

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received DEC 5 1985
date entered JAN 9 1986

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

1. Name

historic Amos Morse House

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 77 North Street N/A not for publication

city, town Foxboro N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas A. Deakins and Carol Nathan

street & number 77 North 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

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #137 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston Street, Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Amos Morse House, Foxboro, Massachusetts

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered
ca. 1820

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Amos Morse House is situated in rural North Foxboro on a partially wooded two-acre site. The house, which faces north, is set back 33 feet from North Street on a low rise. Abutting the lot to the rear (south) is Crack Rock Pond, a manmade (1734) pond fed by headwaters of the Neponset River that is today a small part of the Neponset Reservoir system. The tracks of the N.Y., N.H., and Hartford Railroad border the property to the east, while to the west are open fields.

Built in 1804, the Amos Morse House is an imposing, vernacular example of Federal-period architecture. The building consists of a two-story, hipped roof main block, with symmetrical fenestration, flanked by two asymmetrical 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed wings (added ca. 1820). The building is essentially intact. A barn and garage, built ca. 1848 and 1950, respectively, are located to the south of the house.

The house is of wood frame construction, with a clapboard exterior, and rests on a cut-granite and fieldstone foundation. Beneath the main block's southwestern corner is a small half-cellar. The roof is at present sheathed with asphalt shingles.

The five-bay symmetrical facade of the main block (A; see attached sketch map) is trimmed with plain corner boards and molded cornices. The central entrance has the most important ornamentation on the house and appears to be original: pilasters frame the doorway with a pediment above, and the six-panel door has lights in the top two panels. Simple architrave moldings and window frames enclose double-hung 6/6 sash both on the main elevation and elsewhere throughout the house. Twin interior chimneys pierce the hipped roof; the chimney at the building's western end was rebuilt following a ca. 1880 chimney fire.

The main block's southern elevation has a number of asymmetrically placed windows. There are five simply enframed 6/6 sash windows on the first floor and three on the second, aligned over the first, third, and fourth bays (reading from left to right). Until the mid 19th century, fenestration was symmetrical, and was comprised of only four bays (what is now the fifth bay was at the time empty). At that time, however, the window in the second story's second bay was closed, and a fifth bay was added on the first story. A bulkhead door provides access to the small cellar, which is also lit by a tiny, fixed pane window. Three small exhaust pipes pierce the roof at the rear of the building, and there is a flat-roofed dormer containing a small three-pane light projecting from the roof ridge.

Continued

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Amos Morse House, Foxboro, Massachusetts
Item number 7

Page 1

The main block's western elevation consists of four symmetrically placed 6/6 windows, two on each story. The southern wing is attached at the block's southern corner.

Much of the main block's eastern elevation is obscured by the addition of the large eastern wing. Two symmetrically placed 6/6 windows are exposed, however--one on each story of the building.

The eastern wing (B), added ca. 1820, is set back one bay from the main block. It is 1 1/2 stories in height and sits on a fieldstone foundation. The wing is four bays wide on its main elevation, with three 6/6 sash windows, and a single door, asymmetrically placed. Corner boards narrower than those on the main block frame the wing, which is surmounted by a gable roof. A cross gable over the third bay, which contains a 6/6 window, was probably added in the late 19th century. A brick chimney is located forward of the ridge, just to the left of the gable.

The wing's eastern facade holds a single 6/6 sash on the first floor and a second, similar window in the gable peak.

On the south (rear) side, the wing is set almost flush with the main block. Reading from the eastern end of the wing, the fenestration includes a small 6/6 window (smaller than those found elsewhere in the structure), a door, a similar window, and a larger 6/6 window. Directly above is one small 3/3 window.

The western wing (C), also added ca. 1820, is located at the rear of the main block and extends about eight feet behind it. Like its eastern counterpart, the wing rests on a foundation of fieldstone, and is four bays wide, with fenestration somewhat asymmetrically arranged. The main facade contains three 6/6 sash and a door. The gable roof lacks a cross gable. There is some evidence in the interior framing that the roof may have been raised in the late 19th century. A small chimney is located behind the ridge. The wing's western end is similar to the eastern wing's gable end in placement of fenestration, but the window in the gable peak is smaller, a 3/3 fixed window, fully enframed.

The south, rear side of the wing contains three bays, with two 6/6 window flanking a doorway. The placement of bays is again asymmetrical. The wing's eastern side, which projects eight feet from the main block as mentioned above, is lit by a single fixed pane on the first story.

