

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1979
SEP 7 1979
DATE ENTEREDSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Stetson House

AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Hanover Street

CITY, TOWN Hanover

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12th

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF
CODE
025COUNTY
PlymouthCODE
023**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE ☒ MUSEUM
☒ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ OBJECT	☒ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET & NUMBER 141 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE Massachusetts

02114

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Plymouth Registry

STREET & NUMBER Russell Street

CITY, TOWN Plymouth

STATE Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE 1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Boston

STATE Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☒ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☒ ALTERED

☐ MOVED DATE _____

☐ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stetson House is a two and one-half story frame structure with a later ell, facing north, on a roughly two-acre site in Hanover Center. Although the present dwelling house dates primarily from c. 1760, it incorporates portions of an earlier (c. 1700) house. Structural evidence suggests that the barn also may date from c. 1700. The street facade of the Stetson House displays granite foundation facing, wood water table, and symmetrical placement of five bays with a center entrance. The sash are 12/12 on the first story and 12/8 on the second. The elaborate entrance frontispiece with fluted Doric pilasters, rusticated paneling, quoins, and dentilated cornice probably dates from c. 1790, as does the key motif under the bed mould of the eave cornice. Wood shingles, painted yellow, were installed as part of an early twentieth-century "restoration." A mid-nineteenth-century ell extends from the southwest portion of the house.

The earliest interior area is the southeast room where there is a fireplace core with exposed beams. The summer beam there is chamfered with lamb's tongue stops. In the northwest parlor the decorative wood trim has late eighteenth-century mouldings and a "rustification" motif which is unusual but corresponds to the same detailing on the entrance frontispiece. The cupboard door beside the fireplace has raised field paneling. Above this parlor, the northwest chamber is similar. In both of these rooms the trim represents an interesting provincial interpretation of transitional Georgian-Federal woodwork. Trim work having a more typical vernacular Federal design exists in the northeast parlor.

The northeast and southeast chambers underwent "restoration" sometime between 1916 and 1928. The owner, Dr. Lloyd Vernon Briggs, left no records to justify his choices. These two chambers have exposed framing. The wall surface in the northeast chamber is simply the interior side of the exterior wall sheathing. Bead-and-bevel panels cover the walls in the southeast chamber, and the room has diamond-pane leaded glass casement windows. Briggs also replaced the main staircase. Some elements which Briggs removed, including raised paneling from the northeast chamber, are stored in the barn.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1700, 1760	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Capt. Benjamin Stetson (?)
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stetson House, built c. 1700, retains integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship and is one of the earliest extant buildings in Hanover Center. It is also associated with one of Hanover's oldest families and remained in their ownership for nearly two hundred years. During its earlier years it played a key role in the life of the community serving as a tavern and a meetinghouse.

It stands on a two-acre plot which is part of a far more extensive parcel of land originally acquired in 1634 for the Plymouth Colony by the first Stetson in the area, Robert Stetson. The area was then known as Scituate, and Stetson obtained a section encompassing parts of Scituate and present-day Hingham and Abington from the Namasakeesett Indians. In 1634 the Plymouth Colony Court granted Stetson a "considerable tract of land" which included shore along the North River, and part of Herring Brook. By 1642 the area was incorporated as the town of Scituate.

Stetson erected a saw mill on Herring Brook in 1656, probably the first in that part of the colony. "Cornet" Robert Stetson, so named because he was a Cornet of the first light horse corps in the Colony, was said to have considerable wealth. He served as a Deputy to the Colony Court, a Colony Commissioner, and a member of the Council of War. One of his sons, Captain Benjamin Stetson, was very likely the builder of the house. As early as 1690, Captain Stetson was engaged in shipbuilding on the North River. He left the property, with an unspecified acreage, to his son Samuel in 1715. Samuel, known in the records as "Drummer" Stetson, evidently continued the family tradition of nickname by military association. Records for 1716 describe the house of "Drummer" Stetson as a tavern and "famous place of resort."

After Hanover separated from Scituate in 1727, public use of the Stetson House continued. "Being nearest the centre of the town and most convenient for public accommodation," it was the meetinghouse for the new town.

The house did not pass out of the Stetson family until 1891. In 1916, Dr. L. Vernon Briggs, one of the first psychiatrists in Massachusetts, purchased the house and executed a conjectural restoration of certain areas of the house. Although he did not base his work strictly on documentary or physical research, he did attempt to represent various styles from various periods in the history of the house, from the late seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. Descended from early Hanover settlers, Dr. Briggs designated the house as a memorial to his parents. Use of certain rooms was granted to the Hanover Historical Society. In 1928 he willed the house to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barry, John S. A Historical Sketch of the Town of Hanover, Massachusetts with Family Genealogies. (Boston: Samuel G. Drake, 1853).
- Barry, John S. Records of the Stetson Family.
- Deane, Samuel. A History of Scituate from its First Settlement to 1831. (Boston Loring, 1831).
- Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths...of the Town of Hanover, Massachusetts, 1727-1857. (Rockland, Mass: (no publisher) 1898).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Hanover

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 347540 4664100

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a stone bound at the northeasterly corner of land of the Town of Hanover, and running thence. (continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sara B. Chase, Architectural Researcher & Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

MAY 1979

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

John L. Waskowski

6/25/79

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John P. Carroll
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-7-79

ATTEST:

Margaret Ouellette
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

9/5/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET STETSON HOUSE ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

EASTERLY by said Hanover Street about 211 feet to land now or formerly of the E.H. Clapp Rubber Company; thence turning and running
SOUTH 12 23" WEST by land of said E.H. Clapp Rubber Company, 321 feet to a stake; thence turning and running
SOUTH 82 22" EAST by said E. H. Clapp Rubber Company land, 114 feet to a stake; thence turning and running
SOUTH 13 51 WEST by land now or formerly of the heirs of Julettta S. Stetson, 264 feet to a stake thence turning and running
NORTH 82 22" WEST by land now or formerly of Edward A. Bowker, 307 feet to a stake; thence turning and running
NORTH 4 30" EAST by land now or formerly of said Bowker, 262.84 feet to a stone bound at the southeasterly corner of the Town House Lot, so-called, of the Town of Hanover; thence turning and running
NORTH 37 10" EAST by land of said Town of Hanover, 122 feet to a stone bound; then running
NORTH 5 10" EAST by said land of the Town of Hanover, 215.9 feet to the point of beginning; or however otherwise bounded, measured or described, and be any or all of said measurements more or less.

Property Stetson House

State Mass. (Plymouth) Working Number 7.6.79.1626

TECHNICAL

Photos 8

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 7.9.79

HISTORIAN

Accept

Outing
9/5/79

One of the oldest extant buildings in Hanover Co., the Stetson House has served as a town tavern and meetinghouse, $\frac{2}{3}$ was owned nearly 200 yrs. by a family prominent in local military commerce. Alterations (eg exterior shingling) by Dr. Vernon Briggs, one of MA's 1st psychiatrists, reflect an early ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN 20th C restoration and preservation philosophy.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Outing 9/5/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

10-2-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered SEP 7 1979



PHOTOGRAPH BY
J. DAVID BOHL
BOSTON, MASS.

Neg. no. 28523-A

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The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
141 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass. 02114

SEP 7 1979

Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo # 28523-A (1)
EXTERIOR, NORTHEAST CORNER

1978

JUL 6 1979

*Plymouth
County*



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SEP 7 1979

Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

*Plymouth
County*

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo #28524-A(2)
EXTERIOR, NORTH AND WEST FACADE

1978

JUL 6 1979



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Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo # 28525-A (3)
EXTERIOR, STREET FACADE

1978

JUL 6 1979

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County*



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Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo # 28531-A (4)
EAST PARLOR, FIRST FLOOR
1978

JUL 6 1979

*Plymouth
County*



Neg. no. EDR-1

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SEP 7 1979

Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo # ERD-1 (5)
KITCHEN

1978

JUL 6 1979

*Plymouth
County*



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SEP 7 1979

Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

*Plymouth
County*

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo #28539-A (6)
WEST PARLOR, FIRST FLOOR

1978

JUL 6 1979



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1978

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SEP 7 1979

Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

*Plymouth
County*

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo # 28542-A (7)
UPSTAIRS HALL

1978

JUL 6 1979



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SEP 7 1979

Stetson House
Hanover, Massachusetts

J. David Bohl
Boston, Massachusetts

Photo #28567-A (E)
BARN

1978

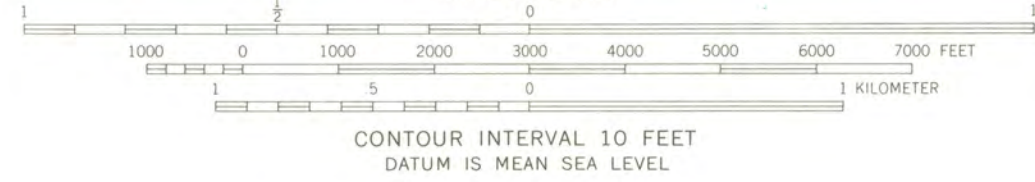
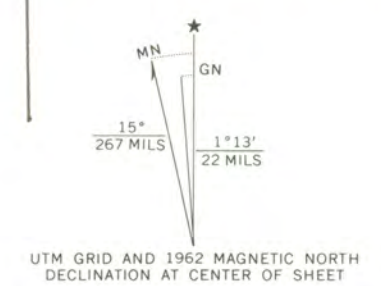
JUL 6 1979

*Glymouth
County*

Stetson House
Hanover, Mass.
UTM REFERENCES:
19/347450/4664100



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1935. Revised 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route

HANOVER, MASS.
N4200—W7045/7.5

1962

AMS 6868 III SE—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
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

June 25, 1979

Mr. Ronald Greenberg, Acting Chief
Registration Branch
OAHP, Heritage, Conservation &
Recreation Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243



Dear Mr. Greenberg:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- o BOSTON - Arthur J. Lynn (Schooner)
- o HANOVER - Stetson House
- o LAWRENCE - Downtown Lawrence Historic District
- o LYNN - Lynn Armory
- o LYNN - St. Stephen's Church
- o SOUTHBRIDGE - Center Village Historic District

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding

Christine Boulding
Survey Director

CB/leaf
Encl:

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MASSACHUSETTS
STATE

Date Entered SEP 7 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stetson House	Hanover Plymouth County
Centre Village Historic District	Southbridge Worcester County
St. Stephen's Memorial Church	Lynn Essex County
Lynn Armory	Lynn Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Gerry E. Studs
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules

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

NR Byers/bjr 9/12/79

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