

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 6 1987
date entered SEP - 8 1987See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Robert Fuller House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 3 Burrill Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Needham N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☒ N/A being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Georgina C. Haszard

street & number 3 Burrill Lane

city, town Needham N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number 650 High Street

city, town Dedham state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth of Massachusetts #5 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1977 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission, 80 Boylston Street

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Robert Fuller House, Needham, Massachusetts

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved date 1735

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robert Fuller, Needham, is located on the corner of Burrill Lane and Forest Street. The Robert Fuller House was built in 1707, a five bay, 2 1/2 story structure, and moved, in 1735, five hundred feet up Burrill Lane from its original site. After the move, ca. 1750, a lean-to was added to the house. The building is of wood construction, clapboarded with two areas of patterned shingle added some time in the late nineteenth century. The main block sits on a fieldstone-lined cellar hole which was prepared at the time of the move.

Some time after the house had been moved to its new location, Robert Fuller, Jr., the new owner, purchased 18 acres across Burrill Lane, built a barn and dug a well. The lot has now been reduced to an acre and the barn has been demolished. The house is set back approximately 15-20 feet from the road and is surrounded by shrubs and a few small trees. The area is now a suburban residential community.

The house was constructed in several phases; the major alterations took place after the house was moved to its present site. In 1750 the lean-to was added, in 1823 the house was sold to Abijah Greenwood. In 1861, Timothy Newell Smith painted a "portrait" of the Robert Fuller House. The painting shows how similar the house of 1861 is to the house of today; it also shows the farm buildings which have since been demolished.

The south, front, facade is five bays wide. The foundation is fieldstone and does not show above the ground. The main focus is on the centrally located door which has a concrete doorstep, a raking pediment, coach lamps on either side and an eagle above the door. An earlier, if not the original, door frame was a simple post and lintel construction as is shown in the painting by Timothy Newell Smith. The fenestration is 6/6 sash and is asymmetrical: on the second story on the left-hand side there is only one window whereas on the right side there are two.

The east facade is three bays deep and shows the profile of the original house and lean-to clearly. The first floor has three 6/6 sash windows. At an earlier date there was a small side door in the lean-to, which is shown in the 1861 painting but has since been closed off. The second story has one 6/6 sash, and there is one 2/2 sash in the lean-to. The attic has one 6/6 sash in the gable, is a decorative pattern of scalloped shingles.

The north, rear, facade is a one story lean-to with one 6/6 sash. The rest of the rear facade is obscured by a later 1 1/2 story ell, built in the late 19th or early 20th century, which is shingled, has 6/6 sash and an end chimney.

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Continuation sheet Robert Fuller House, Needham Item number 7

Page 1

The west facade has one 6/6 sash on the first story, two 6/6 sash on the second story, and a single 6/6 sash in the attic gable. The siding on this side at the attic level is also decorative scalloped shingles. There is also a 1-1/2-story ell of the same period as the one on the north facade. It is shingled and has 6/6 sash and an end chimney. It obscures most of the lean-to section of the main block. The roof is asphalt shingle and the main chimney, which replaced the original large chimney in 1902, is off-center and behind the ridge.

The house is a traditional double cell, single-pile plan with a central chimney. The staircase is in the central hall and is a half turn with winders. The 1750 lean-to created more space at the back of the house as did the later additions to the north and west facades.

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Robert Fuller House, Needham, Massachusetts

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 2

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Archaeology

Despite the fact the building was moved during the mid 18th century, there is potential for significant historical archaeological sites. Controlled testing could document the presence of no longer extant outbuildings, such as the barn, as well as occupation-related features (wells, privies, trash pits). Analysis of these data would help to document and detail the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized rural life in Needham during the 18th and 19th centuries.

8. Significance

Robert Fuller House, Needham, Massachusetts

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/
☒ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☒ other (specify) community development

Specific dates 1707, ca. 1750

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert Fuller House, Needham, retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Architecturally, the building is significant as an example of First Period construction and a demonstration of the evolution of building practices and styles in the colonial period: the main block of the house is the original 1707 structure with the 1750 lean-to. The rear and west ells were added in either the last part of the nineteenth century or the early part of the twentieth century. The later additions to the house are an indication of the adaptation of the house to fit the changing needs of the Fuller family for the first 130 years and after them the Greenwood family. The Robert Fuller house, the oldest house in Needham, fulfills Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Needham, originally part of the 1636 Dedham grant, was incorporated in 1711. By ca. 1712, a meetinghouse stood west of the Great Plain (at the intersection of Great Plains Avenue and present day Central and Nehoiden Streets). Before this meetinghouse was built, meetings and religious services were often held in the Robert Fuller House. Great Plains Avenue evolved early in the 18th century as a link from Dedham west to a growing village center in Needham. The Plain and the bank of the Charles River were the first areas settled, with scattered farmsteads. The village as a whole remained rather isolated and underdeveloped up to the eve of the Revolution.

The first Fullers to arrive in Needham, then part of Dedham, were Thomas and Hannah Fuller who came from England in 1635. They were the grandparents of Captain Robert Fuller. An active member of the town, Captain Robert Fuller was a Selectman for 16 years, Town Clerk for 16 years, Town Treasurer for 4 years and a signer of the 1710 Petition for separation from Dedham.

Captain Robert Fuller built the house in 1707 although it may not have been completed until 1713 at the time of his marriage to Mary Parker. In 1735, at the time of the marriage of his son, Robert Fuller Jr., to Sarah Eaton, Capt. Fuller moved the house 500 feet down the lane, gave it to his son and built another house for himself on the original site. The house remained in the Fuller family until 1823, when it was sold by auction to Abjiah Greenwood.

The house remained in the Greenwood family until 1896. During this time the Greenwoods made substantial changes and renovations to the house to suit their changing needs. It is possible that siding was replaced during this time as there are some decorative shingles on the east and west facades that probably date from this period.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clarke, George K., History of Needhamj, Mass. Cambridge, Mass., 1912.
Jones, Frederic A., Old Houses of Needham. Privately printed, 1953.
Files of the Needham historical Society.
Town Archives, needham Public library

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Natick, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 19 313880 4684630
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

see assessors' map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Rich, Vice-Chair, Needham Historical Commission, with Elizabeth White & Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 26, 1987

street & number 80 Boylston 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 X 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 Valerie A. Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 30, 1987

For NPS use only

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

for Shelburne
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-8-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Robert Fuller House, Needham

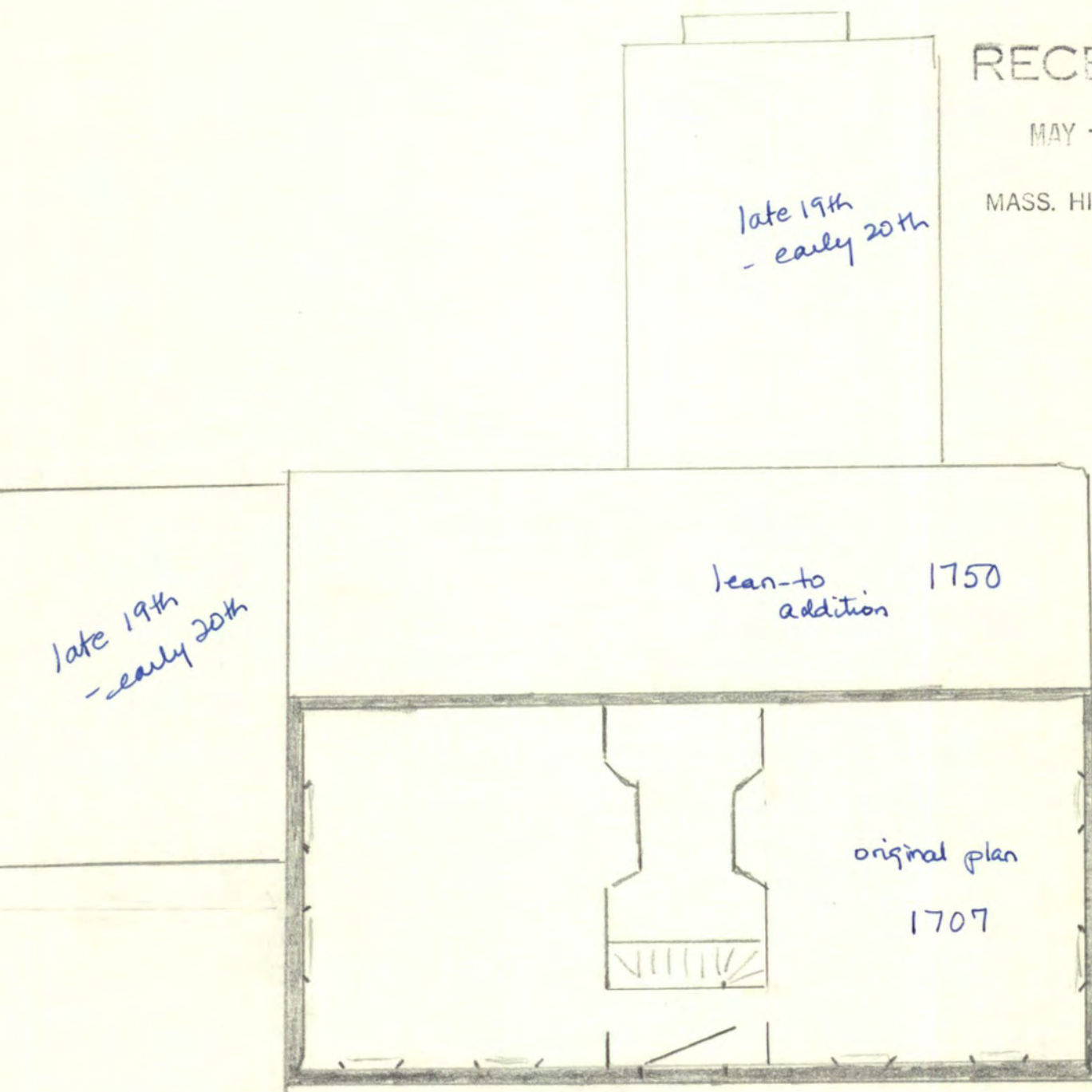
Although substantial changes and additions have been made to this house and Abbott Lowell Cummings describes it as being "thoroughly worked over," it still retains its identity as a First Period house. Abbott Lowell Cummings mentions one other First Period house in Needham, the Samuel Wilson House, which has been significantly altered. The additions to the Robert Fuller House do not obscure the First Period structure: a double-cell farmhouse with a central chimney and a lobby entrance. This form was as common as the one-cell end-chimney farmhouse. The fenestration still reflects the original pattern. The replacement of the casement windows occurred before 1861, as the windows in Timothy Newell Smith's painting are 6/6 sash.

