

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Peter Tufts House

AND/OR COMMON Peter Tufts House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
350 Riverside Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7th

CITY, TOWN
Medford

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts

CODE
25

COUNTY
Middlesex

CODE
017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA)

STREET & NUMBER
141 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN
Boston

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex Registry of Deed - South

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Cambridge

STATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Nine

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The brick walls of this large, rectangular, two-story house are 18 inches thick, and the end chimneys, unusual for 17th century New England, were presumably incorporated in them for economy. The separate flues are brought together in the gables. The steep main roof slope (51°) is truncated at the top to form one of the earliest-known gambrel roofs. A brick belt course extends around the house and marks the floor level between the first and second stories. A careful symmetry marks each elevation, but the spacing of the windows is still unclassic. Near the ends of the house, in each story of the front facade, were small oval "port-holes" or windows, 10 by 20 inches, of unexplained origin. There were originally two more in each gable end, making a total of eight. They were bricked up in 1872, but six of them (all but the two in the east gable end) were reopened in the remodeling in 1890. These openings were impractical for gunfire, and it is believed they may have been purely decorative.

The floor plan of the house is practically Georgian, in spite of its dating--consisting of a central hallway with two rooms on either side in each story. The interior still contains superb oak summers and girts, with chamfered edges and elaborate stops, and also the original stairway to the second floor. Most of the interior fabric, however, dates from an unfortunate remodeling that was undertaken in 1890. The present pedimented front porch, set on four brick piers, was added and the two front dormer windows were inserted in 1890. The original first floor groups of casement windows, set in pairs under shallow relieving arches in both the front and rear facades, were also replaced by sliding sash windows at the time.

The house had surface paint removed by the unfortunate process of sandblasting which has marred the exterior surface.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1677-1680

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Capt. Peter Tufts

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peter Tufts House, sometimes called the Craddock House, erected around 1678, is an excellent example of one of the few brick houses built in New England during the 17th century. It is interesting to architects as one of the earliest brick houses built from the start with a depth of two rooms in each story. The Tufts House is also a transitional house, including features from both the medieval and Georgian styles. ~~Porthole windows from which to fire revivify in the mind the terrors of Indian attack.~~

HISTORY

The original Peter Tufts was born in England in 1617, coming to America about 1640 to settle in Malden. After Matthew Craddock's death in 1641, Tufts visited Medford and bought some of the Craddock land which was being sold in parcels. This Peter Tufts had three sons and six daughters, and it was the oldest son, also named Peter Tufts, commonly called Capt. Peter Tufts, who built the brick house so long known as the Craddock House. He seems to have gone to Medford with his father sometime before 1677, living in the old Craddock farmhouse. Captain Peter, with or without the help of his father, probably built the brick house and moved into it sometime between 1677 and 1680, and there reared a family of seven sons and seven daughters. Just before he died, Capt. Peter Tufts conveyed half of the brick house to his son, Peter, and his heirs. The tradition of division of the house into two parts was also practiced by a later owner, Ebenezer Cutter, who in 1750 set off the west end to his widow and the easterly end to his eldest son. The house has undergone some restoration from time to time but essentially remains as it was built.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York, 1922.
- Mann, "The Renovation of the Peter Tufts' House, Medford Historical Register, Vol. XXIX, No. 4, December, 1926.
- Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25

UTM REFERENCES

A

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3	2	7	6	8	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Peter Tufts House faces Riverside Avenue on the South and is enclosed by a fence on the other three sides. Its boundary is coterminous with the city lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968.
Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian

NAME / TITLE

Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

January 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

Landmark Nov 24 1968

Designated:

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 determined according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Boundary Commission
Steve ...
April 10, 1978 date

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

12/5/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER