

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Plymouth
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Harlow Old Fort HouseAND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
119 Sandwich StreetCITY OR TOWN:
PlymouthCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
12thSTATE
MassachusettsCODE
025COUNTY:
PlymouthCODE
023

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Plymouth Antiquarian Society, Inc.STREET AND NUMBER:
27 North StreetCITY OR TOWN:
PlymouthSTATE:
MassachusettsCODE
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Russell StreetCITY OR TOWN:
PlymouthSTATE
MassachusettsCODE
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Assets of the CommonwealthDATE OF SURVEY: 1967 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon StreetCITY OR TOWN:
BostonSTATE:
MassachusettsCODE
025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Plymouth
ENTRY NUMBER	DEC 27 1974
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1677 Harlow Old Fort House is situated on a commercial-residential main street a half mile south of the center of Plymouth. It sits on a small knoll with NE gable end to Sandwich Street, the old highway from Plymouth to the Cape. The house is a shingled 2-story gambrel cottage, 4 bays wide and 3 deep. The entrance is located off-center on the SE facade. It opens onto a stairway which separates the Great Hall on the right from the Scullery on the left. Behind these two rooms is a long kitchen, now used as a loom room, buttery, and small bedroom. A chimney, with fireplace openings in both the Great Hall and Loom Room, is located directly behind the stairway. The upper floor consists of two small bedrooms.

Most notable in the interior is the Great Hall with its exposed gunstock posts and framing and its enormous brick fireplace. The chimney of this fireplace was restored in 1920 but the huge oak lintel is original. Interior room partitions were also restored in 1920, but the rest of the house is original.

Also of interest is a shallow round sandstone sink in the front corner of the Scullery. It has a spout that drains through a shuttered outlet to the left of the entrance door. It is of Dutch type, tooled from a large sandstone not found in Plymouth.

Two small 20th c. shingled outbuildings are located to the south of the house and contain a classroom, gift shop and modern kitchen.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☒ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1677

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☒ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☒ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Theater☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1677 Harlow Old Fort House is not only one of the oldest houses in Plymouth but was also in continual ownership by the Harlow family and its connections for 224 years. It is also significant as the home of William Harlow.

According to the Records of the Town of Plymouth at a town meeting held July 29, 1669, there was granted to Sergeant William Harlow, a man of prominence in the Colony, "a little knowl or parcel of land on the westerly side of the roadway to sett a new house on". This site was a part of the pastures allotted to the freemen of Plymouth for grazing lands for their cattle, and on its southerly boundary was a large watering hole. Here William Harlow built his house in 1677.

The Harlow Old Fort House, sometimes called the "Water Hole House", is one of the few buildings now remaining in Plymouth which was built within the lifetime of any of those who came in the MAYFLOWER. Of particular interest is the fact that it was framed with oak timbers from the old fort which, as Davis relates, "was built in 1622 on the top of the hill under which the town was located." The first fort was dismantled at the close of King Philip's War, when danger from Indian depredation had passed. Sgt. Harlow obtained the timbers for his house. The heavy beams are still to be seen in the walls and ceilings of the first floor rooms. On some of them are the mortices made in fitting the frame of the old fort. On one of the beams, a long strap hinge was found, on which the gate of the old fort hung; the hinge is now in Pilgrim Hall.

William Harlow was born c. 1624 and came to Plymouth from Lynn as a youth of about thirteen, but no record of his birth in Lynn has been found. As he grew older, he became a prominent townsman and filled many public offices. His name is often found in the records of the town meetings and from them, the events of his life have been compiled in a short biography by Theodore P. Adams.

To quote Mr. Adams, "He was admitted as a freeman in good and regular standing, owning property, and with the right to vote, in 1654. He was a surveyor of highways in 1656, and officer of excise in 1662 and 1665. From 1666 until his death in 1691, he was one of three selectmen of Plymouth". He was a deputy to the General Court in 1673-1675. He was for many years a rater, or in modern terms an assessor, called upon to collect the minister's modest salary of 60 pounds, partly in money, partly in wheat, butter, tar, shingles, Indian corn, and other commodities, as was the custom of his time. On the records, he is usually called Sergeant William Harlow.

cont d

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Thacher, James, History of the Town of Plymouth, Boston, 1835.
2. Davis, William T., Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth, Boston, 1883.
3. Wagner, Ruth, "The Harlow Old Fort House", pamphlet, Plymouth Antiquarian Society.
4. Adams, Theodore, "William Harlow", unpublished biography, Plymouth Antiquarian Society, 1921.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	UTM Z 19, E 03,62,650	° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		N 46,45,540	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "			° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "			° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM
19/362640
4645550

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mindy Arbo, National Register Editor, for Elizabeth Amadon, Acting Exec. Dir.

