

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

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

For NPS use only  
received **AUG 31 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Sewall-Scripture House

and/or common Sandy Bay Historical Society Building

**2. Location**

street & number 40 King Street N/A not for publication

city, town Rockport N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ ~~Sixth~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Ownership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both <b>Public Acquisition</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<b>Status</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress <b>Accessible</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>Present Use</b> <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input type="checkbox"/> private residence <input type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:
---	---	---	--	--

**4. Owner of Property**

name Sandy Bay Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

street & number 40 King Street

city, town Rockport N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets  
title of the Commonwealth, #61 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sewall-Scripture House stands on a half-acre lot at the corner of King and Granite Streets, on the edge of central Rockport. The Federal-Style structure is included in a small scale residential neighborhood which developed gradually over the 18th and 19th centuries.

Two and a half stories high with a gable roof, the most striking feature of the Sewall-Scripture House is its granite construction -- formed of dressed ashlar pieces measuring approximately one foot high by four to six feet in length. The rear wall is formed of large, coursed and square rubble.

The Sewall-Scripture House is five bays long with a center entrance. The structure is only one room deep, although living space is increased by an original ell at the rear. This gabled ell is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories high, of frame construction with clapboard siding; it contains two rooms on each floor and is sheltered on its western side by a one-story porch with four Tuscan columns. One chimney is located on the western end of the main block, and another, interior chimney serves both the main block and ell.

Windows on the Sewall-Scripture House contain 9 over 6 sash. The House's primary (and most unusual) decorative feature is its tall doorway, composed of plain granite jambs and a narrow, stilted round arch (with keystone), flanked by sidelights. Between the arch and the rectangular door is a louvered fan.

Interior woodwork is typically restrained, balancing the simplicity of the exterior design. The Sewall-Scripture House contains a circular stairway in its central hall, wood shutters which fold into splayed window reveals, wainscoting, cornice moldings, and period chimneypieces.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates      1832      Builder/Architect      N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sewall-Scripture House retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, and setting. It is significant for its association with Rockport's granite industry and as one of the few houses in town built of local granite. The property meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

Levi Sewall, a native of Maine, built the Sewall-Scripture House in 1832 on the occasion of his marriage to Mary Ann Robards. The granite building blocks were hauled by oxen from Sewall's own quarry in Pigeon Cove, which is said to have produced stone of excellent quality. Sewall was one of the towns earliest entrepreneurs in the granite business, first as a partner in Preston, Fernald & Co., and subsequently as founder of The Pigeon Hill Granite Company. The latter company flourished through the 19th and early 20th centuries with the help of his sons-in-law, Frank Scripture and George Bradford, until its merger in 1921 with the Rockport Granite Company.

Rockport's granite industry commenced in 1824, when a Quincy businessman began large-scale quarrying and exporting here. By 1850, quarrying surpassed fishing as the town's leading business and in the late 19th century, employed as many as 700 men. Cut granite from Rockport was widely used throughout the country for paving blocks, public buildings, navy yards, and lighthouses.

Granite was unusual as a building material in Rockport, however, and occurs mainly in structures built for industrial use. Although Rockport possesses a remarkable collection of 18th and 19th century structures, the Sewall-Scripture House stands out as a fine example of the Federal style, delicately handled in stone.

The area around the Sewall-Scripture House at King Street and Railroad Avenue is historically known as Sewall's Corner. King Street also serviced Mark Pool's granite dwelling and tavern (still standing across the street from the Sewall House), the Rowe Grist Mill, the Pool saw mill, and the landing at Fore (now Front) Beach. With the 1861 extension of the Boston & Maine rail line to Rockport, Railroad Avenue was put through from King Street south to Broadway. Before his death in 1880, Mr. Sewall induced the town to put curbing and a sidewalk in front of his house. Sewall promised, in return, to replace his wooden fence with a granite wall, which still surrounds the street sides of the property.

Levi Sewall's descendants occupied the Sewall-Scripture House until 1957, although in more recent years only as summer residents. Since 1957, the house has been owned and operated by the Sandy Bay Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References (see continuation sheet)

Sandy Bay Historical Society Records: Ebenezer Poole Papers; Otis Smith Papers; John Marshall Papers; Annie Rowe Papers; Area Maps, 1853, 1872, 1884, 1899; Calvin Pool Map, 1852; Essex County Court House, Rockport Assesors' Office; Interview with Mrs. Pauline Potter and others.  
Essex County Registry of Deeds.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3850 square feet  
 Quadrangle name Rockport, Mass. Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>366660</u>	<u>4723860</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification  
see attached deed description

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Lura Phillips, Rockport Historical Commission  
 organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 24, 1982  
 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 Valerie Ann Talmage  
 title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date Aug. 22, 1982

For NPS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 9/30/82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

**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 Sewall Scripture House Item number 9 Page 1

Babson, John J. History of the Town of Gloucester. Gloucester, MA:  
Proctoer Brothers, 1860.

Marshall, John W. (comp.) History of the Town of Rockport. Rockport,  
MA: Rockport Review Office, 1888.

\_\_\_\_\_. History of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston:  
C. F. Jewett and Co., 1878.

BOOK 4408-382; October 4, 1957

I, PAULINE M. POTTER, wife of Daniel W. Potter,

*Small - Scripture  
Home  
& said Co. MA*

of Detroit, in the State of Michigan

*Essex County, Massachusetts*

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ for consideration paid, grant to SANDY BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, a corporation duly established and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and being located in Rockport, Essex County, Massachusetts, with quitclaim warranty

A certain parcel of land, together with the dwelling house thereon, situated on the Northerly side of King Street, at the corner of Granite Street, in said Rockport, bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHERLY by said King Street, 40 feet;

WESTERLY by said Granite Street, 75 feet;

NORTHERLY by land now or recently of George Sears, 40 feet, more or less; and

EASTERLY by land now or recently of Mary York, 75 feet, more or less

Being the same premises described in deed of Emma B. Marshall to the grantor, dated December 17, 1951, and recorded with Essex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 3676, Page 104.

*3867  
reversed #'s*

I, Daniel W. Potter,

husband of said grantor  
~~wife~~

release to said grantee all rights of tenancy by the curtesy and other interests therein.

Witness OUR hands and seals this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1957

Mass. Excise Stamps \$ 20.25 affixed and cancelled on back of this instrument

U. S. Docum. Stamps \$ 19.80 affixed and cancelled on back of this instrument

*Pauline M. Potter  
Pauline M. Potter  
Daniel W. Potter Sr.  
Daniel W. Potter*

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
~~Commonwealth of Massachusetts~~

Wayne, Michigan ss.

*September 27, 1957*

Then personally appeared the above named Pauline M. Potter

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed, before me

*Susan Rockwell*  
Notary Public - Michigan

My Commission expires *June 1958*

9/20/82

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Sewall-Scripture House  
Essex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 8/31/82-2379

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 9/30/82 - 10/15/82

Action:  ACCEPT 9/30/82

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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area 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

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Sewall-Scripture House  
Fronting on King Street  
Granite wall - two sides

Sewall-Scripture House  
Rockport, MA  
by George T. Hilliard, 1982  
Negatives with Lura Philips,  
Rockport Historical Commission

Looking northeast

Photo 1 of 2



KEEP  
→  
RIGHT

Sewall-Scripture House  
corner - King and Granite Streets  
Rockport, Mass

Showing wooden ell  
and porch  
Door from porch into keeping room  
Granite Street

Sewall-Scripture House  
Rockport, MA  
by George T. Hilliard, 1982  
Negatives with Lura Phillips,  
Rockport Historical Commission

View from Granite Street looking  
east. Shows wooden ell and porch.

Photo 2 of 2



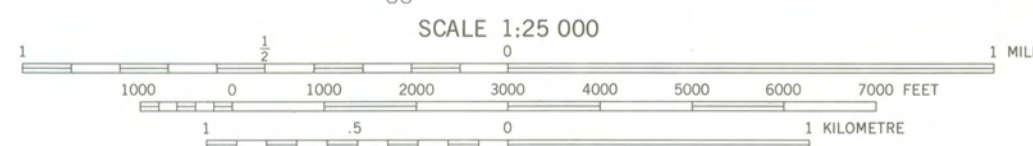
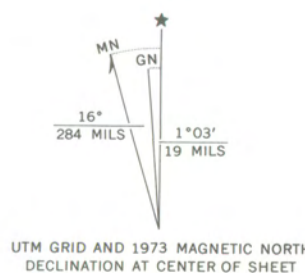
Sewall-Scripture House  
Rockport, MA  
UM reference:  
19/366660/4723860

CONVERSION SCALES



To convert feet to meters  
multiply by .3048  
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised  
from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS  
243 (1973) and 1206 (1972). 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-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
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 8.6 FEET



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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROCKPORT, MASS.  
N4235—W7031/7.5

1973

AMS 6869 II NE—SERIES V814

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

# Town of Rockport

P. O. Box 329

MASSACHUSETTS 01966  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING

PHONE 546-6786

RECEIVED

June 8, 1982

JUN 10 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington St.  
Boston, MA. 02108

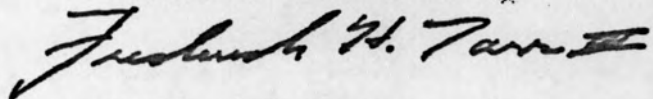
Dear Ms. Weslowski:

The Board of Selectmen were pleased to learn from your communication dated May 26, 1982 that the State Review Board will be considering nomination of the Sewall-Scripture House, 40 King Street, Rockport to the National Register of Historic Places. The Board unanimously endorses this nomination.

It would also be appreciated if the support and consideration of the Historical Commission be given to the South Tower, Thacher's Island and to Motif #1, Bearskin Neck for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Frederick H. Tarr, III  
Chairman

FHT/ep

cc: Mrs. Lura Phillips, Chairman  
Rockport Historical Commission



**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

August 24, 1982

Mr. Jerry Rogers  
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- Adams - Phillips Woolen Mill (local)
- Adams - Renfrew Mill #2 (local)
- Belchertown - Walker Collis House (local)
- Hudson - Col. Adelbert Mossman House (local)
- Lenox - Lenox Academy (state)
- Lenox - The "Church on the Hill" (local)
- New Bedford - Dawson Building (local)
- New Marlborough - New Marlborough Village Historic District (local)
- North Andover - Machine Shop Village (state)
- Pittsfield - Wollison-Shipton Building (local)
- ✓ Rockport - Sewall-Scripture House (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board considerations 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

*Candace Jenkins*

Candace Jenkins  
Registration Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

CJ/mas

