

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Plymouth

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
OCT 9 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

Richard Sparrow House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

42 Summer Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Plymouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

12th

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Plymouth

CODE

023

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☒ Museum ☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Richard Sparrow House, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

42 Summer Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Plymouth

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

North Russell Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Plymouth

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY:

1967

☐ 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:
MassachusettsCOUNTY:
PlymouthFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
OCT 9 1974
DATE

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

104 NR The Richard Sparrow House faces north on Summer Street and is located in the Town Square-Town Brook Historic District. Here, the land slopes down from Summer Street to Town Brook and is terraced with gardens and springs at the base of the hill. Just to the west of the house is the 1684 Jenney House.

The Sparrow House consists of two clearly defined sections, the original 1640 structure and the later 1750 addition. The original section of the 2½ story house is three bays wide and one deep, with a steeply pitched roof, casement windows, and an unadorned entranceway. The floorplan is one room over one room. The first floor is comprised of a "Great Hall" with a large fireplace at the west end. The entry opens onto a steep stair in front of the chimney, leading up to the second floor bedroom. A lean-to was added later in the 17th c. to the rear of the house, giving it a salt box profile. In 1750 a small 2½ story extension was added to the west side beyond the chimney. A two-story ridge roof ell was later extended to the rear of this addition. In the early 19th c. the 1640 and 1750 units were divided to form a double house, and a west entrance and stair hall was added to the 1750 structure.

In 1933 the earlier house was restored with clapboard siding on the facade, shingles on the other elevations, leaded sash, and an entrance door. The oak "A" frame roof, with purlins and vertical roofers, was lowered to its original pitch, which had been modified when the 1750 addition was made. The 1750 addition is three bays wide and one deep. Windows are all 6/6 sash and the entrance door has a flat pediment and plain pilasters. The facade is covered with red clapboards and the other elevations are unpainted shingles. The pitch of the roof is almost identical with that of the earlier house. The Sparrow House gives the appearance of two separate units with a common joining wall.



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) 1640 and 1750

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richard Sparrow House is the oldest house in Plymouth and one of the oldest in New England. Its most notable feature is its first floor interior.

The "Great Hall" contains the only known 17th c. fireplace that is still intact. The large brick chimney, set in its original clay mortar, is original up to just above the attic floor, but was later built up through the roof. The huge fireplace opening has rounded corners, corner oven, a herringbone-patterned draft, 12"x14" oak lintel, and original coved soffet to end girt. The upper level plates of the gunstock corner posts are cased on their face with elaborate shadow-mould pine boards; this is the only known example of decoration of this sort in New England. The room also contains its original single layer floor boards, which reach a width of 28".

The house was built by Richard Sparrow who, with his wife, Pandora, and son, Jonathan, arrived in Plymouth in 1632. In 1651 Richard gave his house to Jonathan and removed his cattle farm to Truro on Cape Cod.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Davis, William T., Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth, Boston, 1883.

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	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 57 ' 15 "	70 ° 39 ' 55 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one 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

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston 617-727-8470

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

CODE

025

DATE

5/7/74

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

Title

Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

5/8/74

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

10/9/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

10.8.74

UTM
19/362000
4645810

CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY Sparrow, Richard, House STATE Mass.

WORKING NUMBER 5.16.74.804

Plymouth

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS 2

MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW

cm
5.22.
74

OK

HISTORIAN Structure, ie. framing of 1640 is still pretty much intact as is the fireplace. I think that probably enough of original fabric exists to warrant NR listing. Had other areas of sign. been checked, an even stronger case for listing would be made. Why isn't it →

ACCEPT
Huganell
7/19/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Sounds like very little of this is original...

Accept
7/18/74
JCT

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colt
9/12/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
Herring
for Mustang
10-8-74

National Register Write-up Nov 12. 1974

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 12/3/74

Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 9 1974

Plum

PROPERTY NAME: <u>Plum</u>	
WORKING NUMBER: <u>21.24.804</u>	
DATE: <u>1</u>	TIME: <u>1</u>

CONTROL REVIEW

the district "Town Square - Town Brooch" nom. to the NR?

ARCHAEOLOGIST

REVIEW DATE: 11/1/74

REVIEW DATE: 11/1/74

REVIEW DATE: 10-9-74

Serial-back

Re-subject

Entered

Nov 12. 1974

12/3/74

National Register Write-up

Re-subject entry

Oct 9. 1974



Richard Sparrow House, Plymouth Mass.

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

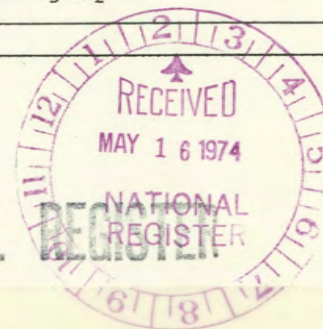
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Richard Sparrow House	same	OCT 9 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Plymouth	Plymouth
STREET AND NUMBER		
42 Summer Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Jacqueline Katz	3/74	photographer
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Facade facing northwest		

1042

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





Richard Sparrow House, Plymouth, Mass.