The addition of the lean-to is a very common example of the expansion and adaptation of First Period houses to accommodate the needs of a growing family. The Robert Fuller House is a well preserved example of First Period architecture and the evolution of a house to meet the needs of first the Fullers and then the Greenwoods, both prominent families in the history of Needham.

RECEIVED

MAY - 3 1985

MASS. HIST. COMM.



Captain Robert Fuller House
3 Burrill Lane
Needham

Original house built 1707
" " moved 1735
Lean-to addition ca. 1750
Other wings added late 19th.
Central chimney removed 1902

87001476

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fuller, Robert, House
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. AUG 6 1987
Fed. Reg. Date: 9/2/88
Date Due: 9/4/87 - 9/20/87
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-8-87
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Robert Fuller House
3 Burrill Lane, Needham
Kenneth Watson, 1984
142 Hillcrest Rd., Needham
No. 1 of 23
View from Northeast

KENNETH E. WATSON
142 HILLCREST RD.
NEEDHAM, MA 02192

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Town Hall

Needham, MA 02192

3 Burrill Lane



Robert Fuller House
3 Burrill Lane, Needham MA
Kenneth Watson, 1984
142 Hillcrest Ave., Needham
No. 2 of ~~2~~ 3
View from Southeast

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Town Hall
Needham, MA 02192

NEEDHAM, MA 02192
142 HILLCREST RD.
KENNETH E. WATSON

30 BURRILL LANE



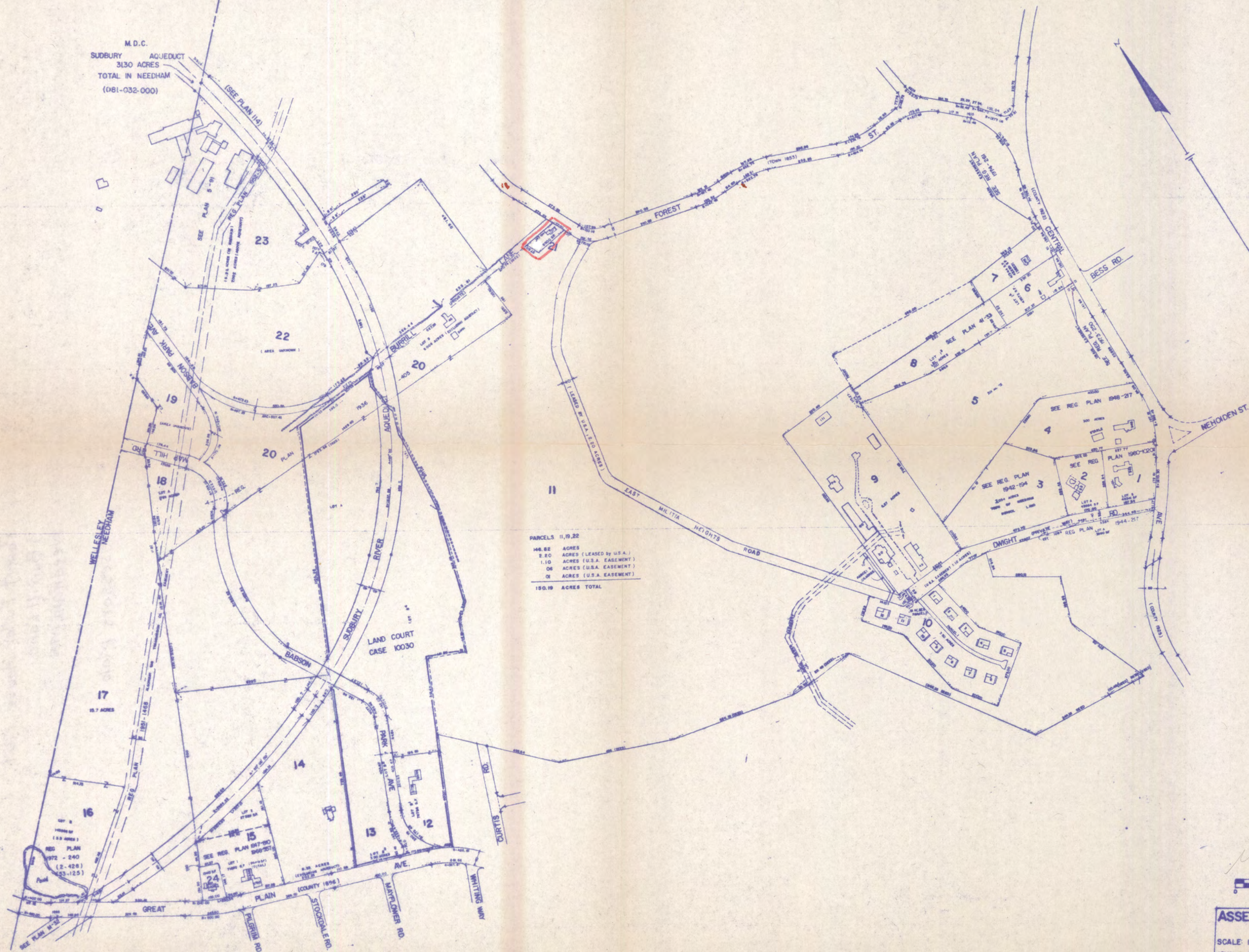
Robert Fuller House
Painted by Timothy Newell
Smith in 1861
(Needham Historical Society)
No. 3 of 3

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Town Hall

Needham, MA 02192

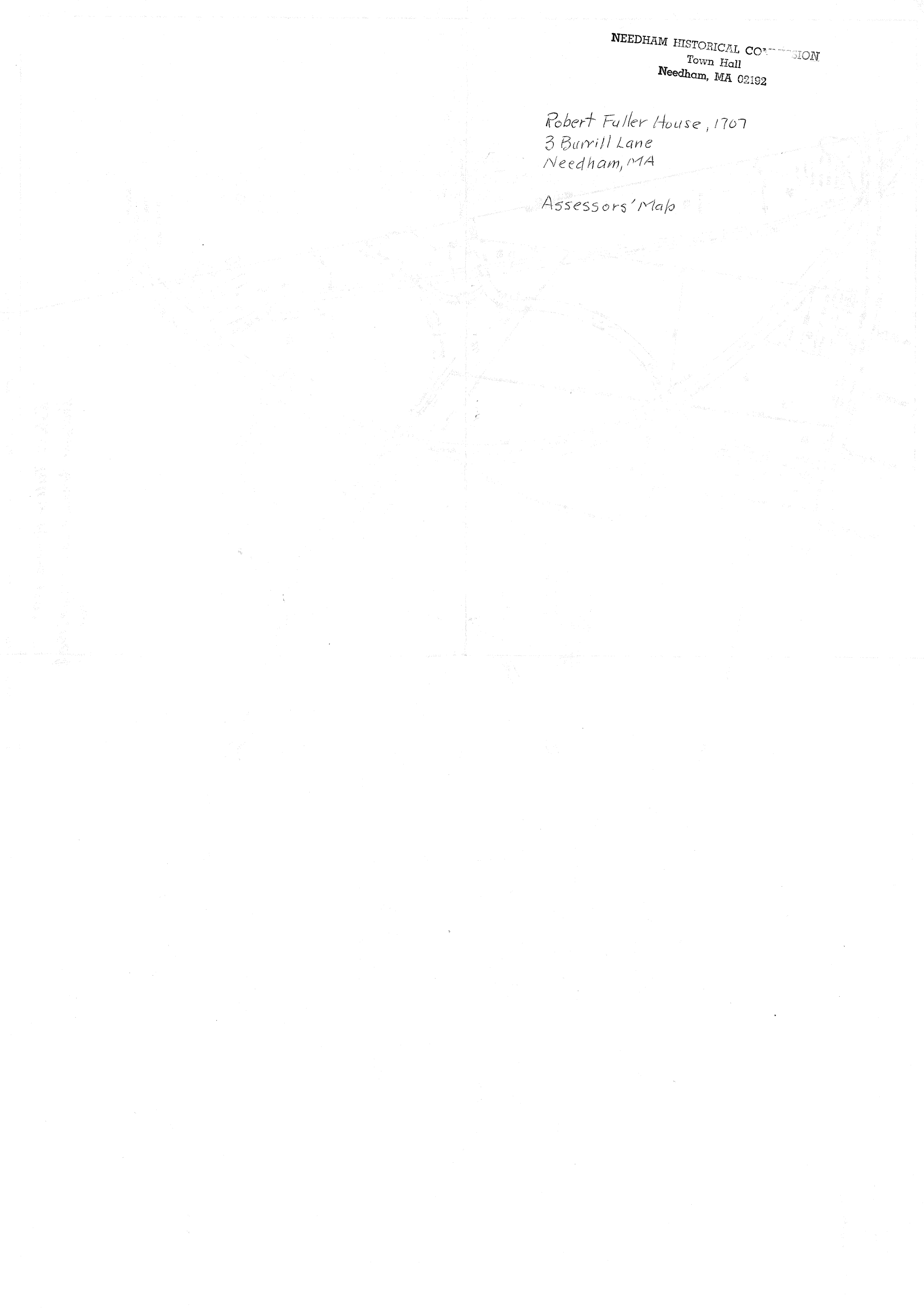
Robert Fuller House, 1701
Needham Historical Commission, 1984



NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Town Hall
Needham, MA 02192

Robert Fuller House, 1707
3 Burrill Lane
Needham, MA

Assessors' Map



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NATICK QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



CONVERSION
SCALES



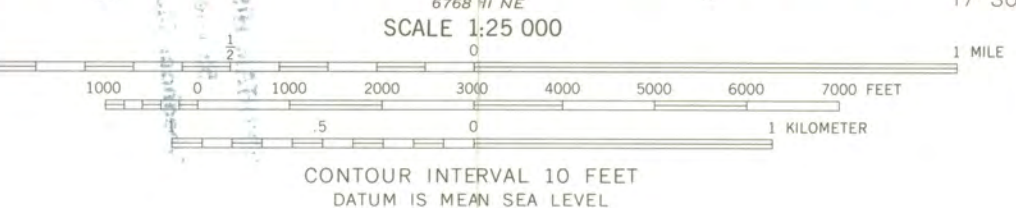
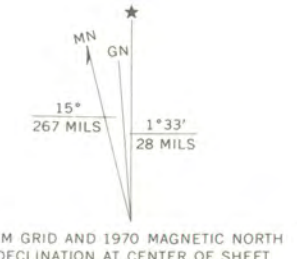
Feet	Meters
1	0.3048
2	0.6096
3	0.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Robert Fuller House
3 Burrill Lane
Needham, MA 02192

Quad: Natick
Scale 1:25000
UTM References
19/313880/4684680

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. 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,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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



NATICK, MASS.
N4215-W7115/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 IV SE-SERIES V814

U.S.G.S. Map

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
50 Clendon Road
Needham, Massachusetts 02192

Robert Fuller House

Needham Historical Commission
Needham, Mass.



P 685 548149

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

July 29, 1987

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston (Charlestown), Francis B. Austin House, 58 High Street
Needham, Robert Fuller House, 3 Burrill Lane
Peabody, First Unitarian Church, 7 Park Street

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure