

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 13 1980

JUN 16 1980

DATE ENTERED

ref no 80000643

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

HISTORIC

SARAH FOSTER COLBURN HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7 Dana Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

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

Maurice H. Kramer

STREET & NUMBER

72 Glendale Road

CITY, TOWN

Quincy

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Cambridge and Third Streets

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Cambridge Historical Commission, Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge
Report 2: Mid Cambridge. Cambridge: MIT Press

DATE

1967, pp. 55, 56, 58, 112.

1967

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Cambridge Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

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

Built in 1841, the Sarah Foster Colburn House is an unusual 2½ story frame residence combining both Greek Revival and Gothic features. The steeply gabled facade most clearly demonstrates the skillful blending of the two styles. Here five unevenly spaced fluted columns with stylized Doric capitals support a narrow unadorned frieze and a deeply projecting gable pierced by wide pointed arch openings. A narrow lancet window filling the gable peak adds to the Gothic quality of the upper facade. This unusual configuration of deeply overhanging gable, Gothic lancets, and Greek Revival columns is related to a rare house type found in the Connecticut River Valley, but is unique in Cambridge. Contrasting to the basic simplicity of the house are the decorative acorn pattern bargeboards along the widely projecting eaves of the front gable and the unusually elaborate cast iron railings which fill the space above the columns with a lacy floral pattern. The bargeboard trim is repeated on a narrow gable on the northern facade. The main entrance is recessed behind narrowly spaced columns and is balanced by a bay window on the southern facade. To the rear is a simple two-story clapboarded ell with a separate entrance which was rebuilt after a 1934 fire. Except for its conversion to four apartments in 1927, the house remains remarkable intact.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 13 1980

JUN 16 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

6

PAGE

1

Title: Historic American Buildings Survey

Date: 1964 (Federal)

Depository for survey records: Library of Congress

City: Washington

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	1841	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Nathaniel A. Virgin
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sarah Foster Colburn House possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and is significant both for its style and location. A unique Cambridge example of a rare Connecticut River Valley style combining Gothic and Greek Revival elements, 7 Dana Street is part of the mid-nineteenth century suburban development of Dana Hill. The neighborhood was planned by a local speculator, Isaac Livermore, after Judge Francis Dana's mansion on the hill was destroyed by fire in 1839 and the land sold. Built in 1841 by housewright Nathaniel A. Virgin, 7 Dana was purchased by Livermore's niece, Sarah Foster Colburn, in 1842.

Virgin was born in New Hampshire in 1814 and served an apprenticeship in the Connecticut River Valley in the 1830's before coming to Cambridge. His familiarity with Connecticut River Valley architecture no doubt explains the unusual style of 7 Dana Street. Virgin's only other known work in Cambridge was an 1838 house combining Italianate and Greek Revival details, which has been demolished.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cambridge Historical Commission. Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge, Report 2: Mid Cambridge. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1967

Paige, Lucius. History of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Boston: H.O. Houghton and Company, 1877.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.21

QUADRANGLE NAME Boston South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 326180 4692790

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is located on block 116, lot 6 on the west side of Dana Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Harvard Street, Cambridge. Please refer to attached map.

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 Susan Maycock, Cambridge Historical Commission for
Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

February 1980

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

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 X

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

Patricia Westover 4/24/80

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/16/80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

6/12/80

Property Calburn, Sarah Foster, House

State Ma-Middlesex

Working Number 5-13-80 1324

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 2

CONTROL

This bldg. is eligible for architecture as a unique Cambridge example of a rare regional architectural style. Built in 1841, this 2 1/2 story frame residence combines elements of the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles - this rare house type developed in the Connecticut River Valley. Decorative elements include bargeboards, kneel windows, ogee arches and Doric columns.

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrus
6/12/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUN 16 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



←
Sarah Foster Colburn House
7 Dana Street; Cambridge, MA *Middlesex Co.*
Charles M. Sullivan
1977; Cambridge Historical Commission

