

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 23 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John B. Angier House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

129 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

Massachusetts 02155

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

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

Mrs. Mary A. Irwin

STREET & NUMBER

129 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02155

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

40 Beacon Street, Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

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 B. Angier House, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1842, is a 2½ story Gothic Revival cottage situated west of Medford Square on the northwest corner of High Street and Boynton Road. Facing south, the house is set back from the street and fronted by a large landscaped lawn surrounded by a low stone wall. The original tapered granite gate posts and iron gates survive and are flanked to the east by a portion of the original cut granite border which retains a section of its decorative iron fence. A magnificent copper beech presently grows in the southeast corner of the front lawn. The original landscape, now obliterated, was designed by Andrew Jackson Downing and included a circular drive in front of the house with two large trees placed within the island, and other trees and plantings informally placed in the side yards.

Constructed of masonry which was stuccoed in the early twentieth century, the Angier House is a symmetrical interpretation of Gothic Revival architecture which utilizes a "T" shaped floor plan. The center entrance is approached by a series of wide granite steps through the center section of the narrow flat-roofed porch which extends across the facade's first story beyond the house's side walls. Supported by twelve pairs of delicately turned wooden columns, the front porch is framed by an elaborate network of Gothic tracery and pointed trellis which as late as the turn of the century displayed flowering vines. A low granite railing encloses the rear elevation of the porch extensions. Davis' original drawing for the facade's elevation included a crenellated balcony above the center section of the porch which was built of wood and remained until the early 20th century. The placement of fenestration is symmetrical and consists of two tall double windows flanking the center double doorway, three shorter double windows across the second story and a small lancet double window in the third story's central gable. All of these openings exhibit intricate Gothic tracery around the upper lights which are framed by label mouldings with lancet or flat tops. The side elevations of the house contain identical window types with two double windows on the first and second stories and a lancet double window in the gable. The only exception in window type is on the first story of the east elevation where a three-sided, flat-topped bay window with Gothic tracery and diamond shaped window panes is employed to increase the front livingroom's interior space and sunlight. The overhanging roof consists of three steeply pitched intersecting ridge roofed gables framed at each end by elaborate bargeboards and pendants. Around the roof's cornice are a series of ornate scroll brackets on which decorative sawn wooden floiate trim has been partially preserved on the east, north and west elevations of the main house. The well preserved gray slate roof covering follows an imbricated pattern. A pair of chimneys rise through each side of the ridge roof with one set retaining its original clay "chimney-tops".

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

A ridge-roofed $2\frac{1}{2}$ story ell, centrally situated on the north elevation of the main house, is characterized by simple fenestration utilizing regular sash, plain lintels and sills. Three 12/12 windows are located on the first stories and three 8/8 windows are located on the second stories of both the east and west elevations. Two small covered entranceways are located in the corners formed where the ell joins the main house, each with some Gothic trim. Small centrally located 4/4 windows are situated on the second and third stories of the ell's north elevation. Each side of the ell contains a ridge-roofed dormer, trimmer by curvilinear sawn wooden ornament and framing an arched 6/6 window. Two irregularly placed interior chimneys rise through the roof. The cornice along the ell's west elevation retains its simple curvilinear sawn wooden ornament and the north elevation of the ell retains its elaborate bargeboards around the gable. The construction of a concrete block, single car garage adjacent to the ell in the early twentieth century destroyed the house's original attached ice shed. The Angier's carriage house stood on the opposite side of Boynton Road and their stables, also demolished, were approached through the two granite posts still standing nearby on Powderhouse Road.

The interior of the Angier House is generally well preserved, retaining its original floorplan, Gothic Revival wood paneling and carved marble mantelpiece. In addition, the rooms still have their original Gothic Revival paneled doors and hardware with label mouldings around the doorways. The tracery in the tall windows is in excellent condition and almost all the windows retain their original interior louvered shutters. The ornamental plaster ceilings are also intact. Particularly noteworthy are the original gilt corniceboards in the livingroom. Unfortunately the diningroom lost its original light fixture to a previous owner along with the parlor's gilt corniceboards.

SIGNIFICANCE

RIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

HISTORIC

— 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

1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Alexander Jackson Davis and
Andrew Jackson Downing

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John B. Angier House in Medford, Massachusetts, is significant as a collaborative effort by America's great Romantic period architects and landscape designers, Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing. In addition this cottage is one of a limited number of Davis' extant commissions in Massachusetts. It is also Medford's best example of Gothic Revival domestic architecture.

The Angier House was built for John B. Angier, a Medford schoolmaster, and his wife, Abby S. Adams, a granddaughter of President John Adams. Angier was born in Durham, New Hampshire, on April 10, 1797, the son of John and Rebecca (Drew) Angier. After graduating from Harvard in 1821, he opened a private school for girls in Medford. In 1849 Angier gave up his position with the school and shortly thereafter was appointed treasurer of Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company of Texas which also had a Boston office.

According to Roger H. Newton, author of Town and Davis, Architects, the Angiers were introduced to Ithiel Town by Andrew J. Downing. In 1842 Davis was commissioned by the Angiers to design their new home in Medford. His original elevation and floorplans for the house are among the collection of Town and Davis architectural drawings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Additional floorplans are in the collection of the New York Historical Society. The Angiers' furniture for their new home was designed by Davis and executed by his cabinetmaker, Richard Byrnes; their grounds were landscaped by Andrew Jackson Downing. Both their furniture and Downing's plantings are no longer part of the property. A hurricane in the 1950's destroyed a large tulip tree and Scotch liburnum which according to local tradition were presented to Abby S. Adams by her uncle, President John Quincy Adams, on May 30, 1831, when she was wed to John B. Angier.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Cameron, Kenneth W., Emerson the Essayist, Raleigh, N.C., 1945, p. 438.
2. Davis, Alexander J., Rural Residences, New York, 1837.
3. Medford Historical Society, Medford Historical Register, Medford, 1909, volume 12, p. 13.
4. Newton, Roger H., Town and Davis, Architects, New York, 1942, pp. 222-223.
5. Philadelphia Chapter, A.I.A., American Architectural Drawings, Vols. I-V, Phila..

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 326000 4698
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

~~Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and John Herzan~~
ORGANIZATION DATE

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

February, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

40 Beacon Street

(617-727-8470)

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONALX

STATE _____

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 National Park Service.

SHPO
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Amador

TITLE

Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/13/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 4/23/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE **APR 22 1975**

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Angier, John B. House

Middlesex

State Mass.

Working Number 3.19.75.436

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1

~~Nothing appears incorrect~~
called

CONTROL

OK pl
3.24.75

A copy of Davis' plans would have been nice,
but more than enough to

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Luce
3/24/75

Called 3-21-75
Christine Secheval + agrees with
our nothing

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

great

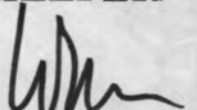
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-8-75

BRANCH CHIEF

accept
Hunt
4.21.75

KEEPER


APR 22 1975

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

6-3-75

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered APR 23 1975

INT:2106-74



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John B. Angier House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Brian Pfeiffer

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Medford Historical Commission

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

south facade

PHOTO NO. 1

#1062

#1082

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC John B. Angier House

AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Brian Pfeiffer

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Medford Historical Commission

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
east elevation

PHOTO NO. 2

#282

#282

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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APR 23 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John B. Angier House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey, Boston, North, Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

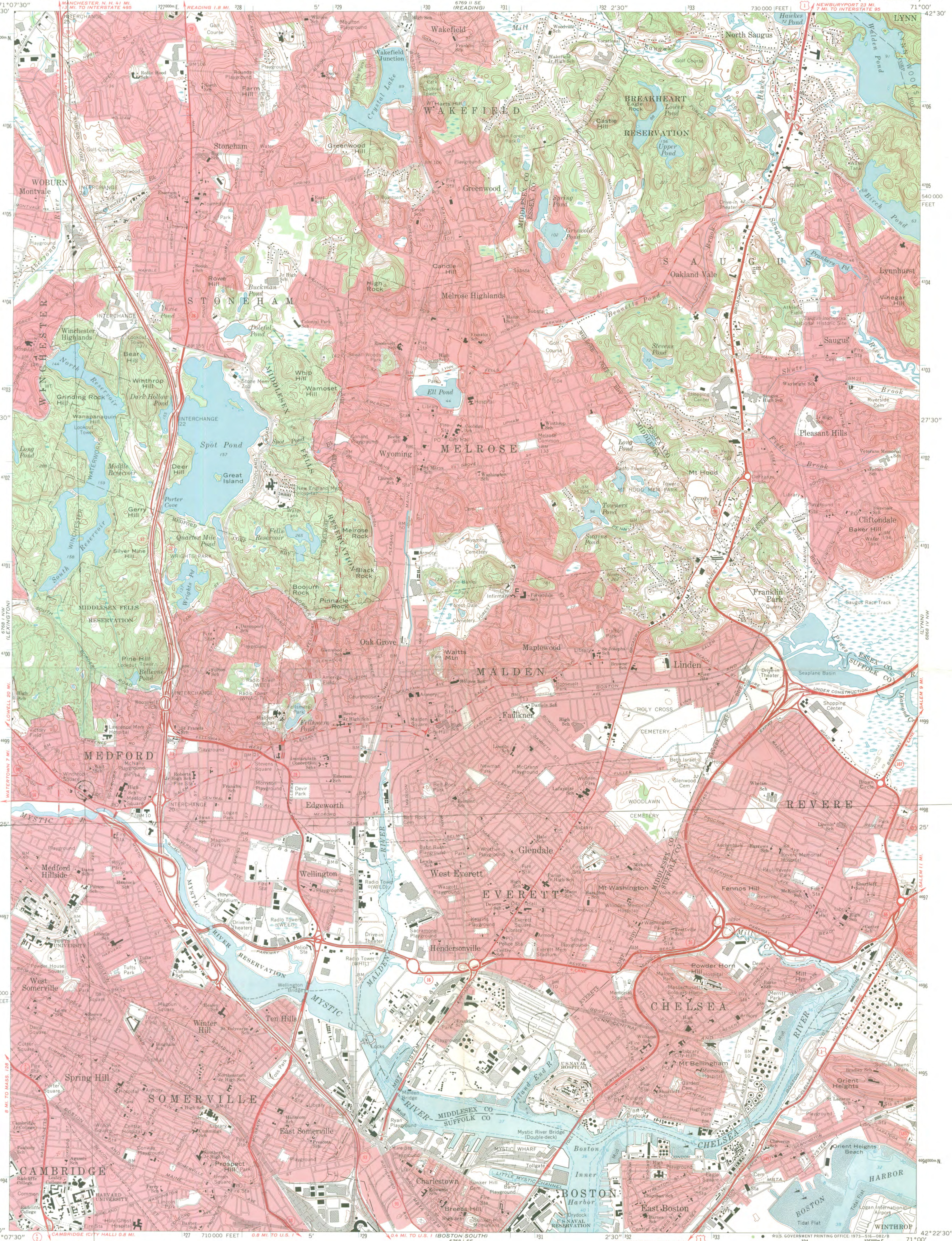
1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

