NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY
& EDUCATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **BENJAMIN CARYL HOUSE**

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **107 DEDHAM STREET** ☐ not for publication

city or town **DOVER** ☐ vicinity

state **MASSACHUSETTS** code **MA** county **NORFOLK** code **021** zip code **02030**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough — 4/28/2000

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Edson H. Beall — 6.2.00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

_ private
X public-local
_ public-State
_ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

Xbuilding(s)
_ district
_ site
_ structure
_ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		building
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RESIDENCE: single-family dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls clapboard
roof cedar shingle
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Caryl House is located at 107 Dedham Street in the Town of Dover, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, set within Caryl Park, a town recreation area which now occupies the property's former farmland. Traditionally dated to 1777, the house takes the regionally- significant center-chimney form, and although small modern additions have been made to the rear of the building, it is exceptionally well preserved. The house was built for the town's first settled minister, Rev. Benjamin Caryl (1732-1811), and descended through three generations of his descendants before it was sold out of the family in 1898. That owner, George Ellis Chickering, bequeathed the house and land to the town in 1920. Since that time the house has been held by the town and operated by the Dover Historical Society as a historic house museum.

The Caryl House is located along one of the town's primary roadways, sited to the west of Noanet Brook and to the east of the town center, which still includes only a handful of public buildings and residences. The area around the Caryl House remains rural in character, with few houses along Dedham Street. The Caryl House itself is surrounded by the open space of the town's Caryl Park, bequeathed at the same time as the house. Including the eighty-two acres which constituted the Caryl farm, Caryl Park includes a leaf composting facility, tennis courts, softball and soccer fields, a tot lot, and a network of trails. The house sits on the south side of the street facing to the north, set back from the road with a picket fence extending from each front corner of the house to mark its door yard. A gravel drive is located to the right or west of the house, leading to a small parking area. The house's only separate outbuilding is located further to the west at the end of a right-angled spur of the drive, a small gable-roofed single-bay garage. Roofed in asphalt shingles and covered in dark clapboards, the garage has a double-leafed door at the gable end and double-hung sash along the long walls. At the rear of the house is a demonstration kitchen garden installed in 1992. It is surrounded with a high solid fence extending from the outer rear corner of the house and turning a right angle to join the house's rear ell. A path extends from the drive to the gate near the fence's corner. Inside raised rectangular beds yield dye, medicinal, and culinary herbs. The yard has pear, apple, and shade trees and ornamental bushes.

The Caryl House's two-story main block has a gable roof, a central chimney on the ridge, and a symmetrical five-bay facade, a fine example of New England's best-known house type. The side elevations are also symmetrically fenestrated, with a window in each pile of each story, as well as centered in the gable. The rear elevation is more sparsely fenestrated, with a central rear door covered by a simple shed-roofed hood, two windows to its left lighting the first floor, and a single small window in the second story. The roof is wood shingled and the clapboarded walls are trimmed with plain corner boards and a molded cornice enriched by modillion blocks. Ornament is

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concentrated around the center paneled door, with fluted pilasters flanking the five lights of the transom in the entablature and supporting a pediment with matching modillion blocks The 6/9 double-hung sash windows on the front of the house have thick molded lintels while those on the side elevations are simpler, with molded surrounds. The house sits on a fieldstone foundation and the cellar sits under the western section of the main block.

A complex four-part ell extends from the left rear of the house. A shed-roofed section is set closest to the house extending the plane of the main block's side elevation and located behind the southeast section of the main block; this former shed encloses the docents' office. Set at right angles to this section is a salt-box shaped section which faces into the rear yard and extends beyond the plane of the side elevation of the main block; it is lit with a pair of nine-pane sash and a simply trimmed door, providing entry into the caretaker's apartment which occupies the rest of the ell. The third section is a story-and -a-half gable block set with its ridge parallel to the smaller sections next to it; it is fenestrated with 6/6 double-hung sash on the long walls and the gable ends. A small shed-roofed segment extends the garden-facing wall plane an additional bay and, because the yard slopes down to the rear, this section has a lower level opening to ground level on the rear; a shed-roofed oil tank shed has been added at this level. These ells were added in 1933 and 1942 to provide caretaker housing and modern conveniences; the oil tank was added in 1994.

Center-chimney houses became popular early in the 18th century among households seeking a full complement of hall, parlor, and kitchen in their first-floor plan, and the Caryl House follows the classic center-chimney form. A lobby entry, a hall or dining room, and a parlor occupy the front pile of the building and a kitchen and flanking corner chambers occupy the rear pile. The exceptionally wide entry has plain plastered walls and the three-run stair has vase-shaped balusters and square newel posts. The most elaborately decorated room is the parlor on the west side, with the fully-paneled fireplace wall and adjacent inner wall providing the focus for ornament. The fireplace opening has a bolection molding surround and is flanked by fluted pilasters which reach the room's cornice. Within that frame, a wide shallow panel runs just above the molding, under a single large central and two flanking narrower panels. The remaining paneling is laid out with a shallow panel at the top of the wall and two equal-sized long panels below, broken at the level of a dado. In the northwest corner of the room, opposite the entry and fireplace, there is evidence that a corner cupboard had been added after the house's initial finish, but it has been removed. The ceiling and the other three walls are plastered and boxed corner posts are exposed in each corner. The room on the opposite side of the entry has a simpler fireplace wall, with a bolection molding around the opening and cupboards on either side and above it. The small upper cupboard and the

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left cupboard have simple board surrounds and doors. The right cupboard, by contrast, is a more elaborate design, an 18th-century beaufait designed to display household goods and treasures. Its lower section has double-leafed paneled doors while the upper section is open shelving, half-round in shape with shelves cut to line the curve and provide a central round display. Otherwise the wall and ceiling treatments match the other front room.

The rear pile of the first story includes a central kitchen, stairs to the cellar and the second story, a small service room in the west corner, and a small chamber in the east corner. In the center of the kitchen is a large fireplace with an oven adjacent to the left. The walls are covered in vertical feather-edged paneling and the ceiling is open to reveal the framing of the girts and joists for the floor above. This appears to have been so designed, a pattern increasingly associated with kitchen and service room finish in early New England buildings. The stair, which has been altered, runs from the rear of the house up to the second story, and the rebuilt stairs to the cellar are located below it. The small service room, which may have been a dairy, has vertical feather-edged paneling on the walls and exposed unboxed posts and joisted ceiling, with evidence of earlier shelving. The small east chamber, perhaps a study, was an addition to the plan, closed off not long after the house was built. It has its own corner chimney and its flew runs up through the second story and is then cantilevered to the main chimney in the attic. This chamber is also finished in vertical boards, but these are rabetted on the fireplace wall and exterior walls and feather-edged on the partition wall.

The second story has the same plan as the original first-floor plan, with large finished chambers on either side of the stair hall in the front pile and a largely unfinished room and a small corner room in the rear pile. The east front room has plastered walls with exposed boxed corner posts and a fireplace recessed into the wall within angled reveals. The fireplace is trimmed in plain boards with a molded edge and a bolection molding runs across the top of the fireplace opening between the reveals. The west front room is similarly trimmed, with the addition of a cupboard flanking the fireplace to the left and a small cupboard in the board-covered wall above it. The large rear room is the most distinctive, because neither its ceiling nor its interior wall have been finished. This room has not been provided with its own fireplace, but the chimney and the backs of the walls of the front rooms are exposed within the rear room. A small room occupies the west corner of the rear pile, set off by the vertical feather-edged paneling found on the first floor, and with an open joisted ceiling as well.

The frame and construction details of the Caryl House conform to 18th century practice in general but exhibit some distinctive features as well. The studded timber frame is two stories in height and two piles in depth, and includes an

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exceptionally wide central chimney bay and flanking room bays. The corner posts are exposed but usually boxed in each room; there are no posts in the lateral walls dividing the front from the rear pile. Its other framing members, its girts, braces, and studs, are primarily concealed behind plaster. Its joists, however, are visible in the rear piles of rooms, revealing a particularly heavy framing method. On the first floor, joists designed to be exposed are square in section, while those perhaps designed to have been covered by a plaster ceiling are deeper, creating a plane flush with the deep girts. On the second floor, closely-set joists alternate between large joists dove-tailed into the plates and smaller ones butt-cogged into the plates; the dove-tailed joists are positioned over the posts and under rafters to complete the roof truss. The exposed rear walls of the front rooms, visible from the rear room, show intriguing evidence of remodeling in the house, with evidence that the sawn lath had previously been installed elsewhere, then turned over and reinstalled here. The interior of this space is framed with several re-used members, perhaps from an earlier building on the parcel. The roof is a symmetrical gable, framed exclusively of rafters. It has been reinforced with modern purlins and post supports to correct its sway. The flew from the added chamber fireplace runs across a section of the garret, supported by two chimney piers to join the main chimney.

The house appears to have experienced only minimal redecoration and remodeling during its long history, so much of the original fabric has remained in place. Abbott Cummings, writing in 1959, noted that the house had come down in "wonderfully untouched condition." Several major repair and restoration campaigns have been identified, but their cumulative effects appear to have been minimal and generally sensitive. Some key alterations have been mentioned and closer physical analysis, including paint and plaster analysis and controlled exposure of key building features, would provide additional information on the exact sequence of alterations and repairs. During the 1950s the front rooms were repaired, plastered, papered, and painted, and the north side of the exterior was re-clapboarded. In 1960 the first floor was sured, the cellar stair reconstructed, the roof truss support constructed, and the exterior repaired, and a set of measured drawings prepared by Hugo Olson. In 1975 additional exterior repairs were completed, and in 1981/82 restoration work was supervised by Gertrude D. Black. The house is now furnished to represent a late 18th and early 19th century period of occupation.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are present on the property or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. The house is located in a well drained, level to moderately sloping area. However, the nearest wetlands are over 1000 feet away, an important locational factor that reduces the prehistoric sensitivity of this locale. Given the

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overall environment, known regional settlement information, the above factors, the size of the property (approximately one-half acre) and impacts from historic development of the parcel, a low potential exists for the recovery of prehistoric resources.

A high potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources on the Caryl House property. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help determine the locations of known and potential structures associated with the two farms purchased by Benjamin Caryl for his farm. This information can be used to establish the spatial relationship between the existing house and structures already present during Caryl's three purchases for the farm. Structural evidence may survive from a house, outbuildings and other improvements reportedly constructed by Eleazer Ellis Jr. (ca.1728) on the 40 acre farm purchased from John Griggs in 1764. Structural evidence from agricultural related outbuildings might also survive on portions of the Wright Farm also purchased by Caryl in 1772. Similar archaeological evidence might also survive on a third parcel of land purchased by Caryl in 1788. The latter parcel joined lands acquired in the previous two purchases. Structural evidence may also survive from barns and other outbuildings associated with the Caryl House traditionally dated to 1777. Previously, members of the Caryl family presumably lived in the Ellis House purchased with the Griggs property. Archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should also survive on the property. Various types of occupational related features may be duplicated on the property as a result of the purchase of different farms, different families/residents through time and functional use.

(end)

Benjamin Caryl House
Name of Property

Norfolk, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ **B** removed from its original location.

_ **C** a birthplace or grave.

_ **D** a cemetery.

_ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ **F** a commemorative property.

_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1777-1898

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
_ Other State agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other

Name of repository:
Dover Historical Society

The Caryl House at 107 Dedham Street in Dover, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, is an ample center-chimney house believed to have been constructed in 1777. The house is a well-preserved example of a common New England house type and retains features of structure and ornament characteristic of its period of construction. Built for the town's first settled minister, Benjamin Caryl, and held in the same family for four generations, the house is an important document for understanding rural life in Massachusetts. The house was given to the town in 1920 and has been operated as a historic house museum by the Dover Historical Society. The Caryl House retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association, and meets the National Register criteria A, and C at the local level.

The Caryl House is located in the town of Dover, a suburb which has retained the rural character that has made it an attractive and affluent suburb. The thousand-acre area which is now the Town of Dover was part of the large Dedham town grant of 1636 but was not immediately settled. In the early decades of the 18th century, as outlying portions of the town became more densely settled, areas petitioned to break off from Dedham as independent parishes or incorporated towns. In 1729, a long conflict over the autonomy of the inner neighborhoods finally culminated in the establishment of this area as a separate parish named Springfield. It became the town's fourth precinct in 1748 and the district of Dover was established in 1784, but it was not incorporated as a separate town until 1836. Estimates of the size of the town in the 18th and early 19th century indicate a remarkably stable fifty farms, and a likely population of only about 400. Well into the 19th century the town remained a small agricultural community, and as late as 1897 the town included just sixty-four farms and one hundred forty-seven houses. At that time the area became popular for summer houses of wealthy Bostonians and with improved train schedules and better roads commuting became a popular alternative.

The Caryl House is believed to have been built in 1777 for Benjamin Caryl, who was called to serve as Dover's pastor in 1762. The date assigned to the house is based on a poem written by one of Benjamin's descendants in 1875, which notes that "ninety-eight years hath this mansion stood/since the skill of the builder raised it." The author of the poem, Ellen Miller (1836-1898), was Benjamin's great-granddaughter. She could certainly have heard this tale from her mother Ann Caryl Miller (1802-1884) or her grandmother Pamela Martyn Caryl (1769-1855). The land on which the Caryl House sits was originally part of two adjacent farms before it was assembled by Benjamin Caryl in the third quarter of the 18th century. This land included an earlier house where the Caryl

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family is supposed to have lived during their first dozen years in town. The physical fabric of the building, including its construction methods and ornamental details, supports the date suggested by the poem.