View looking west of front (east) and
side (north) elevations

//

JUN 16 1980

MAY 13 1980

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPH

By CHARLES M. SULLIVAN

No. 1032/26A Date 1977

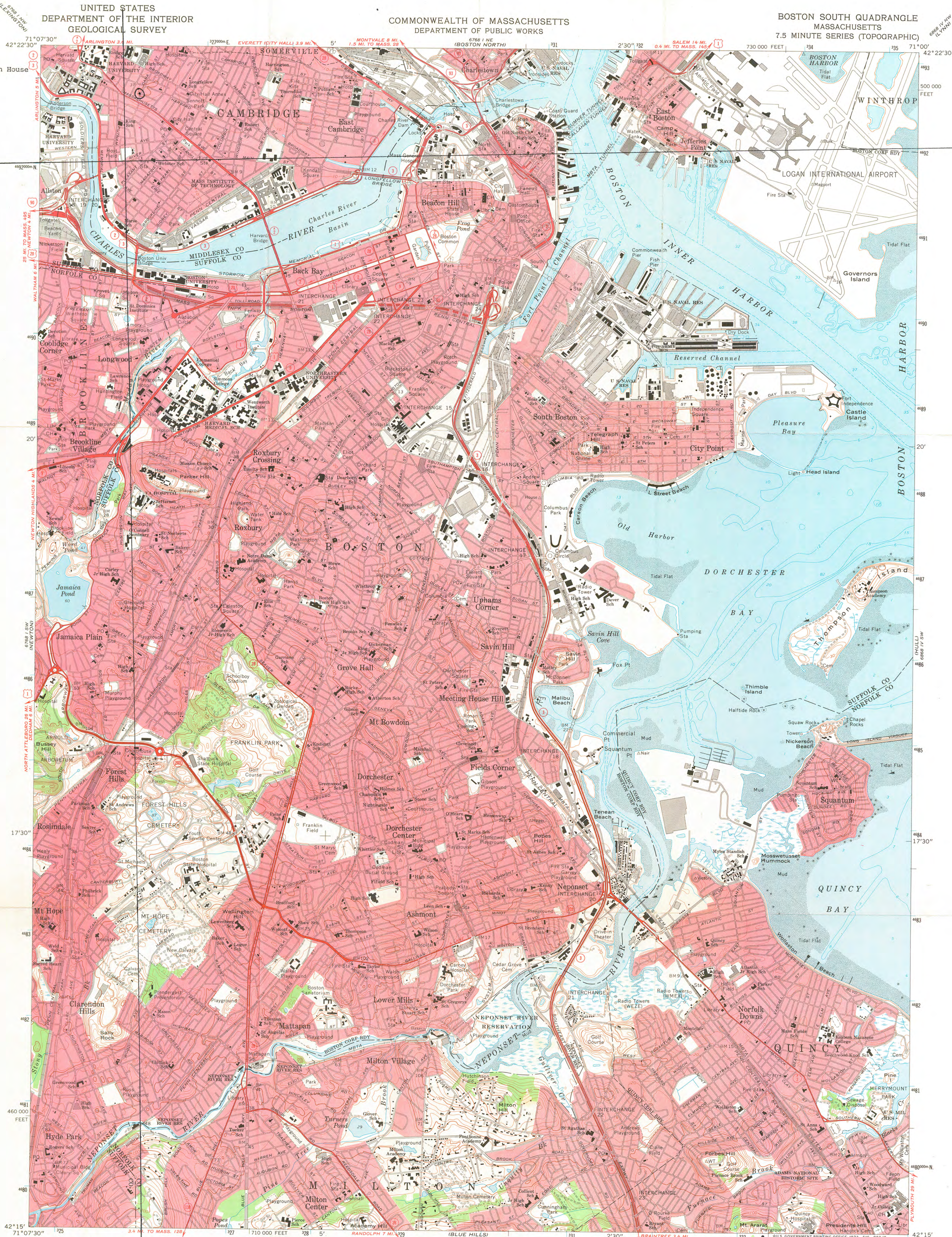
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

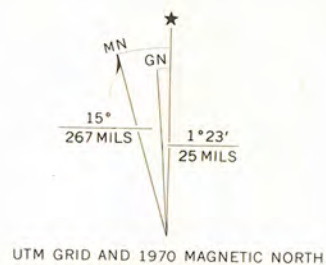
BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Sarah Foster Colburn House
7 Dana Street
Cambridge, Mass.

UTM REFERENCES:
19/326180/4692790



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane table surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 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
1,000-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



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



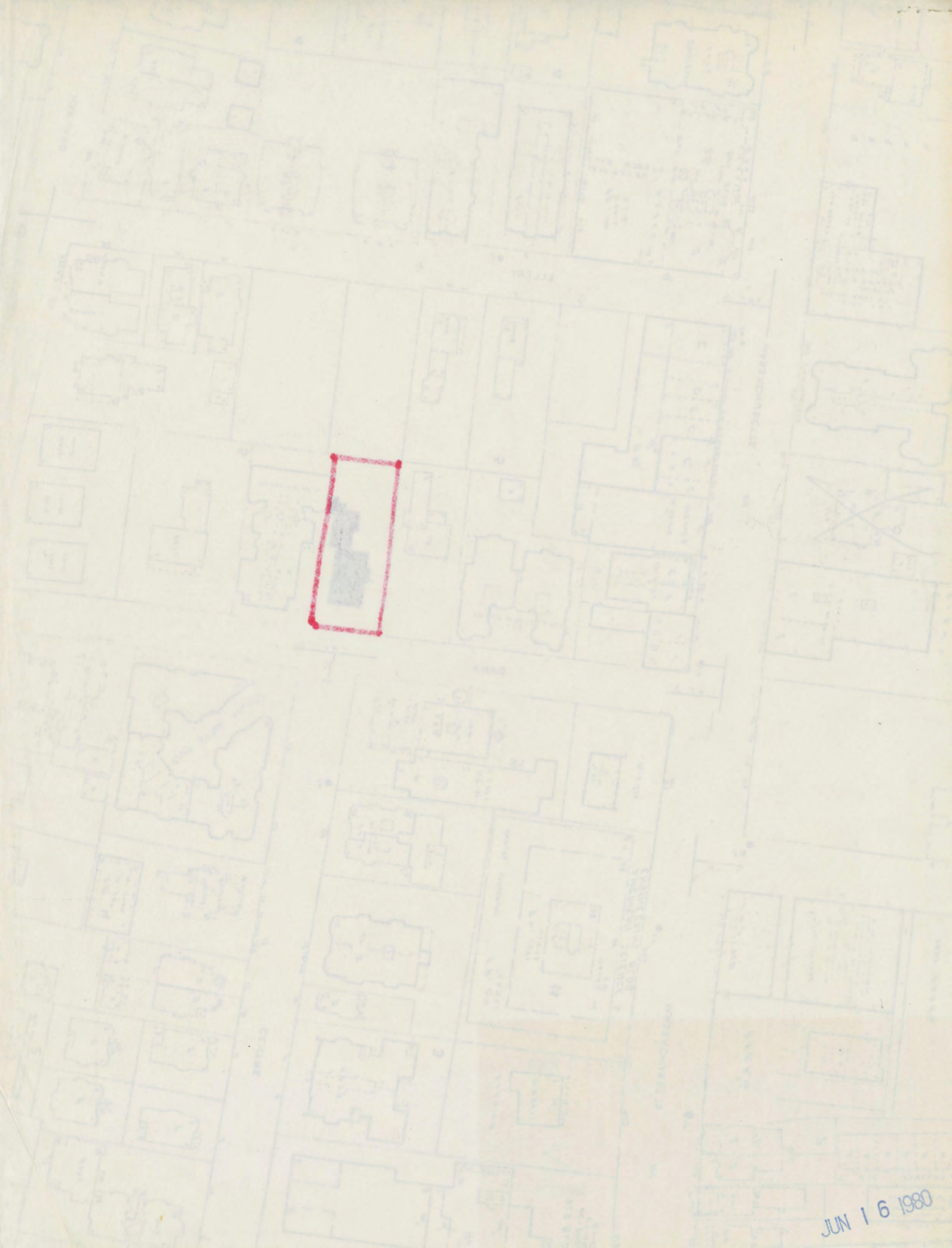
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814





JUN 16 1980

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 16 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Colburn, Sarah Foster, House	Cambridge Middlesex County
Charles Playhouse	Boston Suffolk County
All Saint's Church	Boston Suffolk County
Stearns, R. H., Building	Boston Suffolk County
Grafton Inn	Grafton Worcester County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Honorable Paul Tsongas	Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.	Executive Director, Massachusetts
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly	Historical Commission
Honorable John J. Moakley	294 Washington Street
Honorable Joseph D. Early	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Byers/mjd

6/27/80

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

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. MID CAMB.	Form no. <i>MC</i> II B 9
--------------------------	---------------------------------

1. Town Cambridge

Address 7 Dana Street

Name Sara Foster Colburn House

Present use residential

Present owner Peter Kinder

3. Description:

Date 1841

Source deed records

Style Gothic Revival

Architect Nathaniel Virgin, housewright

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features unusual combination of Gothic and Greek Revival features in single building.

