

PH 0664464

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 8 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 6 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Robert Jenison House

AND/OR COMMON Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Frost Street *map natick off I 90*

CITY, TOWN	Natick <i>vic</i>	--- VICINITY OF	--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
			10th	
STATE	Massachusetts	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		025	Middlesex	017 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Jenison House Trust  
Mildred Gardinor Prunaret and Henri Prunaret, Trustees

STREET & NUMBER Frost Street

CITY, TOWN	Natick	--- VICINITY OF	STATE	
			Massachusetts	01760

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER 208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN	Cambridge	STATE	
		Massachusetts	02141

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE 1977  
--- FEDERAL  STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN	Boston	STATE	
		Massachusetts	02108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robert Jenison House is located on the corner of Frost and Winter Streets in Natick. Situated due west of Nonesuch Pond, the house rests on a small knoll facing south. A line of tall fir trees and a picket fence border the house on the west. The five acres of property are primarily open rolling meadows maintained as open land. The surrounding area is sparsely developed and borders on Weston.

The house was constructed c. 1738 by Robert Jenison. Some restoration work has been undertaken, but the building retains its original frame, chimney, gunstock and bevelled summer beams, and most interior woodworking. The four bay wide, two bay deep, ridge roof structure has a large off-center chimney. The two and one half story house is sheathed in clapboards with plain cornerboards and a simply molded entablature. Fenestration is 6/6 with slightly projecting architraves and sills.

The asymmetrical south facade is dominated by an off-center entrance. The doorway is in keeping with the simplicity of the entire structure but is adorned by a bull's eye light transom and fluted pilasters which support a dentiled cornice. The entrance is headed by a narrow 9/9 window on the second story.

The east elevation has a southern end entrance shielded by a segmentally arched hood supported by large brackets. There is a small 6/6 window in the gable overhead. The west elevation has two windows on each story and a small 6/6 in the gable.

The asymmetrical rear (north) elevation has an off center hooded doorway. Windows are standard 6/6, the smaller 6/6 identical to those in the gable ends and one double 4/4.

The first floor interior retains feather edge panelling. The second floor has eighteen inch floorboards and some fine early panelling and woodwork.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1738

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Robert Jenison

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robert Jenison House is significant for its early architecture, park-like site location and for the Jenison family association in Natick and the outlying areas.

Peter Jenison and his father Robert were prominent figures in the civic and political life of the Watertown-Sudbury-Natick area during the late 1600's. Peter's son, Robert, built the house c.1738 on a 200 acre tract of land purchased from the Natick Indians in a controversial transaction during the last quarter of the 17th century.

Robert Jenison was the leading housewright in the area at the time he built his own home. A half dozen of his buildings are still standing in the vicinity. They are invariably the center chimney type similar to his own house with interior arrangement and dimensioning often identical. Jenison was an imposing figure in town affairs and served for many years as a selectman and captain of the militia company. Jenison was also active in the controversy that raged for a number of years over moving the meeting house from South Natick to Natick Center.

Robert's son, Lot, and his grandson, Robert, followed his professional as housewrights. His granddaughter, Sybilla, married Issac Fiske who became a prominent Methodist minister and the present Fiske Church on Walnut Street in Natick is named in his honor.

Robert's grandson Issac Jenison graduated from Wesleyan College and was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in America.

The contributions of this family to the Natick-Wayland-Sudbury area can leave little doubt that they and their descendants have played an important part in leaving a tradition in craftsmanship and religion that lives to this day.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Natick Historical Society, The Robert Jenison House, South Natick, Mass., 1951.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor  
Henri Prunaret, Natick Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE January 27, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston

STATE Massachusetts 02108

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amadon*

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE 2/13/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*W. S. Smith*

DATE

8/6/78

ATTEST:

*Charles A. Henry*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9.5.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

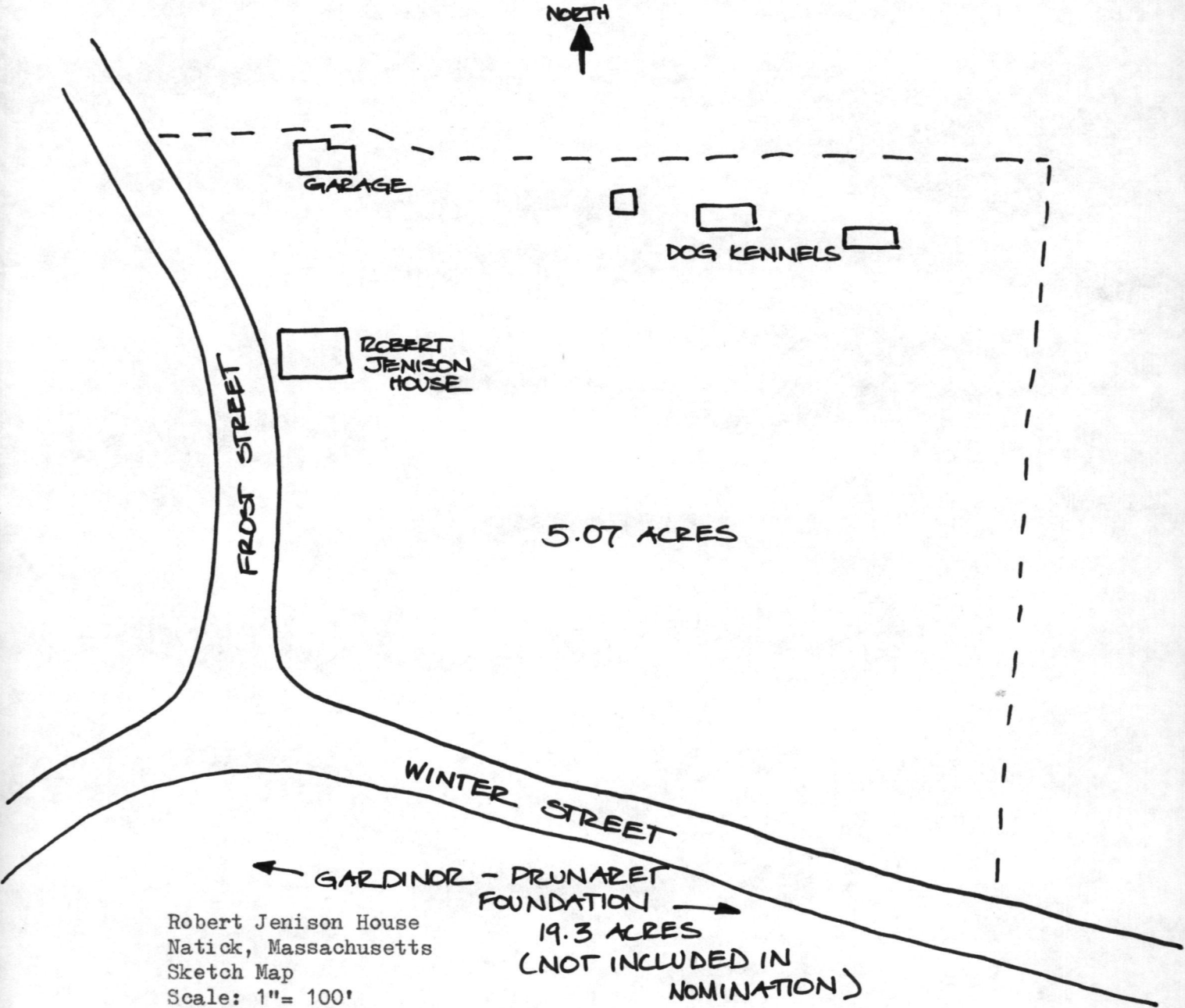
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED	MAR 8 1978
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE



Robert Jenison House  
Natick, Massachusetts  
Sketch Map  
Scale: 1" = 100'  
Source: Natick Assesors Map

Property

Jenison, Robert, House

State

Mass.

