

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received MAR 22 1983
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Captain Josiah Pratt House

and/or common Captain Josiah Pratt House

2. Location

street & number 141 East Street N/A not for publication

city, town Foxboro N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input checked="" 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 Richard and Karen A. Mordount

street & number 141 East Street

city, town Foxboro N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number High Street

city, town Dedham state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth, #16 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

7. Description

Captain Josiah Pratt House, Foxboro, MA

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain Josiah Pratt House stands on approximately one-third acre of land in rural East Foxboro. The handsome 18th century structure faces southeast, behind a cut granite retaining wall and old linden and white ash trees. Across the street is the original barn, now substantially altered to house a commercial pool store; the two structures are now under separate ownership.

Rising from a cut granite foundation, the two story house is of wood frame construction, sheathed in clapboard and crowned by a hip roof with center chimney. A small, one-story addition on the northeast corner is thought to be 19th century in origin, while another one-story room was built on the northwest corner in 1970; both of these have shed roofs. On the southwest, a gable-roofed, two-car garage and connecting breezeway were also added in 1970.

Plain sill boards, corner boards, and cornice molding frame the elevations of the Pratt House; window architraves are also quite simple, enclosing 2/2 sash (originally 12/8). The five bay facade (southeast elevation) features a wide, gabled entry pavilion; its door and half-height sidelights are enclosed by a channeled double architrave with bulls-eye corner blocks.

The northeast side of the house contains four symmetrically placed windows; on its northern corner the addition extends outward about 15 feet and is lighted by two asymmetrically placed windows. The southwest side has three regularly arranged windows and a side entry pavilion which echoes the facade entrance, though it lacks the ornamental trim. The back (northwest side) of the house features asymmetrically placed windows and the two ground floor additions; the northeast addition has a simple doorway.

In plan, three main rooms on each floor cluster around the central chimney and stairway. A secondary, straight run of stairs vertically connects the northwest corner of the house. Most of the interior finishing--woodwork and hardware--dates from the Federal period, as seen in the front sitting room (on the southeast corner, now the dining room) and in the new kitchen (at the rear of the first floor). The old kitchen (on the southwest corner, now the livingroom) retains its original beehive oven, placed to the side of the fireplace. The hall contained by the front entry porch features a vaulted plaster ceiling. On the second floor, the master bedroom has interior folding shutters in each of its three windows. The rear additions contain a family room, utility/laundry room, and small office.

While a traditional date of 1760 is ascribed to the house, several features suggest that it may date from as late as 1780. These include its deep plan, low pitched roof, simple window surrounds, and interior Federal period detail.

Alterations to the exterior of the house are minimal. The entry pavilions, if Georgian in date, appear not to be original; they may possibly date to the Federal period. Other additions include the Greek Revival facade doorway, 2/2 sash, the one-story additions, and the garage and breezeway. Three 19th century maps show a structure--called the "new part"--which was as large as the main house attached to the rear of the building. Available

8. Significance Captain Josiah Pratt House, Foxboro, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1760 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Captain Josiah Pratt House is significant for its association with an active town leader in the 18th century, Captain Pratt, and as an important example of 18th century architecture in Foxboro. The property, which retains integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship, thus meets Criteria B and C of the National Register.

The Pratts were a prominent family in this area during the 18th century, including mill owners, farmers, and tavern keepers in many of the towns surrounding Foxboro; Captain Pratt's father owned a store, tavern, and grist mill in nearby Mansfield. Josiah Pratt (1720-1800), who is thought to have built this house c.1760, was primarily a farmer but also owned a quarry and a bed of iron ore.

Foxboro was incorporated as a town in 1778, combining parts of Stoughton, Stoughtonham, Walpole, and Wrentham. However, in 1753 church separatists led by Pratt filed a petition with the town authorities in Stoughton and with the state legislature to permit their withdrawal from the town of Stoughton and annexation to Norton North Precinct (now Mansfield). The request was denied, but it established Pratt as a resident of East Foxboro and as a leader in local affairs. Pratt later presided as Moderator over the first town meeting and was elected to the Board of Selectmen at the first election; he served there for three terms.

Pratt was also deeply involved in the events of the Revolutionary War. He served on the town of Stoughton's Committee of Correspondance and acted as their delegate to the meeting in Milton on September 9, 1774, which passed the celebrated Suffolk Resolves. During the War, Pratt commanded a company of men who marched from Foxboro to Lexington on April 19, 1775. Three of his sons--Issac, Levi, and Joseph--also marched with this company to Lexington, and again to Roxbury on March 4, 1776. A younger son, Abija, enlisted in 1780 and served in Rhode Island.