Altered addition of ell Date 1939

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre -----

Approximate frontage 60'

Approximate distance of building from street

20'

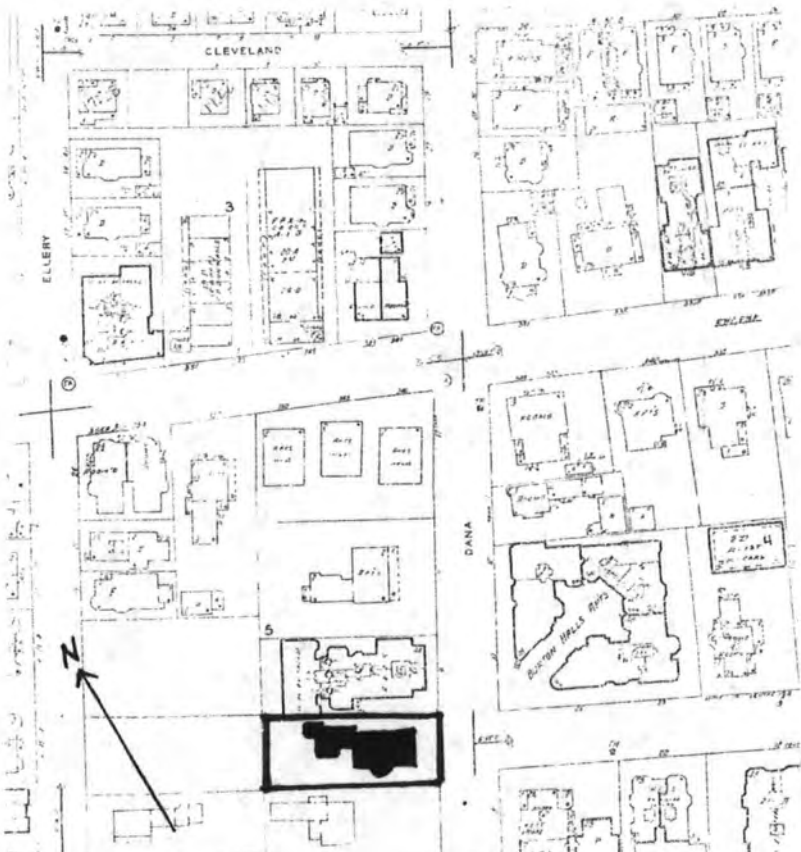
6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting / HABS

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964

HABS - 1968
National Register

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1096-5A



ASSESSOR #116-6

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Nathaniel A. Virgin

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Sara Foster Colburn House is the most important example of Gothic Revival residential architecture in Cambridge, and the only intact example of its type. It combines Greek Revival and Gothic Revival elements in a full-height Gothic arcade that cuts into the gable and is bordered by an elaborate ironwork balcony in a form found elsewhere only in the Connecticut River Valley.

Features include classical columns as part of lower porches, pointed arches on upper porch, long windows to floor with crossette design, and barge board with scalloped and acorn design for front gable and dormers.

This house has been recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

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

Item number

Page 7 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

61. Valentine Soap Workers Cottages
(101 Pearl St.)

✓ Keeper

Forced into Doug 6/30/83

Substantive Review

Attest

62. Opposition House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

63. Frost, Walter, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

64. Treadwell-Sparks House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/12/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
owner objection withdrawn

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

65. Francis, Ebenezer, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Attest

Harvard

66. Loivering, Joseph, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/12/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
owner objection withdrawn

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

67. Atwood, Ephiram, House

✓ Keeper

Forced into Doug 6/30/83

Attest

68. Buildings at 104-106 Hancock St.

✓ Keeper

Forced into Doug 6/30/83

Attest

69. Colburn, Sara Foster, House

Substantive Review Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

70. Brooks, Luther, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/12/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
owner objection withdrawn

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Sara Foster Colburn House
(Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
 State, County: MA - Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 82004968
11-14-80-2862
 Fed. Reg. Date: _____
 Date Due: 4/17/82
 Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

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

photos 1
 maps _____

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Significant for criteria C - most important example of Gothic Revival
 residential architecture in Cambridge - only intact
 example of its type

Recom. / Criteria accept - C
 Reviewer Patrick Andrew WMB
 Discipline Historian
 Date 3/18/82
☒ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ 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

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USDT 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 _____

Site _____ 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



1096 - 5A

9020

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Ma
Colburn, Sara Foster, Hesse

1096-5A

7 Dana St.

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275