

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received JAN 29 1980  
date entered APR 4 1980

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

**1. Name** Osborn House

historic Durfee-Carr Osborn House

and/or common Osborn House (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number 456 Rock Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Fall River \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 10th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 John Gacher & Federico Santi

street & number 456 Rock Street

city, town Fall River \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fall River Registry of Deeds

street & number 441 N. Main Street book 1201 pages 91-93

city, town Fall River \_\_\_\_\_ state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets of  
title the Commonwealth #369 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

### 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 Durfee-Carr-Osborn House occupies a lot at the southwest corner of Rock and Maple Streets in "the Hill" section of Fall River. An elaborate example of Greek Revival style architecture, the house is made up of a three-story main house and one-and-one-half story rear ell, both of wooden construction.

The main house is nearly square in plan (45' X 50') with four interior end-wall chimneys. The structure rises from a foundation of hammered granite ashlar to a low hip roof. All elevations are faced with matched boarding, the horizontal joints of which have been scored. The corners of the main house are framed by Doric pilasters which support a wide frieze and a dentilled cornice. First and second story windows consist of 6/6 sash set in plain surrounds, except for the first story windows of the facade (south elevation) which contain floor-to-ceiling 6/9 sash. Centered on the roof of the main house is an octagonal cupola, each face of which contains a four-pane casement window. The cupola is enclosed by a nearly flat roof, which projects far out over the body of the cupola to form a dees cornice.

The facade (south elevation) is perpendicular to Rock Street and is approached from a circular driveway. It is symmetrical, having at its center a monumental Corinthian portico of three bays' length and one bay's depth. Where this portico is joined to the facade, it is supported by Doric pilasters. Set behind the portico's center bay, the house's main entry is framed by Doric pilasters and an entablature. Standing in antis are two fluted columns with acanthus and palm-leaf capitals. The door itself, is surrounded by rectangular sidelights and a rectangular transom. Fenestration of the facade consists of four windows at the first story and five at the second.

The east elevation faces Rock Street and contains four evenly spaced windows at both the first and second stories. Set in the frieze of the entablature are four three-pane lights, each of which is concealed by an ornate grille. Set out from the northeast corner of the main house is a one-story entry bay which is framed by Doric pilasters supporting an entablature. On the east face of this bay is a two-panel door framed by rectangular sidelights and a transom.

The west elevation of the main house resembles the east elevation with the addition of a first story porch, one small oval window at the second story and the lack of grilles on third story windows. The porch is four bays long and one bay deep, framed by Doric pilasters which support an entablature. Above the cornice is a solid parapet with a projecting center block.

The north elevation of the main house is asymmetrically arranged, due to its connection to the rear ell.

The rear ell consists of a rectangular-plan, hip roofed pavilion joined to the main house by a narrow connector with a low-pitched roof. Although the ell contains two stories, its height is equal to only one-and-one-half stories of the main house. The ell rests on a granite foundation and is covered with clapboarding. Exterior trim consists of wide corner boards, a wide, undecorated entablature and shallow mouldings at the heads of first story windows. Sash throughout is 6/6 for first story windows and single sliding lights of six panes each for second story windows. Fenestration of the ell varies by elevation.

Alterations to the house's exterior are minor, consisting of the glazing of the west porch and the removal of a solid parapet from the main house.

## 8. Significance

Carr Osborn House, Fall River

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 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** 1843 **Builder/Architect** Russell Warren of Providence, architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Durfee-Carr-Osborn House possesses integrity of location, design, setting and materials as well as historical associations with several of Fall River's leading nineteenth-century industrialists and with the establishment of "the Hill" as a wealthy residential district during the mid-nineteenth century.

One of three houses designed by Russell Warren and built for members of the Borden-Durfee family in the early 1840's, the Durfee-Carr-Osborn House is the last of the three extant and remains Fall River's most elaborate example of Greek Revival architecture. As one of the first houses built on "the Hill" (referred to as "the Highlands") overlooking Fall River's center, the Durfee-Carr-Osborn House was sited so that its facade faced a terraced lawn and, more distantly, Fall River center and Mt. Hope Bay. At present, the house remains in nearly original condition, both inside and out.

The house's original owner, for whom it was designed, was Joseph Durfee, whose descendants occupied the property until 1951. Durfee was a founder of Fall River's Massasoit and Wamsutta Mills; in addition, he served on the boards of directors of other local mills and as a director of the Borden Mining Co. of Pennsylvania. Following Durfee's death in 1848, the house passed into the possession of his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, William Carr, who occupied the property for more than fifty years. After 1880, the house was also occupied by the Carr's daughter and her husband, James Osborn. Osborn was prominent in the City's textile industry during its most prosperous period. Osborn served as president of the Osborn Mills, a director of the Granite Mills, treasurer of the American Linen Company (1896-1898) and treasurer of the Merchant's Manufacturing Company; the latter two firms owned the city's biggest mills. After Osborn's death the house was occupied by his daughter, Elizabeth and her husband, Leeds Burchard.

