

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Norfolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

Cobb's Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

41 Bay Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Sharon

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

10th

COUNTY:

Norfolk

CODE

021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☒ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) ☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Chandler W. and Dorothy M. Jones

STREET AND NUMBER:

41 Bay Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Sharon

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

650 High Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Dedham

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Norfolk
ENTRY NUMBER	AUG 7 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

Situated close to the road on 3/4 of an acre of land, Cobb's Tavern, c.1740, is the last structure remaining from an original complex which included barns, a blacksmith shop, and other outbuildings. Granite hitching posts, each with a wrought iron pin in the top, still stand along the roadway.

The structure consists of the original building, a 2-story addition on the south side, and a 2-story carriage shed connected to the addition by an enclosed passageway. The structure is typical of New England Colonial construction, with a ridge roof, clapboard walls, corner boards and a dry stone foundation. There is a generous cornice return on the end and front pavillion gables. The structure, 7 bays wide, consists of five rooms built around a central chimney. They include the tap room, kitchen and living room on the first floor, and two rooms on the second floor, all with fireplaces. Entrance to the tap room is through a double leaf door, each leaf 2 inches thick, whose exterior boards run horizontally and interior boards run vertically. One leaf is fitted with a wood astragal. The doors are hung with wrought iron strap hinges. Within the tap room, the 15' pine bar is still intact and a small writing desk for the Post Office patrons is attached to one of the walls. The floor joists are logs with the top side flattened to receive the floor, which consists of rough sawn oak boards topped by a pine floor running in the same direction as the sub-floor. In this section, the windows have 6/6 sash and the front entrance has narrow lights halfway up on each side, with panelling below.

The 2-story addition to the south side, made by Jonathan Cobb in the early 1800's, has architectural details exactly matching those of the original house, with the exception of the south wall, which is constructed of brick. The brick end contains two chimneys and fireplaces on the first floor and two on the second floor. A second kitchen, larger than the original one, and a dining room were added. The second floor has one large room with an arched ceiling that projects into the attic space above. First used as a Masonic Lodge Hall and later as a ballroom, this room is now divided into two bed-chambers. All windows in this addition have 9/6 sash.

The 2-story carriage shed extends to the south of the addition. It is wood framed, with clapboards and a salt box roof, and rests on a dry stone foundation.

Over 100 years ago a wooden porch, with sloped roof and square unadorned columns and balustrade, was added to the building facade. It covers one half of the structure's front and extends around the northeastern corner to the rear of the building. Possibly at the same time of this addition, a gabled projection of the upstairs hall was built over the porch and a bay window was added to the living room on the front facade.



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) c 1740

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 Architecture | ☒ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☒ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cobb's Tavern is located on the Old Bay Road, one of the country's most ancient highways, halfway between Boston and the Taunton Green. The Old Bay Road was a thoroughway for the entire locality for more than a century before the Revolution and a half century after it. The tavern has been a focal point of town activities throughout its history, serving, at various times, as a stage coach stop, Masonic Lodge, circus location, and meeting place for various societies.

The original house was built in 1740. It was enlarged in the early 1800's, probably when Jonathan Cobb bought it for use as a stage coach stop and store. Cobb's Tavern became the first United States Post Office in Sharon when Jonathan Cobb was appointed postmaster in 1819. Jeremiah Gould, in his Annals of Sharon, Mass., published in 1830, says "Cobb's Tavern was the post office to which the daily mail was brought by stage over the Boston-to-Taunton Turnpike. Once a week the mail was sent from here to the center of the town". Sharon had 1,000 residents in 1819 when the post office was established. The Boston Globe of August 6, 1905, in an article concerning the tavern, said, "Among the historic roadside inns in New England, none have a more interesting history than has Cobb's Tavern in East Sharon. In 1819 Jonathan Cobb was appointed Postmaster for Sharon, the mail at that time being brought to his office in stagecoaches. In the distribution of the mail among the people of the town, the school children were given letters to deliver on their way to school. This system of delivery was continued until the establishment of a Post Office in Sharon Center."

In 1841, when the central Post Office was opened in the center of Sharon, the name of the office at Cobb's Tavern was changed to East Sharon. The old signs, one reading "Post Office" and the other "East Sharon" are still in the tavern. After the death of Jonathan Cobb, his son, Warren, was appointed Postmaster. At the latter's death in 1895, the Post Office in East Sharon was abolished and the tavern was closed to the public. The old "swing sign" which Jonathan Cobb erected outside the tavern shows a cob horse with the lettering "J.Cobb" underneath. The sign is the property of the Dedham Historical Society.

Many societies also made use of the tavern's facilities throughout its history. The Old Stoughton Musical Society, one of the oldest in the country, was organized in 1786, and met frequently at Cobb's Tavern from 1804 through 1808. The Rising Star Masonic Chapter also held its first meeting in the tavern in 1815, and continued to meet in the large second floor room until 1818.

(cont'd)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Gould, Jeremiah, Annals of Sharon, Sharon, 1830.
2. Records of Canton Institution of Savings
3. "Boston Globe", August 6, 1905.
4. Cobb, Jonathan, Journal, now in Sharon Public Library.

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	0 0 0	0 0 0		42 0 08	71 0 09	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		14 1/2	02 1/2	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Elizabeth R. Amadon, State Survey Director By Mindy Arbo

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

10/16/73

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

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

Date

4/24/74

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

8.1.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Norfolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 7 1974

(Number all entries)

COBB'S TAVERN, SHARON

8) SIGNIFICANCE

Circuses frequently set up their tents on the tavern's grounds and were fed and bedded down by Cobb. Such groups as Van Amburgh's Menagerie, G.F. Bailey's Circus, Howe's Trans-Atlantic Circus, and the Great London Circus and Menagerie of Trained Animals performed there. An old circus poster, wood blocked in two colors, still hangs in the tap room. Under the printed line, "WILL EXHIBIT AT", are the pencilled words, "Cobb's Tavern, East Sharon, Mass. on Tuesday Sept. 8, 1846. ADMITTANCE ONLY 25 CENTS".

The Boston Bicycle Club, organized in 1878, established out-of-town headquarters at Cobb's Tavern. The first "Wheel around the Hub" took place in 1879 and became a regular and popular event. A member, reminiscing about those early days, wrote, "I shall never forget the exhilarating ride through the Blue Hills of Milton, but the Tavern itself was the chief attraction of the outing. In due time, the company was ushered into the dining room, low ceilinged, cool and comfortable. The food was homelike and the surroundings unique."



PROPERTY

Cobb's Tavern

STATE

Mass.

Norfolk

WORKING NUMBER

5.3.74.695

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS

1

MAPS

1

CONTROL REVIEW

cm

5.8

74

OK

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
JCT
7/15/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept
M. BARNES
19 JUL 74

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
7/30/74

BRANCH CHIEF

accept
Herring
7.31.74

KEEPER

Wm
8/1

National Register Write-up

10/7/74

Send-back

Federal Register entry

Oct. 1, 1974

Re-submit

Entered

AUG 7 1974



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Cobb's Tavern	same	AUG 7 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Norfolk	Sharon
STREET AND NUMBER		
41 Bay Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Chandler Jones	1973	photographer
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Facade view facing east		

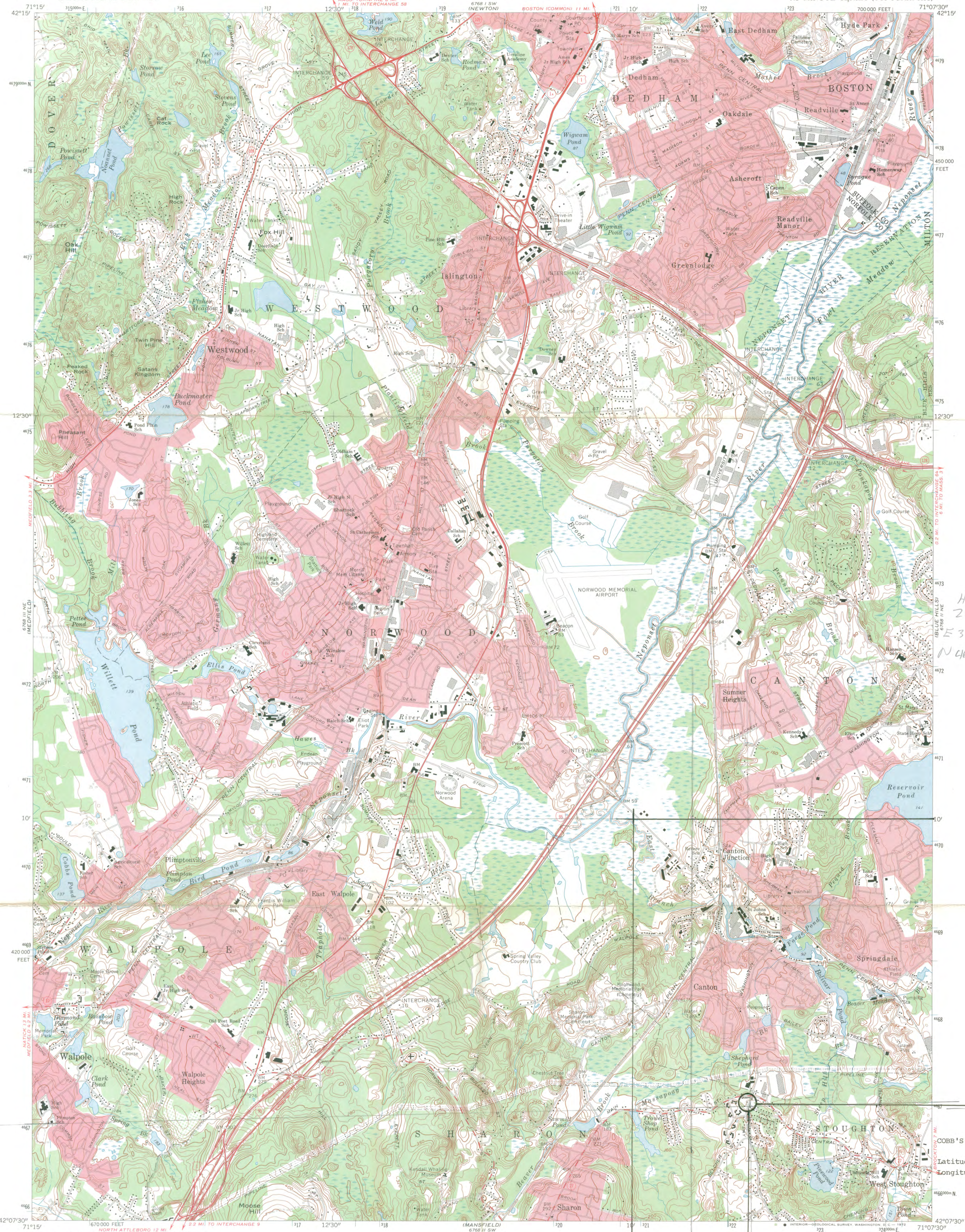
1021



GPO 932-009

Cobb's Tavern
41 Bay Rd
Sharon Ma

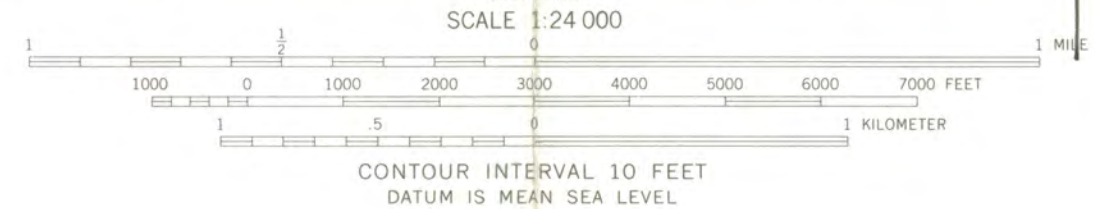
1973



H3
2n19
E 322360
N 4667050

COBB'S TAVERN, SHARON
Latitude 42° 08' 14"
Longitude 71° 09' 02"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Harbor and Land
Commission, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. 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
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



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

NORWOOD, MASS.
N4207.5—W7107.5/7.5
1970

AMS 6788 II NW—SERIES V814

Form 10-301
(July 1968)

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		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	
Cobb's Tavern	same	AUG 7 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Norfolk	Sharon
STREET AND NUMBER		
41 Bay Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		SCALE
SOURCE	DATE	
U.S.G.S. Norwood, Mass.	1970	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered AUG 7 1974

Name

Cobb's Tavern

Location

Sharon
Norfolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

PR MMott:cm 8/15/74

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