

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 6 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

nh
George P. Fernald House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 12 Rock Hill Street

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Gregory and Maria Henderson

STREET & NUMBER

12 Rock Hill Street

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

02155

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

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

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

The George Fernald House (1894) occupies the entire top of Rock Hill in Medford on a lot of 27,000 square feet which has a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The George Fernald House is a Georgian Revival structure with an overall length (north to south) of 108 feet. The clapboard house is set on a rubble stone foundation. The main (east) facade is of five-part Palladian design - a central section, rectangular pavilions at each end, and connecting one-story sections.

The central portion is two and one-half stories high and five bays wide. It is set on a high basement and capped by a hip roof. Extending out from the facade is a pedimented portico supported by four Ionic columns. The portico is set on a high basement covered by vertical boarding. The boarding outlines three low-rising arches with keystones. These are enclosed by lattice work, creating the effect of a blind arcade. Set above the basement is a wooden floor from which the four columns rise to support an entablature with modillioned cornice. Above this is the pediment, enclosed by vertical boarding and with mouldings identical to those of the cornice.

The central entrance has an elaborate Federal period frame consisting of two fluted Ionic pilasters supporting an entablature whose cornice is decorated with a band of Greek fretwork. Above this is a broken pediment with modillioned cornice. A fanlight above the door extends upwards into the pedimented area and has a decorated keystone at its top.

The windows on the first floor are nine-over-six double hung sash headed with wooden lintels and keystones. The second floor windows are six-over-six sash, except for the center window which is flanked by four-pane casement windows.

Two chimneys rise through the main block of the house - one on the mid-point of the north wall and the other in line with the north chimney but set in the building, away from the south wall.

Access to the portico and front entry is from a straight run of stairs on the porch's north end. The stairs rise parallel to the facade in two stages. Railings of square balusters, moulded rails and turned posts line the stairway and extend across the front of the portico. Originally two curved stairways gave access to both sides of the portico.

Set back slightly from the main section on both sides are connectors to the end pavilions. Each is one story high with three arches of vertical boarding superimposed on the clapboard facade. Centered in each arch is one six-over-six window with a semi-circular head of horizontally matched boarding. The center arch of the south connector has a blind window filled with clapboarding. Over the connectors are low pitched ridge roofs with their ridges parallel to the length of the facade.

At the end of each connector is a rectangular pavilion of one and one-half stories covered by a hip roof. The facade of each pavilion projects one foot further east (forward) than the connectors. Each pavilion has two six-over-six windows of greater height than those of the connectors. Above each window is a "U" shaped panel of vertical boarding with the stems of the "U" facing down. The southernmost pavilion window is surfaced with clapboarding. A chimney rises from the center of the end wall of each pavilion.

continued

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

#7:

The symmetry of the main facade masks an irregular floor plan which is more clearly visible from the building's west side. The west facade is covered in wooden shingles. The center entrance in the central block is set at ground level; it consists of a wooden door with six glass panes and is flanked by three-pane sidelights set over recessed wooden panels. A flat roof extends beyond the doorway and is set on square, undecorated wooden posts. Above the entry is an elongated Palladian window with four-pane sidelights flanking a multi-paned, half-round headed center window, the bottom six panes of which are sliding sash. At the roof are two gable dormers with six-over-six sash windows.

North of the entrance is a deep, five-sided bay with a flat roof. Each side of the bay has a six-over-six window set over a recessed wooden panel and surmounted by a six-pane transom, excepting the west wall, which has two such windows flanking a door of the same design and size as the windows. The door leads to a stone terrace covered by a wooden trellis.

South of the entrance, the fenestration is irregular. Next to the door is a narrow two-over-one window and above it a four-pane window surmounted by a small three-pane window. Next to that is a one-story entrance porch and two six-over-six windows. The southernmost window of these two is on the wall of a one-story ell at the intersection of the main block and south wing.

To the north of the main block, the connector and pavilion are undecorated. The connector and pavilion each have two six-over-six windows.

The south connector and pavilion are partly obstructed from view by the projecting one-story ell and by an enclosed porch of slightly lower one-story height. The porch rests on a brick foundation and has five one-pane "Anderson" type windows. Originally a sun porch, it has two bubble skylights in its sloping roof. It has been enclosed within the last ten years.

Other than the enclosure of the porch, the only alterations to the house have been the removal of a balustrade over the west bay window and the removal of the curved staircases from the east portico.

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 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Architect: George Porter Fernald
Builder: Lewis H. Lovering

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Fernald House is significant as Medford's most elaborate and grand statement of Georgian Revival architecture, and particularly because it makes use of both new and period materials. Due to its prominent location at the top of Rock Hill, the building has become a local landmark.

In 1894 George Fernald and his brother Albert, both architects, purchased the land at the top of Rock Hill and built the house. Many of the details of the house were salvaged from a Providence, Rhode Island, Federal period house which was demolished in the 1890's. The front doorway and window lintels and possibly the Palladian window on the west facade were taken from the salvage. Interior fittings taken from the Providence house include several Federal mantelpieces, doors, mouldings, wainscoting and the main staircase.

In addition to his use of period materials, Fernald modelled parts of the house on direct Georgian/Federal precedent. The original dining room is one and one-half stories high with a plaster, barrel vaulted ceiling; its design is clearly based on that of the Ball Room at the "Count Rumford House" in North Woburn. The pedimented, two-story portico which was originally flanked by curved staircases resembles details of the White House in Washington, D.C.

The western facade originally faced a series of formal gardens which had been laid out to take advantage of the hilly site. Old photographs show that the gardens' plan was heavily influenced by Fernald's lifelong interest in Sicily and its landscape. He published an article on "Sicilian Hill Gardens" in The Architectural Record in which the illustrations show Fernald's design sources.

Despite Fernald's training as an architect and his employment for over twenty-five years with the architectural firm of Little and Browne, few other buildings are known to have been designed by him. His home on Rock Hill survives in excellent condition; its current owners are committed to preserving the building with its details intact.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Avery Index to Architectural Periods

Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, May 1973.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

Withey, Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 2/3 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 326320 4698440
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margo Webber, Editorial Assistant, and Brian Pfeiffer, Medford Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

March, 1976

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

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

3/31/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4/30/76

ATTEST:

DATE

4.30.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Fernald, George P. House

State Massachusetts

Working Number 4.6.76.3022

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1

Castings incorrect

1 cont. sheet

CONTROL

cm

4.9.76

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

4-14-76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept 4/16/76

Clark Huberman

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

Interesting - well researched.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

4/20/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hump

4.30.76

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered APR 30 1976

INT:2106-74



George Fernald House
Medford, Massachusetts (Middlesex County)
Brian Pfeiffer, photographer
November 1975
Medford Historical Commission, City Hall
Medford, MA 02155
Looking southwest at east facade
Photograph #1 of 2

APR 6 1976
Date Entered APR 30, 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



George Fernald House
Medford, Massachusetts (Middlesex County)
Brian Pfeiffer, photographer
November 1975