Ownership of the Pratt House remained in the family until 1927. Following Josiah's death, occupants of the house included his son, Abija, who served as a selectman for four terms; Abija's son Shubel, who was the Town Clerk in 1820; and Markus Pratt Forrist, who in the mid-19th century acted as Depot Master at the East Foxboro Railroad Station.

The Captain Josiah Pratt House is an excellent indication of the Pratt family's position in the community. Although typically 18th century in design, its substantial size and elegance--as well as its very existence--are distinctive for the period in Foxboro, which was a small

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lane, Clifford and Edith P., This Was Foxboro, Rea-Craft Press, Inc., Foxboro, MA., 1966, pp. 17, 22, 23, 28 and 31.
 Carpenter, Robert W., History and Directory of Foxboro MA. for 1890. History of the Town from the First Settlement to the Present Time. A.E. Foss and Co. Needham, MA, 1890

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 16,541 square feet

Quadrangle name Mansfield, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

B

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

C

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

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

E

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

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

G

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

H

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

Verbal boundary description and justification A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon on the Northerly side of East Street in Foxboro, Norfolk County, shown on a "Plan of land of Foxboro, MA. Scale: 1" = 20', dated October 31, 1980, RIM England Co., Inc., Mansfield, MA" to be described herewith and more particularly bounded and described to said plan as follows.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner with Mary Elizabeth Pyne, Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date 12-31-82

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA

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 Patricia Weslowksi

State Historic Preservation Officer title Massachusetts Historical Commission date 3/16/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 4/21/83

for Melores Pyne
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Captain Josiah Pratt

Continuation sheet House, Foxboro, MA Item number 7 & 8 Page 1
9 & 10

documentation suggests that this addition was built before 1837 and destroyed sometime after 1888; unfortunately, no further description is known is known of it.

Possible archaeological features associated with the property include a trash pit in the back yard, which has yielded several old bottles and a butter churn with its lid intact. The one-time existence of the large "new part" of the house also suggests potential for finding additional household remains from the 19th century.

Continuation Part 8

struggling town through the early 19th century. In comparison to other local houses of the period, the Pratt House remains the largest and best preserved. Its later alterations reflect changing architectural taste over the 18th and early 19th centuries, while not detracting from the original design.

Continuation Part 9

Copeland, Jennie, Mansfield News, "Mansfield in Other Days", Mansfield, MA., Article #16, 1929, Article #192, 1933.

Athelet, Jack, The Foxboro Reporter, "Revolutionary War Soldier Builds a Home", Foxboro, MA., 1/17/80.

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, Wright and Potter Printing Co., Boston, 1904.

Book of Records in the Second Precinct in the Town of Stoughton, 1740 to 1765, p. 33. The Sharon Historical Commission.

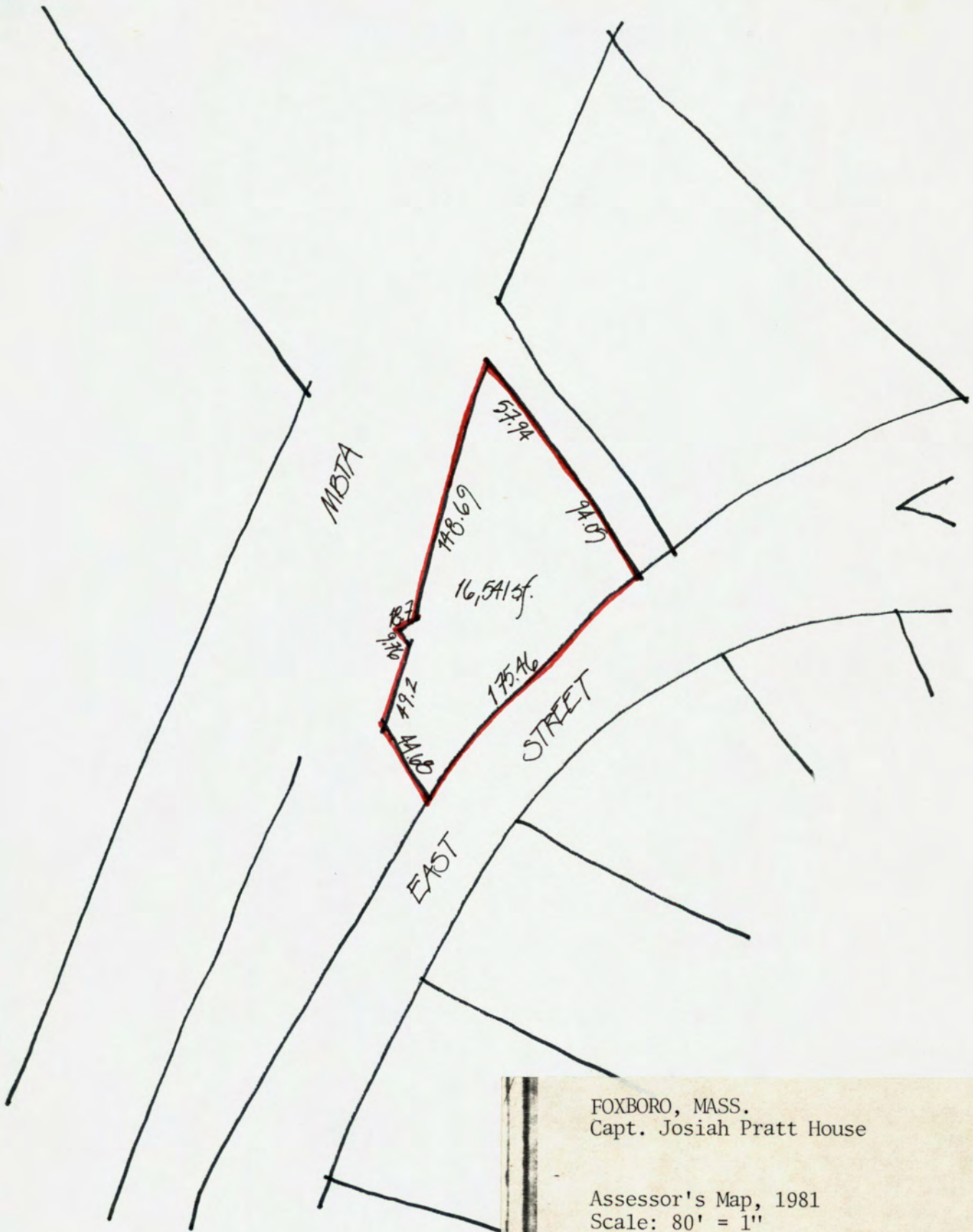
Registry of Deeds of Norfolk County, Dedham, MA.

Continuation Part 10

Southerly by the curve East Street 175.46 feet; thence,
N38-50-40W a distance of 44.68 feet; thence,
N12-16-52W a distance of 44.68 feet; thence,
S43-47-31E a distance of 57.94 feet; thence,
S36-52-45E a distance of 94.05 feet to East Street and point of beginning.

Said parcel contains 16,541 square feet according to said plan.

"Also see attached Sketch Map".



FOXBORO, MASS.
Capt. Josiah Pratt House

Assessor's Map, 1981
Scale: 80' = 1"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Pratt, Capt. Josiah, House
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

MAR 22 1983

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 4/21/83 - 5/6/83
Action: ACCEPT 4/21/83
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

Entered in the
National Register

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 _____

USIT Reference _____

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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Josiah Pratt House
141 EAST ST
Foxboro

Betsy Pyne June 1982
negative at Memorial Hall
Foxboro

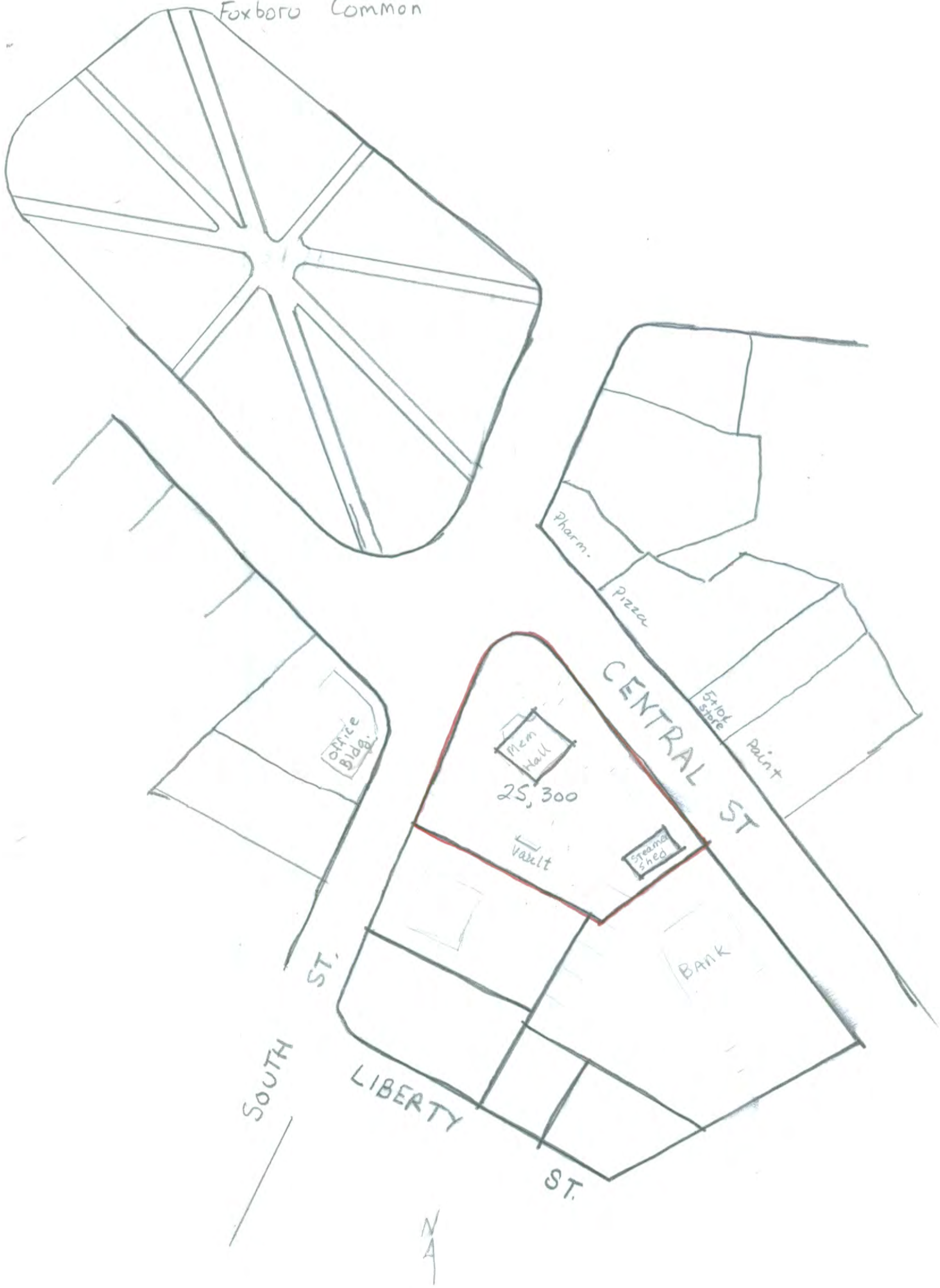
View. South

FOXBORO, MASS.
Capt. Josiah Pratt House

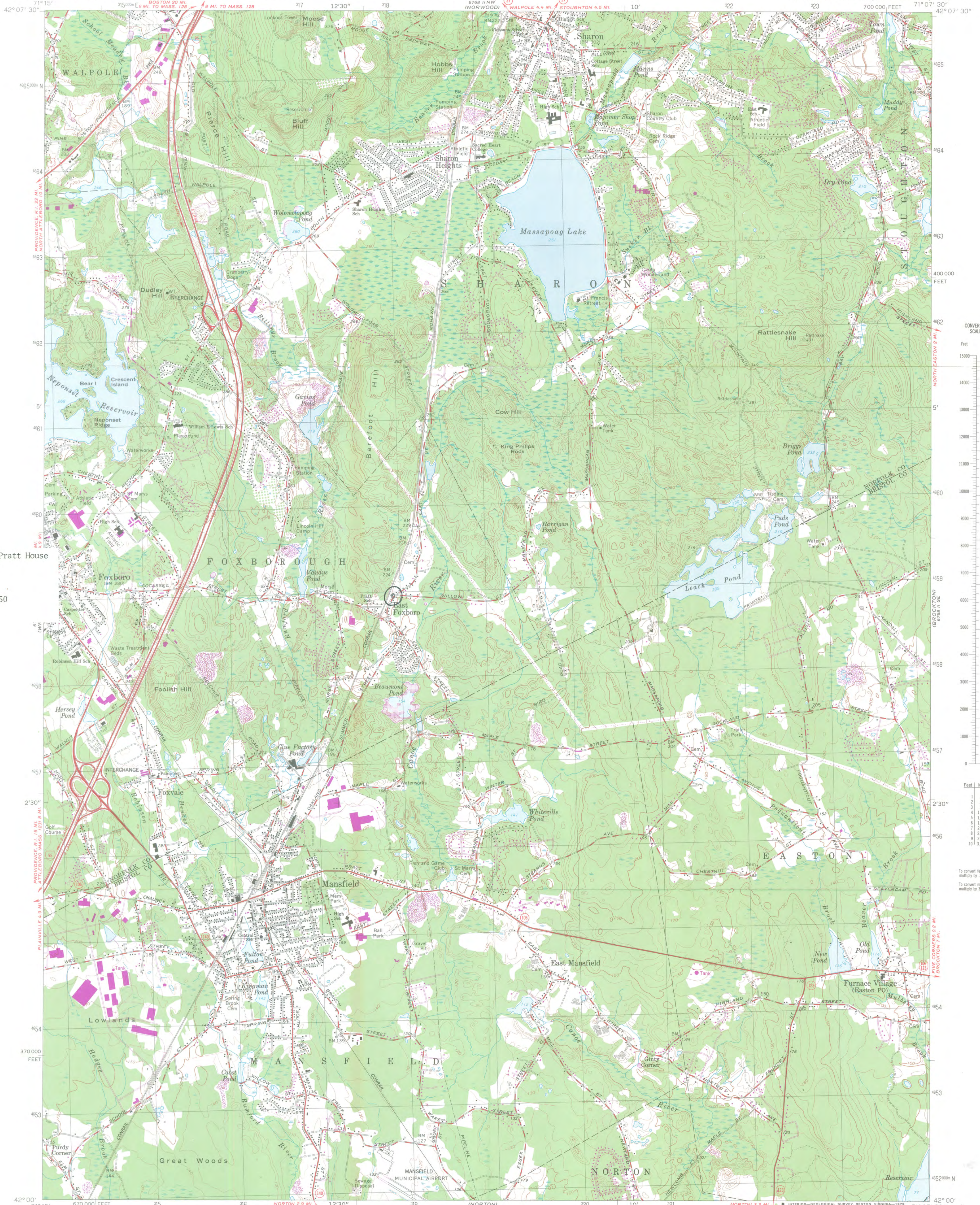
View of the southeast elevation
Photograph by Mary Elizabeth Pyne, 1982
Negative at Memorial Hall, Foxboro

Photo 1 of 1

Foxboro Common



TRACING of Assesors Map
80ft per inch
Parcel # 2236
Map # 79, 92
1980



Captain Josiah Pratt House
141 East Street
Foxboro, MA

UTM references:
19/317900/4658950

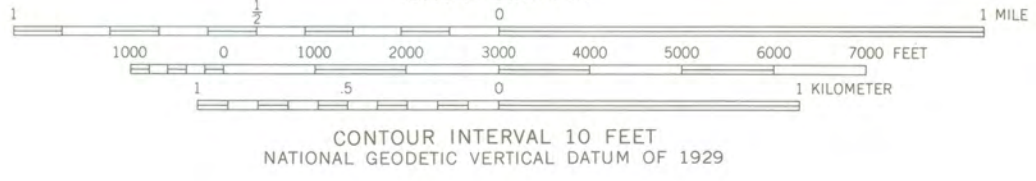
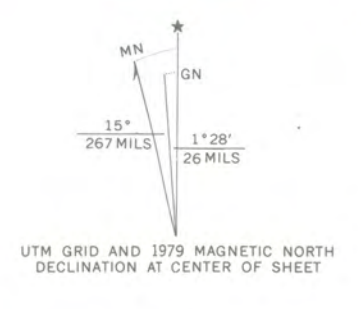
CONVERSION SCALES

| Feet | Meters |
|-------|--------|
| 0 | 0 |
| 1000 | 300 |
| 2000 | 600 |
| 3000 | 900 |
| 4000 | 1200 |
| 5000 | 1500 |
| 6000 | 1800 |
| 7000 | 2100 |
| 8000 | 2400 |
| 9000 | 2700 |
| 10000 | 3000 |
| 11000 | 3300 |
| 12000 | 3600 |
| 13000 | 3900 |
| 14000 | 4200 |
| 15000 | 4500 |

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964
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

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



MANSFIELD, MASS.
N4200—W7107.5/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 II SW—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**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

March 16, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Hampden: Thornton W. Burgess House (national)
Foxboro: Memorial Hall (local)
Grange Hall (local)
✓ Josiah Pratt House (local)

Also enclosed is the Garbose Building in Gardner, which was returned to us for a property map.

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.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ:mmd
Enclosures

