

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Old Camb.	OC IIB3



1. Town Cambridge

Address 144 Coolidge Hill Street

Name Joseph Holmes House

Present use residential

Present owner Elizabeth G. Ferry

Description:

Year 1801, 1929

Source deed records

Style Federal

Architect John Holmes, housewright

Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features small Federal house

featuring a porch with delicate

triglyphs, papyrus leaf capitals.

Altered Yes- service Date 1929

wing added

Moved Yes Date 1929

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre     

Approximate frontage 100 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

18 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964

UTM-NEWTON

19/323790/4693000

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

1110-22A



Assessor # 242A-127

NOV 14 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Joseph Holmes  
 Original use residential  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This trim Federal house was originally located at 15 Appian Way and moved to its present location and the service wing added in 1929.

The square plan house is adapted to its narrow lot by being turned with the entrance toward the side yard. The porch has delicate triglyphs, papyrus leaf capitals and an elliptical fan. Records indicate that John Holmes, father of Joseph Holmes, built other dwellings in Cambridge during the early nineteenth century.

The relocation of the house in 1929 when there was increasing pressure for development in Harvard Square saved it from demolition. The dearth of buildings of this early date makes this house worthy of recognition on its architectural merits despite the move.

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Holmes, Joseph, House  
Cambridge Multiple Resource Area  
State, County: MA - Middlesex  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 11-14-80 2862

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

Date Due: 4/17/82

Action:  ACCEPT

RETURN 4/13/82

REJECT

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

photos 1

maps \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

### Reviewer's comments:

*Insufficient statement of architectural significance.  
- Although an example of Federal architecture, no real contextual and evaluative information has been provided.*

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Brachman

Discipline arch. historian

Date 4.2.82

— see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

### 1. Name

### 2. Location

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

### 4. Owner of Property

### 5. Location of Legal Description

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

### 7. Description

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

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

## 10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

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

USGS 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

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

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Patrick Andrews

Signed Brakman Date 4.13.82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Old Camb.	OC IIB3

1. Town Cambridge

Address 144 Coolidge Hill Street

Name Joseph Holmes House

Present use residential

Present owner Elizabeth G. Ferry

3. Description:

Date 1801, 1929

Source deed records

Style Federal

Architect John Holmes, housewright

Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features small Federal house

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triglyphs, papyrus leaf capitals.

Altered Yes- service Date 1929

wing added

Moved Yes Date 1929

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre       

Approximate frontage 100 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

18 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964

UTM-NEWTON

19/323790/4693060

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1110-22A

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



ASSESSOR # 242A-127

NOV 14 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Joseph Holmes  
 Original use residential  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This trim Federal house was originally located at 15 Appian Way and moved to its present location and the service wing added in 1929.

The square plan house is adapted to its narrow lot by being turned with the entrance toward the side yard. The porch has delicate triglyphs, papyrus leaf capitals and an elliptical fan. Records indicate that John Holmes, father of Joseph Holmes, built other dwellings in Cambridge during the early nineteenth century.

The relocation of the house in 1929 when there was increasing pressure for development in Harvard Square saved it from demolition. The dearth of buildings of this early date makes this house worthy of recognition on its architectural merits despite the move.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Old Cambridge	Form No: OC II.B.3
Property Name: Joseph Holmes House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

The Joseph Holmes House is one of only 28 houses remaining in Old Cambridge which were built between 1800 and 1833, a period in which development in Cambridge was taking place in East Cambridge and Cambridgeport at the expense of the older section of town. The house is an unpretentious example of a rather standard, five bay, center entrance Federal period house that is significant because of its relative rarity and excellent state of preservation.

Its present location in Coolidge Hill, a real estate subdivision of the 1920s, is indicative of the regard shown for Federal houses during that period and the frequency with which they were moved. Other examples of this trend are the Hall Tavern (also nominated), built in 1798 and moved from Duxbury in 1930, and the Edward Marrett House, built in 1760 and moved from Dunster Street to Manchester, Massachusetts, in 1926.

The Holmes House is significant under Criterion C, as embodying the distinctive characteristics of its type and period.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 11 of 17

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

101. Harvard Graduate Center **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

Attest

Ret 6/10/82

Harvard

102. Child, Francis J., House **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 6.30.83

103. Hill, Aaron, House **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 6.30.82

104. Cook, William, House **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 4.13.82

105. Building at 10 Follen Street **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 4.13.82

106. Hall Tavern **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 6.30.83

107. Cloverden (Mann House) **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 6.30.83

108. The Fairfax **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION** ✓ Keeper

Attest

Ret 6/10/82

Harvard

109. Larches, The **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 4.13.82

110. Holmes, Joseph, House **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper

Attest

William H. Brackham 6.30.83

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Holmes, Joseph, House (Cambridge MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MA

Working No. 11.14.80-2862  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 7/4/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 6/30/83  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

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

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Context and significance provided.*

Recom./Criteria C/DCAPT  
Reviewer W. H. H. H.  
Discipline A. H.  
Date 6-30-83  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated RHS unexposed unentered altered original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity

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## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

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

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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### 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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### 13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

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

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

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1110-22A

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Holmes, Joseph, House

144 Coolidge Hill St.

1110-22A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275