

739

AREA

FORM NO.

D	323
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Wakefield

Address 61 Prospect Street

Historic Name Jonas Cowdry House

Use: Present Dwelling

Original Dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date c.1833

Source Ruth Woodbury

Style Federal

Architect NA

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings Garage, Tool shed, well enclosure noncontributing.

Major Alterations (with dates) 2 additions on north.

Condition Good

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage 1 1/2 acres

Setting Set back from road on raised lot behind a fieldstone wall.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates  
Organization Wakefield Historical Commission  
Date March 1985

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

Outbuildings

contributing - 0

non-contributing - 3

UTM REFERENCE 19/328640/4707730

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

Wakefield is fortunate to have a large number of 3/4 houses existing from the Federal Period, of which this house is a well preserved example. The south door surround is unusually fine. The Cowdry family was one of the early settlers of Redding and the family retained ownership of this house for nearly a century - an unusually long period of continuity. The house retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets Criterion C of the NRHP on the local level.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.**

Wakefield has an unusually large number of 3/4 houses remaining from the first decade of the 19th c. included among which is this house, a Federal farmhouse, 2½ stories in height, three bays wide with a large central chimney. Its major stylistic feature is the entablature door surround on the south facade, a finely proportioned Federal surround with the classically composed entablature and sidelights favored by housewrights of the period.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

This house has long confused Wakefield's historians but Ruth Woodbury town historian, provided the most convincing interpretation of available records confirmed by stylistic evidence. William Cowdry was among the first settlers to the territory called Redding in the 17th c. He settled where #71 Prospect Street is today and the hill behind his farm became known as Cowdry's Hill. His house was later replaced, but Cowdrys continued to own and farm the land and Nathaniel Cowdry's two sons Aaron and Jonas almost simultaneously built this house and the one at 98 Prospect Street c. 1833. The land continued to be farmed although in smaller sections until the latter decades of the 19th c. when development of Cowdry's Hill and the land south of Prospect Street began. The house remained in the family until c. 1900.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Merrill, Morrison. Wakefield's Old Houses. Wakefield, 1951.  
Eaton, Lilley. Genealogical History of Reading, Boston, 1874  
Wakefield Historical Society, Vertical Files, Ruth Woodbury notes.  
Maps of 1889 (W.E. Cowdry), 1906 (Waldo E. Cowdry).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
Cover	Substantive Review	
1. Beacon Street Tomb	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 7/6/88</u> Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
2. Beebe Homestead	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
3. Boardman, E., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
4. Boit, Elizabeth, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
5. Building at 35--37 Richardson Avenue	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/86</u> Attest _____
6. Building at 38--48 Richardson Avenue	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
7. Center Depot	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
8. Church--Lafayette Streets Historic District	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
9. Common District	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 3/2/90</u> Attest _____
10. Cowdry, Jonas, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cowdry, Jonas, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Wakefield MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000739

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    7/6/89 DATE    Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



D 323

61 Prospect St

Cowdy, James, Hase

Wakefield MRA, Ma



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300