

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

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

For NPS use only

received **APR 18 1984**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Roebuck Tavern

and/or common Roebuck Tavern

2. Location

street & number 21 Dedham Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Wrentham

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Norfolk

code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roebuck Realty Trust

street & number P.O. Box 754

city, town Norwood

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number High Street

city, town Dedham

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth HABS 1937

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1967 #14

federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

Roebuck Tavern, Wrentham, 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

Located in the historic center of Wrentham, the Roebuck Tavern presently occupies $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land and is set back twenty feet from Dedham Street. The lot on which it stands is unelevated; landscaping features of note are four maple trees which serve as a buffer between the house and a municipal parking lot. The tavern itself consists of a main two story, center entry section built ca. 1795 and a one story rear ell built in two periods during the 19th century.

Typically federal in design, the Main block of the Roebuck Tavern is a five bay, rectangular plan structure with twin interior chimneys. Rising from a granite foundation, the house is covered with clapboards and enclosed by a pitched roof. Fenestration throughout the main portion of the building is 12/12 sash.

The building's five bay symmetrical facade (south elevation) is framed by a molded boxed cornice and narrow cornerboards. Its focal point is the center entry which is framed by 3/4 side lights and an elliptical fanlight.

Two of the three remaining elevations (north and east) have fenestration which is asymmetrically aligned. The west end of the building, however, contains symmetrical bays consisting of a center entry and two flanking windows on the first story, three windows on the second level, and two on the third story. This elevation's entry features a fanlight, but it is narrower than the one on the main facade and is capped by a hood which is supported by simple brackets.

Placed at a right angle to the main section of the building is a rear one story clapboarded ell with a pitch roof pierced by a single tall chimney. This addition was built in two stages, and although its date is not confirmed, was most likely constructed during the 19th century. The earliest portion is the two bay section which is closest to the main house. The later addition includes a small enclosed pavillion and what is now a one car garage at the northern end. Fenestration on this wing is asymmetrical consisting of windows of various size and sash configuration.

Outbuildings originally associated with the Roebuck Tavern are no longer standing on the property.

8. Significance

Roebuck Tavern, Wrentham, 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"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1795 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Roebuck Taven possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, as well as documented associations with the development of Wrentham during the late 18th and 19th centuries. It is significant as one of the town's best preserved examples of residential Federal period architecture and is also important for its relationship with a prominent local family in the 18th and 19th centuries. The tavern thus meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed in 1795 for David Fisher and his family, the Roebuck Tavern was located adjacent to Wrentham's major Colonial Period crossroads in the town's historic center. More importantly, however, it stood on one of the Boston/Providence Turnpikes (Route 1A) which opened early in the 19th century. This new route spurred a period of growth in Wrentham and had a great impact on the early use of the nominated property. During this era the building served as a tavern, post office, toll collector's house, as well as a family's residence. Although initially used for these various functions, the building was best known as an inn and tavern and continued to be used in this manner through the early 20th century.

The Fisher Family, long associated with the tavern and owners of the property until 1910, were among the community's early settlers in the mid 17th century. Serving as selectmen in the founding years of the town, they were influential figures in its development. In the early 19th century, David Fisher, for whom the tavern was built, kept the Fisher name prominent in the community. He acted not only as an innkeeper and toll collector, but also served as Wrentham's postmaster and ran one of the town's only commercial stores - the West India and English Goods Store. George Fisher, grandson of the tavern's original owner, was one of the family's most notable members. In the late 19th century as a professor and Dean of the Yale Divinity School, he was a most distinguished historian and author in the field of New England church history and theology.

In addition to its association with the growth of Wrentham Center in the early 19th century and its relationship to the Fisher Family, the tavern is also an architecturally significant structure representing an early and well preserved example of a residential building in the town center which uses Federal period detail in a well articulated manner. Because of these characteristics the building was recorded and documented by HABS in its 1937 Massachusetts Survey.

The grounds surrounding the Roebuck Tavern should be considered as potentially sensitive for the presence of subsurface cultural material deposits and structural features related to the property's diverse uses throughout its history. Research oriented identification, investigation and evaluation of these resources using archaeological techniques may provide information relevant to our understanding of the past. Questions that may be addressed include, but are not limited to, the development of Wrentham Center, trade networks and commerce, and 18th and 19th century lifeways, particularly with respect to multifaceted activities of the property as it changed through time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Fiore, Jordan D., Wrentham A History, 1673-1963, Thomas Todd Co., Boston, MA 1973.
Ewing, Alice Bennett, Program for the 250th Anniversary of Wrentham, A Brief History of Wrentham, 1923.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10, 800 square feet

Quadrangle name Wrentham

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 19 307400 4659670
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning on the northerly side of Dedham Street in Wrentham at the Southeast corner of land of the town of Wrentham thence running Northerly by said town land one hundred twenty

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 Kathryn Kubie, Preservation Planner with Mary Elizabeth Pyne

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December, 1983

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

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peter W. Weslowski

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Masachusetts Historical Commission date 4/10/84

For NPS use only

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

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/17/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Roebuck Tavern

Item number 9 & 10

Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References (Cont'd)

National Council of Congregational Churches of the U.S., Congregational Year Book, Fort Hill Press, Boston, 1910.

Registry of Deeds, Dedham, MA

Duley, Doris, Wrentham Historical Commission, Notes and photos unpublished, Taverns and Inns.

Interview, Roland Bainton, Professor Emeritus, Yale Divinity School, Author, Historian, Biographer, 4/7/83.

Bruce Crowther, Secretary, Wrentham Historical Commission provided many details on David Fisher's Life from deed research and Congregational Church records.

10. Verbal Boundary Description and Justification (Cont'd)

five feet to an angle thereof; thence Easterly by land of said town of Wrentham 86½ feet more or less to land of Minnie Corcoran; thence Southerly by said Corcoran land 125 feet to said Dedham Street, thence Westerly by said Dedham Street 85½ feet more or less to the point of beginning.



Page # 20; lot #62
 Scale 1 inch = 200 feet
 Date 1982.

Roebuck Tavern
 Wrentham, Mass.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Roebuck Tavern
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. APR 18 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2 5 85

Date Due: 5/17/84 - 6/2/84

Action: ACCEPT 5/17/84

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

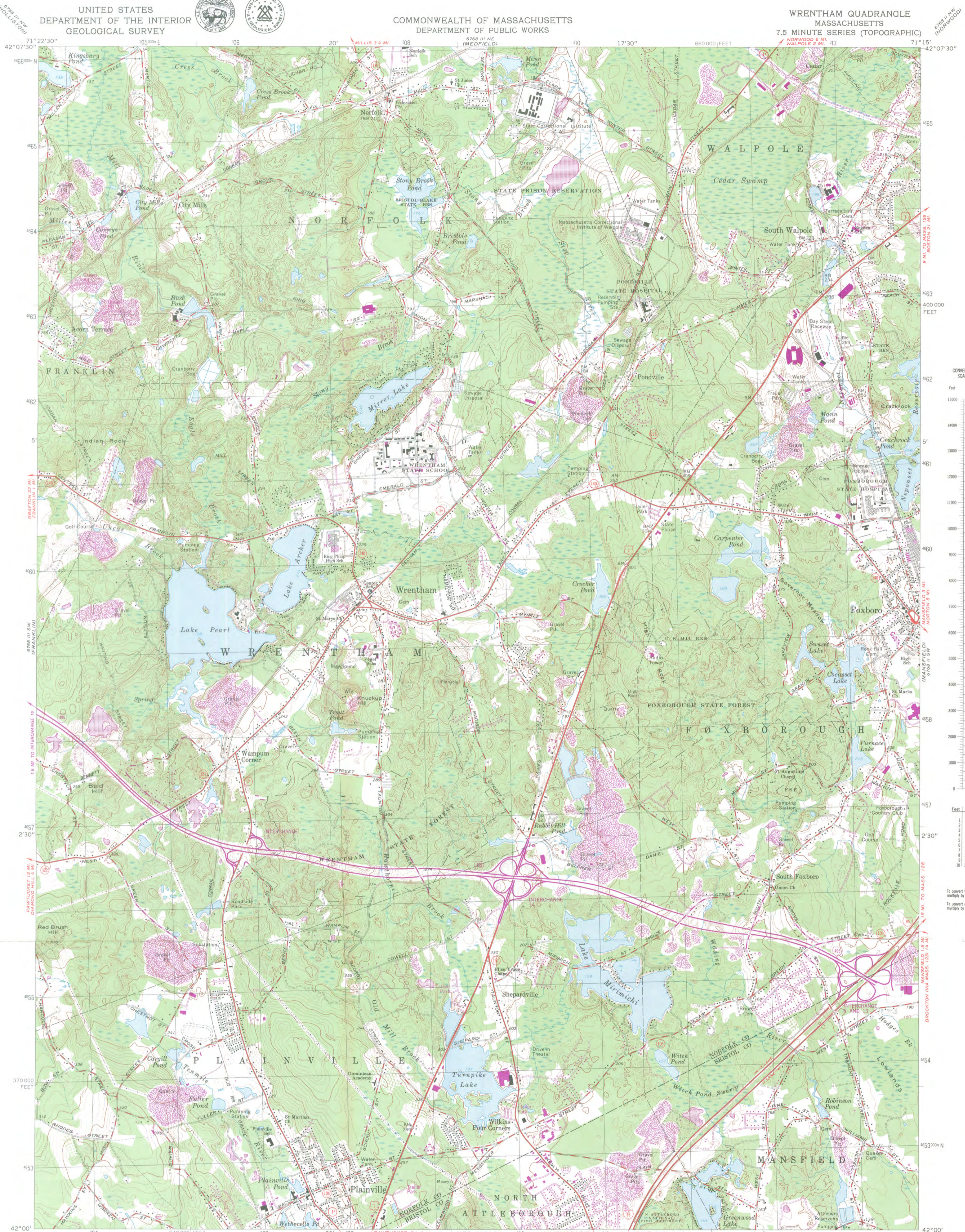


Roebuck Tavern
21 Dedham St
Wrentham, Mass

Mary Elizabeth Pyne

April 1983
187 Seekonk ST
Norfolk, MASS.

Photo #1 of 1
Southeast



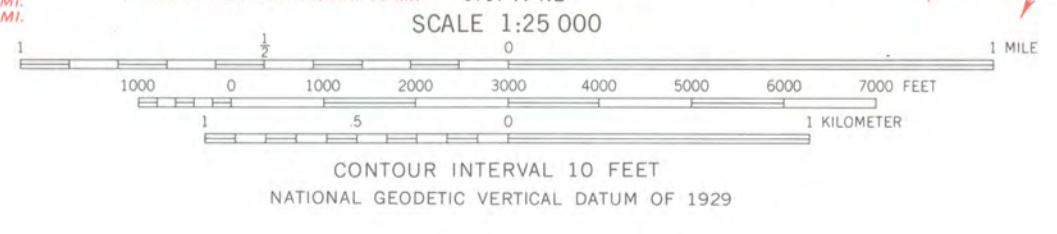
Roebuck Tavern
Wrentham, Ma.
UTM:
19/307400/4659670



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1938. 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
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

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

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



WRENTHAM, MASS.
N4200—W7115/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 III SE—SERIES V814

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