In 1951, the house was sold and converted to a parish house for the adjacent Presbyterian Church. In 1977, the property was sold to its current owners who converted it back to a single-family residence. The house is currently being restored based, in part, on the Durfee-Carr-Osborn family photographs and on some original furnishings which have been found in storage in the house.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Frank Walcott Hutt (Editor)  
 A History of Bristol County Massachusetts  
 Lewis Historical Publishing Company 1924  
 volume III pp. 159-160

(continued)

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Fall River

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	3	2	0	9	1	0	4	6	1	9	3	2	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 See site plan

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant with John Gacher  
Fredrico Santi

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 L. Weslowski 1/4/80

Executive Director

title Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Bruce M. Boyd date 4/4/80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 3/24/80  
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 4 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Lockwood, Alice G.B., Gardens of Colony and State, Charles Scribner's Sons for the  
Garden Club of America 1931 pp. 247-48.

Tercentenary Committee of Fall River, Fall River in History, Munroe Press 1930 p.23.

Property

*Osborn House*

State

*Ma - Bristol*

Working Number

*1-29-80 308*

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 4  
Maps 2

Built in 1843 this three story wooden building is an elaborate example (and the only remaining example in Fall River) of Greek Revival architecture. Built by wealthy mill owners, the house has a contemporary 2 story ell at the rear. noted features of the house are its imposing Corinthian columns supporting the portico, the dentiled cornice, Doric pilasters and octagonal cupola. Except for the removal of a parapet the house is virtually unaltered inside and out.

**HISTORIAN**

accept  
*Patrick Andrus*  
*3/21/80*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*SEE 4/4/80 TELEPHONE REPORT FOR BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION.*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

ACCEPT  
*MAN [signature]*  
*4/4/80*

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.80

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 4 1980



South facade great portico facing church  
456 Rock St.

1.

Durfee-Carr Osborn House

456 Rock Street

Fall River, Mass.

Bristol Ca

Frederico Santi

Oct. 1978

456 Rock St.

Fall River, Mass.

Photo #1 of 4

south facade facing church

APR

4 1980

JAN 29 1980



East elevation from Rock St.

(2.)

Durfee-Carr Osborn House  
456 Rock Street  
Fall River, Mass. *Bristol Co.*

Frederico Santi Oct. 1978  
456 Rock St.  
Fall River, Mass.

Photo #2 of 4  
east facade facing Rock St.

JAN 29 1980

APR 4 1980



Durfee-Carr Osborn House

456 Rock St.

Fall River, Mass.

*Bristol Co.*

Frederico Santi

Oct. 1978

456 Rock St.

Fall River, Mass.

Photo #3 of 4

northeast corner Rock and Maple Streets

JAN 29 1980

APR 4 1980

*northeast corner from Rock and Maple Sts (3)*



north west elevation from maple st.

(4)

Durfee-Carr Osborn House  
456 Rock St.  
Fall River, Mass.

Bristol Co.

Federico Santi  
456 Rock St.  
Fall River, Mass.

Oct. 1978

Photo #4 of 4  
northwest corner from Maple Street

JAN 29 1980

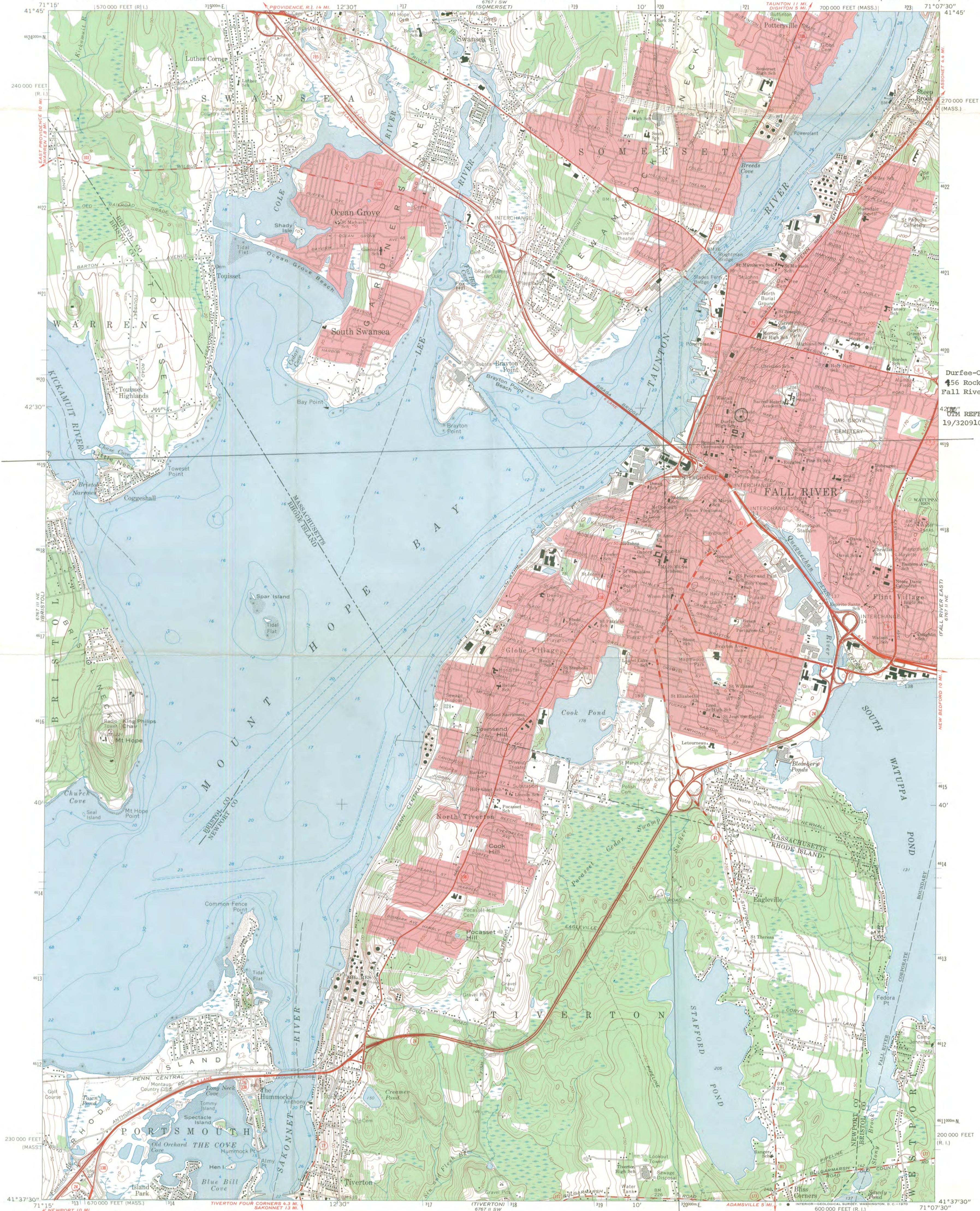
APR 4 1980



456 Rock HL - X

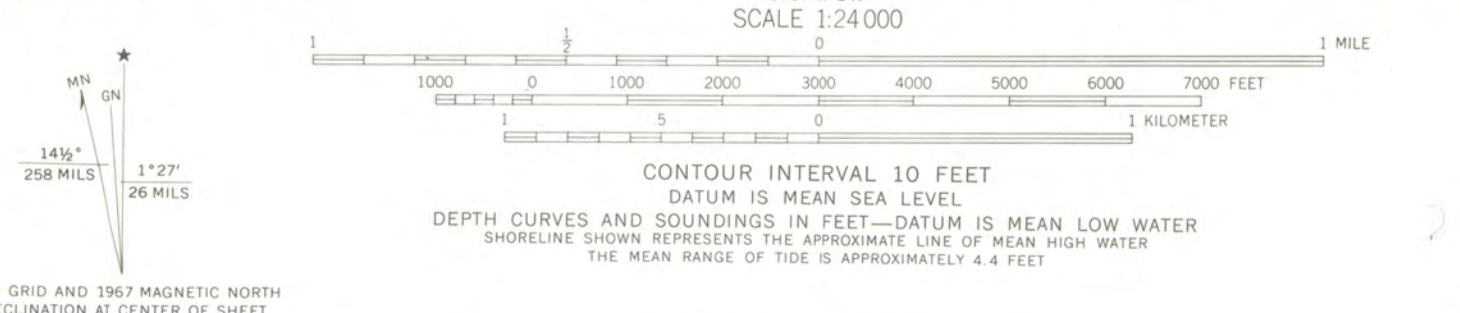
No 13

Fall River MRA, Ma  
CWT - Osborn House



Durfee-Carr-Osborn House  
456 Rock Street  
Fall River, Mass.  
UTM REFERENCES:  
19/320910/4619320

NEWPORT 10 MI.  
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1938-1939. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 350 (1966)  
and 353 (1967). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,  
shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Boundaries in tidewater areas in Massachusetts from information furnished  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

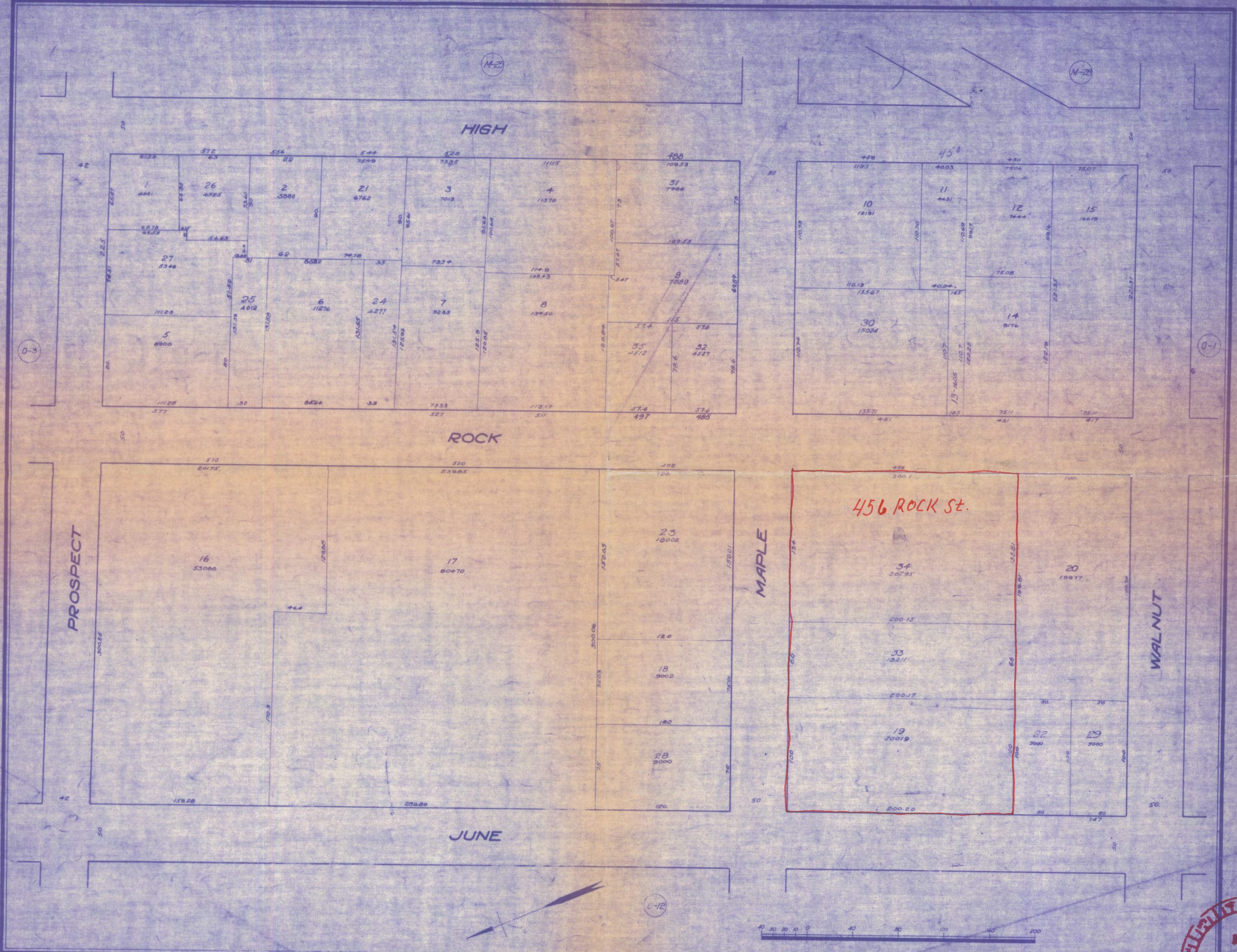


ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

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

FALL RIVER, MASS.—R.  
N4137.5—W7107.5/7.5  
1967  
AMS 6767 II NW—SERIES V814





456 ROCK ST.

Durfee-Carr-Osborn H<sub>o</sub> use  
456 Rock Street  
Fall River, Mass.



DATE

3/25/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Brian Pfeiffer

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MA. SHPO's office

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Osborne House - Bristol co. MA.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

We need a justification for the 1 1/2 acres - Candy Jenkins is the only person familiar with the nomination. She will be out of the office until April 2 - she will call then.

4/4/80 - the house originally was located on a 5 acre lot. It sits on the parcel marked # 34 on the site plan. Parcels 33 and 19 are part of the original back yard and consist of terraced steps (now overgrown) and the remains of an orchard.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered      APR 4 1980

Name

Location

Osborn House

Fall River  
Bristol County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

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

NR      Byers/bjr      4/9/80

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