Medford Historical Commission, City Hall
Medford, MA 02155

Looking northwest at central section of
East facade

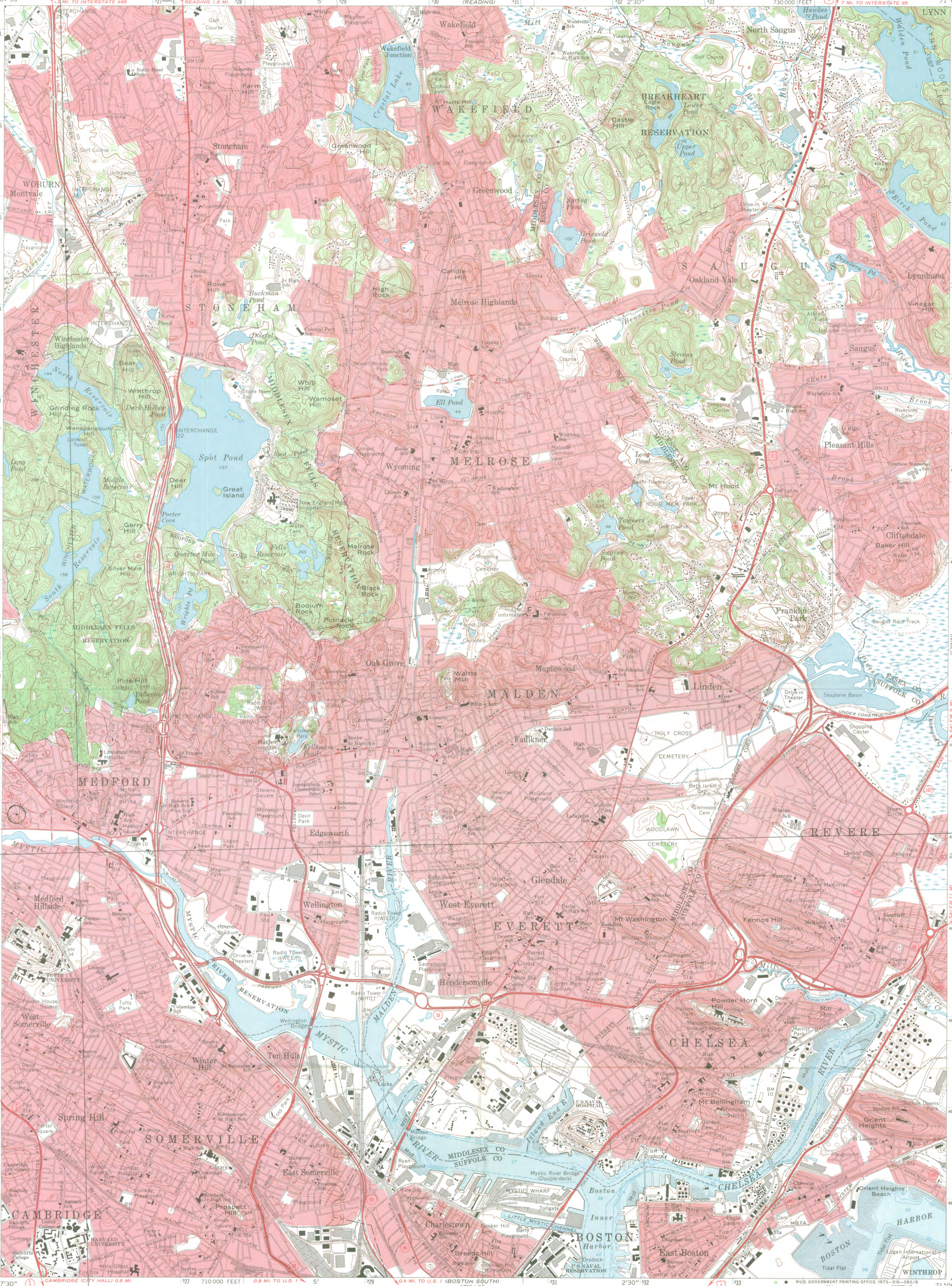
Photograph #2 of 2

APR 6 1976
Date Entered APR 30, 1976

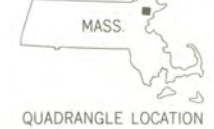
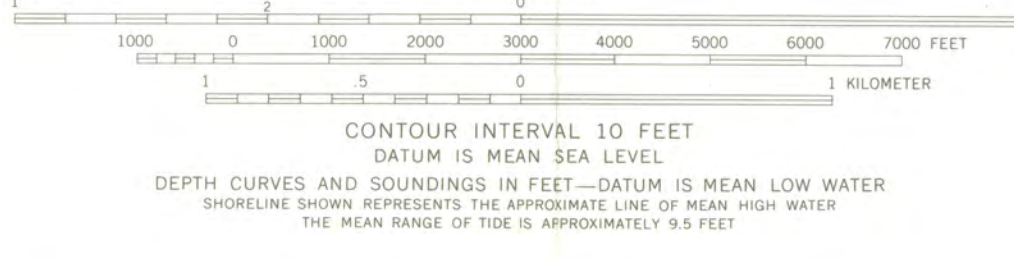
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REPRODUCTION OF PHOTOGRAPH BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MEDFORD, MA:
George P. Fernald House
UTM Reference:
19/326320/4698440



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
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
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Peirce, Peter, Store	Middleborough Plymouth County
Belcher, Jonathan, House	Randolph Norfolk County
Fernald, George P., House	Medford Middlesex County
Albree-Hall-Lawrence, House	Medford Middlesex County
Smith Alumnae Gymnasium	Northampton Hampshire County
Putnam, General Israel, House	Danvers Essex County
Dillingham House	Brewster vicinity Barnstable County
Wellesley Town Hall	Wellesley Norfolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Hon. James A. Burke
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Gerry E. Studds

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Fernald, George P., House

2 OTHER NAMES:

3 date of entry: 4-30-76

4 county code: 017

5 LOCATION street & number: 12 Rock Hill St.

city / town: Medford

vicinity of:

state: MA

county: Middlesex

6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic

7 OWNER: ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)

8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL

10 FUNDED? ☒ YES ☐ NO

11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 7

12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO

14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO

15 ACRES: 3/3

16 LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐

16 CONDITION: ☒ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair

☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated

☒ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated

17 original site: ☒ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown

17 features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7

☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8

☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS: ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☒ No Access ☐ Unknown

19 ADAPTIVE USE: ☐ YES ☒ NO

20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO

21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29

☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31

☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: residence

CURRENTLY: ditto

24 dates: of initial construction: 1894

major alterations:

historic events:

25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION:

26 architectural style(s): Georgian Revival

27 architect: 2 George Porter Fernald

28 master builder:

29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer:

31 interior decorator:

32 artist:

33 artisan:

34 builder/contractor: Lewis H. Lovering

35 NAMES give role & date

PERSONAL:

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Frame, clapboarding; 2 stories over high basement, central block with symmetrical side wings, hipped roof sections, interior chimneys, front center entrance with fanlight in frontispiece, surmounting tripartite window, full-height pedimented tetrastyle portico, simple window architraves, 1-story flanking hyphens articulated by openings in blind arcade; much interior decoration ~~salvaged~~ ^{razed} from Federal house ~~demolished~~ ^{and} in Providence, RI, circa 1890s. Town's most impressive example of Georgian Revival; designed for his own use by architect George Porter Fernald.