1 NAME

HISTORIC
Spencer-Pierce-Little House

AND/OR COMMON
Spencer-Pierce-Little House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Little's Lane

CITY, TOWN
Newbury

STATE
Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
X BUILDING(S)

OWNERSHIP
X PRIVATE

STATUS
X OCCUPIED

PRESENT USE
X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

3

STATE
25

COUNTY
Essex

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Amelia Little

STREET & NUMBER
Little's Lane

CITY, TOWN
Newbury

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Salem

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE
The original portion of the house is a two-and-a-half story stone structure, built in the form of a cross, with a large central chimney. The walls, two feet thick, are comprised of granite interspersed with other kinds of field stone and brick, over which a thick overlay of plaster was placed. A two-story entrance porch projects from the center of the main (south) five-bay facade. There are two windows and a niche in the second story of this projection and the main entrance below is through an arched brick doorway. The entrance door, which has 24-inch wrought iron hinges, is divided into two sections like a Dutch door, and each section opens independently of the other. The upper portion of the door was at one time protected by a heavy inner shutter that was arranged to be lowered from the ceiling into place. The original hinges for this shutter are still in place and the marks of the pulley, through which ran the operating cords, are also still visible. The floor of the outer porch is formed of small square tiles. A second set of doors, fastened by a heavy bar, separates the outer from the inner entry. In the small inner central porch a wide stairway with elaborate woodwork winds up around the brick chimney in two turns to the second floor.

This section of the house has the typical two-room floor plan of a 17th century central chimney structure, with the parlor and original kitchen or hall located on either side of the central chimney. To the left of the inner porch is the living room (once the inner kitchen) and to the right, the dining room (once the parlor). Each room is about 20 feet square. The windows have interior shutters, and in the dining room there are deep window seats. The ceilings of both rooms are low, the heavy summer beams and girts are exposed, and there is some paneling. The same room plan is repeated on the second floor. A large two-story wing containing the outer (present) kitchen projects to the north from the center rear of the original house. This wing has a huge exterior brick chimney with a 10-foot-wide stone foundation at its northern end.

In 1797 Captain Offin Boardman, Jr. acquired the house and enlarged it by adding the present two-and-a-half story frame west wing. Built on the main axis, this wing adjoins the west end of the original stone house. Rooms in this newer section are paneled in the Georgian style.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spencer-Pierce-Little House, erected at some date between 1631 and 1701, is the best preserved and least-altered of the very few stone houses that were built in New England during the 17th and 18th centuries.

HISTORY

The exact date of construction is unknown: some authorities have attributed it to John Spencer the younger, and others to John Spencer the elder, thus placing the construction some time between 1631 and 1651. The property was acquired by Daniel Pierce in 1651 and documentary evidence definitely establishes that the house was in existence by 1701.

The property was bought by Nathaniel Tracy in 1778. In 1797 his heirs sold it to Offin Boardman.

The house has been in the possession of the Little family since 1861. There have been no exterior alterations and very few interior changes. Maintained in excellent condition, the house is still used as a residence.

Addendum:

Since the house has been owned by the little family there have been almost no alterations. But the house is altered from its original form.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Hale, Albert, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.
Northend, Mary H. Historic Houses of New England, Boston, 1914.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  c 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1,9 3,4,8 5,8,0 4,7,3,9,5,9,0
B 1,9 3,4,8 6,7,0 4,7,3,9,1,5,0
C 1,9 3,4,8 2,5,0 4,7,3,9,1,5,0
D 1,9 3,4,8 0,5,0 4,7,3,9,5,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The Spencer-Pierce-Little House sits off the main road (High Road) on Little's Lane in the middle of a farm which has always been associated with the house. Over the years lots have been sold along Little's Lane near High Road and other land is leased for a small airport. For this reason the boundary has been drawn to include the Spencer-Pierce-Little House and surrounding farm buildings and an area of open farm land to maintain the proper environment associated with the

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

STATE  CODE  COUNTY  CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project
original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968.

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey
DATE

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street NW
TELEPHONE 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN Washington
STATE D.C.

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 meets the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
house since its construction.

Beginning at a point on the northern curb of Littles Lane approximately 500' from the intersection of Littles Lane and High Road, proceed northerly approximately 1,000' to a point; thence east approximately 1,750' to a point; thence southwest-southeast approximately 1,500' to a point; thence west approximately 875' to a point; thence north approximately 750' to the point of origin.