

PH0016209

H13
NO ATM

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Hampden

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
APR 23 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
Holyoke Museum of Natural History and Art

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Wistariahurst" *use this name*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
238 Cabot Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Holyoke

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Congressional District 1

STATE: Massachusetts

CODE: 025

COUNTY: Hampden

CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Holyoke (Holyoke Public Library Corporation)

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Holyoke

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hampden County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Assets, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.

COUNTY: Hampden

ENTRY NUMBER: APR

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wistariahurst, with its mansion, lawns and gardens, occupies a city block in Holyoke bounded by Beech (Route 202), Cabot, Pine and Hampshire Streets. Two large marble lions, imported from Italy in the 1880's, decorate either side of the Cabot Street walkway entrance. Rhododendrons, laurel, azaleas and other shrubs border the estate while the grounds contain rose beds, a small sunken pool and an oriental teahouse. What once was the carriage house is now a youth museum. The name of the mansion derives from the wistaria vines which cover most of its outer walls.

The mansion is a clapboard structure and consists of three sections: the three-story original section, a two-story hall attached to the west end, and a wing containing a conservatory and music room. The mansion is approached by a semi-circular drive which leads from Beech Street to the porte-cochere. From here the entrance gives into the main hall, which is the newest part of the house. Designed in 1927 by Wilson, Eyre and McIlvaine, this two-story room contains a marble lobby and circular staircase with decorative iron balustrade. The music room (joined to the hall by the conservatory) was added in 1913. Its east wall is broken by a pair of bronze French doors while the west wall carries the decorative brickwork of the exterior chimney for the two fireplaces in the room.

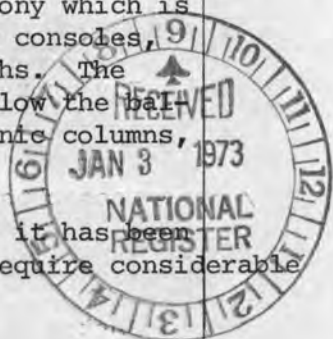
The oldest and most dominant portion of the mansion is the original three-story square house to which the main hall was attached. Built c. 1848, this section was moved to this location in sections in 1874. At this time, the roof was altered to its present Mansard style. Slate shingles cover the roof and segmentally arched pediments top the dormers. Two porches, one above the other, are attached to the east side of this section. The lower one carries to the south side of the house and becomes a ground level terrace.

Two interior features of the early part of the mansion are worthy of mention, the Chippendale Room, the wallpaper of which is in perfect condition, and the "Leather Room" which has walls covered in tooled, hand-painted leather.

The plan of the music room is based on a basilica. A low platformed staging occupies the area of the apse. The aisles are formed by two ranges of paired Tuscan columns on plinths, each of which supports a full entablature with a deep modillioned and denticulated cornice. This cornice is echoed at the top of the walls of the room. From these cornices rise the barrel vaulted ceilings of the nave and aisles. Below the cornice level, the walls are decorated by pilasters which echo the design of the columns. The cornice itself forms the decorative element for the floor of the musicians balcony which is located at the rear of the hall above the doorway. Supported by consoles, its balustrade is composed of decorated balusters and four plinths. The wall behind the balcony is semi-circular, its ceiling coved. Below the balcony a Palladian-type arch, supported by Tuscan pilasters and Ionic columns, leads to the conservatory.

The mansion is in good condition, but due to lack of funds, it has been impossible to maintain the grounds properly. Thus the grounds require considerable work to restore them to their original plan and beauty.

E E N S T R U C T I O N S



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) 1848, 1874, 1913, 1927, 1959

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture (interior) | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wistariahurst, the former estate of the Skinner family, occupies a city block in Holyoke, Massachusetts. For three generations, "Skinner" was the leading word in the manufacture of silk and satin in the United States. The estate, built on the profits of that manufacture, includes the family mansion, the carriage house, extensive lawns, and formal gardens with an oriental tea-house.

The first Skinner mill was built by William Skinner at Williamsburg, Massachusetts, in 1848. The business expanded rapidly and that town became known as "Skinnerville." In 1874, when the mill dam and buildings were destroyed by a flood, the Holyoke Water Power Company contacted Skinner and invited him to relocate his business in Holyoke. As an inducement, Skinner was given the land on which Wistariahurst stands. The mills again prospered and played a major role in the economic growth of Holyoke.

The original section of the mansion was constructed c. 1848 in Williamsburg and was moved to its present location in 1874 when Skinner relocated. In 1913, a conservatory and music hall, designed by Luce of Philadelphia, were added to the southwest facade of the house. A second addition was made to the mansion in 1927. A two-story main hall, it includes a marble lobby and circular stairway; it was designed by Wilson Eyre.