Working Number

3.8.78.2647

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos

5

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK <sup>pl</sup> 3.8.78

The house is obviously of historical significance to the community (note pamphlet in Bibliography.) The 2nd # in the description, however, ~~causes~~ causes some concern about how much remains from the original house.

HISTORIAN

Accept  
W. R. Bruce  
5.15.78

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept  
Barham  
4.25.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

built by prominent housewright, I am satisfied that this house house has structural integrity which is the essence.

Accept  
Lelovich  
8/31/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accepted  
9/14/78

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered SEP 6 1978

Federal Register Entry 10-3-78

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74

1738

American Heritage  
1954



Middlesex County  
Robert Jenison House  
Natick, Massachusetts  
1977

SEP 6 1978

Jameson Enterprise  
Morse Institute, Natick  
#1 25  
South facade

MAR 8 1978

Oct 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County  
Robert Jenison House  
Natick, Massachusetts  
1977

Jameson Enterprise  
Morse Institute, Natick  
#2 <sup>5</sup>  
North (rear) elevation

SEP 6 1978

photos by *Jan* 1977

MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County

Robert Jenison House

Natick, Massachusetts

1977

Jameson Enterprise

Morse Institute, Natick

#3 *25*

East elevation

SEP 6 1978

*ear* 1977

MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



1738

Midwsex County  
Robert Jenison House  
Natick, Massachusetts  
1977

SEP 6 1978

Jameson Enterprise  
Morse Institute, Natick

#4 5

South facade and east elevation

2/1977

MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Middlesex County  
Robert Jenison House  
Natick, Massachusetts  
1977

Jameson Enterprise  
Morse Institute, Natick

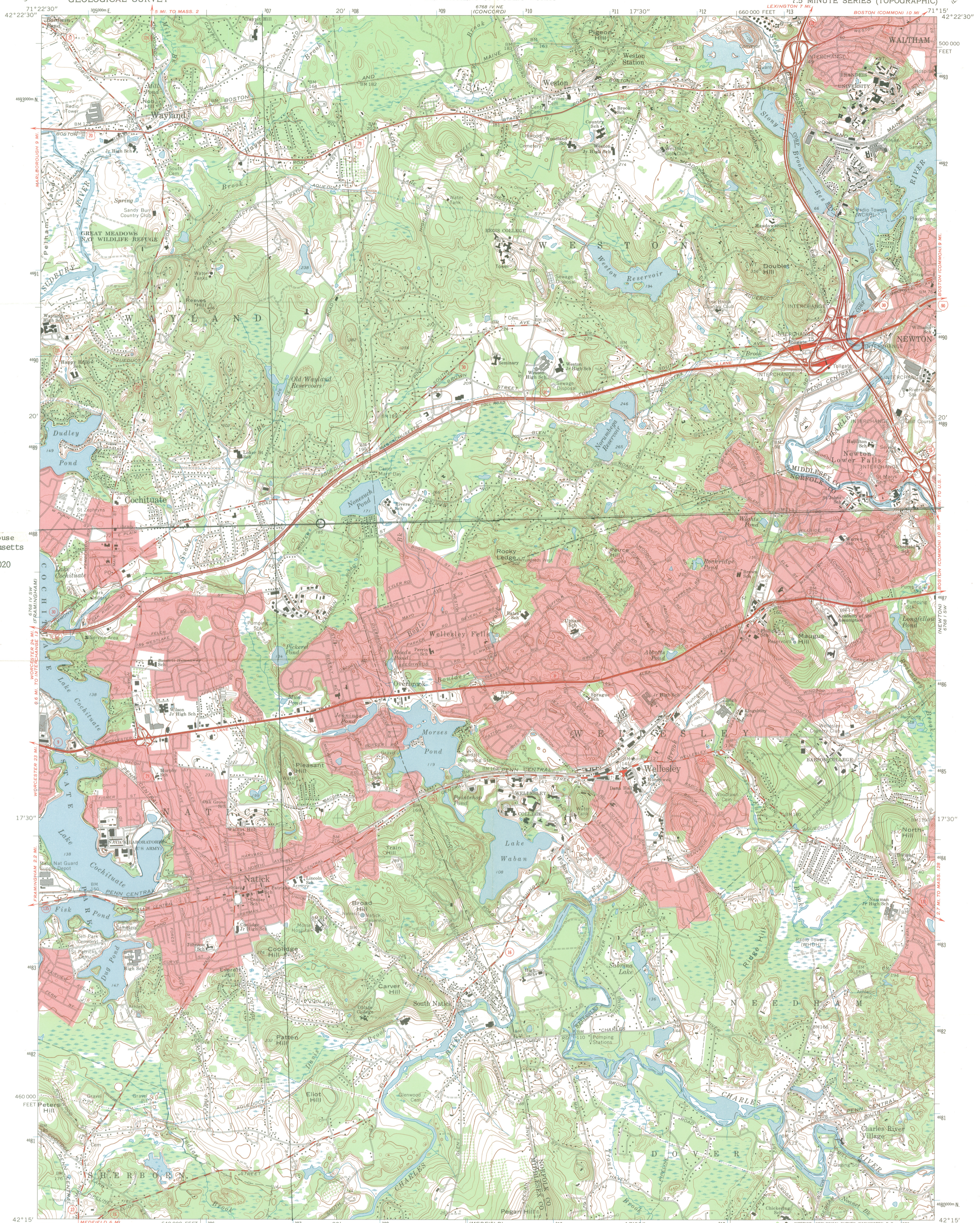
#5 → 5  
West elevation

SEP 6 1978

Oct 1977

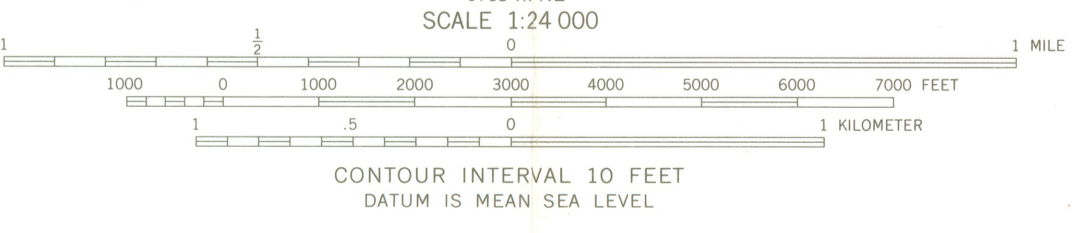
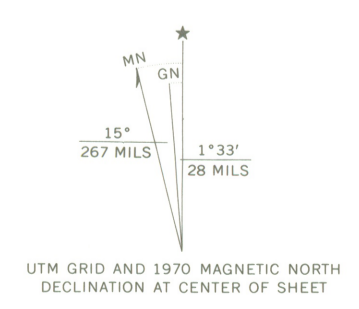
MAR 8 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Robert Jenison House  
Natick, Massachusetts  
UTM Coordinates:  
19/307 530/4688 020

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———  
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———  
○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route



NATICK, MASS.  
N4215-W7115/7A  
1970

AMS 6768 IV SE—SERIES V814

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

SEP 6 1978

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered SEP 6 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jenison, Robert, House	Natick vicinity Middlesex County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Jenison, Robert, House  
 ② OTHER NAMES:  
 ③ date of entry: SEP 6 1978  
 ④ county code: 17

⑤ LOCATION street & number over city / town vicinity of state county  
 Natick MA Middlesex  
 ⑥ NPS REGION: NA

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name)  
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 10th ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME  NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME  NO ⑮ ACREAGE  
 if state who prepared form? SHPO staff  
 LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  fair  unexcavated  excavated  
 ⑰ features: INTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7  
 EXTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRONS  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO ⑳ SAVED?  YES ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :  
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS/GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  MUSIC-19  SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20  TRANSPORTATION-25  
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:  
 ㉕ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:  
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s): ㉘ architect: ㉙ master builder: ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer: ㉜ interior decorator: ㉝ artist: ㉞ artisan: ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

reviewers initials \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE

over →

5. N of Natick off I-90 on Frost St.