

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1975

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

HISTORIC

Paul Curtis House

AND/OR COMMON

M. Delano House (Medford Historical Inventory)**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

114 South Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

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

NAME

Heirs of Boris Mirski

STREET & NUMBER

114 South Street

CITY, TOWN

Medford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts02155**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts02141**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventroy of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSMassachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

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

Located at the corner of South and Curtis Streets with an unobstructed view of the Mystic River, the Paul Curtis House is a two and one half story building with a rear kitchen ell. Set on foundations of stone which are faced with blocks of rock faced granite above ground level, both sections of the house are covered by medium-high pitched roofs of asphalt shingles.

The main body of the house is rectangular in plan and has two important entrances. The north facade of the house has three floor length windows across each story with the center window being used as a doorway at each story. This wall has horizontal matched boarding and corner pilasters. Set in front of this wall are four two-story fluted Ionic columns which support a plain entablature. The gable, which is covered with matched boarding, has one window at its center and serves as a high pediment for the temple front. Projecting between the north wall and the columns at the second floor is a porch, the railing of which is made up of decorative round balusters and horizontally intersecting arcs. At the first floor the porch currently projects approximately eight feet beyond the columns, a later extension. The east wall of the house contains another entrance which has an open entry porch with two one story Ionic columns set in front of a doorway of multi-paned, rectangular side and top lights. The porch is raised several feet above ground level and is set slightly south of center on this wall. North of the doorway are two windows; to its south are a blank space and one window. At the second floor level, the fenestration reflects that of the first floor, with a window above the entrance. The entablature of the north wall extends around this elevation and the other sides of the house are pilasters. The west wall of the main house has four windows at each story, in an almost symmetrical arrangement. Attached to the rear south wall is a two story kitchen ell of considerably lower height. The fenestration of this wing is irregular and has been slightly altered by the removal of a door on its east side, the enclosure of an exterior stairway on its south side and by the enclosure of its western porch. This ell is flanked on its east and west sides by one-story Ionic porches which extend the length of the wing.

The entire house, excepting the north facade, is covered with wooden clapboarding painted white. Most windows have exterior louvred shutters. Many of the rooms of the main body of the house have interior paneled casement shutters. The house is currently in good physical condition, needing only a few superficial repairs.

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 1839

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Born on December 26, 1800, in South Scituate, a town from which many of the shipbuilders of Medford came, Paul Curtis moved to Medford in 1818 and worked in the shipyards of Thatcher Magoun, Medford's most prominent shipbuilder. In 1836 he formed a partnership with James Otis Curtis, a relative. This business arrangement lasted until 1838-1839, the firm having produced three ships. In 1839 James Curtis established his own shipyard near Park Street while Paul Curtis established one on the north bank of the Mystic River at the foot of Winthrop Street. Between 1839 and 1852 twenty-seven ships were constructed at the Winthrop Street yard; after 1852 Curtis moved to East Boston where, according to Sumner's 1858 History of East Boston, Curtis established one of the largest and "most convenient" shipyards on "the Island". By 1858 twenty-one ships had been constructed at the East Boston yard; various histories indicate that Curtis constructed more than one hundred vessels during his lifetime.

Early after his arrival in Medford, Paul Curtis bought one half of a house on Maverick Street from Jotham Stetson, where Curtis lived during the 1820's. In the 1830's he lived on Riverside Avenue, then named Ship Street. He purchased land on South Street in 1838 and built his house to which he moved in 1839. The site of his South Street house was directly opposite his Winthrop Street yards and directly west of the yards and home of Jotham Stetson to whom Curtis sold some of the South Street land and with whom Curtis appears to have had an ill-defined business/personal relationship from his earliest settlement in Medford.

With its temple facade, Ionic side porches, and dramatic site on the Mystic River, the Paul Curtis House is Medford's most elaborate and well preserved example of Greek Revival architecture. The house's association with shipbuilding, Medford's major industry of the nineteenth century, and its relationship to the river make it an important and visible survivor of the area's past.

In addition to the foregoing associations, there is a strong local tradition that the house is referred to as "Grandmother's House" in the poem "Over the River and through the Woods" by Lydia Child, a Medford native. No information was found to substantiate or disprove this tradition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gleason, Hall. Old Ships and Ship Building Days of Medford, J. C. Miller, Jr: West Medford, 1936.
Sumner, William H. History of East Boston. J.E. Tilton & Co.: Boston, 1858.
Medford Historical Society, Medford Historical Register, Vol. 4, 1901, p. 92.
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, under Paul Curtis, 1825-1852.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre *WMM OK*

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 325810 461981050
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Commission

Patricia L. Weslowski, Survey Director and Brian R. Pfeiffer, Medford Historical

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

February 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

40 Beacon Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston, 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Amador

TITLE

Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/24/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/6/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.1.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

acting

Property Curtis, Paul, House

State Massachusetts

Working Number 3.31.75.499

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

How could we reject "grand mothers house?"

CONTROL

OK pl
3.31.75

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Line
4/21/75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
4-1-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-23-75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
Harris
for Muntz 5.1.75

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry 7-1-75

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered MAY 6 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Paul Curtis House

AND/OR COMMON

M. Delano House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE

MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Brian Pfeiffer

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Medford Historical Commission

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
north facade

PHOTO NO. 1

#1081

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1081

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

MAY 6 1975
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Paul Curtis House

AND/OR COMMON

M. Delano House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Medford

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey, Boston, North, Mass., quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

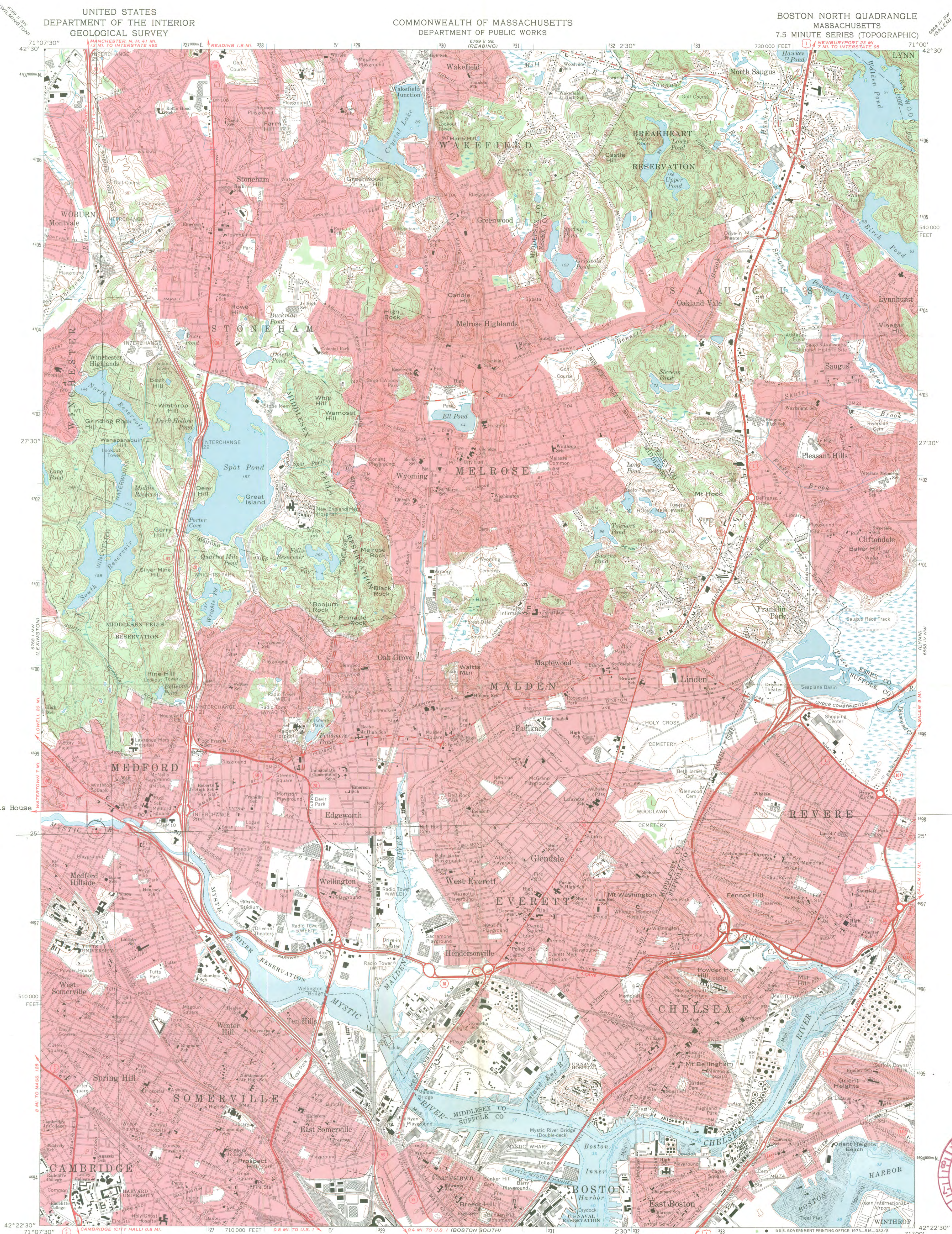
1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

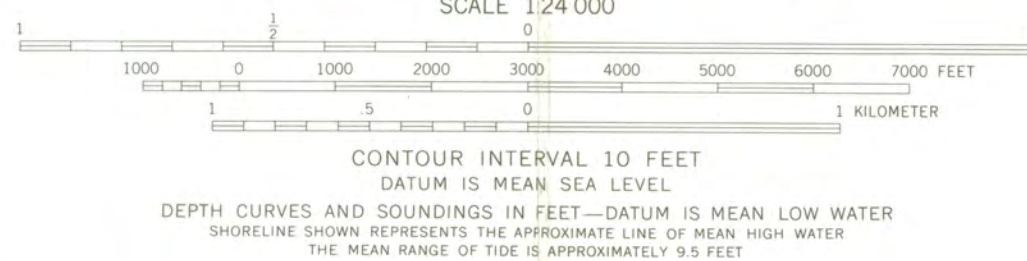
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Medford, Paul Curtis House
UTM reference:
19/325810/4698050



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 tidewater 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
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved 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 **MAY 6 1975**

Name

Curtis, Paul, House

Location

**Medford
Middlesex County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

PR

MMOTT/bsh

4/8/75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/22/77
Reviewer INITIALS: Joff
NR DOE May 6, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Curtis, Paul, House

OTHER NAMES: M. Delano House (Medford Historical Inventory) - sec

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 114 South Street

CITY, TOWN Medford

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7th

COUNTY Middlesex code 017.

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

- Substantially intact-1
- unknown - 4
- not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

- Substantially intact-2
- unknown - 5
- not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

- Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 6
- Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -
- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED
- Unexcavated

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED
- Reconstructed
- Excavated

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- private residence
now- SAME

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE - 4
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLOATION
- INDUSTRY - 13
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION - 25
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun
- planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: GREEK RENAISSANCE

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal (1) Paul Curtis - early owner - prominent ship-builder.

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1839

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

FRAME, CLAPBOARDING; 2 1/2 STORIES, RECTANGULAR WITH END ELL, GABLED ROOF, INTERIOR SIDE CHIMNEY, ^{Gable end} FRONT, CENTER ENTRANCE, FLANKED BY EQUAL HEIGHT WINDOWS, 2-STORY FULL-WIDTH RAISED IONIC TETRASTYLE PORTICO, ~~SET UNDER ROOF~~, 1-STORY DISTYLE SIDE PORTICO, ~~TETRASTYLE ELL PORCH~~ EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF TEMPLE-FORM GREEK RENAISSANCE ^{architecture}; BUILT FOR PAUL CURTIS, PROMINENT SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) MEDFORD SHIPBUILDER.