60

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

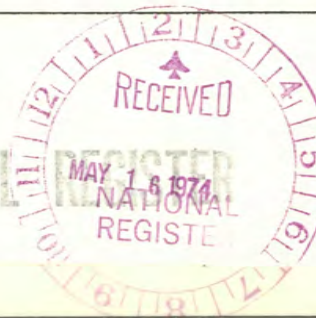
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

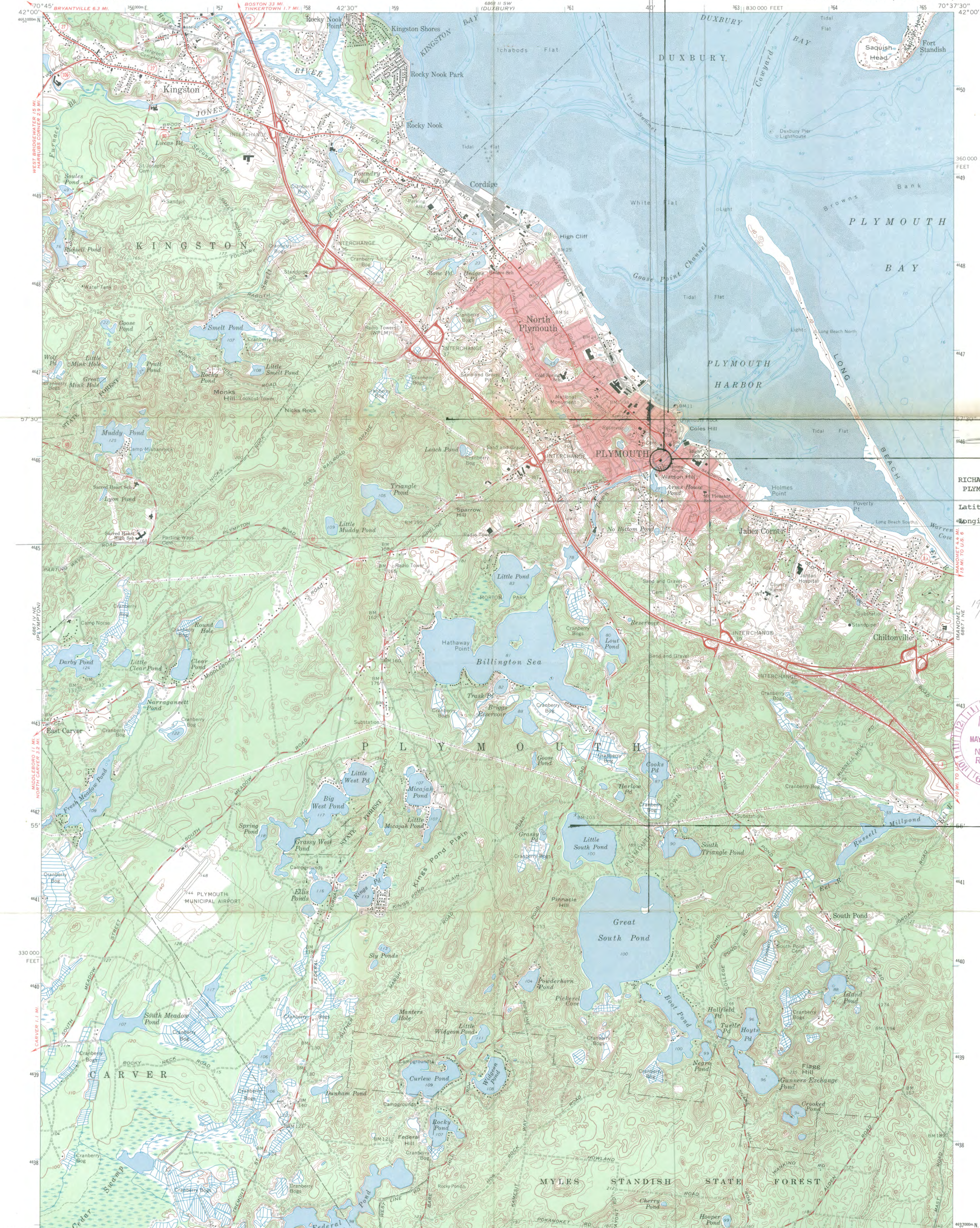
1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Richard Sparrow House	same	OCT 9 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Plymouth	Plymouth
STREET AND NUMBER		
42 Summer Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Jacqueline Katz	3/74	photographer
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Interior, first floor, "Great Hall"

#2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





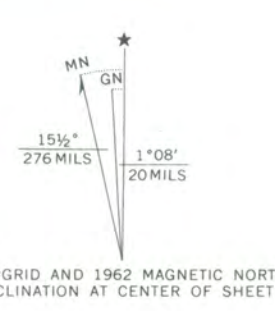
RICHARD SPARROW HOUSE,
PLYMOUTH

Latitude 41 57' 15"
Longitude 70 39' 55"

19/362 000
4645 810
CD



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1934. Revised 1962
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 245 (1960)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
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 area in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
1 0000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 10 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———



PLYMOUTH, MASS.
N4152.5—W7037.5/7.5

1962
AMS 6867 1 NW—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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 COMMON		AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Richard Sparrow House		same	OCT 9 1974
2. LOCATION			
STATE		COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts		Plymouth	Plymouth
STREET AND NUMBER			
42 Summer Street			
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE		DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. Plymouth, Mass.		1962	1:24,000

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



THIS BELONGS IN
NR. file

F78(424)

JUL 28 1983

Gilbert V. Boro
Managing General Partner
Brockton Center Associates
77 North Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear Mr. Boro:

Plymouth County

PROPERTY: Howard Block, 93-97 Main Street, Brockton, Massachusetts

CONTROL NUMBER: 0257-82-MA-82-0260

TAXPAYER'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 092-30-2129

My review of your appeal requesting reversal of the decision of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, denying certification for the rehabilitation work on the Howard Block has been concluded. This appeal was made under Department of the Interior regulations 36 CFR Part 67.10 for purposes of Federal historic preservation tax incentives contained in section 2124 of the Tax Reform Act of 1976, section 701 (f) of the Revenue Act of 1978, and section 212 of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. I want to thank you and your associates for providing, in your letter of May 2, 1983, a complete written account of the factors involved in your rehabilitation decisions, and for meeting with me in Washington on June 22. After carefully considering the facts of the case, I have determined that the historic character of the Howard Block has not been maintained through the rehabilitation and that the project does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation." The March 18 decision of the regional office, therefore, is hereby sustained.

My decision to sustain the regional office's denial of certification is that the rebuilding with entirely new materials of the second through fourth floors of the primary facade to an approximation of its nineteenth century appearance is not sufficient to preserve the historic character of the Howard Block. I realize that most of the character defining features of this building--the fenestration, brickwork and storefront--were either altered or missing at the time of your rehabilitation. In my opinion, the nineteenth century integrity of this building has been so seriously eroded, even before your rehabilitation, as to raise doubts concerning the appropriateness of its continued listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As the building presently exists, the only remaining historic fabric is the rear wall, two party walls (which have been sandblasted to remove the plaster, thus altering their historic appearance), portions of the structural system, the cornice and quoins, and some of the brick along the sides of the primary facade.

Because of the building's condition prior to your rehabilitation, great care was necessary to preserve the remaining fabric and historic appearance of the building. Replacement of these missing architectural features should have been based on the accurate duplication of their nineteenth century appearance, as is stated in Standard 6. As a result of your rehabilitation, the brickwork does not match the visual appearance of the remaining original brick along the sides and cornice, the new brick is not keyed into the original brick, the fourth floor windows have been reduced in height, and the new, ornamented window lintels on the third and fourth floors do not match the originals. The one-over-one replacement sash featuring a smaller lower sash with a horizontal meeting rail at the lower third of the window opening, and window air conditioners also differs from the historic window treatment. The cumulative effect of these reconstructed features and the new window treatment alters the overall character and appearance of the building. Therefore, the rehabilitation does not meet Standards 2 and 6 and cannot be a certified rehabilitation.

Should you become involved in future rehabilitation projects of historic buildings, I strongly urge you to contact the appropriate National Park Service Regional Office early in the planning stage. As the Department of the Interior regulations state, my decision is the final administrative decision regarding rehabilitation certification.

Sincerely,

(sgd) Ernest A. Connally

Ernest Allen Connally,
Chief Appeals Officer

cc:MA-SHPO

bcc: MARO-Harrison
SOL-Hanslin, Main Interior, Rm. 6542
424-Connally, 1100 L St., Rm. 5111
424-Johnson
424-BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 424
FNP:JTRAVERS:mg:7/22/83:343-9585 (JT 2, "Boro2")

N.R.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered OCT 9 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Russell, The Jason, House	Arlington Middlesex County
Hale, Rev. John, House	Beverly Essex County
The 1790 House	Woburn Middlesex County
Sparrow, Richard, House	Plymouth Plymouth County
Howland, Jabez, House	Plymouth Plymouth County

<u>Also Notified</u>	
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.	Secretary of the Commonwealth
Hon. Michael J. Harrington	Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald	Commission
Hon. Garry E. Studds	40 Beacon Street
Regional Director, North	Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Atlantic Region	

PR MMott/row 10/11/74