About forty acres of the Caryl Farm is believed to have been owned by Eleazer Ellis Junior. (1692-1745) and his wife, the former Mary Crosby, who married in 1718. Eleazer Ellis's father Eleazer and mother Mehitable were among the earliest settlers in the area, and he and his four brothers remained in Dover and established their own farms on land their father provided for them, the youngest twins sharing the homestead. Eleazer Ellis Jr.'s farm was a gift from his father "for love, good will, and affection" in 1728, consisting of two parcels totaling thirty-six acres. Eleazer and Mary had eight children between 1719 and 1738, four daughters and four sons; three of these children are unknown at this time. Seven years after the birth of their youngest child, Eleazer Ellis died at age fifty-three, leaving his widow Mary with several young children at home. Although probate documents were filed, the division of the estate is not surely known. Son Timothy (b.1724) is believed by local historian Frank Smith to have lived on the farm before he and his brother William (b. 1738) removed to Keene, NH in 1763. The farm eventually became the property of John Griggs, a Brookline weaver. Griggs had married Mehitable Ellis (1720-1757), daughter of Eleazer and Mary, in 1741; after bearing nine children between 1741 and 1754, Mehitable died in 1757. Perhaps Griggs' mother-in-law, the widow Mary Ellis, assisted him with the young children until he remarried six years later.

Next to the Ellis farm was the large Wight farm, owned successively by David Senior (1686-1743) and his wife Sarah Day, and his only son David Junior (1718-1752) and his wife Sarah Scott. At his death in 1743 David Wight Sr.'s estate included a hundred-sixty acre farm, a house, and a barn, which the probate court set off to his son David, with the provision of dower rights to the widow and cash payments to his two sisters. After David Wight Jr.'s death barely a decade later in 1752, the settlement took longer because David and Sarah's children were very young, and during that time the two widows shared the house and the property. Guardians were appointed for the children, a Dedham yeoman for the oldest boy and the widow for the two younger children; oldest son David (b. ca. 1746) seems to have died between 1752 and 1763. The widow's third of David Jr.'s estate was formally set off in 1766, when the surviving children were eighteen and sixteen years of age and, unusually, when the widow had already remarried. The large property was divided between the heirs, son John (b. 1748) and daughter Esther (1750-by 1788) in 1771, the same year as John's marriage and two years after Esther married Thomas Caryl, Benjamin Caryl's younger brother. A large 96-acre parcel went to John Wight and two parcels, one over sixty and one over forty-seven acres, went to Thomas and Esther Wight Caryl.

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Benjamin Caryl acquired the property on which the house sits in three parcels, in 1764, 1772, and 1788. His first purchase was John Griggs' 40-acre "homestead," a parcel which seems likely to have included a house and other buildings and improvements constructed by Eleazer Ellis Jr. The bereaved neighbors, John Griggs and Sarah Scott Wight, had married in 1763 and are said to have left Dover. The property was mapped and surveyed the next year and that document claims the property included about sixty-five acres and generally follows the appropriate lines on the current town assessors map. Eight years later Benjamin Caryl purchased a portion of the Wight farm from Thomas and Esther, who had already relocated to Hubbardston. The parcel of twenty-three-and-a-half-acres constituted half of one of the parcels they inherited and was divided between Benjamin Caryl and Lemuel Richards. Sixteen years later Thomas and Esther Caryl, now of Chester, VT, sold a portion of her mother's dower to Benjamin Caryl; Josiah Newell, who by then controlled John Wight's share, was another party to the sale. Measuring fourteen-and-a-half acres and twenty-six rods, this land joined the two parcels to one another. At his death, Benjamin Caryl's inventory reported real estate totaling approximately eighty acres, close to the total of the named acreage in these three purchases and to the eighty-two acres the parcel is said to contain today.

Benjamin Caryl (1732-1811) was born in Hopkinton, the third son of Benjamin and Mary Caryl. He attended Harvard College at a comparatively late age with the class of 1761 and was called to serve as minister at Dover the next year. The town had employed supplies and attempted to secure a settled minister since the parish was established in 1748. Caryl appears to have been theologically orthodox, an emotional preacher especially "gifted in prayer," and "drew as little from books as any man of his time," according to his biography in the Mendon Association's handbook. Many of his manuscript sermons survive in the collections of the Dover Historical Society and the Dedham Historical Society; only one was ever printed. Benjamin was married shortly after his settlement, to the widow Sarah Messinger Kollock (1725-1807). Sarah was the daughter of Rev. Henry Messinger of Wrentham and she had married Cornelius Kollock, a doctor, in 1745 but he died nine years later. Benjamin and Sarah Caryl had two sons, Benjamin and George. Only George lived to adulthood and spent his life on the farm.

Benjamin Caryl wrote three wills before his death in 1811, and their survival allows us to contrast the plans he made at different times in his own and his family's life. The first will, written in 1787 when he was fifty-five, divided his property between his wife and his son George, then in college. It is unusual for providing Sarah with two-thirds of the property and for requiring no reversion of the property to other heirs after her remarriage or death. His 1799 will also favored his widow in the settlement, with George to receive the west side of the house and the twenty-three acre lot, but the widow

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to receive the remainder outright. By the time he wrote his 1807 will, the one in force at his death, his wife Sarah had died and his daughter-in-law took over her favored position. He provided just $20 to his son George while Pamela would receive most of his property, real and personal, apparently because he expected her to outlive her husband. Indeed, his daughter-in-law would retain all his property as long as she remained unmarried and her children would receive the whole property after her death. Interestingly she would retain a third of his property even if she remarried, when the other two-thirds would go to her children.

George Caryl (1767-1829) attended Harvard College with the class of 1788 and is said to have received further training as a medical doctor with Dr. Samuel Willard of Uxbridge. He married Pamela Martyn of Uxbridge in 1790, a doctor's daughter. George practiced medicine in town, its only resident physician. He purchased a lot of meadow, described variously as five or six acres in size, which he twice mortgaged. George and Pamela had nine children but only four of them survived to adulthood. The oldest, Sarah (1797-1870), and the youngest, Joseph (1808-1882), stayed in the house with their mother and after her death. The two middle daughters, Pamela Caryl Maring (1800-1882) and Ann Caryl Miller (1802-1884), married and left the household for a time. George Caryl died in 1829 and his small estate was found insufficient to cover his debts, which mounted to nearly two hundred dollars including his last mortgage. At a public auction and a private sale, primarily of his personal and medical effects, the money was raised.

Pamela Caryl did outlive her husband, by twenty-six years, and never married after his death. She remained on the farm with her two single children, Sarah and Joseph, and later her two daughters, Pamela and Ann, returned, likely to have coincided with the deaths of their husbands, Leonard Maring (1794-1868) and Aaron Miller (1795-1840). Only Aaron and Ann Caryl Miller had children, and of their seven children, only four reached adulthood. In the middle of the 19th century, the household might have included Pamela Caryl, the eighty-one year-old matriarch; three of her children, the fifty-three year-old Sarah Caryl, the reclusive forty-seven year-old Joseph, and the forty-eight year-old widow Ann Miller; and four Miller grandchildren. Ironically the Miller grandchildren did not long survive their grandmother, who died in 1855: Ann Eliza Miller (1826-1852) died first, George Lewis Miller (1839-1862) died in the Civil War, and Ann's twin Sarah (1826-1871) died next. Twenty-five years later, 1875 found the three surviving and aging Caryl siblings, the seventy-five year-old widow Pamela Maring, seventy-three year-old Ann Miller, and seventy-two year-old Joseph, all likely cared for by Ellen Miller (1836-1898), thirty-nine at the time. In her poem she describes her house, its contents, and the household with a poignant sadness. The house

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is "old, and dim, and faded, darkened with time, and care, and pain, and our lives are shaded." It was filled with "relics dear of the gone before, of toil, of joy, and danger...must pass erelong to the hands of the careless stranger." Saddest of all were the occupants whose "paths have been hard, and the rosebuds few," and whose "hopes and dreams have faded. " "Weary and sad, we wait for the call, and the touch of the angel's finger/ the last of our race, the last of our name."

When the last Caryl descendant, the poet Ellen Miller, died in 1898 the property was inherited by her cousins. They were not local residents and sold the property the next year to George Ellis Chickering. During this time the house seems to have gained recognition as the first minister's house, as the family's history was amplified and disseminated through the work of local historian Frank Smith. In the will he wrote in 1917, three years before his death, Chickering gave the eighty-three acre property, which he described as the Miller-Caryl estate, to the Town of Dover, to be named Caryl Park. The house was to be "in the care and control of the Dover Historical Society." Chickering had tenanted the house and provided for their life estates in the house provided that they "keep the House in reasonable repair without making any material alterations in the same." One quarter of his residual estate, after a number of other bequests, was to be used by the town for the maintenance of the Miller and Caryl lots in the cemetery, the cemetery as a whole, and for the care and improvement of the public parks.

New England had a long history of memorializing town founders when the town of Dover took on the Caryl House in 1920. Interest in the homes of the founders came early with collectors and preservationists like Ben Perley Poor noted in the early years of the 19th century. The homes of the prominent and those of exceptional age were well-known in many Massachusetts communities, and early house preservation efforts in Massachusetts were successful in Deerfield, Concord, and Lexington at the end of the 19th century. It was not until the early twentieth century that historic house museums became popular places to commemorate local history, as patriotic organizations, family associations and local historical societies increasingly chose this route. It was most common for these private organizations to take ownership of these houses, and while some states acquired houses, most municipalities were reluctant to take on the responsibility of a historic house. Dover was among a small number of towns to hold a historic property for so long a period. The immediate uses of the house are not known but the house continued to be tenanted and was later made into a public historic house museum. In 1932/33, the rear addition provided separate living quarters for the caretaker, a space which was expanded in 1942. This allowed the main block of the house to become a museum. With financing available from the Chickering Fund, the

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house has been well maintained and sensitively restored and furnished by the Dover Historical Society. With its well-preserved form and finish, regularly open to the public, the Caryl House is an excellent document of New England's building traditions and every day life.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the evolution and layout of the Caryl Farmstead through time and a better understanding of rural life in Massachusetts during the 18th and 19th centuries. Archaeological resources can also help understand the changes that occurred in the transformation of a small 18th and 19th agricultural community as it evolved to a summer resort community for wealthy Bostonians. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can be used to clearly identify buildings associated with the different farms and periods of ownership present on the three parcels of land purchased for the Caryl Farm. The above information combined with the detailed analysis of contents from occupational related features can be used to identify agricultural technologies in use at the farm and the extent to which different occupants of the farm participated in subsistence versus market economies. The above information can be used to identify patterns of rural agricultural life in Dover and the extent to which those patterns compared with life in other areas of eastern Massachusetts at similar times. Spatially separate cultural deposits in occupational related features, possibly stratified, may also exist that enable a detailed study of cultural change at the house as it's function changed from agricultural production to recreation. Evidence may be present indicating an overlap of the two functions. The analysis of occupational related features may also contribute information on structural and lifestyle changes on the property as it's residency changed from owner-occupants to tenancy.

(end)

Bibliography

Dover Historical Society Collections, Research Files on the Caryl House.

Field research, Claire W. Dempsey and Myron O. Stachiw, 4 April 1997.

Lockridge, Kenneth. *A New England Town, The First Hundred Years, 1970.*

Massachusetts Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey Report for Dover, 1980.

Smith, Frank. Dover Farms, 1914.

_____. Genealogical History of Dover, 1917.

_____. History of Dover, 1896.

(end)

Benjamin Caryl House
Name of Property

Norfolk, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	19	312600	4679600
2.			
3.			
4.			

_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claire W. Dempsey, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2000

