

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received **MAR 2 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic  Amos Fuller House

and/or common Amos Fuller House

**2. Location**

street & number 220 Nehoiden Street N/A not for publication

city, town Needham N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name James M. McCracken Trust, James M. McCracken, Jr. Trustee

street & number 220 Nehoiden Street

city, town Needham N/A vicinity of state MA 02192

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number High Street

city, town Dedham state MA 02026

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #70 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

# 7. Description

Amos Fuller House, Needham, MA

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The mid-18th century character of the Amos Fuller House is greatly enhanced by its setting which includes a 19th century barn and outbuilding surrounded by 26 acres of woods and open fields. This nomination comprises only a portion of that land. However the total acreage as a green enclave encircled by and protected from Needham's suburban development enhances the character of the house. The house sits back approximately 100 feet on the east side of Nehoiden Street; the barn is located a similar distance to the south, and the shed to the east.

In its present sprawling configuration, the dwelling presents an organic and evolutionary architectural character as the result of alterations and additions through time. Nevertheless, the original compact leanto structure of 1754 remains apparent. Similarity of construction and exterior finish help tie the house together visually: timber framing and clapboard sheathing painted yellow with white trim. Wood shingles cover the main block roof and integral additions; asphalt shingles the large rear ell.

The original leanto portion stands 2½-stories tall on a mortared fieldstone foundation. Distinctive features of the symmetrical 5-bay facade include: a simple enclosed gabled entry porch; narrow cornice and corner boards; original 9/6 windows on the second story and later, wider 6/6 windows on the first story, all with projecting surrounds. The north and south gable ends also retain original 9/6 windows; the rear and ell elevations, later 6/6.

Although the interior was extensively rebuilt in the 19th century, principally as a result of demolition of the central chimney c.1897, the original 5-room plan of the main portion is still apparent, and much original woodwork remains. Initial restoration work began in the 1830's when the property, then much deteriorated, was sold by the Fuller family. All or a portion of the large rear ell most likely dates from this period. The remains of a chimney foundation with fireplace and beehive oven are visible in the ell basement.

During the 1920's and subsequently a series of additional changes occurred including addition of the sunporch (south side), shed dormer (rear), exterior chimney (north-side) with concurrent renovations of north parlor, and rear ell exterior chimney.

The barn which stands to the south was built about 1830 to replace an earlier barn which was hit by lightning and destroyed by fire. The present barn (approx. 36' x 60') is the oldest extant barn in town and is constructed with massive hand-hewn timbers held together with wooden-pegged mortice and tenon joints. It is shingled and stained dark brown.

Another small building stands to the rear of the house. It was built during the 1850's by Artemas Newell to serve as his law office. Interior partitions have been removed (c.1920) to create a single space.

## 8. Significance

Amos Fuller House, 220 Nehoiden Street, Needham, MA

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 checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1754

Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Amos Fuller House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association. Historical significance is derived from its association with important local figures of the 18th and 19th century; architectural significance from its standing as the best preserved example of its type and period in Needham. The property thus meets criteria A, B, C of the National Register of Historic Places.

This house was built "on the road to the meetinghouse" in 1754 by Lt. Amos Fuller, a son of Thomas Fuller, Jr., one of the earliest settlers in the town and a descendant of settlers of the parent town, Dedham. The house occupies the site of an earlier house built by his father, Thomas Fuller, and material from the earlier house may have been used in the present structure. Lt. Amos Fuller lived in the house until his death in 1810. He served the town as selectman (1737-1769) and representative to the General Court (1756-1766).

In 1830 the house was sold by Reuben Fuller, the son of Amos, to the Reverend William Ritchie, the fourth minister of the parish; it was occupied by him until his death in 1842 and by his widow until 1852. The house had deteriorated during the occupancy of Reuben Fuller, and was extensively rebuilt and restored by the Reverend William Ritchie.

The barn which adjoins the house is of historical interest in its own right because of its age and its construction -- massive hand beams and wooden-pegged joints. The oldest of the few remaining old barns in the town, it was probably built by the Reverend William Ritchie after a fire caused by lightning in the 1830's. Research conducted by Mr. James M. McCracken in the 1930's tends to confirm this date, although the barn is not specifically mentioned in town records until 1860.

In 1852 the house and property was bought by Artemas Newell, and it remained in the Newell Family until 1920. Artemas Newell an attorney and important town figure long known as "Squire Art" built the third structure presently standing on the property, the small "shop" behind the house which he used as his law office. By 1869 the property consisted of forty acres, and the Newell family ownership is memorialized in Newell Avenue, which runs from the site of the present house to Great Plain Avenue. Some time after 1897, a later and eccentric Newell, Augustus, tore down part of the old central chimney of the house for the value of the old bricks; he was stopped only by the threatened collapse of the house, which was supported in part by the chimney. This same Augustus Newell also manufactured concrete blocks on the property and is the earliest known to do so in the area.

In 1922 the property was bought by Mr. James M. McCracken, Sr., who re-named it Hearstone Farm and did notable work in restoring and preserving the historic structures on it. Since 1928 the town has shared the property with the McCracken Family. In that year Mr. McCracken gave the Needham troop of Girl Scouts an annual license to a piece of the property which fronts on Rosemary Lake (not included in nomination). The area is called Camp Malcolm in memory of the McCracken's first son.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Needham, George K. Clarke, n.d.  
Old Houses in Deedham, Frederic Jones, n.d.  
Article in Needham Times, July 8, 1954.  
Paper delivered by James M. McCracken to Needham Historical Society, October 10, 1933  
Sketches of Needham (The Kimball Lectures), 1842, Files of Needham Historical Society

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 139,570 Square Feet

Quadrangle name Newton, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

### UTM References

A 

1	9
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3	1	5	1	5	0
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4	6	8	3	6	6	0
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C 

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B 

1	9
---	---

3	1	5	1	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	3	5	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nomination is confined to the land surrounding the house since significance has not been substantiated for the immediate vicinity of the house: the remaining acres N.E. 516.88' by land of McCracken; S.E. 236.05' by other land of McCracken; S.W. 564.04' N.W. 360.73 by Nehoiden St. to point of beginning; Total 139,570 square feet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner with Needham Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA

# 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 Peter Z. Weslowski

title State Historic Preservation Officer, MHC date 2/24/83

**For NPS use only**  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
for Allene Byers Entered in the National Register date 3/31/83  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Fuller, Amos, House  
Norfolk County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 2 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 3/31/83 - 4/16/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 3/31/83  
 RETURN  
Entered in the National Register  REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
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  deteriorated  good  ruins  fair  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

## 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

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic name \_\_\_\_\_

USIT 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: 202 272-3500

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Amos Fuller House  
220 Nehoiden Street  
Needham, MA  
Norfolk County

West Elevation

Photo Credit; Kenneth Watson  
Negative filed at: 142 Hillcrest Rd.  
Needham

Photo #1 of 2.

KENNETH E. WATSON  
142 HILLCREST RD.  
NEEDHAM, MA 02192

220 NEHOIDEN ST

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Town Hall  
Needham, MA 02192

R6-7-80



Amos Fuller House  
220 Nehoiden Street  
Needham, MA  
Norfolk County

South Elevation

Photo Credit: Kenneth Watson  
Negative filed at: 142 Hillcrest Road  
Needham, MA

Photo #2 of 2.

*AS NEEDHAM MA*

NEEDHAM COMMISSION

T. II  
Needham, MA 02192

*86-8-80*

SEE PLAN 129  
SEE PLAN 130  
SEE PLAN 130

SEE PLAN 225



- Total property owned by James M. McCracken Trust
- The nominated acreage

*Amos Fuller House*  
 [10] *Geographical Data*

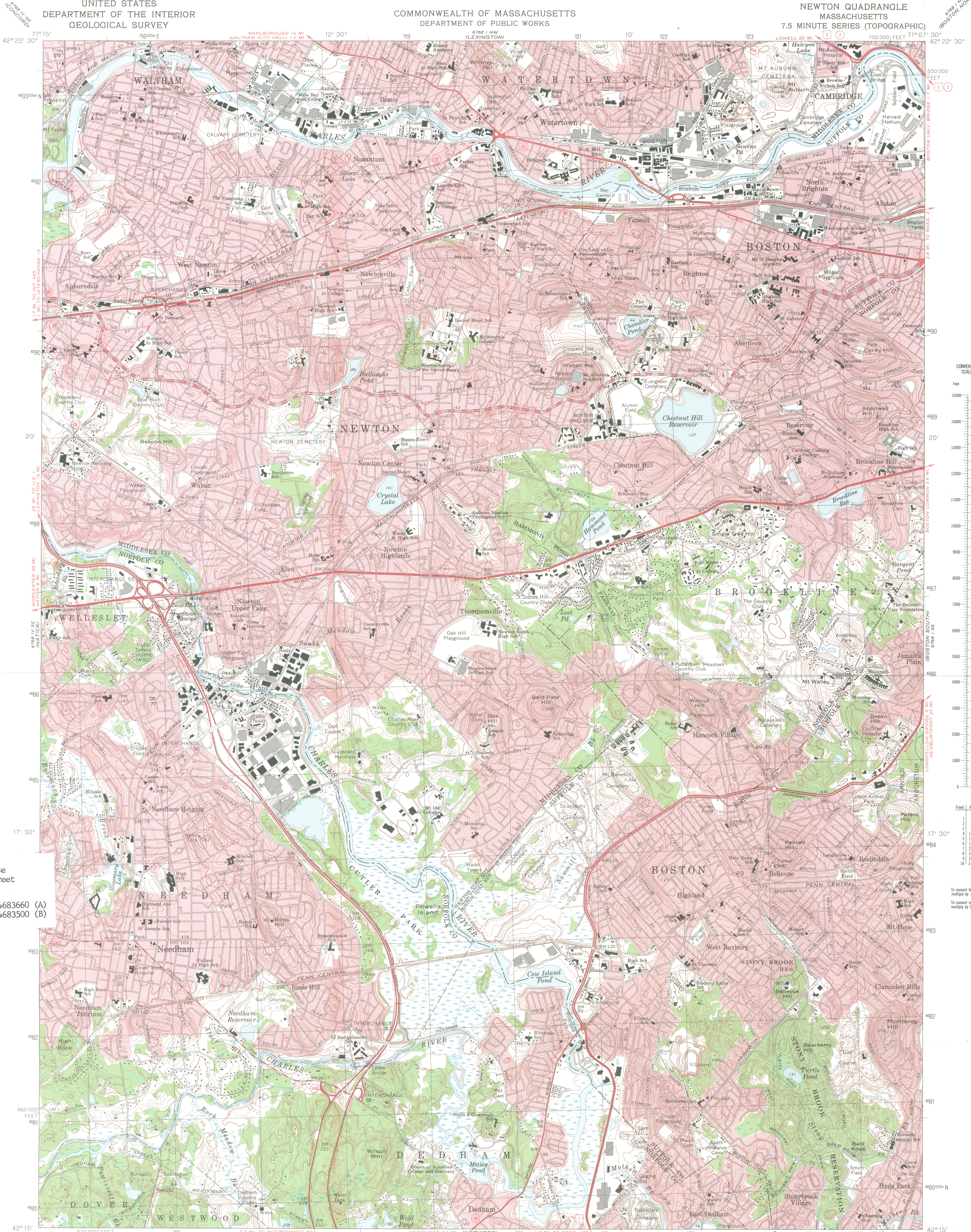
NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Town Hall  
 Needham, MA 02192



**ASSESSORS PLAN NO. 225**  
 SCALE 1 IN = 80 FT JULY 1975  
 J.D. MARR JR. TOWN ENGINEER

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Town Hall  
Needham, MA 02192

*Amos Fuller House*  
[10] *Geographical Data*



Amos Fuller House  
220 Nehoiden Street  
Needham, MA

UTM: 19/315150/4683660 (A)  
19/315140/4683500 (B)

CONVERSION  
SCALES

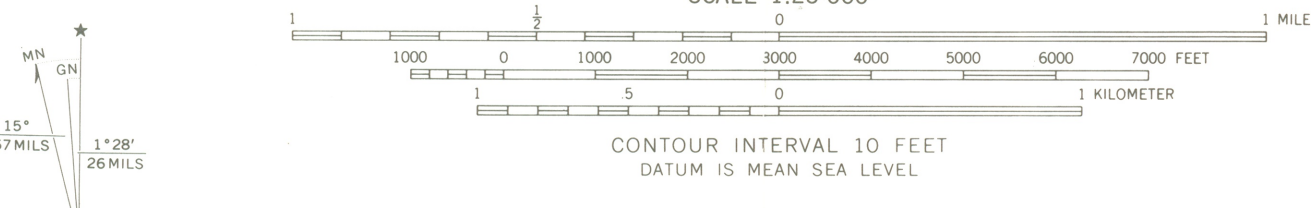


Feet Meters  
1 3048  
2 6096  
3 9144  
4 12192  
5 15240  
6 18288  
7 21288  
8 24288  
9 27288  
10 30288

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by 0.3048

To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943.  
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,  
zone 19  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NEWTON, MASS.  
N4215—W7107.5/7.5  
1970  
AMS 6768 I SW—SERIES 8714

NEEDHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Town Hall  
Needham, MA 02192

*Amos Fuller House*



**MASSACHUSETTS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02108  
617-727-8470

**MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY**  
Secretary of State

February 24, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston - Harvard Avenue Fire Station (Local)  
Dedham - Ames School (Local)  
✓ Needham - Amos Fuller House (Local)  
Newbury - Hale-Boynton House (Local)  
Northbridge - Rockdale Common Housing District (Local)  
Springfield - Upper Worthington Historic District (Local)  
Winchester - Town Hall (Local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

*Candace Jenkins*

Candace Jenkins  
Registration Director

CJ/lk

RECEIVED

NATIONAL  
REGISTER