

PH0143353

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1975

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John Wade House

AND/OR COMMON

Pierce Tavern (incorrect name used locally)

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER  
253 High StreetCITY, TOWN  
Medford

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
7thSTATE  
MassachusettsCODE  
025COUNTY  
MiddlesexCODE  
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  
Eugene and Ruth LammeSTREET & NUMBER  
253 High StreetCITY, TOWN  
Medford

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Massachusetts 02155**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Middlesex County Registry of DeedsSTREET & NUMBER  
208 Cambridge StreetCITY, TOWN  
CambridgeSTATE  
Massachusetts**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Massachusetts Historical CommissionCITY, TOWN  
BostonSTATE  
Massachusetts

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Wade House (c.1784-1794) is a central chimney, "Cape Cod" type house with one-and-one-half stories, situated at the foot of "Marm" Simonds Hill. To the west and north (rear) the house is bordered by rock outcroppings which rise between ten and fifteen feet above the ground level, providing the structure with a sheltered and dramatic setting.

The rectangular plan front portion of the house is set on a foundation of rock-faced granite blocks and covered by a medium pitched roof of asphalt shingles. The chimney, slightly off-center on the roof, has been faced with sheet metal painted white in the twentieth century. The five bay facade is of the symmetrical, central entrance type. At the corners of the facade and flanking the doorway are pilasters with molded capitals. At the doorway these pilasters frame a recessed panel surmounted by four pane sidelights on either side of the plain door jambs. The door is made up of two vertically set recessed panels, the centers of which are slightly raised in a manner characteristic of the Greek Revival. These decorative details of the facade seem to be the product of later renovations and may have occurred under the ownership of the carpenter Charles Caldwell in the 1830's to 1840's. The gabled endwalls of the house have three windows each, one centered in the gable, and one at each end of the first floor wall. The whole building is covered by clapboards painted white.

Centered on the rear wall of the house is an ell approximately two fifths the width of the facade of the house and two bays in length. Fenestration of this wing is irregular; however, changes in window level show that the room closer to the main body of the house is at the same floor level as the front house, while the second room is at ground level, apparently serving as a shed. This ell is set on a foundation of brick and stone with no facings and is covered by a pitched roof of asphalt shingles. A small chimney rises between the two rooms of the ell, centered on the ridge of the roof. On the east side of the ell, in the corner created by its junction with the front of the house, is a small-paned glazed sunporch. This porch extends to the east end wall of the front of the house and one third of the length of the ell northward. Extending across the rear of the roof of the front part of the house is a shed dormer which is slightly concealed by its junction with the roof of the rear ell. Entrances to the rear ell occur on the east side of the ell in the first and second structural bay, and on the west end of the north wall of the front of the house.

With the exception of the shed dormer on the back of the house, and the creation of a terrace on the west side of the ell requiring the cutting of a door on the north wall of the front of the house, the building seems to be unaltered since its Greek Revivalization in the mid-nineteenth century.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1784 - 1794

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Wade House is one of two eighteenth century "Cape Cod" houses remaining in Medford. Its siting on a deep lot with many outcroppings and sudden elevation changes preserves much of the topography of the area which has been obscured elsewhere by twentieth century development.

Between 1784 and 1794 John Wade, a tanner, either leased or agreed to buy a small piece of land from a one-acre parcel owned by Abijah Usher, a cardmaker. During this time Wade built a house on the land and seems to have lived in it from the time of completion. The actual sale of the land was not recorded until 1799 when Wade bought it from Jeremiah Clapp who had purchased the Usher property in 1794 and honored the earlier agreement between Usher and Wade.

At the time of the construction of the house, Wade was one of a number of tanners and leather dressers living and working on the north side of High Street between modern 247 High Street and the junction of High and Woburn Streets. Among this group were Jonathan Brooks, John and Samuel Albree, all tanners in the 18th century, and Andrew Kittell and John Leath, tanners and cordwainers in the early 19th century.

The house remained in Wade's possession until his death in 1821 after which his estate sold the property to John Bishop. Bishop's son Nathaniel acquired the remainder of the original Usher parcel (including the neighboring 18th century gambrel cottage at 247 High Street) and sold it to Charles Caldwell, a local carpenter, in 1837.

It has been thought locally that the John Wade House was at one time part of the "Pierce Tavern." Property titles from the 18th century indicate that the property was never used as a tavern, but that the whole one-acre parcel owned by Abijah Usher either abutted the tavern property or was a near neighbor.



Property Wade, John, House

Middlesex

State Mass.

