

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received JUL 28 1981

date entered SEP 10 1981

1. Name

historic George I. Briggs House

and/or common Briggs-McDermott House

2. Location

street & number Sandwich Road _____ not for publication

city, town Bourne _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 12th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Barnstable code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☒ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Towne of Bourne

street & number Perry Avenue

city, town Buzzards Bay 02532 _____ vicinity of _____ state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town of Bourne

street & number Main Street

city, town Barnstable _____ state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assests
of the Commonwealth #10

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date February 2, 1974

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, l Boston

s Massachusetts

7. Description

George I. Briggs House

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 Briggs-McDermott House is located on the south side of Sandwich Road which runs parallel to the Cape Cod Canal. Its 1/2 acre parcel includes one wood frame outbuilding as well as the granite foundations of two others in addition to the house itself.

The house is a 2-1/2 story wood frame building which rests on a granite foundation and is enclosed by a pitched roof. Its facade, which faces gable end to the street, is enframed by paneled pilasters detailed with fret work in the mode popularized by Asher Benjamin. The entry is treated in similar manner with its frame appearing to come directly from Plate XXVIII of "The Practical House Carpenter." (1830)

The facade is organized in a somewhat atypical manner with the entry being flanked by two windows on the east and only one on the west. On the second story the number of openings is reduced to three and in the attic to two. Other elevations are asymmetrically arranged but all remaining sash is 2/2 double-hung. Windowenframement consists of a narrow architrave and thinly molded lintel.

It is believed that the house was constructed c. 1800 as a 1-1/2 story cottage and that its present configuration is the result of an extensive rebuilding c. 1830 which included raising of the roof and construction of an ell on the east side. Other alterations to the property include construction of a rear ell c. 1880 and demolition of two outbuildings during the twentieth century.

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/
☐ 1700-1799	☒ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1800, ca. 1830 **Builder/Architect** Moses Keene II (ca. 1830)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Briggs-McDermott House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as historical associations with one of the town's leading families. Additionally, it is a good vernacular representation of the Greek Revival style and exhibits several important features such as its cornerpilasters and entry frame.

It is believed that the house was originally constructed c. 1800 by Josephus Keene (1779-1813) as a 1-1/2 story Cape style cottage and remodeled c. 1830 by his son, Moses II (1804-1880) to its present Greek Revival form. Moses was a carpenter and is known to have possessed Asher Benjamin's "Practical House Carpenter" whose plates appear to have been the source of the house's stylish decorative details. The book presently remains within the house.

The most important occupant of the house was George I. Briggs (1843-1909) who was Mose's son-in-law. Briggs was instrumental in the incorporation of Bourne as a town after its separation from Cape Cod's first town of Sandwich in 1884. Briggs went on to become the town's first chairman of the first school committee; served as selectman from 1893 to 1905 and was chairman at his retirement from that office. He was also a fire ward and deer reeve and was chairman of the library trustees at the time of his death. Briggs also served with the Navy, as did most Cape Cod men, during the Civil War.

Before the construction of the Cape Cod Canal (1914) divided the town geographically in half, the area of this property was considered the center of town with school, post office and church nearby.

There is an element of artistic and cultural significance to the Brigg's House as well. The marine artist, George Sidney Raleigh (1830-1925), spent the latter part of his life in Bourne. Gloucester born, Raleigh spent many years of his early life sailing the oceans of the world. As an artist, he was particularly enthralled with the busy activities of the nineteenth century New England sea coast. As a result, he spent many years painting whaling scenes in New Bedford, especially very large panoramas and eventually established a studio in Bourne. One of his summer neighbors, in this Cape Cod coastal resort community, was President Grover Cleveland for whom Raleigh did a portrait. Admiral George Dewey also sat for a portrait by the famous artist. And, the official seal for the newly created town of Bourne came from his brush as did illustrations for many government publications. Today, several Raleigh works are commanding prices as high as \$65,000 a piece.

9. Map or Bibliographic References

Four Years A - Whaling - Charles S. Raleigh, Illustrator, Barre, MA: Barre Publishers, 1972.
Keene Genealogy from Betsey D. Keene, author of: A History of Bourne.
Bourne Town Reports, 1884-1909. Barnstable County Registry of Deeds & Probate.
Records of the Bourne Historical Society, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property Appx. 1/2

Quadrangle name Pocasset, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25 000

UMT References

A 119 361711610 41621211410
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached Assessor's Map.

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 Candace Jenkins, Registration Director
Jack Clarke/Preservation Planner

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May, 1981

street & number 294 Washington 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia L. Weselowski date 7/14/81

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Beth Grosvenor
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/10/81

Attest: Patrick Andrews
Chief of Registration

date 9/9/81

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received JUL 28 1981

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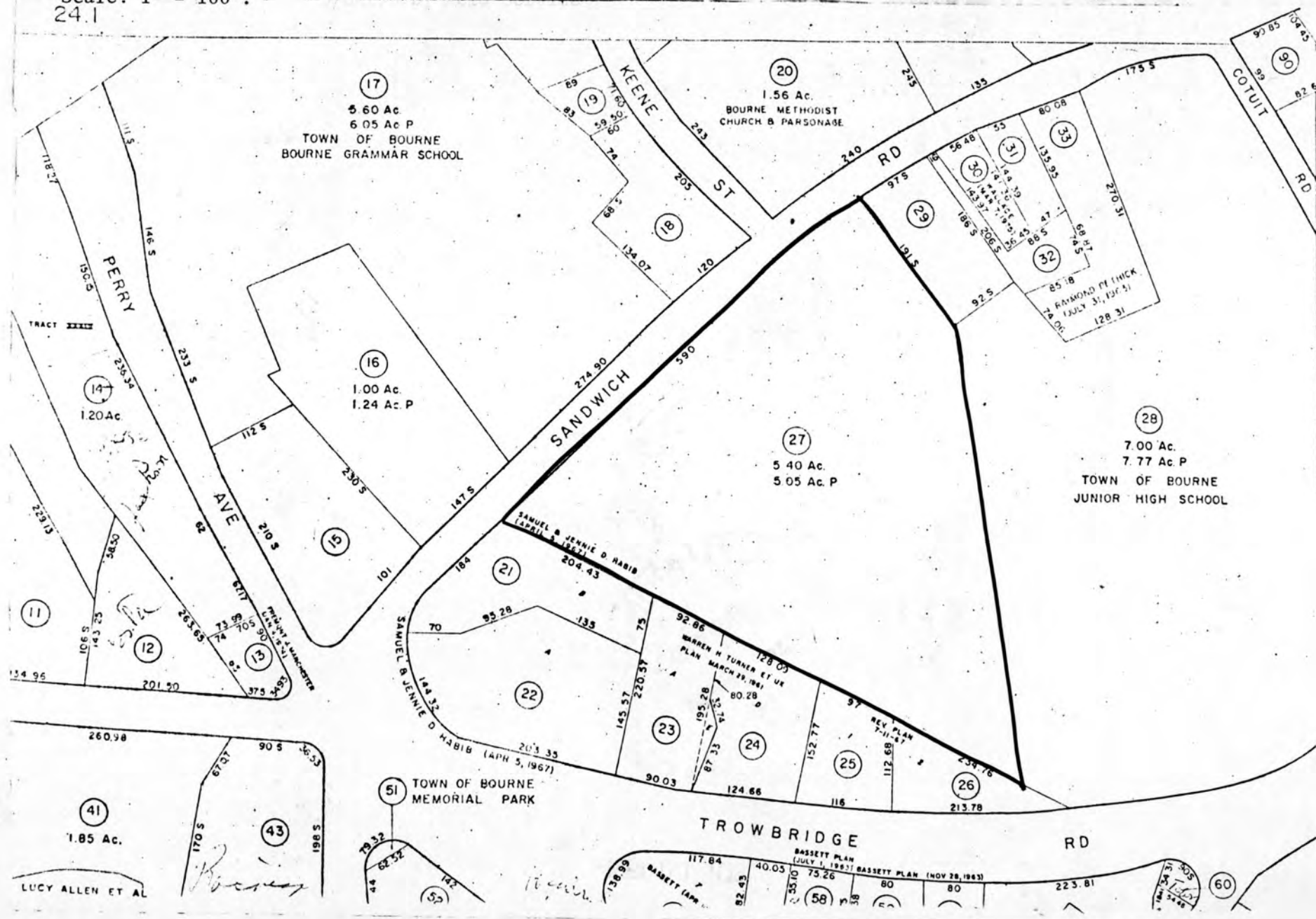
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Raleigh, it appears, had a peculiar affinity for painting and stenciling house walls and ceilings. The walls of his own home were covered with decorative scenes which included paintings of Indians, children and portraits. The ceilings that fell prey to his brush included his living room which was covered with gold arabesques featuring in each corner cherubs, griffins and eagles with shields of stars and stripes. Mrs. Raleigh banned him from the kitchen, the only room barren of his artistic touch. He therefore continued his ceiling work in his neighbor's house - the home of George I. Briggs. The ceiling mural Raleigh stenciled in the Briggs' music room is presently the only "Raleigh Ceiling" extant in the town.

George I. Briggs House
 Bourne Assessors' map, p. 24.3, parcel 27
 from town hall.
 Scale: 1" = 100'. 5/31/73 by Aero Service.
 24.1





SEP 10 1981

DUE after 8/26/81 - 9/11/81

Substantive Review

dnr-3

Name Briggs, George A. House
 State, County MA, Barnstable
 Working Number 7.28.81.267

Fed Nom or Request—Agency _____
 Federal Register Date 2.2.82

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)
☐ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps 1/1
 Photos 1

Nomination prepared by:

☒ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

Action:

☒ ACCEPT 9/10/81
☐ RETURN _____
☐ REJECT _____

Check if Appropriate:

☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

Significant for criterion accept - Patrick Andrews, Historian 9/9/81

possibly significant under criterion B, but the documentation is incomplete.

Governor, Historian 9/10/81

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			art & good/gov't not justified. IE - the relationship of the men important in these fields to the House is not clear.
3. Concepts/Integrity	☒			
4. Concepts/Criteria	☒			
5. Concepts/Boundaries	☒			
6. Contextual Evaluation	☒			

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date Patrick Andrews 9/9/81

See Attached _____



George I. Briggs House
Bourne
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

Photo Credit: Jack Clarke
Negative Located: Cape Cod Planning and E.D.
Commission
Identification: North elevation
Date: April 1981

JUL 28 1981

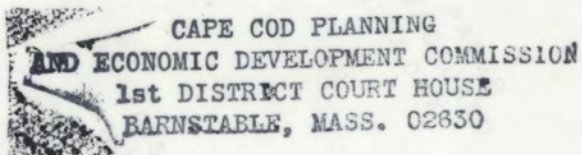
SEP 10 1981

Briggs House

MA

4/81

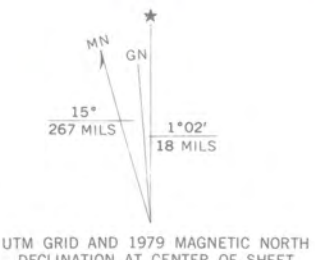
Jack Clarke



George Briggs House
Bourne, MA
UTM Reference
19/367160/4622140

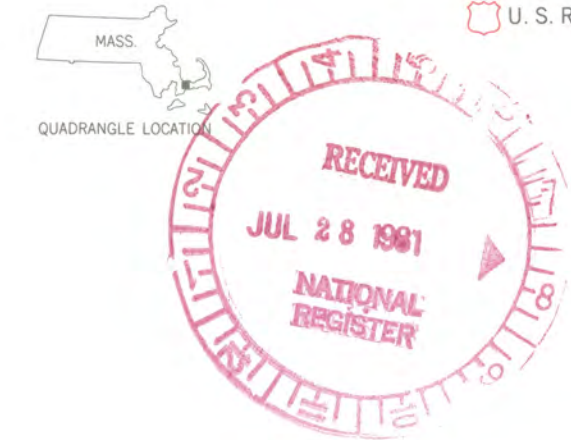


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1934, 1935, and 1938. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 251 (1966)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



SCALE 1:25,000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 5 10 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
(FALMOUTH) 6867 II SE
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4 FEET
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

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



POCASSET, MASS.
N4137.5-W7030/7.5
1967
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6867 II SE-SERIES V814

George I. Briggs House

SEP 10 1981

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **SEP 10 1981**

Name

Location

Briggs, George I., House

**Bourne
Barnstable County**

Also Notified

Honorable Paul E. Tsongas

**Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Gerry E. Studds
Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

NR

Eady/bjr/9/16/81

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) ~~343-6401~~

272-3504