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: 8/13/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston 617-727-8470 STATE: Massachusetts 02108 CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Title Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date 9/4/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AP Martens
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST: W. S. Minter
Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 26 1974

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE DEC 27 1974

(Number all entries)

Harlow Old Fort House

8. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1671 William Harlow was appointed with others "to inspect the inns and ordinaries, and prevent the abuse of liquors. He was especially enjoined to see that men did not drink too much and did not become riotous when denied". In 1682 Sgt. Harlow was appointed by the town to "grant tickets according to the Law in which cases provided such as are necessitated to travel on the Lord's Day, in case of danger of death or such like necessitous occasions."

William Harlow married three times and fathered 14 children. He died in 1691.



PROPERTY Harlow Old Fort House STATE Mass.

WORKING NUMBER

10.7.74.1642

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS 2MAPS 1

Plymouth

CONTROL REVIEW

cm

11.6

74

OK

HISTORIAN

Basic description seems adequate without going into a detailed history of construction.

this could be resolved by a phone call.

Mindy says roof is original - the person who researched the Hdg. did a thorough job

11/22/74

ACCEPT

Hyland

11/14/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Sections #7 and #8 are incomplete and inaccurate. Return Gambrel roof. This early are very early and often of doubted authenticity. They fail to discuss this. The discussion of alterations fails to mention change in windows and I doubt that any 17th building survived with so little alteration. No discussion of political significance, inadequate discussion of architectural significance.

LEBOWITZ

11-11-74

ARCHEOLOGIST

21 disagree

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

COLE

11/26/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

DEC 26 1974

National Register Write-up 1-10-75

Send-back

Federal Register entry 2-4-75

Re-submit

Entered

DEC 27 1974



Harlow Old Fort House

119 Sandwich St., Plymouth, Ma. 02360

Photo credit to Plymouth Antiquarian Society, Inc.

Negative filed at Studio One, 301 Court St., N. Plymouth, Ma. 02360

East Gable

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

Harlow Old Fort House

AND/OR HISTORIC

same

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Plymouth

TOWN

Plymouth

STREET AND NUMBER

119 Sandwich Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Studio One

DATE

6/20/1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

301 Court St., N. Plymouth, Ma.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Northeast gable





Harlow Old Fort House
119 Sandwich St., Plymouth, Mass 02360
Photo Credit to Plymouth Antiquarian Society, Inc.
Negative filed at Studio One, 301 Court St., N. Plymouth

