

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 2 1987  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Nathan Wood House

and or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 164 Worcester Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Westminster

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Worcester

code 027

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	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 Walter M. and Kristine E. Haney

street & number 164 Worcester Road

city, town Westminster

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fitchburg Registry of Deeds

street & number P.O. Box 983

city, town Fitchburg

state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets of  
title the Commonwealth of Massachusetts #63 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission, 80 Boylston Street

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

## 7. Description

Nathan Wood House, Westminster, Massachusetts

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nathan Wood House, Westminster, is located in a rural setting on a four-acre lot on the corner of Worcester Road and Patricia Road, about a mile southeast of the town center. The house is a vernacular Georgian-style residence whose well-preserved exterior appears little changed since the building was constructed ca. 1756. The timber-frame house with graduated clapboard exterior rises 2 1/2 stories from a fieldstone foundation. It is five bays wide, with a central pedimented entrance. The central chimney is located forward of the gable roof's ridge. The roof is presently asphalt-covered. A single-story rear ell, shingle-sheathed, was added in the late 19th century.

The house is set back about twenty feet from the road, behind a low, dry-laid fieldstone wall covered with rosebushes. A barn, built ca. 1820, stands to the north of the house. Several large maple trees, beauty bushes, and old lilacs surround the house. To the south and east is a sloping lawn with an extensive perennial border; beyond this is an open field containing several beehives. The remaining three acres are wooded. The Ahijah Wood House, located south of the Nathan Wood House and also being nominated to the National Register is not visible.

The main (west) facade is well proportioned, and distinguished by its central entry. The doorway is topped by a five-light transom and set within a classical frame of incised pilasters supporting entablature and deeply molded, dentilated pediment. Symmetrically aligned fenestration consisting of 8/12 sash with plain sills is elaborated on the first story with molded cap cornices. Windows on the second story are set flush with the building's simple cornice. Most of the sash retains original lights. Narrow corner boards finish the otherwise unadorned facade. The large chimney's varicolored brick suggests that it was rebuilt at some point.

The north and south elevations are similar but not identical: three bays deep with a slightly off-center door. On the north, this door is flanked by a single 8/12 sash at the northwestern corner and, close by the door to the northeast, a paired 6/9 sash joined by a single cornice cap (these were undoubtedly added later). Fenestration, including two windows on the second story and a single window in the gable peak, is again 8/12. The molded cornice caps seen on the main facade's first story are present on all side elevation windows as well as above the door. The gable, with narrow cornice, is finished with shallow returns. The southern elevation echoes the north's arrangement of windows and doors, except that the first story's rear window is a single opening with 6/9 sash.

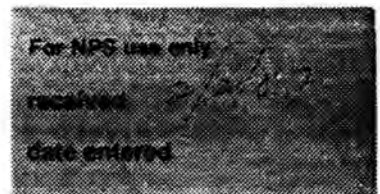
Also visible on the northern side is the single-story pitched roof ell, a late 19th century addition which extends from the northeast corner of the main block. On its northern side, the ell has paired 8/8 sash. The ell is shingle-sheathed. On the east, the ell features a band of modern fixed windows, while on the south, a large window group with fixed and movable sash is located beside a small late 19th century window and panelled door.

continued

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National Park Service**

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

Nathan Wood House  
Westminster, Massachusetts



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The main block's rear (eastern) facade has sustained several changes. The ell mentioned above obliterates half of the building's original first story; beside it, a large first-story window is a 20th century alteration. The second story retains three 6/9 sash windows, evenly placed.

The house retains its mid 18th century plan, with the center entrance opening onto a small lobby with staircase. To the left and right are parlors, while a kitchen is located across the rear of the building. Interior finishes remain, including four fireplaces with raised panelling, wainscoting, raised panel doors with original hardware, wide-board floors of pine and chestnut, and horse-hair plaster walls. The second floor hallway's panelling is particularly noteworthy.

A single outbuilding survives on the property, to the north of the house: a large, plank-faced barn, 40 by 50 feet, built ca. 1820. A second barn was at one time located south of the house, but today, only traces of its foundations survive. A stone-lined well remains south of the house.

#### Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. Located on rolling uplands adjacent to Smith Brook, the area would have been attractive to native people for its resource potential and for short term settlement. Since no prehistoric sites are currently reported in the town, any surviving sites would be significant.

There is also a high potential for significant historical archaeological remains. Controlled testing and excavation may assist in documenting the construction and addition/alteration sequence for the main house. The location and dimensions of barns and other outbuildings, and the changes in layout and configuration of the farmstead as it evolved during the later 18th and 19th centuries. Occupation related features (trash pits, privies, wells) are lively around the house and can provide detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized a prosperous and influential family over the course of three generations.

## 8. Significance Nathan Wood House, Westminster, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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 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** ca. 1756 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nathan Wood House, Westminster, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A well-preserved vernacular mid-Georgian style building retaining original finishes on both exterior and interior, the house holds associations with a local family of some significance and remains in their possession for almost a century and a half. The Nathan Wood House thus fulfills Criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

The town of Westminster was one of seven townships designated in 1733 as part of a land grant made in 1728 by the General Court: this grant fulfilled a commitment made in 1685 to veterans of King Philip's War and their survivors. Located just north of Wachusett Mountain in north-central Massachusetts, the township, then known as Narragansett, No. 2, received its first European settlers in 1737. A meetinghouse site was established in 1739. Settlement proceeded slowly despite the inducements of \$40 bounty and construction of a gristmill (1741) to lure families. By 1741, nineteen families had settled in the town. With hostilities resulting from the French and Indian War, settlement was slow in the 1740s (ten houses are known to have been fortified due to frontier warfare); and by 1750, only thirty-two families had erected houses and cleared their mandated three acres on lots of sixty acres each. It was not until after 1750, when the Legislature ordered meeting of proprietors to be held in the township and decisions were rendered allowing public improvements (especially highways) that new residents were retained. A poor agrarian community, Narragansett No. 2 was incorporated as Westminster in 1759. In April 1770, the town was granted representation in the Legislature.

A committee authorized to subdivide the township began to lay out lots early in 1734. In 1739, six acres were set aside on a hill north of Wachusett Mountain, in the southeast section of the township, for a meetinghouse, burying ground, and training field. Located near 156-acre Meetinghouse Pond, the area, the present Academy Hill Common, formed the center of the new village. (The remaining core of the original village settlement was nominated to the National Register in 1983 as the Academy Hill Historic District.) A marker locates the site of the original meetinghouse. Westminster's first schoolhouse was erected in 1766 at the northeast corner of the meetinghouse lot.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Nathan Wood House

Continuation sheet Westminister, Massachusetts Item number 8

Page 1

With the settlement of a town center in Westminister in the 1750s, presettlement trails were improved. From the Common, a street four rods wide (now Main Street) was laid out for more than one mile in a northwest-southeast direction. On each side of the street were arranged the first house lots, 60 x 160 rods in size. Today's Worcester Road was established soon after settlement as a major route joining Lancaster and Athol to the west and east with Worcester to the south. It ran north of Meetinghouse Hill and then turned south to run between Meetinghouse Pond and Wyman Pond. In 1743, a second group of lots was platted; Nathan Wood's property, located on the Worcester Road, a quarter mile from Wyman Pond, was among this latter division.

Nathan Wood (1723-1777), born in Concord, arrived in Westminister in 1756 to build the nominated property on a proprietor's lot located southeast of the town center on the Worcester Road. Wood was a descendant of William Wood, whose 1634 New England's Prospect is said to have been one of the first to provide an eyewitness account of early Massachusetts Bay. Nathan Wood established a farm on his property and built the nominated residence ca. 1756. He quickly became a prominent member of this new community. Within a year of his settlement in Westminister, Wood was elected to the standing committee of the township. After the 1759 Act of Incorporation, he served for five years as an assessor and nine years as a selectman. He was a member of the first, second, and third Provincial Congresses and was, on July 10, 1775, elected as Westminister's first representative to the General Assembly. Wood also served as a deacon of the church. He and his wife had fifteen children, all but one of whom lived to maturity. Upon Wood's death at the age of 54, his third son, Abel, assumed ownership of the property.

Like his father, farmer Abel Wood (1755-1846) held many public offices, among them Representative to the General Court for four successive terms. He was also a justice of the peace and a Colonel in the Massachusetts Militia.

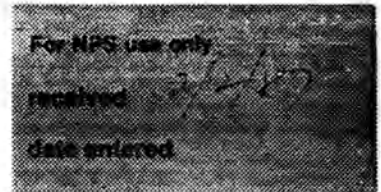
The third owner of the property was Abel's son, Benjamin Franklin Wood (1791-1874). It was he who engineered the building of the barn (ca. 1820). Benjamin also held public office and was deacon of the church for 24 years. In addition to maintaining the farm, he also was a cooper and manufactured furniture. In 1839, Benjamin Franklin Wood formed the Worcester Northeast District Temperance Union, which he served as the first president.

In all, the property remained in possession of the Wood family for 134 years. The Wood's careers, community roles, and interests were typical of many Massachusetts citizens in the 18th and 19th centuries.

continued

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Nathan Wood House  
Continuation sheet Westminster, Massachusetts Item number 8 Page 2

The original farm was divided in 1898, and the nominated property and immediately surrounding land were sold to H. Davis in that year. The property changed hands only two more times before being bought in 1978 by Walter and Kristine Haney. Out of agricultural use by the mid 20th century, the property is once again being worked as a farm.

The primary significance of the Wood House lies in its well-preserved Georgian styling, plan, and original finishes. It is one of the oldest and most intact 18th century residences in Westminster. With its central chimney flanked by two parlors and fronted by a lobby and stair, the timber-framed 2 1/2-story house is typical of the area's period residences, and indeed, is a type found throughout Worcester County. The five-bay facade was also quite common. The kitchen--a leanto in earlier buildings in the region--was fully incorporated into the house frame in the Wood House as in others, and accounts for the end elevation's symmetrical form but asymmetrical window and door placement. Described as a "1 1/2 pile" plan, this too was typical of the region in the mid 18th century.

Three other houses of the period that survive in Westminster, the Reuben Miles Hosue at 34 Carter Road, The Whitney Homestead, 260 Davis Road, (1752) and the John Whitney House at 98 Lanes Road; (ca. 1754) display similar pedimented entryways.

There are three other houses associated with the Wood family, of which the nominated property is the oldest. Of the remaining two, one, the Ahijah Wood House, built ca. 1795, is located down the road from the nominated property and was the home of one of Nathan Wood's fifteen children. It is also being nominated to the National Register. The third Wood-associated property, a 1 1/2-story cottage located south of the Nathan Wood house, was moved in 1977 and has lost its chimney. The third, the Erza Wood House, the Federal period house of a descendant of Nathan Wood, was listed on the National Register in 1983 after it was threatened with demolition following a 1980 road improvement project.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Haywood, W. S., History of Westminster. Lowell, 1983.
2. Holmes, Clay W., Genealogy of the Descendants of William Wood. Elmira, N.Y., 1901.
3. Massachusetts Historical Commission, Historic and Archaeological Resources of Central Massachusetts. Boston, 1985.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Gardner

Quadrangle scale 1: 25,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	2	6	2	4	8	0	4	7	1	1	8	1	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 assessor's map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission,  
name/title with Kristine Haney, Westminster Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November, 1986

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 Joseph R. Ozyant DSHPO

Deputy Massachusetts Historical Commission  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/17/87

### For NPS use only

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

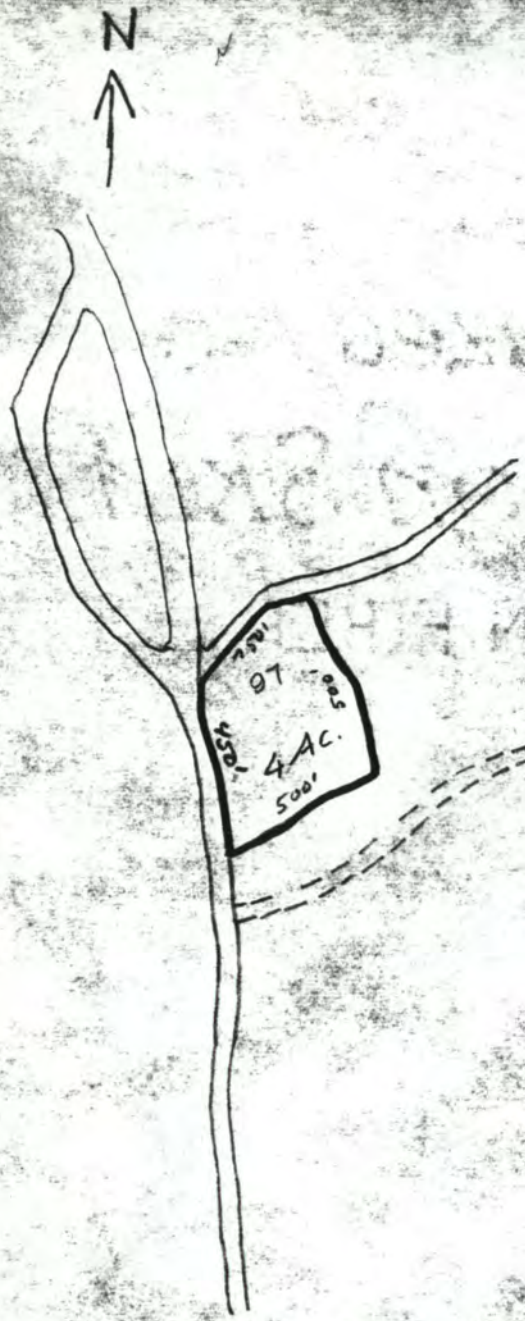
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



NATHAN WOOD HOUSE  
164 Worcester Road  
Westminster, Massachusetts

Property Map  
#3  
Scale: 1" = 500'

PROPERTY MAP  
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
PREPARED BY

JAMES W. SEWALL CO

OLD TOWN, MAINE

MAP 3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Wood, Nathan, House  
Worcester County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. FEB 2 1987

Fed. Reg. Date:

Date Due: 3/6/87 - 3/19/87

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 3-17-87

REJECT

Federal Agency:

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*See the following*

Recom./Criteria *Return*

Reviewer *Shwach*

Discipline *Architectural History*

Date *3/17/87*

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 *Please fill in blank*

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

*Is the c. 1820 barn considered contributing or noncontributing? It is described in section # 7.*

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

Historic archeological sig. is unjustified - please provide concrete research design to substantiate this as an area of significance or delete it as an area of sig. in the resubmission.

As is the case w/ the Abijah Wood House, the documentation points to applicability of criterion A for the sig. of the family members more appropriately than criterion B. The period of sig. applicable to criterion A please specify and check appropriate blanks under period "typical of many citizens in the 18<sup>th</sup>+19<sup>th</sup> centuries."

with reference to the statement in #8 pg. 1 "The Woods .... were typical of many citizens in the 18<sup>th</sup>+19<sup>th</sup> centuries."

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 Beth Savage (702) 343-9550

Signed Patrick Andrews Date 3/17/87 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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National Park Service

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	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
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date 1974  federal  state  county  local

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
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<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		

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continued

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Westminster, Massachusetts

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

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	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	2	0
Structures	0	0
Sites	0	0
Objects	0	0

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
1756-1898		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) community development
<b>Specific dates</b>	ca. 1756	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nathan Wood House, Westminster, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A well-preserved vernacular mid-Georgian style building retaining original finishes on both exterior and interior, the house holds associations with a local family of some significance to the history and development of Westminster and remained in their possession for more than a century and a half. The Nathan Wood House thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

The town of Westminster was one of seven townships designated in 1733 as part of a land grant made in 1728 by the General Court: this grant fulfilled a commitment made in 1685 to veterans of King Philip's War and their survivors. Located just north of Wachusett Mountain in north-central Massachusetts, the township, then known as Narragansett, No. 2, received its first European settlers in 1737. A meetinghouse site was established in 1739. Settlement proceeded slowly despite the inducements of \$40 bounty and construction of a gristmill (1741) to lure families. By 1741, nineteen families had settled in the town. With hostilities resulting from the French and Indian War, settlement was slow in the 1740s (ten houses are known to have been fortified due to frontier warfare); and by 1750, only thirty-two families had erected houses and cleared their mandated three acres on lots of sixty acres each. It was not until after 1750, when the Legislature ordered meeting of proprietors to be held in the township and decisions were rendered allowing public improvements (especially highways) that new residents were retained. A poor agrarian community, Narragansett No. 2 was incorporated as Westminster in 1759. In April 1770, the town was granted representation in the Legislature.

A committee authorized to subdivide the township began to lay out lots early in 1734. In 1739, six acres were set aside on a hill north of Wachusett Mountain, in the southeast section of the township, for a meetinghouse, burying ground, and training field. Located near 156-acre Meetinghouse Pond, the area, the present Academy Hill Common, formed the center of the new village. (The remaining core of the original village settlement was nominated to the National Register in 1983 as the Academy Hill Historic District.) A marker locates the site of the original meetinghouse. Westminster's first schoolhouse was erected in 1766 at the northeast corner of the meetinghouse lot.

continued

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Haywood, W.S., History of Westminster, Lowell, 1983.
2. Holmes, Clay W., Genealogy of the Descendants of William Wood. Elmira, N.Y., 1901.
3. Massachusetts Historical Commission, Historic and Archaeological Resources of Central Massachusetts. Boston, 1985.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4

Quadrangle name Gardner

Quadrangle scale 1: 25,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	2	6	2	4	8	0	4	7	1	1	3	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See assessor's map.

### 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

Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
name/title with Kristine Haney, Westminster Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date November, 1986

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, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Commission date July 30, 1987

### For NPS use only

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

date 9/16/87

for Patrick Andrews  
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/16/87

Attest: Betsy Friedberg  
Chief of Registration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Nathan Woods House  
Westminster, Massachusetts Item number 8 Page 1

With the settlement of a town center in Westminster in the 1750s, presettlement trails were improved. From the Common, a street four rods wide (now Main Street) was laid out for more than one mile in a northwest-southeast direction. On each side of the street were arranged the first house lots, 60 x 160 rods in size. Today's Worcester Road was established soon after settlement as a major route joining Lancaster and Athol to the west and east with Worcester to the south. It ran north of Meetinghouse Hill and then turned south to run between Meetinghouse Pond and Wyman Pond. In 1743, a second group of lots was platted; Nathan Wood's property, located on the Worcester Road, a quarter mile from Wyman Pond, was among this latter division.

Nathan Wood (1723-1777), born in Concord, arrived in Westminster in 1756 to build the nominated property on a proprietor's lot located southeast of the town center on the Worcester Road. Wood was a descendant of William Wood, whose 1634 New England Prospect is said to have been one of the first to provide an eyewitness account of early Massachusetts Bay. Nathan Wood established a farm on his property and built the nominated residence ca. 1756. He quickly became a prominent member of this new community. Within a year of his settlement in Westminster, Wood was elected to the standing committee of the township. After the 1759 Act of Incorporation, he served for five years as an assessor and nine years as a selectman. He was a member of the first, second, and third Provincial Congresses and was, on July 10, 1775, elected as Westminster's first representative to the General Assembly. Wood also served as a deacon of the church. He and his wife had fifteen children, all but one of whom lived to maturity. Upon Wood's death at the age of 54, his third son, Abel, assumed ownership of the property.

Like his father, farmer Abel Wood (1755-1846) held many public offices, among them Representative to the General Court for four successive terms. He was also a justice of the peace and a Colonel in the Massachusetts Militia.

The third owner of the property was Abel's son, Benjamin Franklin Wood (1791-1874). It was he who engineered the building of the barn (ca. 1820). Benjamin also held public office and was deacon of the church for 24 years. In addition to maintaining the farm, he also was a cooper and manufactured furniture. In 1839, Benjamin Franklin Wood formed the Worcester Northeast District Temperance Union, which he served as the first president.

In all, the property remained in possession of the Wood family for 155 years (1743-1898). The Woods' careers, community roles, and interests were typical of many Massachusetts citizens in the 18th and 19th centuries.

continued

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Nathan Wood House

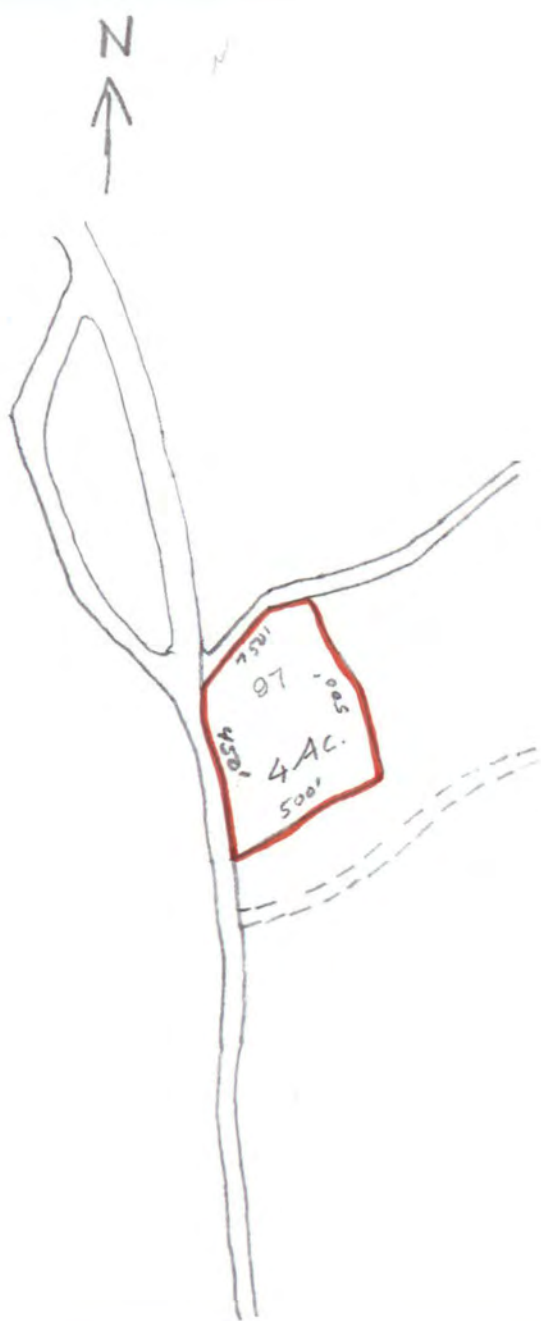
Continuation sheet Westminister, Massachusetts Item number 8 Page 2

The original farm was divided in 1898, and the nominated property and immediately surrounding land were sold to H. Davis in that year. The property changed hands only two more times before being bought in 1978 by Walter and Kristine Haney. Out of agricultural use by the mid 20th century, the property is once again being worked as a farm.

The primary significance of the Wood House lies in its well-preserved Georgian styling, plan, and original finishes. It is one of the oldest and most intact 18th century residences in Westminister. With its central chimney flanked by two parlors and fronted by a lobby and stair, the timber-framed 2 1/2-story house is typical of the area's period residences, and indeed, is a type found throughout Worcester County. The five-bay facade was also quite common. The kitchen--a leanto in earlier buildings in the region--was fully incorporated into the house frame in the Wood House as in others, and accounts for the end elevation's symmetrical form but asymmetrical window and door placement. Described as a "1 1/2 pile" plan, this too was typical of the region in the mid 18th century.

Three other houses of the period that survive in Westminister, the Reuben Miles House at 34 Carter Road, The Whitney Homestead, 260 Davis Road (1752), and the John Whitney House at 98 Lanes Road (ca. 1754) display similar pedimented entryways.

There are three other houses associated with the Wood family, of which the nominated property is the oldest. Of the remaining two, one, the Ahijah Wood House, built ca. 1795, is located down the road from the nominated property and was the home of one of Nathan Wood's fifteen children. It is also being nominated to the National Register. The third Wood-associated property, a 1 1/2-story cottage located south of the Nathan Wood house, was moved in 1977 and has lost its chimney. The third, the Erza Wood House, the Federal period house of a descendant of Nathan Wood, was listed on the National Register in 1983 after it was threatened with demolition following a 1980 road improvement project.



NATHAN WOOD HOUSE  
 164 Worcester Road  
 Westminster, Massachusetts

Property Map  
 #3  
 Scale: 1" = 500'

PROPERTY MAP  
 TOWN OF WESTMINSTER  
 WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
 PREPARED BY

JAMES W. SEWALL CO

OLD TOWN, MAINE

MAP 3

1 inch = 500'

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Wood, Nathan, House  
Worcester County  
MASSACHUSETTS

*Substantive Review*

Working No. 2-2-87  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 9/20/87  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-16-87  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Well-preserved vernacular Georgian residence associated with family of some local significance for over 150 years.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C  
Reviewer Savast  
Discipline Architectural History  
Date 9/16/87

*Initial return comments have been adequately rectified.*

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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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**

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_



Nathan Wood House  
164 Worcester Rd  
Westminster, MA 01473  
Photo: K. Haney; 11/84  
neg: 164 Worcester Rd  
2 of 2; front angle view

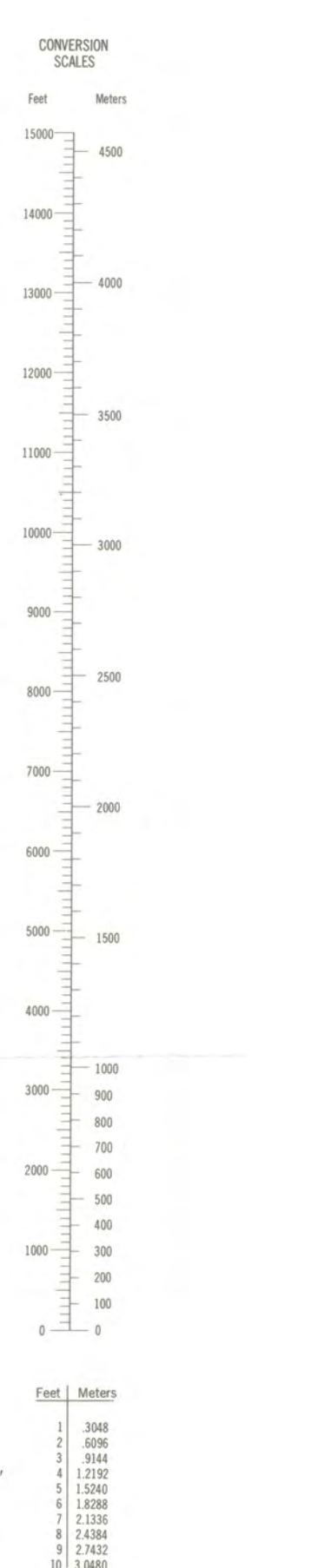
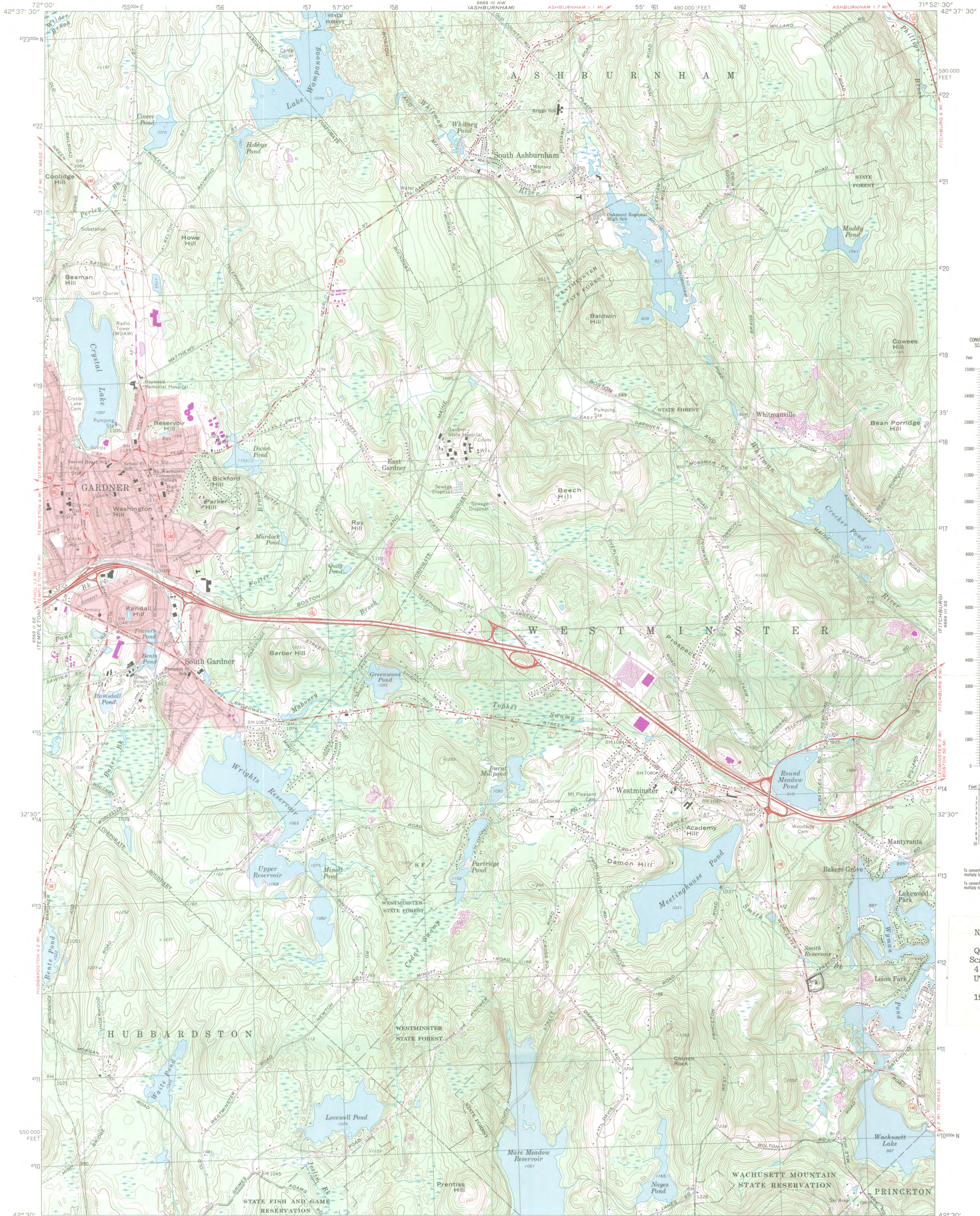
2/27





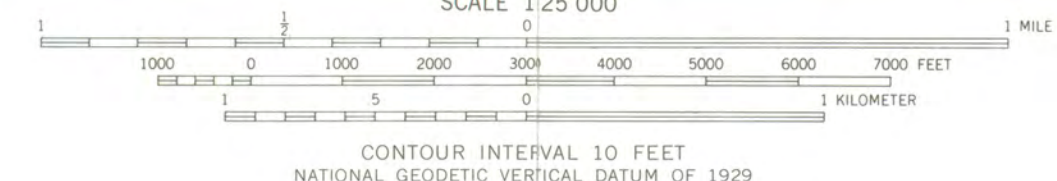
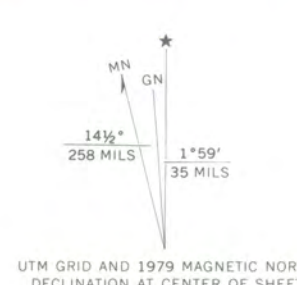
Nathan Wood House  
164 Worcester Rd  
Westminster, MA 01473  
photo: K. Haney; 11/84  
neg: 164 Worcester Rd  
2 of 22; front view

*2/1/87*



NATHAN WOOD HOUSE  
Quad: Gardner  
Scale: 1:25,000  
4 acres  
UTM's reference:  
19/262/480/4711/810

Maped, 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 and 1944  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. 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,  
zone 19  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings  
are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———  
Secondary highway, hard 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, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

GARDNER, MASS.  
N4230—W7152.5/7.5  
1970  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6669 III SW—SERIES V814

33

247



## 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*

July 29, 1987

Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find six nominations that were returned to the MHC for technical and substantive corrections. The following nominations are enclosed:

Boston (Roxbury), Abbotsford, 300 Walnut Avenue  
Brockton, Brockton Edison Electric Illuminating Company Power Station  
Richmond, Nichols-Sterner House  
Westminster, Ahijah Wood House, 174 Worcester Road  
✓ Westminster, Nathan Wood House, 164 Worcester Road  
Winchendon, Old Centre Historic District

All corrections have been made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

AUG 6 1987