

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Window Shop (until 1973 when sold by the Window Shop, Inc.)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Dexter Pratt House *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Brattle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) will be educational and social	☐ Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Cambridge Center for Adult Education

STREET AND NUMBER:
42 Brattle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cambridge and Third Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historical Assets of Massachusetts [continued]

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

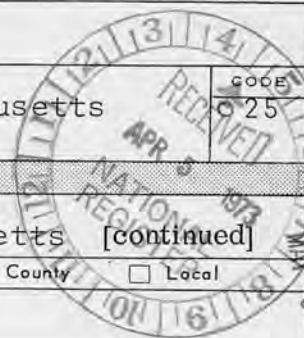
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Mass.	COUNTY: Middlesex
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house at 54 Brattle Street is a two-story, hip-roofed house of the Federal period. The original features of the five-bay facade remain: low eaves and narrow corner boards frame the facade; molded frames enclose the six over six sash; original clapboards cover the surface. The half-circular fan with delicately carved glazing bars and the pilasters of the entrance are handsome features of the house. The bracketed hood over the entrance dates from a later period (1875). Members which braced the brackets have been removed.

Inside, the two-room center-hall plan is still evident and the cramped three-run staircase remains. Most of the interior features, however, have been altered so that the nineteenth century house could serve its twentieth century functions as "tea room" (1920's) and restaurant. More changes may need to be made to make the building useful as an educational center.

The setting of the building is as important as its Federal-style features. Situated with its side to the street, 54 Brattle Street is reminiscent of a series of such houses of the early nineteenth century built along Brattle Street. The front and side yards fortunately have been retained as a courtyard for outdoor dining; the glass-walled shop at the rear (1946, Kennedy & Johnson) effectively encloses the court.

In the past decade, the area around the Window Shop has been radically transformed to a dense commercial district. The house at 54 Brattle Street, assured of its preservation because of its recent purchase by the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, will continue to provide a welcome relief to the dense development at this end of Brattle Street.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

(Number all entries)

Cambridge The Window Shop (Dexter Pratt House)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Historic Sites Study
Date: 1967 Level: State
Depository: Eastern Massachusetts Regional Planning Project,
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Address: 100 Nashua Street, Boston, Massachusetts
Code: 20

Title: Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge
Date: 1964- Level: Local
Depository: Cambridge Historical Commission
Address: 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Code: 20



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☒ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1808, 1839, 1946, 1973

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

Preservation☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☒ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☒ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the house at 54 Brattle Street is in its literary associations. The house, built in 1808, was at one time the home of Dexter Pratt, the "Village Smithy" of Longfellow's well-known poem. Pratt bought the house from Torrey Hancock, another blacksmith, in 1827. While the house is not mentioned in the poem, both the shop and the Chestnut tree, originally between the house and Story Street, have disappeared; the house at 54 Brattle Street stands as the best reminder of Longfellow's hero.

The house, a good example of Federal-style architecture of the early nineteenth century, has architectural significance as well. It is the only nineteenth century house left on Brattle Street between Hilliard Street and Brattle Square, a stretch of road once lined with nineteenth century residences. Along with the William Brattle House at 42 Brattle Street (1727), the Dexter Pratt House provides evidence of an early Cambridge neighborhood in an area presently undergoing dense development.

The house at 54 Brattle Street has recent historical significance as well. In 1946, it was purchased by the Window Shop, Inc., a unique organization dedicated to aiding European refugees during World War II by providing employment for them and selling homemade goods and bakery to raise funds. The house had served as a restaurant since the 1920's, but the new owners made extensive changes to improve the restaurant facilities and added a new building to the rear to serve as a shop and bakery. The property served an important charitable and social function for over 20 years.

Today the house has an important role in the preservation movement. Purchased by the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, the organization responsible for the preservation and reuse of the Brattle mansion, the house may be spared demolition in spite of the pressure for development in the Harvard Square area.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hannah Winthrop Chapter, D.A.R., An Historic Guide to Cambridge, Cambridge, 1907, p. 89.

Rettig, Robert B., Guide to Cambridge Architecture, Cambridge 1969, C3.

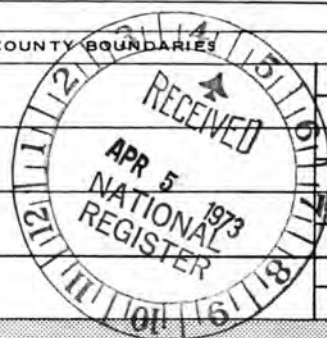
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	42°	22'	28"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	71°	7'	24"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.15

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Amy E. Cohn, Camb. His. Com. for Eliz. R. Amadon, State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission (727-8470)

DATE
3/20/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston 02108

STATE
Massachusetts

CODE
25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name John F. X. DAVOREN
Honorable JOHN F.X. DAVOREN, Secretary
of the Commonwealth, Chairman of the
Title Massachusetts Historical
Commission

Date March 26, 1973

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

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 26 73

7-23-73

PROPERTY The Windows Shop (until 1973) ~~when sold by the Windows Shop Inc.~~ STATE Mass.

WORKING NUMBER 4.5.73.2747

TECH REVIEW

Photos 1

Maps _____

Dexter Pratt House

Middlesex Co.

CONTROL REVIEW Continuation sheet is zeroed CM
4-13-73

HISTORIAN Otherwise have minor reservations - but not serious OK
Accept-
RMH
4/23/73
Small
Accept 4-25-73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Accept
KH
4/24/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF OK
4/25/73

KEEPER LW
4/26

change name to Pratt House - per form

National Register write-up _____

Federal Register entry 7-3-73

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 8 1973



MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBRIDGE

Dexter Pratt House

NPS Number 5/8/73

Title: Pratt House

Loc. Middlesex, Mass.

view of southeast facade from

terrace

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

B. Orr Photography
beginning 1972

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE
Massachusetts

COUNTY
Middlesex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

MAY 8

DATE

1973

1. NAME

COMMON:

The Window Shop

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Dexter Pratt House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

54 Brattle Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

20

COUNTY:

Middlesex

CODE

017

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

B. Orr Photography (C42N2)

DATE OF PHOTO:

1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

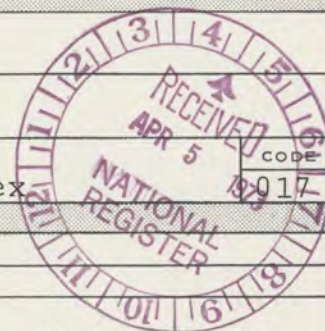
B. Orr Photography, Box 6, Carlisle, Mass. 01741

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of southeast facade from terrace.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE
Massachusetts

COUNTY
Middlesex

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ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: The Window Shop
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54 Brattle Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

20

COUNTY:

Middlesex

CODE

017

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangles Boston North, Boston South
Lexington, and Newton (all Mass.)

SCALE: 1:24,000

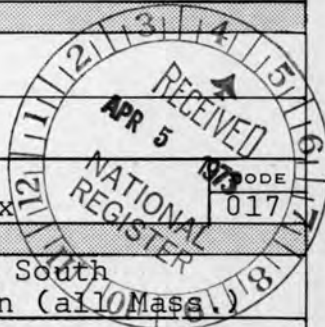
DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

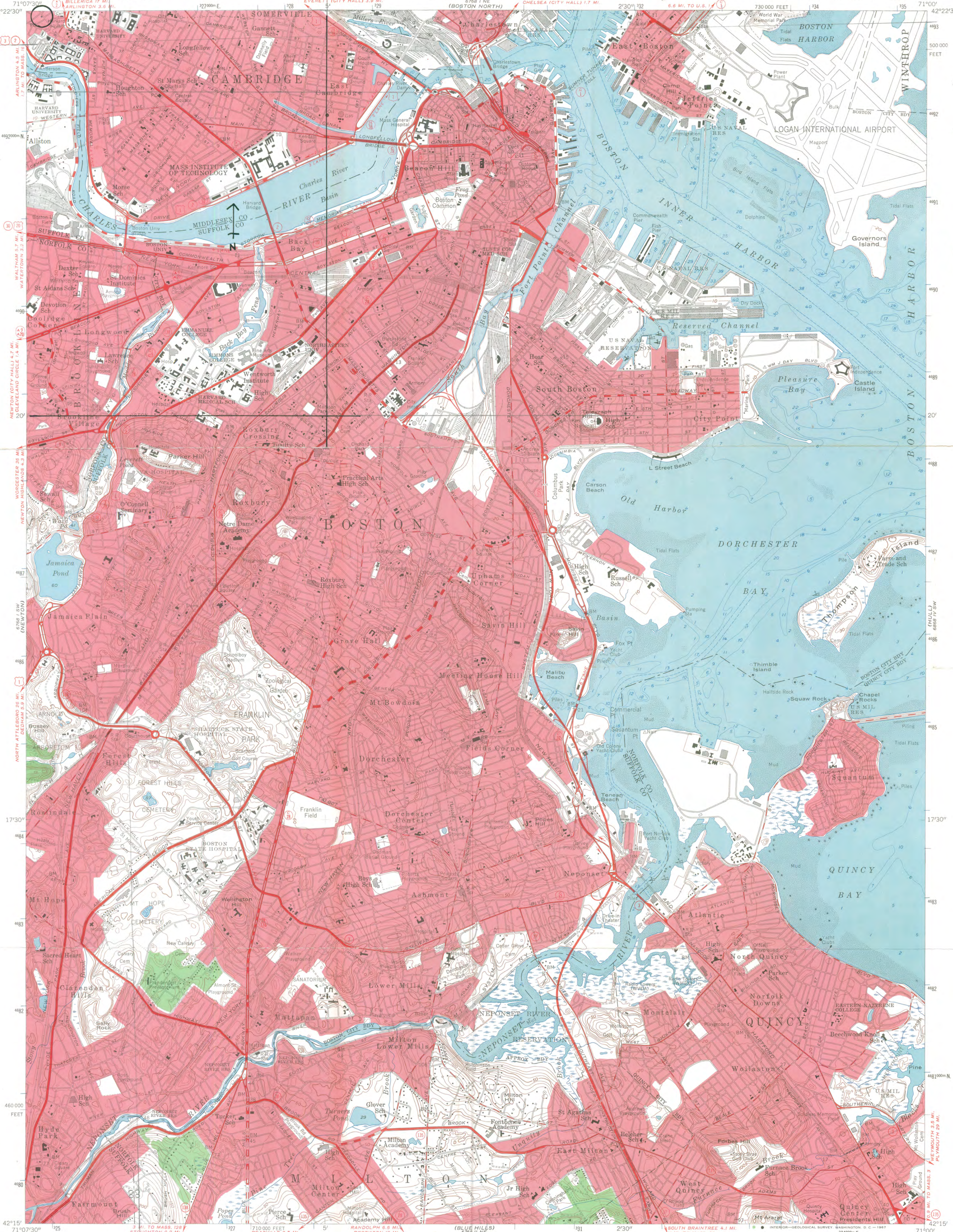
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



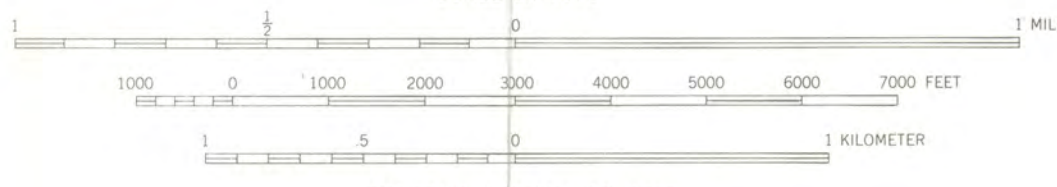
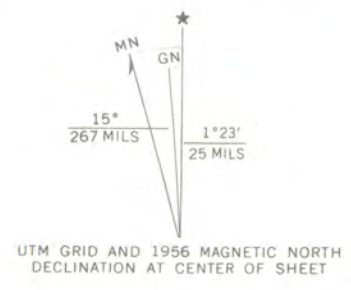
71° 07' 24"
42° 22' 28"

DEXTER PRATT HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE

H3
NO
47m
325220
4693320



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, Mass. Harbor & Land Commission,
and Mass. Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Culture revised by
photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955
Field check 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 246 (1956)
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland)
coordinate system.
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information
supplied by Mass. Dept. of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

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



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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5

1956
AMS 6768 I SE-SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **MAY 8 1973**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pratt (Dexter) House	Cambridge Middlesex County
Old Chelmsford Garrison House Complex	Chelmsford Middlesex County
Kittredge (Alvah) House	(Roxbury) Boston Suffolk County
Boston Public Library	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Paul Cronin
Hon. John Moakley

Director, Northeast Region

PHR

NRowland:mm

5/9/73

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

F. Y. 1973

APPORTIONMENT

WARRANT

NOMINATION

(DUE 1 APRIL 1973)



[IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS
NOMINATION BY 1 MAY 73, PLEASE NOTIFY US AT ONCE]