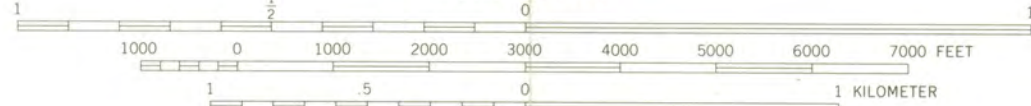
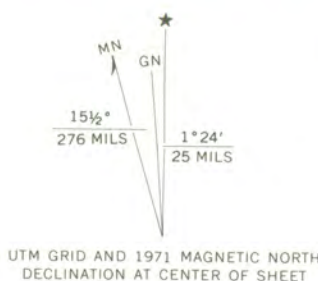
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Medford, John B. Angier
House
UTM reference:
19/326000/4697370

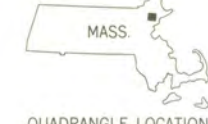


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is 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 tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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 9.5 FEET

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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5

1971

AMS 6768 1 NE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 23 1975

Name

Location

Dean Junior College Historic District

Franklin
Norfolk County

Angier, John B., House

Medford
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

State Historic Preservation Officer

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Executive Director

Hon. Joseph D. Early

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald

40 Beacon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

PR

MMott/cha

4-24-75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/22/77
 Reviewer INITIALS: [signature]
 NR DOE April 23, 1975
 (4-23-75)

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Angier, John B., House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 129 High Street

CITY, TOWN Medford

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th

COUNTY Middlesex code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
☒ Substantially intact-1 ☒ Substantially intact-2 ☐ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4 ☐ unknown - 5 ☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7 ☐ not applicable - 8 ☐ Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ☒ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ UNALTERED ☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS ☐ ALTERED ☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED ☐ Reconstructed ☐ Unknown
☐ Unexcavated ☐ Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- private residence
 now- private residence

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 15 RELIGION entertainment
 ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC ECONOMICS LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE health
 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION LITERATURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN recreation
☒ ARCHITECTURE - 4 ENGINEERING MUSIC settlement
 ART PHILOSOPHY socio/cultural
 COMMERCE EXPLORATION POLITICS/GOVERNMENT OTHER (SPECIFY) urban & commun
 COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY planning
 INVENTION

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gothic Revival

✓ architect/m-builder: ② ALEXANDER JACKSON

engineer:

landscape/garden designer: ③ DAVIS

artist/artisan:

interior decorator: ANDREW JACKSON DOWNING

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1842

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

MASONRY, STUCCOED; 2 1/2 STORIES, T-SHAPED, HIPPED AND ^{INTERSECTING} ~~ROOF~~ GABLED ROOF SECTIONS, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS WITH DECORATIVE POTS, FRONT CENTER GLAZED DOUBLE-DOOR ENTRANCE WITH ^{TUDOR} ~~TRANSOM~~-ARCHED TRANSOM, FLANKING FULL-LENGTH WINDOWS WITH LABEL MOLDS, 1-STORY FRAME ENTRANCE PORCH, WITH LATTICE WORK BETWEEN PAIRED COLUMNS, ELABORATE ~~TRACERY~~ TRACERY BAREBOARDS, BRACKETED

SIGNIFICANCE:

(maximum two sentences)

CORNICE, ^{many original details intact} DIAMOND-PANED LEADED SIDE BAY, ~~2 1/2 STORY~~ REAR WING; INTERIOR FEATURES ORIGINAL MOLDINGS, DOORS, TRACERY AND ORNAMENTAL PLASTERWORK; STUCCOED, EARLY 20TH CO. GOTHIC REVIVAL; DESIGN A COLLABORATION BETWEEN ALEXANDER JACKSON DAVIS AND ANDREW JACKSON DOWNING, NOTED ROMANTIC ARCHITECT AND LANDSCAPE ARCHT.