

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received FEB 8 1980

date entered APR 1 1980

ref no 80000647

**1. Name**

historic Rev. Stephen Badger Houseand/or common Badger House

**2. Location**

street & number 87 Eliot St. not for publicationcity, town Natick vicinity of congressional district 10thstate Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

**3. Classification**

|                                                 |                                             |                                              |                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Status</b>                                | <b>Present Use</b>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress    | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted     | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted   | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|                                                 |                                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no       | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|                                                 |                                             |                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. W.A. (Ruth C.) Peinzestreet & number 87 Eliot St.city, town South Natick vicinity of state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deedsstreet & number Massachusetts Ave.city, town Cambridge state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets  
title of the Commonwealthhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commissioncity, town Boston state Mass.

## 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 Reverend Stephen Badger House is located on a one-and-one-quarter acre parcel at the northwest corner of Eliot Street (formerly the Sherborn Road) and Badger Avenue. The Badger House stands approximately 100' north of Eliot Street and 175' north of the Charles River. Prior to the late 1940's, the house was part of a 70-acre farm, most of which is currently owned by real estate developers and is covered with second-growth woods. The property's original barn remained until July 4, 1938 when it was burned.

The Badger House is a two-and-one-half story main house with a one-story rear ell, both of which are of timber frame construction covered with clapboarding. The house's corners are trimmed with plain boards. The main house is nearly square in plan with two interior chimneys rising in symmetrical locations through the side slopes of the house's hip roof. The house's facade (south elevation) is symmetrical consisting of a center entry flanked by two windows on each side at the first story and five windows across the second story. The entry contains a door of four raised panels set beneath a five-pane transom and between panelled pilasters. These pilasters support a partially broken entablature, a dentilled cornice and a pediment. This entry was added to the house in 1949 and is made up of antique materials, selected to approximate the entry shown in ca 1870 photograph of the house; the house's earlier (perhaps original) entry was removed around 1880 when a Victorian double door was added. All facade windows contain restored 12/12 sash set in projecting boxed frames; first-story windows have moulded caps, while the heads of second-story windows are set in the base of the cornice. Centered on the facade's roof is a gabled dormer containing an 8/8 window. This dormer was restored in 1949, based on the ca 1870 photograph. Around 1880, the house's original dormer was replaced by a central gable, which was removed by the present owner.

The house's east elevation is symmetrical, containing two windows at both the first and second stories. These windows are identical to facade windows at corresponding stories. The house's west elevation is identical to the east elevation, except that it has an additional 1/1 window set slightly off-center at the first story. The house's rear elevation (north) is asymmetrically arranged, its western third being blocked by the rear ell. Moving east to west the first story of the north elevation contains a 12/8 window, a small six-pane light, a door with a shed-hood and a 12/12 window. The two larger windows are set in frames like those of the first-story facade windows. At the second story are the widely spaced windows, each of which is identical to the second-story windows of the facade.

The rear ell is rectangular in plan and is enclosed by a pitched roof. The ell's east elevation contains a single window at its south end and a rectangular garage door at its north end. The north elevation contains a four-pane light near its west end. The west elevation contains a small shed addition and a single window. At its southwest corner, the rear ell projects slightly beyond the west elevation of the main house; on the small exposed portion of its south elevation, the ell has a single 1/1 window.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                            | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications                 | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     |
|                                               |                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                         |                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)    |

---

**Specific dates** 1753      **Builder/Architect** Builder Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reverend Stephen Badger House possesses integrity of location, design, materials and historical associations with the settlement history of Natick. The house with its twin chimneys, high hip roof, doorway and other details is an excellent local example of eighteenth-century domestic architecture.

Altered around 1880 by the addition of a central facade gable, double doors, new chimney caps, a porch, 2/2 sash and other Victorian details, the house was restored to its pre-Victorian appearance in 1949. Details for this restoration were based on a ca. 1870 photograph of the house, showing it in its earliest known form.

The house's original owner, Stephen Badger, was the last of Natick's Indian missionaries. Founded as a 6,000 acre grant at the request of Rev. John Eliot of Roxbury in 1650, Natick was intended to serve as a permanent settlement for Indians who had been converted to Christianity. For nearly 75 years, town affairs were conducted by Indians and records kept in the Indian language. Supported by the "Society for the Propagation of the Faith Among the Indians," Eliot served as the community's minister until his death in 1690. Subsequently, Daniel Takawampait conducted the affairs of the town until his death in 1716; he was succeeded by Reverend Oliver Peabody in 1721. Peabody died in 1752 and was replaced by Stephen Badger in March of 1753, when he was allotted Lot #25 by the Indian Proprietors. At this time, the Harvard Yearbook comiserated with Badger's wife for "having married a poor parson and (for) having to live in an unfinished house and with only Indians for neighbors." During Peabody's ministry, white settlers had begun to purchase remaining lots in the community. Gradually, white settlers took over town affairs and attempted to move the Meeting House from its original site at the junction of Union, Pleasant and Eliot Streets to the geographic center of the Natick grant. Throughout Badger's ministry, tension existed between the wishes of the town's white settlers and Badger's obligations both to the remaining Indians and the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Among the Indians" in England.

The Reverend Stephen Badger House property is of potential archaeological importance due to Badger's association with Natick's Christian Indian settlement. Should documentation exist which suggests that Christian Indians lived in the Badger household, then ethnic and cultural differentiations might be seen in the material cultural remains of the European and aboriginal residents.

Briefly, at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Badger was appointed to the town's Committee of Correspondence; however, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, Badger suffered the loss of income from his Charlestown property and from the "Society for the Propagation of the Faith Among the Indians." Further, he was accused of being a Tory and denied support as the town's minister. After the Revolution, Badger failed to recover his previous position in the community and the town's Indian population declined, allowing the Meeting House (and town center) to be moved from its original location.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Natick, by Oliver Bacon

Yearbook of Harvard College for 1750-51

Letters written by Rev. Stephen Badger, now owned by the Museum of the Natick Historical Society

Also miscellaneous papers owned by the above museum.

## 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property 1 1/4

Quadrangle name Natick

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 9 | 3       | 0 | 8 | 7 | 8        | 0 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Please refer to the attached map. The boundaries are delineated in red.

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

state Massachusetts code county Middlesex code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant with Ruth Peinze  
Natick Historical District Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1979

street & number 294 Washington St. 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

☐ 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia Westowski 1/22/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

for Brown Ave. Dargatz  
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/1/80

Attest: Patrick Andrews

date 4/1/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 1 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8.

PAGE 2.

After Badger's death in 1803, his second wife whom he had married in 1790 remained in the house until 1822. The property was later sold with its 70-acre farm to Oliver Bacon, a wood-pump manufacturer, who left the residue of his estate, including the house, to build a "fireproof" library building, now known as the Bacon Free Library, in South Natick.

Property

Badger, Rev. Stephen House

State

Ma. - Middlesex

Working Number

2-8-80 434

## TECHNICAL

Photos

7

Maps

2

CONTROL

Built in 1753 this house is significant for architecture and social/humanitarian - HISTORIAN  
it was the home of the last Indian missionary at Natick (a town established for Christian  
Indians). the 2 1/2 story five bay frame house is an excellent example of 18th century  
domestic architecture. though the house was altered in the 1880's and restored in the 1940's  
it retains its basic integrity of design, feeling, and association. 1 1/4 acres - accept  
Patrick Andrews  
4/1/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2.3.81

Send-back

Entered

APR 1 1980

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Elliot Street  
Natick, Mass.

*Middlesex Co.*

Stephen Evers 1978  
Natick Historical Museum

Photo #1 of 7  
Facade facing north

APR 1 1980

FEB 8 1980

BADGER HOUSE - 1978 (Natick, Ma.)

*Evers  
ation*



Photo #2

Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Eliot St. *Middlesex Co.*  
Natick, Mass.

Stephen Evers

1978

Photo #2 of 7  
Southeast view

APR 1 1980

FEB 8 1980



Photo #3

Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Eliot St.  
Natick, Mass.

*Middlesex Co.*

Stephen Evers

1978

Photo #3 of 7  
Southwest view

APR 1 1980 FEB 8 1980



Photo #4

Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Eliot St. *Middlesex Co*  
Natick, Mass.

Stephen Evers 1978

Photo #4 of 7  
East view

APR 1 1980

FEB 8 1980



Photo #5: REV. STEPHEN BADGER HOUSE - 1978 (Natick, Ma.)  
Photo credit: Stephen Evers  
View: North Elevation

Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Eliot St.  
Natick, Mass.

*Middlesex Co.*

Stephen Evers

1978

Photo #5 of 7  
North facade

FEB 8 1980

APR 1 1980



Photo #6

Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Eliot St.  
Natick, Mass.

*Middlesex Co.*

Stephen Evers

1978

Photo #6 of 7  
West side

APR 1 1980

FEB 8 1980



Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Elliot Street  
Natick, Mass.

*Middlesex Co-*

Stephen Evers 1978  
Natick Historical Museum

Photo #7 of 7  
North elevation facing south

APR 1

1980

FEB 8 1980

Reverend Stephen Badger House  
87 Elliot Street  
Natick, Mass.  
Assessor's Map



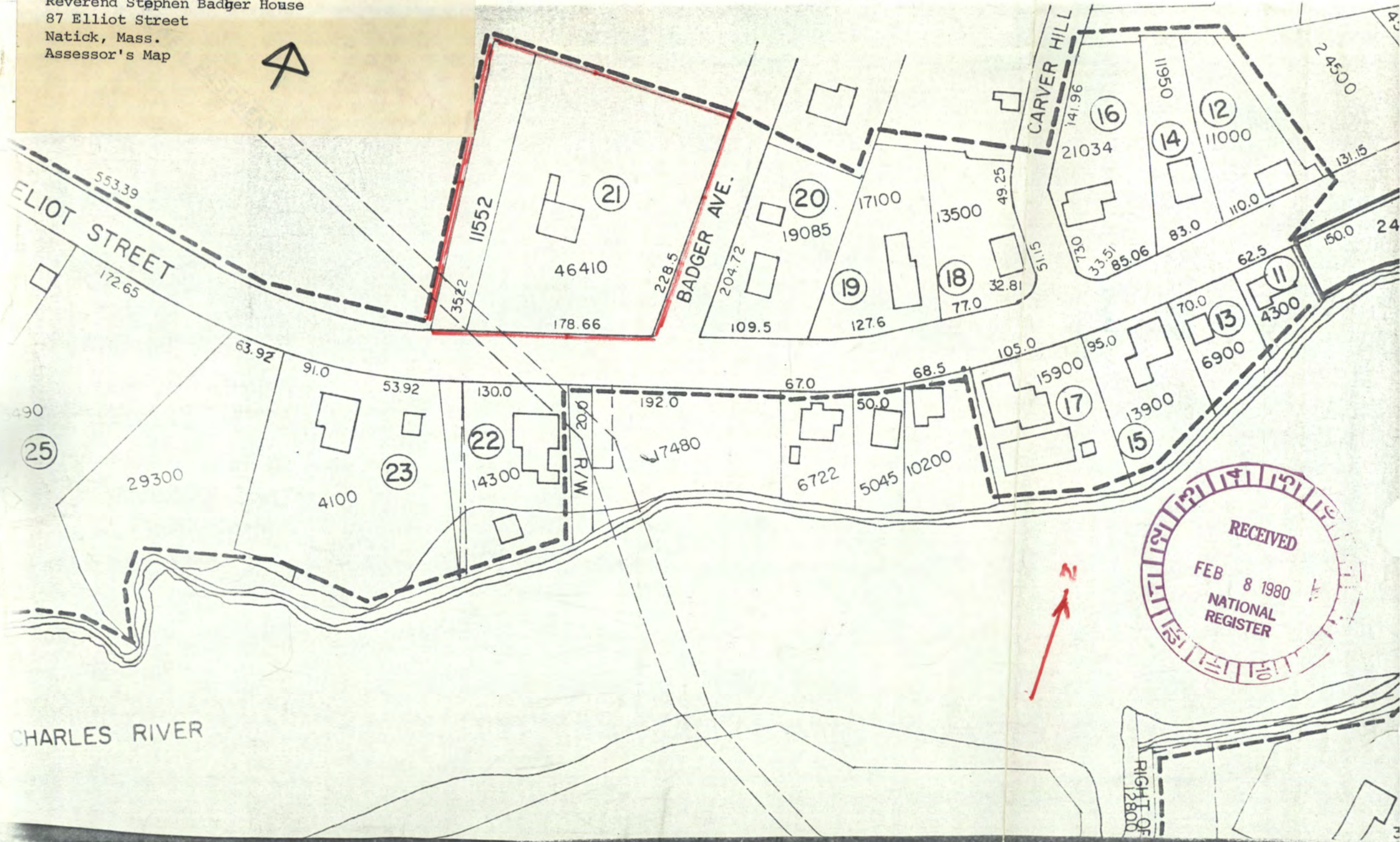
ELLIOT STREET

BADGER AVE.

