

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
NW CAMB.	NWC IIC3

1. Town Cambridge

Address 234 Lakeview Avenue

Name Fresh Pond Hotel

Present use residential

Present owner Wayne Mount, Lincoln, MA

3. Description:

Date 1796

Source deed records

Style Federal/Greek Revival features

Architect John Walton, Joseph Moore,  
housewrights  
Exterior wall fabric wood, now stuccoed

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features originally built as a  
Federal-style hotel, remodelled

with Greek Revival gables and trim  
about 1838.

Altered Yes-several times Date 1838, 1890s,  
1920s

Moved Yes Date 1893

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre       

Approximate frontage 60 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

20 feet

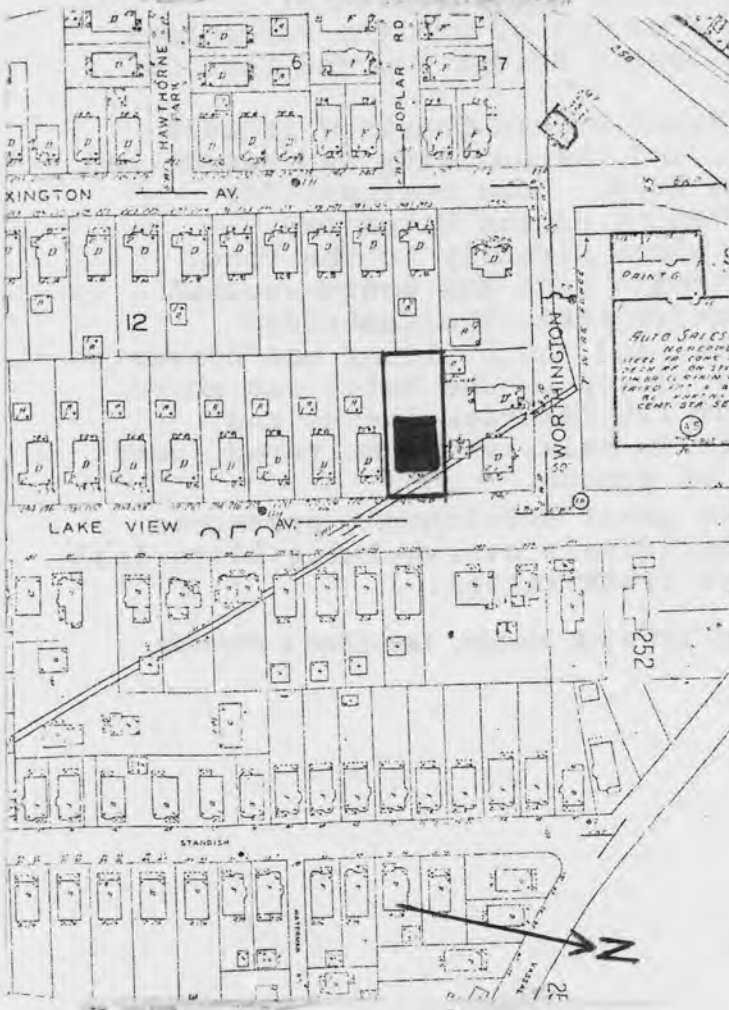
6. Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1972

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1110-30A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location  
in relation to nearest cross streets and  
other buildings. Indicate north.



UTM-LEXINGTON  
19/323710/4694270

7. Original owner (if known) Jacob Wyeth

Original use hotel

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates convent, apartments

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The celebrated Fresh Pond Hotel was for many years a famous and popular resort. The hotel was established in 1796 when Jacob Wyeth, shortly after his graduation from Harvard, bought eight acres next to Fresh Pond from his father and erected a building in the Federal style. Located on a bluff overlooking the Pond, on the present site of Kingsley Park, the hotel drew on a market of wealthy Bostonians who found easy access via West Boston Bridge and the Concord Turnpike, opened in 1793.

The creation of the nearby Mount Auburn Cemetery in 1831 increased the hotel's popularity, and the building was remodelled with Greek Revival features about 1838. More business for the hotel was generated by the opening of the Watertown Branch Railroad, which took Bostonians directly to the Pond.

The Hotel continued as a favorite site for Boston social events for another generation, but in 1886, the Cambridge temperance laws ended such parties, and the building was converted to a convent by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Hotel was moved in 1893 to its present location at 234 Lakeview Avenue and converted to apartments. Today it is relatively unaltered except for a twentieth century covering of stucco.

Despite its relocation due to great development pressures along Massachusetts Avenue, the building's overwhelming historical significance makes it deserving of preservation.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

NOV 14 1980

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 15 of 47

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 141. Taylor Square Firehouse ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 142. Aborn, John, House ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 143. Hews Pottery Company Carriage House ✓ Keeper Wesley 4/13/82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 144. Walden Street Cattle Tunnel Substantive Review ✓ Keeper Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 145. Slowey, Patrick, House ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 146. Fresh Pond Hotel ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 147. McLean, Isaac, House ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 148. Billings, Frederick, House ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 149. Farwell, R. H., House Substantive Review ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 150. St. John's Roman Catholic Church ✓ Keeper Donna Mae Dryzel 6.30.83  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Fresh Pond Hotel (Cambridge)  
Multiple Resource Area  
State, County: MA - Middlesex  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 4-17-82

Action:  ACCEPT 4/13/82  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

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

photos 1  
maps \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

### Reviewer's comments:

*Despite its move, structure ~~was~~ is historically significant as a hotel.*

Recom./Criteria A  
Reviewer Brahman  
Discipline Arch His  
Date 4.5.82  
 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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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## **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

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USIT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1110-30A

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MA, Ma

0430

Fresh Pond Hotel

234 Lakeview Ave.

1110-30A

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275