

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 19 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 14 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

Asa Waters Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

123 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Millbury

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE
027

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Millbury

STREET & NUMBER

Town Hall, 127 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Millbury

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01527

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

2 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Worcester

STATE

Massachusetts 01608

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED interior only
 X

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Asa Waters Mansion is located on the corner of Elm and School Streets in Millbury. The 1½ acres of property are well landscaped with tall shade trees and shrubbery though the original formal gardens have not been maintained. The immediately surrounding town center area is mixed commercial and residential structures.

The building was allegedly designed by a Mr. Bryant of Boston and constructed by Captain Louis Bigelow of Worcester from 1826-29. The house was built and finished with the finest of materials: hard pine from the South, pumpkin pine from Maine, mahogany from Central America, marble from Italy, and brick from Baltimore. All the wood carving was done by hand. When the structure was completed, it was considered one of the stateliest houses in Worcester County.

It is a Federal style building with Georgian Revival details. The square symmetrical three story mansion has a two story L-shaped, ridge roof ell attached to the rear (south) elevation. The building is sheathed in hard pine clapboards and has a stone and granite foundation. The hip roof with one chimney has a balustrade delicately ornamented by alternating circular design screens and groups of turned balusters. Fenestration on the first two stories is 6/6. True to Federal tradition, the windows become gradually smaller from the first story up. The third story has six light windows. The windows are framed by louvered shutters. Paired two story Corinthian pilasters at the corners of the building support a full Corinthian entablature on the east and west elevations. On the north facade, the entablature is broken and only the cornice continues across the center bays. The cornice isolates the third story from the other two.

The 5 bay wide facade faces north toward Elm Street. It is divided into three sections by the Corinthian pilasters previously described. The center section is composed of a porch flanked by a window on either side. The one story porch with full Corinthian entablature is topped by a flat roof with balustrade. The balustrade has a fret band railing supported by turned balusters. Three granite steps lead to the five panel wooden door. The door is framed by leaded glass side lights with a panel below and headed by a leaded glass transom. The eastern and western end bays of the facade are defined by fluted Corinthian pilasters supporting a wide molded frieze. These two end bays each contain a first story window with wide molded cornice and bracketed hood. Directly above on the second story is a garland relief motif.

The five bay deep east elevation is dominated by a two story, ^{SIX} eight column Corinthian portico with full entablature and shed roof. Three central granite steps lead to the entrance. The wooden door is flanked by sidelights with a molded panel below and is headed by a semi-circular fanlight. Fluted Corinthian pilasters give rise to the arch, which is ornamented by reeding. The doorway is flanked by two windows on either side. These windows have molded cornices and bracketed hoods like those on the first story facade. The second and third story windows are the same as their counterparts on the facade.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Asa Waters Mansion ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The exterior remains unaltered. The Mansion and property are currently undergoing Community Development restoration. The exterior plans include replacing the roof shingles, painting, repairing windows and wooden shutters, replacing gutters and downspouts, leveling the granite beneath the columns, and repairing columns. Interior work will include plastering and painting ceilings, installation of toilet facilities on the first floor, relocating a corridor, revamping the kitchen, conversion of a bedroom to office space, installation of ramps, handrails and additional wiring. The original entrance hall chandelier will be reinstalled. A small parking lot is to be constructed at the rear of the building with a driveway off of School Street, east of the property, and another coming from the Municipal office building located south of the property.

There are a separate garage and stone cistern on the property. The Mansion is owned by the town and will house a number of Millbury Committee and Commission offices, meetingrooms, and a library. The third floor will be the Town of Millbury Museum.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1826-1829

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Capt. Louis Bigelow, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mr. Bryant, Boston Architect

The Asa Waters Mansion is architecturally significant as the finest Federal style house in Millbury. The lavishly designed building was constructed with the best quality materials available, which were brought to Millbury by wagon in 1826-29. The Mansion is historically significant for its association with Asa Waters II, a prominent arms manufacturer and leading citizen. Waters served in the General Court and was a local philanthropist.

Asa Waters II was born in Sutton in 1769. Gun making had been a Waters family trade for several generations, and Asa developed the skill with ingenuity. He introduced various improvements which contributed to the growth of the business. He held several patents, one of which was issued for the turning of gun barrels in a lathe.

The first U.S. Government contract for the production of guns in Millbury was dated September 8, 1808. It called for the delivery of 1,000 stands of arms, i.e. a musket and bayonet complete. Such contracts were made with Asa Waters for a period of five years. The contracts continued for 37 years following, assuring steady work to a body of skilled mechanics, and adding to the town's prosperity. Asa Waters' guns are collectors' items today.

Asa Waters was the founder and first president of the Millbury Bank. He became a representative to the State Government in 1823. He was one of the largest land owners in the county and gave the town land near his house for an Academy.

Many prominent guests were entertained at the Mansion including Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, President Taft, and Alexander Graham Bell. Agassiz and other famous speakers of the New England Lyceum Lecture series also visited the house.

The Mansion was purchased by the town in 1976 and is currently undergoing restoration/renovation work for use as a town office building.

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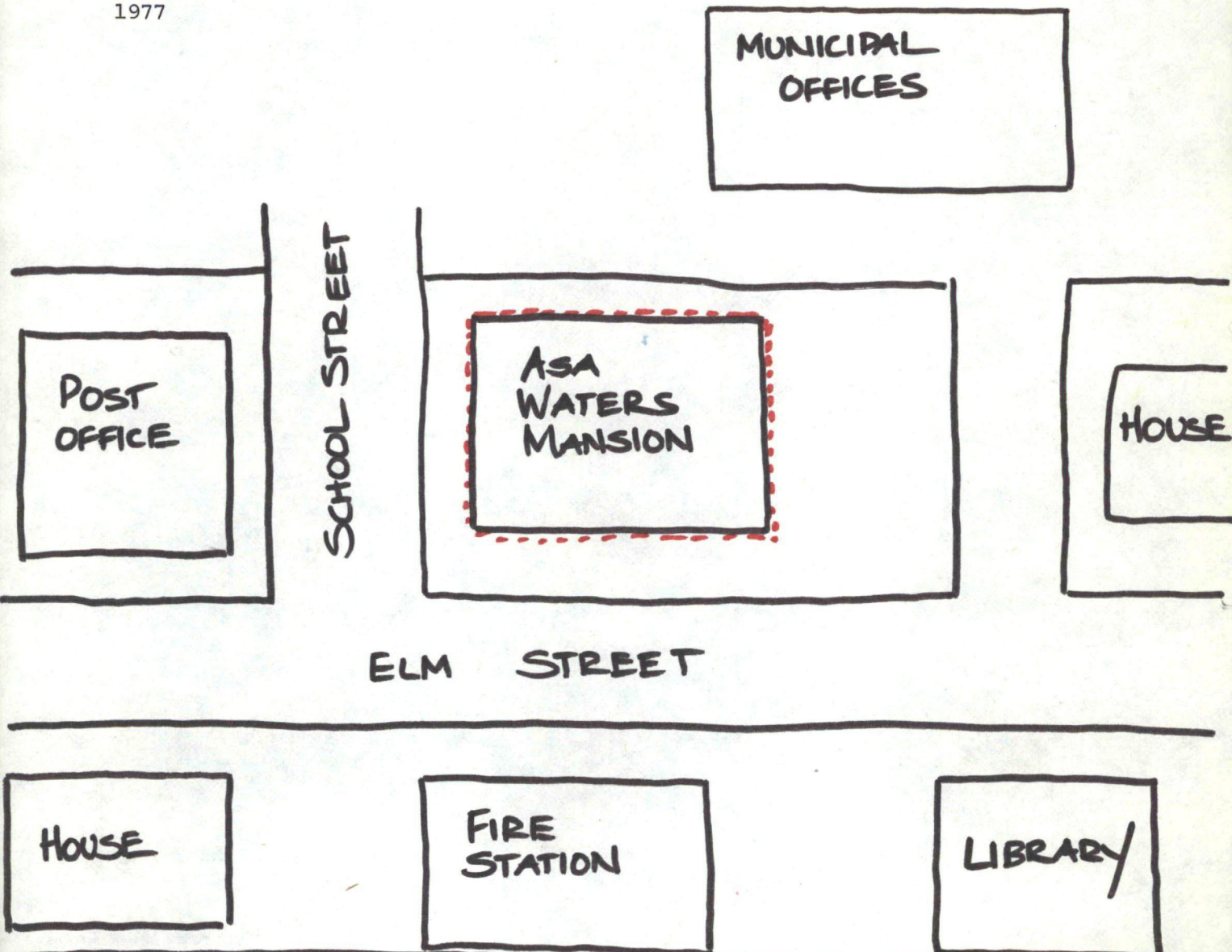
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts

Sketch Map
Not to Scale
1977



Property Waters, Asa, Mansion

78000479

State MA

Working Number 9.19.77.1461

Worcester

TECHNICAL

Photos 6

Maps 1, 2 sketches

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 9.21.77

Obviously significant. (Don't we see 1 addition in photo #2?)
That's not a small parking lot compared with property.