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Dover

street & number P.O. Box 250 telephone

city or town Dover state MA zip code 02030

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

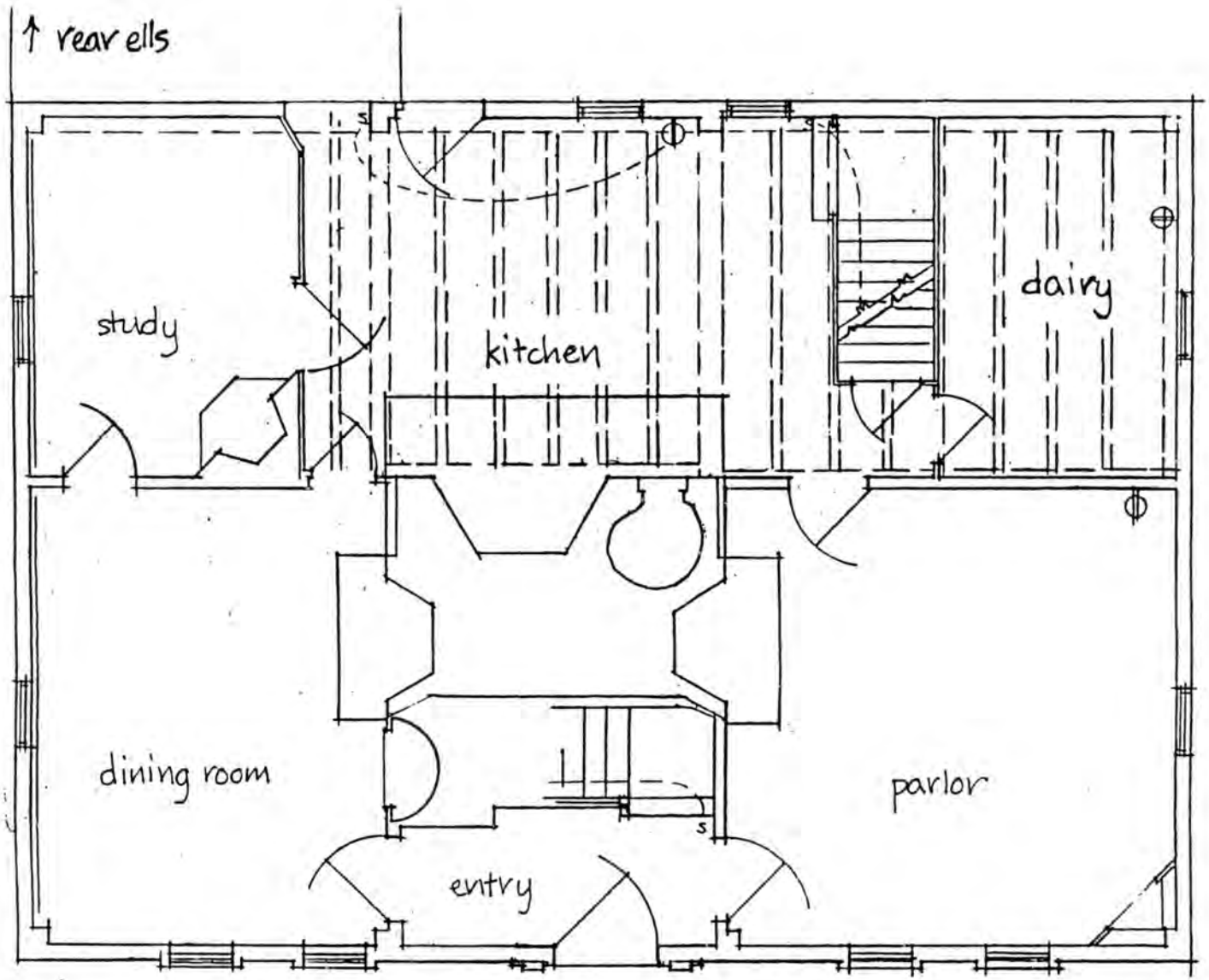
Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes a small lot surrounding the house, measuring about half an acre and located on the south side of Dedham Street. The north line of the parcel measures about 160 feet along the street, about 30 feet to the east of a granite marker in front of the house and about 130 feet to the west of it. The east and west lines of the parcel extend to the south about parallel, 120 feet on the east side and 165 feet on the west side. The south line runs from the west line about 100 feet, then turns to the northeast and runs about 70 feet to join the east line.

Boundary Justification

The parcel described above was drawn to enclose the Caryl House and its yard and excludes from the nomination the extensive acreage developed by the Town of Dover as a recreational park.

(end)



First Floor Plan, Caryl House
detail from drawing by Hugo Olson, 1960

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Caryl, Benjamin, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 5/03/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/17/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/02/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/17/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000569

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 6-2-00 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

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



Cauje House
107 Dedham Street
Dover MA

CWD 1996



garage, Carpenter House
107 Dedham Street
Dover MA

CWD 1996



Sandy, Carryl House
107 Dedham Street
Dover MA

CWD 1996



Dining Room, Carye House
107 Dedham Street
Dover MA

CWD 1996



Parlor, Caryl House
107 Dedham Street
Dover MA

CWD 1996

MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

19 312 600 4679600

42071-B3-TM-025

Medfield
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale *metric* topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Carl Howe, Dover MA

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1981 and 1982. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Hollston 1969 and Medfield 1970
1:25,000-scale maps

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS.
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6851
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM



UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1982 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Marlborough
2 Framingham
3 Boston South
4 Milford
5 Norwood
6 Uxbridge
7 Franklin
8 Brockton

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

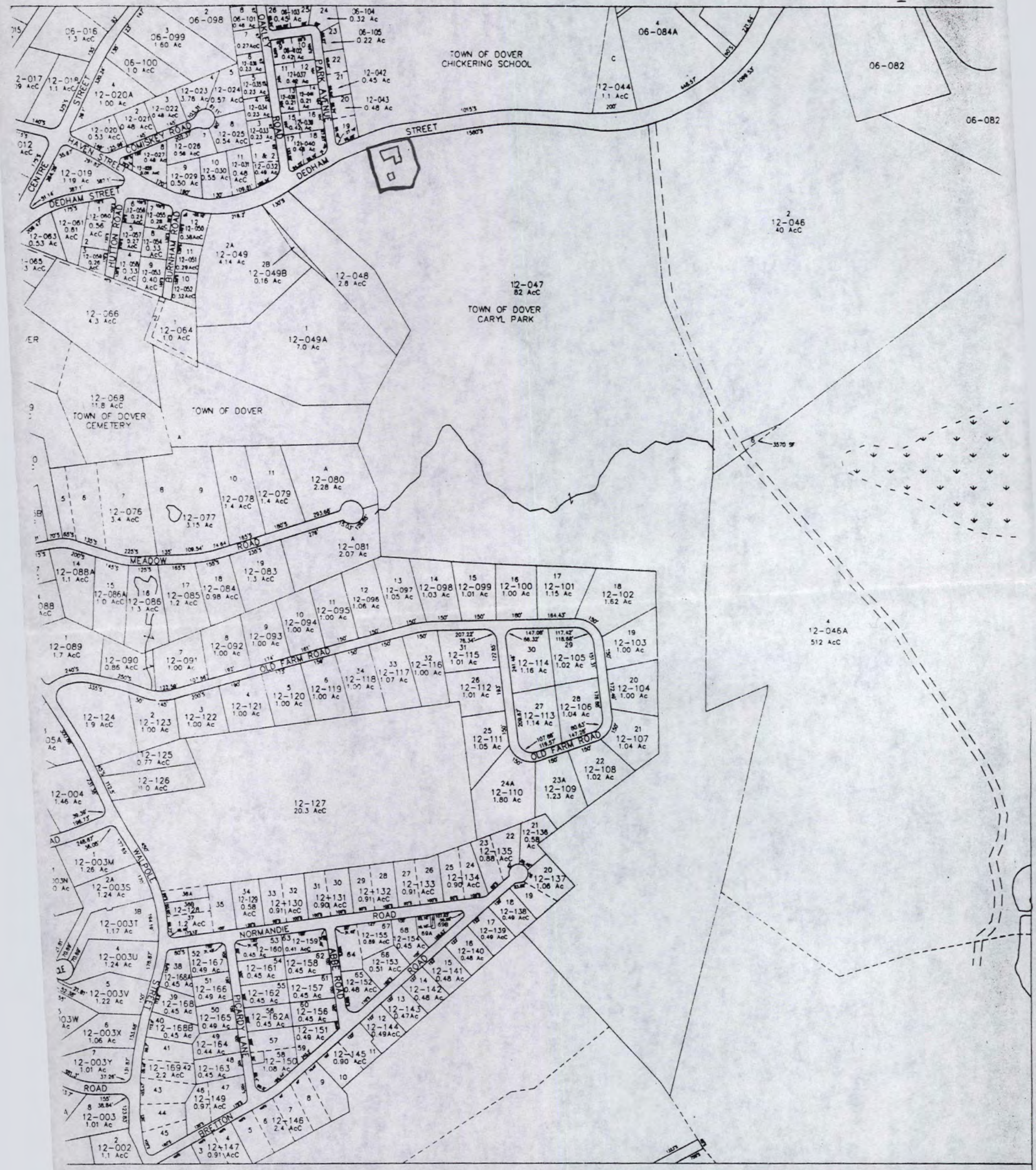
Primary highway; hard surface
Secondary highway; hard surface
Light-duty road; hard or improved surface
Unimproved road; trail
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
Bridge; drawbridge
Footbridge; overpass; underpass
Building's area: only selected landmark buildings shown
House; barn; church; school; large structure
Boundary:
National, with monument
State
County, parish
Civil township, precinct, district
Incorporated city, village, town
National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; found section corner
U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section
Range, township; section line; location approximate
Fence or field line
Power transmission line, located tower
Dam; dam with lock
Cemetery; grave
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
Windmill; water well; spring
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
Scrub; mangrove
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1987

SCALE 1:25 000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
42071-B3-TM-025
1987



REDIGITIZED IN 1995 BY

ASSOC. INC.

ONAL CONSULTANTS
AND SURVEYING/PROPERTY APPRAISAL
STREET, P.O. BOX 287
NEW HAMPSHIRE 03561
)322-4540 - FAX (603)444-1368

LEGEND

MAP-LOT (PARCEL) NO.	16-073	COMMON OWNERSHIP	
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	8 or 4	EASEMENT	
FRONTAGE IN FEET	153.54'	TOWN LINE	
SCALED FROM MAP	(S)	PARCEL BOUNDARY	
WATER		WETLANDS	

SCALE 1" = 200'

FEET 100 0 200 400 600

METERS 50 0 50 100 150

REVISED TO : January 1, 1997

PROPERTY MAPS

DOVER

MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

5	6	7
11		13
17	18	19

MAP NO. 12

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 28, 2000

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Benjamin Caryl House, 107 Dedham Street, Dover (Norfolk Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties included in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Richard Eels, Dover Historical Commission
Pamela Kunkemuller, Dover Historical Society
Walter Attridge, Dover Board of Selectmen
Claire W. Dempsey, Preservation Consultant
Pandora Carlucci, Chair, Dover Planning Board

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125 · (617) 727-8470
Fax: (617) 727-5128 · TDD: 1-800-392-6090
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc