

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 6 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC *Albree*

Albree-Hall-Lawrence House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

353 Lawrence Road

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Massachusetts

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

Melville T. Nichols

STREET & NUMBER

353 Lawrence Road

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 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

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

HABS (MASS-246)

DATE

1974; 1935

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission; Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Boston; Washington, DC

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 Albree-Hall-Lawrence House is a two-story timber frame house of irregular plan resulting from its several periods of construction. Examination of the structure suggests that the earliest section, built before 1785 according to the Historic American Buildings Survey, was a two-story center chimney house, one room deep, now surviving as the rear ell of the present house. Historical sources suggest that this ell could have been part of an earlier house that was moved to this site and joined to the front section. The front section appears to have been constructed in the late eighteenth century and originally was one bay deep and three bays long. The facade was then symmetrical with an entrance porch and one window on either side. Sometime around the turn of the eighteenth century the east wall of the front section was extended about five feet eastward, and a fourth window was added to the front facade. Between 1830-1840 the north half of the house's east end was enlarged to the present two room depth. All other ells and the alterations of the stable were carried out after 1930 when the property was purchased by the father of the present owner.

The two-story yellow clapboarded front section is set on a foundation of granite blocks except at its northeast corner where one bay of the east wall and two bays of the north wall are set on slate foundation. The front facade is four bays wide, irregularly spaced with twelve-over-twelve windows, all with black louvred shutters, and an enclosed entry porch with a half hip roof. The entry is framed by two pilasters supporting a plain entablature and a boxed cornice at the porch's eave. The doorway consists of five pane sidelights set over single raised panels flanking a six panel door (ca. 1930.) The east end wall has three twelve-over-twelve windows spaced unevenly across the first story, two at the second story, and one centered in the gable. The southern two windows on the first story, one on either side of the interior chimney, and the southern window on the second story have frame moldings matching those on the front facade, while the other window moldings are of a low profile type popular in the 1830's and 1840's. The original one room depth of the section is revealed by this change of details and the change in foundation materials. The rear wall of the front section, where it is not concealed by additions has one twelve-over-twelve window set in a frame of low profile molding slightly east of center on both stories. The front section is covered by a medium high pitched roof with gables at the end walls. At its junction with the rear ell the gable of the west wall has a slight "saltbox" effect to join it to the lower story height of the ell. The front section has an interior chimney on the south bay of its east wall, and another rising through the ridge and centered above the facade's westernmost bay. Both are set on stone bases instead of the usual brick arch.

The rear ell is adjoined to the northwest corner of the front section flush with the west wall. It is a rectangular two-story structure with a pitched roof set perpendicular to the main roof. As in the front section the bays, three in number, are spaced unevenly. The first story contains two twelve-over-twelve windows and to the rear a narrow doorway consisting of a molded frame supporting a cap and framing in a three pane transom and six sunken panel door (ca. 1930). At the second story the three bays are eight-over-twelve windows. North and west of this side entrance is a one-story addition with one twelve-over-twelve window set on a concrete block foundation, connecting with the stable.

On the ell's east wall at its junction with the rear wall of the front section is a square plan two-story addition (ca. 1940) with a flat roof. It has a four pane light set high on

1930
5

continued

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

#7:
the first story east wall and one narrow six-over-six light at the second story north wall. At the first story is an enclosed porch with three pairs of twelve pane doors facing east and one twelve-over-twelve window on the north.

The north end of the ell is concealed by a number of additions which connect it to the stable, which has been converted to a garage (ground floor) and a studio (first floor). This stable is two stories high with a pitched roof running at right angles to the roof of the ell. Connecting it and the rear ell is a one-story porch, enclosed by vertical slats. The previously described addition to the west wall of the rear ell provides interior access to the studio. The stable is covered on its east, west and north walls by yellow shingles. Its west wall has a massive exterior chimney (ca. 1930) flanked at the second story by two six pane casement windows.

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 *pre-1785; 1830-1840* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1720 John Albree, an English immigrant, purchased from Parcival Hall a thirty-two acre tract of land containing at least one dwelling house, outbuildings, and a mill in which Hall retained a one quarter interest. By 1777, when his grandson John took over the property, the acreage totaled sixty-seven acres. Previous to his ownership Albree served in the Revolution in two different regiments, and also contributed financially to its support.

The property remained in the Albree family until 1799 when John's brother Samuel sold the property, then containing seventy-two acres, to Nathaniel Hall. Suffering from financial reverses, Hall mortgaged and then deeded the property to his brother-in-law Peter Chardon Brooks. In 1817 Brooks made a gift of the property to his sister Joanna Hall, Nathaniel's wife. In 1819 Hall had moved from his house in Medford Square to the farm, to which, in 1831, his grandson, Francis Parkman was sent to recover from an illness. During his four years in Medford, Parkman attended John Angier's school which Parkman thought to be of "high but undeserved reputation." It seems possible that the enthusiasm of Parkman's father for the work of Alexander Jackson Davis may have influenced Angier's later choice of Davis as the architect for his home at 129 High Street, Medford. Both the historian Parkman and his several biographers place great importance on his "exploration" of the Middlesex Fells as a major influence on Parkman's writing and point of view.

In the mid-nineteenth century the house was owned by Peter C. Hall, whose heirs leased the property to a pig farmer. Offended by this use of the property, Samuel Lawrence purchased the farm by 1889 and incorporated it into his neighboring estate. Lawrence, Medford's most prominent citizen of the period, gave the use of the house to his property manager and kept the grounds open to the public on Sundays. Believing that he was better able to provide for the preservation of his more than two hundred acres of the Fells, Lawrence did not leave the property to the Middlesex Fells Reservation on his death, resulting in its subdivision in the 1920's. During the development of the land, the house was used as a real estate office, until an offer to purchase was made around 1927 by the father of the present owner.

Both the lack of clear reference points on the early deeds and the many changes that have been made to the house make it difficult to determine the structure's history. Surveyed by H.A.B.S. and attributed a construction date of "pre-1785," the bulk of the house's front section and rear ell seem clearly eighteenth century. It is possible that the rear ell may contain the house which stood on the property around 1720 or it may be a house constructed by John Albree prior to 1785. It seems likely that the front section of the house was constructed in the last half of the eighteenth century, while the extension of the east wall of the front section probably occurred under the joint ownership of John and Samuel Albree or of Nathaniel Hall. Of Medford's less than twenty pre-1800 buildings, the Albree-Hall-Lawrence House is clearly one of the best preserved examples of its period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farnham, Charles H. A Life of Francis Parkman. Boston: Little, Brown, 1900.

Jacobs, Wilbur R. Letters of Francis Parkman. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1960

Gallagher, Mark E., Jr. "The Lawrence Farm and Farmhouse." Medford Historical Register, XXXVI, No. 3 (September 1933), 33-41.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20,980 square feet (½ acre)

UTM REFERENCES

590
A

1	9
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3	2	5	4	2	0
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4	6	9	8	9	0	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Jody Turner, Research Assistant and Brian Pfeiffer, Medford Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 31, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

3/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Albree-Hall-Lawrence House

State Massachusetts

Working Number 4.6.76.3013

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

Casting incorrect

1 cont. sheet

CONTROL

*CM
4.9.76*

HISTORIAN

Would have been helpful to see photo of rear post-1930 additions but the integrity of the earliest portions remain intact. Quite acceptable for local history and architecture.

*Accept
E. Smith
4-14-76*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Justification for Exploration/Settlement & Military areas of significance seem ambiguous & weak. ~~Would require extensive research~~
Arch. fine - no problem for local significance*

*Accept
Raul Ruben
4/16/76*

*I agree with Ed Lamb's comments
OK Lebowitz*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
4/20/76*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Hunt
4.30.76*

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered APR 30 1976

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Albree-Hall-Lawrence House

Medford, MA

Brian Pfeiffer, photographer

1976

Medford Historical Commission, City Hall,
Medford, MA 02155

Looking northeast at facade and rear ell.

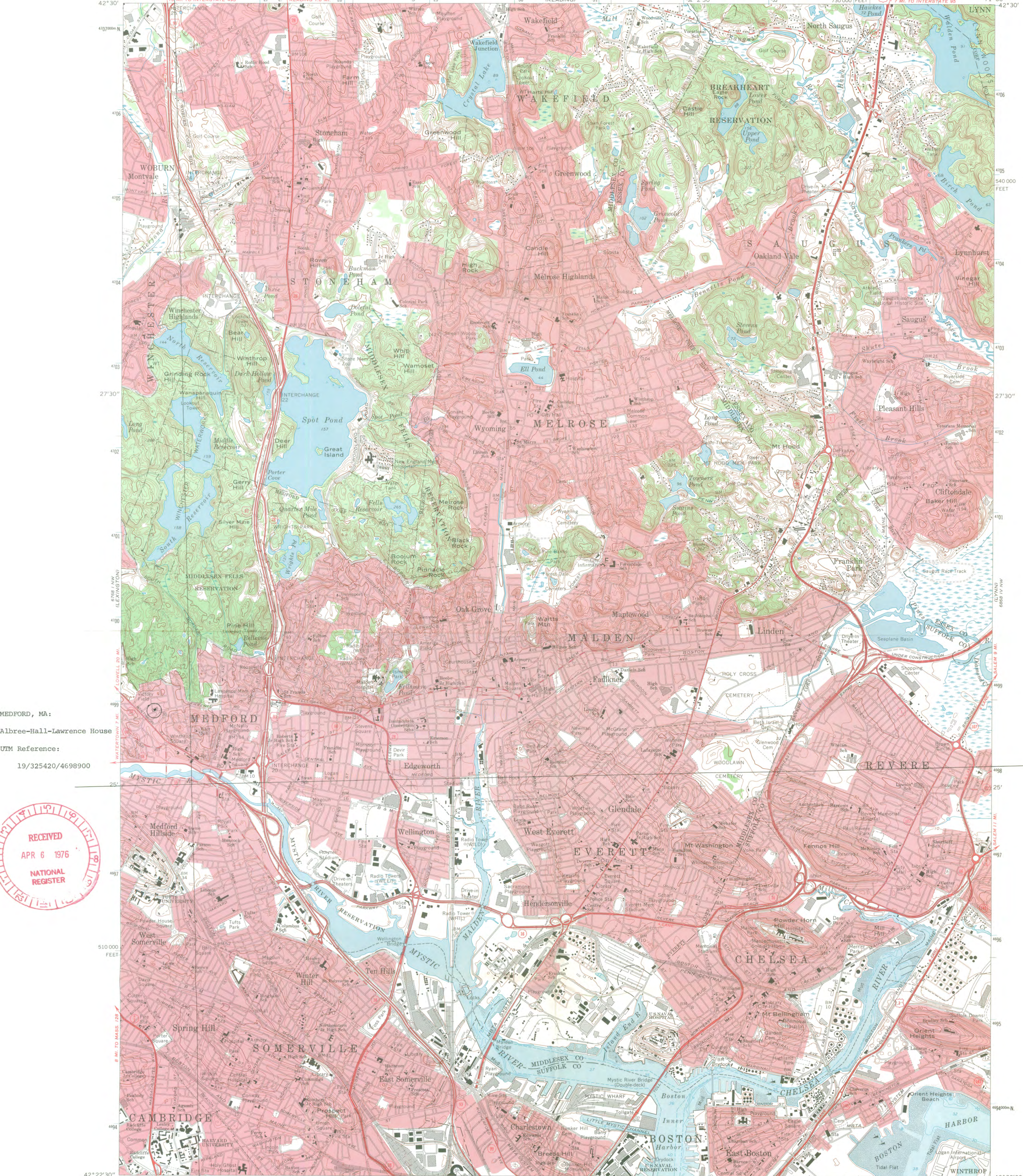
Photograph #1

Middlesex County

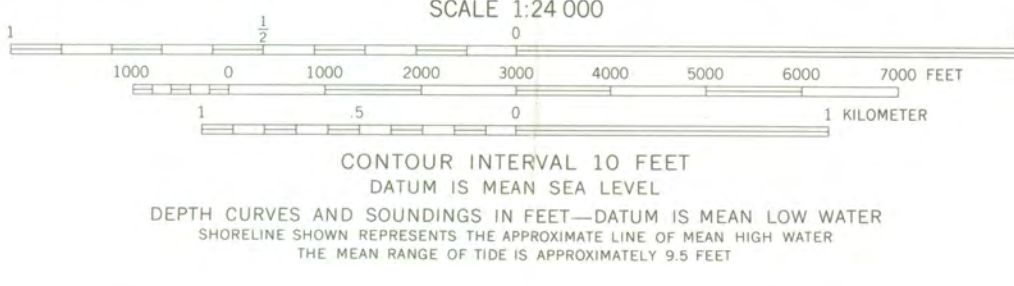
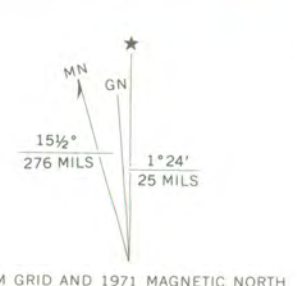
APR 6 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MEDFORD, MA:
Albree-Hall-Lawrence House
UTM Reference:
19/325420/4698900



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



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 I NE—SERIES W814



PAUL GUZZI

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary*

Massachusetts Historical Commission

*294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470*

1 April 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington
Chief, Registration
National Register
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find four nomination forms for the following properties:

1. Medford: George P. Fernald House
2. Medford: Albree-Hall-Lawrence House
3. Randolph: Jonathan Belcher House
4. Worcester: Timothy Paine House

These properties have been voted eligible by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Reed Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Pat

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/jdd

enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Peirce, Peter, Store	Middleborough Plymouth County
Belcher, Jonathan, House	Randolph Norfolk County
Fernald, George P., House	Medford Middlesex County
Albree-Hall-Lawrence, House	Medford Middlesex County
Smith Alumnae Gymnasium	Northampton Hampshire County
Putnam, General Israel, House	Danvers Essex County
Dillingham House	Brewster vicinity Barnstable County
Wellesley Town Hall	Wellesley Norfolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
 Hon. Edward W. Brooke
 Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
 Hon. James A. Burke
 Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
 Hon. Silvio O. Conte
 Hon. Michael J. Harrington
 Hon. Gerry E. Studds

State Historic Preservation Officer
 Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
 Executive Director, Massachusetts
 Historical Commission
 294 Washington Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

5/4/76

NOTT:djb

PR

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Albree-Hall-Lawrence House

2 OTHER NAMES:

3 date of entry: 4-30-76

4 county code: 017

5 LOCATION street & number: 353 Lawrence Rd.

city / town: Medford

vicinity of:

state: MA

county: Middlesex

6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic

7 OWNER: ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)

8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEY: ☒ NARS ☐ NAER ☐ NHL

10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO

11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 7

12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME: ☒ NO

14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME: ☒ NO

15 ACREAGE: .5

16 CONDITION: ☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site

☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved

☒ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown

☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated

17 features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3

☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0

☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☒ UNKNOWN-5 ☒ UNKNOWN-6

☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS: ☐ YES - Restricted ☐ YES - Unrestricted ☒ No Access ☐ Unknown

19 ADAPTIVE USE: ☐ YES ☒ NO

20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☒ NO

21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26

☐ ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12

☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27

☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13

☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17

☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20

☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28

☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29

☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31

☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25

23 CLAIMS: explain

'first' ☐

'oldest' ☐

'only' ☐

24 functions

WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: private residence

CURRENTLY: private residence

25 dates of initial construction: 1785

major alterations: East end enlarged: 1830's - 40's

historic events:

26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION:

27 architectural style(s): Federal

28 architect:

29 master builder:

30 engineer:

31 landscape architect / garden designer:

32 interior decorator:

33 artist:

34 artisan:

35 builder / contractor:

36 NAMES give role & date

PERSONAL: 1720: John Albree settled site. 1799: sold to Nathaniel Hall 1850's: leased as a pig farm.

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

37 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Frame, clapboarding; 2 1/2 stories, irregular shape, gabled roof, interior and interior end chimneys, 1-story projecting front center entrance vestibule with 1/2 hipped roof and sidelights. Home of John Albree, soldier & contributor to Revolutionary War; one of town's best preserved 18th c. buildings.

original 1785 2-story structure is now near ell; late-18th c. front section expanded, c. 1800, 1830-40, and after 1930.