HISTORIAN

Sheffy
accept
12-30-77

NO PHOTOS OF ADDITION, HOWEVER,
THE 2 MAIN FACADES HAVE
UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS. (EXCELLENT DETAILS)

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

H. White 11/3/77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

ADDITION = ELL

Wow

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Lebowitz
2/7/78

BRANCH CHIEF

Hurry
2-9-78

KEEPER

Rettig for Murtagh
2/14/78

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 4.4.78

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered FEB 14 1978

INT:2106-74



Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts

FEB 14 1978

1976

Casson and Foster
438 Southbridge St., Auburn, Mass.

#1

Looking south at north facade.

Worcester Co.

SEP 19 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CASSON-FOSTER PHOTOGRS.
438 SOUTHBRIDGE ST.
AUBURN, MASS.
832-4880

*Northerly side of Waters House.
which side, faces Elm St.*

*Note # over the door 123 Elm St.
Millbury
Mass.*



Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts
1976

FEB 14 1978

elevation

Casson and Foster
438 Southbridge St., Auburn, Mass.

#2 *6*

Looking southwest at north facade and
east elevation.

Worcester Co.

SEP 19 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CASSON-FOSTER PHOTOGS.
438 SOUTHBRIDGE ST.
AUBURN, MASS.
832-4880

*Waters mansion showing side
facing School St.
Being opposite the Post office. (1976)
" easterly side of the house.*



Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts
1976

Casson and Foster
438 Southbridge Street, Auburn, Mass.

#3 *26*

Detail of portico on east elevation

Worcester Co.

FEB 14 1978

SEP 19 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



M St

Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts

1976

Casson and Foster

438 Southbridge St. , Auburn, Mass.

#4 of 6

North facade porch detail

Worcester Co.

SEP 19 1977

FEB 14 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts
1976

Casson and Foster
438 Southbridge St., Auburn, Mass.

#5 26

Roof balustrade detail

Worcester Co.

SEP 19 1977

FEB 14 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts
1976

Casson and Foster
438 Southbridge St., Auburn, Mass.

#6 of 6

Corinthian column detail

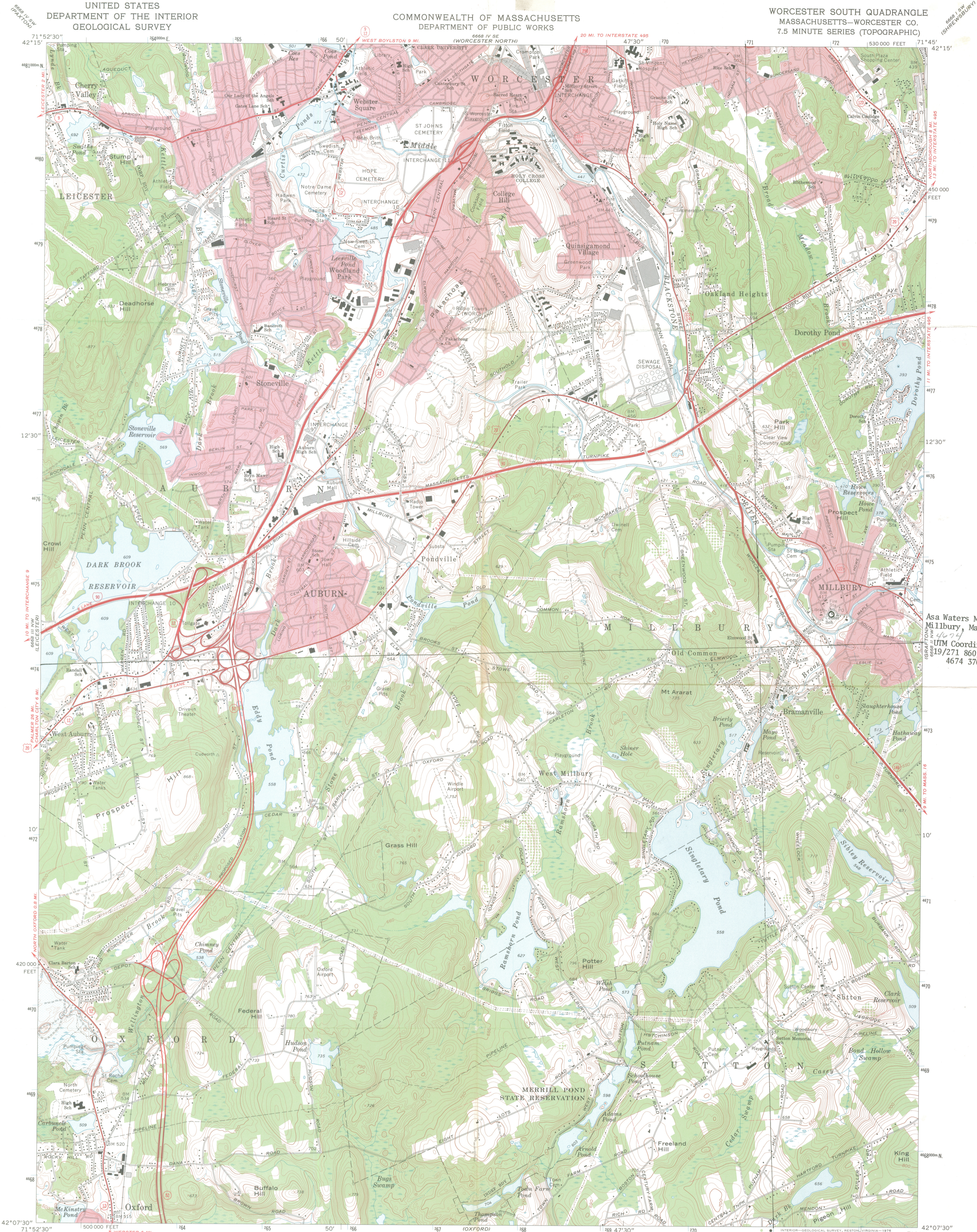
Worcester Co.

FEB 14 1978

SEP 19 1977

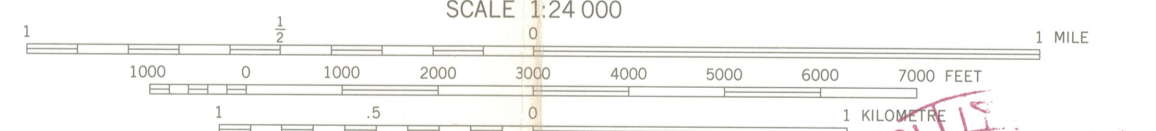
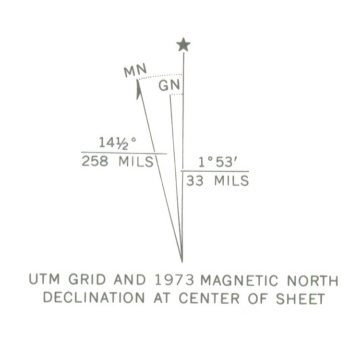
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Calvin



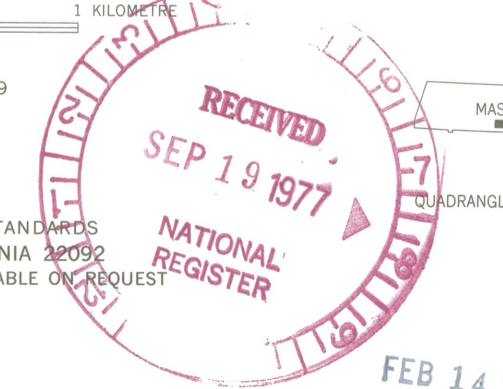
Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Mass.
4674
UTM Coordinates:
19/271 860/
4674 370

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable survey 1935. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject
to controlled inundation by Hodges Village Dam



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20192
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