As well as being manufacturers, members of the Skinner family were also known as philanthropists and patrons of art and music. William Skinner was noted for his support of religious and educational institutions, including Grace and Holy Rosary Churches in Holyoke and Smith, Vassar and Mount Holyoke Colleges. William's son Joseph established the Joseph A. Skinner Museum, which he bequeathed to Mount Holyoke College; he was also the donor of the Skinner State Park, South Hadley. In 1916, Skinner's daughters, Belle and Katherine, established the Skinner Coffee House, which later became the Holyoke Community Center. Following World War I, Belle Skinner's work in the restoration of the Village of Hatton-Chatel in France gained her the title Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. She was also internationally known for her collection of antique musical instruments. Originally housed in the music hall at Wistariahurst, the collection is now at Yale University.

The last member of the family to reside in the mansion was Katherine Skinner, who deeded the property to the City of Holyoke for cultural purposes in 1959. Since then, Wistariahurst has become the Holyoke Museum of Natural

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Clifton. "Hampden County, 1636-1936". Publications of the American Historical Society. New York, 1936. Vol. I, pp. 278-81. Vol. II, pp. 650, 692, 706-08, 718-19.

Lockwood, Rev. John H. et al. Western Massachusetts: A History, 1636-1925. New York, 1926. Vol. III, pp. 209-10, 439-41.

Reference Library, Holyoke Transcript-Telegram.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		42°	12'	17"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		72°	37'	05"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 2.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/696670/4675050
UTM Ref
UN 9-N-05

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Polly Ann Matherly, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: November 6, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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
John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Title Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Date 11/28/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robertan Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/23/73

ATTEST:
John F. X. Davoren
Keeper of The National Register
Date 9/16/93

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Hampden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 23 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

History and Art, and now houses collections of paintings and other art works, anthropological and geological specimens, and memorabilia of Holyoke's history; the carriage house has been converted into a youth museum. School groups are brought to Wistariahurst to view these collections and to study the architecture of the building. Art classes are held here during the academic year, and travelling art exhibits are presented on a monthly basis. Concerts are presented in the music hall during fall, winter and spring.



PROPERTY Belknap Museum of Natural History STATE Mass.

"Wisteriahurst"
73 000 295

WORKING NUMBER + Art 1. 3. 73. 2062

Hampden

TECH REVIEW

Photos 2

Maps 1

CONTROL REVIEW

MAJ
2-27-73

HISTORIAN

am concerned about this nomenclature's integrity has been extensively remodeled but with the growth covering house probably can't be noticed - also no longer a house but a museum - hist. & community sign. ~~at~~ there but low order despite problems appears acceptable ? Accept *AMJ* 3/26/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

historic name please! *Since the bldg. was the home of the Skinner family and they are so important historically I vote* *Accept KH 4/4/73*

ARCHEOLOGIST

yes.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept 4-5-73
Carl

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

OK for 4/16/73

use historic name please
National Register write-up _____

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 6-5-73

Re-submit _____

Entered _____

APR 23 1973

North East



North east - side view of the Holyoke Museum - Wistariahurst
 showing a three story portion of the eleven room
 mansion which is of High Victorian style.
 The gabled windows which protrude from the third
 floor can be seen as well as the Wistaria vines
 which cover the building and bloom in mid-May.

On
 photo
 neg
 A

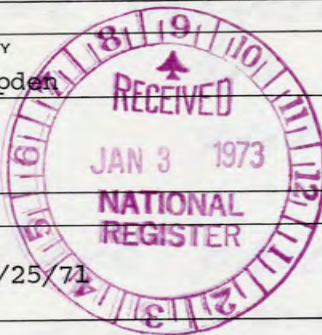
FORM 10-301 A
 (6/72)

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 Holyoke Museum of Natural History and Art	AND/OR HISTORIC "Wistariahurst"	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) APR 23 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Hampden	TOWN Holyoke
STREET AND NUMBER 238 Cabot Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Alan Chretien	DATE 10/25/71	NEGATIVE FILED AT Holyoke Transcript-Telegram 180 High Street, Holyoke
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. exterior view of building taken from the northeast		



71
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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 4/23/73

Title: Wistariahurst

Loc. Hampden, Mass.

view of music room

②

View of music room. Taken from front of room.

PROPERTY

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

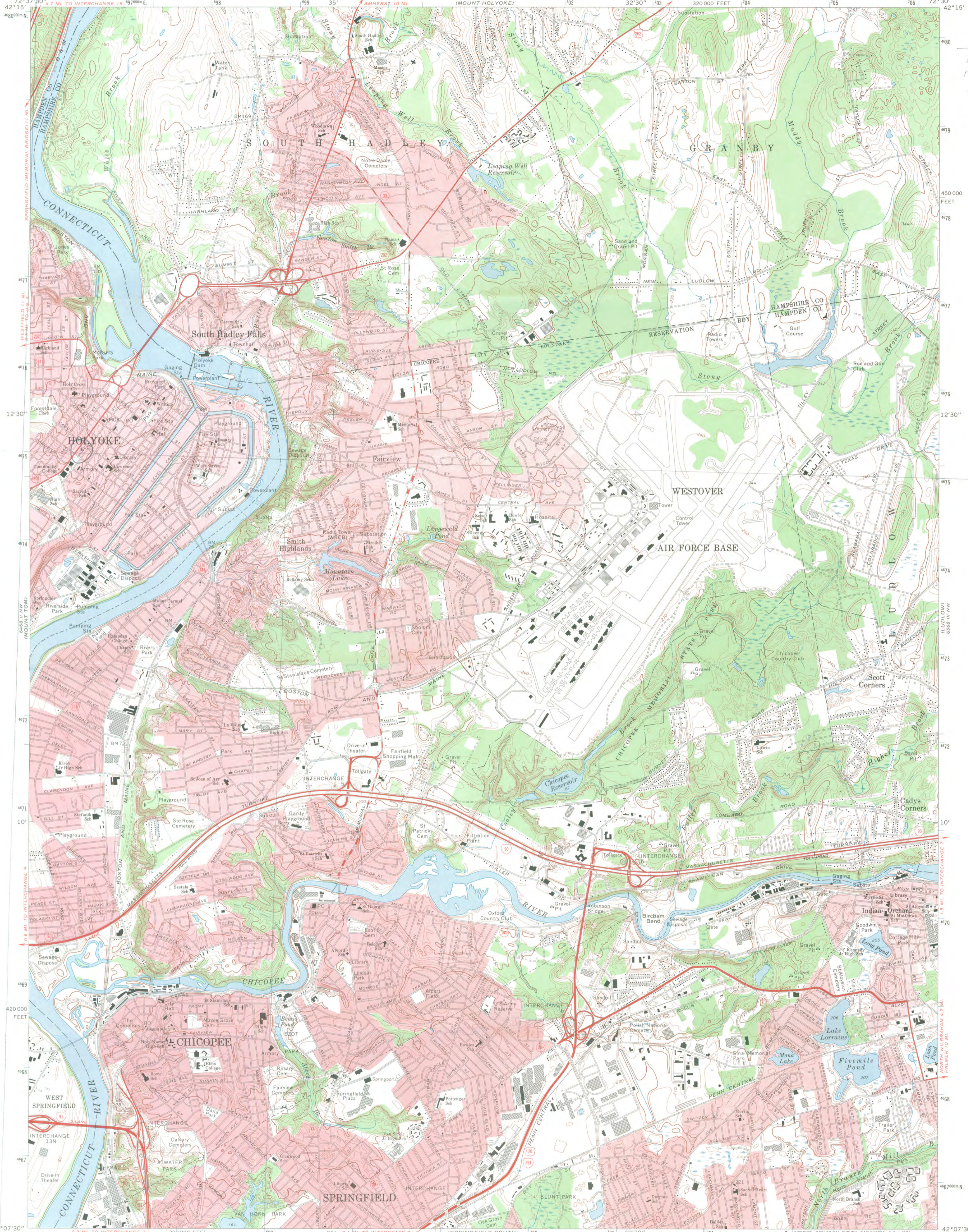
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME		
COMMON Holyoke Museum of Natural History and Art	AND/OR HISTORIC "Wistariahurst"	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) APR 23 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Hampden	TOWN Holyoke
STREET AND NUMBER 238 Cabot Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Grenier-Ducharme	DATE 10/71	NEGATIVE FILED AT Grenier-Ducharme 284 Pine Street, Holyoke
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

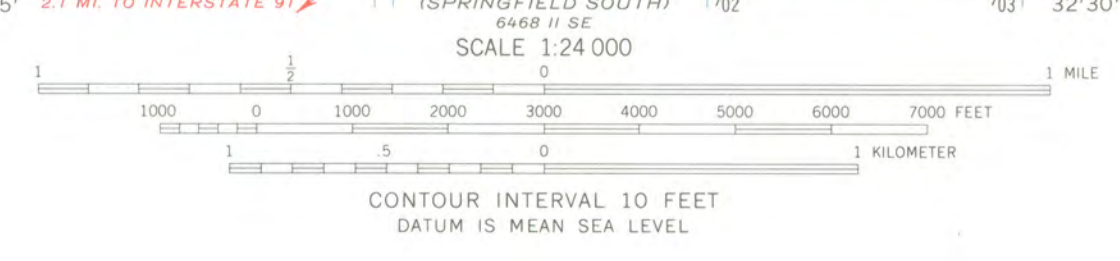
view of music room, showing musicians' balcony above door at rear

WISLARIAHURST



UTM Ref
E 696670
N 4678050
ZONE 18

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1933. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
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 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SPRINGFIELD NORTH, MASS.
N4207.5-W7230/7.5

1972

AMS 6468 II NE-SERIES V814

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

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

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

1. NAME

COMMON

Holyoke Museum of Natural
History and Art

AND/OR HISTORIC

"Wistariahurst"

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

APR 23 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Hampden

TOWN

Holyoke

STREET AND NUMBER

238 Cabot Street

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S
Springfield, North, Mass.

DATE

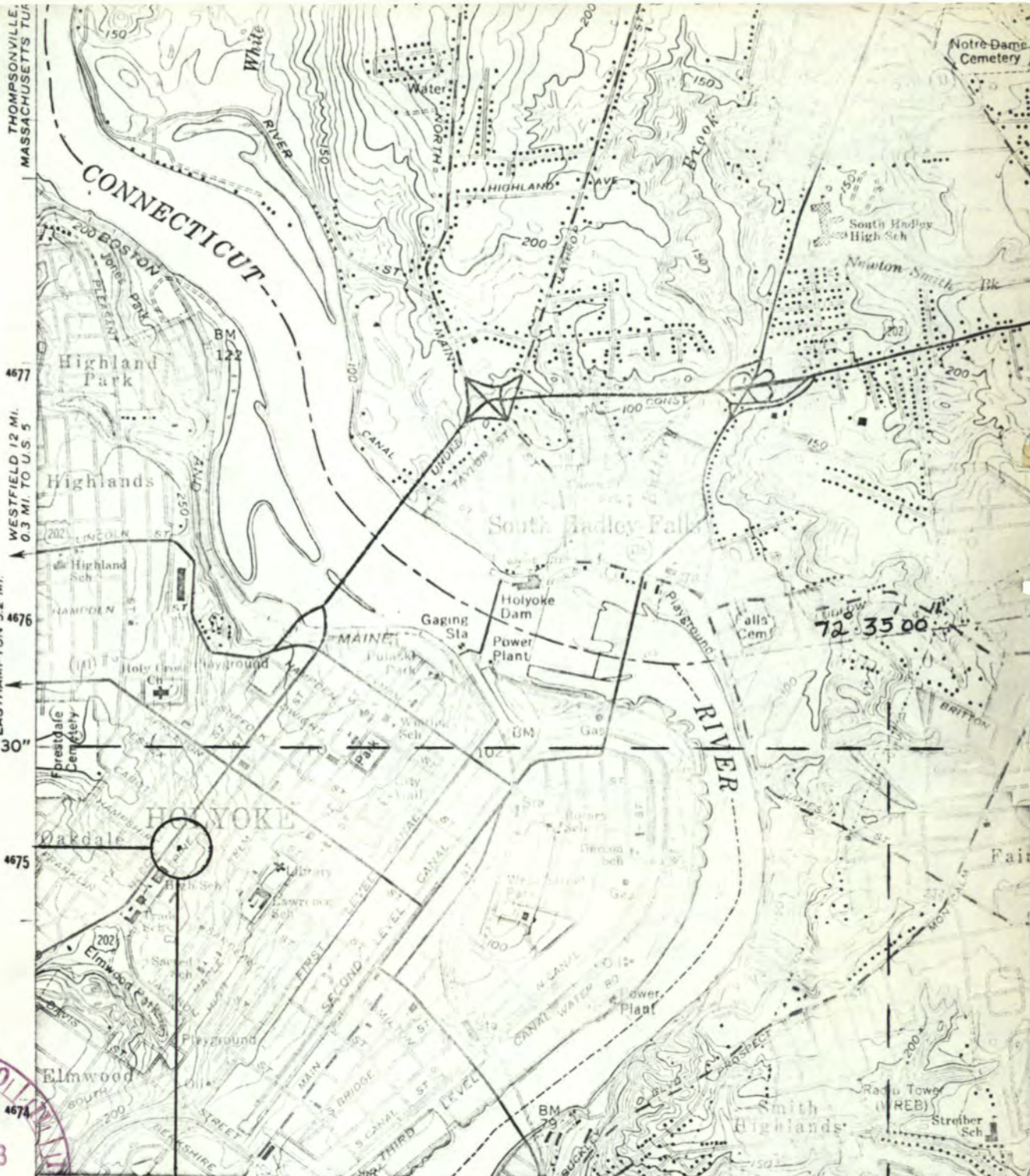
1958

SCALE

1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW





THOMPSONVILLE
MASSACHUSETTS TUR
WESTFIELD 12 MI.
0.3 MI. TO U.S. 5
EASTHAMPTON 5.2 MI.
42° 12' 30"

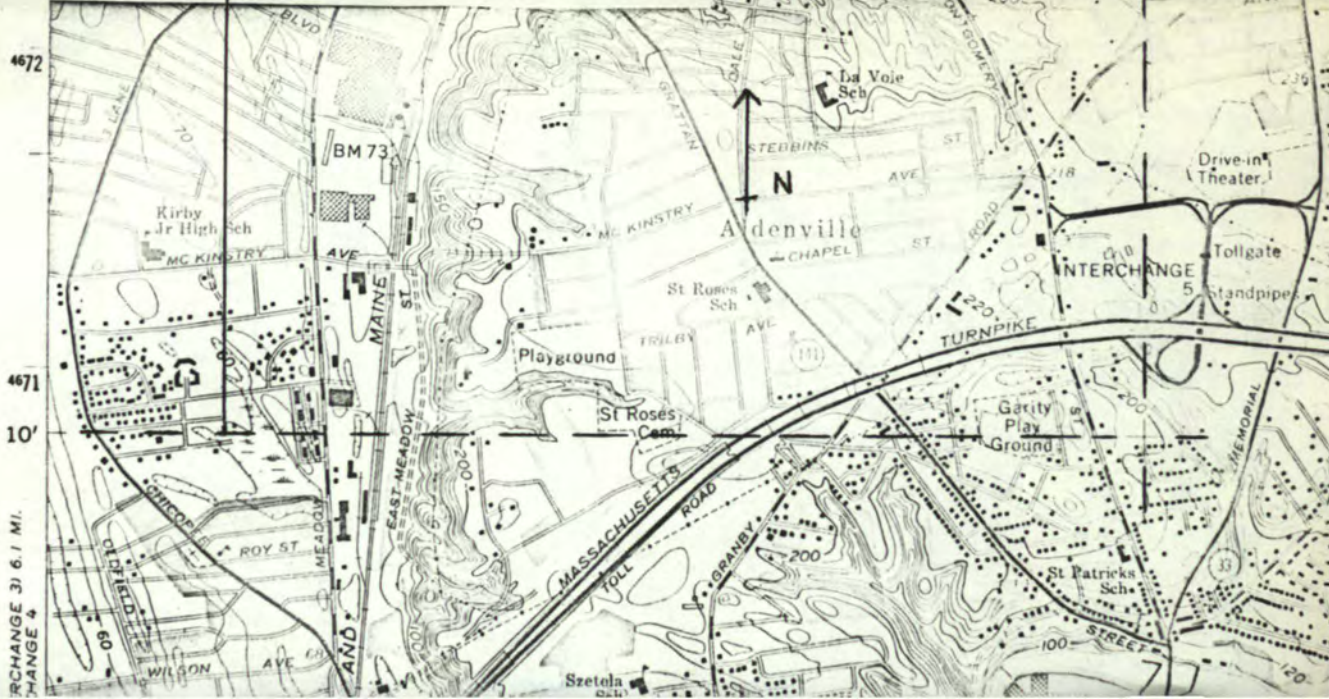
6468 II NW
(MOUNT TOM)



HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
WISTARIAHURST
U.S.G.S. Springfield, North, Mass.
N4207.5 - W7230/7.5

1958
AMS 6468 II NE - SERIES V814

42° 12' 17"
72° 37' 05"



4672
4671
10'

CHANGE 3) 6.1 MI.
CHANGE 4



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Boston, Mass. 02108

Secretary of the Commonwealth

December 18, 1972

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 L Street N W
Washington, D.C. 20005

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

1. Essex County, Wenham Wenham Historic District
2. Essex County, Marblehead Elbridge Gerry House
3. Hampden County, Holyoke Holyoke Museum of Natural History & Art

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F.X. Davoren, State Liason Officer.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enc.



3

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 23 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wistarlahurst	Holyoke Hampden County
Roxbury High Fort	Boston (Roxbury District) Suffolk County
Ellet (John) Square District	Boston (Roxbury District) Suffolk County
The Wayside Inn Historic District	Sudbury Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. John Moakley
Hon. Robert Drinan

Hon. John F. Z. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Director, Northeast Region

PHR NRowland: pcl 5/7/73