

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 21 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Puritan House (Tappan's Hotel, Atlantic House, Gloucester House, Mason's House)

AND/OR COMMON

Puritan House (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3 Washington Street and 2 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
EssexCODE
009

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: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Frank Ahearn, Puritan Realty Trust

STREET & NUMBER

24 Edgemore Road

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01930

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex South County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem,

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1969

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts 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

The Puritan House (1810) is located in downtown Gloucester Center at the corner of Main and Washington Streets. Its main facade faces Gloucester Harbor and the rear extension stretches up the hill on Washington Street. The Puritan House is situated near the commercial district, although it is separated from it by a vacant lot and a number of intrusions.

The principal section of the building facing Main Street is four stories with a six-bay facade. The building is brick and sits on a granite foundation which is nearly a full story in height. The central doorway on Main Street is arched (originally with fanlight) as is another entryway on Washington Street. The roof of the main section is a hip roof and has two brick chimneys. There are dentils at the eaves.

32

The rear portion of the building (also built in 1810) provides additional hotel rooms and echoes the treatment of the main section. This part of the building is also brick, but is only three stories. Another addition on the northeast side of the building was built around 1905 and is of wood construction.

On the interior, the main lobby is approached by a stairway leading from the Main Street entrance. The most striking feature of the lobby is the winding staircase which goes to the third floor. Just off the lobby on the east side of the building is a room approximately 20 feet by 30 feet which has a nicely appointed marble fireplace. On the Washington Street side of the lobby is another room with two brick fireplaces at either end of the west wall.

The floors above are divided into rooms used for lodging in the old inn. Most of the original molding and wainscoting survives and many of the rooms have elegant fireplaces with carved mantels.

At the present time the Puritan House is unoccupied, although preservation work is now in progress. The windows are boarded, but the original shutters are stored in the attic for future replacement on the facade. Although much work needs to be done on the building, it has been found to be structurally sound, and its rehabilitation will prove to benefit greatly the downtown area of Gloucester.

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) Hotel
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Puritan House is significant as one of the first brick buildings in Gloucester and as the first hotel in the community. Standing on a prominent spot overlooking Gloucester's inner harbor, the Puritan House (Tappan's Hotel or Atlantic House as it was first known) was certainly the most impressive hotel in the vicinity at the time of its construction. With forty-five rooms for guests, it had the capacity to serve a city ten times the size of the little fishing village of Gloucester. Therefore, its erection was no small source of amazement to the inhabitants there.

When the Puritan House was built, there were only two brick structures in town -- a fort-keeper's house at the fort point and an old gunhouse on High Street. The new four-story hotel became the most significant brick building in the area and a forerunner of the brick commercial buildings which followed on Main Street. The Puritan House was one of the few buildings to escape a disastrous fire of 1830.

The hotel was built by Colonel James Tappan of New Hampshire. Tappan was a school teacher, one of whose students was Daniel Webster. Tappan employed a large force of workers to excavate the foundation, during which a solid ledge was encountered. The task of cutting through this rock brought about such added expense that Tappan was forced to borrow money to complete the venture.

In the late nineteenth century the hotel was owned by John Mason, a surveyor of Cape Ann. Both Tappan and Mason served as representatives from the area to the State Legislature.

One of the famous occupants of the hotel was Winslow Homer who stayed there in 1873. In the nineteenth century most of the important social functions of the community were held in the large building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Babson. History of Gloucester. 1860.
Boston Globe. 1890.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .14

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 3633010 4718
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

Deidre Henderson and Richard V. Hunt,

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, and
ORGANIZATION

Consultants

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission
STREET & NUMBER

January 13, 1976

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street
CITY OR TOWN

617-727-8470

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

Jan. 8, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles L. Brown
Charles L. Brown

DATE

5/28/76

DATE

5/28/76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Puritan House (Tappan's Hotel, Atlantic House,
Gloucester House, Mason's House)

State Mass.

Working Number 1.21.76, 2378

ESS 2X
DB 76 000 244

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1

Nothing appears incorrect 5.26.76
Wrong Truck called
#12 data missing 1.8.76

CONTROL

OK-2.2.76

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

LIVE

21 Apr 76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
HW Jan 22
2/27/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Accept
W.R. Luce
4/22/76

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colz
5-17-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

To be rehabilitated

Hung
5/18/76

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 28 1976

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

JAN 21 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 28 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Puritan House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Essex

STATE

MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Lawrence Maver

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

West Wharf, Gloucester, MA 01930

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Looking northwest at main facade and east elevation.

PHOTO NO.

1 of 2



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

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Puritan House

AND/OR COMMON

Puritan House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Essex

STATE

MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Lawrence Maver

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

West Wharf, Gloucester, MA 01930

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Facing north, showing facade and west elevation along Washington Street.

PHOTO NO. 2 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Puritan House

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS, Gloucester Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1960

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

GLOUCESTER QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-ESSEX CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Gloucester: Puritan House

UTM Reference: 4718-790
19/363300/4714790

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised 1960
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 243 (1959)
and 1206 (1960). 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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

SCALE 1:24,000
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
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 8.6 FEET

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

GLOUCESTER, MASS.
N4233.75—W7037.5/8 X 7.5
1960



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 28 1976

Name

Location

Quincy, Josiah, House

Quincy
Norfolk County

Puritan House

Gloucester
Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. James A. Burke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

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

PR MMott/row 6/2/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 21 Apr 76
 Reviewer INITIALS: *[Signature]*
 NR DOE

✓ MAY 28 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *PURITAN House*

OTHER NAMES: *Tappan's Hotel, Atlantic House, Gloucester House, Mason's House*

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER *3 Washington St. & 2 Main St.*

CITY, TOWN *Gloucester*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT *4*

STATE *MA*

VICINITY OF

COUNTY *Essex*

code *009*

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

NOT
 - Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- X* - FAIR

- DETERIORATED

- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED
- Unexcavated

- UNALTERED

- X* - ALTERED
- Reconstructed
- Excavated

X - ORIGINAL SITE

- MOVED
- Unknown

ACCESS -

- Yes-restricted
- Yes-unrestricted
- X* - 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- *HOTEL*

now- *NONE*

SIGNIFICANCE:

4 - ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

6 - ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

- AGRICULTURE

X - ARCHITECTURE

- ART

X - COMMERCE

- COMMUNICATIONS

- CONSERVATION

- ECONOMICS

- EDUCATION

- ENGINEERING

- EXPLORATION

- INDUSTRY

- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- LAW/Gov't/politics

- LITERATURE

- MILITARY

- MUSIC

- PHILOSOPHY

- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION

- SCIENCE

- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

- TRANSPORTATION

- OTHER (SPECIFY)

- entertainment

- health

- recreation

- settlement

- socio/cultural

- urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

Hotel in Gloucester

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

Col. James Tappan - owner, builder
John Mason, owner

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1810 ✓

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1905 addition

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1830 - survived city fire

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) .1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Brick, ^{Flemish &} common bond, 4 stories main section, 3 stories rear, L shape.
Shallow hipped roofs. 3 interior end chimneys on main section, 5-10 side interior chimneys in rear section.
Main section 6 bays by 3, rear 6 bays long. Wood addition.
Plain sills & lintels on all windows. One fan-lit door in center of ^{main} section and one on side. Dentiled eaves.
Main lobby includes winding staircase. Side room contains marble fireplace. 45 guest rooms above, most with ^{carpet} ~~wood~~ flooring & ~~carpet~~ ^{carpet} fireplaces.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The hotel was unusually large when built in 1810, and was one of the earliest brick buildings in Gloucester. It was the first hotel in town, serving as a community focus into the late 19th century and early 20th centuries.

2nd sheet

See

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

Col. James Tappan - owner, builder
John Mason, owner

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(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1

2nd sheet

Brick (Flemish and common bonds), 4-story main block with 3-story rear ell, L-shaped, low hipped roof sections; 3 interior end chimneys on main block, numerous chimneys in rear section; ^{center} round-arched entrance on main block, ~~the~~ simple entrance ⁺ windows, denticulated cornice, winding staircase; excellent interior woodwork, ^{45 guest rooms.} Federal.

Community's ^{1st} hotel, one of ^{city's} first brick buildings, ^{late 19th and early 20th c.} built by Col. ~~fame~~ community focal point.

one of the earliest brick buildings in Gloucester. It was the first hotel in town, serving as a community focus into the late 19th century and early 20th centuries.