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STREET AND NUMBER

119 Sandwich Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Studio One

DATE

6/20/1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

301 Court St., N. Plymouth, Mass.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Southeast facade

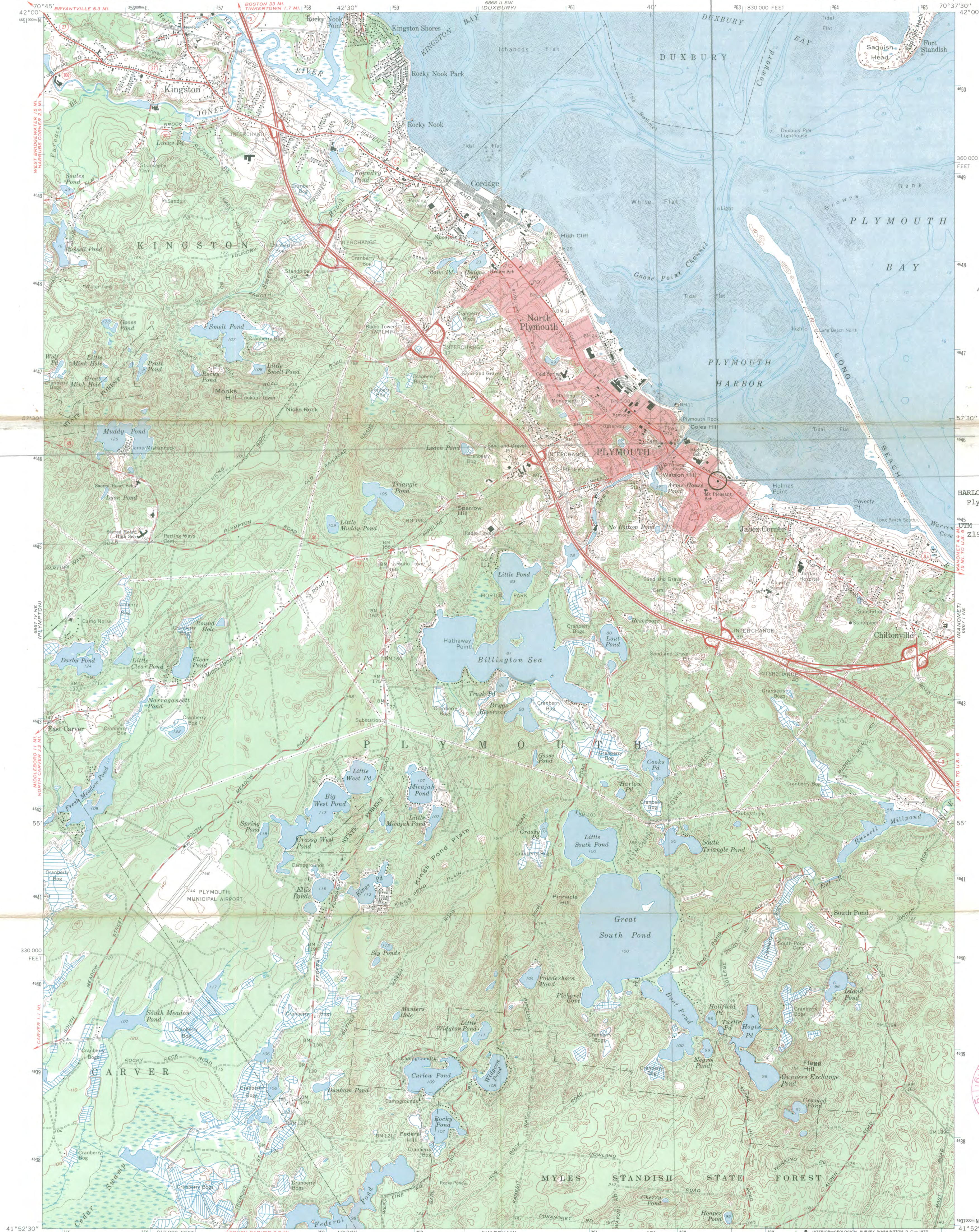


GPO 932-009

#2 of 2

#2 of 2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

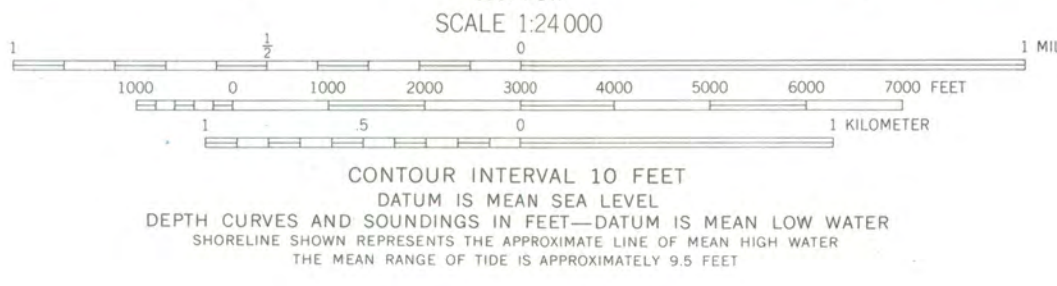


E362640
N464550

HARLOW OLD FORT HOUSE,
Plymouth
UTM
219 E 03,62,650
N 46,45,540



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1934. Revised 1962
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 245 (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 area in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route



PLYMOUTH, MASS.
N4152.5—W7037.5/7.5
1962
AMS 6867 I NW—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

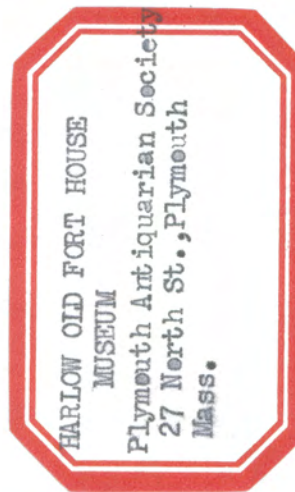
1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Harlow Old Fort House	same	DEC 27 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Plymouth	Plymouth
STREET AND NUMBER		
119 Sandwich Street		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
USGS Plymouth, Mass.	1962	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW



GPO 932-010

Harlow Old Fort House



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **DEC 27 1974**

Name

Location

Harlow Old Fort House

Plymouth
Plymouth County

The Plymouth Antiquarian House

Plymouth
Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/sow

12/28/74