

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Formreceived
date entered

FEB 12 1983

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Otis Cary House

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 242 South Street

n/a not for publication

city, town Foxboro

n/a vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Norfolk

code 021

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ n/a 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 William and Betty Calder

street & number 242 South Street

city, town Foxboro

n/a vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number 10 High Street

city, town Dedham

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Cultural Assets
title of the Commonwealthhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1981 Inventory #68

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston Street, Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

Otis Cary House, Foxboro, Massachusetts

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 Otis Cary House, Foxboro, is located in the midst of a residential neighborhood in southern Foxboro. The two-acre site is primarily wooded, and the house is set back about 100 feet from South Street, at the property's highest point. The lot is fronted by a low fieldstone retaining wall.

Built in 1837, the Otis Cary House is a five-bay, central entrance Greek Revival-style building that rises 2 1/2 stories to a gable roof. The house consists of a main block with rear 2 1/2-story ell. The main block's front and side rest on a dressed granite foundation, while the rear and ell sit on ashlar rubble. The main facade's first floor is sheathed in its original wide horizontal boards. The remainder of the main block and the ell are presently sheathed in vinyl siding, which was applied in such a way that the building's details survive intact. Beneath the siding is shake shingle siding and beneath that is the original clapboard sheathing. The building is joined to a barn (built in the mid 19th century) by a single-story modern breezeway.

The building is oriented with its main facade facing northwest. The primary elevation's first story is fronted by a full-width porch whose slender posts are vernacular interpretations of Greek Revival columns. These are early-mid 20th century replacements of earlier columns. Three-quarter side lights over inset shadow panels flank the central entrance. Corner boards with flat pilasters and the hint of a capital, and a deep frieze beneath a projecting roof cornice, frame the building. 6/6 windows here and elsewhere in the building have molded window enframements. Two brick interior chimneys are located behind the gable roof's ridge.

The building's main block is two bays deep with a fully enclosed pediment at each gable end. The gable contains two windows on both east and west elevations. The front porch is continued around the western elevation and leads to a protected side entryway within an enclosed portion of the porch. This entryway is in all likelihood contemporary with the rest of the main block.

The rear ell, set at a right angle to the main block at its southeastern end, is two bays wide and two bays deep. It too has a gable roof, pierced by a single chimney at the rear of the ell. Like the main block, the ell is enclosed by pilastered corner boards, a broad frieze, and deep overhanging cornice. The gable end is not enclosed.

A single-story ell extends behind the main block's southeastern corner and is joined to the ell along its southeastern end. This infill was added ca. 1961.

Continued

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Otis Cary House, Foxboro, Massachusetts
Item number

7

Page

1

Extending west at a right angle to the rear ell is a single-story breezeway built in the early 20th century. It joins the house to the frame 2 1/2-story barn, which is sited with its gable end to the street. Located on a hillside and sitting on a fieldstone foundation, the barn has a secondary entrance at its below-grade cellar level. Except for the addition of a modern garage door, the barn retains its integrity as a mid 19th century farm structure.

The interior of the house retains many of its original features, including several fireplaces surrounded by fluted pilasters and deep friezes, paneled doors, wide-board flooring, and beaded molding throughout the original portions of the house.

ARCHAEOLOGY

No prehistoric sites are recorded on the property; however, sites may be present due to the large lot size, minimal disturbance away from the house, and proximity to Furnace Lake. Any survivals would be significant since the patterns of prehistoric occupation in Foxboro are poorly documented.

There is potential for occupation-related features around the house (a trashpit and filled well have been reported). Historic archaeological resources may have been seriously compromised by the construction of a swimming pool in the back yard. Any surviving historic archaeological resources would be significant, helping to document and define the social, cultural, and economic patterns of the household and, possibly, the presence of structures no longer extant.

8. Significance

Otis Cary House, Foxboro, Massachusetts

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/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☒ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1837

Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Otis Cary House, a Greek Revival-style dwelling located in the southern part of Foxboro, in southeastern Massachusetts, retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. The house holds associations with the beginnings of industrialization in Foxboro, as Otis Cary was a successful manufacturer in the town in the early and mid 19th century, as well as a local politician and community leader. While the building's primary significance lies in its historical associations, the Otis Cary House is also architecturally significant as an example of the Greek Revival style. The house thus fulfills Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Otis Cary (1804–1888), the first owner of the nominated property, was born in Bridgewater but came to nearby Foxboro while in his twenties. In 1834, Cary bought the Mill Street Iron Foundry, located near the Cary house, along the Cocasset River (no longer extant). The area was south of Foxboro's town center. Cary's business prospered when he discovered a new process for extracting additional ore from the vast quantities of waste ash that were dumped around the foundry. He was thus able to continue producing cast items while substantially reducing the cost of his raw materials. In 1848, Cary purchased the Nason Cotton Mill on Water Street (also nonextant), which he then sold—at a profit—to Oliver Carpenter, who operated it as the South Branch of the Union Straw Works, Foxboro's primary industry in the mid 19th century. Because both the foundry and the straw mill do not survive, the Cary House stands as one of the only structures related to this early part of Foxboro's industrial development.

During his time of ownership of both foundry and mill, Cary became convinced that a new town center would evolve at this secondary node of development, a conviction that never became reality. In anticipation of an influx of population close to the location of his house, he donated land and money to build a new two-story school on South Street in south Foxboro in approximately 1850. While the influx of pupils never materialized, the school bearing Cary's name continued to function as a school until ca. 1920, although the second story was never used as classroom space. The school was used during the 1920s as a piano store; it has since been converted to residential use.

Cary served as a representative to the General Court from 1860 to 1861, and was a state senator from 1863 to 1864. In addition, at various times during his career he served as selectman (for four terms), overseer of the poor, and town moderator; he was founder of the Wrentham National Bank and served as president of the Foxboro Savings Bank, Rock Hill Cemetery, and the Foxboro Branch Railroad Company. He was known throughout the town for his liberal

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Wrentham, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	1	2	9	6	0	4	6	5	7	0	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached assessors' map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
n/a			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Mary Elizabeth Pyne,
Preservation Planner, with Preservation Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 1985

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

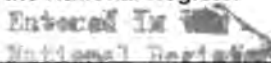
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 2/3/86
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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



date 3-13-86

Alfred Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Otis Cary House, Foxboro, Massachusetts Item number 8 Page 1

views--he was active in temperance and anti-slavery movements in Foxboro, and was the first in the area to hire Irish Catholic workers who had arrived in the area in vast numbers after the potato famine of 1846.

Cary's son, Rev. Otis Cary Jr., born in the nominated property, was a noted missionary, writer, and educator. Long interested in the Orient, Cary set off to work in Japan in 1877, after being ordained as a minister. It was only two decades after that country had opened its doors to the West. He lived in Japan the rest of his life, working as a missionary and teacher of sociology.

Another member of the Cary family of note was his grandson, Frank Boyden, who was also born in the nominated property. Educated at the Cary School in Foxboro and at Amherst College, Boyden served for 66 years as the headmaster of Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, Massachusetts.

Architecturally, the Otis Cary House is significant as a good example of a vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse. Despite the presence of vinyl siding, most of the building's exterior details are retained.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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received
date entered

Continuation sheet Otis Cary House, Foxboro, Massachusetts Item number 9 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Authelet, Jack, Glimpes of Early Foxboro, The Foxboro Company, 1978.

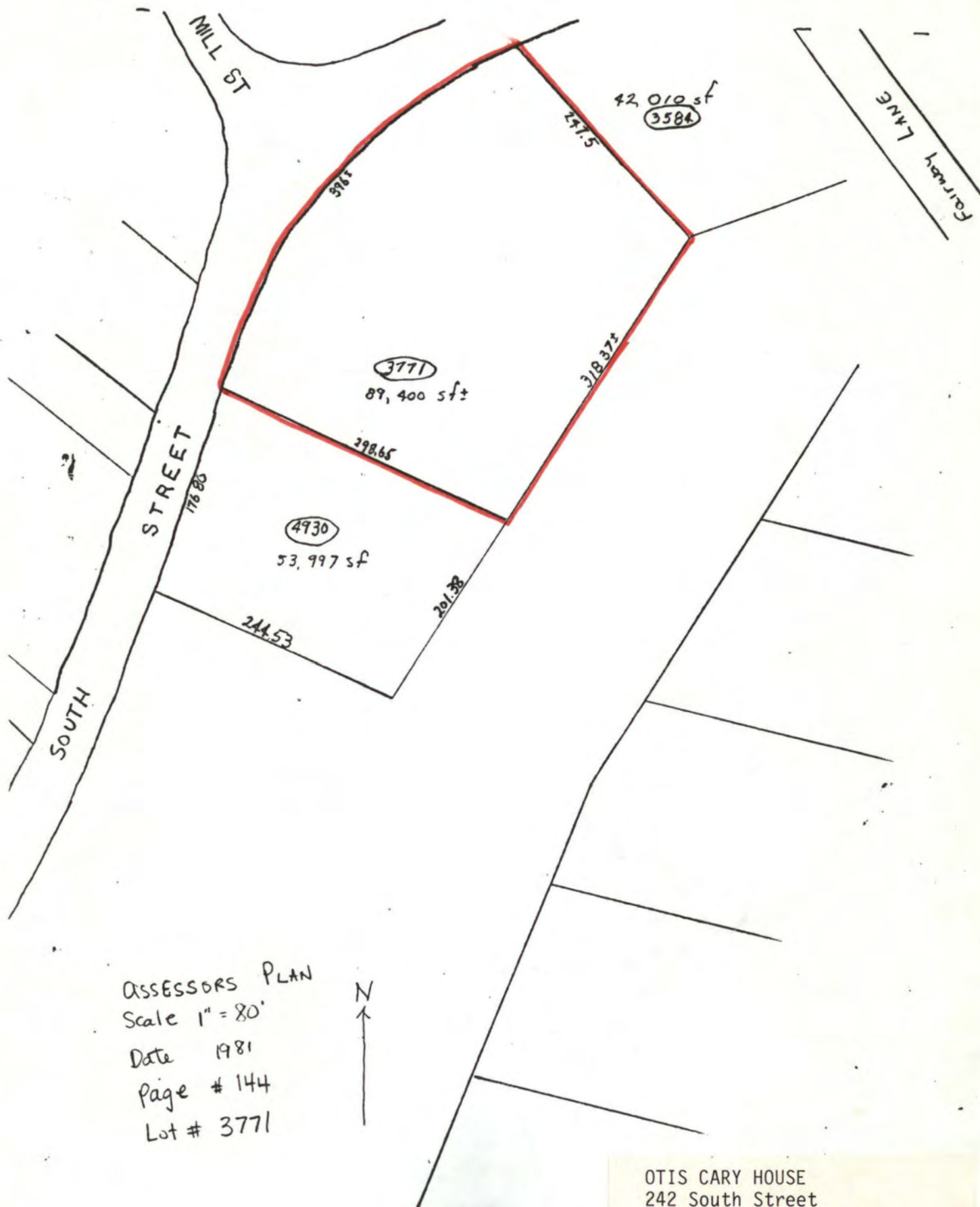
Carpenter, R.W., The History of Foxboro, Town of Foxboro, 1890.

Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford, This Was Foxboro, Rea-Craft Press, Foxboro, 1966.

The Foxboro Reporter, Obituary notice for Otis Cary, Jr., July, 1932.

Amherst Graduates Quarterly, Obituary notice for Otis Cary, Jr., 1932.

Foxboro Historical Commission, Letters of the Cary family.



ASSESSORS PLAN
Scale 1" = 80'
Date 1981
Page # 144
Lot # 3771

OTIS CARY HOUSE
242 South Street
Foxboro, MA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Cary, Otis, House
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 12 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 3/13/86 - 3/29/86
Action: ACCEPT 3-13-86
RETURN
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Otis Cary House
242 South St
Foxboro. 9/83 Neg. at
Memorial Hall, Fox.
Northwest elevation - FAÇADE
from across South Street
photo #1 of 7



Otis Cary House

242 South Street

Foxboro 1981 neg. at
memorial hall, Fox.

Southwest elevation and part
of Facade from across South
Street photo #2 of 7



Otis Cary House
242 South Street
Foxboro, Mass 9/83 neg. at
Memorial Hall, Foxboro, Mass.
Front entry, Flush siding boards

photo #39 of 7



Otis Cary House

242 South Street

Foxboro, Mass. 9/83 neg. at

Memorial Hall, Foxboro, Mass.

Side entry, Southwest Ele.

photo # 4 of 7



Otis Cary House

242 South St.

Foxboro, Mass 9/83

Southeast Elevation

photo # 5 of 7



Barn at Otis Cary House
242 South St
Foxboro, Mass
9/83

Northwest ele
photo # 6 of 7

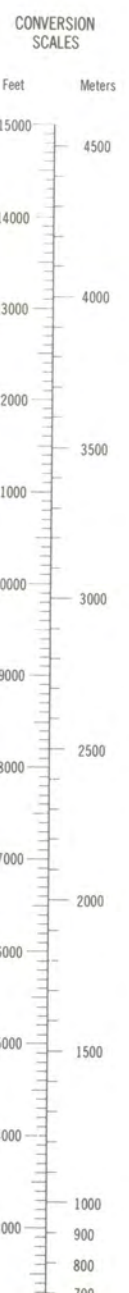
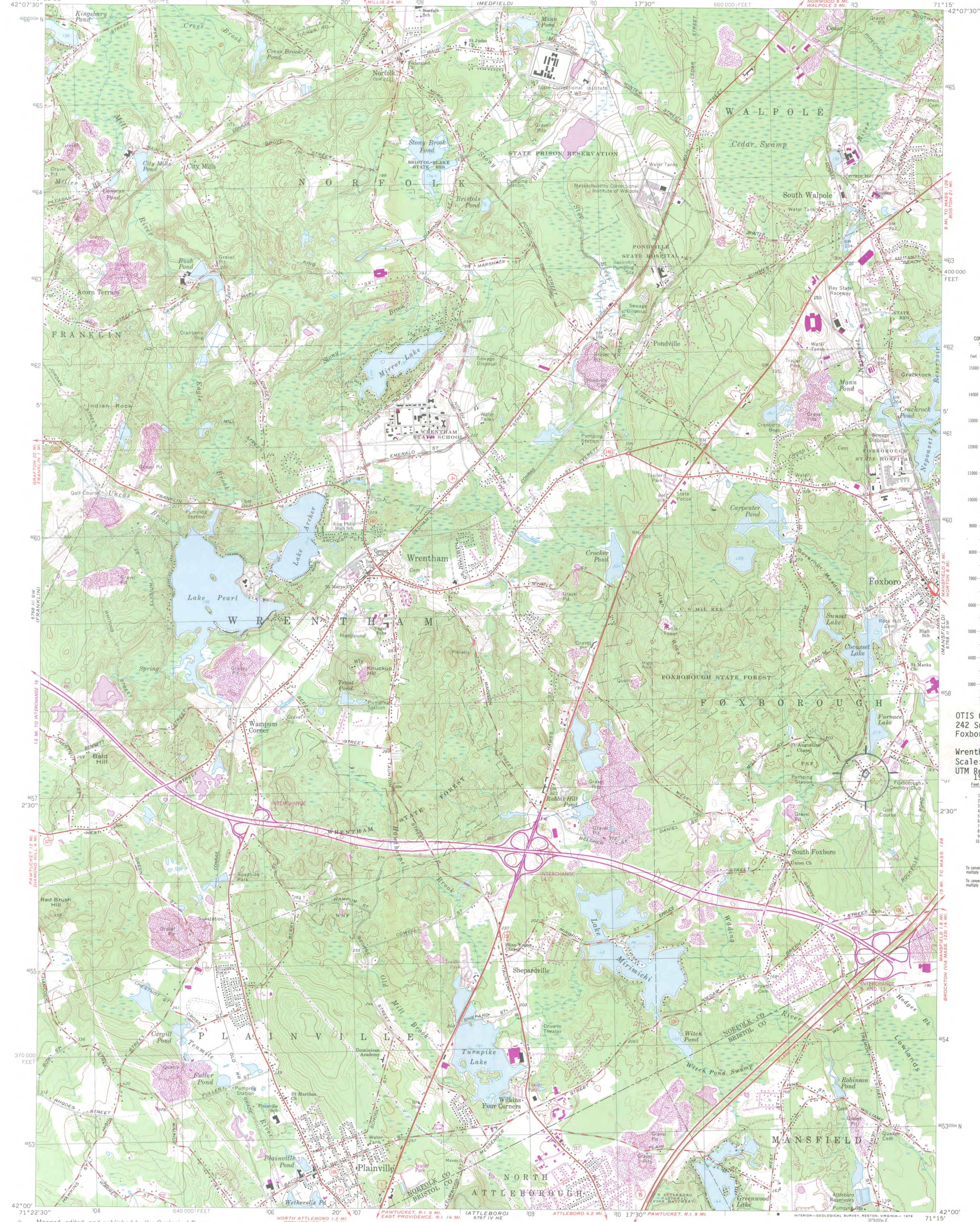


Barn at Otis Cary House
242 South St.
Foxboro. Mass

9/83

Southwest ele.

photo # 7 of 7



OTIS CARY HOUSE
242 South Street
Foxboro, MA

Wrentham Quadrangle
Scale: 1:25,000
UTM Reference: 18TBJ296874657080

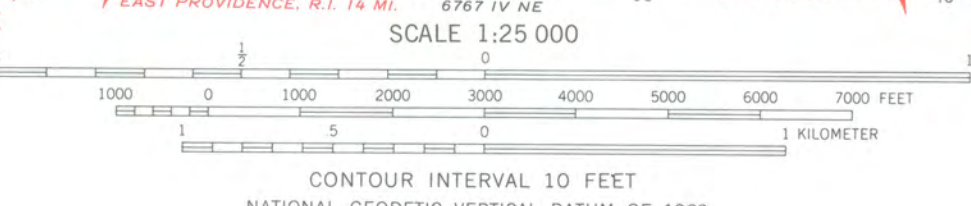
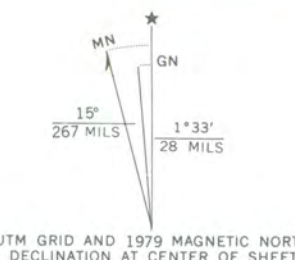
Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1938. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———

Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



WRENTHAM, MASS.
N4200—W7115/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 III SE—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



P284 880 608

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Rec'd
= 12

February 4, 1986

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior, National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston (Roxbury), HARRISWOOD CRESCENT, 60-88 Harold Street (inclusive),
15 properties.

Boston (Charlestown), MONUMENT SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, 1-50 Monument
Square, 47 properties, HPCA #0641-85-MA-85-0651, denied, appeal pending.

✓ Foxboro, CARY, OTIS HOUSE, 242 South Street.

Marblehead, STORY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 140 Elm Street, HPCA pending
#0621-84-MA-84-0624.

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been
signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified
of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the
meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments re-
ceived to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Zimmerman

Sarah J. Zimmerman
Director, Preservation Planning
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SJZ/dr

Enclosures