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216

FORM NO.

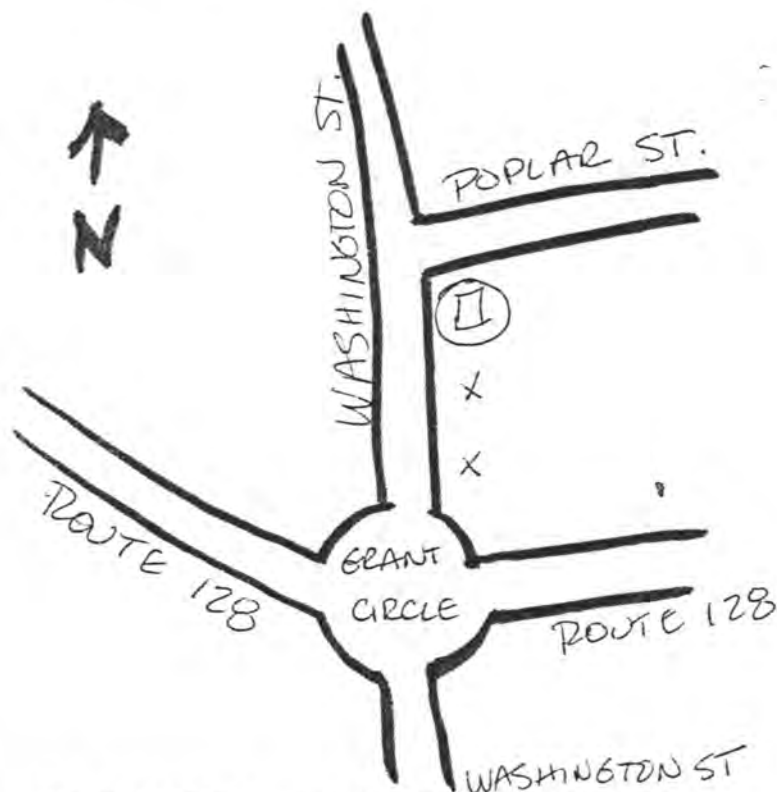
26

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 25:9 lean-to, looking left
25:12 staircase
25:16 left-hand chamber showing 18th century graining on fireplace wall
25:15 right end wall, right-hand chamber
25:18 door, left-hand room
25:19 summer beam at chimney girt, right-hand room
25:22 front, left-hand corner of rear room
25:27 exterior

Sketch Map:

UTM REFERENCE 19 / 362-540 / 4720-090USGS QUADRANGLE GloucesterSCALE 1:25,000Town Gloucester 009Address 244 Washington StreetHistoric Name White-Ellery HouseUse: Present UnoccupiedOriginal Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1710Source Abbott Lowell CummingsStyle First PeriodArchitect UnknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardsOutbuildings NoneMajor Alterations (with dates) E11 tothe left side, before ca. 1825Condition GoodMoved Yes Date 1947Acreage less than 1 acreSetting Bus y residential street,adjacent to Route 128 rotary.Recorded by Anne GradyOrganization Boston UniversityDate September 1985

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: GLOUCESTER	Form No: 26
Property Name: White-Ellery House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

SIGNIFICANCE

The White Ellery House has integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling. It embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction in its plank frame and many surviving First Period and transitional features and, therefore, meets Criterion C.

Built in 1710 by the Rev. John White, an influential minister, the house exhibits a certain elegance and refinement commensurate with the owner's position in the community: the framed overhang, the very elaborate chamfering, particularly of the first floor frame (it is the only example in the survey where all of the horizontal beams, not just the summer beams, are decorated with the costly quarter round chamfer), and the size of the structure with its integral lean-to.

The rare survival of three kinds of painted decoration adds significantly to our limited knowledge of less permanent forms of embellishment of First Period houses, while the incorporation of certain Renaissance-inspired features places the house among the earliest examples of transitional architecture in the study area, comparable in significance to the Parson Barnard House. The somewhat tentative use of Renaissance forms illustrates their newness to the carpenters who built the house. The elaborately chamfered first floor frame is combined with a plaster ceiling dropped to hide the joists; the staircase with turned balusters, newel posts and drops is set in plainly sheathed entry; and the paneled doors have some of the widest feather edges on record at 3 inches.

The building is an example of the development of the restoration/-preservation movement in the post World War II period. The sort of careful stabilizing and preserving of the house in which archaeological evidence was purposely retained at the expense of a cosmetic restoration is a recent development. The house ranks with SPNEA'S Gedney House in Salem as an important study tool.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The White Ellery House is a five bay wide, 2 1/2 story plank frame structure with central chimney and integral lean-to. There is a framed overhang on the facade and hewn overhangs on the ends under the gable. Built in 1710 by the Rev. John White, the house received only one enlargement over the years: the lean-to was extended to the left rear to form a small shed. The building was moved from a nearby site in 1947 to make way for a traffic rotary on Rte. 128. The Cape Ann Scientific, Literary, and Historical Association carried out a "non-cosmetic" above-ground restoration under the direction of Mansfield Brooks in which much archeological evidence was left intact. The association operated the site as a historic house museum for a few years. Now the White Ellery House is boarded up, awaiting a decision about its future use. The simple clapboarded exterior was

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: GLOUCESTER	Form No: 26
Property Name: White-Ellery House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

renewed at the time of the restoration. Windows were returned to their original locations. Drops at the overhang, for which there was some documentary and physical evidence, were not restored, however. The single chimney is at the center of the ridge.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

Many First Period and transitional features are exposed throughout the house. During the restoration of 1947, later finishes were removed, revealing framing of oak and pine, early plaster, areas of decorative painting, and portions of the plank walls.

In the downstairs rooms, all of the horizontal framing members have well-crafted quarter round chamfers, flat collars and stops composed of two concave sections. Summer beams are longitudinal and 12 inches wide. The chimney girts have the additional refinement of collars and stops on either side of the summer beam. Posts and exposed sills have inch wide flat chamfers and taper stops. In both downstairs rooms there is a heavy paint line half-way up the summer beam. The joists (spaced 21-22" on centres), and ceiling boards above the paint line are absolutely clean, making it highly likely that the ceiling was plastered below the joists from the beginning.

Doors between the downstairs rooms and the lobby, although part of the original construction, are very early examples of the second period style raised-field paneled doors. In these two-panel doors, the room sides have raised panels with three inch wide feather edges, while the lobby sides have flat panels. On both sides, a broad bolection moulding is applied at the edges of the panels.

Like these doors, the staircase is original and exhibits early Second Period style features: squat turned balusters, turned newel posts with ball finials and drops, a hand rail moulded on just one side and a broad cyma moulding on the closed stringer. The balustrade continues up to the first run of the attic stairs; the second run is enclosed with plain sheathing.

In the chambers, the summer beams are finished with quarter-round chamfers, narrower than those on the downstairs beams, and lamb's tongue stops. Fireplace walls in both chambers have original plain, vertical board sheathing on either side of the fireplace. Rising braces are exposed on the outer walls of the chambers consistent with the plank frame construction of the house. Several of the rear braces have been removed to allow access to the lean-to garrett. Between each chamber and the stair hall, there are vertical plank doors. On the chamber side of the door to the south chamber, bolection moldings have been applied to suggest a paneled door. On the chamber side of the door to the north chamber, the illusion was carried still farther by the application of molded boards to look

like the actual stiles and rails.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: GLOUCESTER	Form No: 26
Property Name: White-Ellery House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Several other refinements of finish suggest that the north chamber was the better chamber: While the end and chimney girts are finished with flat chamfers and taper stops, the front and rear plates are covered top to bottom with a board molded along the lower edge with a delicate cyma molding. In the north chamber, the ceiling was, like the downstairs ceilings, plastered from the beginning.

In the south chamber, the ceiling was exposed and white washed originally; some of the joists are even slightly chamfered. Here, there are no cover boards on the plates. Plates, girts and posts have flat chamfers and taper stops.

Although the chimney was greatly rebuilt at the time of the restoration in 1947, an attempt was made to rebuild along earlier lines. An unusual feature of the chimney is the small fireplace in the lean-to attic.

Original clay plaster with hair and eel grass and a skim coat of lime plaster is preserved in many areas of the house including in the right-hand, south room (on the rear wall, south east corner and on the front wall, south west corner); in the left-hand, north room (fireplace wall and outer wall); throughout the north chamber; in the northeast corner of the south chamber; in the northwest and southwest corners of the lean-to; and in the lean-to attic.

In the lean-to are three distinct areas of different decorative painting. The ends of the lean-to were once separated off into small rooms. Each of the three rooms of the lean-to had a different style of decoration. In the room at the south end of the lean-to, black sponge daubs were applied to plastered walls, the white washed ceiling and the joists. In the center room, black commas were painted on white washed surfaces and survive now primarily on joists. In what was originally the north room of the lean-to, there is a small area painted charcoal grey and daubed with white spots. In the north wall of the lean-to, there may be an original window opening, a small, nearly square opening, now covered with solid board shutter. The door from the lean-to to the south room is another example in which stiles and rails are applied to a vertical board door to suggest paneling.

In the lean-to garret there is a small fireplace. The cantilevered tie beams of the integral lean-to framing are readily visible in the unfinished garret. Also, the ends of the plank partition between lean-to and main house are visible above the door to left hand chamber. They show the characteristic ripping of the last few inches of a sawmill-sawn board.

The attic shows a purlin roof. There are lapped collar beams on the intermediate rafters. The left end gable retains vertical planks, while the right gable end has recent horizontal boarding.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: GLOUCESTER	Form No: 26
Property Name: White-Ellery House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The entire fireplace wall in the north chamber, including the original sheathing on either side and the later vertical feather edged sheathing over the fireplace, has 18th century grain painting on it. There is also 18th c. grain painting on the reverse of this sheathing in the upper lobby.

REFERENCES

Chamberlain, Narcissa G. "History in Houses: The White Ellery House at Gloucester, Massachusetts." Antiques , 78 (1960), 570-573.

Cummings, Abbott, Lowell. The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725, 1979, pp. 86-90.

Cummings, Abbott, Lowell - Notes on examination of the White Ellery House. Sept. 9, 1957. In possession of the Cape Ann Scientific, Literary and Historical Society.

Cummings, Abbott, Lowell. - Massachusetts and its First Period Houses, pp. 142-143; 192.

Little, Nina Fletcher. "The Old White Ellery House." in Old-Time New England, January, 1947.

1/24/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Putnam, Deacon Edward, Jr., House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

72. Putnam, James, Jr., House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

73. Ross Tavern ~~Entered in the~~ **Revised Review**

for Keeper *Betty L. Sawrse* 3/9/90

Attest _____

74. Sawyer House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

75. Smith House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

76. Smith, Hazariah, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

77. Thorndike, Capt. John, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

78. Titcomb, Benaiah, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

79. Tufts, Rev. John, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

80. White--Ellery House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper *Delores Byrum* 3/9/90

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY White--Ellery House
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000216

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/9/96 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Gloucester, TVA
White-Elery House
244 Washington Street
lean-to, looking left
1985

25:09



25:12

Gloucester, MA
White - Ellery House
244 Washington Street
Staircase
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass., MA



Gloucester, MA
White-Ellery House
244 Washington Street
right end wall
1985

25:15

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass., TR



Gloucester, MA

White - Ellery House

244 Washington Street

25:16

left-hand chamber - graining on
fireplace wall

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR



25:18

Gloucester, MA
White-Elley House
244 Washington Street
door, left-hand room
1985

1st Floor Buildings of E. May, R



Gloucester, MA
White. Ellery House
244 Washington Street
Summer beam at chimney gird
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass. TR

25:19



Gloucester, MA
White - Ellery House
244 Washington Street
front, left hand corner of
near corner

1985

See Map, North of Falls St

25:22



244 Washington Street
Gloucester, MA

EXTENSION
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR 25:27

105

Gloucester, MA
White-Elley House
244 Washington Street
Tap 45-32 (part thereof)
Scale: 1"=40'

WASHINGTON STREET

POPLAR STREET

STREET

POPLAR STREET

STREET

BERTONI ROAD

FOLEY ROAD

YORK ROAD

BERTONI ROAD

ROAD

KING ROAD

128

ROUTE

STATE HIGHWAY LAYOUT LINE

ROCKLAND STREET

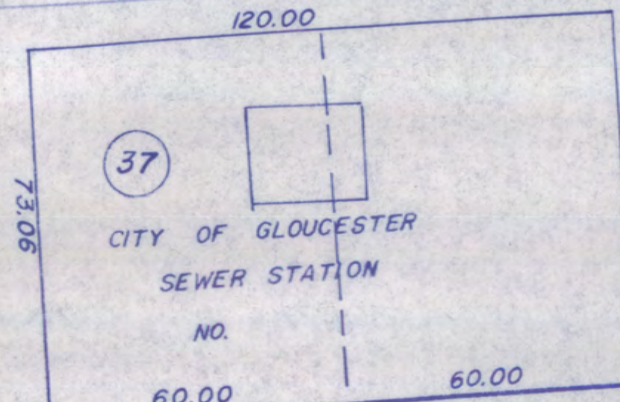
STREET

GLoucester AVENUE

39

44

38



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY

SCALE 1" = 40'

CITY OF GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
SHEET NO. 45

MAKESPACE P&T

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

10000216

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Period Buildings of E. Massachusetts TRA
White-Ellery House, Gloucester (Essex), MA

Section number 2009 supplemental information Page 1

Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

The results of dendrochronology testing of the White-Ellery House indicate that the house was framed no earlier than 1710, and that the frame was probably prepared during the winter-spring of 1709-1710. Testing of the barn timbers indicates that the structure was built in late 1739 or in 1740. William Flynt, Architectural Conservator at Historic Deerfield analyzed the samples, which he collected on August 29, 2007. In the house, eleven samples were collected from studs, girts, planks, and posts. In the barn, six samples were collected from tie beams and posts. The samples were of white oak, hemlock, and white pine. While most of the samples from the house correlate with a ca. 1710 date of construction, one from the kitchen fireplace mantletree indicated a felling date of 1742, suggesting modifications to the firebox around that time. As an aside, the report noted that the extraordinary number of rings in the mantletree sample indicated that the tree from which it came was about 400 years old.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: Flynt, William A. "A Dendrochronological Study of Select Timbers from the White-Ellery House and Barn, Gloucester, MA." Historic Deerfield, Inc., Deerfield MA. September, 2007. The report is on file at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

A note on dendrochronology dating

In recent years tree-ring chronologies have been developed for eastern Massachusetts and adjacent regions, and a number of buildings or parts of buildings have been evaluated and given new construction dates due to tree-ring dating, or dendrochronology. The principle behind tree-ring dating is a simple one: the seasonal variations in climate produce variations in growth which are reflected in the varying width of the annual rings of the tree. The rings in timbers from historical houses are compared with previously dated ring sequences from old-growth trees and from timber from structures with well-established dates to allow precise dates to be ascribed to each ring. Computer comparisons quantify how good the match is between the two. A dendrochronologist then analyzes the results and establishes the date the tree was felled. Some caution must be used in interpreting these dates to determine the construction date of a building. Sometimes timbers from the same construction phase of the same building have been felled one, two or more years apart. However, it was common practice to build timber-framed structures with green or unseasoned timber, and it is likely that construction was completed within twelve or eighteen months from the felling date.

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY White--Ellery House
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 4/28/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/13/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000216

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER A Beall DISCIPLINE West
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6-13-11

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

April 19, 2011 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find supplementary information for 34 properties previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places, reflecting recent scholarship regarding their dates of construction, based upon dendrochronological techniques.

These properties include:

Boston (Suffolk County):

James Blake House (NRIND, 5/1/74)
Pierce House (NRIND, 4/26/74)

Cambridge (Middlesex County):

Cooper-Frost-Austin House (NRIND 9/22/72)

Dedham (Norfolk County):

Fairbanks House (NRIND, NHL, 10/15/66)

Deerfield (Franklin County):

All properties are located within the Old Deerfield Village HD (NRDIS, NHL 10/15/66)

Allen House (MHC # 20)
John Ashley House (MHC #31)
Eldad Bardwell House (MHC #23)
Bull-Williams House (MHC #47)
Childs House (MHC #53)
Frary House (MHC #13)
Eliezer Hawks House (MHC #58)
Hinsdell-Williams House (MHC # 24)
Jonathan Hoit House (MHC # 9)

Little Brown House (MHC #79)
Moors House (MHC #39)
Nims House (MHC #12)
Russell House (MHC #49)
Saxton House (MHC #48)
Severance House (MHC #19)
John Sheldon – Hawks House (MHC #32)
Stebbins House (MHC # 36)
John Williams House (MHC # 50)

Essex (Essex County):

Cogswell's Grant (NRIND 4/19/90)

Gloucester (Essex County):

White-Ellery House (NRIND, NRTRA 3/9/90)
[First Period Buildings of Eastern MA, TRA]

Ipswich (Essex County):

Paine-Dodge House (NRIND, NRTRA, 3/9/90)
First Period Buildings of Eastern MA, TRA

Merchant-Choate House (NRDIS, NRMRA, 9/17/80)
[High Street HD]

Lexington (Middlesex County):

Hancock – Clarke House (NRIND. NHL, 7/17/71)

Millville (Worcester County):

Chestnut Hill Meeting House (NRIND 11/13/84)

Newbury (Essex County):

Tristram Coffin House (NRIND, NRDIS, 5/24/76)
[Newbury HD]

Salem (Essex County):

Eleazer Gedney House (NRDIS, 10/1/74)
[Gedney and Cox Houses HD]

Pickering House (NRDIS 8/28/73)
[Chestnut Street HD]

Sandwich (Barnstable County):

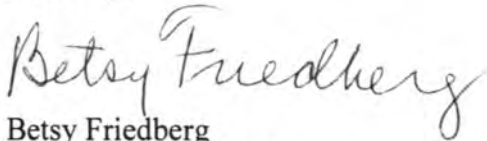
Wing Fort House (NRIND 6/3/76)

Winthrop (Suffolk County):

Deane Winthrop House (NRIND, NRTRA 3/9/90)
[First Period Buildings of Eastern MA, TRA]

Please add the enclosed continuation sheets to the existing National Register nomination files.

Sincerely,



Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures