

7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Martin House, c.1799, sits elegantly atop Chestnut Hill in Seekonk, overlooking a landscape of gently rolling farmland and the Palmer River. A fine example of an elegant Federal mansion, it is five bays wide. Originally all clapboard, it is now covered on two sides with white clapboard and on two other sides with white shingles. It is topped by a hip roof with one chimney set in from either side. The house foundation and entrance steps are granite faced with brownstone. The main frame of the house is made up of handhewn 7" x 7" pegged oak members; the 3"x4" studding is tenoned into the main frame at 20" intervals, and the bracing is morticed and tenoned into the major uprights.

The house has been altered considerably on the exterior. In 1880 a covered veranda was added on the east side. At the same time, the rear entrance with pediment and fluted pilasters was removed so that a kitchen ell could be added on the north side. The ell was designed in the Federal style with a gable roof and two dormers. It is two bays deep, three bays long, and is quoined at the corners. Also in 1880 the original six over six window sashes were changed to two over two, the shutters were removed from all but the facade, and shingle replaced clapboard on the east and north elevations.

In 1957 seven original dormers and an 18' square monitor were removed from the roof along with the Chinese Chippendale style ballustrade. The elegant roof entablature consists of Greek fretwork topped by shallow flared brackets and a boxed cornice. The hip roofed front entrance porch is made up of two Doric columns and fluted pilasters with Greek fretwork and dentils running along the porch cornice. The six-panelled door is topped by a fanlight, and a handsome Palladian window is located above the porch, lighting the stairwell. All of the facade windows and the ground floor windows of the other elevations are topped by straight wooden keystoneed lintels.

The interior, which has remained intact, has the conventional floor plan of a central hall with eight rooms. The interior woodwork reveals superb craftsmanship. All doors are eight-panelled as are the interior shutters for all the windows. The mantelpieces, though they vary in decoration, reveal a delicate workmanship and a common elegance. Particularly noteworthy are the parlor and dining room mantels with their fluted pilasters, scalloped medallions, fluted and dentiled cornices, and raised panelling. Cornice mouldings and chair-rails throughout the house are Chinese influenced, combining scroll, cross, fluted, and dentil carving.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 2 1974

MARTIN HOUSE, SEEKONK (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys
Title: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
Date: 1973
Level: State
Depository: Massachusetts Historical Commission
Street and number: 40 Beacon Street
City: Boston State: Massachusetts Code: 025



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) 1799 and 1880

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 checked="" 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

On the east side of Chestnut Hill, surrounded by farmland and overlooking the Palmer River, stands the magnificent home of Simeon Martin. The 1799 house is architecturally significant not only because it is a city mansion in a rural farm setting, but because it is the only Federal mansion in Seekonk. Most of the elegant exterior woodwork and all of the interior woodwork have been preserved, and the interior cornice and chair-rail mouldings have been sited by Antoinette Downing as unique to this house.

Historically, the house is significant because both Simeon Martin and his father were involved in state and local government, Silvanus as a Rehoboth selectman and Simeon as the Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island. In 1799 Simeon Martin returned from service in the Revolutionary War and began a political career in Newport, R.I. In the same year, he went to Rehoboth (which became Seekonk in 1812) and built his house on the family property where he had grown up. His father, Silvanus Martin, whose house was dismantled in the early 20th c., had been a gentleman farmer and selectman of Rehoboth for twenty years.

While the architect and craftsmen of the Martin House are unknown, it is likely that Simeon brought them from Newport, as the house resembles, in style and detail, many other Federal mansions in Newport. It is also unknown why Martin built such an elegant Federal mansion in the farm area of Rehoboth. Perhaps he did not anticipate a long political career in Newport, but nevertheless, Martin did spend the next seventeen years in political service in Newport, renting the house out to his brothers in the meanwhile.

During the period 1799-1819, Simeon Martin held the offices of Adjutant General and Major General of the State of Rhode Island. From 1794 to 1819 he served as a trustee of the corporation of Brown University. In 1808 he was elected to the Lieutenant Governorship, and he sustained this office until 1816. In 1816 he retired from the political arena and returned to the Seekonk mansion with his family. He lived as a gentleman farmer on the property until his death in 1819.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Arnold, Vital Records of Rehoboth.
2. Martin, Henry T., Geneology and History of the Martin Family of New England, 1880.
3. Registry of Deeds, Taunton, Mass.
4. Silvanus Martin's last will and testament.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41°	48'	49½"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		71°	17'	54"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.56 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mindy Arbo for Elizabeth Amadon, State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: **Massachusetts Historical Commission** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: **02108**
(617)727-8470 CODE: **025**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: **3/20/74**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Bortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **5/2/74**

ATTEST:
Wm. M. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **5.1.74**

PROPERTY

Horton Farm *Martin House* STATE *Mass.*

WORKING NUMBER

3. 29. 74. 480

Bristol

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS

1

MAPS

1

CONTROL REVIEW

cm

4. 3.

OK

7/4

HISTORIAN

Too bad About the dormers ETC -

Accept.

R. Luce 4/3/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

would like to see photos of interior.

Accept H. J. Jandel 4/3/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Coke
4/28/74*

BRANCH CHIEF

*Accept
H. J. Jandel
4-30-74*

KEEPER

*Wm
5/1/74*

National Register Write-up

5/29/74

Send-back

Federal Register entry

June 4, 1974

Re-submit

Entered

MAY 2

1974



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)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Horton Farm	the Martin House	MAY 2 1974

2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Bristol	Seekonk

STREET AND NUMBER

940 County Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
William A. MacIntosh Jr.	December 1, 1972	Martin House

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Facade facing south



GPO 932-009

Seekonk.
940 County St
Lt. Gov. Ma
LoReta
L.A. Berlin
W.A. MacI
12/1/72
Daniel He
South f

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Horton Farm	Martin House	MAY 2 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Bristol	Seekonk
STREET AND NUMBER		
940 County Street		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S., East Providence, Mass.-R.I.	1949	1:24,000

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





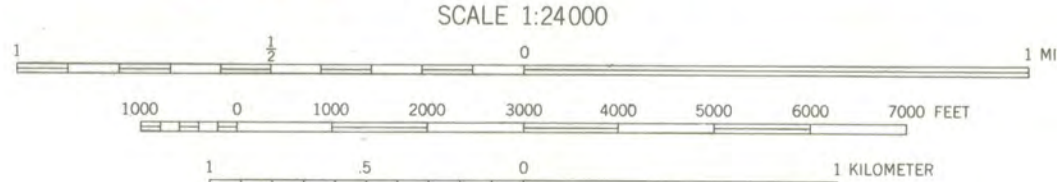
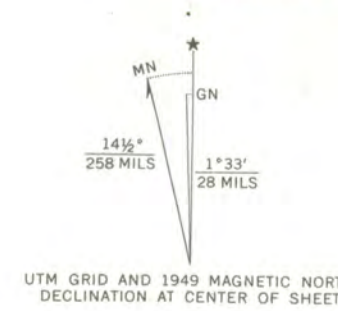
HB
 Zn 19
 0309240
 4631540
 309180
 4631360
 308980
 4631400
 309100
 4631600

THE MARTIN HOUSE
 SEEKONK
 Latitude: 41° 48' 49"
 Longitude: 71° 17' 54"



Topography by R.H. Runyan, H.D. Cummings, Harold Williams, R.H. Lyddan, and Milton F. Denaut
 Surveyed in 1935 and 1939
 Revised in 1949
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty — Light-duty
 Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



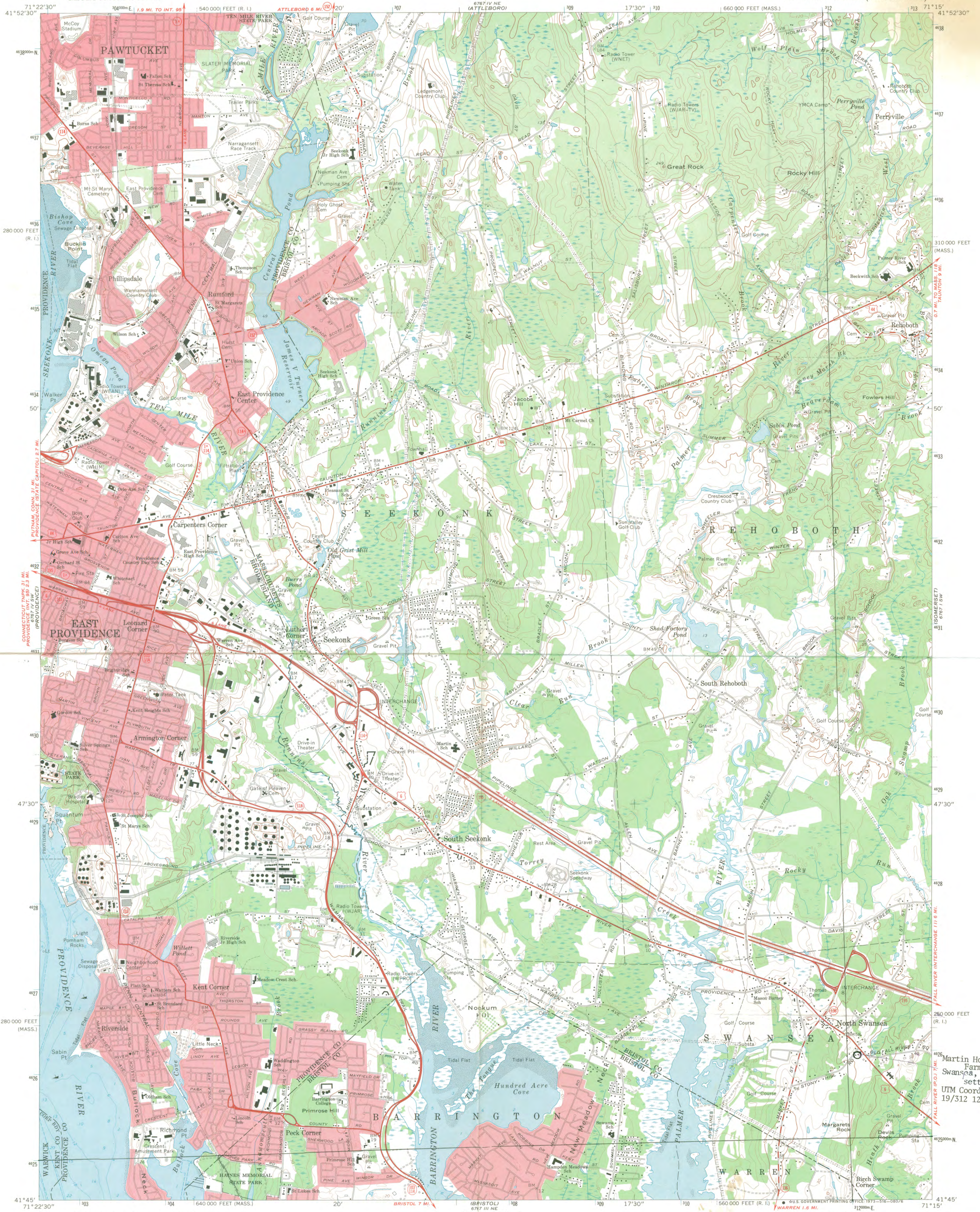
Scale: 1:24000
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts Mainland and Rhode Island rectangular coordinate systems
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

EAST PROVIDENCE, MASS.-R.I.
 N4145-W7115/7.5

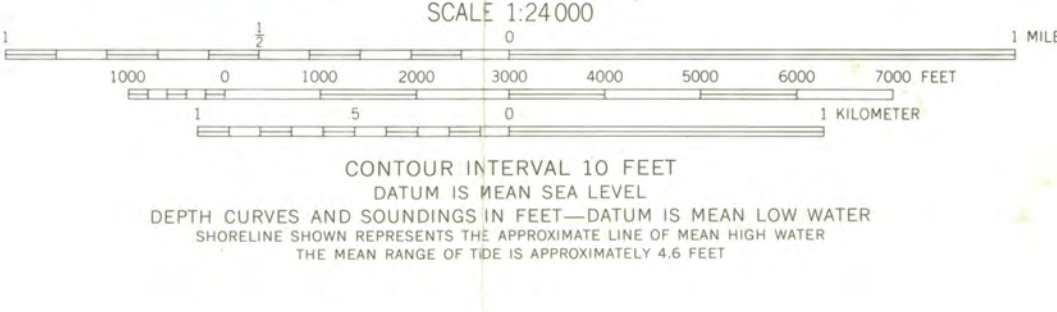
1949

AMS 6767 IV SE-SERIES V815

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1939
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 278 and
352 (1970). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

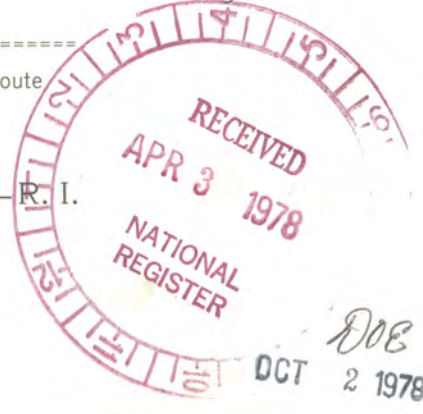


ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



EAST PROVIDENCE, MASS.—R.I.
N4145—W7115/7.5



FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AMS 6767 IV SE—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

3 Joy Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

Secretary of the Commonwealth

March 21, 1974

SPECIAL NOTICE

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C. Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attention: Charles Herrington, Chief of Register

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Charles:

Enclosed are three National Register submissions for the following properties:

1. Seekonk, Martin House, Bristol County,
2. Medfield, First Parish Unitarian Church, Norfolk County,
3. Milton, Holbrook House, Norfolk County.

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F. X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liason Officer.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions are to be included in our 1975 apportionment warrant. Therefore, we would appreciate your processing these nominations promptly. Please let us know if any other information is needed.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Amadon
State Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ERA/ma
enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE

Date Entered MAY 2 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Steamship NOBSKA	Nantucket Nantucket County
Clapp Houses	Boston (Dorchester) Suffolk County
Sawyer Building	Boston Suffolk County
Martin House	Seekonk Bristol County
King's Chapel Burying Ground	Boston Suffolk County
Court Square Historic District	Springfield Hampden County

<u>Also Notified</u>	<u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u>
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	Secretary of the Commonwealth
Hon. Gerry E. Studde	Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Hon. John J. Moakley	Commission
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler	40 Beacon St.
Hon. Edward P. Boland	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

PR

MMott/row 5/3/74