

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED MAR 8 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 6 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Robert Jenison House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Frost Street

CITY, TOWN

Natick

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

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

Jenison House Trust

Mildred Gardinor Prunaret and Henri Prunaret, Trustees

STREET & NUMBER

Frost Street

CITY, TOWN

Natick

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01760

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts 02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1977

☐ 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 Robert Jenison House is located on the corner of Frost and Winter Streets in Natick. Situated due west of Nonesuch Pond, the house rests on a small knoll facing south. A line of tall fir trees and a picket fence border the house on the west. The five acres of property are primarily open rolling meadows maintained as open land. The surrounding area is sparsely developed and borders on Weston.

The house was constructed c. 1738 by Robert Jenison. Some restoration work has been undertaken, but the building retains its original frame, chimney, gunstock and bevelled summer beams, and most interior woodworking. The four bay wide, two bay deep, ridge roof structure has a large off-center chimney. The two and one half story house is sheathed in clapboards with plain cornerboards and a simply molded entablature. Fenestration is 6/6 with slightly projecting architraves and sills.

The asymmetrical south facade is dominated by an off-center entrance. The doorway is in keeping with the simplicity of the entire structure but is adorned by a bull's eye light transom and fluted pilasters which support a dentiled cornice. The entrance is headed by a narrow 9/9 window on the second story.

The east elevation has a southern end entrance shielded by a segmentally arched hood supported by large brackets. There is a small 6/6 window in the gable overhead. The west elevation has two windows on each story and a small 6/6 in the gable.

The asymmetrical rear (north) elevation has an off center hooded doorway. Windows are standard 6/6, the smaller 6/6 identical to those in the gable ends and one double 4/4.

The first floor interior retains feather edge panelling. The second floor has eighteen inch floorboards and some fine early panelling and woodwork.

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		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1738

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Robert Jenison

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robert Jenison House is significant for its early architecture, park-like site location and for the Jenison family association in Natick and the outlying areas.

Peter Jenison and his father Robert were prominent figures in the civic and political life of the Watertown-Sudbury-Natick area during the late 1600's. Peter's son, Robert, built the house c.1738 on a 200 acre tract of land purchased from the Natick Indians in a controversial transaction during the last quarter of the 17th century.

Robert Jenison was the leading housewright in the area at the time he built his own home. A half dozen of his buildings are still standing in the vicinity. They are invariably the center chimney type similar to his own house with interior arrangement and dimensioning often identical. Jenison was an imposing figure in town affairs and served for many years as a selectman and captain of the militia company. Jenison was also active in the controversy that raged for a number of years over moving the meeting house from South Natick to Natick Center.

Robert's son, Lot, and his grandson, Robert, followed his professional as housewrights. His granddaughter, Sybilla, married Issac Fiske who became a prominent Methodist minister and the present Fiske Church on Walnut Street in Natick is named in his honor.

Robert's grandson Issac Jenison graduated from Wesleyan College and was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in America.

The contributions of this family to the Natick-Wayland-Sudbury area can leave little doubt that they and their descendants have played an important part in leaving a tradition in craftsmanship and religion that lives to this day.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Natick Historical Society, The Robert Jenison House, South Natick, Mass., 1951.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
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3	0	7	5	3	0
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4	6	8	8	0	2	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--

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D

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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
Henri Prunaret, Natick Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE January 27, 1978

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 ☒

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 Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE 2/13/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *Charles A. Smith*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3/6/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 9.5.78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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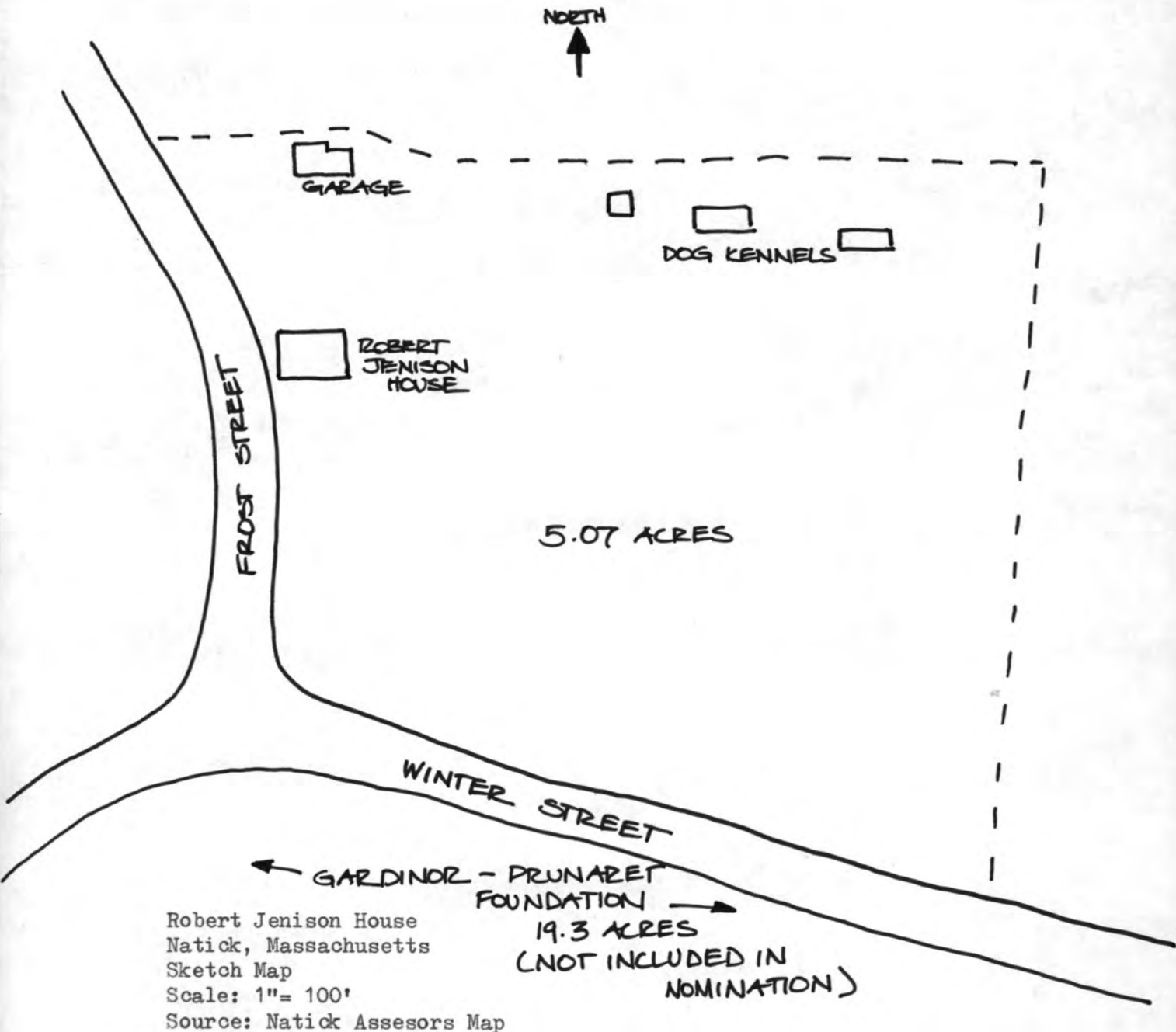
RECEIVED

MAR 8 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 6 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE



Property

Jenison, Robert, House

State

Mass.

Working Number

3.8.78.2647

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos

5

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 3.8.78

The house is obviously of historical significance to the community (note pamphlet in Bibliography.) The 2nd # in the description, however, ~~causes~~ causes some concern about how much remains from the original house.

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Bruce
5.15.78

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Brarham
4.25.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

built by prominent housewright,
I am satisfied that this house
has structural integrity which
is the essence.

Accept
Leborich
8/31/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accepted
9/14/78

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

10-3-78

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

SEP 6 1978

INT:2106-74



1738

Small plaque on the lower left corner of the house.

Middlesex County
Robert Jenison House
Natick, Massachusetts
1977

SEP 6 1978

Jameson Enterprise
Morse Institute, Natick
#1 25
South facade

MAR 8 1978

Oct 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County

Robert Jenison House
Natick, Massachusetts
1977

Jameson Enterprise
Morse Institute, Natick

#2

5
North (rear) elevation

SEP 6 1978

photo by Jan 1977

MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County
Robert Jenison House
Natick, Massachusetts
1977

Jameson Enterprise
Morse Institute, Natick

#3 85
East elevation

SEP 6 1978

MAR 8 1978

1977
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Mid Essex County
Robert Jenison House
Natick, Massachusetts
1977

SEP 6 1978

Jameson Enterprise
Morse Institute, Natick

#4 5

South facade and east elevation

21 1977

MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County

Robert Jenison House
Natick, Massachusetts
1977

Jameson Enterprise
Morse Institute, Natick

#5  5

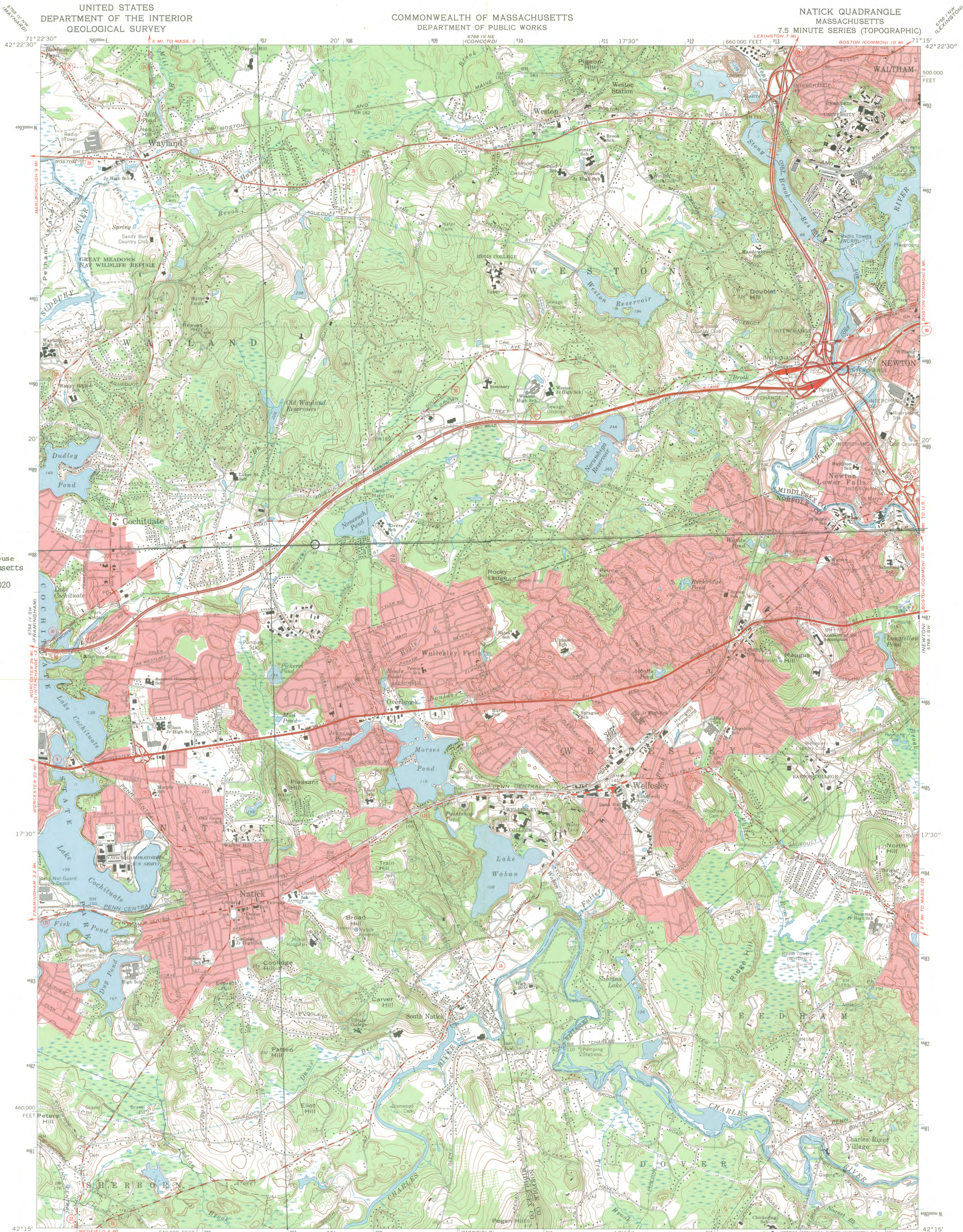
West elevation

SEP 6 1978

Oct 1977

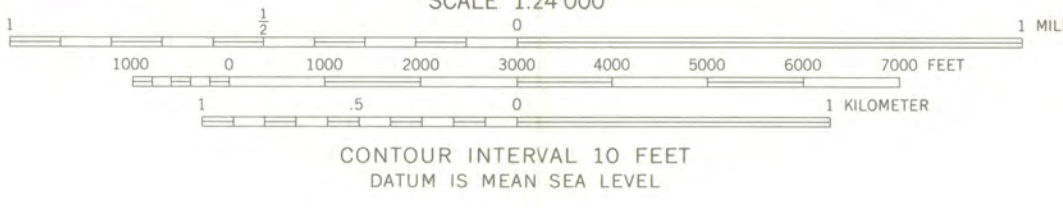
MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Robert Jenison House
Natick, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
19/307 530/4688 020

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
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

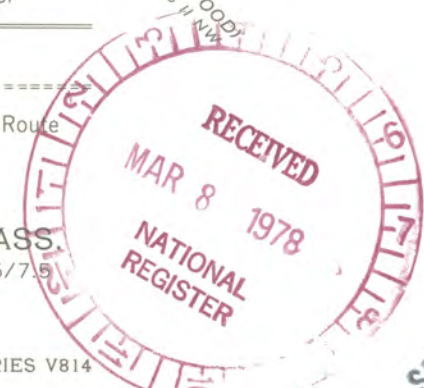


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———
Interstate Route ——— U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

NATICK, MASS.
N4215-W7115/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 IV SE-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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered SEP 6 1978

Name

Jenison, Robert, House

Location

Natick vicinity
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy

Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski

Executive Director

Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Jenison, Robert, House				2 OTHER NAMES:				3 date of entry: SEP 6 1978		4 county code: 17		
5 LOCATION street & number over			city / town Natick		vicinity of Natick		state MA		county Middlesex		6 NPS REGION: NA	
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 10th		12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL				
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				15 ACREAGE:				
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ altered ☐ original site ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown				17 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								
18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown				19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no				
22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-13 ☐ LAW-18 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-16 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25				23 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐								
24 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				25 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION				
27 architectural style(s):				28 architect:		29 master builder:		30 engineer:				
31 landscape architect / garden designer:				32 interior decorator:		33 artist:		34 artisan:		35 builder/contractor:		
36 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:												
37 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP												

over →

5. N of Natick off I-90 on Frost St.