

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Beverly Powder House

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Rear Madison Avenue

City or town: Beverly State: MA County: Essex

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>June 24, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO
Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/arms storage

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, granite, asphalt shingle, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Beverly Powder House, Rear Madison Avenue, Beverly (1809; BEV.915; Photos 1–12) is a Federal-period municipal structure built on the south face of Prospect (also known as Powder House) Hill, which overlooks Beverly’s historic center village and mixed-use core. Set back from Madison Avenue about 85 feet and surrounded by residential development dating from the 1890s onward, the Powder House occupies a small site on ledge, which forms the sub-grade foundation of the building. In its historic siting and construction, the single-story, octagonal brick structure retains considerable historic integrity, displaying distinctive character-defining features of early 19th-century powder-house design: red-brick walls incorporating indirect air passages and ventilation holes for the windowless interior chamber; brick dome beneath the pitched wood-frame roof; and remnants of the original wood-lined interior. The historic setting of the Powder House has evolved over time, as the once-isolated area was subsequently developed. Neighboring residences now largely obscure views of the Powder House from surrounding streets, likely contributing to its preservation. A paved way known as Powder House Lane provides pedestrian and limited vehicular access from Madison Avenue on the

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southwest and Appleton Avenue on the northeast. The lot, measuring 1,701 square feet, displays an outcropping of ledge but is not landscaped. The Powder House has remained vacant and unused since the mid-19th century.

Narrative Description

Beverly is a coastal city in south-central Essex County, approximately eighteen miles northeast of Boston. Encompassing 22.6 square miles of land and water area, the city borders Salem on the southwest, Danvers on the west, Wenham on the north, and Manchester-by-the-Sea on the east. Approximately nine miles of irregular coastline – a mix of urban harbor, rocky headlands, and sandy beaches – defines Beverly on the south, extending from the mouths of the Danvers River and Bass River on the west through Beverly Harbor and Salem Sound eastward to Massachusetts Bay (Atlantic Ocean). Major drainage through groundwater and tributary streams follows the Wenham Lake/Bass River corridor to Beverly Harbor; about one-third (100 acres) of Wenham Lake lies in Beverly, with the remaining two-thirds in Wenham. Beverly's gently rolling terrain generally slopes southerly, toward the ocean. Though some elevations exceed 100 to 150 feet, most are under 100 feet. The western end of Beverly, including the downtown at Beverly Harbor and the Beverly Powder House at the northern outskirts of the historic harbor village, is the more densely settled, while the city maintains a rural suburban character in the east [MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report, 2–3; Beverly OSRP, 35–37, 43].

Located on the south face of Prospect (also known as Powder House) Hill, the Beverly Powder House (Photo 1) occupies a small lot on ledge, measuring 41.25 feet on each side, the corners of which approximately correspond to the four cardinal directions. The structure itself is oriented south-southwest, overlooking Beverly's historic common and center village (downtown) at a distance. The view to and from the Powder House has been largely obscured by surrounding residential development dating from the 1890s onward; the closest building, a garage (ca. 1920s) on an abutting property at 13 Madison Avenue, touches the southeast property line. A twelve-foot-wide paved way known as Powder House Lane connects the west corner of the Powder House lot to Madison Avenue, downhill on the southwest (Photo 2). While additional asphalt paving was deposited on the Powder House lot in the late 20th century, Powder House Lane does not extend onto or through the parcel. Removal of a stone wall along the northeast boundary of the lot, at some undetermined time in the 20th century, now allows vehicular access from Appleton Avenue, slightly uphill on the northeast (Photo 3). Ledge outcroppings appear on both the lot and adjacent to the paved way.

*The following description is based on the **Beverly Powder House Historic Structures Report** (2018), prepared by Richard Smith of Adams & Smith LLC with the assistance of Structures North, and the MHC inventory form for the Beverly Powder House (BEV.915), prepared by Emily Hutchings, Associate Planner, City of Beverly. Additional sources as noted.*

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A single-story brick structure, the Powder House is octagonal in plan, with a wood-frame octagonal roof (Photos 1, 2, and 3) over a brick interior dome. The structure measures 17½ feet at its widest point and about 12½ feet from grade to the eaves. Each facet of the octagon rests on a grey granite-block foundation laid over rubblestone to accommodate the irregularities of the ledge below. Walls are built of waterstruck red brick laid up in a running bond, with a row of headers every seventh course and specially cast bricks conforming to the corner angles. Four wythes thick, the walls incorporate indirect air passages and ventilation holes that release humidity to the exterior to keep the interior dry. The air passages follow a circuitous path through the vertical sections of brick to prevent rain and snow from reaching the interior space, in addition to sparks that could have ignited the gunpowder. There are no windows.

The wood door – set in a wood frame constructed of four-by-six-inch and six-by-six-inch members with pegged mortise joints at the four corners – has iron strap-hinges and sheet-metal cladding covering the entire face, including the strap hinges (Photos 4, 5, and 6). The double-thickness door, which appears to be a late 19th-century replacement, is composed of square-edged vertical boards on the outside and horizontal tongue-and-groove boards on the inside, the whole secured with a long iron hasp bar and padlock. Sheet metal was applied to the exterior of the door by 1897, per historic photographs. The frame retains mortises on the right, or south, side that suggest the door swung on butt hinges at some point (Photo 7), and a cut-out on the left, or north, side from a former box lock on the interior face, which would have operated with a key (Photo 8). The box lock was removed at an unknown date.

Originally clad with wood shingles, the octagonal roof with a twelve-in-twelve pitch has been sheathed with asphalt shingles since at least 1941, when the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) recorded the Powder House with an asphalt roof. Roof repairs undertaken about 1998 [Collins email] involved replacement of some wood framing and trim, including the fascia board and crown molding at the eaves, and installation of the present asphalt roof. The plain wood finial, heavily weathered, may have supported a lightning rod, though no evidence is extant.

A brick dome spans the width of the octagonal interior chamber (Photos 9 and 10). Mortar-clad brick corbeling carries the round dome to the interior corners of the octagonal space. The two wythes of the dome do not align directly over the two inner wythes of the four-wythe side walls. The interior did not have a ceiling, as evidenced by layers of mortar parging and white paint on the brick, plus a lack of beam pockets in the brickwork. Thick masonry walls, the thinner masonry dome, and lack of a ceiling were design elements that helped to ensure the force of an accidental explosion would be driven upwards through the roof without collapsing the walls [Magazine *Beach Powder Magazine HSR*, 30].

Beneath the dome, the wood wall liner and floor helped keep the powder dry by minimizing dampness, and deterred sparks that could have been generated had a metal object, such as a metal container or shoe nail, come into contact with exposed brick or stone. Vertical shiplap boarding originally extended the full height of the interior walls, secured with wood pegs to horizontal “nailers” (wooden strips) embedded in the brick. Much of the wood liner, as well as presumed

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wood shelving, was removed at an undetermined date, and some nailer slots were infilled with brick, though some sheathing around the entry and isolated fragments of nailers remain (Photos 6 and 11). Cementitious plaster at the circular base of the dome filled the transition to the wood lining of the octagon walls; surviving plaster bears the imprint of the tops of liner boards that terminated at the dome's base. The wood floor (Photo 12) consists of nine- to fourteen-inch-wide planks secured with square wooden pegs to sleepers laid on gravel and rubble fill. The sleepers are not secured to the walls, and simply laid in fill, which reaches the underside of the floor planks.

Remnants of cementitious (*i.e.* mortar) parging and white paint over the parging survive on the exterior brick walls as well as the interior brick dome. Historic photographs show the Powder House exterior was parged and possibly painted by the 1880s–1890s period, though it has not been determined whether parging was an original feature (see Figures 1 and 2). The Powder House was last painted white in 1928 and is not known to have been repainted since. Both the door, with its sheet-metal cladding, and the hasp bar locking mechanism appear to be replacements that post-date the structure's use as a powder house (decommissioned 1840). Installed before 1897, they introduce iron components to the interior: bolts securing the strap hinges of the door through two thicknesses of wood (Photo 12), and the pin securing the hasp staple to the left (north) side of the door frame (Photo 8). The mortise for a possibly original rim lock remains on the door frame. Repairs since the period of significance are confined to the roof, as noted above.

(end)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Military

Politics/Government

Social History

Period of Significance

1809–1969

Significant Dates

1809 (construction)

1840 (decommissioned as a powder house)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The only example of Federal-period municipal construction in Beverly, the Beverly Powder House, Rear Madison Avenue (1809; BEV.915; Photos 1–11), is a well preserved structure significant in the areas of **military** and **politics/government** for its associations with Beverly’s militia and the evolution of state and federal practices providing for the common defense after the American Revolution. Exhibiting characteristic features of municipal powder house placement and design, the Beverly Powder House is highly significant in the area of **architecture** for its brick octagonal form and construction, including the preservation of a domed interior retaining evidence of wood-lined walls. After its decommissioning from military use in 1840, as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts transitioned from an enrolled to a volunteer militia, and ammunition storage at the local level shifted to newly built armories, the vacant and obsolete Powder House became a monument to Beverly’s military past, attesting to the community’s role in shaping the early republic. Local historians and volunteers promoted the significance of the Powder House through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, ensuring its preservation during the construction of the residential neighborhood on Prospect Hill, thereby contributing to the structure’s further significance in the area of **social history**. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Beverly Powder House meets Criteria A and C at the local and state levels.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Initially settled in 1626 as part of Salem, Beverly incorporated as a town in 1668. The earliest village core developed east of the Bass River, where the first meetinghouse (1656; demolished) was erected at the present intersection of Cabot and Hale streets. During the Colonial period and through the mid-19th century, Beverly’s economy was based on agriculture and the thriving fishing, shipbuilding, and shipping industries serviced by the harbor-area commercial center at Fish Flake Hill (LHD; BEV.B, BEV.G, BEV.J; NR 1971/1986). Settlement into the 18th century continued to focus east of the Bass River around the meetinghouse vicinity, extending east along Hale Street, with secondary clusters developing at North Beverly and the present Centerville area. Continued development on the southern peninsula along the Cabot Street spine connecting the harbor to the meetinghouse location, where successive meetinghouses would be built in 1682 and 1770, solidified Beverly center as the town’s primary civic, institutional, commercial, and residential core by the end of the 18th century [*Beverly OSRP*, 24–25; “Chronology of the First Parish Church”; Ober, 695; Beverly Central Business District NR nomination].

Through its *General Lawes and Libertyes* (1641/1649/1660), Massachusetts outlined requirements for governing, training, and arming a militia for the common defense [*Colonial Laws, 175–181*]. Every male over the age of sixteen was enrolled in his town’s militia and

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mandated to serve, including participation in routine military exercises. A short distance northeast of Beverly's meetinghouse, the town acquired a tract of land in 1705 for use as a militia training field and common. Each town also had to provide, at cost, a safe and convenient place to keep the common store of powder and ammunition [*Colonial Laws, 180*]. In 1727, the Town of Beverly built a powder room in the second (1682) meetinghouse, deemed a safe depository because the meetinghouse was unheated. Historian Edwin M. Stone, writing in the early 1840s, noted "the sacredness of the place did not, however, allay the fears of the congregation, who left the house whenever a thunder-shower occurred" [Stone, *History of Beverly, 247*], as a lightning strike could have ignited the powder.¹ As the population increased, a town's ammunition storage was removed to more distant sites that would be readily accessible for training and secure for defense, yet also minimize damage in the community should an explosion occur. Beverly's first detached powder house, built in 1767, was located on the south side of the training field (common). The precise site and appearance of this powder house has not been determined, though the structure is known to have survived until at least September 1, 1809, when its presence was noted in a deed for abutting land set aside for construction of a separate gun house² ["Chronology"; Ober, 699, 714].

Prospect Hill (also known as Powder House Hill) was the third consecutive location selected for the storage and safe-keeping of ammunition used by Beverly's militia. The oldest extant structure built for ammunition storage in Beverly, the Powder House is the product of changes implemented after the American Revolution in the organization and outfitting of the enrolled militia in Massachusetts. Massachusetts militia companies and regiments, including Minutemen, had a prominent role in the war, first and most famously on April 19, 1775, when they engaged British troops moving to seize militia gunpowder and cannon stored at Concord. Beverly Minutemen participated in the skirmishes that followed the Battle of Lexington that day, and assisted in driving the British back to Boston. New regiments of the Massachusetts Army, established in 1775 from the state militia, later were inducted into the Continental Army and subsequently formed the basis of the United States Army. Massachusetts militia regiments reinforced the Continental Army during the war, while continuing to provide units for local defense. In 1785, two years after the end of the Revolution, the state militia was reorganized and expanded into ten divisions. The following year, Shays' Rebellion in Western Massachusetts tested state authority over local militias, leading directly to the Constitutional Convention that drafted the U. S. Constitution and gave the nascent Federal government authority to call up the militia for the purposes of national defense, suppressing insurrections against state government, and law enforcement ["Army National Guard History"].

¹ Some area meetinghouses were used for ammunition storage into the 19th century. Of the nine towns forming the Second Division, First Brigade of the Massachusetts militia in 1809, **Manchester**, **Lynnfield**, and **Middleton** still deposited ammunition at the meetinghouse. **Beverly**, **Salem**, **Danvers** (including present-day Peabody), **Marblehead**, **Lynn** (including Saugus, Nahant, and Swampscott), and **Gloucester** (including Rockport) maintained powder houses. In other towns statewide, while powder houses/magazines and meetinghouses were most commonly used, ammunition also was deposited at private residences, barns, and businesses [Town Magazine Returns].

² Town of Beverly to the United States of America, Essex County South deeds, 186:255.

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As defined in the *Act More Effectually to Provide for the National Defense, by Establishing a Uniform Militia throughout the United States* (1792), men between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to enroll in the militia associated with their place of residence. Each man was to be provided

a good musket or firelock, a sufficient bayonet and belt, two spare flints, and a knapsack, a pouch with a box therein to contain not less than twenty-four cartridges, suited to the bore of his musket or firelock, each cartridge to contain a proper quantity of powder and ball; or with a good rifle, knapsack, shot pouch and powder horn, twenty balls suited to the bore of his rifle, and a quarter of a pound of powder” [Stone, *Digest*, 12–13].

Massachusetts provisions enacted in 1793 for the regulating, governing, and training of the enrolled militia at the state level were consistent with Federal standards. Militia training included marksmanship, tactical maneuvers, and exercise drills. A separate volunteer militia was organized in Beverly as a light infantry company in 1801, under the command of Capt. Jonathan H. Lovett; the company disbanded in 1814. While Massachusetts had both enrolled and volunteer militia companies until 1840, active militia after that date were exclusively volunteers [“Army National Guard History”; Ober, 700, 730].

With the goal of decentralizing the nation’s ammunition stores, arms and equipment procured by the Federal government were distributed to the states and territories, and passed through to the local militia, in proportion to the number of enrolled militia in the corresponding state or territory. This occurred in accordance with the *Act Making Provision for Arming and Equipping the Whole Body of the Militia of the United States* (1808) [Stone, *Digest*, 20]. In Massachusetts, under the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, the Quartermaster General – and down the chain of command through division, brigade, and regimental commanders – determined when and in what towns powder houses were necessary to supply local militias. Towns were responsible for supplying the land and completing the construction [Kondratiuk and Vezeau].

Contrary to longstanding local tradition that the Beverly Powder House was built in 1808 [Stone, *History of Beverly*, 322], town planning for its construction started in early 1809, and the Powder House was completed between June 6 and September 1 of that year. By vote of Town Meeting on March 13, Selectmen were authorized to provide a piece of land for a new powder house and compile an estimate of expenses for its construction. Selectmen John Batchelder, Nicholas Thorndike, Andrew Ober, Eleazer Wallis, and Josiah Gould reported at the next Town Meeting, held May 17:

it is our opinion that a piece of ground in the pasture belonging to Nathan Dane, Esq. is the most suitable for that purpose, and which ground can be obtained, that in our opinion the Expence of a House of sixteen feet diameter Eight feet Square ten feet stud and the wall sixteen inches thick of brick, with the purchase of six

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poles of land and a privilege to pass to and from the same, will amount to about three hundred and fifty dollars ["Votes, Act, and Orders (1809)," 30].

The selected land occupied an open elevated site with views of the town's training field (common) and center village on lower ground one-quarter mile and more to the south. On June 6, 1809, Nathan Dane of Beverly³ sold a parcel to the town for \$30, describing the property as "about six poles and one quarter of a pole of land . . . for the purpose of a Powder house," and specifying "no building but a Powder house is ever to be erected on said piece of land" [Essex County South deeds, 186:280], which encompassed approximately 1,701 square feet. In his subsequent will, Dane described this area as the Charnock pasture, adjoining his "Cook house and garden, where Joseph Cole lives." Dane had purchased the pasture from Emma Charnock. Bordering the Powder House lot on the northeast was a section of stone wall that divided Dane's pasture from the land of Thomas P. Ives. The stone wall, still extant in May 1900 when William J. Berry, City Engineer, surveyed the lot (Figure 6), was removed following development of the adjacent Prospect Hill neighborhood [Dane, Essex County probate, 409:242; *Plan of Powder House Lot*].

Both Town Meeting records and a separate deed indicate more comprehensive improvements were underway during the early Federal period to Beverly's facilities for ammunition and weapons storage. On September 1, 1809, the town of Beverly conveyed land on the south side of the training field (common), encompassing approximately 2,250 square feet, to the Federal government "for the purpose of erecting a gun house thereon reserving to the Commonwealth . . . concurrent jurisdiction of the premises with the United States" ["Votes, Act, and Orders (1809)," 30]. Boundaries of the conveyed parcel referenced the northwesterly corner of "the old Powder house (so-called)," *i.e.*, the 1767 powder house, which would have been decommissioned with completion of the new powder house on Prospect Hill [Essex County South deeds, 186:255]. The gun house was built to house two eighteen-pound cannon and their apparatus [Hathorne letter] separately from the ammunition supply. The precise site and appearance of the gun house,

³ A jurist, statesman, author, and founder of the Dane Professorship of Law at Harvard University, Nathan Dane (1752–1835) was born and raised in Ipswich. He settled in Beverly upon graduating from Harvard in 1778, teaching school while reading law in Salem with Judge William Wetmore. Dane established his own law practice in Beverly in 1782, providing extensive legal counsel to the Proprietors of the Kennebec [Maine] Purchase among other clients, serving on a commission to revise and publish the Massachusetts Colonial and Provincial laws (1812), and authoring the multi-volume *General Abridgment and Digest of American Law, with Occasional Notes and Comments* (1823/1829). Between terms in the Massachusetts General Court as a representative (1782–1785) and senator (1790, 1794, and 1796–1798), Dane served as delegate from Massachusetts to the third Continental or Confederation Congress (1785–1787). In that capacity, he co-authored the *Northwest Ordinance* (1787), which chartered a government for the territory north and west of the Ohio River in the Midwest, provided a method for admitting new states to the Union from the territory, and protected civil liberties, including forbidding slavery. The Northwest Ordinance became a model plan subsequently used as the nation expanded to the west. Retiring from public service due to the loss of his hearing, Dane continued practicing law in Beverly until his death, serving as a director of the Salem Turnpike and Chelsea Bridge Corporation and the Beverly Bank. He resided on Cabot Street [Stone, *History of Beverly*, 135–150; Dane Papers; *Northwest Ordinance*; Ober, 710; Scully, 2].

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no longer extant, have not been established. A gun house of similar period is still extant in Marblehead (45 Elm Street, ca. 1809; MAR.520; LHD 1968; NR 1984).

Enrollment numbers of each town's militia determined its required ammunition supply for training and defense, reflecting population trends in the town and dictating the capacity of a new storage facility. Beverly's population had more than doubled from 1708 (1,680 persons) to 1800, by which time a "large area of land had been brought under cultivation, remote districts connected by roads, six school districts . . . established, and two flourishing churches; the fleet of fishing-vessels, numbering thirty-two, employed three hundred men, and foreign commerce was in a flourishing condition" [Ober, 708]. The Commonwealth's militia act of 1793 established that each town should be "constantly provided with sixty-four pounds of good gun-powder, one hundred pounds of musket-balls, one hundred flints, and three tin or iron camp-kettles, for every sixty-four soldiers in the Militia of such town." A brigade-quartermaster inspected the magazines of each town within his brigade annually in September, filing a return with the Quartermaster General [Town Magazine Returns].

Town magazine returns filed for the Second Division, First Brigade, which included Beverly, recorded the contents of the Powder House (see Figure 3 for excerpts from the returns of 1808 through 1814). The 1809 return recorded 350 men in Beverly's enrolled militia, 250 pounds of "good powder fit for service," 500 pounds of ball, 350 flints, and 17 camp kettles. These figures are low relative to the Commonwealth's requirements per 64 militia men enrolled, suggesting restocking of the Powder House may have been delayed until the new structure was completed; fines were imposed on towns for insufficient ammunition stores. Numbers marked on the right (south) side of the Powder House door frame (Photo 7), though faded, may correspond to an inventory of ammunition within.

The only use of the Beverly Powder House in wartime occurred during the War of 1812. Massachusetts had no direct role in the conflict until 1814, when 20,000 militiamen mobilized to defend the coasts of Massachusetts and the District of Maine, then part of Massachusetts territory. In June, British squadrons fired on Wareham, Scituate, and Orleans, and blockaded ports at New Bedford and Fairhaven. On September 8, 1814, the landing of 70 British troops at Sandy Bay in Gloucester, where prisoners were taken and a guard house burned, brought the threat of invasion and destruction to the coastal towns of Essex County. While militiamen statewide participated in hastily erecting fortifications at Boston, Beverly's militia companies remained at Beverly, serving at various times from June to October as part of the seacoast defenses north of Boston. Lt. Col. Levi Dodge commanded more than 300 men in the Beverly regiment, which encompassed five companies under the direction of Capt. Nathaniel Lamson, Capt. Abraham Lord, Capt. Joseph Hooper, Capt. Aaron Foster, and Lt. John Davis. In addition, Lt. Jonathan Foster and Sgt. James Ford directed separate detachments under Dodge's command. The largest company, numbering 125 enrolled militiamen under Capt. Lamson, represented the town center, while Capt. Lord commanded the company from North Beverly and Capt. Foster commanded what was then known as the Cove and Farms Company ["Army National Guard History"; *Records of the MVM*, ix-xv, 34-38; Ober, 718-719]. On February 22, 1815, in

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response to news that the Treaty of Ghent had been signed two months earlier, ending the war, one Beverly company celebrated by dragging the cannon from the gun house on the common to the top of Watch House Hill, near Hale Street, and firing an eighteen-gun salute [Ober, 720].

Military expenditures were last itemized in the town's annual reports in 1838 [*Beverly Powder House HSR*, 6]. Beverly's enrolled militia was formally disbanded in 1840, when the Massachusetts Militia reorganized as the much smaller Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. With the dissolution of an enrolled militia, the Beverly Powder House would have been emptied by the state [Kondratiuk and Vezeau], marking the end of its use for military purposes. Cities and towns subsequently consolidated militia training and the storage of equipment and ammunition in armories.⁴

Town reports record expenditures for continued maintenance and repair of the Powder House through the 1840s. Thomas Barrett was the caretaker from 1844 until his death in 1846. A Revolutionary War pensioner and retired maker of nautical blocks (pulleys), Barrett lived nearby at the corner of Charnock and Essex Streets, on land he had purchased from Nathan Dane in 1807. The town paid Perkins Haskell, a blacksmith, for unspecified repairs to the Powder House in 1849, which likely involved the door or its locking mechanism [*Beverly Powder House HSR*, 6-7; Barrett, *U. S. Revolutionary War Pensioners*; Essex County probate, case no. 32181; Essex County South deeds, 182:139; U.S. census].

Between 1830 and 1870, manufacturing, especially shoemaking, gained greater importance in Beverly's economy, eventually dominating the maritime trades, shipping, and agriculture by the end of the period. Establishment of the Eastern Railroad (1839) precipitated construction of an industrial district spreading along the tracks by the Bass River, and a street railway (1863) linked the Cabot Street business area to Salem. New residential development opened adjacent to railroad and street-railway corridors, multi-family dwellings were introduced, and suburban single-family homes were erected in large numbers, especially at North Beverly and along the coast toward Beverly Farms, where more opulent, large estates would be developed through the

⁴ Composed of 6,000 men organized into ten regiments, the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia (MVM) consisted of younger men who voluntarily enlisted in uniformed militia companies that drilled on a regular basis and were better trained and equipped than the old enrolled militia. Cities and towns were required by state law to find suitable quarters for the new volunteer companies, initially in town halls or commercial buildings leased for armory purposes. Only a few units had armories constructed by the Commonwealth, which are distinguished by **MVM** signage over their entrances. In Beverly, a stable (demolished) on the grounds of the Andrew Cabot House, 191 Cabot Street (1783; BEV.104; NR 1984; now Beverly City Hall) was fitted up for armory use in 1841, when the house was converted to town offices. The town subsequently leased space for an armory in an undetermined location before relocating armory operations in 1876 to the town-owned Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall, then located on Cabot Street near Federal Street (1863, BEV.109, now 8 Dane Street). Beverly constructed a new armory building at 21 Thorndike Street (1890–1891), vacated in 1904 after the disbanding of the volunteer Beverly Light Infantry (Eighth Regiment, Company E), which concluded militia activity in Beverly. A new Company E was mustered into service in Cambridge, and the Thorndike Street armory converted to residential use [“Army National Guard History”; MACRIS; Armory Rent Roll, 1853–1876; Ober, 739; Beverly directories; “Beverly Armory”; Kondratiuk and Vezeau; *Adjutant General's Annual Report* (1905), 9].

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turn of the 20th century. Beverly's first summer vacationers arrived in the 1840s. In institutional developments, the town converted the Andrew Cabot House, 191 Cabot Street (1783; BEV.104; NR 1984; now Beverly City Hall), for use as town offices; the building remains the oldest municipally owned property in Beverly [*Beverly OSRP*, 17–19, 24–25; *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report*, 14]. Growth notwithstanding, the Powder House remained at the northern edge of concentrated settlement in the harbor village until the third quarter of the 19th century (Figure 4).

The Civil War had little impact on the obsolete Powder House, and there is no evidence the structure was returned to military use. Of 682 Beverly men who enlisted for military service during the Civil War, best known was Company E (Beverly Light Infantry), established in 1814. Company E operated in tandem with Beverly's enrolled militia until 1840, continuing as Beverly's principal militia until disbanding in 1904. After the Civil War, the town paid Wallis & Bryant to make repairs to the Powder House in 1868. Principals of the firm may have been Frederick A. Wallis of Beverly, a painter by trade, and Augustine Bryant of Beverly, a carpenter. The full extent of the work done at that time has not been determined, but appears to have included painting the Powder House [Morgan, 49; U. S. census (1870); *Beverly Powder House HSR*, 6].

Beverly Powder House in Architectural Context

The only octagonal powder house extant in New England [Thomas, 68–70], Beverly Powder House is highly significant architecturally. Municipal records do not identify the builder, but indicate John Hathorne, Jr. built the companion gun house (1809) on the common.⁵ It is not clear from dimensions noted in the Selectmen's May 17, 1809 report to Town Meeting – when the Powder House was projected to be “sixteen feet diameter, Eight feet square” – whether the octagonal footprint was intended originally, though the need for specially cast bricks to conform to the corner angles suggests the structure was planned to be octagonal rather than square.

The terms *powder house* and *powder magazine* tend to be used interchangeably, even by early 19th-century brigade-quartermaster inspectors filing annual Town Magazine returns.⁶ Architects and historians often describe small town-built structures as powder houses, to distinguish them from the larger powder magazines built either within a fortification, for storage of gunpowder for defense of that fort, or outside a fortification and typically partially underground, for storage of state or federal powder [*Magazine Beach Powder Magazine HSR*, 30]. Magazines tended to hold larger quantities of powder and were designed to withstand bombardment [*Newburyport Powder House HSR*, 6].

⁵ Writing from Salem, Hathorne informed Beverly selectmen: “I am authorized to erect a Gun House in your Town for the purpose of covering two Eighteen Pound Cannon, & the apparatus belonging to them. . . As soon as you will make out a Deed of the Land to the United States I will proceed to put up a Brick Building” [Hathorne letter].

⁶ Quartermaster of Beverly's brigade routinely recorded the powder houses of towns under his command as “powder magazines,” including the Beverly Powder House [Town Magazine returns].

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Approximately two dozen extant powder houses have been identified in Massachusetts. Most are single-story and brick, displaying either a square or circular footprint. A small number were built entirely of wood. More than half date from 1806 to 1822, indicating widespread construction of new powder houses in Massachusetts during the Federal period. At least five have been moved from their original locations. Examples range in date from the Powder House Windmill, Powder House Park, Somerville (1703–1704; SMV.928; NR 1975), a former windmill of brick and stone converted to powder house use in 1747, to the Old Powder House Memorial, School Street, Plymouth (1920; PLY.928; LHD; NR 2013), a brick reconstruction of a 1770 wood-frame structure. In addition to the Beverly Powder House, others are distinctive for their form or as good examples of historic powder-house design and placement. The Marblehead Powder House, 37 Green Street, Marblehead (1755; MAR.907; NR 1984), a brick structure with circular footprint and unusual shingled domed roof, is the oldest purpose-built powder house extant in New England. Illustrating one solution to the problem of placing a powder house to minimize damage within the community should an accidental explosion occur, the Concord Powder House (1810) maintains its hilltop placement within the Old Hill Burying Ground, Monument Square, Concord (1677; CON.804; LHD; NR 1977), and displays a typical square brick powder house form. The Godfrey's Hill Powder House, 57 Low Street, Newburyport (1822; NWB.903; PR), a sizable circular example retaining its brick cornice, was recently restored, along with its counterparts in Marblehead and Concord [Thomas; MACRIS].

While the Beverly Powder House is the oldest octagonal building or structure identified in the statewide inventory, its form is associated with developments in early 19th-century neoclassicism, separate from the mid-19th century octagon house craze popularized by Orson S. Fowler and other pattern book authors beginning in 1849. Octagons occasionally surfaced as high-style architecture of the new republic embraced the Romantic Classicism that had matured in France and England during the years of the American Revolution, with an emphasis on pure geometric forms [Hitchcock, 28; Fleming et al., 63]. Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) experimented with octagonal forms and spaces during this period, in the remodeling of his residence at Monticello, Albemarle County, Virginia (1796–1809, NHL) and new construction of his retreat at Poplar Forest, Bedford County, Virginia (1806–1826, NHL), the latter designed on an octagonal footprint and accompanied by two detached octagonal privies. In July 1809, Benjamin Latrobe (1764–1820), an English immigrant, Jefferson colleague, and the first fully trained professional architect working in the United States, proposed an octagonal powder magazine with circular interior chamber to the Secretary of the U. S. Navy, for construction at Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia [“Powder Magazine for the Navy Department”]. Octagonal powder houses and magazines were not without precedent, however: a two-story brick octagonal powder magazine (1715) at Williamsburg, Virginia is one of the oldest in the nation. In Massachusetts, other non-residential applications of the octagon form included observatories in Amherst and Williamstown, a railroad station in Belmont, houses of worship in Lexington and Oak Bluffs, and the Muster House at the Charlestown Navy Yard (Boston), all dating from the 1840s onward [MACRIS].

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Renewed Significance to the Community (ca. 1890s–1960s)

Beverly grew dramatically after the Civil War, from a population of 6,507 in 1870 to 22,959 in 1915. This growth led to its incorporation as a city in 1894, with a mayor-and-aldermen form of government. Shoemaking had become the most important industry, with many newly constructed factories clustered along Rantoul and Park streets. Agriculture prospered in Ryal Side, North Beverly, and the Centerville area as local markets developed for dairy and market garden products. In the continued northerly expansion of municipal functions at the center village, a new almshouse opened in 1872 at Essex and Cedar streets, joining the Powder House to the west and the Hale Street (now Central) Cemetery to the south at what was then still the edge of concentrated settlement [*MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report*, 18; *Beverly OSRP*, 17-19; Ober, 738].

Decommissioning the Powder House for military purposes eliminated the safety hazard historically associated with the structure, allowing new development of the surrounding acreage on Powder House Hill (Figure 5); real estate speculators eager to promote the area's commanding views of ocean and countryside reverted to the name Prospect Hill. From 1892 to 1894, Peter E. Clark of Beverly subdivided land on Madison Avenue abutting the Powder House lot, selling to Charles T. Young *et al.* (13 Madison Avenue); Amos B. Raymond (15 Madison Avenue); and James W. Blackmer 2nd (17R and 19 Madison Avenue), who subsequently built residences on their respective holdings. A Beverly native who manufactured shoes in Hartford, Connecticut, in the 1870s and early 1880s, Clark returned to his hometown in retirement, directing his attention to real estate investments and positions in municipal government, in which capacity he was involved in construction of the High School on Stone Street and Central Fire Station on Hale Street (both demolished). Clark also served as chairman of the Water Board [Essex South deeds, 1371:439, 1391:503, 1407:254; Clark obituary].

Above the Powder House lot, Henry W. Peabody of Salem, one of Beverly's largest land-owners, began subdividing the hill's crest and north slope in the late 1880s. Peabody had acquired about 150 acres "principally near the Montserrat Station, and including such fine property as Hibbert and Laurel Pastures, Turtle and Prospect Hills" [Ober, 748]. In 1893 he formed the Prospect Hill Syndicate with associates for development of single and double houses, advertising two electric street railways and the Beverly and Montserrat passenger depots of the Boston & Maine Railroad, all within easy walking distance. Residential development was largely complete in the first quarter of the 20th century, fueled by construction nearby of the massive plant for the United Shoe Machinery Company, 181 Elliott Street (1903–1910, BEV.AE), which would become Beverly's largest employer and one of the largest manufacturing plants in the nation [Essex South deeds, 1397:184, and plans 8:17; "Beverly Real Estate"; Beverly directory (1899); *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report*, 19, 23].

Public perception of the Powder House shifted. While the municipality had held title to the land since 1809, the structure was not noted in a list of city assets prepared in 1899. This real property list included the city hall, school buildings, the public library, cemeteries, fire stations,

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parks, streets, and water works, as well as the town armory on Thorndike Street. City Engineer William J. Berry surveyed the Powder House lot in May 1900 (Figure 6), perhaps to clarify its boundaries and the limits of the associated public way at a time of accelerating residential subdivision on Prospect Hill [*City of Beverly Municipal Document of 1899*]. The 1900 city report indicates Jacob P. Eldridge, a house painter, and George Fielder were paid for labor at the Powder House, though the nature of Fielder's work is unclear [*Beverly Powder House HSR*, 7; 1900 U. S. census].

A small, vacant, utilitarian public structure occupying an undersized lot, not clearly under the jurisdiction of a municipal department or commission, the Powder House acquired a new purpose about the turn of the 20th century, as a monument to Beverly's military past and the community's role in the early republic. Establishment of the Beverly Improvement Society (1888) and the Beverly Historical Society (1891, now Historic Beverly) fostered greater awareness of the city's historic and natural resources, spurring committee efforts to preserve them. William Morgan's *Beverly: Garden City by the Sea* (1897) and the city's *Beverly Souvenir* (1904) both included a photograph of the Powder House (Figure 7) for its historic interest.

The years preceding the tercentenary celebration of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1930) renewed attention to the Powder House's value as a historic landmark, despite its association with Beverly's Federal- rather than Plantation- or Colonial-period history. Frances Rogers Kilham (1862–1945), who resided at 8 Thorndike Street, served as chairwoman on a committee with Ruth Pope (Mrs. Ruel) and Mary Bell, reporting to the Board of Alderman in 1927 on the history and condition of the Powder House:

The little eight-sided house built on the natural stone foundation was isolated and at a distance from any dwelling house. Now it is so closely surrounded by houses that it is almost hidden. There is a town road leading up to and around it, so narrow that large trucks risk bumping into the building in making the turn at the top of the ascent . . .

We had great difficulty in getting inside, as the key was lost many years ago, but Mayor [William] Stopford came to our assistance, and gave permission for a new key to be made, and at last the committee and some of the neighbors who had never seen the inside of the house, unlocked the door, and we could look in at what no one, not even the oldest inhabitant, seemed to remember, a little vaulted roof of bricks . . .

Some bricks are missing from the roof and the whole place looks neglected and uncared for, but we found it very interesting. . . The Committee have no suggestions to make as what can be done, but feel that the building should at least be repaired and cleaned, and then kept in good condition [“Report of Committee”].

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On July 18, 1927, the Board of Alderman granted permission to the Beverly Historical Society to make repairs to the Powder House under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Works, with expenses to be borne by the society. The committee considered, then rejected, sandblasting due to the anticipated expense, noting that “most of the old Powder Houses in existence are painted white with red roof,” per a report of society vice-president George P. Brown at the organization’s quarterly meeting on April 11, 1928. Society membership voted to accept the committee report and paint the Powder House as suggested, with a red roof to be of “asbestos shingles” [Beverly Historical Society minutes]. Work to repair the Powder House was undertaken during the tenure of Katherine Peabody Loring (1849–1943), president of the Beverly Historical Society from 1918 to 1941. In that period, the organization’s preservation efforts also led to acquisition of two of its signature historic properties, the John Balch House, 448 Cabot Street (1679; BEV.185; NR 1973) and the Rev. John Hale House and Farm, 39 Hale Street (1694; BEV.108; NR 1974) [Lovett, 7–9]. Beverly’s 1930 booklet issued to celebrate the Bay Colony tercentenary included the Powder House in a list of the city’s historic points of interest [*Commemorating*].

When photographed by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1941, the Powder House displayed an asphalt-shingle roof (Figure 8); it is not clear whether the asbestos shingles planned by the Beverly Historical Society in 1927–1928 were ever installed. HABS recorded ten historic properties in Beverly in 1940 and 1941, ranging in construction year from the late 17th century (John Balch House) to the early 20th century (United Shoe Machinery Company plant). Most were historic houses, though a warehouse, garden, church pulpit, and fence were recorded in addition to the Powder House. Connections to the Beverly Historical Society are evident in some resources selected for documentation, among them the Powder House; the John Balch House; the John Cabot House and Garden, 117 Cabot Street (1781; BEV.101; NR 1975), willed to the Historical Society in 1892 and subsequently used as the society’s headquarters; and the Austin D. Kilham Garden, 8 Thorndike Street (1843; BEV.118; NR 1984), associated with the longtime residence of Frances Rogers Kilham, chairwoman of the Powder House committee.

Aside from repainting and re-roofing in the second quarter of the 20th century, the Powder House evidently was not routinely maintained. By mid-century, the structure had slipped into relative obscurity once more, thereafter known principally to the residents of the closely settled neighborhood on Prospect Hill. Roof repairs undertaken about 1998 by the city’s Public Works department stabilized the wood-frame octagonal roof, improving protection of the domed-brick chamber beneath.

Recent Preservation Activity

Study and preservation of other powder houses and magazines in Massachusetts, most recently in Marblehead, Newburyport, and Cambridge, have informed current efforts to restore the Beverly Powder House. The Beverly Heritage Project received a 2016 Essex Heritage Partnership Grant from the Essex National Heritage Area toward planning for the restoration project. The City of Beverly identified the Powder House as a historic preservation priority in its *Community*

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Preservation Plan (2017), commissioning the *Beverly Powder House Historic Structures Report (2018)* and this National Register nomination, both funded with Community Preservation Act monies.

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previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MA-583

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BEV.915

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre (0.04 acres)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.553440 Longitude: -70.875371

2. Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying City of Beverly GIS parcel map (parcel 20-567).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the property associated with the Beverly Powder House during and since the period of significance. The City of Beverly commissioned a land survey (plot plan), dated November 6, 2018 and submitted with this nomination, that corrects discrepancies in the city's GIS map and confirms the nominated parcel measures 41.25 feet by 41.25 feet with no encroaching buildings.

Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathleen Kelly Broomer, preservation consultant for the City of Beverly,
with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: (617) 727-8470
date: June 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Beverly Powder House

Name of Property

Essex County, MA

County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Beverly Powder House
City or Vicinity: Beverly
County: Essex
State: MA
Photographer: Kathleen Kelly Broomer, preservation consultant
Date Photographed: October 2018
Location of Digital Files: Massachusetts Historical Commission, 220 Morrissey
Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 12 View E from Powder House Lane. Note ventilation holes in brick walls.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0001
- 2 of 12 View NE from Madison Avenue.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0002
- 3 of 12 Rear elevations. View SW from Powder House Lane near Appleton Avenue. Adjacent house at 15 Madison Avenue in background.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0003
- 4 of 12 Entry door detail. View E.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0004
- 5 of 12 Entry opening to interior chamber. View NE.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0005
- 6 of 12 Interior detail of entry wall. View SW with adjacent house at 15 Madison Avenue in background.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0006
- 7 of 12 Right (south) side of door frame. View SE.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0007
- 8 of 12 Left (north) side of door frame. View W.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0008
- 9 of 12 View of dome from interior.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0009

Beverly Powder House

Name of Property

Essex County, MA

County and State

- 10 of 12 Interior detail showing juncture of dome with walls, and remnants of nailers for wood liner. View NE.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0010
- 11 of 12 Interior detail showing remnants of nailers and wood liner (no longer attached). View NW.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0011
- 12 of 12 Interior detail showing floor, threshold, and bolts on interior of entry door. View SW.
MA_Essex County_Beverly Powder House_0012

Figures

- 1 of 9 *Powder House, View Northeast (undated, pre-1893)*. Image courtesy of Historic Beverly.
- 2 of 9 *Powder House, View North-Northeast (undated, pre-1893)*. Image courtesy of Historic Beverly.
- 3 of 9 *Returns of the Second Division, First Brigade of the Massachusetts Militia* (Beverly extracts). Source: Town Magazine Returns, Vols. I and II, Archives-Museum, Office of the Adjutant General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 4 of 9 *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts, surveyed by Henry F. Walling (1856)*. Beverly detail, annotated to show location of Powder House north of Common, at northern edge of concentrated settlement at harbor village. Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.
- 5 of 9 *Prospect Hill - Powder House Hill Before Surrounding Residential Development (ca. 1886-1892)*. View northwest from Madison Avenue (dirt road) near Essex Street. Images courtesy of Historic Beverly.
- 6 of 9 *Plan of Powder House Lot on Prospect Hill (1900)*. Surveyed by William J. Berry, City Engineer, City of Beverly. Source: *Beverly Powder House Historic Structures Report* (2018). Image courtesy of Historic Beverly.
- 7 of 9 *Powder House on Prospect Hill (ca. 1897)*. Sources: *Beverly. Garden City by the Sea* (1897) and *City of Beverly, Massachusetts, Past and Present, Progress and Prosperity. Souvenir* (1904).

Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
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- 8 of 9 *Powder House, Powder House Hill, Beverly, Essex County, MA (1941). Source: Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress); Mass., 5-Bev, 5-1. Photographer: Frank O. Branzetti.*
- 9 of 9 *Beverly Powder House. Photo Key (see photo log for description of views).*

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

Figure 1

Powder House, View Northeast (undated, pre-1893)
Image courtesy of Historic Beverly



Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

Figure 2

Powder House, View North-Northeast (undated, pre-1893)
Image courtesy of Historic Beverly



Beverly Powder House
 Name of Property

Essex County, MA
 County and State

Figure 3

Returns of the Second Division, First Brigade of the Massachusetts Militia (Beverly extracts)

Source: Town Magazine Returns, Vols. I and II, Archives-Museum,
 Office of the Adjutant General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814
Number of men enrolled	372	350	300	450	300	278	329
Pounds of good powder fit for service	425	250	550	450	550	500	675
Pounds of ball, 18 to the pound	750	500	340	340	340	1000	655
Number of flints	700	350	624	624	624	1000	630
Number of camp kettles fit for service	20	17	13	12	13	16	13

Notes:

A reduction in ammunition stores between returns filed in September 1808 and September 1809, below the required amounts, suggests Beverly did not restock its powder house until after the new structure was completed. The Commonwealth imposed fines on towns that did not maintain the required proportion of “articles” for every 64 soldiers enrolled in the militia of the town.

As amended in 1810, the state militia act specified the weight of musket balls (“each of the eighteenth part of a pound”), increased the number of required flints “suitable for muskets” from 100 to 128 per 64 soldiers, and established additional procedures for inspections and fines.

Number of Beverly men enrolled in 1811 appears to be an inspector reporting error.

War-time increases in 1813 for pounds of ball and number of flints were reported for Salem as well.

Figure 4

A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts, surveyed by Henry F. Walling (1856)
Beverly detail, annotated to show location of Powder House north of Common,
at northern edge of concentrated settlement at harbor village
Map reproduction courtesy of the
Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library



Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

Figure 5

Prospect Hill - Powder House Hill Before Surrounding Residential Development (ca. 1886-1892)
View northwest from Madison Avenue (dirt road) near Essex Street
Images courtesy of Historic Beverly



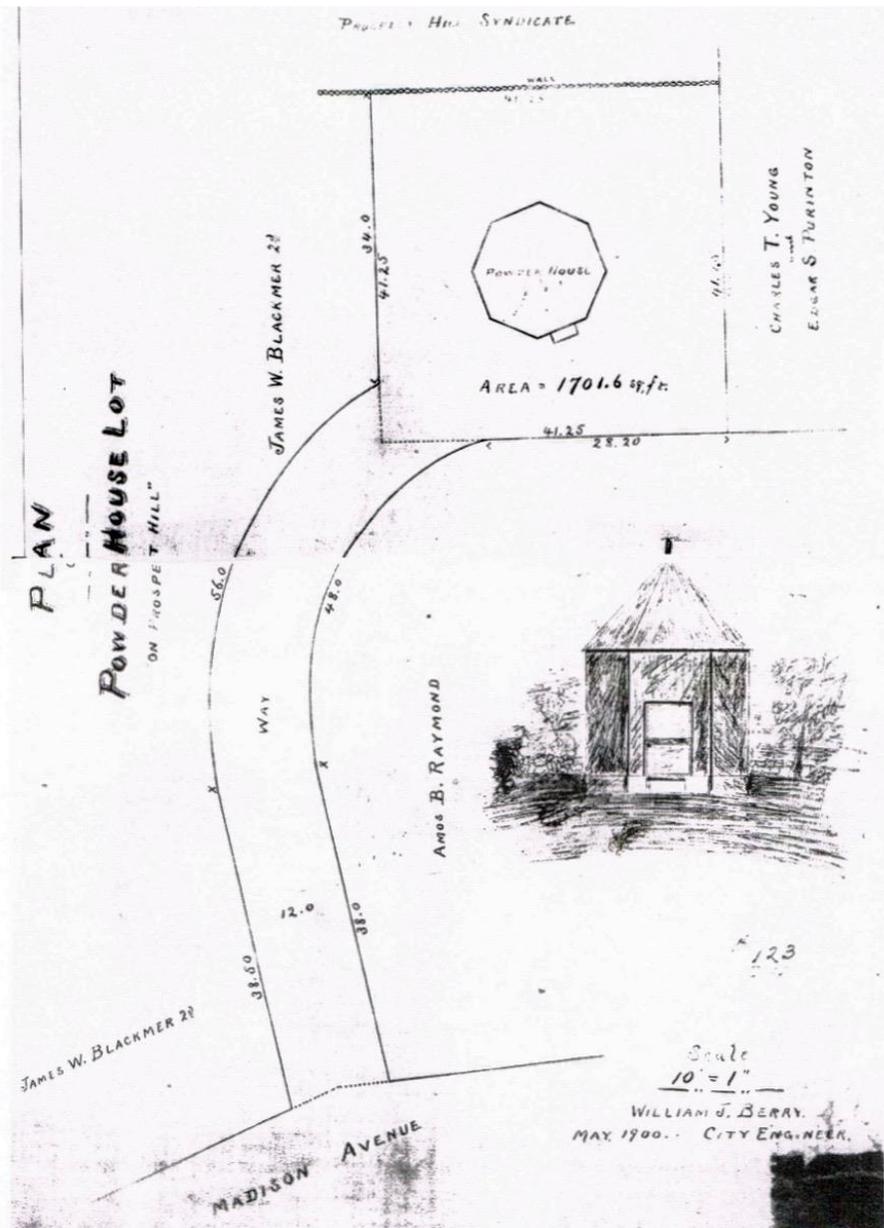
Notes:

Houses in left background are 22, 26, 30, and 32 Prospect Street (left to right). As shown, development of these properties predated the subdivision of Prospect Hill (around the Powder House).

House in right foreground on Madison Avenue is no longer extant.

Figure 6

Plan of Powder House Lot on Prospect Hill (1900)
Surveyed by William J. Berry, City Engineer, City of Beverly
Source: *Beverly Powder House Historic Structures Report* (2018)
Image courtesy of Historic Beverly



Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

Figure 7

Powder House on Prospect Hill (ca. 1897)
Sources: *Beverly. Garden City by the Sea* (1897) and
City of Beverly, Massachusetts, Past and Present, Progress and Prosperity. Souvenir (1904)



Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
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Figure 8

Powder House, Powder House Hill, Beverly, Essex County, MA (1941)
Source: Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress); Mass., 5-Bev, 5-1
Photographer: Frank O. Branzetti

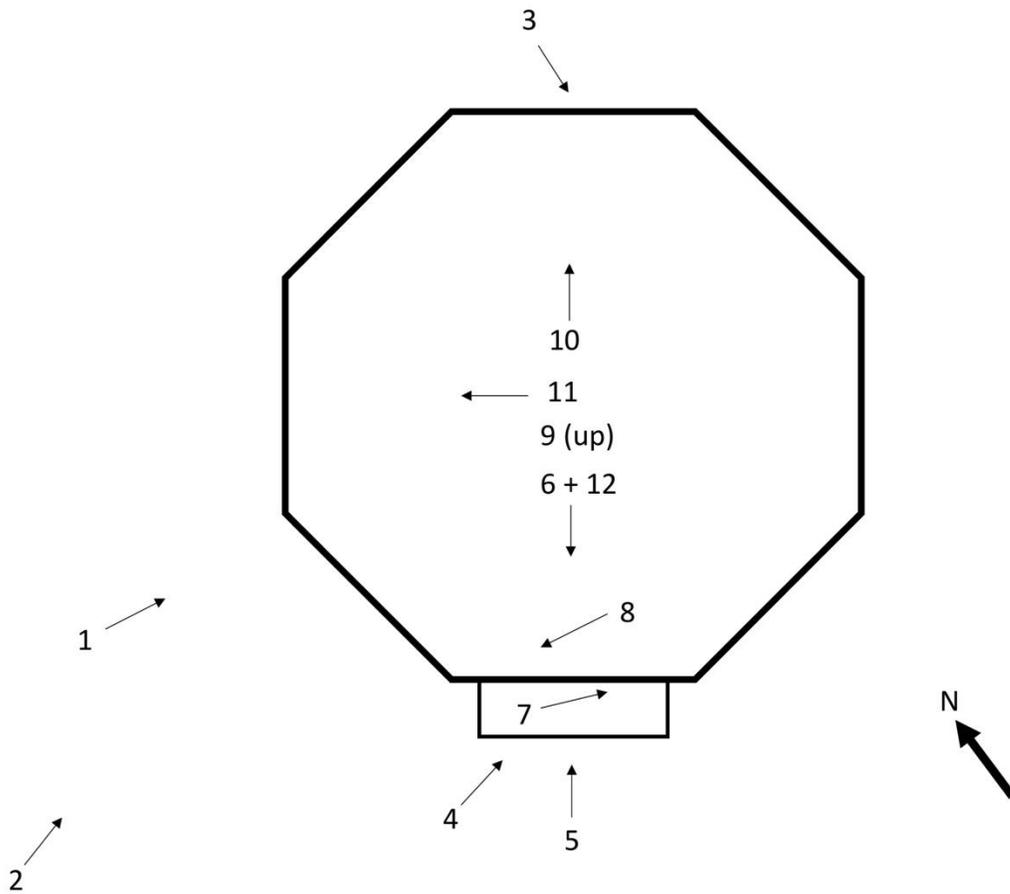


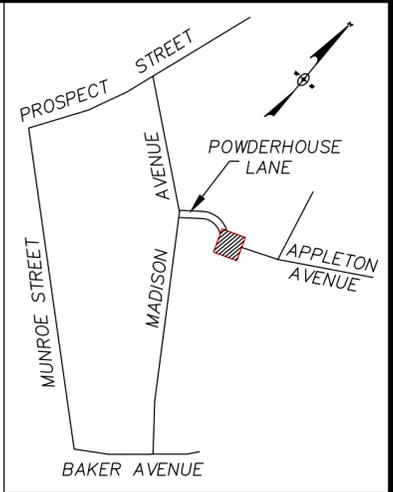
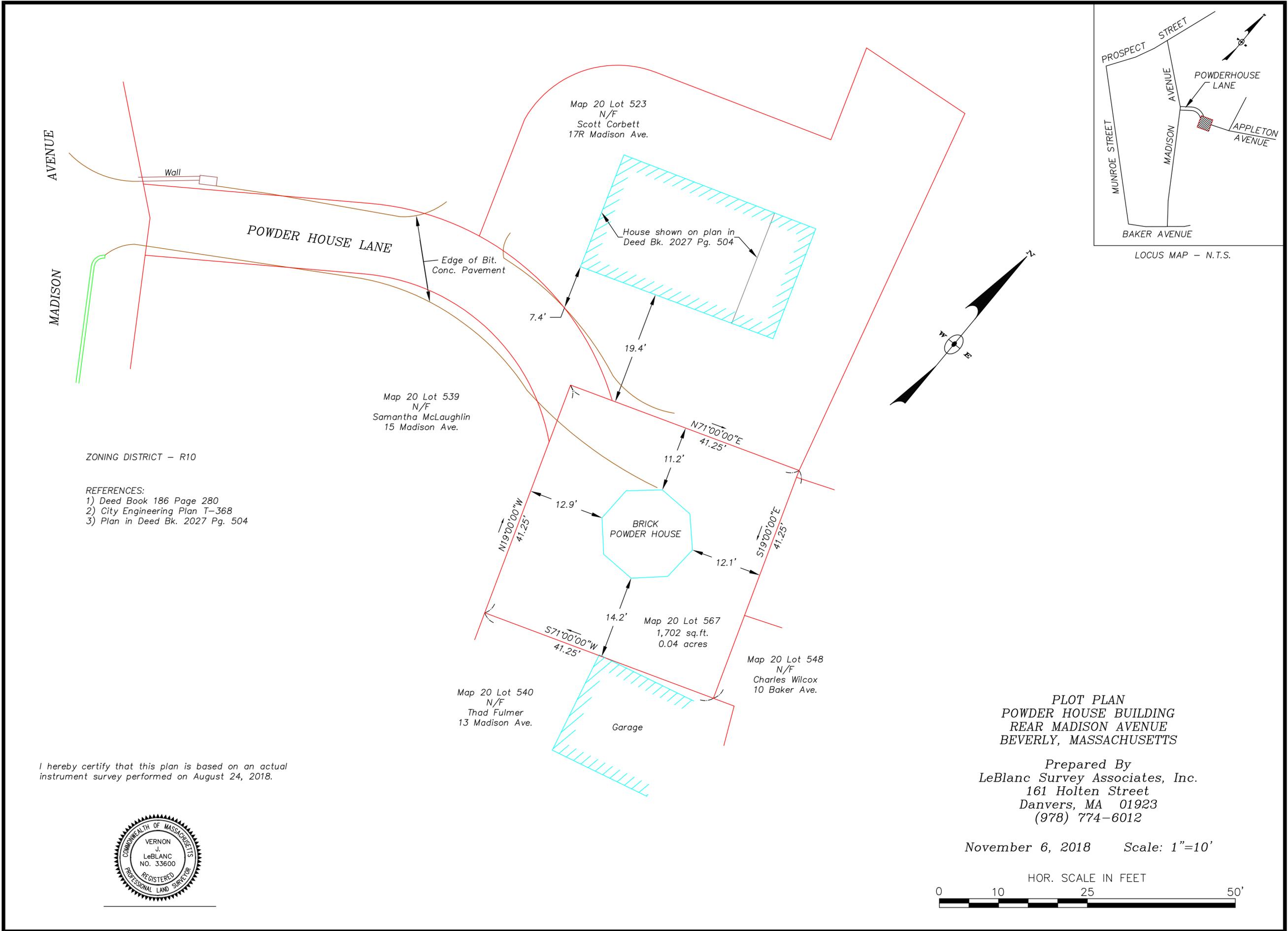
Beverly Powder House
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

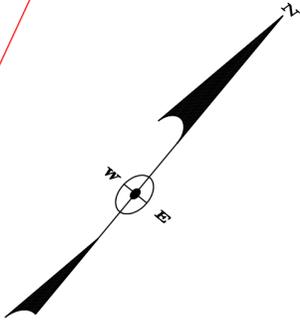
Figure 9

Beverly Powder House
Photo Key
see photo log for description of views





LOCUS MAP - N.T.S.



ZONING DISTRICT - R10

- REFERENCES:
- 1) Deed Book 186 Page 280
 - 2) City Engineering Plan T-368
 - 3) Plan in Deed Bk. 2027 Pg. 504

I hereby certify that this plan is based on an actual instrument survey performed on August 24, 2018.



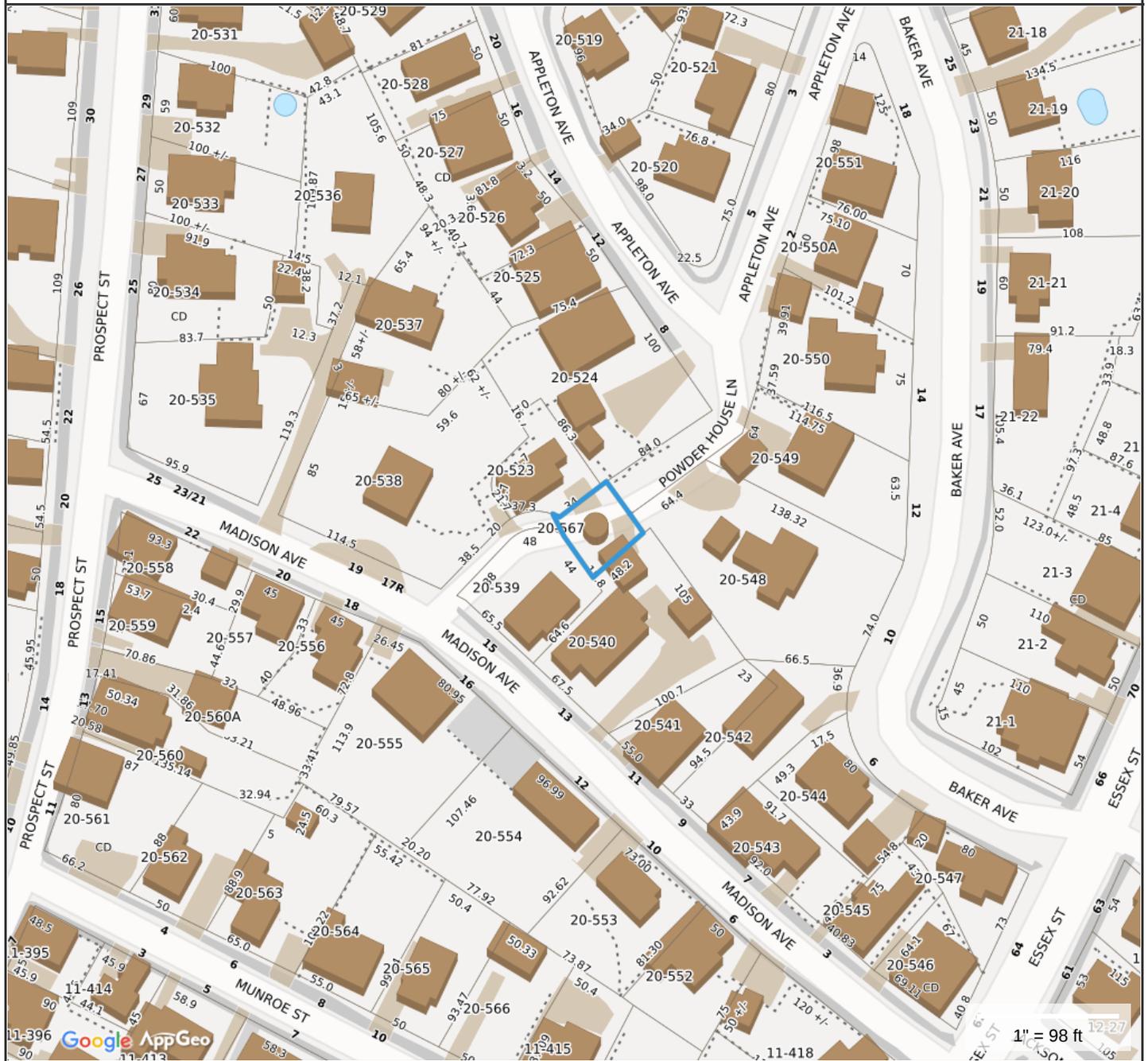
**PLOT PLAN
POWDER HOUSE BUILDING
REAR MADISON AVENUE
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS**

Prepared By
LeBlanc Survey Associates, Inc.
161 Holten Street
Danvers, MA 01923
(978) 774-6012

November 6, 2018 Scale: 1"=10'



Beverly Powder House, Rear Madison Avenue, Beverly (Essex County), MA



Property Information

Property ID 20-567
 Location REAR MADISON AVE
 Owner



**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
 NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

City of Beverly, MA makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

Geometry updated 8/1/2018
 Data updated 8/1/2018

BEVERLY POWDER HOUSE
BEVERLY (Essex Co.) MASS
SALEM QUAD 1:25000
LAT 42.553440
LONG -70.875371



Beverly Powder House, Beverly (Essex Co.), MA



1. View E from Powder House Lane.
Note ventilation holes in brick walls.



2. View NE from Madison Avenue.

Beverly Powder House, Beverly (Essex Co.), MA



3. Rear elevations. View SW from Powder House Lane near Appleton Avenue.
Adjacent house at 15 Madison Avenue in background.v



4. Entry door detail. View E.

Beverly Powder House, Beverly (Essex Co.), MA



5. Entry opening to interior chamber. View NE.



6. Interior detail of entry wall. View SW with adjacent house at 15 Madison Avenue in background.

Beverly Powder House, Beverly (Essex Co.), MA



7. Right (south) side of door frame. View SE.



8. Left (north) side of door frame. View W.

Beverly Powder House, Beverly (Essex Co.), MA



9. View of dome from interior.



10. Interior detail showing juncture of dome with walls, and remnants of nailers for wood liner. View NE.

Beverly Powder House, Beverly (Essex Co.), MA



11. Interior detail showing remnants of nailers and wood liner (no longer attached). View NW.



12. Interior detail showing floor, threshold, and bolts on interior of entry door. View SW.