

DH0365963

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JAN 19 1977

DATE ENTERED

NOV 11 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME



HISTORIC

Edmund Fowle House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

26-28 Marshall Street

CITY, TOWN

Watertown

VICINITY OF

Boston

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

02172

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

☒ MUSEUM

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Historical Society of Watertown

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Martin V. Tomassian, 63 Mount Auburn Street

CITY, TOWN

Watertown

VICINITY OF Boston

STATE

Massachusetts, 02172

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts, 02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1971

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historic Commission

CITY, TOWN

294 Washington Street, Boston

STATE

Massachusetts, 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1872-1874

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edmund Fowle House is located at 26-28 Marshall Street in Watertown. The house originally stood facing south on Old Mill Street, now Mt. Auburn Street. Between 1872-74, the Fowle House was moved from its original site to its present location on Marshall Street. It was altered at that time into a two family dwelling as it remains today.

The house is believed to have been constructed between 1740 and 1770. In 1775 a large chamber room on the second floor was described by a committee of the Third (Massachusetts) Provincial Congress as "being unfinished...even without a rough floor..." The committee was authorized to prepare the chamber for its meetings, which were held in the house during 1775-1776. A large chamber such as this was probably located in the western rear of the house, but late 19th century remodeling on both floors has obscured the original floor plans of the rear of the house.

The Fowle House is a square, symmetrical, two story Georgian style building with a hipped roof and central brick chimney. It is set on a brick cellar foundation, the exterior dimensions of which measure 36'8" wide by 35' deep. The house is sheathed in clapboards, painted white. Much of the clapboarding is original. It is hard-riven and smoothed, under 54" long with lapped ends, and is secured by hand wrought nails with rose heads. Spacing of each course varies from 2-3/4" to 3-3/4". Fenestration is six over nine except in the later bays and extensions, where fenestration is six over six. The original window architraves have survived with only minor repairs, retaining molded sills and full protruding molded cornices. The windows are framed by louvered shutters. The roof cornice, with the exception of a modern wood gutter and crown molding, is a simple flat classical entablature. The cornerboards and watertable appear to be original.

The facade, which was faced east when the house was moved, is five bays wide. Five wooden steps lead to the flatroofed, centered, enclosed entry porch, which was added between 1872-74. Laticework infill covers the footings of the steps. The six panel wooden door is framed by sidelights and fluted paneling. At the attic, there is a center triangular pedimented dormer which contains paired 6/6 windows.

The original portion of the northern elevation is two bays deep with a three sided, projecting, one story bow at the rearmost bay. It was added in 1872-74. The northern elevation continues with a one bay deep single story ell to the rear. The southern elevation is two bays deep. At the rear bay is a one story enclosed porch with a flat roof. The entrance faces east. The other two sides have single 6/6 windows with molded lintels. Three wooden steps lead to the porch doorway and small raised open portico with railing. The footings of the portico are covered by latticework.

At the rear elevation is a telescoped kitchen ell added in 1872-74. The section abutting the house has a hip roof, center chimney, flat cornice, and six over six windows. The extension has a door and 2/2 windows on both the north and south elevations, two 2/2 windows on the west elevation, and a low flat roof. The brick foundation is covered here by a wooden lattice. Bulkheads to the cellar are found on the western and northern elevation foundations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Edmund Fowle House

7

1

The original floorplan of Edmund Fowle House appears to have been four rooms on each floor with a small central stairhall and a full sized cellar and attic. Near the center of the rear wall there was probably an exterior door from the kitchen.

Most of the original frame of the house remains intact from cellar to roof. The floor boards are original throughout. They are fastened with hand wrought T-headed nails, (rose-head nails in the attic). Mill sawn sub-floor boards up to 26-3/4" wide can be seen in the cellar. Most of the original interior woodwork survived the 1872-74 remodeling.

The small central entry stairhall retains its original Jacobean U-shaped, two landing stairway. The stairway is comprised of an open string staircase with a balustrade containing turned balusters, and a molded and ramped handrail with quarter sweeps terminating on the first floor in a voluted newel post. The ends of each step are finished with a scroll bracket.

Three of possibly six original chimney breasts survive. The most prominent of these is located in the north side front room on the first floor. Although awkwardly placed near an inside wall, this chimney breast represents a beautiful example of colonial woodwork. Its design details may have been derived from the handbook The Builders Companion, by William Paine, 1762. Details for its eared architrave and broken pediment with spheroid heads can be found in several plates from this source. The eared and kneed architraves surrounding the door and window openings are also to be found among Paine's illustrations. This room was restored by the Watertown Historical Society in 1965, and is shown to the public upon request. Two tenants occupy the house.

The old central chimney was removed in the process of moving the house, and in its place two separate flues were built and united in the attic into a central chimney. These separate flues were probably for the use of stoves. Additional stairways were built at the same time to provide each tenant access to the cellar and attic.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1740-1770

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edmund Fowle House is significant as being probably the second oldest house remaining in Watertown. The house was occupied by the Fowle family for approximately 150 years and housed the Executive Authority of the emerging Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the early Revolutionary period.

Edmund Fowle, a Watertown cordwainer, was born in 1719 and was married to Abigail Whitney in 1745. He acquired the property in 1747 and had his house built sometime between then and 1770. In 1771, Mr. Fowle died, leaving 1/3 of the house to his widow, and the remainder to his several children.

The second Edmund Fowle was born in 1747. After his father's death, he bought his brothers' and sisters' shares in the house and married in 1772. In 1774 his wife gave birth to their first child, Edmund. Edmund Fowle II became a widower soon after the child's birth. He later remarried. Children born of his second wife are recorded after 1785.

The house was used by committees of the Third Provincial Congress, which was meeting in Watertown. Early in the summer of 1775, treaties with the Penobscott and Stockbridge Indian tribes were signed here. General George Washington came to the house on August 5, 1775 to meet in private with the Executive Council to discuss a critical shortage of powder in the Continental Army, and local tradition has it that Martha Washington was received in the house in December 1775 on her way to join her husband in Cambridge. During the winter of 1775-76, Benjamin Franklin sat for a few weeks with the Executive Council in the house.

Marshall Fowle, son of Edmund III, occupied the house after it was moved to the newly laid out Marshall Street.

The late Charles Brigham, a member of the Watertown Historical Society, bought the house from the Fowle heirs, and maintained it until it was acquired by the Watertown Historical Society in 1922. It has since been used as a private residence and as a museum of the Society.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Title Search Papers from Middlesex Registry of Deeds.

Geneologies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Mass.,

Henry Bond, Little, Brown & Co., 1855.

Great Little Watertown, G. Frederick and Ruth Robinson, Watertown Historical Society, 1930.

Reminiscences of the Family of Captain John Fowle of Watertown, Mass., David Clapp & Son, Boston, 1891.

An Historic Sketch of Watertown, Solon F. Whitney. (cont.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
---	---

3	2	0	4	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	9	2	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor.
(John M. Cook, Watertown Historical Society.)

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE October 28 1976

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston, Massachusetts, 02108 STATE

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

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11/15/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/15/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles R. ...

DATE

11-8-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Massachusetts Archives, Journal of the Third Provincial Congress, Journal of the
General Court, 1775-1776.

Property Fowle, Edmund, House

Middlesex

State Mass.

Working Number 1.19.77.119

Revised

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 4

Maps 1

OK pl 1.21.77

HISTORIAN

accept

B. Graven

4/30/77

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

moved 1872-4

accept

Lebowitz

4.14.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

4/25/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Thorn

KEEPER

Huntington
11.8.77

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry 2.7.78

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered NOV 11 1977

INT:2106-74



EDMUND FOWLE HOUSE
Watertown, Massachusetts
June, 1976
Jeremy Cole
Watertown Historical Society
#1 84
East facade

Middlesex County JAN 19 1977

NOV 11 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO
BY
JEREMY COLE



EDMUND FOWLE HOUSE
Watertown, Massachusetts

June, 1976

Jeremy Cole

Watertown Historical Society

#2 *84*

West elevation, showing kitchen ell

Middlesex County

NOV 11 1977

JAN 19 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO
BY
JEREMY COLE



EDMUND FOWLE HOUSE
Watertown, Massachusetts
June, 1976
Jeremy Cole
Watertown Historical Society
#3 84
North elevation
Middlesex County

JAN 19 1977

NOV 11 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO
BY
JEREMY COLE



The Edmund Fowle House

26 Marshall Street, Watertown, Mass.

Owned by the Historical Society of Watertown

Seat of the Executive Authority of the Province of Mass.

from April 1775 to November 1776

EDMUND FOWLE HOUSE
Watertown, Massachusetts
1976
Hutchins Photography, Inc.
Watertown Historical Society
#4 84
South elevation

Middlesex County

NOV 11 1977

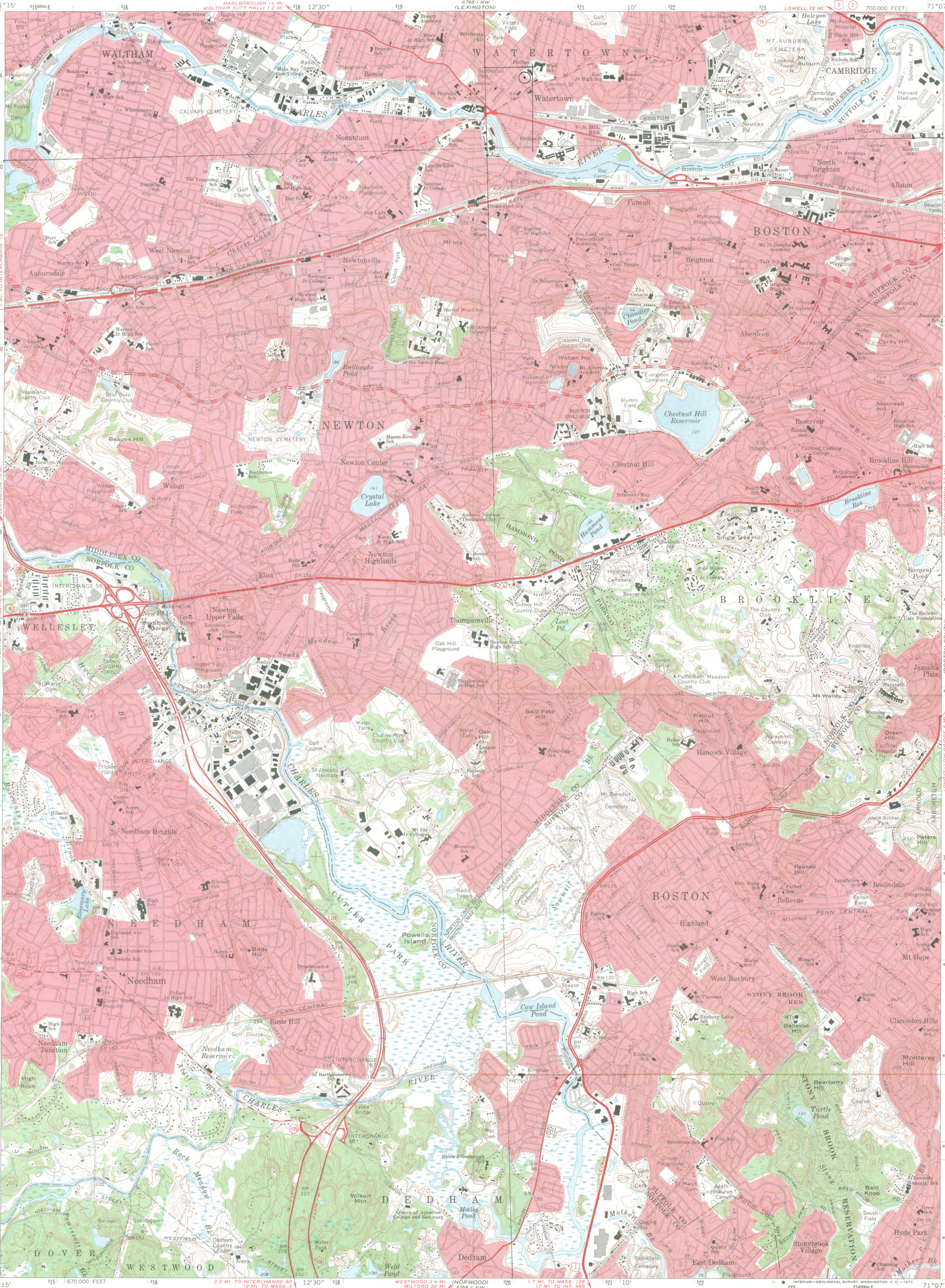
JAN 19 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

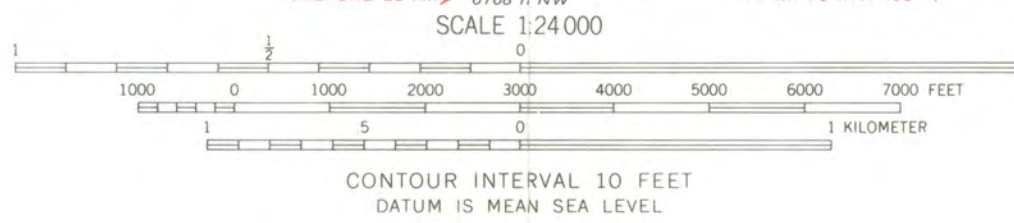
HUTCHINS PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.
137 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MASS. 02144
Credit must be given for all reproductions

6675-3

Edmund Fowle House
Watertown, Mass.
UTM Coordinate:
19/320 430/4692 760



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970.
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 areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.



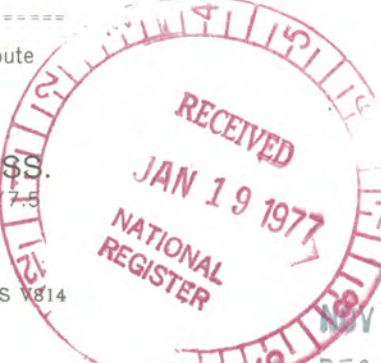
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NEWTON, MASS.
N4215-W7107.5

1970

AMS 6768 1 SW-SERIES 6714



11 1977

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 11 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cuming, Dr. John, House	Concord vicinity Middlesex County
Smith, Samuel, Tavern Site	Wellfleet vicinity Barnstable County
Fowle, Edmund, House	Watertown Middlesex County
Merrill's Wharf Historic District	New Bedford Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Paul Tsongas
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Mr. David F. Hales, Deputy Assistant
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Mr. F. Ross Holland, Chief, Cultural
Resource Management

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

11/16/77

Mott/js

880

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4/14/77
Reviewer: LEBRON
INITIALS: DOE
NOV 11 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Fowle, Edmund, House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 26-28 Marshall St.

CITY/TOWN Watertown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF 25

COUNTY

code

Middlesex 17

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR	EXTERIOR	ENVIRONS
☐ Substantially intact-1	☒ Substantially intact-2	☐ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4	☐ unknown - 5	☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7	☐ not applicable - 8	☐ Not applicable - 9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ Unexcavated

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

☐ Reconstructed

☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

☐ Unknown

ACCESS -

☒ Yes-restricted

☐ Yes-unrestricted

☐ No access

☐ Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *residential*

now- *residential, museum*

SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☒ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW/Gov't/politics

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

1775 - treaties w/ Pondscoth & Stockbridge Indians signed here
8/5/1775 - Geo. Wash. met w/ Exec. Council here

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1740-1770

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1872-74

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1775

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

11.9

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Frame, 2 story, rectangular, hipped roof with central chimney, dormer, enclosed porch entrance, one story rear and side wings

Some original interior detail

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Probably second oldest house in Walcott and housed Executive ^{authority} of Massachusetts during the early period of the Revolution

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Edmund Fowle House Amendment
Watertown (Middlesex), MA

Section number Amendment Page 1

The purpose of this amendment is to elevate the level of significance of the Edmund Fowle House in Watertown, MA from local to national for its association with key events of the American Revolution. The amendment also provides additional bibliographical sources.

The Edmund Fowle House (26-28 Marshall Street) became an ancillary meeting place for the Massachusetts provincial government during the siege of Boston in 1775-76. As such, the house reflects the transitory nature of representation during this turbulent period in American history. The house served as a meeting room for the General Court Board as well as various committees. Functioning as a government-in-exile, the General Court Board accomplished a multitude of political actions in the Fowle House, including the signing of what is believed to be the first treaty between an American government and a foreign entity, in this case representatives of the St. John and Mi'kmaq tribes in Canada's Maritime Provinces. This property is significant as a rare surviving building associated with the tenure of the Provincial government-in-exile during a critical period of the American Revolution. The Fowle House's role in the creation of a continuing governmental presence and its nascent association with American foreign policy allows it to be considered a nationally significant historic resource.

Following the start of the American Revolution at Lexington on April 19, 1775, the British Regulars retreated to Boston under intense fire from the Patriots. A week later, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, also known as the Provincial Congress, ordered that volunteer American soldiers throughout the colony head for Boston to establish camps surrounding the city, thus beginning the year-long siege of British-held Boston. With its traditional meeting place in the Old State House in Boston thus rendered unavailable, the general assembly of the Provincial Congress began to meet in Watertown at the Meetinghouse (not extant), located near the intersection of present day Common and Mt. Auburn streets. At the meeting of July 21, 1775, 205 deputies from various towns selected 28 councilors to be the General Court Board, an executive committee or governing council of the province. Given that the general assembly of the Provincial Congress would continue to use the large space of the meetinghouse, an additional meeting place was needed for "the council." Space was secured in the nearby Edmund Fowle House, then in its original location on Mt Auburn Street at the head of what is now Marshall Street, and at the time, the next house west of the meetinghouse. In the legislative records of July 22, 1775, it was recorded: "The Committee appointed to provide some convenient Place for the Council to sit in; reported verbally, That a large Chamber in the House of Mr. Fowle's might be procured; but being unfinished, the Committee recommended that there be a rough Floor laid, and Chairs provided for that Purpose. The Report was accepted, and Capt. Brown, Capt. Dix, and Major Fuller, were appointed to prepare said Chamber accordingly."

A careful reading of the records of the Council, undertaken by the Watertown Historical Society, indicates that this executive committee met in the Fowle House for the entire period that the Provincial Congress sat in Watertown, which coincided with the period during which the Revolutionary War was being fought locally.

Notables associated with the house during this period include James Warren, who became Speaker of the House after Joseph Warren died in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17. James, whose primary residence was in Plymouth, lived in the Fowle House with his wife Mercy Otis, who was one of the most significant female figures of the American Revolution and the author of the History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution (1805). It is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Edmund Fowle House Amendment
Watertown (Middlesex), MA

Section number Amendment Page 2

also reported that Mercy's brother James Otis, who served on the Council, lived in the house. General George Washington, who was headquartered in nearby Cambridge, is reported to have met with the Council in the Fowle House on August 5, 1775 to discuss a critical shortage of gunpowder. Martha Washington was received in the house by the Warrens on her way east to Cambridge the following December. Benjamin Franklin met with the Council in the house during the winter of 1775-1776.

Records of the winter 1775-1776 at Watertown indicate that the legislators met six days a week for the twelve weeks from Wednesday, November 29, 1775 to Tuesday, February 20, 1776, including Christmas and New Year's Day. Three weeks into the session, Speaker James Warren wrote to Samuel Adams, who was in Philadelphia, reporting on the issues they were addressing. Warren wrote, "...the Capital matters we are engaged in are regulating the Militia, paying of the Soldiery, aiding and assisting the Quartermaster General in Supplying the Army with Hay and wood, two very scarce Articles, fixing out Vessels for Importing Powder, etc., promoting the Manufacture of Arms and Salt Petre, Building Powder Mills, and in short every thing else. It is Impossible to describe the Business we have to do. It is Increased, perhaps doubled, by this Colony being so much the Seat of War."

While a province at war and in transition from colonial rule to self governance clearly faced enormous challenges that provided its governing body with an unprecedented demand for decisions and a crushing burden of work, one of the most unique documents executed at the Edmund Fowle House is the Treaty of Watertown. Signed on July 19, 1776, just days after the Declaration of Independence, it has national significance as the first foreign treaty entered into by the newly constituted United States of America. The treaty sought to establish a wartime alliance between the Americans and the St. John and Mi'kmaq Tribes of the Maritime Provinces in Canada. The treaty outlined the ways in which the Mi'kmaq Nation and the United States would aid one another against any enemy, including Great Britain.

The articles of the treaty are quoted below:

WHEREAS, the United States of America, in general Congress Assembled, have ... declared that these United Colonies are ... free and independent States ... and ... have full power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and things which independent States have the right to do;

WE THE GOVERNORS, of the State of Massachusetts Bay, do ... enter into and conclude the following Treaty of Friendship and Alliance, viz:

1st, We the Governors of the said State of Massachusetts Bay, in behalf of the said State, and the other United States of America on the one part, and Ambrius Var, Newell Wallis, and Francis, delegates of the St. John's Tribe, Joseph Deneguarra, Charles, Mattahu Antrane, Nicholas, John Battis, Peter Andre and Sebattis Netobcobwit, Delegates of the Micmac Tribe of Indians...do solemnly agree that the people of the said State of Massachusetts Bay, and of the other United states of America, and of the said Tribes of Indians shall henceforth be at peace with each other, and be considered as Friends and Brothers united and allied together for their mutual defense, safety and happiness.

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2nd, That each party to this Treaty shall, and will consider the enemies of the other as Enemies to themselves, and do hereby solemnly promise and engage to and with each other, that when called upon for that purpose, they shall, and will, to the utmost of their abilities, aid and assist each other against their public Enemies, and particularly, that the people of the said Tribe of Indians shall and will afford, and give to the people of the said State of Massachusetts Bay, and the people of the other United States of America, during their present war with the King of Great Britain, all the aid and assistance in their power.

AND, that they the people of said Tribes of Indians shall not, and will not directly or indirectly give any aid, or assistance to the Troops, or Subjects, of the said King of Great Britain, or others adhering to Him, or hold any correspondence, or carry on any Commerce with them during the present war.

3rd, That if any robbery or outrage happens to be committed by any of the Subjects of the said State of Massachusetts Bay, or any of the United States of America, upon any of the people of said Tribes, the said State shall upon proper application being made, cause satisfaction and restitution speedily to be made to the Party injured.

4th, That if any robbery or outrage happens to be committed by any of the said Tribes of Indians, upon any of the Subjects of the said State, or of any of the other of the United States of America, the Tribe to which the offender, or offenders shall belong, shall, upon proper application being made, cause satisfaction and restitution speedily to be made to the Party injured.

5th, That in case any misunderstanding, quarrel, or injury shall happen between the said State of Massachusetts Bay, or any other United States of America, and said Tribes of Indians, or either of them, no private revenge shall be taken, but a peaceable application shall be made for redress.

6th, That the said Tribes of Indians, shall and will furnish and supply 600 strong men out of said Tribes, or as many as may be, who shall without delay proceed from their several homes up to the Town of Boston within this State, and from thence shall march to join the Army of the United States of America, now at New York, under the immediate command of his Excellency, General George Washington, there to take his orders.

7th, That each of the Indians who shall by their respective Tribes, be appointed to join the Army of the United States of America, shall bring with him a good gun, and shall be allowed One Dollar for the use of it; and in case the Gun shall be lost in the Service, shall be paid the value of it.

AND, the pay of each Man shall begin from the time they sail from Machias for Boston, and they shall be supplied with provisions, and a vessel or vessels for their passage up to Boston. Each private Man shall receive the like pay as is given to our own private Men. The Indians shall be formed into Companies when they arrive in Boston, and shall want them not exceeding the term of three years, unless General Washington and they shall agree for a longer time.

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AND, as Joseph Denaquarra, Peter Andre and Sabattis Netobcowit, have manfully and generously offered to enter immediately into the war, they shall be sent as soon as may be, to General Washington to join the Army, and shall be considered as entering into our pay at the time of arrival at New York.

8th, The delegates above named, who may return to their homes, do promise and engage, to use their utmost influence with the Passamaquoddy, and other neighbouring Tribes of Indians to persuade them to furnish, and supply for the said service, as many strong men of their respective Tribes as possible, and that they come along with those of the Tribes of St. John's Micmac.

AND, the said Governor, of the said State of Massachusetts Bay, does hereby engage to give to such of the Passamaquoddy, or other neighbouring Indians, who shall enter into the service of the United States of America, the same pay and encouragement in every particular, as is above agreed to be given to the St. John's, or Micmac Indians, and to consider them as our friends and Brothers.

9th, That the said State of Massachusetts Bay shall, and will furnish their Truckhouses at Machias, as soon as may be with proper Articles for the purpose of supplying the Indians of said Tribes with the necessaries and conveniences of life.

10th, And the said Delegates do hereby annul and make void all former Treaties by them or by others in behalf of their respective Tribes made with any other Power, State, or Person, so far forth as the same shall be repugnant to any of the Articles contained in this Treaty.

In faith and testimony whereof we [the parties described above] hereunto put their marks and seals in the Council Chamber at Watertown....

It is unclear where Edmund Fowle was living during the time rooms in his house were used by the government. Speculation has it that he lived in part of it, possibly with his mother. The house had been in his family since his birth in 1747, and in 1774, his wife died leaving him with an infant son. While no doubt grateful for the work being done by the men who met in his house, he did complain about the damage they caused and requested compensation. His petition makes it clear that various committees as well as the council used the house. On December 23, 1775, he requested payment for the use of his house "since April last" during which time it had been a meeting place for "Committees of the Court and of Congress, and for the Office of the Clerk of the House, &c." On January 9, 1776, it was resolved that Fowle would be paid four pounds, ten shillings for the "extraordinary Trouble that Committees have occasioned in sitting in his House from the first Day of Congress in this Town to this Day, and for the Expense of Wood, Candles, and Damage done his Furniture."

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Additional Bibliography

“Edmund Fowle House, Marshall Street, Watertown, Massachusetts, c.1740” Undated brochure (Historical Society of Watertown)

Records of the Massachusetts House of Representative: sessions one, two, and three (1775-1776). Massachusetts Historical Society. (Selected pages copied and annotated by Audrey Jones Childs, grant writer, Historical Society of Watertown.)

Warren-Adams Letters, 1743-1814, 2 vols., Massachusetts Historical Society, Collections, vols. 72-73 (Boston, 1917-1925), 2: 429.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

June 18, 2007

J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Historic Landmarks/National Register Programs
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Edmund Fowle House, 26-28 Marshall Street
Watertown (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Loether:

At the request of the Historical Society of Watertown, enclosed please find a technical amendment to the National Register nomination for the Edmund Fowle House in Watertown, MA, which was listed in the National Register on November 11, 1977. The purpose of the amendment is to elevate the significance of the house from the local to the national level for its associations with the first year of the American Revolution, when it was used as a meeting place for the General Court Board.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed amendment, please contact Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brona Simon".

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

Cc: Audrey Child, Historical Society of Watertown, 24 Marshall St., Watertown, MA 02472

David J. Russo, Chair, Watertown Historical Commission

Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Fowle, Edmund, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 6/20/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/03/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000189

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/3/2007 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional documentation on the previously-listed Edmund Fowle House establishes the national historical importance of the building which served as the meeting place of the Mass. provincial government while in exile from Boston during the crucial period 1775-76.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept additional documentation

REVIEWER Patrick Anders DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 8/3/2007

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.