CARVER HILL



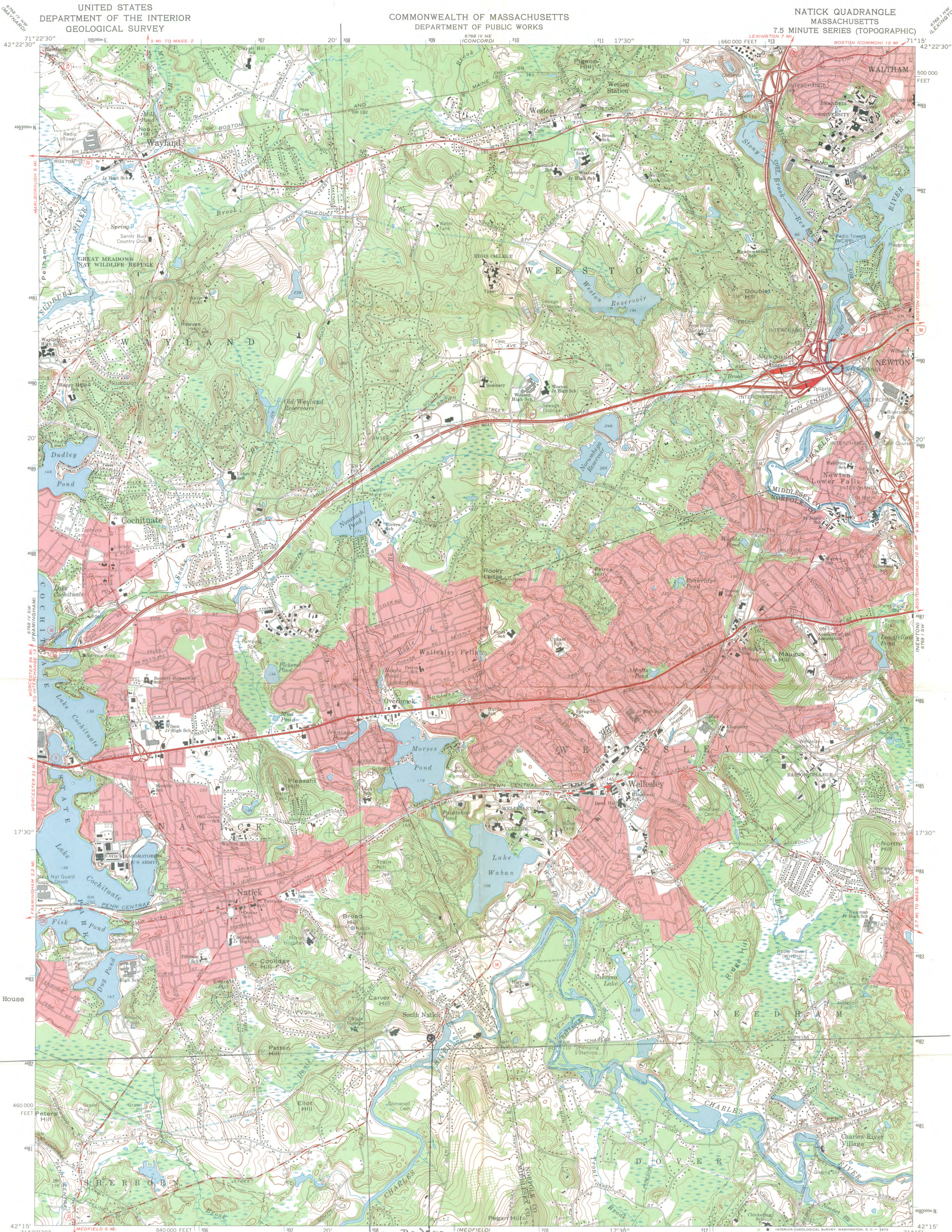
CHARLES RIVER





APR 1 1980

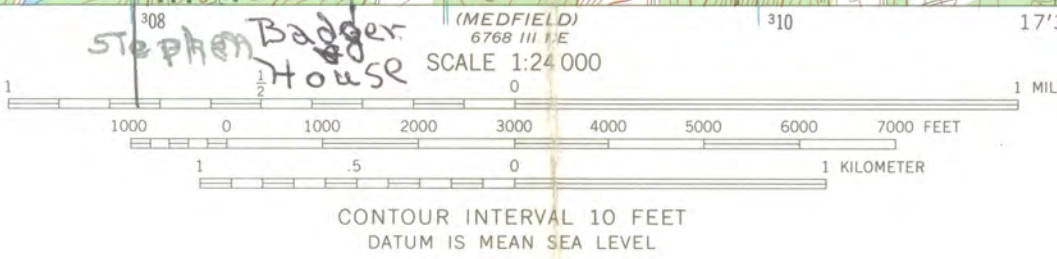
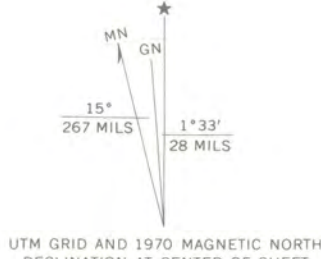




Rev. Stephen Badger House  
87 Elliot Street  
Natick, Mass.

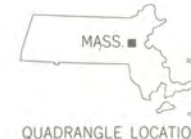
UTM REFERENCES:  
19/308780/4682130

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 ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
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, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
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



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

*Yellow*  
*Shull*  
*2-22-80*

TO : Hope T. Moore, Associate Director for Cultural Programs      DATE: February 22, 1980

FROM : Carol D. Shull, Acting Keeper of the National Register

SUBJECT: Pending National Register nominations in Weston, Sudbury, Concord, Natick, and Framingham, Massachusetts

For the towns listed above, two nominations are currently being reviewed by the National Register staff. They are the Reverend Stephen Badger House, 87 Eliot Street, Natick, and the First Baptist Church, 1013 Worcester Road, Framingham.

Parkman Tavern, 20 Powder Mill Road, Concord, is the only property located in any of the above mentioned towns which was listed in the National Register from January 1, 1979, to the present. Those properties which were listed in the National Register prior to January 1, 1979, are underlined in the enclosed Federal Register publication.

Since January 1, 1979, one property has been determined eligible for entry in the National Register. That property is the Bacon Free Library and Museum, 58 Eliot Street, Natick.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know.

bcc: Hope T. Moore, Assoc. Director for C. P.  
FHR: S Harris:mjd      343-6401      2/22/80  
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR



5010-110

*Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan*

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 1 1980

Name

Location

Badger, Rev. Stephen, House

Natick  
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patrick L. Weslowski  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 4/8/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

10/22

Reverend Stephen Badger House  
Natick - Middlesex Co. Mass.

listed April 1, 1980 - sent to Congress 4/10/80

Please send a copy of notice of listing to Candace  
Jenkins with the Mass. SHPO office.

Thanks  
Patuck

Jenkins  
10/31/80  
PJB