

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0504114

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 20 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1978

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

Captain Gershom Bradford House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

931 Tremont Street

CITY, TOWN

Duxbury

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Plymouth

CODE

023

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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 176, Snug Harbor Station

CITY, TOWN

Duxbury

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02332

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Russell Street

CITY, TOWN

Plymouth

STATE

Massachusetts 02360

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE
Massachusetts 02108

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 Captain Gershom Bradford House is located at 931 Tremont Street in Duxbury. Tremont Street (Route 3A) was one of the earliest roads between Boston and the southern part of the state. The property is comprised of 9-3/4 acres of well-landscaped grounds. The land surrounding the house is occupied by modest flower beds and low stone walls. Lilacs, boxtrees, and dogwoods planted by early members of the Bradford family remain. Acreage more distant from the house includes horse chestnut, silver beech, and spruce trees. The building stands opposite the house of Gamaliel Bradford, Gershom's brother and fellow sea captain. The property is bordered by Harrison Street to the north, a golf course to the east, and large lot residential structures to the south and west.

The two story Federal style building was constructed in 1807-1808 by Captain Gershom Bradford. The original house has an L-shaped plan. The main five bay wide by two bay deep ridge roof section has an inside end chimney at each gable peak. The two story hip roof ell extends from the southern end of the rear (east) elevation. It has a tall inside end chimney on its north elevation. A two story, ridge roof addition extends from the rear (east) elevation of the ell. This addition projects southward and replaces a barn which was originally attached to the ell. This deteriorated barn was removed in 1893.

The entire structure is sheathed in clapboards painted blue-gray. The north and south elevations of the main section have rough brick beneath the clapboards. Fenestration is 6/6 with slightly projecting lintels and sills framed by louvered shutters. The water table, entablature, and corner boards are plain. The symmetrical facade faces west. The approach to the front door is a walkway of cube-shaped, volcanic stone blocks which were brought from Italy as ballast by Captain Bradford. The entrance is flanked by sidelights and headed by a fanlight. A small flat hood supported by two brackets on a molded cornice shields the door. The north and south elevations each have triangular windows in the gable ends on either side of the inside chimneys. The rear (east) elevation has four asymmetrically placed windows and a vertically paneled door in the southern end by the ell. The ell is three bays deep on its south elevation. It has three asymmetrically placed windows of contrasting scale on its north elevation.

The addition extends along the rear elevation of the ell and continues out beyond the south elevation of the main section of the house. The facade of the addition is three bays wide. It has an entrance framed by shutters on its northern end. The rear (east) elevation of the addition has an off center entrance and a wooden deck with railing. The windows on the addition's elevations are smaller than those of the main house. They are asymmetrically placed and shutterless.

The interior of the house retains hand wrought moldings in the parlor and center hall. Floors and woodwork are painted, the latter in the same lead gray as the original. Wallpaper is original in two of the four front rooms. Much original Bradford furniture remains. All of the furnishings are of the period and grade used by the family. The cellar contains a large brick cistern.

The interior of the ell has been slightly modified. A small kitchen and bath were added. The ell is occupied year round as a security measure. The house is owned by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Inc.

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)	
	☐ INVENTION			seafaring	

SPECIFIC DATES 1807-1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Captain Gershom Bradford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Gershom Bradford House is significant for the simple quality of its early 19th century Federal design and for its association with the Bradford family, who retained ownership of the house from 1807 to 1968.

Gershom Bradford was born in 1774. He was the grandson of a Representative to the General Court and the son of a Revolutionary War colonel. Gershom went to sea at age 17 and sailed under his older brothers Gamaliel and Daniel, both of whom were shipmasters. He became a mate in 1796 and a master some four years later. The three brothers built houses at about the same time. Gamaliel's home (National Register nomination) is directly across the road from Gershom's; Daniel's is a third of a mile away. Jerusha Bradford, their sister, married Ezra Weston II, Duxbury's leading shipbuilder and owner of the King Caesar House (National Register nomination).

Gershom sailed as mate with Captain Gamaliel on the ship Mary in 1799 and helped resist the attack of a French privateer. A similar encounter on the ship Industry occurred the following year. While manning a stern gun, Gershom learned that Gamaliel had been seriously wounded. He assumed command, and after a 2½ hour battle, drove off the adversary. Gershom then brought the vessel safely into Lisbon under a jury rig.

Captain Gershom was fully qualified to handle any vessel, but preferred smaller ships and shorter voyages. He commanded at least ten vessels before retiring in 1826, after 35 years at sea. Bradford died in 1844.

The Captain Gershom Bradford House is important to the heritage of the town of Duxbury. The house belonged to Captain Gershom and his descendants for a period of 161 years. It was entrusted to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Inc. in 1968 by two Bradford brothers, the present Gershom and the late Edward, both of whom lived in the house. The building represents the life style and interest of a successful shipbuilder and his family. The Captain's library retains fine books of his day. Historic paintings and pictures adorn the walls. The Captain lived during most of Duxbury's period of peak shipbuilding (1825-1850) and was an active member in its initial growth.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 3/4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 360190 4655150
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

Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor
(Frederick T. Potter, Duxbury Historical Commission)

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE
September 6, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE
617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE
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, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE 9/12/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 2-8-78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 2-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Bradford, Captain Gershom, House

State

MA

Working Number

9.19.77.1460

Plymouth

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

~~Appears less than 9 3/4 acres~~
Wooded area around house is included

J. Infant

CONTROL

OK - 9.21.77

HISTORIAN

Accept
Franklin
1.19.78Acreage seems justified - landscaped
& part of grounds.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept

Braham 11.4.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Lobovich
2/1/78

BRANCH CHIEF

Harris
2.7.78

KEEPER

Wm
2/8/78

National Register Write-up

4.4.78

Send-back

Entered

FEB 8 1978

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Captain Gershom Bradford House
Duxbury, Massachusetts

Plymouth Co.
1977

SEP 20 1977

FEB 8 1978

F.T. Potter

Duxbury Historical Commission

Town Offices, Duxbury 02332

#142

Looking northeast toward west facade and
south elevation.

41
from Bradford House
151 Vermont St., Duxbury, Mass.

Front (NW), S.W. Elevations & Ell

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Captain Gershom Bradford House
Duxbury, Massachusetts

1977 Plymouth Co.

SEP 20 1977

F.T. Potter

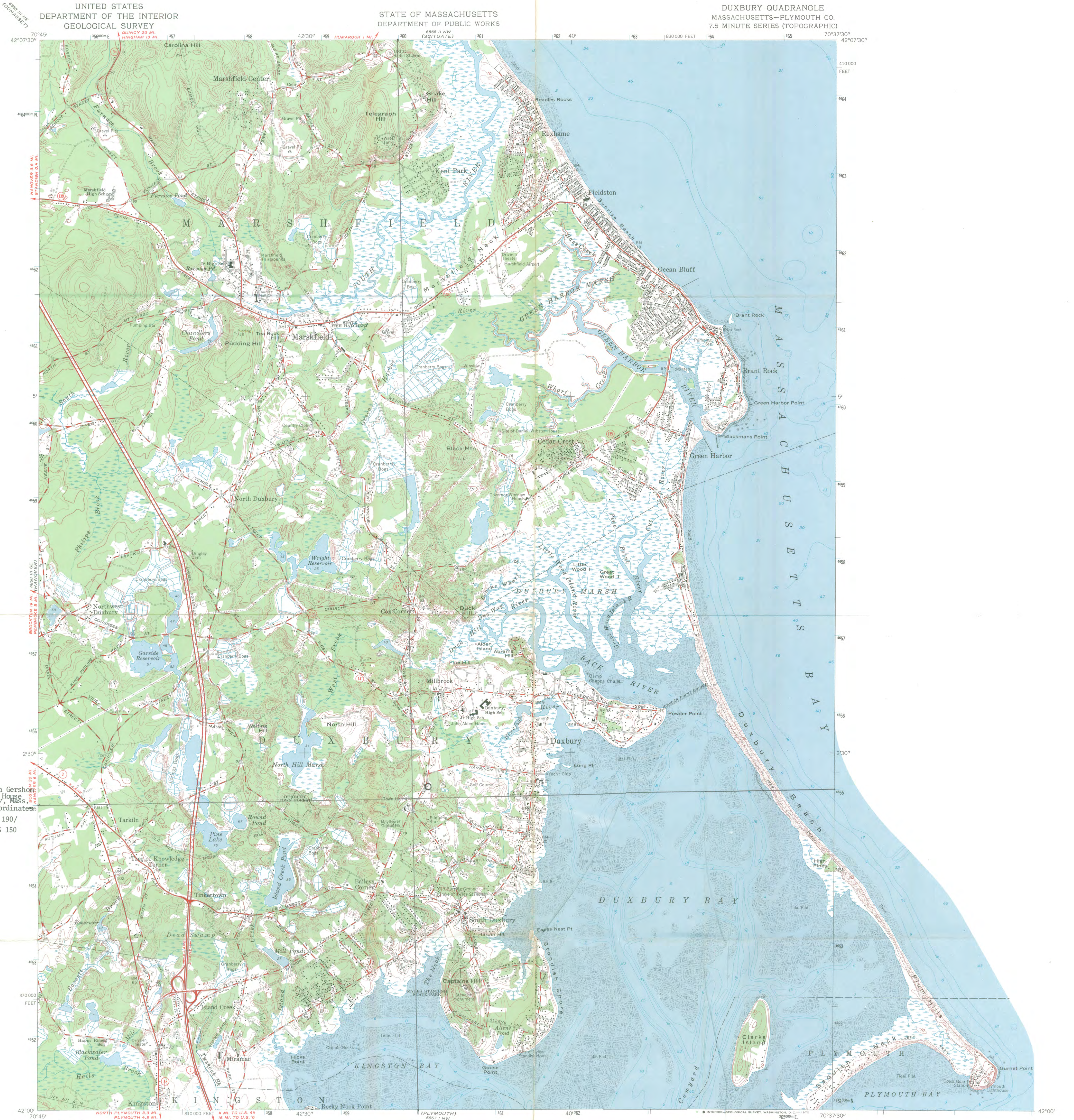
Duxbury Historical Commission

Town Offices, Duxbury 02332

#212

Looking southwest toward east (rear)
elevation and ell

FEB 8 1978



70°45' 42°07'30" 19/360 190/ 4655 150

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DUXBURY QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—PLYMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Carolina Hill
Marshfield Center
Snake Hill
Telegraph Hill
Rexhame
Fieldston
Ocean Bluff
Brant Rock
Green Harbor Point
Blackmans Point
Green Harbor
Cedar Crest
Black Mtn
Cox Corner
North Hill
North Hill Marsh
Tinkertown
Miramar
Kingston
Rocky Nook Point

Marshfield
North Duxbury
Duxbury
South Duxbury
Marshfield Neck
Green Harbor Marsh
Duxbury Marsh
Back River
Duxbury Bay
Kingston Bay
Plymouth Bay

Marshfield
North Duxbury
Duxbury
South Duxbury
Marshfield Neck
Green Harbor Marsh
Duxbury Marsh
Back River
Duxbury Bay
Kingston Bay
Plymouth Bay

Marshfield
North Duxbury
Duxbury
South Duxbury
Marshfield Neck
Green Harbor Marsh
Duxbury Marsh
Back River
Duxbury Bay
Kingston Bay
Plymouth Bay

Marshfield
North Duxbury
Duxbury
South Duxbury
Marshfield Neck
Green Harbor Marsh
Duxbury Marsh
Back River
Duxbury Bay
Kingston Bay
Plymouth Bay

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs. Topography by planimetric surveys 1935-1936
Revised 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS charts 245 (1958)
and 1208 (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

UTM GRID AND 1961 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
150° 276 MILS
1°08' 20 MILS

SCALE 1:24,000
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 9.2 FEET

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

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

DUXBURY, MASS.
N 4200—W 7037.5/7.5
1961
AMS 6868 II SW—SERIES V814



FEB 8 1978

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 8 1978

Name

Location

Hudson House

Oxford vicinity
Worcester County

Ward, Joshua, House

Salem
Essex County

Bradford, Capt. Gershom, House

Duxbury vicinity
Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward P. Boland

Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Hon. Gerry E. Studds

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon

Executive Director, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

294 Washington Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

880

Mott/js

2/22/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Bradford, Capt. Gershom, House				② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: FEB 8 1978		④ county code: 23	
⑤ LOCATION street & number 931 Tremont St. <i>W of Duxbury</i>		city / town Duxbury		vicinity of Duxbury		state MA		county Plymouth	
⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)						⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:			
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT <i>12th</i>		⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL		⑬ NPS REGION: if state who prepared form?	
⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑮ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑯ ACREAGE		⑰ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐			
⑱ CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated ☐ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown				⑲ features: INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9					
⑳ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown				㉑ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		㉒ SAVED? ☐ YES		㉓ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no	
㉔ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)				㉕ CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐					
㉖ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				㉗ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				㉘ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
㉙ architectural style(s):		㉚ architect:		㉛ master builder:		㉜ engineer:			
㉝ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉞ interior decorator:		㉟ artist:		㊱ artisan:		㊲ builder/contractor:	
㊳ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:									
㊴ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP									