

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
NW CAMB.	NWC IIC5

1. Town Cambridge

Address 56 Aberdeen Avenue

Name John Wyeth House

Present use residential

Present owner Felicity S. Lahti

3. Description:

Date 1841

Source deed records

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features heavy Greek Revival
moulding around pediment, original
fluted columns with capitals.

Altered No Date -----

Moved Yes Date 1922-23

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre -----

Approximate frontage 100 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
20 feet

6. Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1972

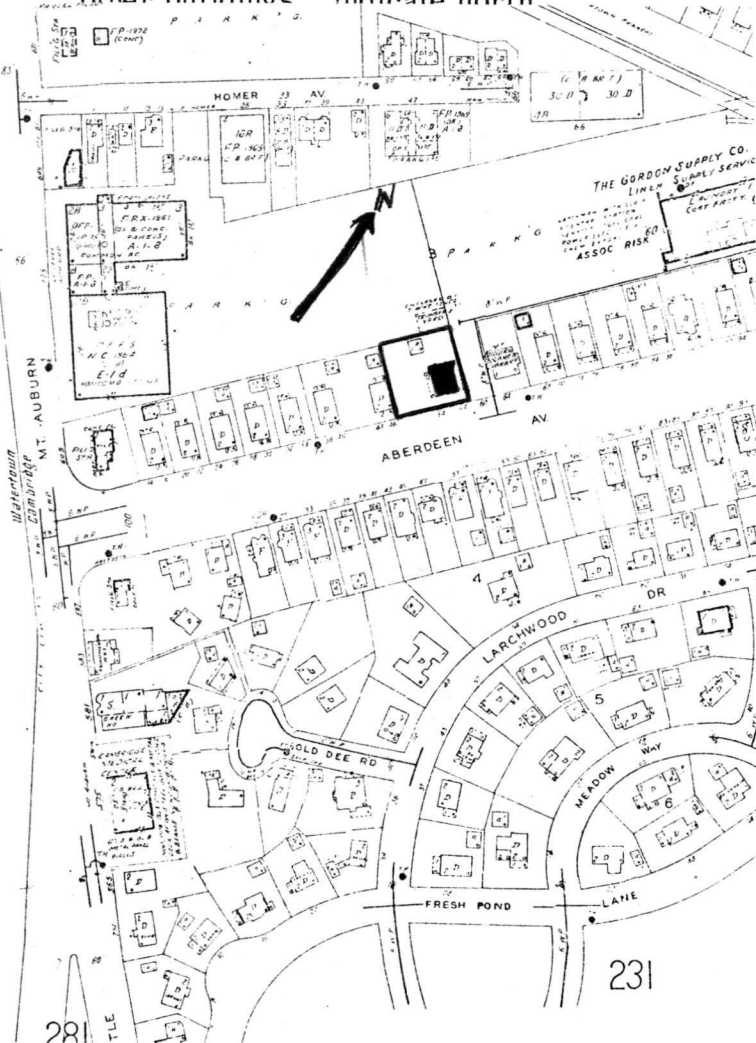
UTM-LEXINGTON

19/323200/4693600

NOV 14 1980

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1100-26

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north



Assessor # 252-131

7. Original owner (if known) John Wyeth

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The John Wyeth house is important as the earliest documented example of domestic Greek Revival architecture in Northwest Cambridge. Built in 1841 for John Wyeth, it was originally located at 609 Mount Auburn Street opposite the Mount Auburn Cemetery Gate. John Wyeth (1805-1871) was engaged in the West India and other foreign trade.

Considered a large and commodious house at the time it was built, its handsome proportions convey the solidity and clarity of the Greek Revival style. Its foremost feature is the colonnaded portico whose fluted columns and correctly detailed Ionic capitals had been mass-produced. The end gables are treated as Classical pediments. Only the addition of artificial siding mars the building which otherwise is wholly intact.

The house was moved around the corner onto Aberdeen Avenue in 1922-23, forced out by development pressures on Mt. Auburn Street. Without this move, the house would have been demolished and this structure, unique in Northwest Cambridge, lost. Thus, despite the move, the architectural and historical associations make it invaluable.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 17 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

161. Mead, Alpheus, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

162. Snow, Daniel, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82
Determined eligible

Attest

163. Wyeth, John, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

164. HOMER-Kovell House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Wm. Duhon 12/22/83

Attest

165. Reversible Collar
Company Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Mrs. Jan Boyd 9.27.85

Attest

166. Ash Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Substantive Review

Keeper

TS

Attest

167. Berkeley Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 5-19-86

Attest

168. Bertram Hall at Radcliffe College

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 5-19-86

Attest

169. Bennink-Douglas Cottages

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 5-19-86

Attest

170. Brabrook, E. H., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 5-19-86

Attest

Substantive Review
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Wyeth, John, House (Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
State, County: MA - Middlesex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4-17-82
Action: ACCEPT 4/13/82
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

photos
maps _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments: earliest example - in area - NW Cambridge

Recom./Criteria C
Reviewer Braham
Discipline 4.5.82
Date _____
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

for use only

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ___ Maps
- ___ Photographs
- ___ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1100-26

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA Ma
Wye & John, House

0760

56 Aberdeen Ave.

1100-26

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275