

PH 0504114

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 20 1977  
DATE ENTERED FEB 8 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 Captain Gershom Bradford House

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
931 Tremont Street

CITY, TOWN  
Duxbury

STATE  
Massachusetts

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
11th

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
COUNTY  
CODE  
Plymouth 023

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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  
The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 176, Snug Harbor Station

CITY, TOWN  
Duxbury

STATE  
VICINITY OF  
Massachusetts 02332

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER  
Russell Street

CITY, TOWN  
Plymouth

STATE  
Massachusetts 02360

**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  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Captain Gershom Bradford House is located at 931 Tremont Street in Duxbury. Tremont Street (Route 3A) was one of the earliest roads between Boston and the southern part of the state. The property is comprised of 9-3/4 acres of well-landscaped grounds. The land surrounding the house is occupied by modest flower beds and low stone walls. Lilacs, boxtrees, and dogwoods planted by early members of the Bradford family remain. Acreage more distant from the house includes horse chestnut, silver beech, and spruce trees. The building stands opposite the house of Gamaliel Bradford, Gershom's brother and fellow sea captain. The property is bordered by Harrison Street to the north, a golf course to the east, and large lot residential structures to the south and west.

The two story Federal style building was constructed in 1807-1808 by Captain Gershom Bradford. The original house has an L-shaped plan. The main five bay wide by two bay deep ridge roof section has an inside end chimney at each gable peak. The two story hip roof ell extends from the southern end of the rear (east) elevation. It has a tall inside end chimney on its north elevation. A two story, ridge roof addition extends from the rear (east) elevation of the ell. This addition projects southward and replaces a barn which was originally attached to the ell. This deteriorated barn was removed in 1893.

The entire structure is sheathed in clapboards painted blue-gray. The north and south elevations of the main section have rough brick beneath the clapboards. Fenestration is 6/6 with slightly projecting lintels and sills framed by louvered shutters. The water table, entablature, and corner boards are plain. The symmetrical facade faces west. The approach to the front door is a walkway of cube-shaped, volcanic stone blocks which were brought from Italy as ballast by Captain Bradford. The entrance is flanked by sidelights and headed by a fanlight. A small flat hood supported by two brackets on a molded cornice shields the door. The north and south elevations each have triangular windows in the gable ends on either side of the inside chimneys. The rear (east) elevation has four asymmetrically placed windows and a vertically paneled door in the southern end by the ell. The ell is three bays deep on its south elevation. It has three asymmetrically placed windows of contrasting scale on its north elevation.

The addition extends along the rear elevation of the ell and continues out beyond the south elevation of the main section of the house. The facade of the addition is three bays wide. It has an entrance framed by shutters on its northern end. The rear (east) elevation of the addition has an off center entrance and a wooden deck with railing. The windows on the addition's elevations are smaller than those of the main house. They are asymmetrically placed and shutterless.

The interior of the house retains hand wrought moldings in the parlor and center hall. Floors and woodwork are painted, the latter in the same lead gray as the original. Wallpaper is original in two of the four front rooms. Much original Bradford furniture remains. All of the furnishings are of the period and grade used by the family. The cellar contains a large brick cistern.

The interior of the ell has been slightly modified. A small kitchen and bath were added. The ell is occupied year round as a security measure. The house is owned by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Inc.

# 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) seafaring
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1807-1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Captain Gershom Bradford

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Gershom Bradford House is significant for the simple quality of its early 19th century Federal design and for its association with the Bradford family, who retained ownership of the house from 1807 to 1968.

Gershom Bradford was born in 1774. He was the grandson of a Representative to the General Court and the son of a Revolutionary War colonel. Gershom went to sea at age 17 and sailed under his older brothers Gamaliel and Daniel, both of whom were shipmasters. He became a mate in 1796 and a master some four years later. The three brothers built houses at about the same time. Gamaliel's home (National Register nomination) is directly across the road from Gershom's; Daniel's is a third of a mile away. Jerusha Bradford, their sister, married Ezra Weston II, Duxbury's leading shipbuilder and owner of the King Caesar House (National Register nomination).

Gershom sailed as mate with Captain Gamaliel on the ship Mary in 1799 and helped resist the attack of a French privateer. A similar encounter on the ship Industry occurred the following year. While manning a stern gun, Gershom learned that Gamaliel had been seriously wounded. He assumed command, and after a 2½ hour battle, drove off the adversary. Gershom then brought the vessel safely into Lisbon under a jury rig.

Captain Gershom was fully qualified to handle any vessel, but preferred smaller ships and shorter voyages. He commanded at least ten vessels before retiring in 1826, after 35 years at sea. Bradford died in 1844.

The Captain Gershom Bradford House is important to the heritage of the town of Duxbury. The house belonged to Captain Gershom and his descendants for a period of 161 years. It was entrusted to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Inc. in 1968 by two Bradford brothers, the present Gershom and the late Edward, both of whom lived in the house. The building represents the life style and interest of a successful shipbuilder and his family. The Captain's library retains fine books of his day. Historic paintings and pictures adorn the walls. The Captain lived during most of Duxbury's period of peak shipbuilding (1825-1850) and was an active member in its initial growth.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 3/4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 | 360190 | 4655150  
 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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor  
(Frederick T. Potter, Duxbury Historical Commission)  
 ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE September 6, 1977  
 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 Amador  
 TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission DATE 9/12/77

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION Wm. M. ... DATE 2-8-78  
 ATTEST: Charles ... KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 2-7-78

Property Bradford, Captain Gershon, House

State MA

Working Number 9.19.77.1460

Plymouth

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2  
Maps 1

~~Appears less than 9 3/4 acres~~  
Wooded area around house is included

**CONTROL**  
J. Infant  
OK - 9.21.77

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
Franklin  
1.19.78

Acres seem justified - landscaped & part of grounds.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

accept  
Braham 11.4.77

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Lebowich  
2/1/78

**BRANCH CHIEF**

Herrick  
2.7.78

**KEEPER**

Wm  
2/8/78

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

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

Entered FEB 8 1978

Federal Register Entry 4.4.78

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

INT:2106-74



Captain Gershom Bradford House  
Duxbury, Massachusetts  
Plymouth Co.  
1977

SEP 20 1977  
FEB 8 1978

F.T. Potter  
Duxbury Historical Commission  
Town Offices, Duxbury 02332  
#142  
Looking northeast toward west facade and  
south elevation.

#1  
from Bradford House  
151 Vermont St., Duxbury, Mass.

Front (NW), S.W. Elevations & Ell

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Captain Gershom Bradford House  
Duxbury, Massachusetts

1977 Plymouth Co.

F.T. Potter

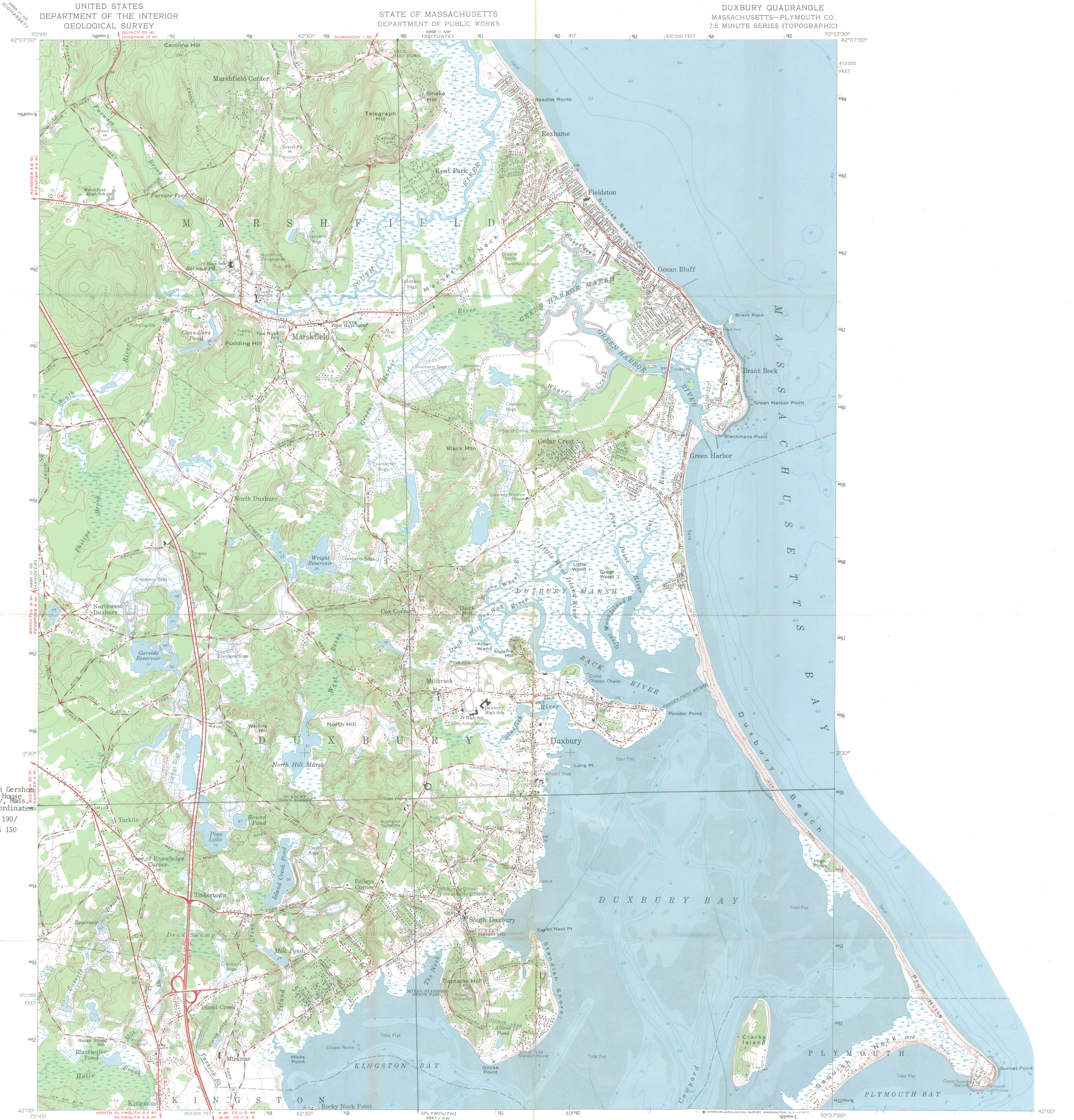
SEP 20 1977

Duxbury Historical Commission  
Town Offices, Duxbury 02332

#212

Looking southwest toward east (rear)  
elevation and ell

FEB 8 1978

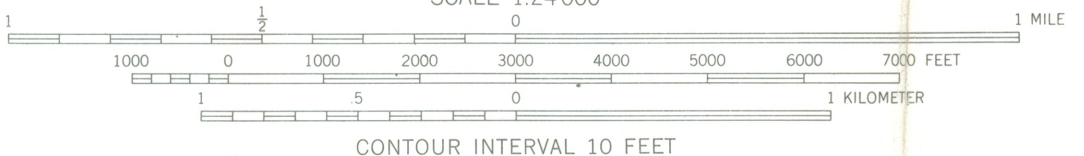
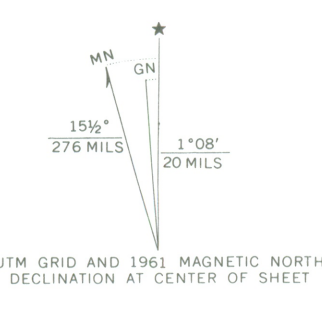


Captain Gershon  
radford House  
Duxbury, Mass  
UTM Coordinates  
19/360 190/  
4655 150

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs. Topography by planetable surveys 1935-1936  
Revised 1961

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS charts 245 (1958)  
and 1208 (1960). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
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



SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.2 FEET

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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
State Route	

DUXBURY, MASS.  
N 4200—W 7037.5/7.5  
1961  
AMS 6868 II SW—SERIES V814



FEB 8 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered      FEB 8 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hudson House	Oxford vicinity Worcester County
Ward, Joshua, House	Salem Essex County
Bradford, Capt. Gershom, House	Duxbury vicinity Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward P. Boland

Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Hon. Gerry E. Studts

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

2/22/78

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Bradford, Capt. Gershom, House		② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: FEB 8 1978	④ county code: 23
⑤ LOCATION street & number 931 Tremont St. <i>W of Duxbury</i>		city / town Duxbury	vicinity of Duxbury	state MA	county Plymouth
⑦ OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)		⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:		⑥ NPS REGION: NA	
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 12th	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 <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑯ CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair		<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated		<input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> excavated	
⑰ features:		<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7		<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8	
⑱ ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		⑲ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑳ SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
⑳ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		⑳ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :		㉑ CLAIMS: explain	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5		<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10		<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20	
<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS / GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25		<input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only'	
㉒ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		㉓ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉔ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
㉕ architectural style(s):		㉖ architect:		㉗ master builder:	
㉘ engineer:		㉙ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉚ interior decorator:	
㉛ artist:		㉜ artisan:		㉝ builder/contractor:	
㉞ NAMES give role & date					
PERSONAL:					
EVENTS:					
INSTITUTIONAL:					
㉟ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP					