### 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**
Peter Tufts House  
**AND/OR COMMON**
Peter Tufts House

### 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**
350 Riverside Avenue

**CITY, TOWN**
Medford

**STATE**
Massachusetts

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUBLIC</strong></td>
<td><strong>OCCUPIED</strong></td>
<td><strong>AGRICULTURE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUILDING(S)</strong></td>
<td><strong>PRIVATE</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNOCCUPIED</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMMERCIAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRUCTURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>BOTH</strong></td>
<td><strong>WORK IN PROGRESS</strong></td>
<td><strong>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SITE</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</strong></td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE__</td>
<td><strong>EDUCATIONAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECT</strong></td>
<td><strong>IN PROCESS</strong></td>
<td><strong>YES: RESTRICTED</strong></td>
<td><strong>ENTERTAINMENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BEING CONSIDERED</strong></td>
<td><strong>YES: UNRESTRICTED</strong></td>
<td><strong>RELIGIOUS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA)

**STREET & NUMBER**
141 Cambridge Street

**CITY, TOWN**
Boston

**STATE**
Massachusetts

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC**
Middlesex Registry of Deeds - South

**STREET & NUMBER**

**CITY, TOWN**
Cambridge

**STATE**
Massachusetts

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**
Nine

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

**STATE**
The brick walls of this large, rectangular, two-story house are 18 inches thick, and the end chimneys, unusual for 17th century New England, were presumably incorporated in them for economy. The separate flues are brought together in the gables. The steep main roof slope (51°) is truncated at the top to form one of the earliest-known gambrel roofs. A brick belt course extends around the house and marks the floor level between the first and second stories. A careful symmetry marks each elevation, but the spacing of the windows is still unclassic. Near the ends of the house, in each story of the front facade, were small oval "port-holes" or windows, 10 by 20 inches, of unexplained origin. There were originally two more in each gable end, making a total of eight. They were bricked up in 1872, but six of them (all but the two in the east gable end) were reopened in the remodeling in 1890. These openings were impractical for gunfire, and it is believed they may have been purely decorative.

The floor plan of the house is practically Georgian, in spite of its dating--consisting of a central hallway with two rooms on either side in each story. The interior still contains superb oak summers and girts, with chamfered edges and elaborate stops, and also the original stairway to the second floor. Most of the interior fabric, however, dates from an unfortunate remodeling that was undertaken in 1890. The present pedimented front porch, set on four brick piers, was added and the two front dormer windows were inserted in 1890. The original first floor groups of casement windows, set in pairs under shallow relieving arches in both the front and rear facades, were also replaced by sliding sash windows at the time.

The house had surface paint removed by the unfortunate process of sandblasting which has marred the exterior surface.
The Peter Tufts House, sometimes called the Craddock House, erected around 1678, is an excellent example of one of the few brick houses built in New England during the 17th century. It is interesting to architects as one of the earliest brick houses built from the start with a depth of two rooms in each story. The Tufts House is also a transitional house, including features from both the medieval and Georgian styles. Perforated windows from which to fire revivify in the wind during an Indian attack.

**HISTORY**

The original Peter Tufts was born in England in 1617, coming to America about 1640 to settle in Malden. After Matthew Craddock's death in 1641, Tufts visited Medford and bought some of the Craddock land which was being sold in parcels. This Peter Tufts had three sons and six daughters, and it was the oldest son, also named Peter Tufts, commonly called Capt. Peter Tufts, who built the brick house so long known as the Craddock House. He seems to have gone to Medford with his father sometime before 1677, living in the old Craddock farmhouse. Captain Peter, with or without the help of his father, probably built the brick house and moved into it sometime between 1677 and 1680, and there reared a family of seven sons and seven daughters. Just before he died, Capt. Peter Tufts conveyed half of the brick house to his son, Peter, and his heirs. The tradition of division of the house into two parts was also practiced by a later owner, Ebenezer Cutter, who in 1750 set off the west end to his widow and the easterly end to his eldest son. The house has undergone some restoration from time to time but essentially remains as it was built.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mann, "The Renovation of the Peter Tufts' House, Medford Historical Register, Vol. XXIX, No. 4, December, 1926.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25
UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A | 1,9 | 3,2,7 | 6,8,0 | 4,6 | 9,7 | 3,2,0 | B | 1,9,7 | 3,2,0 |
C ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D | 1,9,7 | 3,2,0 |
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Peter Tufts House faces Riverside Avenue on the South and is enclosed by a fence on the other three sides. Its boundary is coterminous with the city lot.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

Original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968.
Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian
Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE D. C.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

 landmarks date

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been reviewed according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

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