The interior of the house reveals a front-to-back center hallway, double-pile plan. The cornice moldings, fireplace mantels, doors, and hardware confirm

Continued

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Continuation sheet Amos Morse House, Foxboro, Massachusetts 7 Page 2
Item number

the construction date of 1804. Other remaining original features include first and second floor fireplaces, encased corner posts, and wide board floors. The interior of the eastern wing contains an early well, now filled in, which may predate the wing itself.

The structure was built to house two branches of the Morse family. Shortly after the construction of the two wings, the building was remodeled somewhat when one of the two kitchens was moved from the main block to the southwest wing. The ca. 1835 alterations to that wing are visible in the mantelpiece and panel doors over the beehive oven. These alterations are considered to be contributing elements. All the fireplaces were filled in when parlor stoves became popular in the mid 19th century; a chimney fire ca. 1880 rendered the fireplaces on the northeast side of the house inoperable for a time, but this has recently been corrected.

The vertical-board barn (D), built ca. 1828, is located several feet to the west of the house. It is set into a low rise and rests on a foundation of cut granite. The barn, previously in rather poor condition, has recently been restored.

ARCHAEOLOGY

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites may be present. Artifacts reportedly have been found along the shore of Crack Rock Pond. Any surviving sites would be significant since the patterns of prehistoric occupation in Foxboro is poorly documented.

There is significant historic archaeological potential on the property. Testing and selective excavation may help to document and define more precisely the construction dates of the two wings as well as both standing and nonextant barns and outbuildings. Occupation-related features (trashpits, privies, and wells) as well as the general patterns of sheet refuse may help to clearly define which portions of the building and its grounds were domestic and agricultural as opposed to those associated with straw or other home work enterprises. While the actual milling and foundry operations of the Morse family seem to be located on adjacent parcels, potentially significant but undocumented components may be present on this property.

8. Significance

Amos Morse House, Foxboro, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Community Development

Specific dates	1804	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Amos Morse House, Foxboro, is an imposing example of Federal-style architecture. Essentially intact, the house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. It is one of the few intact Federal-period dwellings of such size and scale in Foxboro, and, with its two prominent linear wings, is an extremely rare building both in Foxboro and in Massachusetts as a whole. The house holds associations with the growth of industry in Foxboro and its evolution from a small, relatively undeveloped agricultural community in the late 18th century to a major regional center for the manufacture of straw goods in the 19th century. The Amos Morse House thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Foxboro was a rural agricultural community from first settlement ca. 1720 until the 1830s, when the manufacture of straw goods--first as a cottage industry, and then on a grand scale--came to dominate the town's economy. Much of the 18th century was characterized by scattered farmsteads, with industrial activities confined to the small-scale extraction of iron ore and some milling activities, primarily through saw and grist mills. This trend continued into the Federal period.

Amos Morse (1739-1824), a mill owner, built the nominated property in 1804, when he was 65. It was erected as a two-family residence, and initially housed the families of Morse's two children, Amos Jr. and Sarah. Amos Sr.'s father, Jedediah Morse, had dammed the upper Neponset River, to the east of the nominated property, and started a forge there in 1734. It was the first forge in the area. Amos Morse added a saw and grist mill alongside the dam.

As the Federal period drew to a close, the Morse milling operation, now in the hands of Amos' descendant, Leonard Morse, expanded to become a large hoe and garden tool factory (no longer extant). The mill and factory remained in operation until the 1840s, and the mill buildings survived into the 20th century. Later in the 19th century, the factory would expand to manufacture the wooden boxes necessary in the shipping of straw hats. Other members of the Morse family built their houses in this section of North Foxboro, and the area came to be known as Morseville.

The building's two wings were added in approximately 1820, and in that year, John Cory, the Morse family's tenant, opened a small straw shop in the house's southwestern wing. In many homes in the area, straw was braided by women and bartered for goods at local stores. John Cory's business, however, represents an intermediate stage in the development of this industry from cottage manufacture to the large straw factories, which were organized in the 1850s.

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 1/4 acres

Quadrangle name Wrentham

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	1	3	2	2	0	4	6	6	1	4	2	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 Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, MHC, with Mary E. Pyne, 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 date 11/28/85
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 1-9-86

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

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Cory and his partner, Daniels Carpenter, were the first merchants whose business was substantial enough to allow them to pay cash for braided straw and hats. The straw shop had been removed from the property by ca. 1838, when the southwestern wing was converted to a kitchen. Although Cory died in 1840, Daniels Carpenter's family continued in the straw business and founded the Union Straw Works in 1853. At the time, it was believed to be the largest straw factory in the world, with hats shipped to Boston and New York markets. Straw hat manufacture grew to be the most important industry in Foxboro through the second half of the nineteenth century.

