

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

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

For NPS use only

received **OCT 27 1983**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Moses Ellis House

and/or common Moses Ellis House

2. Location

street & number 283 Pleasant Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Framingham

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> 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 David and Carol Reed, Procorp, Inc.

street & number 283 Pleasant Street

city, town Framingham

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

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 #551

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description Moses Ellis House, Framingham, MA

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Moses Ellis House faces south on Pleasant Street in central Framingham just northwest of the town's commercial/civic area (Irving Square Historic District and Concord Square Historic District; National Register 1982 & 1983). Pleasant Street probably served as a native trail and certainly acted as an important route in the 17th and 18th centuries. The house itself is slightly elevated on a treed 2.3 acre lot.

The Moses Ellis House was designed in 1866 in the academic Italianate style by prominent local architect Alexander Rice Esty. It is square in plan with a projecting central entry pavillion and porte-cochere; to the rear it is extended by an ell. Resting on a full granite basement, the house rises two stories to a low hipped roof. The exterior is sheathed in clapboard with molded belt courses demarcating a watertable and the division between first and second stories. Major decorative elements include boldly scaled window pediments, the arched and paneled porte-cochere, a wide frieze lit by small windows and pediments breaking through the overhanging cornice on the facade and side elevations. Windows, unless otherwise specified, contain original 6/6 double hung sash. The exterior siding and trim all appear to be original.

The three bay facade is symmetrically organized around a projecting entry pavillion which breaks through the roof in a triangular pediment. A one story porte-cochere extending out from the pavillion is supported by squared, paneled columns and has flat topped arches at its sides and screening the entry, and a semi-circular arch on the front; all arches are molded and accented with keystones. The recessed entry is surmounted by an elliptical fan. The pavillion contains single windows at each story on its side elevations and is also flanked by single windows on the main body of the house. At the first story these have heavily molded caps and at the second story they have triangular pedimented caps. The exception is the central second story window which has a segmental arched cap and contains 8/8 sash. The attic frieze is lit by single small square windows on the main body and a larger, more elaborate segmental arched window in the gable.

The four bay east elevation is treated in a similar fashion to the facade. First story windows have identical enframements but are elongated and headed by glazed transoms. The outer second story windows are pedimented as are those of the facade but a triple window which may be a replacement occupies the central bays. The three bay west elevation follows the facade treatment; the only alteration is a metal fire escape added to the southern half of this elevation. The rear elevation has a two story ell and one story garage attached.

The exterior appearance of the building has remained largely unaltered, except for the removal of a one story four bay wide porch along the eastern facade with a second story enclosed central bay. A fire escape has been added to the western facade. The circular driveway indicated in 1900-1912 photographs and a 1875 Atlas map has been maintained. The barn which stood on the property until it burned in 1950, has not been replaced. A parking lot has been added to the rear of the building.

The interior has been rehabilitated maintaining the integrity, character, and aesthetics of the original spaces. Bathrooms and a kitchen have been added, walls and doorways have been moved, especially on the second floor, and two safes added in the 1950's remain. The third floor has remained largely unaltered; ten small rooms, which may have

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date entered:

Continuation sheet Moses Ellis House

Item number 7

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served as dormitories when the building was used as a school, remain intact. The stairway hall on this floor has been enclosed, originally it may have been open. The interior walls are of lath and plaster construction. Trim, doorways, stairs, and fireplaces remain intact. Cornices in most of the rooms have been removed. The stairway in the entry hall and the fireplaces are of special note. The stair has an elaborate Victorian newel as well as ornate balusters. The entry hall walls are wainscotted and this treatment is carried up the stair wall. Other staircases are less elaborate; a rear first story stair is smaller, less ornate and the stair leading to the third floor is also less elaborated than the main staircase but both are still intricate. The fireplaces are all built into projecting chimney breasts. The fireplaces originally all had mirrored overmantels, only the one in the west front room remains. The fireplace in that room has a rectangular opening with Victorian bracketed trim supporting a mantel shelf. The mirrored overmantel has a Victorian pediment and surrounds. The dining room was originally wainscotted; the fireplace in this room bears two still life representations of ducks and foliage. The library, or west rear room, fireplace originally had two dog busts supporting the mantel shelf; as it appears today this is also a rectangular opening Victorian style mantelpiece. The fourth fireplace is also Victorian in character, similar to that in the west front room.

8. Significance

Moses Ellis House, Framingham, MA

| 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input 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 1866 to 1871 **Builder/Architect** Alexander Rice Esty

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Moses Ellis House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship as well as association with several locally prominent people. Designed c.1866 it also embodies the distinctive characteristics of the academic Italianate style as applied to a wood frame residence. Thus it meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Moses Ellis was a wealthy Boston and San Francisco merchant turned gentleman farmer. Born in Dedham, he moved to California in 1850. His activities there are unclear at present, but it appears that he spent most of his time in San Francisco and perhaps accumulated his fortune there. He returned to New England in 1866, settling in Framingham where he remained one of the town's wealthiest man until his death in 1910.

Upon arrival in Framingham, Ellis purchased the 200 acre Buckminster Homestead at auction. He immediately demolished the 1768 house which had also served as a tavern and built the present house shortly thereafter (appears on 1871 map).

Ellis chose local architect Alexander Rice Esty to design his new house, perhaps upon the advice of his friend George Weeks who had employed Esty for his house in 1865. Alexander Rice Esty (b.1826, d.1881) is perhaps best known for his public works. Esty began his career by drawing the buildings around Framingham Center Common. He was apprenticed to Richard Bond of Boston and later worked in the office of Gridley J.F. Bryant. He opened his own practice in the early 1850's. He was a leading church architect in the 1850's and 1860's; he was responsible for the widest use of the Upjohn Church type in the Boston area. In 1880, he was appointed to a committee to design an addition to the U.S. Congress to better accommodate the Library of Congress. The plan from this design was used but the Gothic exterior was changed to a Classical scheme. Esty also served on a committee to design the expansion of the Massachusetts State House. Known residential works by Esty include: The George Weeks House (1865), the William Mellon House (1865), and Nuttingholme (Wallace Nutting's home—no longer in existence) all in Framingham and all in the Italianate style.

Moses Ellis Jr. sold the property upon his father's death, for \$1 to James C. Flagg, headmaster of the Danforth School. The property was sold in 1911; by the end of that year Moses Ellis Jr. stipulated that the building was to be modernized, with plumbing, electricity, public water, etc. At this time Mr. Flagg moved the Danforth School from Nuttingholme to the Moses Ellis house. The catalogue for the school indicates that this was a "country life" boarding and day school for boys under 15 preparing for New England's high schools. The house was again sold in 1919 to the Young Orchard Co. The next owners were also a landscape and garden company. During the 1950's, a cotton machinery company operated from the building and most of the land was sold for house lots.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Danforth School Catalogue. Framingham: 1912.

Framingham Gazette. December 31, 1910.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.3 acres

Quadrangle name Framingham

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached assessor's map: Sheet 287, block 1, lots 1 and 1J

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Planner Director with Silvia Sabadell-Johnson

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1983

street & number 294 Washington 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 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 Peter Woslawski

title State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 10/19/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/29/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Mosses Ellis House

Item number

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1

Although presently unevaluated, the land around the Moses Ellis House should be considered as potentially sensitive for the presence of historic archaeological remains associated with the Ellis family occupation and the earlier Buckminster Tavern which was located nearby. Any subsurface remains of structures, landscaping, and cultural material which exist have to potential contribute to our knowledge of the past.

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Maps and Atlases from 1780 to 1930 of Town of Framingham. Framingham Historical Society.

Kendall, Frank A. Alexander Rice Esty. An unpublished report, 1934.

Kushner, Suzette A. Alexander Rice Esty. Paper for American Architecture class,
May 1978, unknown institution.

South Middlesex County Registry Deed and Probate records.

Temple, J.S. History of Framingham. Framingham: Town of Framingham, 1887.

Tucci, Douglass Shand. Built in Boston City and Suburb. Boston: New York Graphic
Society, 1978.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ellis, Moses, House
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. OCT 27 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 11/24/83 - 12/11/83

Action: ACCEPT 11/29/83

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- 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 | Status | Present Use |
| | Public Acquisition | Accessible | |

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 | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input 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

- 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: _____





Moses Ellis House
283 Pleasant Street
Framingham
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

Photo by Silvia Sabadell-Johnson
37 Salem End Road
Framingham, MA
1982
Negative with photographer

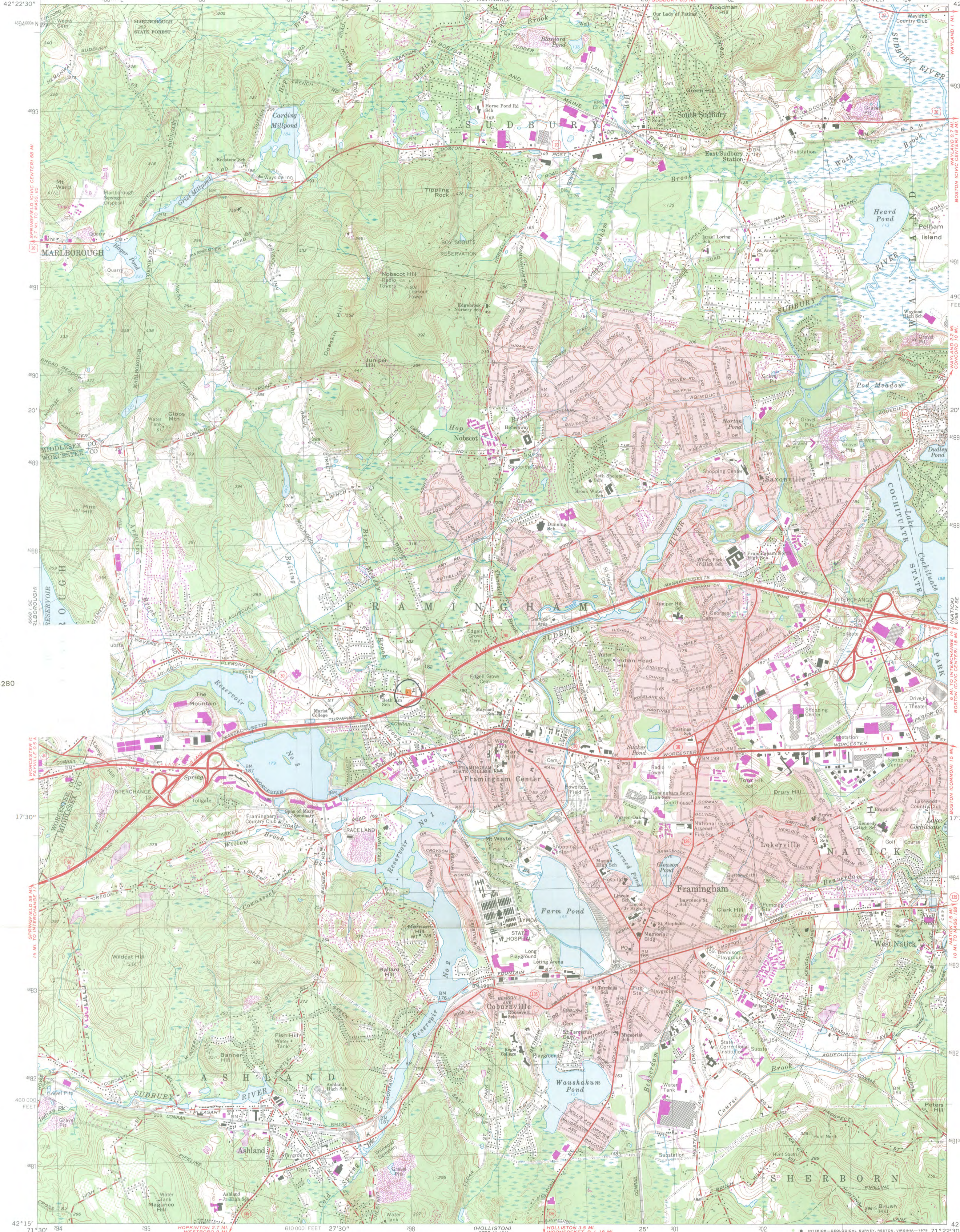
View of main entry facade

Photo 1 of 1



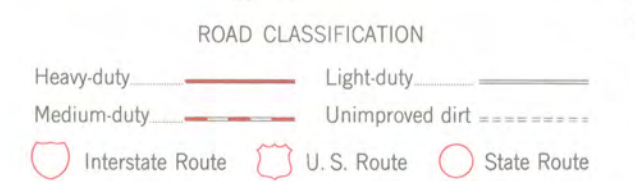
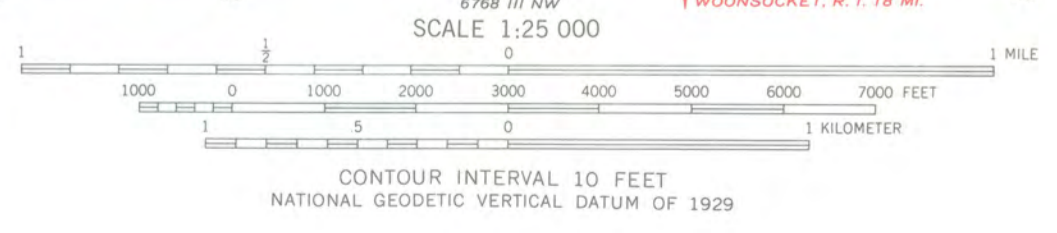
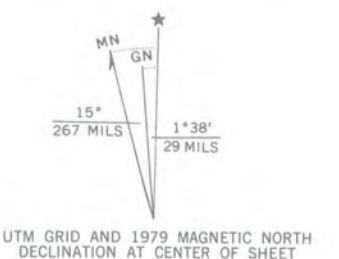
71° 30' 00" W
42° 22' 30" N

71° 22' 30" W
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Moses Ellis House
Framingham, MA
UTM References:
19 298100 4686280

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geological Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1940
Revised 1965
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
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



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



FRAMINGHAM, MASS.
N4215—W7122.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 IV SW—SERIES V814



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

October 19, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Edgartown - Edgartown Village Historic District (state)
Framingham - Moses Ellis House (local)
Great Barrington - Monument Mills (local)
Peabody - John Southwick House (local)
Scituate - Captain Benjamin James House (local)
Stockbridge - Villa Virginia (local)
Westfield - United States Whip Company Complex (national)

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 forms. Also included are the forms for Border City Mills (Fall River Multiple Resource Area) which had been returned to us for boundary justification and for Woodbridge Street Historic District, South Hadley, returned for technical corrections.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Preservation Planning Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/hi
Enclosures