Working Number 6.4.75.1040

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1

Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK cm  
6.5.75

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

poor statement of significance

Accept  
Elbowch  
6-13-75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

Accept  
M. Barnes  
6 Jun 75

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory       

Review       

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
6.17.75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

[Signature]  
JUN 17 1975

National Register Write-up       

Send-back       

Entered JUN 18 1975

Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Re-submit       

INT:2106-74



9  
8  
Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-7-71)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1975

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John Wade House

AND/OR COMMON  
Pierce Tavern

**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

PHOTO NO

South facade and east elevation of John Wade House, 253 High Street

#1081

#1081

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1975

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John Wade House

AND/OR COMMON Same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY/TOWN Medford \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

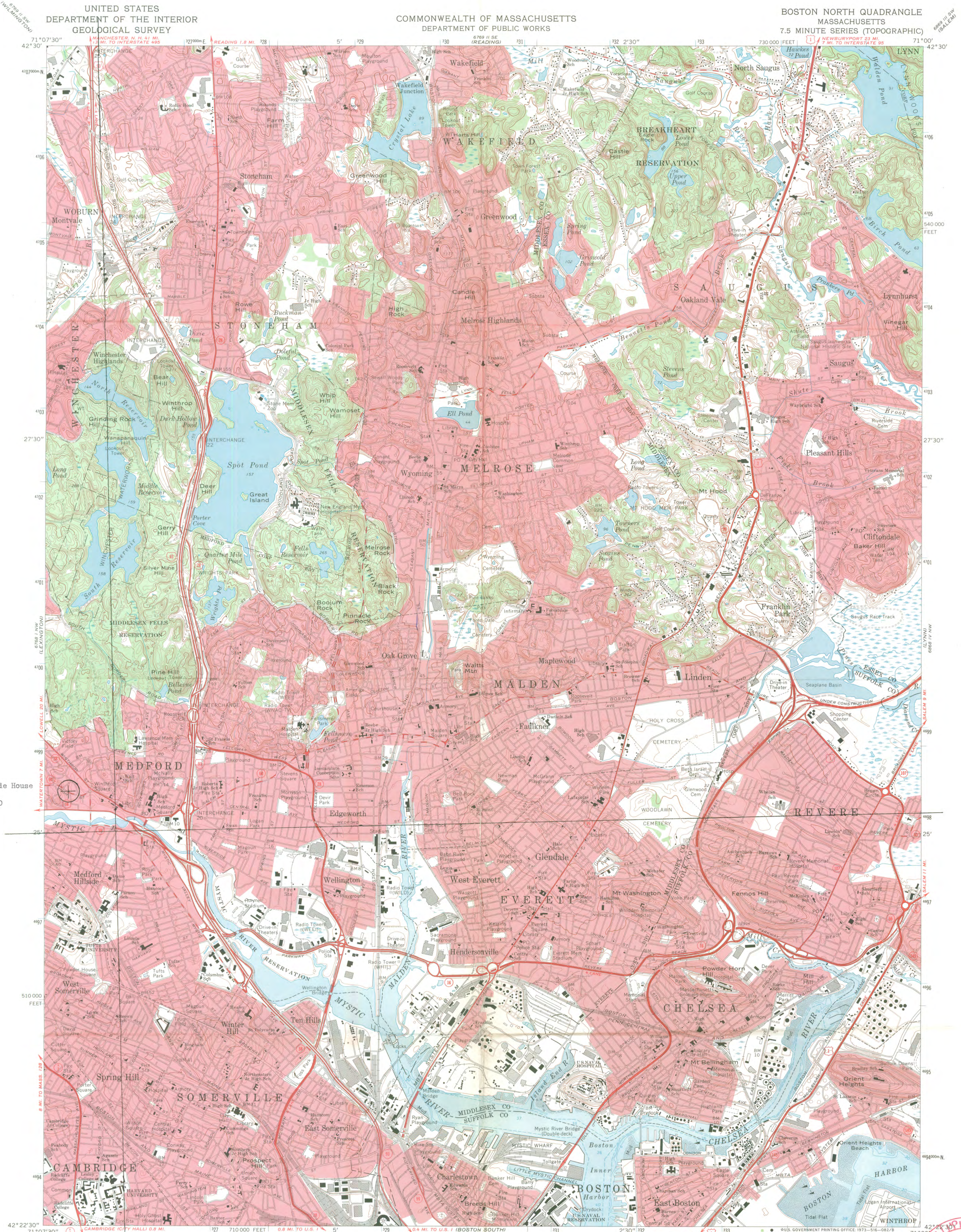
SOURCE U.S.G.S., Boston north, Mass quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1971

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

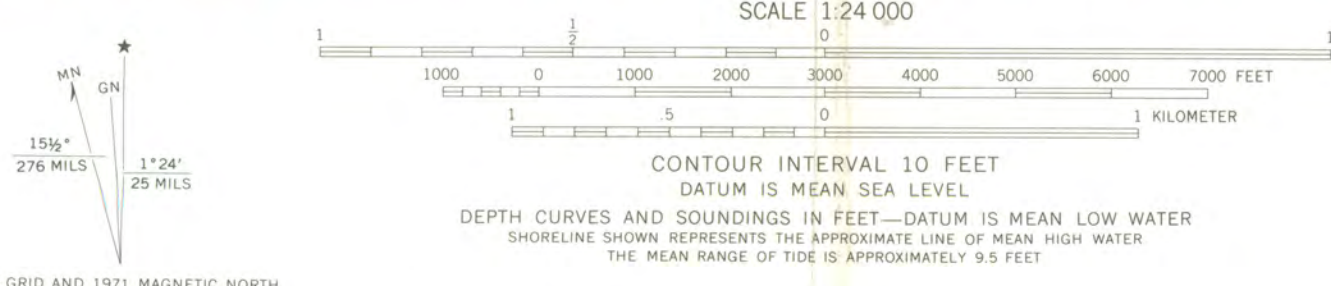
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



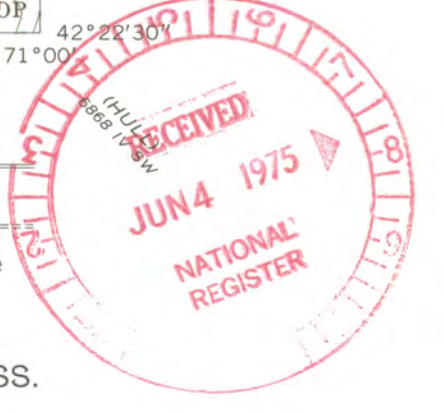
Medford, John Wade House  
UTM reference:  
19/325460/4698480

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



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

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
N4225-W7100/7.5  
1971  
AMS 6768 1 NE-SERIES B914



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of the Secretary*

*Massachusetts Historical Commission*

Paul Guzzi

*Secretary of the Commonwealth*

*40 Beacon Street*

*Boston, Massachusetts 02108*

727-8470



28 May 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief  
Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

CERTIFIED MAIL  
APPORTIONMENT WARRANT  
NOMINATION

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find four National Register nominations for the following properties. These have been resubmitted as individual properties, instead of the Judkins Square Historic District which was returned on April 18, 1975.

1. Medford, John Wade House
2. Medford, Charles Brooks House
3. Medford, Jonathan Brooks House
4. Medford, Jonathan Fletcher House

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

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions plan to apply for FY '76 grants-in-aid. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski  
Survey Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW:pjj  
Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 18 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wade, John, House	Medford Middlesex County
Whitaker-Clary House	New Salem Franklin County
Brooks, Charles, House	Medford Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald	Executive Director
Hon. Silvio O. Conte	Massachusetts Historical Commission
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region	40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 6/19/75

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/21/77  
Reviewer INITIALS: Dkj  
NR DOE June 18, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Wade, John, House

OTHER NAMES:

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: 253 High Street

CITY, TOWN: Medford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th

STATE: Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

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: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7  
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8  
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

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

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- same

## SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, RELIGION, entertainment  
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC, ECONOMICS, LAW/Gov't/politics, SCIENCE, health  
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, LITERATURE, MILITARY, recreation  
ARCHITECTURE - 4, ENGINEERING, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, settlement  
ART, EXPLORATION, MUSIC, TRANSPORTATION, socio/cultural  
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY - 13, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, OTHER (SPECIFY), urban & commun  
COMMUNICATIONS, INVENTION, planning

## Claims

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

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Georgian Greek Revival elements

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

John Wade - built house; early resident

events

institutional

DATES:

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

1784-1794

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

c. 1830s + 1840s - Greek Revival elements added

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/2

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

✓ Frame, Clapboard siding; granite foundation; 1 1/2 stories; L-shaped; central chimney; front center paneled entrance with sidelights, <sup>canopy and doorway</sup> pilasters, ~~articulate cornice~~ <sup>at card porch;</sup> Greek Revival alterations, c. 1835.

~~Georgian Cape Cod 2 remaining in Medford~~

SIGNIFICANCE:

(maximum two sentences)

✓ Example of vernacular "Cape Cod" house with Greek Revival alterations; one of 2 ~~the~~ 2 remaining dwellings of its type in Medford.