While Cory's straw works ceased by 1840, the Morse family's factories continued production--first of hoes and garden tools, then of hat-packing boxes--through the 19th century. In 1862, construction of the N.Y., New Haven, and Hartford Railroad along the eastern edge of the nominated property vastly expanded the Morse family's markets. The North Foxboro Railroad station, a Stick Style building, was built ca. 1875-1880 on the northeast corner of the nominated property.

In addition to rail service, this area of Foxboro was by the 1890s served by a trolley whose tracks went down the center of North Street and over the railroad tracks via a bridge. The trolley went from Foxboro to Walpole. By the early 20th century, however, the Morse family's mills and factories were no longer in use; by 1910, the trolley had been discontinued and the bridge dismantled. Remains of the tracks may still be found on North Street, however. By 1915, the depot, too, was no longer in service; it was demolished ca. 1925.

While the industrial buildings associated with the Morse family operations no longer remain, the house stands intact as a remnant of early industry in this part of Foxboro. It is also an extremely rare vernacular example of grand Federal-period architecture. Unlike other North Foxboro dwellings of the period, the Morse House is imposing in size and scale and unusually well preserved. The house remained in the possession of the Morse family until 1983. Its present owners use the building as a single-family residence.

The property's historic archaeological resources have a high potential for documenting not only the social, cultural, and economic evolution of the Morse family, but the role that this family played in the development of Foxboro during the first half of the 19th century.

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date entered

Continuation sheet Amos Morse House, Foxboro, Massachusetts Item number 9 + 10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lane, Clifford and Edith P., This Was Foxboro, Rea Craft Press, Ind., Foxboro, Mass., 1966, pp. 13, 14, 28, 69, 70.

Athelet Jack, The Foxboro Reporter, 12/13/79, 12/20/79, 1/10/80 Morseville.

Graham, Anne L., The Union Works, 1/13/77, unpublished.

Carpenter, R.W., History and Directory of Foxboro, Mass. for 1890 History of the Town from the First Settlement to the Present Time, A.E. Foss and Co., Needham, Mass. 1890.

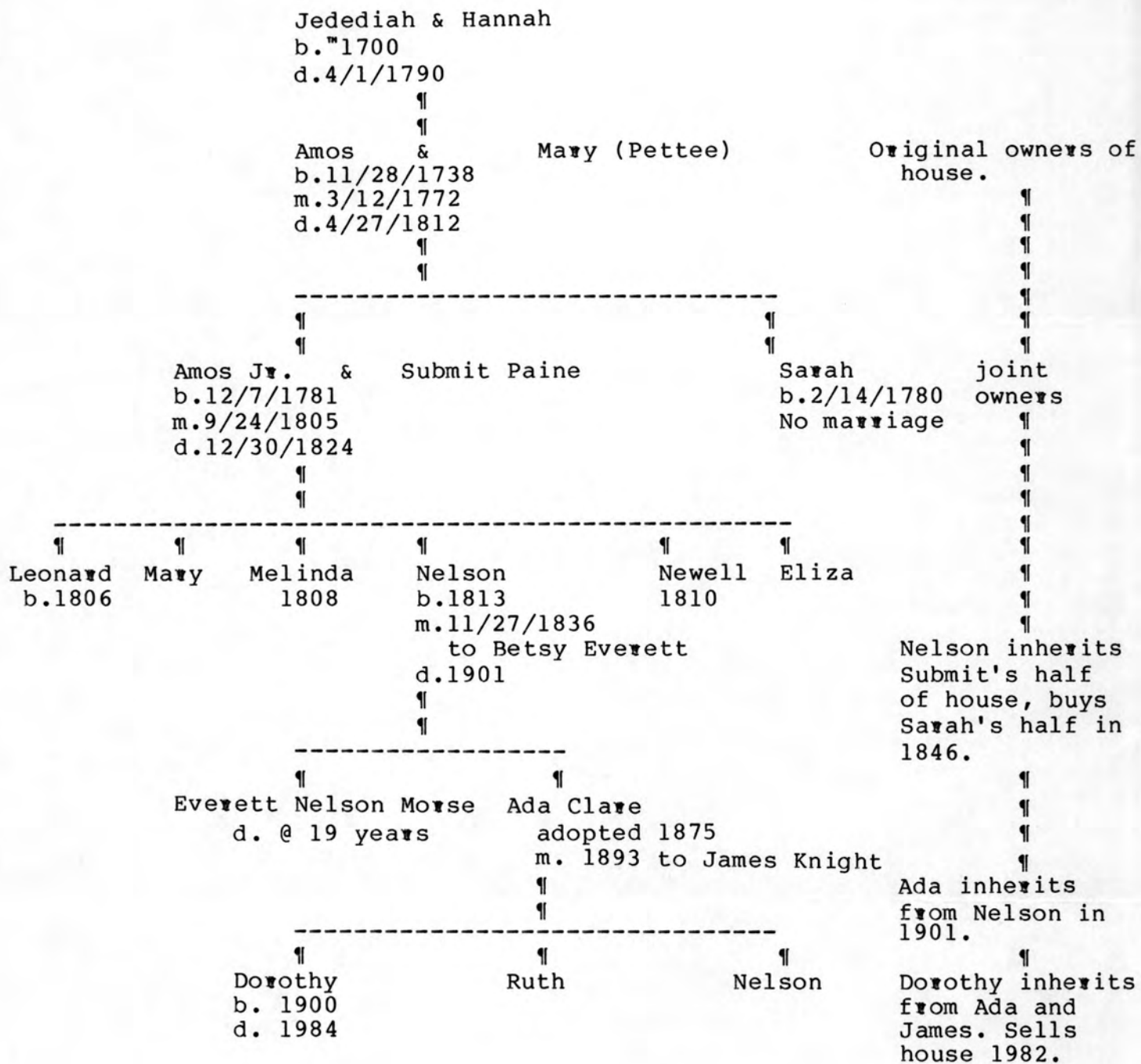
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated property includes the house, stone walls, barn, and garage at 77 North Street, Foxboro, Mass., comprising assessors' parcels 805, 806, 807, on page 33 of the Assessors Map. (see attached Assessors Map), consisting of approximately two-and-a-quarter acres. All three lots are under the same ownership, and the boundaries coincide with those of the present ownership.

AMOS MORSE HOUSE
 77 North Street
 Foxboro, MA

MORSE Family Tree, to show AMOS MORSE House Ownership



8000027

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Morse, Amos, House
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC 5 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 1/3/86 - 1/19/86
Action: ACCEPT 1-9-86
 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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 <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	Check one <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> altered	Check one <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
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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: _____



Amos Morse House
Foxboro, MA
Northwest elevation
April 6, 1984 by
Mary Eliz. Pyne, Norfolk, MA
Photo #1 of 6



Amos Morse House
Foxboro, MA
Northeast elevation and wing
April 6, 1984 by
Mary Eliz. Pyne, Norfolk, MA
Photo #2 of 6



Amos Morse House
Foxboro, MA
Southwest elevation and wing
April 6, 1984 by
Mary Eliz. Pyne, Norfolk, MA
Photo #3 of 6



Amos Morse House
Foxboro, MA
Southeast elevation
April 6, 1984 by
Mary Eliz. Pyne, Norfolk, MA
Photo #4 of 6

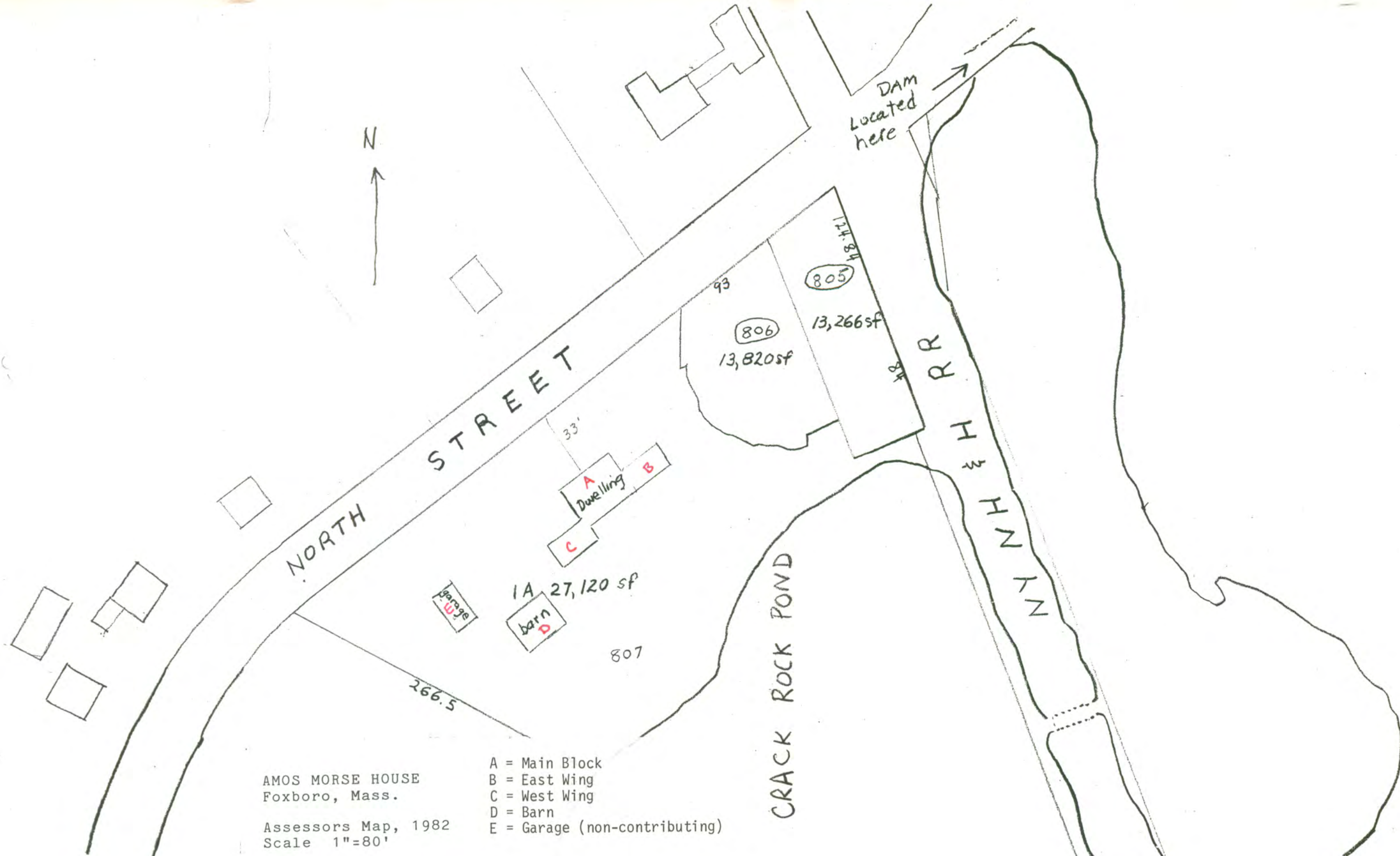


Amos Morse House
Foxboro, MA
Barn

April 6, 1984 by
Mary Eliz Pyne, Norfolk MA
Photo #5 of 6



Amos Morse House
Foxboro, MA
view of Crack Rock Pond S.E.
of the house, April 6, 1984
Mary Eliz Pyne, Norfolk, MA
Photo #6 of 6



AMOS MORSE HOUSE
Foxboro, Mass.

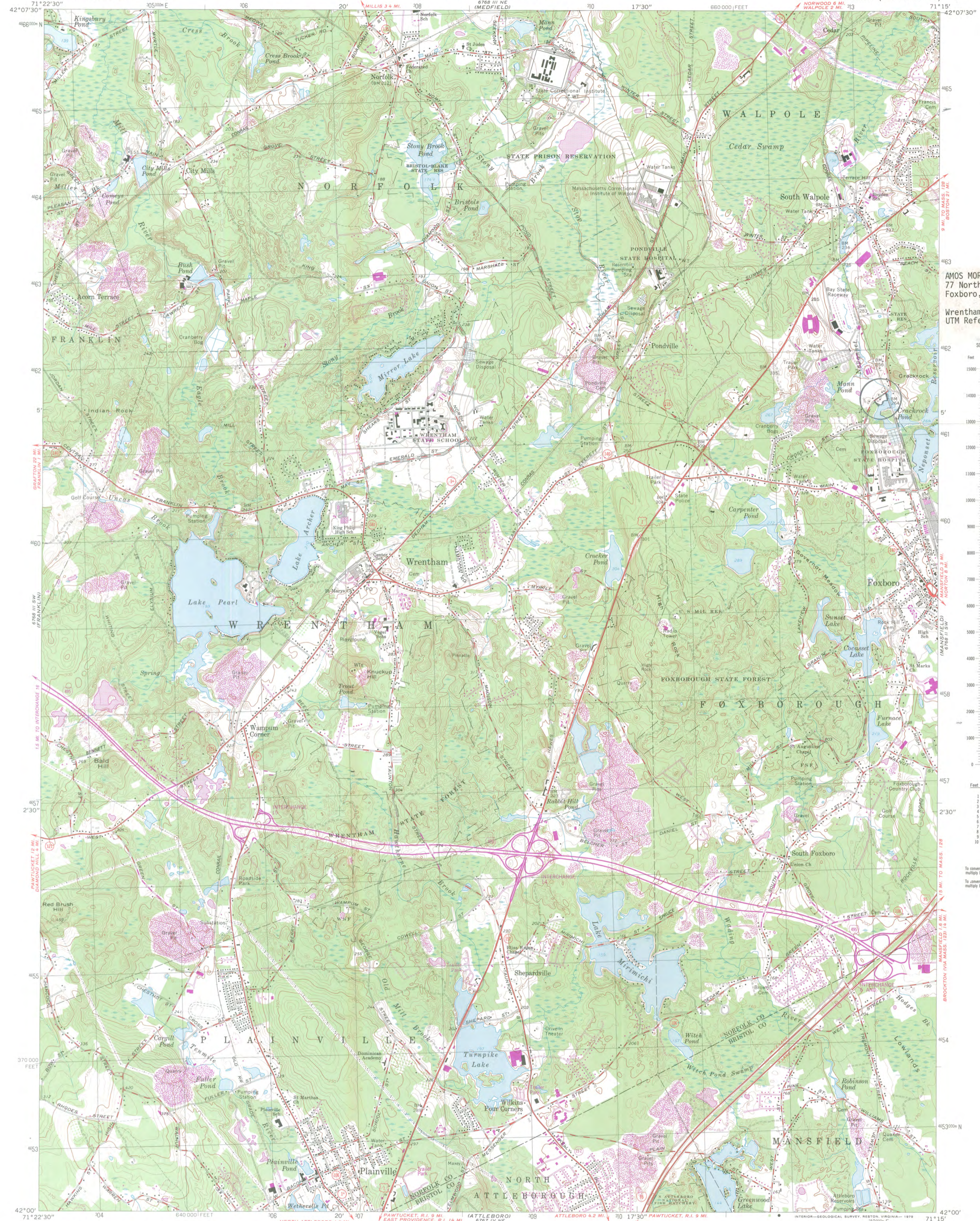
Assessors Map, 1982
Scale 1"=80'

- A = Main Block
- B = East Wing
- C = West Wing
- D = Barn
- E = Garage (non-contributing)



6 5/8 MI. TO
WALPOLE

6 5/8 MI. TO
WALPOLE



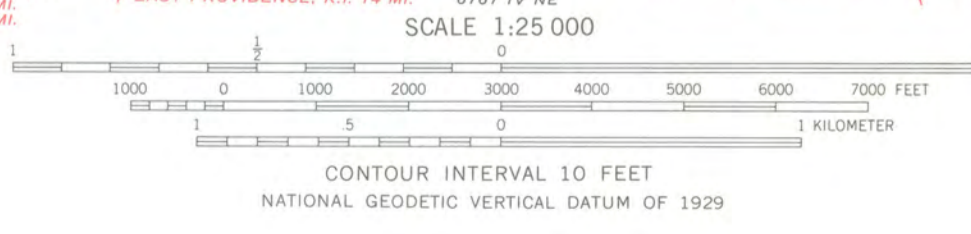
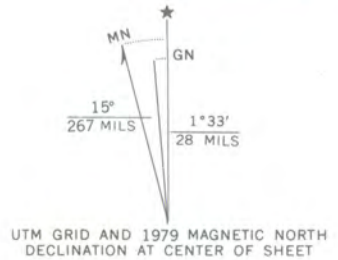
AMOS MORSE HOUSE
77 North Street
Foxboro, MA
Wrentham Quad, 1: 25,000
UTM Reference: 19 313220 4661420



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

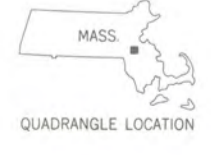
To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

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



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 880 908

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

November 25, 1985

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:

Worcester County, Auburn, Joseph Stone House, 35 Stone Street.

Norfolk County, Foxboro, Amos Morse House, 77 North Street.

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 received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Zimmerman".

Sarah Zimmerman
Director, Preservation Planning
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SZ/dr

Enclosures