NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM       Middlesex Middl	(Dec. 1968) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		ISIC	
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM       Middlesex FOR MPSUSEONLY         (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)       ENTRY NUMBER         COMMON:       Parsonage of Eliot Church (Federated) of South Natick         AND'OR HISTORIC:       Horatio Algor House         21 DEATION       Istrace         ANDYOR HISTORIC:       Horatio Algor House         21 DEATION       Istrace         ANDYOR HISTORIC:       Natick         TANKE       Conce COUNTY:         16 Diessant. Street       Middlesex         City on Town:       Istrace         State       District Plivate         District Didding XI Public       Public Acquisition:       Occupied         District Didding XI Public       Public Acquisition:       Occupied       Retricted         District Didding XI Public       Public Acquisition:       Occupied       Retricted         Street       Baing Considered       Preservation work       Unretricted       Middlesex         Street       Baing Considered       Preservation work       Unretricted       Middlesex         Conversion       Ownershifts       Conservation       Public       Public Acquisition:       Occupied       Yes         Ownershifts       Goverment       Par	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Mas	ssachusett	s
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AND OR HISTORIC: HOPATIO Algar House 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 16 Pleasant Street CITY OR TOWN: 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY				
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1 1	OWNERS NAME:         Eliot (Jiurch (Federated) of South Natick         STREET AND NUMBER:         49 Eliot Street         City or town:       STATE:         Natick         5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION         courthouse, registry of deeds, etc:         Natick Town Hall         Street and number:         City or town:         Street and number:	Massachusett: Massachusett:	S CODE S	ts,Middlesex

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7. DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PF	ESENT AND ORI	GINAL (if kno	own) PHYSIC	AL APPEA	RANCE			
struc bays porch almos sidel south floor gable the r roof is a tion	, two windo end. A tw ear of the stands in t garage, whi has five ba	a gable r bwest, c ped roof e length to transc ion of t ws on th ro-story house. he corne ch opens ys. The	oof and or front, and fou of this om, is at he main he second ell proj A small or formed a toward	two int elevat elevat the co section floor jects fr single- by th the sou	terior tion. re colu- tion. T enter on has a , and a rom the story is ell. itheast	chimnie A woode mns ext he door f the p bay wi single northe section At th . The	es. It en sing eends a way, w oorch. ndow o e windo ern por with e end northw	has five le-story cross hich has The n the first w in the tion of a shed of the ell est eleva-
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north small	Jpstairs, t west and so er rooms, a e large <i>r</i> oo	utheast bath, a	ends of nd a fli	the hou ght of	backst	he ell airs.	cont <mark>a</mark> i The at	ns two tic is a
mid-n: the po since closin probal narrow the sr insta	The house i ineteenth c orch and ba the time o ng off of a oly been en y board flo maller of t llation of ion of the	entury t y window f Alger' firepla larged a oring ov he two c a new cl	he windo added. s associ ce and d s well a er the o hambers	w sashe Change ation w oor in s moder riginal in the	es were es belie with the the ki nized; floors second	probab eved to e house tchen, the in s in al story	ly rep have inclu which stalla l room of the	laced and occured de: the has tion of s except ell; the

The house is used as the parsonage of Eliot Church, as it was in Alger's time. At present, however, the church is without a pastor, and a temporary resident uses some of the rooms of the Parsonage. S

PERIOD (	Check One or M	lore as a	Appropriate)					
	Pre-Columbian		16th Centur	у 🗌	18th Centu	у 🗆	20th Century	
	15th Century		17th Centur	ry 🗆	19th Centur	у 🕅		
SPECIFIC	DATE(S) (If A)	pplicabl	e and Known)					
AREAS OF	SIGNIFICANC	E (Che	ck One or More as	Approprie	ite)			
[ A	bor iginal		Education		Political		Urban Planning	
	Prehistoric		Engineering		Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	
	Historic		Industry		losophy			
A	griculture		Invention		Science			
A	rt		Landscape		Sculpture			
c	ommerce		Architecture		Social/Human-			
c	ommunications		Literature	XX	itarian			
с	onservation		Military		Theater			
			Music		Transportation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Exonts, Etc.)

The historical importance of Horatio Alger cannot **be** gauged by the conventional methods of criticism, for a few would maintain that his work had genuine literary merit. Yet in such tales as <u>Ragged Dick</u> (1867), Alger presented his juvenile audience with an absorbing dramatization of many of the key assumptions of his sentimental and materialistic age. As one writer has remarked, he "was the most succesful writer of boy's stories in the whole of American Literature. An entire generation was indoctrinated by him in the comforting assurance that virtue is always rewarded by wealth and honor."<sup>1</sup> Although Alger's works are now read only by specialists, they have left a profound though intangible mark on American history.

Alger spent his summers at the Parsonage of Eliot Church from 1866 to 1877, after which he went West for almost two years. He then resumed his practice of summering at the Parsonage, and retired there in 1898. As his health failed he moved with his sister to another house in Natick, where he died in 1899.<sup>2</sup>

The Parsonage appears to be relatively unchanged since Alger's time. The house stands in a scenic setting near the Charles River.

Johnson, Vol. I, p. 178

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Information as to the years Alger spent at the Parsonage provided by Max Goldberg (former President of the Horatio Alger Society) 728 Wooster Road, South Natick, Massachusetts.

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	FERENCES									
Johns	on, Allen, <u>Dicti</u> Sons. 1928	onary of Am , Vol. I, p				ohy, N	.Y: Cha	rles So	eribne:	r's	
Kunit	z, Stanley J. <b>a</b> n 1938, pp,		ycrof	t,	N.Y:	The H.	,W. Wil	son Con	ipany,		
Mayes	, Herbert R., <u>A</u>	<u>lger</u> , 1928.									
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ORGANIZ	ATION Division	of History,	Offic	e	of Arc	heolog	y and	DATE			
		Preservation	n, Nat	i	onal Pa	rk Ser	vice		7/20/	/71	
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tional 89-665 in the	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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				I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.					in the	
forth b level	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					Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					
Nome			Date								
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Parsonage of Eliot Church(federated)of South Natick

8. Significance

( Horatio Alger House )

## BIOGRAPHY

Horatio Alger was born in 1834 in Revere, Massachusetts. His father, a Uniterian minister, excercised unusually strict discipline over his son. Young Alger attended Gates Academy and then Harvard, graduating in 1852. After three years as a tutor and journalist, he was persuaded to enter Harvard divinity school. He completed the course in 1860, but did not immediately enter the ministry. Instead he went to Paris, and upon his return took up tutoring again for a time. Alger was ordained in 1864, and served as a minister in Brewster for two years, after which he went to New York.

Alger had long desired to become a great writer, and had published his first book as early as 1856. But he did not achieve recognition until 1867, when he published a juvenile short story entitled "Ragged Dick", a tale of an impecunious but plucky urchin. The popularity of this story led Alger to extend it into a serial, publish it as a book, and then to imitate it in a long series of similar works, such as Tattered Tom (1871). Becoming associated with Charles O'Connor's charitable Newsboy's Lodging House, Alger gained a deep sympathy for the city's underprivileged boys and a thorough knowledge of their lives. Although he drew on this knowledge, his writings were not realistic, but were sentimental adventures in which virtue was invariably rewarded with material success. His works both reflected and reinforced the prevailing spirit of the age, and they secured for him the reputation of a sage and saint.

Despite his fame, Alger remained profoundly unhappy. He dissipated the income from his works by prodigality and generosity. A Chinese boy whom he adopted was killed in an accident. He fell in love with a married woman and pursued her to France, only to experience a rejection which for a time destroyed his precarious mental balance. Following the death of his friend O'Connor, he was increasingly alone. In 1898, Alger went to live with his sister in Natick, Massachusetts, and died there the following year.

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