

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116
Photos

- 36:19 boxed southwest corner post, west chamber
- 36:21 rear, west chimney post, closed off west chamber
- 36:23 original roof enclosed in attic. Common rafter bird-mouthed over plate.
- 36:24 junction of principal rafter and principal purlins, attic
- 70:8 south and east facades

Town Bedford 017

Address 50 Old Billerica Road

Historic Name Christopher Page House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1730

Source Deeds, visual analysis

Style Late 1st Period / Federal exterior

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings barn - late 19th to early 20th century

Major Alterations (with dates) Lean-to added, 18th c.; porch added and dormer raised, ca. 1910

Condition Good

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 5.85 acres

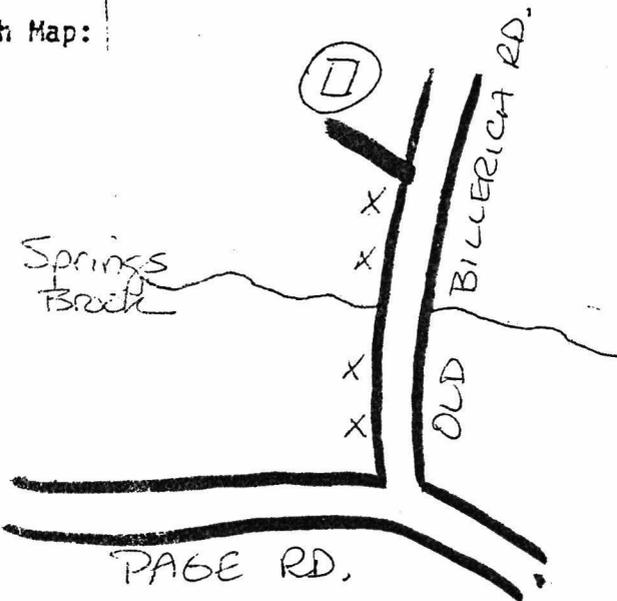
Setting Amid open fields and stone walls, preserving the immediate area of the house -- a rural setting in an otherwise suburban street

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date May 1986

Sketch Map:



UTM REFERENCE 19 / 314-370 / 4707-190

USGS QUADRANGLE Concord (now Maynard)

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BEDFORD	Form No: 96
Property Name: Christopher Page House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Christopher Page house retains integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship in its late First Period frame. The house embodies distinctive characteristics of First Period design and construction, and therefore fulfills Criterion C.

The central chimney, two cell plan and quirk-beaded frame are typical of a larger number of late First Period houses, while the retardataire use of a principal/common rafter roof c. 1730 represents the rare survival of an earlier form. (The principal/common rafter roof found in some of the earliest houses surveyed, including the Deane Winthrop house in Winthrop,) was, in general, according to Cummings, gradually supplanted by the principal rafter/common purlin roof.) [2]

The combination of quirk-beaded beams with unchamfered posts is an interesting expression of transitional framing practices, and may indicate that the posts received the quirk-beaded boxes they now display as part of the original construction. The house would then gain added significance as manifesting simultaneously First and Second Period treatment of framing timbers.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Christopher Page house is 5 bays wide, 2 1/2 stories high, and one room deep with an added rear lean-to. A small 18th-century shed is attached to the center rear of the house, and a mid-19th-century shed, now used as a garage, abuts the rear right side. A full lean-to dormer, and a columned and balustraded Colonial Revival porch on the facade added in the early 20th century completed the growth of the house. Federal vernacular exterior trim includes simple window surrounds and corner boards. Windows are regularly spaced and vertically aligned. Two chimneys pierce the rear slope of the roof.

Even though the original acreage has been greatly reduced, the six acres surrounding the house preserve a meadow, woodland, and field setting to an unusual degree for a suburb such as Bedford. An 18th century barn on the property burned in March 1986.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

Evidence of First Period construction is visible in all the front rooms except the east chamber. Beams in these areas are quirk-beaded, while posts are unchamfered and in some cases boxed. Summer beams are longitudinal. Joist spacing is 21 inches on centers. While all the ceilings are now plastered, information from a previous owner indicates that the ceiling in the right-hand chamber was originally exposed and white washed. [1]

The house exhibits an unusually wide nine foot chimney bay. A massive 13-foot-wide dry-laid stone chimney foundation in the cellar, however, is all that remains of the original central chimney. That chimney was removed c. 1800 when fireplaces were built at the rear of the front rooms. Significantly, the Christopher Page house retained its First Period floor plan despite the Federal remodeling, thus representing a very late conservative survival of First Period planning concepts in a

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building only superficially altered to conform to later standards.

The attic, though finished, displays a principal/common rafter with principal-purlin roof. At the rear, where the dormer was raised, the original roof is preserved. Common rafters are bird-mouthed over the plate and pegged in place. Principal rafters appear to be lap-jointed at the ridge.

In the cellar are several reused framing members.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Later Federal-period features include mantelpieces, wide-board dados, and a staircase trimmed with a slim molded hand rail and balusters which are square in profile.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Christopher Page (1710-1786) received the land on which this house sits in 1737 from his father, Nathaniel Page, whose homestead survives nearby on Page Road (NR). [3] Nathaniel's father, also Nathaniel, emigrated, supposedly from Plymouth, England and settled in Bedford c. 1685. Nathaniel's (2) brother Christopher (b. 1690) was a joiner who resided in Bedford until 1735 when he moved to Hardwick, Mass. [4] Whether Christopher Page the joiner built this house and, if he did, whether he learned the roof framing technique from his father's recent English experience is unknown. If houses built by Christopher Page in Hardwick after 1735 are found to have a similar roof framing system, it would add significant information to our understanding of the regional distribution of early-18th-century construction methods.

REFERENCES

1. John Riley, Notes on the Christopher Page house.
2. Cummings, Framed Houses of Mass. Bay 1625 - 1725: 116
3. Book 38, page 425. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.
4. Lucius R. Paige, History of Hardwick, Massachusetts (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1883): 432-436.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

c/24/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- Rest*
101. Jaquith, Abraham, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/14/91
Attest _____
- 102. Mason, John, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 103. Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- sun* 104. Noyes--Parris House **Substantive Review** Keeper *Beth J. Savage* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 105. Page, Christopher, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 106. Putnam, Rev. Daniel, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- sun* 107. Robbins, George, House **Substantive Review** Keeper *Beth J. Savage* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- sun* 108. Spaulding, Zeb, House **Substantive Review** Keeper *Beth J. Savage* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 109. Tenney Homestead **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 110. Upham, Phineas, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Melrose Byers* 3/9/90
Attest _____



50 Old Bellerica Road,
Bedford, MA

Christopher Page House

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

1985

70:08

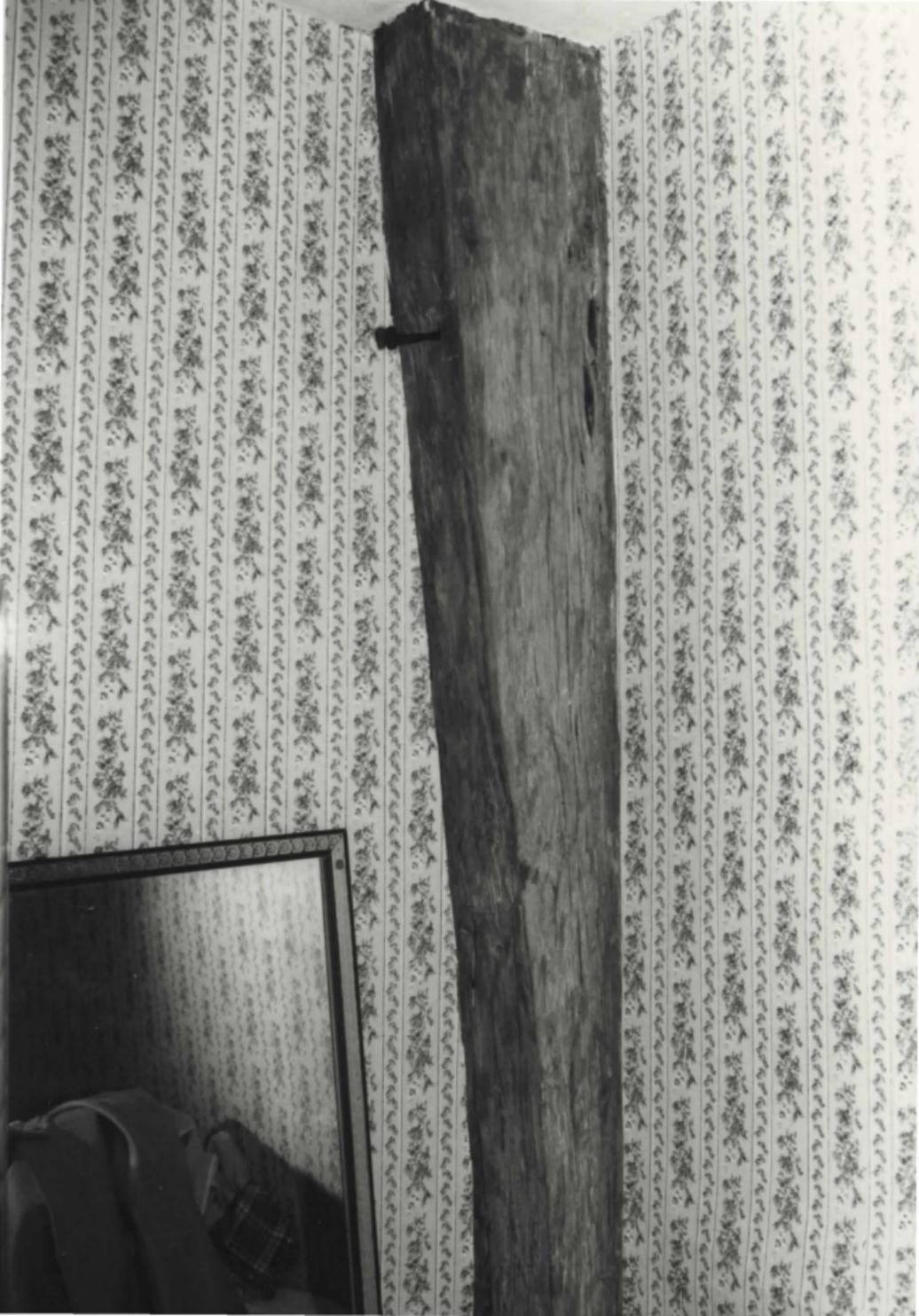


36:23

50 Old Billerica Rd.
Bedford, MA

Christopher Page House
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR



50 Old Billerica Rd.
Bedford, MA

Christopher Page House
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass., TN

36:2



50 Old Billerica Rd.
Bedford, MA

Christopher Peget House

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

1985

36.49



50 Old Billerica Rd.
Bedford, MA.

Christopher Page House

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May TR

36:24

1" = 100'

547,000.00

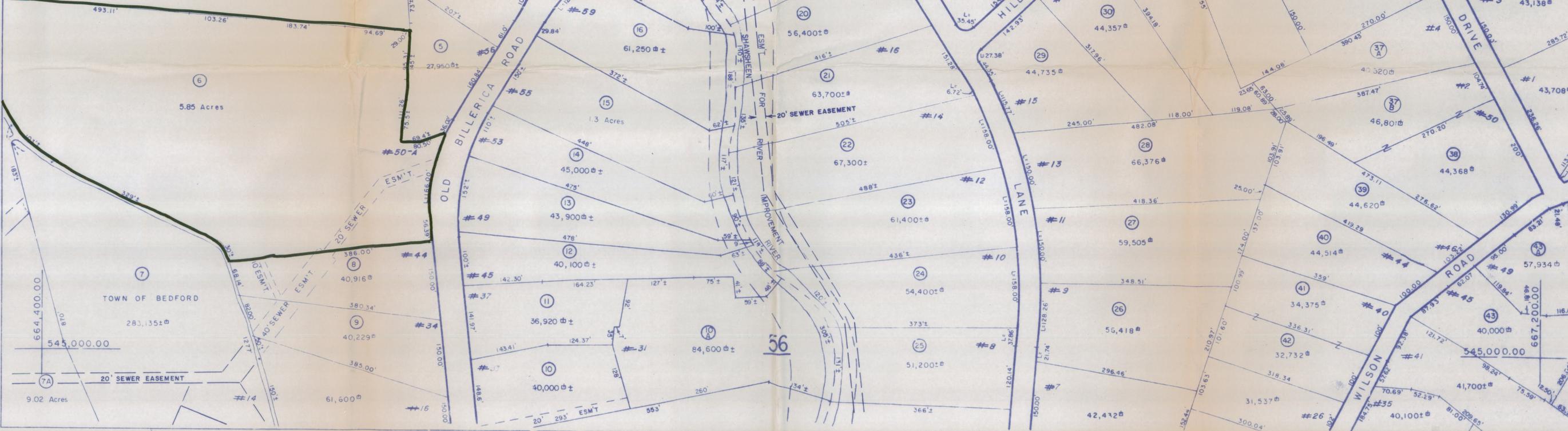
564,400.00

1
62.96 Acres

46

BEDFORD, MA
CHRISTOPHER PAGE HOUSE
50 OLD BILLERICA RD.
Gravelly Clay mt

(CONTINUED ON MAP 46)



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Page, Christopher, House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/07/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/23/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000163

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2-25-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER E Beall DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 26, 2012

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Address changes for properties listed on the NRHP

As we digitize our inventory of historic resources, we are discovering discrepancies in property addresses due to renumbering, changing the address to a side street that abuts the parcel, or assigning a precise addresses where none had existed. In some cases, property owners have notified us of an incorrect address. We are, therefore, writing to request technical corrections in the National Register records for the following:

Bedford (Middlesex County)

Page, Christopher House, First Period Buildings of E. Mass NRTRA/IND—new address is 2 Meyers Lane (formerly 50 Old Billerica Road)

Brewster (Barnstable County)

Old Higgins Farm Windmill, NRIND 6/10/1975—new address is 51 Drummer Boy Road (formerly, off Lower Road)

Brookline (Norfolk County)

Brookline Town Stable, Brookline MRA 10/17/1985—new address is 235 Cypress Street (formerly 237)

Orrock, Rev. John House, Brookline MRA/IND 10/17/1985—new address is 64 Winchester Street (formerly 68)

Haverhill (Essex County)

John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead, NRIND 7/30/1975—correct address is 305 Whittier Road (had been incorrectly reported as 105 Whittier Road)

Oak Bluffs (Dukes County)

Dr. Harrison A. Tucker Cottage, NRIND 10/22/1990—new address is 61 Ocean Avenue (formerly 61 Circuit Avenue)

Wellesley (Norfolk County)

Eaton Moulton Mill, NRIND 5/13/76—new address is 35 Walnut Street (formerly 37)

Westborough (Worcester County)

Fisher, Nathan A. House, NRIND 3/25/1980, NRDIS/MPS 7/25/1994—new address is 34 West Main Street (formerly Turnpike Road) 80001679

Maples Cottage, NRIND 3/25/1980, NRDIS/MPS 7/25/1994—new address is 155 Oak Street (formerly Oak Street) 80001681

Sincerely,



Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Page, Christopher, House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000163

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____