with their first floor windows headed by friezes and heavily molded caps. The entire composition is further enriched by quoined corners, a deep modillion cornice, and shutters framing each window.

The office and garage additions, built in this century, are attached to rear of the structure and are compatible in design. These additions extend down the rise away from Elm Street to a circular gravel driveway that is surrounded by well-kept grounds. An old, unused concrete swimming pool is set back and to the rear and does not interfere with the house and grounds.

The interior features included wideboard flooring throughout, exposed beams, wideboard wainscoting and doors, and stone cellar. The four rooms of the second floor have wideboard flooring throughout and original doors and hardware. There are three upstairs fireplaces of shallow depth and original mantels. Pegged, hand-hewn beams are visible in the attic which also has wideboard flooring.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1792	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Rev. Dr. Jonathan Osgood
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Minister's House in Gardner retains integrity of design, location, materials, and setting and is significant both as the town's most sophisticated example of late Georgian architecture and for its association's with important local persons. It was constructed in 1792 by the Reverend Jonathan Osgood who was the town's first minister. As there was no doctor at that time, he also served as the town's physician. Osgood later served as a representative in the state legislature. The second owner of the house was Deacon Lawrence; it is said that at this time the house served as a stop on the underground railroad. There has been only one other owner, a family named Blackwell, before the present one.

This house is Gardner's finest example of late Georgian design and merits attention in terms of statewide interpretation of this style. Its facade well illustrates the attempt of this period to enrich the common five bay, two story elevation with bold classical detail. Typically, the house has quoins and a projecting modillion cornice. Especially fine features are the center entrance with its elaborate pedimented frame, and the first floor windows headed by pulvinated friezes and heavily moulded caps. It is unusual that these caps are continued on the side elevations which were usually left unadorned. The late date of the house can be seen in its low hipped roof and nearly square plan which look toward the federal period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Herrick, History of Gardner.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.96 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Gardner

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 255150 4717610
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are deliniated on the attached City Engineer's Map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator with

Eric Engleson, Consultant
Gardner Historical Comm.

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

June, 1979

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

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Patricia Weslowski 8/20/79

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Shull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-14-79

ATTEST:

for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11/8/79

Property

First Minister's House

State

Mass (Worcester)

Working Number

9-5-79 2099

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

1

Maps

1

1792 House of late Georgian design. Home of town's
1st minister who also served as doctor, and later
as representative to state legislature.

HISTORIAN

Accept

Ozlu

11/7/79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT

Mc Dougal

11/8/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

12.4.79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

NOV 14 1979



First Minister's House
Gardner, Mass., *WORCESTER County*
Eric Engelson 1978
Gardner Historical Commission

Photo #1 of 1
View Looking southeast

DOE
NOV 14 1979

5 SEP 1979

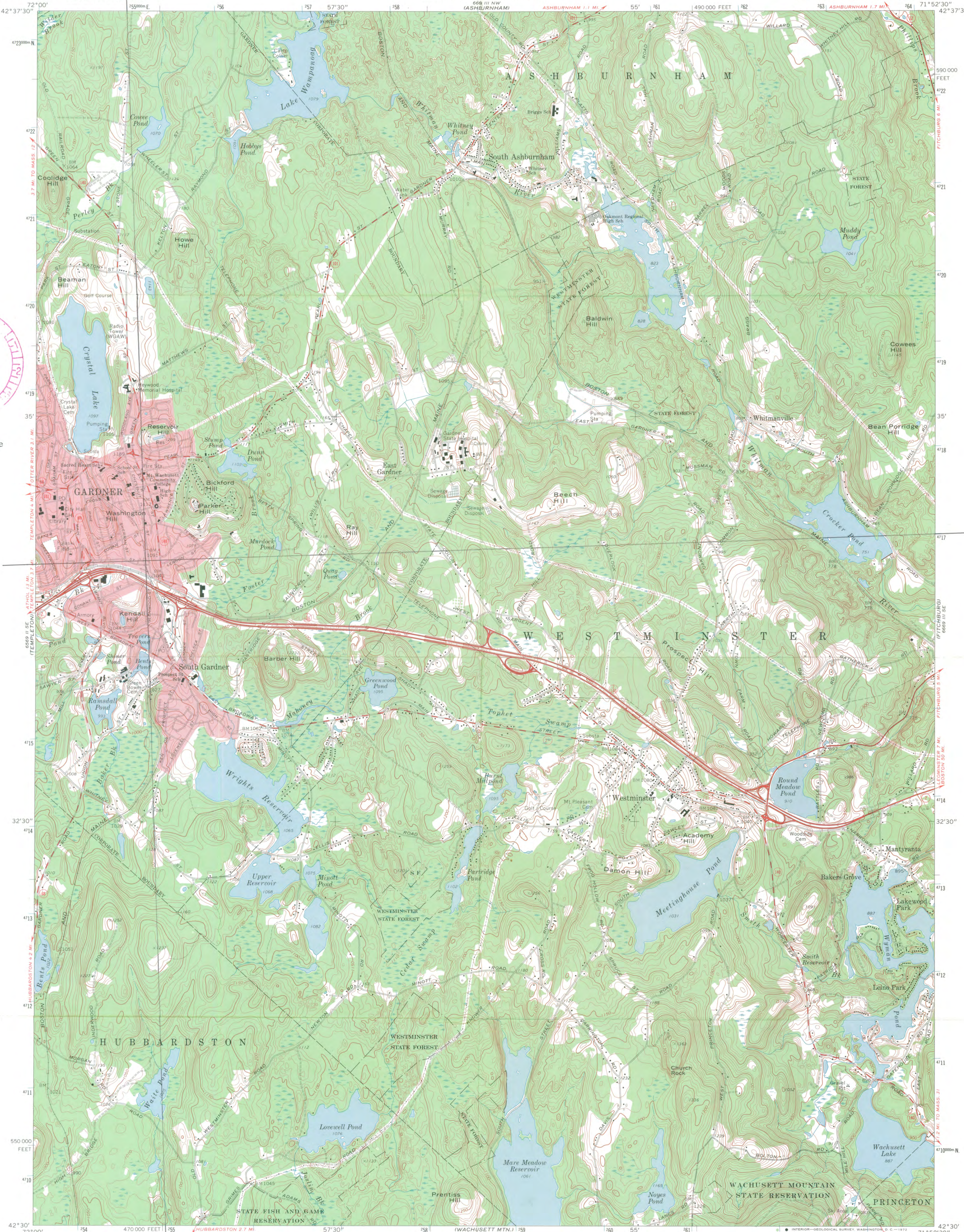
MINISTER'S HOUSE

.08-1,90

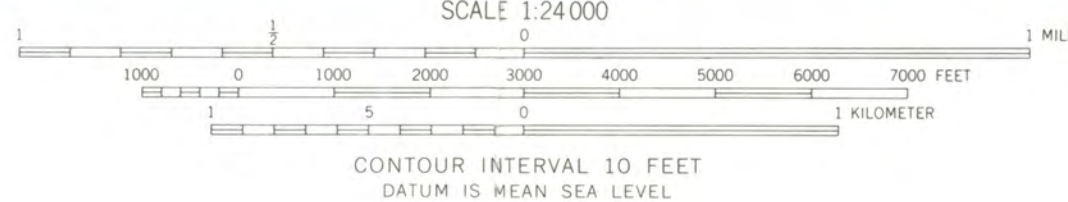
60'h



Gardner
First Minister's House
UTM REFERENCES:
19/255150/4717610



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 plane-table surveys 1943 and 1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
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	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

GARDNER, MASS. *FIRST MINISTER'S HOUSE*
N4230-W7152.5/7.5

1970
AMS 6669 III SW-SERIES V814

NOV 14 1979

Gardner, Mass.
First Ministers House
City Engineer's Map

CHAIN
LINK
FENCE

3.6 ACRES ±

FACE OF STONE
RETAINING WALL
(APPROX. 4'-0" H)

KUNIHOLM
RESIDENCE

ELM STREET

SITE PLAN

NOV 14 1979



62

5-10-15



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

August 20, 1979

Mr. Ronald Greenberg, Acting Chief
Registration Branch
OAHP, Heritage, Conservation &
Recreation Service
440 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20243



Dear Mr. Greenberg,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Gardner - First Minister's House
Gardner - Gardner News Building
Gardner - F.W. Smith Silver Co.

The above have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding
Survey Director

CB/pm

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 14 1979

Name

Location

Gardner News Building

Gardner
Worcester County

First Minister's House

Gardner
Worcester County

Smith, F. W., Silver Company

Gardner
Worcester County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Robert F. Drinan

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

NR Byers/bjr 11/16/79

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