WORCESTER SOUTH, MASS.
N4207.5—W7145/7.5

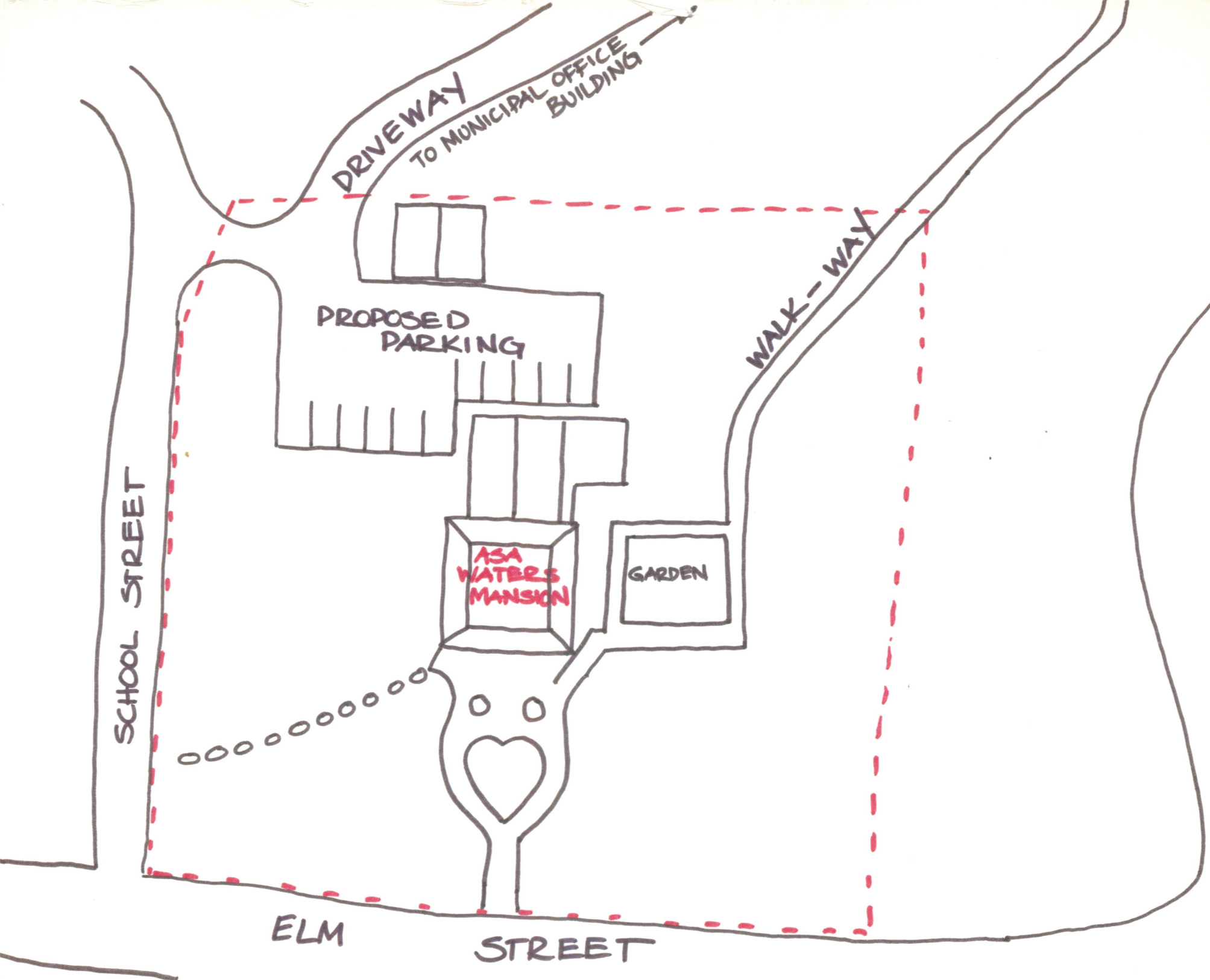
1973

AMS 6668 III NE—SERIES W814

FEB 14 1978



Asa Waters Mansion
Millbury, Massachusetts
Sketch Map
Scale: 1"=40'
Engineers' Map, 1958
updated 1976



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 14 1978

Name

Location

Waters, Asa, Mansion

Millbury
Worcester County

Devotion, Edward, House

Brookline
Norfolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Joseph D. Early
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

880 Mott/js 2/24/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Waters, Asa, Mansion			② OTHER NAMES:			③ date of entry: FEB 14 1978		④ county code: 27		
⑤ LOCATION street & number 123 Elm St.		city / town Millbury		vicinity of		state MA	county Worcester		⑥ NPS REGION: NA	
⑦ OWNER <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)						⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:				
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL			⑩ FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 4th 3		⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL		if state who prepared form?	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO			⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO			⑮ ACREAGE		⑯ LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION <input type="checkbox"/>		
⑰ CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> excavated				⑱ FEATURES: INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9						
⑲ ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				⑳ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		㉑ SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		㉒ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
㉓ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25					㉔ CLAIMS: explain 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>					
㉕ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				㉖ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:			㉗ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION			
㉘ architectural style(s):			㉙ architect:		㉚ master builder:		㉛ engineer:			
㉜ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉝ interior decorator:		㉞ artist:		㉟ artisan:		㊱ builder/contractor:		
㊲ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:										

㊳ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP