



Name of Property: Mary Baker Eddy House
City, State: Lynn, MA
Period of Significance: 1875-1882
NHL Criteria: 2
NHL Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Religious Institutions
Women's History Initiative
Previous Recognition: Contributing Resource in the NR Diamond Historic District
(96001040)

National Historic Context:

NHL Significance:

- While living in this house, Eddy completed and published *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, her primary work and most important theological statement, began teaching and preaching formally, obtained charters both for the church and college she



would establish, laid the foundation for her church organization, and launched onto a trajectory that would take her to the national stage and beyond.

- By the beginning of the 20th century, the press designated her “the most famous, interesting and powerful woman in America, if not in the world, today”
- Eddy was an influential author, publishing 17 books in her lifetime, and was, and still is, noted for her groundbreaking ideas about spirituality and health.
- She is the first American woman to found an enduring worldwide religion.
- She often cited by scholars as a notable example of the emergence of women in significant leadership roles, and as one of the most effective female leaders in American history.
- Eddy also established a newspaper—*The Christian Science Monitor*. It has won multiple Pulitzer prizes, and continues to maintain a strong print and online presence.

Integrity:

- The house’s association with Eddy can be readily understood because of the close parallels between the existing historic structure and the extensive documentation from Eddy’s time.
- Located on its original foundation, the house retains the architectural form, appearance and character dating to its construction shortly before Eddy’s purchase.
- The Italianate design features the full range of historic detailing characteristic of the style and common to some other buildings in the district. These distinctive Victorian elements are emphasized by the re-created polychromatic palette.
- Both Broad Street and the district as a whole retain numerous examples of buildings from the era, providing a convincing setting representative of the late 19th century, even with the 20th-century demolition of a handful of the closest houses.
- A non-obtrusive ADA entrance that meets the Secretary of Interior’s Standards was added out of the main site line from the corner of Broad Street and Broad Street Place.

Owner of Property: Longyear Museum

Acreage of Property: .255

Origins of Nomination: This nomination was initiated by the National Park Service as part of the Women’s History Theme Study

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: This nomination fills important gaps in the role of women contributing to significant institutions and movements in the United States.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of November 5, 2020):



National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Identified issues regarding information about the earliest preservation projects for an individual that was a woman which will be addressed in the revised nomination.

National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Mary Baker Eddy House in Lynn, Massachusetts, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: