

**LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE
PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT CHECKLIST**

City of New Bedford
Mechanics Lane District
November 24, 2021

PRELIMINARY REPORT REQUIRED SECTIONS	Checklist
<p>Summary Sheet A summary sheet should be included as part of the preliminary study report. The summary sheet should include contact information (such as the chairperson’s name, address and phone number), the names of the study committee members, the expected date of the public hearing, the expected date of the town meeting/city council vote and the total number of properties included in the proposed local historic district.</p>	X
<p>Introduction The introduction should explain what an historic district is, why it is needed and how it will be benefit the community.</p>	X
<p>Methodology The methodology should explain when the LHDSC was created, how the LHDSC chose this area for consideration, how the residents and property owners of the district and town were involved in this process, how the inventory was used and how the historic district will help to address loss of resources. This section should also describe when the public hearing will be held and when the district will be proposed at town meeting.</p>	X
<p>Significance The significance section should provide a clear and concise explanation of the historical significance of the district. While a brief history of the area can be included here, this section should state why this area is significant in its contemporary form. This section should also very briefly describe each property by street address. This would include a brief summary of historical information about the property as well architectural information on the existing structures. If an inventory form is present, then the address should include the inventory form number as well.</p>	X
<p>Justification of the Boundaries This section should explain how the LHDSC determined where the boundaries of the proposed district should be. This section should clarify why the proposed district is not larger or smaller.</p>	X
<p>Options and Recommendations for the Ordinance or Bylaw This section should explain why the LHDSC is recommending the draft bylaw. This should include an explanation on how and why the bylaw is including the following items: membership on the historic district commission, what exemptions are included and what the appeal process should be.</p>	X
<p>Map The map should very clearly demonstrate the boundaries of the district, preferably on an Assessors map. The map should include street names, a north arrow, scale, title, date and legend. If there is a National Register District already present, a separate map should include both boundaries for comparison purposes. If it is a local historic district expansion, the map should include existing boundaries and proposed boundaries on one map.</p>	X
<p>Property Index The property index is a simple list of all properties in the proposed district by street address. The index should include the street addresses and the total number of properties included in the proposed district. The property index or a separate index should include whether each property has an inventory form, the date of construction if known, the historic name of the property if any and the architectural style.</p>	X
<p>Ordinance or Bylaw The proposed ordinance or bylaw should be included. The ordinance or bylaw may be based on examples provided by MHC.</p>	X
<p>Inventory Forms or Photographs The preparation of inventory forms for all properties in the proposed district is highly recommended but not required. If an inventory form is not present or will not be prepared, a current black and white photograph should be included for each property.</p>	X
<p>Slides At least six labeled slides that demonstrate the overall character and context of the proposed district should be included.</p>	X

PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT
PROPOSED MECHANICS LANE LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
New Bedford, Massachusetts



REPORT PREPARATION
Anne Louro, Preservation Planner
New Bedford Historical Commission



Department of City Planning

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SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information: Anne Louro, Preservation Planner
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Study Committee: **New Bedford Historical Commission**
Diana Henry, Chair William King, Vice Chair
William Barr Jennifer Carloni
Janine da Silva Alex Jardin
James Lopes Jennifer Smith
Anna Surma

Date of Public Hearing: The Public Hearing will be held on February 7, 2022.

Date of City Council Vote: After the Public Hearing, the final report will be drafted incorporating comments from the Planning Board, MHC and the community. This final report will be submitted to the New Bedford City Council for consideration. There exists Standing Committees to the City Council and the Study Committee anticipates that the matter will be sent to the City Council Ordinance Committee for review. The City Council meets monthly, and it is anticipated that the issue will be considered at their March 24, 2022 meeting.

Total Properties: There are a total of 30 parcels within the proposed local historic district, including one vacant parcel and two paved parking lots.

Conclusion: The proposed designation of the Mechanics Lane Local Historic District will ensure that this unique and cohesive group of properties are recognized for their historic and architectural significance, protected from adverse and irreversible alterations, and that future redevelopment will be consistent with the historic character of the setting. Based on the high degree of integrity retained within the proposed district and the support and advocacy by the residents this area merits consideration as a local historic district.

INTRODUCTION

New Bedford's rich history is represented by its built environment which includes a diverse collection of buildings, objects, burial grounds and landscapes which provide a valuable material record of the history of New Bedford and significantly enhances the quality of life in the city. These historic resources, which are located throughout the city, establish community character and identity, and in large part define what is unique about New Bedford.

The city values its heritage and has long established policies that encourage the utilization of historic preservation as part of a comprehensive revitalization strategy that serves to maintain and enhance the unique character of the city. New Bedford is proudly home to seven National Historic Landmarks and currently has fifteen National Register Districts which range in diversity from parks and textile mill complexes to industrial power plants and residential neighborhoods. The city has one local historic district, protected and regulated by Mass General Law 40C, which shares its boundaries with the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

In the fall of 2016, prompted by residents' interest, the New Bedford Historic Commission (NBHC) identified the Mechanics' Lane neighborhood as potentially eligible for designation as a local historic district. The NBHC voted to pursue the study of the Mechanics' Lane neighborhood and designated itself as the study committee as prescribed under M.G.L. Ch. 40C Section 3.

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS (LHD)

Local historic district designation is a longstanding and widely used tool for historic preservation in over 120 cities and towns in Massachusetts, as well as throughout the country. The first LHD in the United States was designated in Charleston, South Carolina in 1931 and the first LHD appeared in Massachusetts on Beacon Hill and Nantucket in 1955. Shortly thereafter, in 1960, the state legislature passed the Historic Districts Act: Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40C, to allow communities to protect areas that were of special significance to their heritage and granting to municipalities the power to establish and govern their own LHDs within overall guidelines.

Local Historic Districts have three main purposes:

- To preserve and protect the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places significant to the history of the Commonwealth's cities and towns;
- To maintain and improve the settings of those buildings and places;
- To encourage compatibility with existing buildings when new buildings are planned in the districts.

The New Bedford Historic Commission (NBHC) oversees the City's single existing local historic district, the Bedford-Landing Waterfront District, established in 1971, and works with property owners within this district to preserve the architectural integrity of their historic buildings. Governed by M.G.L. Ch. 40C and Chapter 2, Article XI, of the City of New Bedford Code of Ordinances, the NBHC reviews the architectural appropriateness of most proposed exterior design changes to the district's properties. There is no review of interior features. In addition, a variety of exterior features are often exempt such as paint, air conditioning units, storm doors, storm windows, and temporary structures.

Historic District Commissions do not prevent changes from occurring within an LHD, nor do they seek to prevent new construction. Their purpose is to allow for the thoughtful consideration of change and to ensure that changes and additions are harmonious with the architectural integrity of the historic buildings. Historic District Commissions also seek to prevent the introduction of incongruous elements that might distract from the district's overall aesthetic and historic character. When properly established and administered, a local historic district is not unduly burdensome to property owners and, indeed, can enhance property values by mutually assuring similar care will be taken in the review of alterations to all properties in the district.

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS VS. NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICTS

There is a substantial difference between local historic district designations versus National Register listing. While listing in the National Register of Historic Places indicates historical importance, it is primarily an honorary recognition that provides little protection from incongruous changes or demolition of significant structures. In contrast, a local historic district, designated by a local ordinance, offers the strongest form of protections for the preservation and retention of the historic character of buildings, streetscapes, and neighborhoods from inappropriate alterations and incompatible new construction, as well as outright demolition.

METHODOLOGY

The City of New Bedford has an existing Historic District Bylaw within Chapter 2, Article XI, of the City's Code of Ordinances, and currently has a single designated local historic district, the Bedford-Landing Waterfront District, which shares its boundaries with the new Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. The New Bedford Historical Commission (NBHC) has the powers and duties of a Historic District Commission and is responsible for administering the Bedford Landing Waterfront Historic District and overseeing the creation of any new districts in the city. The City's Historic Preservation Planner, Anne Louro, serves as staff support to the NBHC for the proposed Mechanics' Lane District.

In the fall of 2016, prompted by residents' interest, the NBHC established itself as the Local Historic District Study Committee and directed the Preservation Planner to begin the research of Mechanics' Lane and its buildings, commence the study report for the local historic district designation and conduct neighborhood meetings to gauge support for the designation.

Preliminary research for this report derives from the 2007 Amended County Street National Register District nomination form, local historic studies, existing historic resource inventory forms, deed and tax records, along with review of historic maps, historic images, atlases and city directories.

A Mechanics' Lane neighborhood informational meeting was held in October 2016 to discuss the proposed district and to answer residents' questions. The neighborhood's Ward Councilor was informed of the initiative and also provided support. Based on the positive response from the residents of the neighborhood and the support of the Ward Councilor, the process of establishing an LHD continued, and information was placed on the city's website. Field survey and property research was conducted for the purposes of updating inventory forms to be included in study report and for the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) database.

As required by M.G.L. Chapter 40C, the NBHC will submit this Preliminary Study Report to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and the New Bedford Planning Board for their consideration. Following receipt of comment from the MHC and the Planning Board, the NBHC anticipates holding a public hearing in winter 2022. Based on comments received during the hearing, the NBHC will revise and complete the Final Study Report for the Mechanics' Lane District for consideration by the City Council.

SIGNIFICANCE

OVERVIEW

The proposed Mechanic’s Lane Local Historic District, named aptly for a small alley way which is the centerpiece of the district, is a small cohesive group of mostly residential properties constructed in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Mechanics Lane itself, is characterized by the concentration of laborers who resided there and is a distinctive concentration of working-class houses located just west of City Hall. The 1836 Directory refers to this alley way as both Mechanics Lane and Mechanics Row and it first appears in an 1834 map of New Bedford Village. Originally this narrow lane ran from County Street east to Purchase Street; but only the block between North Sixth and Eighth Streets remains intact. It contains dwellings of more modest scale where tradesmen and mechanics worked and resided on the fringe of New Bedford’s active and noisy center, in the shadow of downtown churches and public buildings. This is a dense neighborhood, which during antebellum times was populated by both blacks and whites whose range of occupants—bakers, a stone cutter, shipwrights, housewrights, laborers, mariners, and several clerks, resided and walked to their places of work.

MECHANIC TERM

The modern definition of “mechanic” is a person who maintains and repairs automobiles. However, the origin of the term can be traced back to the Greek root *mekhanikos*, or engineer; and in the nineteenth century commonly referred to a laborer or person who worked with their hands.

The tradesmen, craftsmen and operatives of the numerous industries established within the growing seaport were commonly referred to as “mechanics”. Mechanics were in such abundance and were responsible for such a broad segment of industry during the nineteenth century in New Bedford that the name was attached to such institutions such as the Mechanic’s National Bank, the Mechanics Insurance Company, as well as a hotel, a textile mill, a wharf, a fire engine company, a whaling vessel and one of the city’s first entertainment venues, Mechanic’s Hall.



1858 Mechanics Bank One Dollar Note

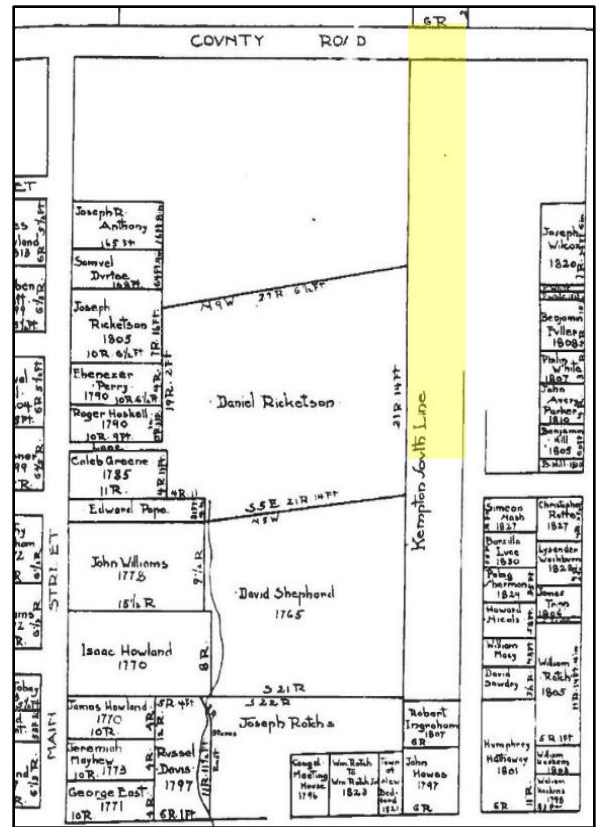
The New Bedford Mechanic’s Association was formed in 1833 and its officers were comprised of both mechanics and prominent citizens. According to the listing in the 1838 City Directory, the President of the Association was Jonathan Ward, a baker, and the Vice President was Dudley Davenport, a housewright and lumber dealer. The Treasurer and Recording Secretary was Benjamin Congdon, who was the Register of Deeds, and William H. Allen, who had vast whaling interests. This mix of social classes within the Mechanic’s Association reinforces the integration of the population which existed in early nineteenth century New Bedford.

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the land now occupied by Mechanics Lane consisted primarily of meadows and forest. Joseph Russell III (1719-1806), owned a large tract of land on the west bank of the Acushnet River in the settlement of Old Dartmouth, which was part of the Plymouth colonists’ 1652 purchase from the Wampanoag Tribe. Russell’s farmhouse was located on the crest of a hill on County Street and extended eastward to the waterfront. Around 1760, Russell drew up a plan for a village on the lower portion of his land and laid out a grid of perpendicular paths and ways and began a small-scaled whale fishery.

This small, yet unnamed village, with its deep harbor and Russell’s vision, attracted Joseph Rotch, a prominent Nantucket whaling merchant, in 1765 to initially purchase a ten-acre lot from Russell and transfer his whaling investments to the fledgling village. Rotch’s additional land purchases, capital investment and whaling expertise soon led to the rapid development and success of the whaling industry and the burgeoning growth of the village. Rotch and his family’s prominence in the development of the village allowed Rotch to name the community Bedford Village, a tribute to Joseph Russell, who shared the surname of the Duke of Bedford. The village became incorporated as New Bedford in 1787; the “New” being added to distinguish the village from Bedford, which was already established in northeast Massachusetts.

Early maps depict clusters of settlement and buildings along the waterfront, with several wharves, while there was relatively little settlement westward along the hillcrest on County Street. Both commercial and residential structures were intermingled close to the waterfront, with little social segregation, as wealthy merchants and laborers worked and lived within proximity to one another.



Original Purchasers of the Lots of New Bedford: 1753-1815 with approximate location of “twenty foot way” highlighted.

In 1790 Daniel Ricketson, who was engaged in whaling, for the sum of 180 pounds, purchased 3-1/2 acres of land from his father in law, Joseph Russell. Included in this acreage was a “twenty foot way” that ultimately became Mechanics’ Lane.

By the end of the eighteenth century, as the worldwide demand for whale products increased, New Bedford’s whaling industry continued to grow. Between 1775 and 1795, the population had doubled from 500 to 1000 residents. By 1800, the town’s population had quadrupled, reflecting the enormous growth of whaling and its shore side support industries.

In response to the population and commercial growth, expansion of streets and thoroughfares occurred. The streets between County Street and the waterfront became filled with tradesmen employed by the whaling industry. There were shipbuilders, bakers of hardtack, coopers making casks for whale oil, caulkers, ropewalks, carpenters, sailmakers, riggers and shipwrights. In 1847, New Bedford would be incorporated as a city and by 1857 the whaling industry would reach its peak. During this period of great prosperity in the first half of the nineteenth century, the settlement pattern of the whaling merchants changed markedly, with the construction of imposing mansions along the hillcrest of County Street, representing the gradual climb of wealth and status from the low-lying working waterfront.

The enormous wealth derived from whaling led to New Bedford becoming one of the richest per capita cities in the world. However, this success was not limited to the great merchant families; rather, it was widely distributed among the various support industries that rode the crest of New Bedford’s wave of prosperity. New Bedford’s continued increase in population during the first half of the nineteenth century contributed to a growing body of skilled craftsmen in support industries, as well as clerks and operatives in administrative and processing operations that comprised the majority of the city’s working class. While the merchant families who controlled the whaling trade and much of the affiliated processing industries held most of the wealth, most laborers were able to buy or rent modest scale homes within the waterfront area.

A review of the City Directories reveals the industries and occupations in which the residents of Mechanics Lane worked as well as the turnover of those who rented properties, which often served as boarding houses. For example, the 1849 Directory has five listings for various laborers residing at 69 Mechanics Lane; four male laborers and Elizabeth Hines, a widow. A comparison between the Directory listings from 1849 and 1859, the height of prosperity of the whaling industry, demonstrates rental turn over; yet shows retention of the same type of occupations of the people residing on Mechanics Lane, such as coopers, blacksmiths, bakers and general laborers.

The buildings along Mechanics Lane were also utilized for businesses, many of which were concentrated along the eastern portion between Pleasant and Purchase Streets, no longer intact. However, the 1836 Directory shows housewrights Bradford Pierce and Barzillia Luce operating their businesses out of 71 Mechanics Lane and 75 Mechanics Lane respectively.

The most impressive house situated on Mechanics Lane was constructed at 64 Mechanics Lane circa 1830 by Niles Tilden on land he purchased from Daniel and Joseph Ricketson. Tilden operated a cigar manufacturing business nearby in the Village and he also purchased the parcel of land adjacent to the west of his residence on which he built a small house for his mother, Rebecca Tilden. Both properties remained within the family as residences until 1914.



Early 20th century aerial image capturing the north side of William Street and the south side of Mechanics Lane with the First Baptist and First Universalist Churches.

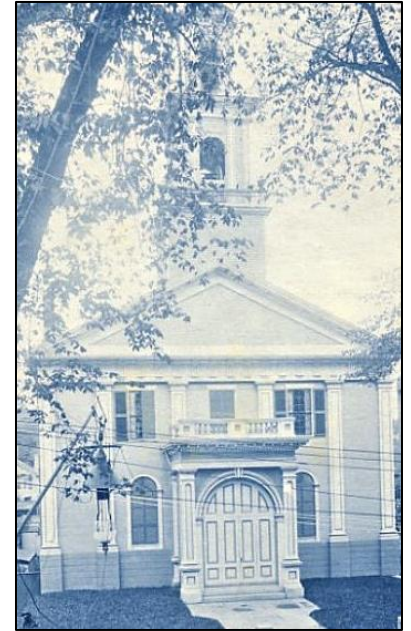
The buildings constructed during the nineteenth century on the streets adjacent to Mechanics Lane, and within the proposed district, generally reflect similar building types and use patterns which existed on Mechanics Lane with some exceptions. The residences situated on the south side of Elm Street were constructed in the same time period as those on Mechanics Lane, albeit at a slightly larger scale. These houses reflect Federal and Greek Revival styling and were used primarily as residences, boarding houses, and in certain instances, places of business, throughout the nineteenth century.

Several merchants resided on Elm Street with their business located nearby. In 1838, Joseph Lawrence (Hamblin & Lawrence Boots and Shoe) resided at 96 Elm Street with his business within walking distance on Union Street. In 1849, merchant tailor Benjamin C. Ward resided at 90 Elm Street with his shop also located nearby on Union Street. According to the City Directories, the property at 98 Elm Street was the residence of Master Mariner Edward Coggeshall in 1849 and was then home to Master Mariner Giles Winslow in 1874. The City Directories demonstrate that many of the residences along Elm Street also took in boarders.

The portion of William Street within the proposed District developed in a slightly different manner from Mechanics Lane and Elm Street, as it was the thoroughfare which led directly to the City Hall and Market Square. In the early part of the nineteenth century several residences were constructed on William Street along with a mix of institutional uses.

According to author Daniel Ricketson, whose family owned the land in which the proposed district is situated, this section of William Street was once described as an area of broad meadows with adjacent woods. He noted that William Street was opened about 1820-1823 and the first parcel of homestead land sold by his father Joseph was to merchant Oliver Crocker who built his substantial residence on the southwest corner of William and Sixth Streets.

The First Baptist congregation constructed their church in 1829 on the north side of William Street on a lot of land that abutted Mechanics Lane to its rear. The First Baptist Church of New Bedford was formed in 1813 and by 1827 the congregation had outgrown two previous locations and sought a lot on which to construct a substantial building for public worship, said to have been built at a cost of \$9,000, primarily raised through the sale of pews. Constructed in the Greek Revival style, the church originally had a full width columned portico in the front with three entrance doors.



Early 20th century image of First Baptist Church

Throughout the years church membership has included prominent local residents and the Firsts Baptist's steeple is the only extant steeple depicted in the 1847 designed City Seal. The church has national and international significance due to its history in the creation of Parliamentary Procedure. The national and international significance comes from one of its members, Lt. Henry Martyn Robert, achieving world-wide acclaim for creating "Robert's Rules of Order" which have been adopted as the standard for parliamentary procedures due to his experience moderating a disorderly meeting held at the church.

Directly to the west of the First Baptist Church at 161 William Street is a building which was moved to this location in 1836. Originally the vestry house to the Congregational Society on Purchase Street, upon its relocation it adopted a new use as the High School with John F. Emerson as its Principal. The 1838 Directory lists a Select School for Young Ladies operating from the building, and in later years it became Emerson's residence.

The First Universalist Church was constructed at 169 William Street in 1855 in the Italianate style. Lack of membership caused the congregation to dissolve in 1932 and subsequently several congregations occupied the building, including the Pilgrim Church from 1933 to 1968, the Temple Sinai from 1968 to 1977 and the Frederick Douglass A.M.E. Zion Church from 1979 to 1994. The church is currently used as an art gallery.

A portion of the east side of Eighth Street was owned by the prominent Rotch family and it appears that brothers Benjamin S. and William J. Rotch constructed several buildings at which neither lived. The Rotch brothers both graduated from Harvard and partnered in several business enterprises. In 1852, at the age of 33, William J. Rotch was elected Mayor of New Bedford, being the second person to hold that office after the City's incorporation.

Sometime prior to 1846 the Rotch brothers constructed a two-story granite building at 150 Eighth Street, on the northeast corner of Eighth Street and Mechanics Lane. In 1846 the brothers sold the property to Benjamin Almy, a cooper who had established his own shop on Hamilton Street, near the waterfront. The building was originally constructed with a pitched roof and altered sometime in the late 1870's by Almy to reflect the Second Empire style with the addition of a third floor,

mansard roof, bracketed cornices and ornate dormers. The central dormer on Eighth Streets boasts Benjamin Almy's initials. The 1849 City Directory shows that Almy also housed his apprentice Frederick Soule at his residence. Benjamin Almy and his wife Sophia lived in the house until they both died in 1892.



Another building constructed by the Rotch brothers exists at 179 William Street, on the northeast corner of William and Eighth Streets. Built sometime prior to 1849 in the Greek

Revival style and altered most likely in the 1870's with strong Italianate additions, the property was originally leased for a ten year period and then sold by the

Rotch brothers in 1859 to Dr. William A. Gordon, who lived there and operated his medical practice. In 1866, Dr. Gordon sold the property to George H. Dunbar who was Mayor of the city in 1857 and again in 1873.

Mid-20th century image of the Almy House on the east side of Eighth Street at Mechanics Lane

ARCHITECTURE

The majority of the buildings within the proposed district were built between 1830 and 1860, prior to the Civil War and during the height of the city's whaling boom. There has been a certain degree of loss due to demolition or redevelopment, as well the addition of a few twentieth century buildings; but overall, the proposed district, and particularly Mechanics Lane, is characterized by a high level of integrity of well-preserved early to mid-nineteenth century residential and institutional buildings.

All the buildings within the proposed district are contributing properties to the County Street and Central New Bedford National Register Districts and most retain original historic fabric with the exception of a few additions of artificial siding. Although small in stature, the houses on Mechanics Lane are exemplary examples of the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture popular in the early to mid-nineteenth century. The streetscape along Mechanics Lane was reinstated approximately twenty years ago with the use of Belgian block pavers on the roadway, bluestone for the sidewalk and gas - style lanterns for street lighting.

Federal Style

The Federal, or often referred to as the "Adam" style was dominant from 1780 to 1820, although locally this form of Neo-Classical architecture extended until the 1830's. Typically, a Federal style house is a simple square or rectangular box, two or three stories high, two rooms deep with doors and windows arranged symmetrically. Exterior decoration in the Federal style is generally confined to a porch or entry element.

Generally, within the District, the Federal period buildings are a mix of one and two-story wood-frame dwellings with either granite and/or brick foundations, side-gable roofs, symmetrical, three or five-bay facades with wood clapboard and/or wood shingle siding. Along Mechanics Lane, several of the residences are situated with their gable end facing the street due to the narrow lot sizes. Entrances, which are centered in the five-bay facades and shifted to one side in three-bay facades, have distinct entablatures and in some cases have transoms. Most of these period homes have elevated foundations with entrances to allow for additional living space on the basement level.

The Federal Style residences located on Elm Street have been altered with replacement siding and windows but retain their form along the street's edge. Only one residence along Mechanics Lane has had its siding replaced and several properties retain their 19th century window sashes.

Representative Examples

The most distinctive Federal style residence is situated at 64 Mechanics Lane and was constructed by the Lane's most prosperous resident, Niles Tilden, who owned and operated a cigar manufacturing business. This is a two and one-half story wood frame dwelling elevated on a stone & brick basement with a gable roof and wood clapboard siding. The three bay front façade has its entrance shifted to the east side and it has a distinctive entablature with rosettes, a diamond pane transom above an octagonal seven paneled door, framed by paneled pilasters with a Greek Key motif. The windows consist of six over six original wood sashes with splayed wood headers.

Across the street at 63 Mechanics Lane, the ca. 1830 Lydia Macy Russell House is a one and one-half story wood frame dwelling elevated on a stone & brick basement with a gable roof and a combination wood clapboard and shingle siding. Built as a five bay "Cape Cod" house, it has low eaves with little ornamentation except for the centered six paneled door with sidelights framed by deeply paneled pilasters and an entablature. The windows consist of six over six wood sashes which appear to be replacements on the first story with retention of the original window sashes on the upper story. An end chimney exists on the east facade of the residence and an entrance to the basement exists on this façade as well.

Greek Revival Style

Greek Revival was the dominant style of domestic architecture between 1830 and 1850 and due to its widespread use, became known as the "American" style. Based on ancient Greek forms and celebrated Greek democratic principles, the form generally featured a columned portico supporting a triangular pediment, similar to a Greek temple.

By 1830, the Greek Revival style was beginning to find expression in New Bedford's architecture, and it is a style that has become closely identified with the city's whaling era, however the transition within the Neoclassical style was slow, as historian Kathryn Grover attributes this to the conservative nature of the Quaker community. Major shifts in style align with generational progression, as each new generation sought to separate themselves from their parents.

Representative Examples

The earliest example of the Greek Revival style within the proposed district is the 1829 First Baptist Church at 149 William Street. Adopting what would become known as the "National Style", the two story wood frame church was constructed utilizing the Doric Order with its classical gable pediment facing the street and the presence of a three stage bell tower. The pediment includes a wide entablature with triglyphs within the frieze and accompanying mutules in the cornice. Two story pilasters are present on the front façade terminating at what was originally an open portico. Early sketches show that the church had three arched entrances from the open portico, with a centered entrance enclosure added circa 1857. The side entrances were enclosed with shutters and the center entrance was enclosed with an Italianate vestibule in 1856, which extends outward from the façade and consists of double paneled doors with an arched surround framed by pilasters and an entablature with dentils and modillions in the cornice. The windows consist of the original twelve over twelve paned wood sashes with splayed lintels. The granite foundation was subsequently raised to allow for a full basement level and the wood clapboard structure extends seven bays back from its front facade to abut Mechanics Lane. The side and back facades are unadorned with only mutules found in the cornice soffits. The church was constructed with a typical New England style steeple consisting of a tower and a square belfry with pilasters and an octagonal lantern topped with a simple hipped roof and weathervane depicting an octopus. Early sketches and late nineteenth century images show that a balustrade existed on the tower and the steeple did not have a spire but had a dome which was lost to a hurricane and replaced with a hipped roof. In 1928, a simple two story, yellow brick Educational Building with a slate roof was attached to the rear portion of the west façade of the church building.

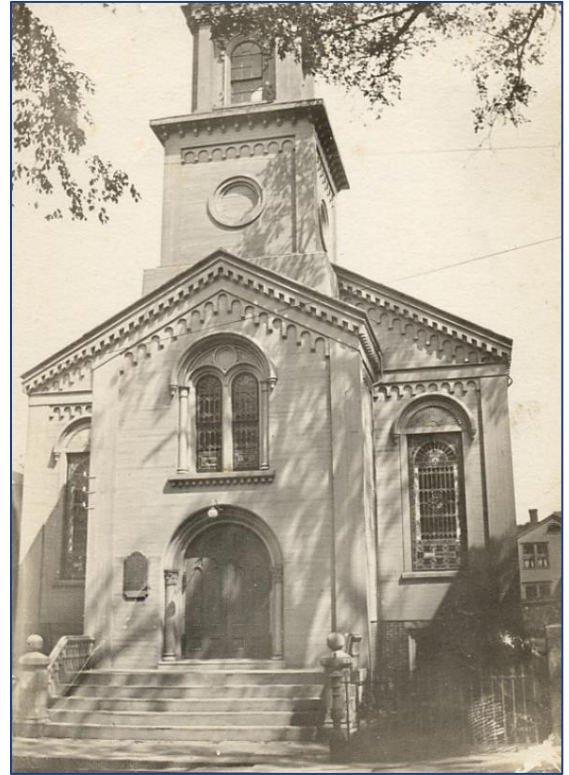
Examples of later period Greek Revival buildings also exist on William Street. The building at 175 William Street was constructed sometime prior to 1849, as Perry Brownell, a mason, was listed in that year's Directory as residing at that location. Rising from a granite foundation, it is a two and one-half story, three-bay, wood clapboard, gable end residence with its entrance shifted to the west. The entrance has a later addition of a portico and the windows surrounds are simple, and the original sashes replaced. The building's classical form is distinguished by its wide paneled Doric corner pilasters and its wide frieze band which is discontinuous on the gable end.

ITALIANATE STYLE

The Italianate Style was dominant in America from 1850 to 1880 and was a prominent style in New Bedford post antebellum when large Italian style villas were constructed along County Street; however, within the proposed district most of the house lots had been built upon by this period of significance, with the exception of the First Universalist Church which constructed its place of worship in the Italianate style on an available narrow lot on William Street.

Representative Example

The First Universalist Church was organized in New Bedford in 1835 with its first church building located at School and Fifth Streets. The congregation constructed the new church on William Street in 1855 as a tall one story wood frame rectangular building with a front gable roof and the presence of a three stage bell tower. It has a three bay façade with the center bay entrance slightly lower in height and projecting from the main façade. The building is distinguished by its arched double door entrance set in a recessed arched opening flanked by engaged columns and it is surmounted by ornate paired stain glass windows with engaged columns and an arched molded crown. The entry is flanked by two arched stained glass windows in arched frames. The gables have decorative vergeboards with dentil molding and arches.



19th century image of First Universalist Church

TWENTIETH CENTURY BUILDINGS

Several nineteenth century wood-framed buildings were demolished to accommodate two early twentieth century commercial buildings within the proposed district. In 1925 a two story brick and concrete auto garage and salesroom was constructed at 35-37 North Sixth Street filling in the entire block between



Mid- 20th century image of 35-37 North Sixth Street

Mechanics Lane and Elm Street. In 1977 the building was adapted for residential use including a commercial storefront on the corner of Mechanics Lane.

In 1929 a two story brick commercial building was constructed at 163 William Street where a wood framed building once stood. The seven bay buff colored brick building has a centered entrance which is flanked by display windows with transoms. It currently is a mixed-use building with commercial space on the first floor and residential use above.



163 William Street Commercial Building

ALTERED BUILDINGS

Although most of the structures within the proposed district are well preserved and have retained their historic fabric and integrity, there are several buildings which have replaced material elements or have experienced alterations. An assessment of integrity finds that individually, and certainly as a whole, the properties within the proposed district retain sufficient physical features and characteristics to enable them to convey their historic identity and association to New Bedford's nineteenth century neighborhood development.

For example, the Nathan E. Hammett House at 168 Eighth Street has had its portico enclosed with an aluminum and glass enclosure and its building materials replaced, yet still conveys its circa 1850 Gothic Revival form and possesses its original location, design, setting, and feeling. Together these features convey the property's historic character.



Nathan E. Hammett House Before and After

JUSTIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES

The proposed local historic district is located in the north-west section of New Bedford's downtown and is located across the street from City Hall and includes two early 19th century church buildings. Mechanics' Lane runs east and west between North Sixth and Eight Streets and the associated buildings and land include those along Mechanics' Lane as well as North Sixth, Eighth, William and Elm Streets.

The initial proposed boundaries were to include only those properties which directly fronted or abutted Mechanics' Lane; however, a subsequent meeting with the residents demonstrated their desire to establish a slightly larger, more cohesive district which encompassed both city blocks on either side of Mechanics' Lane.

Evaluation of the boundary extension to include adjacent properties revealed similar patterns of development, similar architectural styles and comparable historical associations to those properties directly on Mechanics' Lane. All of the properties within the proposed district, except for three parking lots, are contributing properties to the County Street National Register District. The majority of the houses within the proposed district were built between 1830 and 1860; during the height of the city's whaling boom, and most retain original historic fabric with few intrusions within the district. Although small in stature, these buildings are exemplary examples of the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture popular in the early to mid-nineteenth century.

In 2000, the City utilized a portion of a PWED grant to improve the streetscaping along Mechanic's Lane. Cobblestone streets, slate sidewalks and decorative gas lamps provide this lane with the similar historic sense of place that exists in the Bedford Landing Waterfront Local Historic District. The New Bedford Preservation Society has provided most of the District's properties, and all of the property owners along the lane, with Historic House Markers in order to identify the properties with their original owners and to increase public awareness of the rich cultural and architectural heritage that exists there.

The proposed designation of the Mechanics Lane local historic district will ensure that these important properties are recognized for their historic and architectural significance and protected from changes by future owners that could irreversibly alter their architectural integrity.

OPTIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS for the ORDINANCE

In 1971 New Bedford adopted a local historic district ordinance, known as Section 2-150 through Section 2-156 of Article XI of the City Ordinances, which establishes a Historical Commission with all the powers and duties of an historic district commission. One local historic district, the Bedford Landing – Waterfront Historic District, was established and adopted in 1971 as part of the ordinance and was defined by a map which was amended in 2001.

ABOLITION ROW DISTRICT AND MECHANICS LANE DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT

The New Bedford historic district ordinance provides for the establishment, in accordance with the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, of additional historic districts and changes in historic districts. The New Bedford Historical Commission, acting as the Local Historic District Study Committee (Study Committee), proposes for adoption by the New Bedford City Council, an ordinance establishing the Abolition Row and Mechanics Lane Historic Districts which includes individual maps defining the new districts.

Unlike the previously established Bedford Landing – Waterfront Historic District, the Study Committee determined to include exclusions and exemptions of certain elements and features from its review within the Abolition Row and Mechanics Lane Districts, which is consistent with the state enabling legislation, Chapter 40C, Section 8. (a). The option to include certain exemptions from review was determined as an effort not to overburden property owners and as a method to facilitate reviews and permitting.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The local historic district ordinance provides the Historical Commission with all the powers and duties of an historic district commission, and due to the relatively small number of properties within the proposed Abolition Row and Mechanics Lane Districts, the newly established districts will be administered by the New Bedford Historical Commission, rather than establish separate District Commissions.

In order to accommodate the inclusion of one or more residents of or owners of property in the additional historic districts, the current Historical Commission membership is proposed to be adjusted. In addition to the inclusion of district residents, the study recommends additional organizations or categories for membership. The addition of one licensed general contractor or building tradesperson, and three persons, who through education or experience, have demonstrated a commitment to historic preservation or have a background in any of the categories represented by the regular members of the commission, as alternate members will provide essential skills and knowledge to the Commission and will supplement the Commission's current membership composition.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rules and Regulations presently exist for the New Bedford Historical Commission relative to its administration of the established Bedford Landing – Waterfront Historic District and for the administration of its duties and obligations as a city commission. The Study Committee recommends that the Rules and Regulations be updated to reflect the addition of the Abolition Row and Mechanics Lane Districts.

APPENDICES

MECHANICS LANE PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT





City of New Bedford, Massachusetts
 Department of City Planning

Mechanics Lane Local Historic District Study Area

By Street Address Number



October 2019



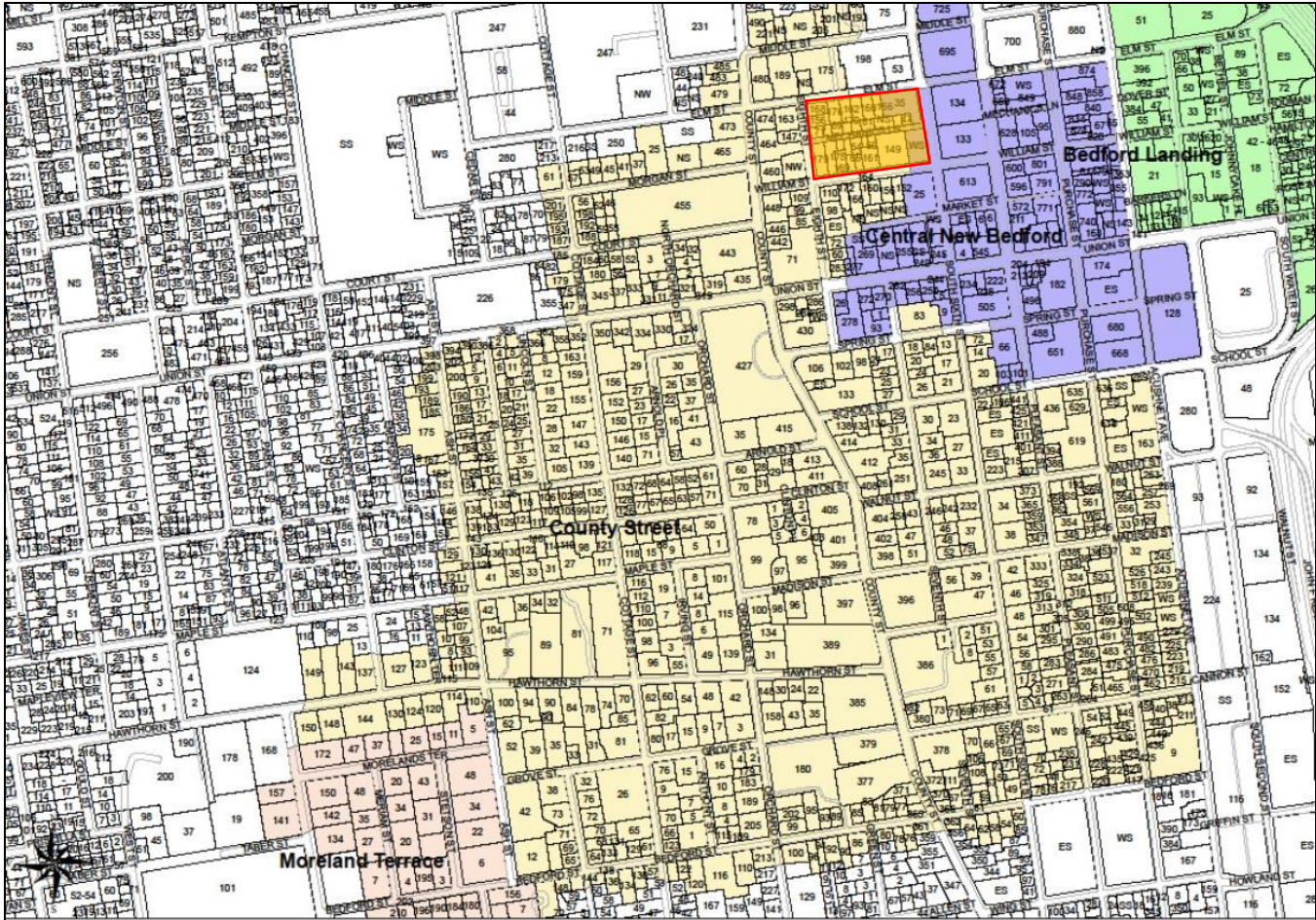
City of New Bedford, Massachusetts
 Department of City Planning

Mechanics Lane Local Historic District Study Area

By Parcel ID



October 2019



MECHANICS LANE LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY AREA LOCUS MAP
WITHIN CENTRAL NEW BEDFORD and COUNTY STREET
NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICTS

MECHANICS LANE PROPERTY INDEX

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
1	 47 MECHANICS LANE	52-195	Charles Shannon House	1830	Federal/Greek Revival	NBE 754
2	 49 MECHANICS LN	52-194		1830	Federal/Greek Revival	NBE 2602 (no form)
3	 60 MECHANICS LN	52-203	Simon & Eliza Caswell Ashley House	1851	Italianate	NBE 450
4	 61 MECHANICS LN	52-191		1830	Federal	NBE 2603 (no form)
5	 62 MECHANICS LN	52-202	Martin J. & Elizabeth Brown Lewis House	1858	Greek Revival	NBE 376

MECHANICS LANE PROPERTY INDEX

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
6	 63 MECHANICS LN	52-190	Lydia Macy Russell House	1830	Federal	NBE 244
7	 64 MECHANICS LN	52-201	Niles & Phebe Aris Tilden House	1830	Federal	NBE 357
8	 66 MECHANICS LN	52-376	Rebecca Tilden House	1843	Federal/Greek Revival	NBE 201
9	 67 MECHANICS LN	52-189	George Sisson House	1830	Federal	NBE 189
10	 68 MECHANICS LN	52-200	Danzell-Gould House	1846	Greek Revival	NBE 758

MECHANICS LANE PROPERTY INDEX

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
11	 69 MECHANICS LN	52-222	Pardon T. & Rebecca Skiff House	1837	Greek Revival	NBE 687
12	 71 MECHANICS LN	52-223		1890	Shingle Style	NBE 223
13	 NS MECHANICS LN	52-192			Parking Lot	NC
14	 149 WILLIAM ST	52-209	First Baptist Church	1829 1856 1928	Greek Revival	NBE 208 NR 1975
15	 161 WILLIAM ST	52-207	First North Congregational Church / Second church vestry / John F. Emerson House	1870	Federal Classical Revival	NBE 293




MECHANICS LANE PROPERTY INDEX

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
16	 163 WILLIAM STREET	52-206		1929		NBE 2758
17	 167 WILLIAM STREET	52-205		1850 1910	Greek Revival	NBE 2760
18	 169 WILLIAM ST	52-204	Universalist Church / Pilgrim Church / Temple Sinai / Douglass Memorial AME Church	1855	Italianate	NBE 2053
19	 175 WILLIAM STREET	52-198		1850	Greek Revival	NBE 2762
20	 179 WILLIAM ST	52-197		1848	Greek Revival/Italianate	NBE 2763

MECHANICS LANE PROPERTY INDEX

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
21	 150 EIGHTH ST	52-188	Benjamin & Sophia Allen Almy House	1845 c.1870	Second Empire	NBE 714
22	 156 EIGHTH ST	52-180	Manassah & Sophia Soule Kempton House	1830	Federal	NBE 291
23	 168 EIGHTH ST	52-179	Nathan E. & Catherine Cornell Hammett House	1850	Gothic Revival	NBE 713
24	 160 ELM ST	52-184		c. 1830	Federal	NBE 2531
25	 162 ELM ST	52-304		1855	Greek Revival	NBE 2532

MECHANICS LANE PROPERTY INDEX

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
26	 170 ELM STREET	52-182	Herman Cushman House	1834	Federal	NBE 2533 (no form)
27	 176 ELM STREET	52-181	Kempton - Winslow House	c.1839	Federal	NBE 2535 (no form)
28	 SS ELM STREET	52-185			Vacant Lot	NC
29	 35 N SIXTH STREET	52-186	Fred W. Greene, George R. Cherry, Parking Garage	1925	20 th Century Commercial	NBE 699
30	 WS N SIXTH STREET	52-210			Parking Lot	NC

Proposed Ordinance to Establish Additional Local Historic Districts

AMENDING ARTICLE XI. - NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION; HISTORIC DISTRICTS

By deleting Sec. 2-150. - Establishment; membership.

Substituting new:

Sec. 2-150- Establishment; membership

There is hereby established under the Historic Districts Act, M.G.L.A. c. 40C, with all the powers and duties of an historic district commission, a New Bedford Historical Commission, consisting of seven (7) members, and seven (7) alternates, to be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council, who shall serve staggered terms of three years. The Commission shall include one member or representative of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, one member from nominees submitted by recognized local historical societies, one architect from nominees submitted by the local Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, one member from nominees of the Greater New Bedford Board of Realtors, one member of the City Planning Department, and two (2) members who are property owners or residents of separate established Historic Districts in the City. The alternate members shall consist of two (2) property owners or residents of a Historic District, one licensed general contractor or building tradesperson, and four persons, who through education or experience, have demonstrated a commitment to historic preservation or have a background in any of the categories represented by the regular members of the commission. If, within 30 days after the submission of a written request for nominees to any of the above-named organizations, no such nominations have been submitted, the mayor may make such appointment without nomination by said organization. To the extent a person meets more than one of the foregoing specific membership requirements, then each such specific membership requirement so met shall be satisfied by such person's membership on the commission. All members and alternate members of the commission, except for the member nominated by the American Institute of Architects, shall be residents of the city. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired term. In case of the absence, inability to act or unwillingness to act because of self-interest on the part of a member of the commission, his or her place shall be taken by an alternate member designated by the chairperson. Each member and alternate shall continue in office after the expiration of his or her term until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified. All members shall serve without compensation. The commission shall elect annually a chairperson and vice-chairperson from its own number and a secretary from within or without its number.

By deleting Sec. 2-156 Bedford landing historic district established.

Substituting new:

Sec. 2-156 Establishment of Historic Districts

1) Bedford Landing Historic District

There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, a historic district to be known as Bedford Landing, bounded and described as shown on the map entitled, "Bedford Landing-Waterfront Historic District," as amended, attached to and made part of the ordinance from which this section is derived. (Code 1963, § 3-3102; Ord. of 6-10-71; Ord. of 9-13-79; Ord. of 2-8-01, § 1)

2) Mechanics' Lane Historic District

There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, a historic district to be known as Mechanics' Lane, bounded and described as shown on the map entitled, "Mechanics' Lane Historic District," attached to and made part of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

- a) All powers and duties set forth in this article shall be incorporated in this section, with the exception that the authority of the commission within the Mechanics Lane district is not extended to the review of the following:
 - i) Temporary structures or signs, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board;

- ii) Terraces, walks, driveways, sidewalks and similar structures or any one or more of them, provided that any structure is substantially at grade level with the qualification that on-grade areas intended for parking more than four motor vehicles are subject to review by the Historical Commission to assure that adequate planting, earth berms, walls or similar structures are implemented to screen or regulate the physical scale of the areas and to minimize their visual impact as viewed from public ways;
- iii) Walls and fences;
- iv) Storm doors and storm windows, screens, window air conditioners, lighting fixtures, antennae and similar appurtenances or any one or more of them;
- v) The color of paint;
- vi) Signs of not more than one square foot in area in connection with use of a residence for a customary home occupation or for professional purposes, provided only one such sign is displayed in connection with each residence and if illuminated is illuminated only indirectly, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board;

3) Abolition Row Historic District

There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, a historic district to be known as Abolition Row, bounded and described as shown on the map entitled, "Abolition Row Historic District," attached to and made part of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

- a) All powers and duties set forth in this article shall be incorporated in this section, with the exception that the authority of the commission within the Seventh Street district is not extended to the review of the following:
 - i) Temporary structures or signs, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board;
 - ii) Terraces, walks, driveways, sidewalks and similar structures or any one or more of them, provided that any structure is substantially at grade level with the qualification that on-grade areas intended for parking more than four motor vehicles are subject to review by the Historical Commission to assure that adequate planting, earth berms, walls or similar structures are implemented to screen or regulate the physical scale of the areas and to minimize their visual impact as viewed from public ways;
 - iii) Walls and fences;
 - iv) Storm doors and storm windows, screens, window air conditioners, lighting fixtures, antennae and similar appurtenances or any one or more of them;
 - v) The color of paint;
 - vi) Signs of not more than one square foot in area in connection with use of a residence for a customary home occupation or for professional purposes, provided only one such sign is displayed in connection with each residence and if illuminated is illuminated only indirectly, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board;

MECHANICS LANE PRELIMINARY STUDY BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Jenkins, Candace, et al. *National Register of Historic Places National Register Nomination Form: Central New Bedford Historic District*. Massachusetts Historical Commission, January 22, 1980.

Murphy, Robert Ricketson. *A New Bedford Historical Sketch: How the Core Community Grew*. (Self-Published) 2008.

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McAlester, Virginia Savage (2000). *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Alfred A Knopf. 1984.

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Maps

Leonard, E. C. "Original Purchasers of the Lots of New Bedford of the Russell's and Kempton's, 1753 to 1815." N.d. Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 6:16.

Map of New Bedford in 1815: From a plan drawn by Gilbert Russell. New Bedford: Charles Taber, 1860.

Plan of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: Collins & Clark, 1850.

Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: F. W. Beers, 1871.

Atlas of New Bedford, Massachusetts 1881. Boston: Geo. H. Walker & Co., 1881.

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Atlas of New Bedford, Massachusetts 1911. Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1911.

Insurance Maps of New Bedford, Massachusetts. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1924.

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

In Area no. 52	Form no. 195
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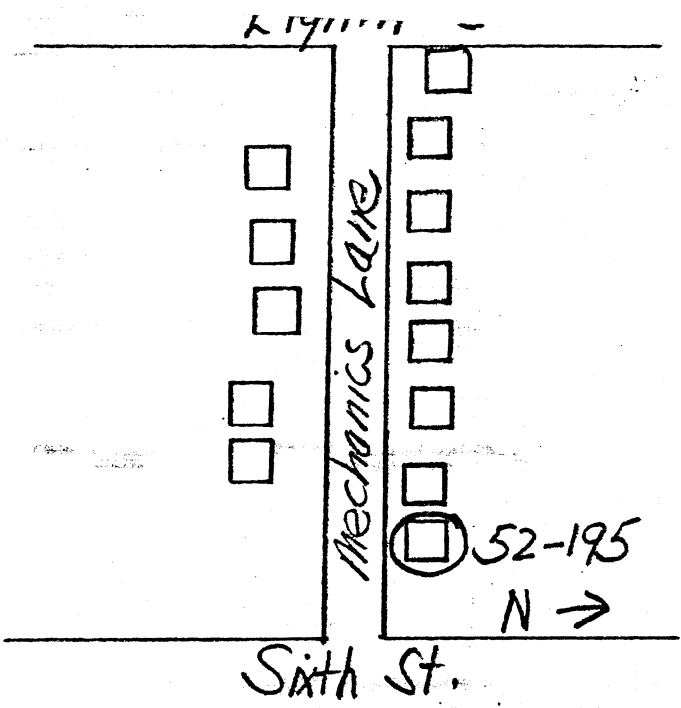
1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 47 Mechanics Lane
 Name Charles Shannon, baker
 Present use Private residence
 Present owner Royal Macey
 Description:
 Date c. 1842
 Source Ne B. Registry of Deeds
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Shingles

Outbuildings (describe) None
 Other features _____

 Altered No Date _____
 Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,663 sq. ft.
 One acre or less X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 36 ft.
 Approximate distance of building from street
10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc
 Organization N. B. Preservation Society
 Date March 1977



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Ricketson
 Original use Rental property
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Private residence, late 20th century

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

(See Attached Sheet)

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 7 Pg. 303 also Taunton Records
 Assessor's Records
 City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1852
 Census Records, 1850

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

New Bedford, Mass.
47 Mechanics Lane

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

In 1790 Daniel Ricketson purchased for the sum of 180 pounds, 3½ acres of land from Joseph Russell. Included in this acreage was the "twenty foot way" that ultimately became known as Mechanics Lane. Since the Ricketsons held on to their property for some 70 years, it is not known approximately when a majority of these residences were built. Most of them date to 1830, some like No. 47, are later. They were for the most part occupied by the transient working class, such as Charles Shannon, who lived at No. 47 in 1845 with his wife and three sons.

Shannon was a baker, working for a firm on William Street, just one street south of the lane, a quick walk from "home". Census records show that Shannon was born in Maine and spent some time in both Connecticut and Rhode Island before moving to New Bedford. Like many of the people who lived in the lane, Shannon and his family were transients boarding in small homes presumably built by the land owners, in this instance Joseph Ricketson.

In 1858 Mr. Ricketson died an "insolvent debtor", his large holdings reverted to his lawyers who quickly sold the lots with their small rental properties to absentee landlords who kept up the tradition of the Lane.

This one and a half story home sits on a high granite foundation. The six over six windows have splayed heads. Plain pilasters frame the entrance which has full length sidelights. The low pitched peak roof has an interesting gable on the side. The wall covering is wood shingles with no visible cornerboard.

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

In Area no. 52	Form no. 203
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1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
Address 60 Mechanics Lane
Name Simeon Ashley
Present use Private residence

Present owner John DeCosta

3. Description:
Date c. 1851
Source N. B. Registry of Deeds
Style Greek Revival
Architect Unknown Simeon Ashley, bui

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features _____

Altered No Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,525 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 34 ft.

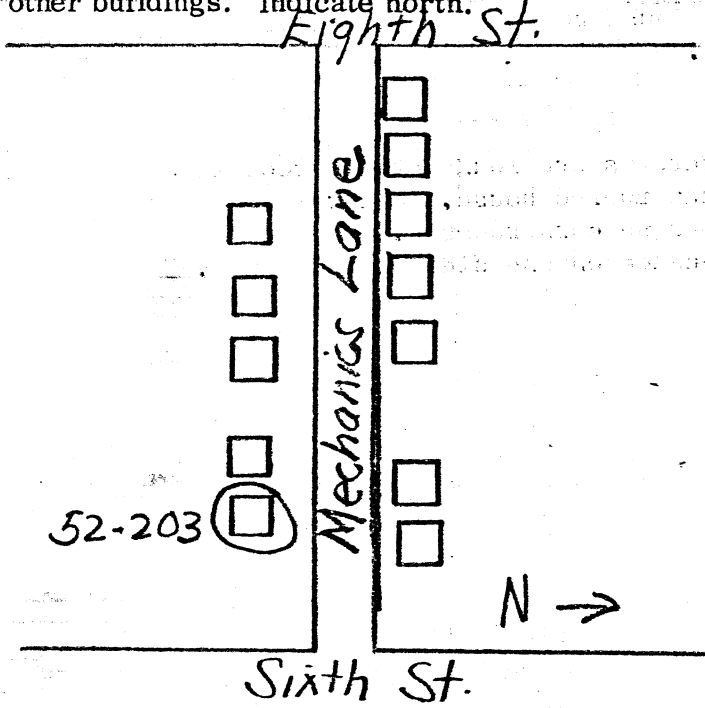
Approximate distance of building from street
5 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. Preservation Society

Date March 1977

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Simeon Ashley

Original use Private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Simeon Ashley was born in 1813 and married Eliza J. Caswell in 1842. Mr. Ashley was a housewright who most probably built his own residence at No. 60 Mechanics Lane sometime in 1851-52 when he purchased the property. The house remained in the Ashley family until 1887 some 36 years.

Eave brackets and simple returns are found at the roof line of this two and a half story peak roofed house. Natural shingles form the wall fabric, which shows no cornerboards. The entrance is set into a projecting bay located on one side of the house.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 26 Pg. 43&44
Assessor's Records
City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1859
Vital Records of New Bedford to 1850 birth & marriage
Deaths recorded in New Bedford Mercury 1845-1874

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no. 52	Form no. 202
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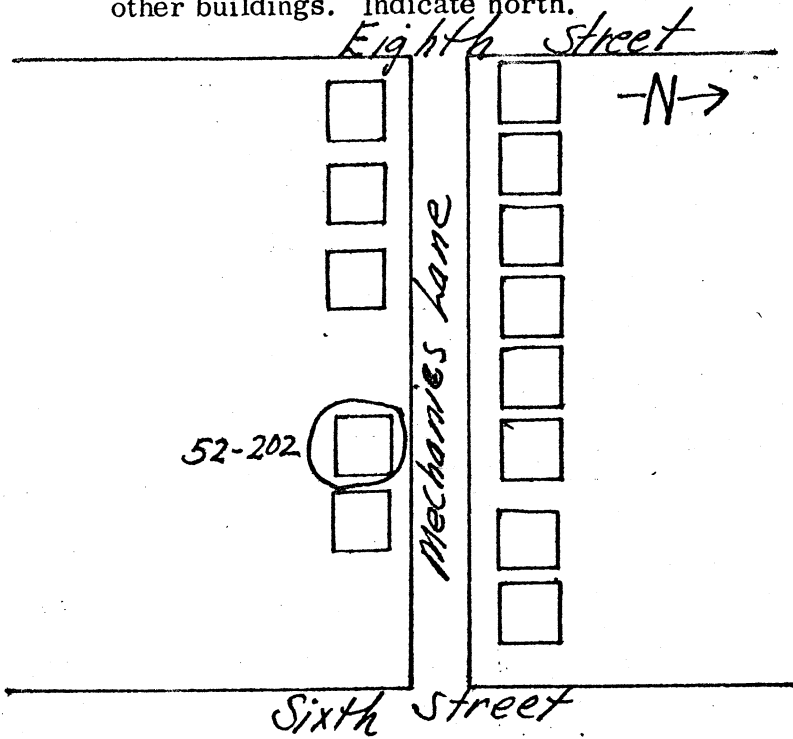
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 62 Mechanics Lane
 Name Martin J. Lewis, blacksmith
 Present use Private Residence
 Present owner Machel Inc.

3. Description:
 Date c. 1858
 Source N. B. Registry of Deeds
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Simeon Ashley, builder
 Exterior wall fabric shingle
 Outbuildings (describe) None
 Other features None

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



Altered No Date _____
 Moved No Date _____
 5. Lot size: 1,070 sq. ft.
 One acre or less X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 24 ft.
 Approximate distance of building from street
5 ft.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc
 Organization N. B. Preservation Society
 Date March 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Simeon Ashley
 Original use Private Residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Martin J. Lewis was born in 1823 in Easton, Mass. He came to New Bedford at an early age to become a blacksmith. In 1846 he married Elizabeth H. Brown of Easton. They lived in many different locations before moving to No. 62 Mechanics Lane in 1858-59. At this time Mr. Lewis was a partner in the blacksmith shop of "Carpenter & Lewis" located at No. 31 Mechanics Lane. Mr. Lewis and his family were only one of the many working class people who resided at No. 62 Mechanics Lane. It was owned by its builder Simeon Ashley who lived next door at No. 60, until 1874.

This two and a half story home features a recessed entranceway surrounded by recessed panels and a bracketed hood. Six over six windows have simple surrounds, while the peak roof has simple returns on the gable ends. The foundation is of cut granite and the wall covering is natural shingles without cornerboards.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds
 Assessor's Records
 City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1874
 Birth, Marriage & Death Records City of New Bedford

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

In Area no. 52	Form no. 190
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1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 63 Mechanics Lane
 Name Lydia M. Russell, widow
 Present use Private residence

Present owner Inoncencia R. Almeida

3. Description:
 Date c. 1830
 Source Observation

Style Full-cape cottage
 Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features _____

Altered No Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,750 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 38 ft.

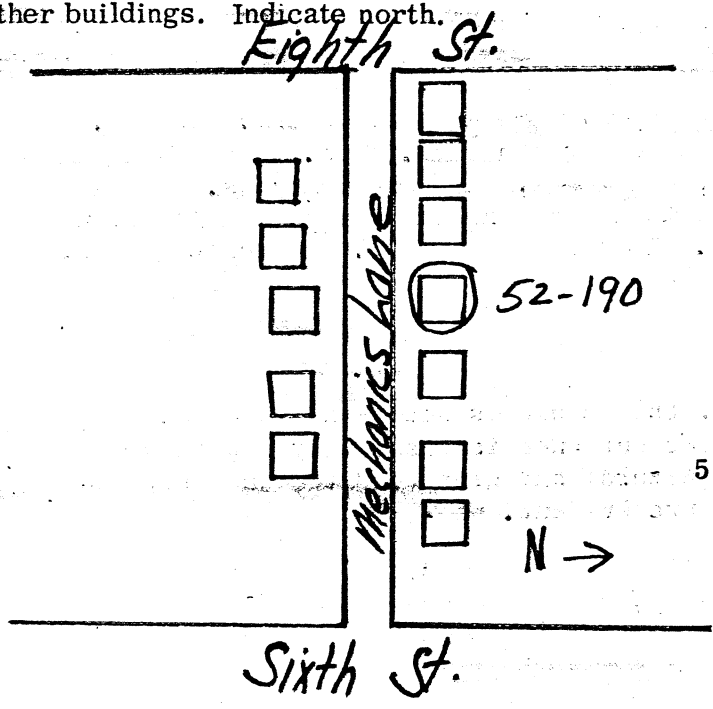
Approximate distance of building from street
10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. Leblanc

Organization N. B. Preservation Society

Date March 1977

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Ricketson
 Original use Rental property
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Private residence c. 1870

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In 1790 Daniel Ricketson purchased for the sum of 180 pounds, 3½ acres of land from Joseph Russell. Included in this acreage was the "twenty foot way" that ultimately became known as Mechanics Lane. Since the Ricketsons held this property for some 70 years it is not known approximately when a majority of these residences were built. Most of them, like No. 63, date to c. 1830.

In 1836 this residence was occupied by a young widow, Lydia M. Russell. Mrs. Russell was born, Lydia Macy in New Bedford in 1797. Mrs. Russell was left with three young children -- Martha 5½, Charles 3, and Mary 8 months. Like many widows of her time she was reduced to taking in boarders to make a living for herself and her surviving children. This she did at No. 63 Mechanics Lane from approximately 1838 to 1852.

Unlike most homes on this street, this house is set with gable ends perpendicular to the street. The center entrance is flanked by a pair of six over six windows on either side. Natural shingles form the wall covering and narrow cornerboards and fake trim are evident.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 7 Pg. 303
 Assessor's Records
 City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1852
 "Descendants of John Russell of Dartmouth" Pg. 78
 Vital Records of New Bedford Mass to 1850

In Area no.

52

Form no.

201

See 52/376 for 66 Mech.

own New Bedford, Mass.

address 64 Mechanics Lane

name Niles Tilden, Tobacconist

present use Apartments

present owner William Carter, III

Description:

Date c. 1830

Source New Bedford Registry of Deeds

style 3 over 2 Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features

Altered No Date

Moved No Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre

Approximate frontage 45 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

10 ft.

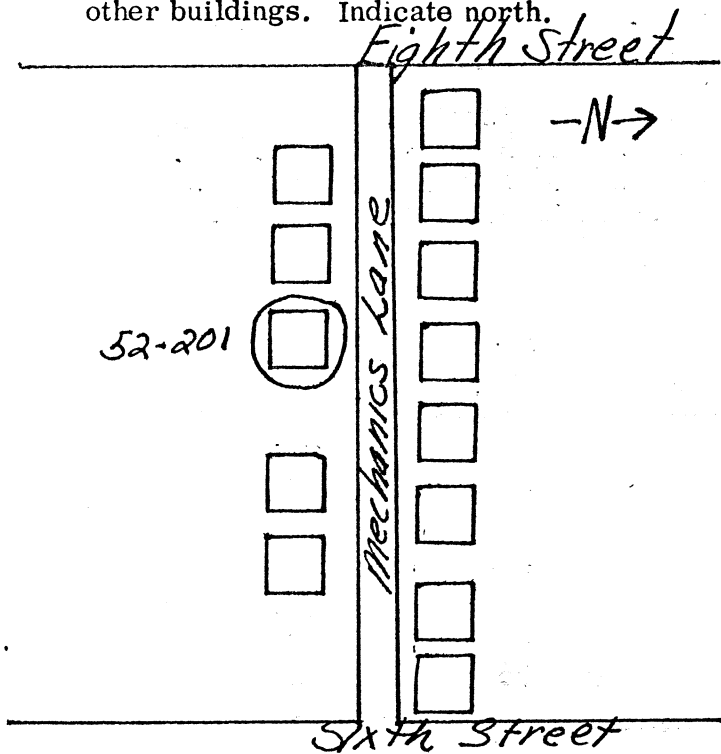
6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. Preservation Society

Date March 1977



In relation to other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Ricketson
 Original use Private Residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartments c. 1900

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In 1843, Daniel & Joseph Ricketson sold a lot of land and house to Niles Tilden. This purchase included No. 64 Mechanics Lane where Mr. Tilden, his wife and mother were already living and the land for No. 66 where Mr. Tilden built a small house for his mother Rebecca Tilden. These two properties remained joined from that time until 1977 some 134 years.

Niles Tilden was born in 1800 married Phebe W. Aris in 1830. They had a number of daughters who died at birth and one son Irving Niles Tilden. Mr. Tilden was employed as a cigar manufacturer and was probably one of the wealthier members on the Lane, owning the most impressive house. His family remained at the residence until 1914.

This two story half house has an elaborate entranceway. A straight side stoop leads to the off center door. The cornerboards and roof trim are narrow and plain, while the six over six windows have splay heads. Clapboards form the wall siding and the foundation is granite and brick.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 8 Pg. 224
 Assessor's Records
 City of New Bedford Directories of 1836-1850
 Map of 1815, 1850
 Birth, marriage & death records , City of New Bedford



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

May 22, 1989

Ms. June Nube
Maryanne McDonald Realty
304 Elm Street
South Dartmouth, MA 01748

Dear Ms. Nube:

Enclosed please find the Form B with brief history of 64 Mechanics Lane. Also enclosed are proposed colors which would be appropriate for this building.

If I can be of any further assistance, feel free to contact me at 999-2931 ext. 271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Swan", written in dark ink.

William A. Swan
Preservation Planner



ON
n

In Area no. 52	Form no. 201 376
-------------------	------------------------

1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 66 Mechanics Lane
 Name Rebecca Tilden, Widow
 Present use Private Residence

Present owner Mary T. Henry

3. Description:

Date c. 1843
 Source N. B. Registry of Deeds
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features _____

Altered No Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 28 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street
10 ft.

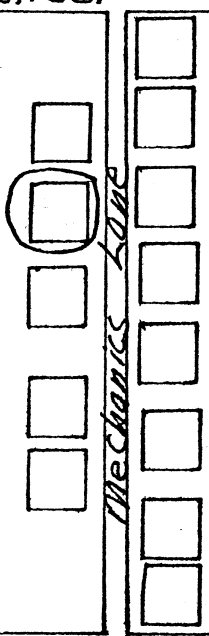
6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. Preservation Society

Date March 1977

Eighth Street

52-201



Sixth Street

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Niles Tilden
 Original use Private Residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In 1843 Niles Tilden purchased the parcel of land for No. 66 Mechanics Lane from Joseph & Daniel Ricketson. Mr. Tilden proceeded to have this tiny house built for his mother Rebecca Tilden. She lived there until her death at age 87 in 1851. The house along with No. 64 remained in the Tilden family until 1914.

This small clapboard cottage was not designed as a highly stylish residence. Nonetheless, the builder did include a carved fan-shaped design over the attic window facing the street. Rudimentary corner pilasters and a broken gable pediment and pilasters flanking the door are all references to the Greek Revival style which had been popular in New Bedford during the decade preceding the construction of this house in 1843.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 8 Pg. 224
- Assessor's Records
- City of New Bedford Directories of 1836-1850
- Map of 1815, 1850
- Birth, marriage & death records, City of New Bedford

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

In Area no. 52	Form no. 189
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1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 67 Mechanics Lane
 Name George Sisson, crockery and glassware
 Present use Private residence

Present owner John & Emily Vertente, Jr.

3. Description:
 Date c. 1830
 Source Observation

Style Half-cape cottage
 Architect Unknown

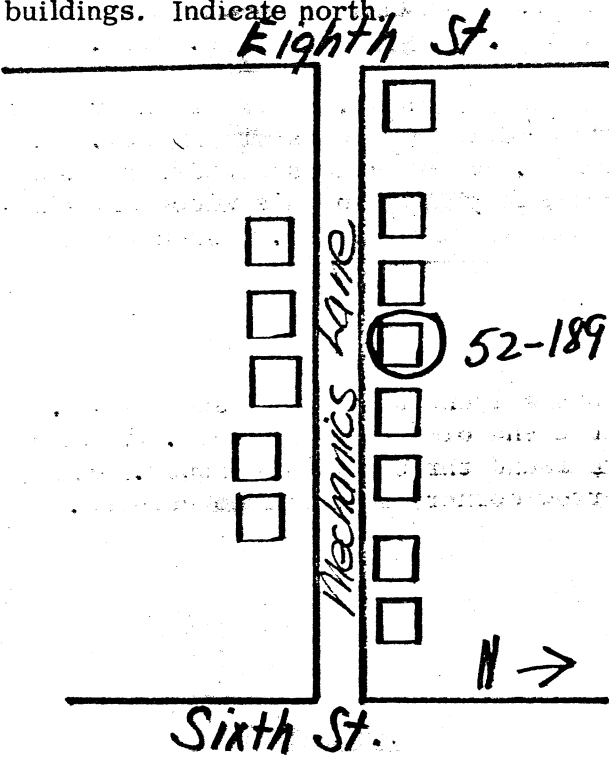
Exterior wall fabric Shingle
 Outbuildings (describe) None
 Other features _____

Altered Yes Date c. 1950's
 Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,775 sq. ft.
 One acre or less X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 38 ft.
 Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

6. Recorded by CONSTANCE M. LEBLANC
 Organization N. B. Preservation Society
 Date March 1977

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Ricketson

Original use rental property

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates private residence c. 1890

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

In 1790 Daniel Ricketson purchased for the sum of 180 pounds, 3½ acres of land from Joseph Russell. Included in this acreage was the "twenty foot way" that ultimately became known as Mechanics Lane. Since the Ricketsons held their property for some 70 years, it is not known approximately when a majority of these residences were built. Most of them, like No. 67, date to c. 1830.

In 1836 this residence was occupied by George Sisson, a dealer in crockery and glass ware. Mr. Sisson married Louisa Bradford of Rochester in 1829. They had daughters and a son living with them at No. 67 as well as a boarder Joshua B. Deane, a sailor. Mr. Sisson died approximately 1845 and his widow and children remained at the residence until the death in 1856 of Mrs. Sisson and in 1857 of daughter Louisa.

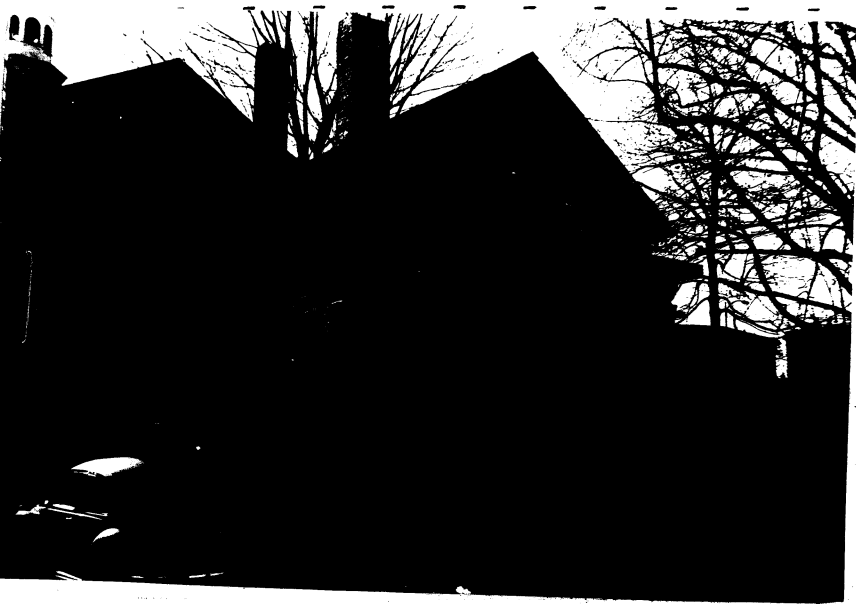
A high brick foundation supports this small one and a half story home. A double hooded window is set into the gable end of the peaked roof. Six over six windows with simple surrounds are found throughout the house. The wall covering is painted shingles with narrow cornerboards and no cornice.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Taunton Records
Assessor's Records
City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1857
Vital Records of the City of New Bedford to 1850

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

In Area no.	Form no.
52	200



1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 68 Mechanics Lane
 Name George Danzell, Mariner
 Present use Private Residence
 Present owner Mary T. Henry

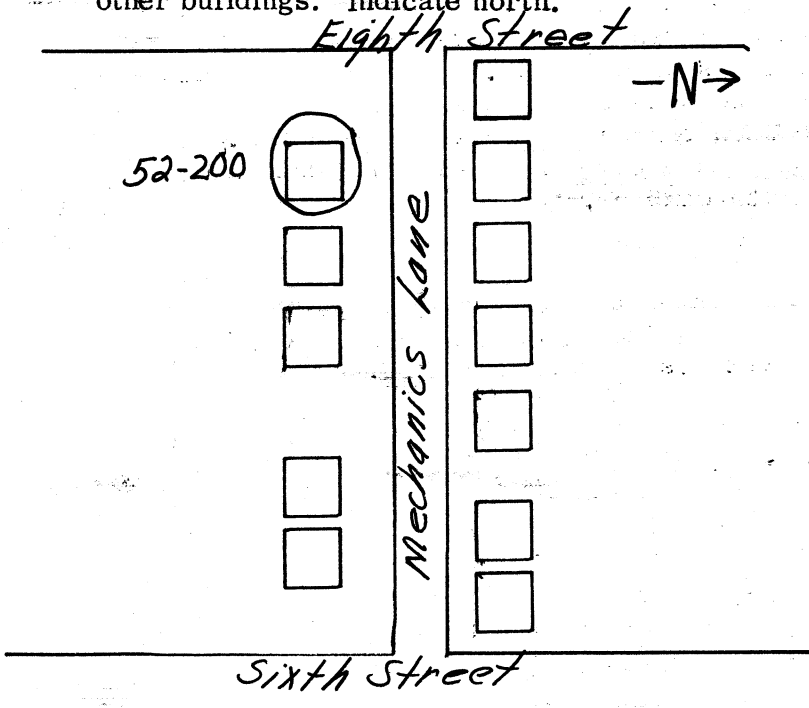
3. Description:
 Date c. 1846
 Source N. B. Registry of Deeds
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Shingle
 Outbuildings (describe) None
 Other features _____

Altered No Date _____
 Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,317 sq. ft.
 One acre or less X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 30 ft.
 Approximate distance of building from street
10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc
 Organization N. B. Preservation Society
 Date March 1977

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) George Danzell
 Original use Private Residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Private Residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

In 1846, George Danzell, Mariner purchased the property at No. 68 Mechanics Lane from William Berry a colored barber. Mr. Danzell in turn sold the house to his mother Mary Gould in 1853 and it remained in her possession until her death in 1876 when it was passed on to her grandchildren who in turn sold it to Oliver Prescott well known city solicitor. Little is known of Mr. Danzell or his mother and her family. We may assume that they were not of means as there were some 8 people all living in this tiny residence when the census of 1850 was taken. They were simply a good example of the type of people that inhabited the bustling Mechanics Lane in the early half of the 19th century.

Set on a high granite foundation, this one and a half story home exhibits wide plain cornerboards and cornices. The low pitched peak roof has simple returns in the gable end. The entrance contains a bracketed hood.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 13 Pg. 544-546
- Assessor's Records
- City of New Bedford Directory 1836-1853
- United States Census of 1850

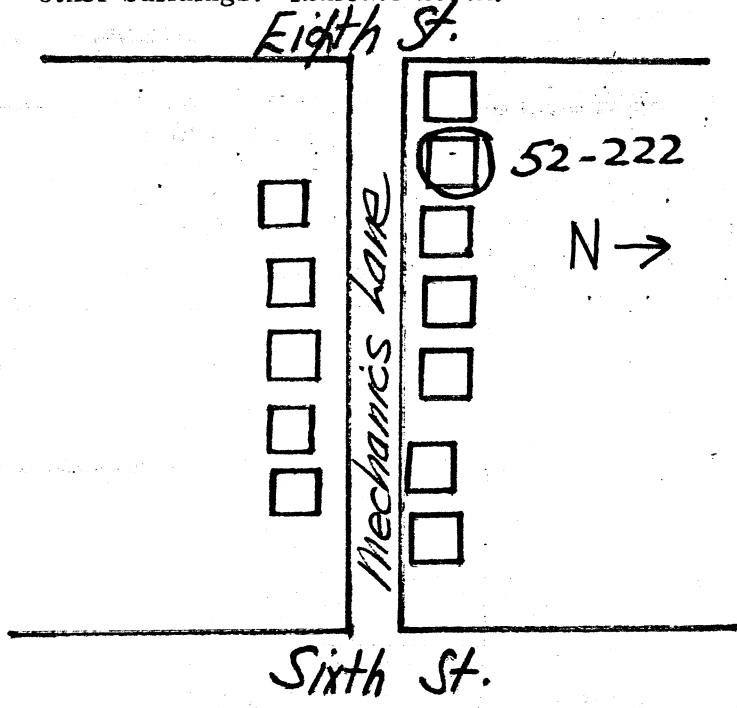
In Area no. 52	Form no. 222
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 State Secretary, State House, Boston



Location New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 69 Mechanics Lane
 Name Pardon T. Skiff, laborer
 Present use Private residence
 Present owner Mr. & Mrs. James P. Hoyt
 Description:
 Date c. 1838
 Source N. B. Reg. of Deeds
 Style 4 - over - 3 Federal
 Architect Unknown

Other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric asbestos shingles
 Outbuildings (describe) None
 Other features _____

Altered No Date _____
 Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,993 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 43.6 ft.
 Approximate distance of building from street
10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. Leblanc
 Organization N. B. Preservation Society
 Date March 1977

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William Rotch

Original use Rental property

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Private residence c. 1890

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

The hooded entrance to this house is at one end of a four bayed facade. Window and roof trim in simple, white cornerboards are covered by asbestos siding. The house has a peak roof paralalled to the street and sits on a granite foundation.

William Rotch purchased the land where no 69 Mechanics Lane now stands in 1815. The land was sold to Benjamin Almy and remained in that family as a rental property until 1890. There is no record of a house at no 69 until the directory of 1838. At that time it was occupied by a laborer, Pardon T. Skiff, his wife Rebecca and a widow Ann J. Cpooner. Mr. Skiff did not remain long at this residence but moved on to other positions and residences in N. B. such as cab driver and saloon keeper. He died in N. B. in 1870.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds B32 P540
- Assessor's Records
- City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1859
- Vital Records of the City of New Bedford to 1850

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. 52	Form no. 223
-------------------	-----------------



1. Town New Bedford, Mass.
 Address 71 Mechanics Lane
 Name Brightman & Peirce, carpenter
 Present use Private residence

Present owner Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Lemos

3. Description:

Date c. 1830
 Source Observation

Style Gambrel-roof cottage

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features _____

Altered No Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 1,432 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 32 ft.

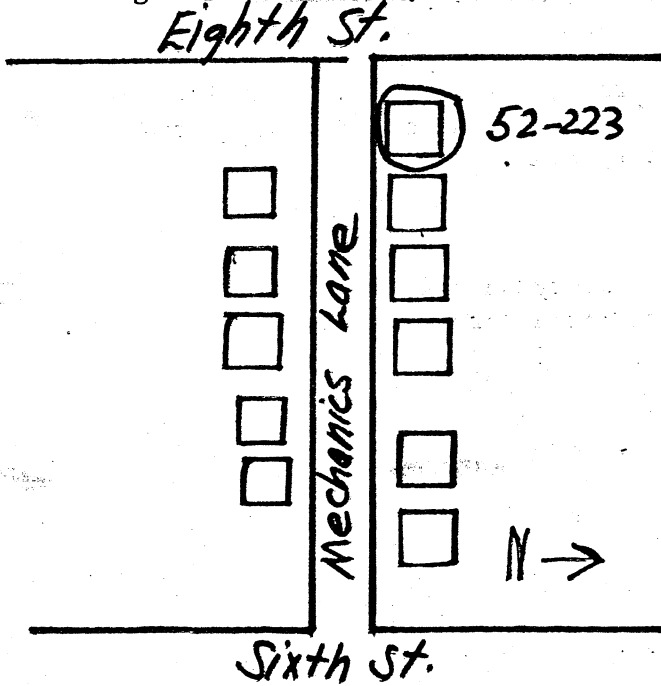
Approximate distance of building from street
10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. Preservation Society

Date March 1977

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William Rotch

Original use carpenter's shop-rental property

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Private residence c. 1900

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

In approximately 1815 William Rotch purchased a tract of land on either side of Mechanics Lane, from the boundaries of the Ricketson holdings to Eighth Street. The property was sold to Benjamin Almy who in turn rented to various working class people.

According to the directory of 1836 Bradford Peirce & William Brightman occupied No. 71 Mechanics Lane for their carpenters shop. They remained at that location until approximately 1845.

A gambrel roof creates an additional story on this small vernacular house. The entrance is shielded by a bracketed porch with turned balusters. The wall covering is painted shingles.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 32 P. 540

Assessor's Records

City of New Bedford directories, 1836-1860

Vital Records, City of New Bedford to 1850

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
State House Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
52	188



New Bedford

Address 150 Eighth St.

Owner Benjamin Almy

Present use Lodging house

Present owner Mary Debrosse

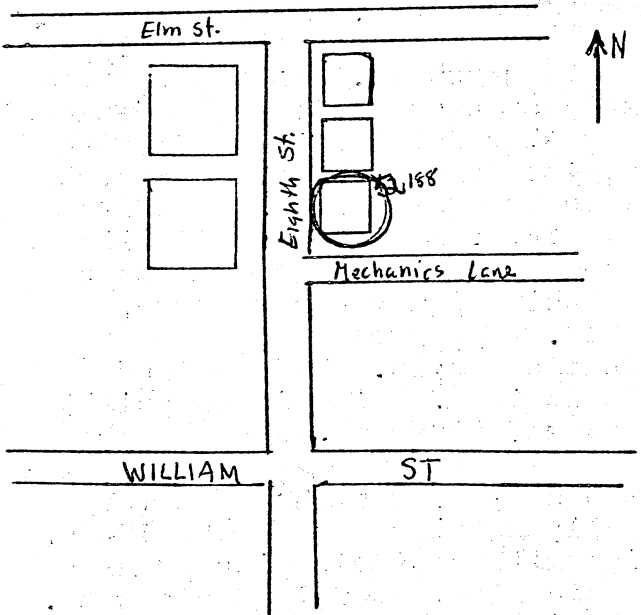
Description: 1835

Source Land Records

Style Second Empire

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Granite



Outbuildings (describe) No

Other features Mansard roof, Italianate
dormers, bracketed cornice.

Altered Yes Date c 1870

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 45.2 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

6. Recorded by Lauri A. Halderman

Organization N.B. Preservation Soc.

Date June 28, 1977

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Benjamin S. and William J. Rotch

Original use Residence, perhaps also office.

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Lodging house, 20th century.

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, a large portion of the land on the east side of Eighth Street was owned by William Rotch, Jr., a well-known New Bedford merchant. In 1845, he sold a lot of land on the corner of Eighth Street and Mechanics Lane to his sons, Benjamin S. and William J. Rotch. The two brothers soon after built a structure on the property, but they never lived at this address. The New Bedford Standard Times reported in a 1913 article that a part of this building may have been used as an office by a whaling merchant. In 1846, the Rotch brothers sold the land with the newly erected house to Benjamin Almy.

Almy was a cooper, working aboard the ship China in the 1830s and in the store of William H. Stowell during the early 1840s. Later, he established his own cooper shop on Hamilton Street, near the waterfront. Almy, who was born in Portsmouth, R. I. in 1810, married Sophia Allen of Rochester, Mass., in 1845. Their first child, Abby, was born a year after their marriage. After moving into their Eighth Street home, the Almys had a second daughter, Maria, in 1848. After many years as a cooper, Almy retired in the 1860s to become a farmer. He remained at the Eighth Street address until his death in 1892. His wife Sophia then inherited their home of almost fifty years and lived there until she died later that same year.

The house at 150 Eighth Street is the only one in the area that boasts a granite wall fabric. As originally constructed in the 1840s, the house was undoubtedly two stories high with a simple pitched or hipped roof. Later in the century, Benjamin Almy remodelled his home, adding a third story in the guise of a fashionable mansard roof, ornate dormers and a bracketed cornice. The mansard roof is characteristic of

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

Census of 1850.

Vital Records of New Bedford to 1850.

New Bedford Standard Times Clippings File.

New Bedford Deaths Vol. 1-6 1848-1893.

New Bedford City Directories 1842-1892.

New Bedford Maps: 1850, 1871.

Assessor's Records

Registry of Deeds, Land Records Vol. 11, p. 367.

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NBE.291
Historic Name:	Kempton, Manasseh House
Common Name:	
Address:	156 Eighth St
City/Town:	New Bedford
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	c 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Business Office; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, November 19, 2021 at 2:29: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

*N.D.S. 8/11/76
P. 4
JOB - NORTH
SET A*

In Area no.	Form no.
A 52	180



City New Bedford NBE.291

Address 156 Eighth Street

Name Manasseh Kempton

Present use Office

Present owner John Hodgson

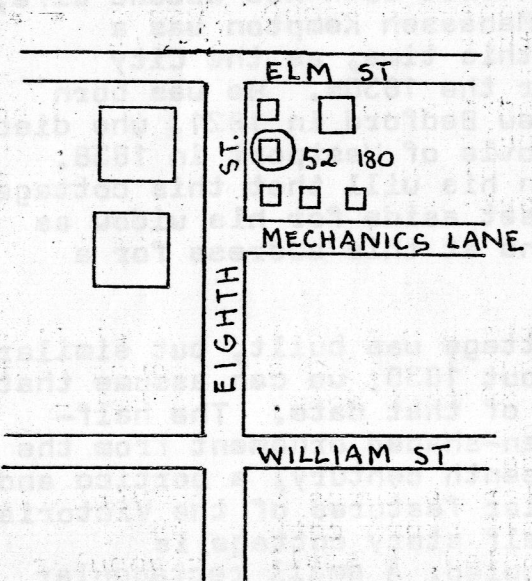
Description: c1830

Source Visual analysis

Type Half-Cape Cottage

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards + shingles



Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features Greek Revival corner pilasters; later 19th-century turret and portico.

Altered Yes Date Late 19th c.

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: _____

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 45.67

Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Lauri A. Halderman

Organization N. B. Preservation Soc.

Date June 29, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Unknown
 Original use Probably residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Office, 20th century

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Beginning in the late 1700s and continuing until his death in 1849, Manasseh Kempton amassed a large amount of property in the vicinity of Eighth Street. He built several homes during his lifetime, one of which was a small cottage at 156 Eighth Street. For a period during the 1840s, Kempton lived at this address with his second wife, Sophia, and his son, Thomas D. Kempton. Manasseh Kempton was a housewright who may have been retired by this time, as the City Directory list no occupation for him after the 1830s. He was born about 1766 and married Susan Delano of New Bedford in 1821, who died a decade later. He then married Sophia Sowle of Westport in 1838. When Kempton died in 1849, he specified in his will that this cottage, with its barn and lot of land, should be set aside for his widow as her dower. Sophia Kempton then lived alone at this address for a short while.

It is not known exactly when this cottage was built, but similar houses in New Bedford were constructed about 1830; we can assume that this cottage was built within a few years of that date. The half-Cape cottage has corner pilasters and a fan-shaped ornament from the Greek Revival period. Later in the nineteenth century, a portico and a small polygonal turret were added, popular features of the Victorian era. The front facade of the one-and-a-half story cottage is clapboarded, while the gable ends are shingled. A small rectangular addition to the southeast side of the cottage dates from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

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

- Vital Records of New Bedford to 1850.
- Assessor's Records
- Registry of Deeds, Land Records Book 20, p. 137.
- Representative Men of Southern New England
- Maps of New Bedford: 1850, 1871.
- City Directories: 1836-1872.



Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NBE.713
Historic Name:	Hammett, Nathan E. House
Common Name:	
Address:	168 Eighth St
City/Town:	New Bedford
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	290
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Business Office; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Cinderblock; Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, November 19, 2021 at 2:34: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

*NRDIS 8/11/76
PLD
USGS NORTH
SECT A*

In Area no. <u>A 52</u>	Form no. <u>179</u>
----------------------------	------------------------

NBE.713

713



City New Bedford, Mass.

Address 168 Eighth St.

Owner Nathan E. Hammett

Present use Realty Office

Present owner 168 Realty, Inc.

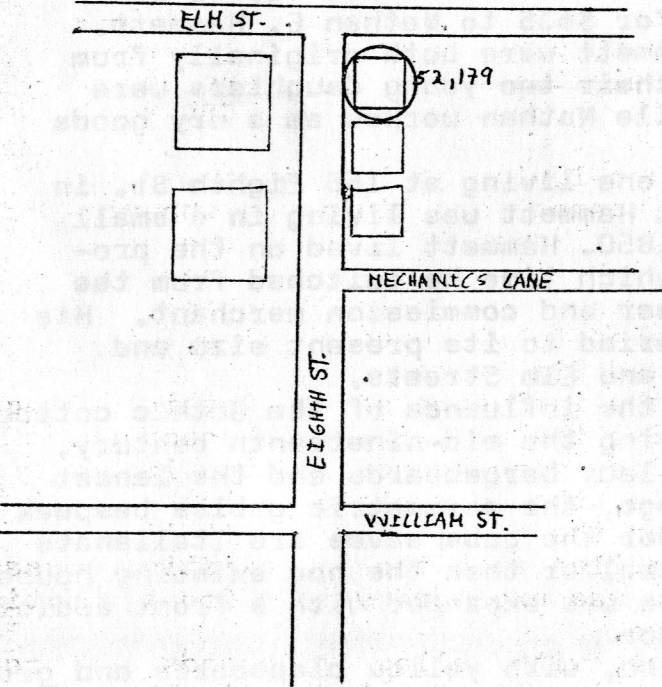
Description: c. 1850

Source land deeds

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard



Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features iron fence - good condition

Altered addition Date late 1850's

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 50.42

Approximate distance of building from street 10 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Dana W. Cleary

Organization N. B. Preservation Soc.

Date June 28, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Nathan E. Hammett

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Realty Office - 20th C.

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In 1848, Thomas Kempton, a New Bedford merchant, fell bankrupt and filed as an insolvent debtor. During the next few years, Kempton's land was divided and sold by Lincoln Brigham and Nathan Chase, assignees of Kempton's estate.

One section of this property, located at the northeast corner of Eighth and Elm Streets, was sold in 1852 for \$635 to Nathan E. Hammett. Hammett and his wife Catherine Cornell Hammett were both originally from Newport, R.I. By 1849, the Hammetts and their two young daughters were settled at 49 North St. in New Bedford while Nathan worked as a dry goods merchant.

Though the city directory records no one living at 168 Eighth St. in 1849, the New Bedford atlas indicates that Hammett was living in a small house set back to the rear of the lot by 1850. Hammett lived on the property for the next fifteen years, during which time he switched from the dry goods trade to a career as an auctioneer and commission merchant. His house was enlarged sometime during this period to its present size and irregular shape, with frontages on Eighth and Elm Streets.

The house at 163 Eighth Street shows the influence of the Gothic cottage style which was popular in New Bedford during the mid-nineteenth century. Though the house does not now include the lacy bargeboards and the lancet windows characteristic of the Gothic cottage, the asymmetric gables bespeak the style's influence. Oculus windows under the gable eaves are Italianate details. The 1850 Atlas shows a building smaller than the now existing house. It is possible that this original structure was expanded with a front addition, bringing the house to its present appearance.

168 Eighth St. is now in good condition, with yellow clapboards and green wooden shutters. A modern glass portico encasing the front door is the only

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) 20 th C. addition to the structure.

- Vital Records of New Bedford to 1850
- City Directories; 1830 to 1870
- New Bedford Assessors Records
- New Bedford Registry of Deeds bk.17,p.249
- New Bedford Maps; 1850, 1871, 1911



FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Plat #52	Lot #184



1. Town NEW Bedford
 Address 160 Elm St.
 Name _____
 Present use Residential
 Present owner Toy Wun LEE

3. Description:
 Date _____
 Source _____
 Style _____
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric _____
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features _____

 Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____
 Organization _____
 Date _____

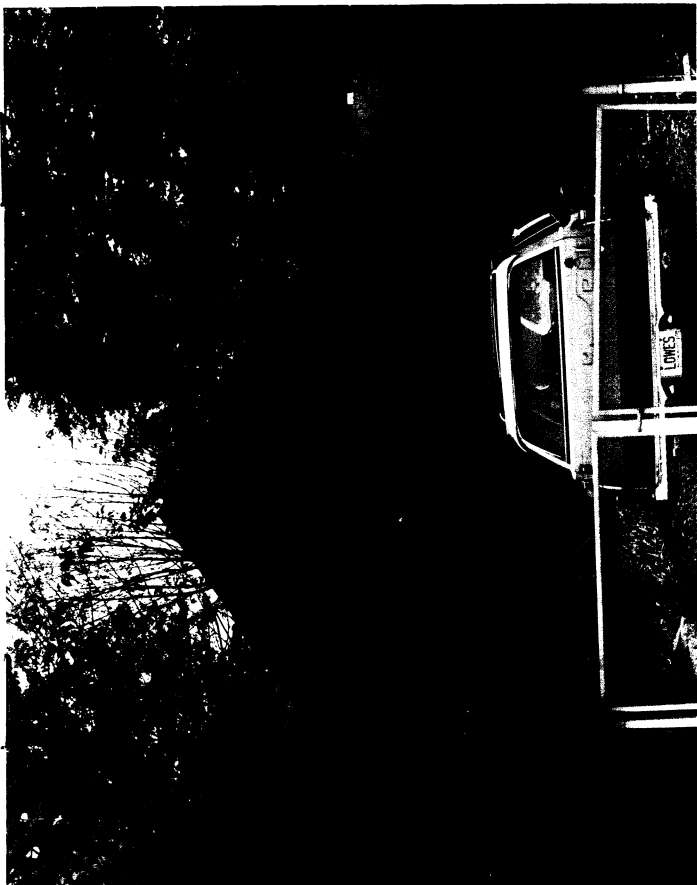
DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Plat #52	Lot #183/304



1. Town New Bedford

Address 162 Elm Street

Name _____

Present use Residential

Present owner Mak SHEE LOWE

3. Description:

Date _____

Source _____

Style late - Creek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric _____

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____

Organization _____

Date _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NBE.208
Historic Name:	First Baptist Church
Common Name:	
Address:	149 William St
City/Town:	New Bedford
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	1829
Architect(s):	Brown and Poole
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Church; Other Educational
Significance:	Architecture; Religion
Area(s):	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (04/21/1975); Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976); Preservation Restriction (08/29/2006)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, November 19, 2021 at 2:24: PM



NR 4/21/75 NPE.208
 PR-2/14/77 EXP-2/14/2007
 NR 8/29/00
 NRD 8/11/76
 In Area no. 52 (A) Form no. 208

MISSION
 Boston

1. Town New Bedford

Address 149 Williams Street

Name First Baptist Church

Present use religious services

Present owner First Baptist Church

3. Description: and Society

Date 1829 (Oct. 22, 1829 - Dedication

Source N.B. Public Library

Style classical style colonial church

Architect gable roof committee of 6 church

Exterior wall fabric members wood and stone

Outbuildings (describe) stone structure

Other features vestibule, bell tower,

hand-blown glass windows, clapboard siding,

1856 wrought iron fence

Additional cream colored brick
 Altered building Date Jan., 1928

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 80 x 134 (10,720 sq. ft.)

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 80 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

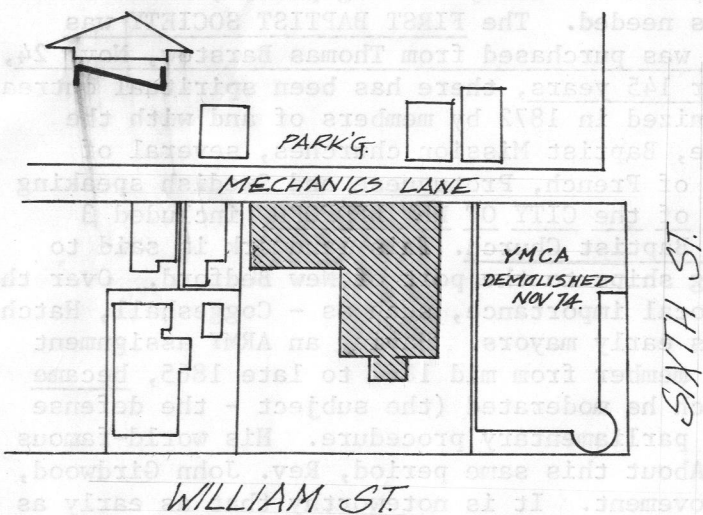
36 feet

6. Recorded by Mrs. Mildred E. Hatch

Organization First Baptist Church

Date 1/21/75

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) First Baptist Church Society

Original use religious services

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above) The First Baptist Church of New Bedford represents the second religious influence to appear in old Dartmouth and is a descendant, so to speak, of the NINTH Baptist church in our country, established in 1685 in Tiverton (then a part of Dartmouth) by John Cooke, a Baptist preacher. He was one of the original purchasers in 1652 of this township and the only MAYFLOWER PASSENGER to settle in the area. In 1780, Peleg Burroughs became pastor of the Tiverton church and from it came members who met on June 22 and 30th, 1813, to organize the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in New Bedford, with 18 members. John Pickens, an officer in the Revolutionary War, an ex-cashier of the old Bedford bank was, at age 70, chosen the first clerk and deacon. The new church flourished, had two early meeting-places, while membership climbed to 221 by 1828. A larger church was needed. The FIRST BAPTIST SOCIETY was incorporated on March 8, 1828. A lot on William Street was purchased from Thomas Barstow, Nov. 24, 1828. The new church was dedicated Oct. 22, 1829. For 145 years, there has been spiritual outreach into the community. The North Baptist Church was organized in 1872 by members of and with the blessing of the parent church. In the 1890-1900 decade, Baptist Mission churches, several of these now independent, were organized to meet the need of French, Protuguese and Swedish speaking people, and others. In 1847, the designer of the SEAL of the CITY OF NEW BEDFORD included 3 towers, the central one being the steeple of the First Baptist Church. This landmark is said to have been a landfall for those returning on the whaling ships to the port of New Bedford. Over the years, church membership included prominent names of local importance, such as - Coggeshall, Hatch, Pope, Taber, and Mr. George Richmond, one of the city's early mayors. Having an ARMY assignment in New Bedford, Lt. Henry Martyn Robert, a very active member from mid 1862 to late 1865, became a Trustee. At a disorderly meeting, at the church, which he moderated (the subject - the defense of the port of N.B.) he vowed he would write rules for parliamentary procedure. His world-famous RULES OF ORDER, published in 1876, are still in use. About this same period, Rev. John Girdwood, pastor, spoke strongly in behalf of the anti-slavery movement. It is noteworthy that as early as June 29, 1814, a Mr. Isaac Thomas of African extraction and late of New York, was baptized and admitted to membership in the First Baptist Church of New Bedford. The church still serves in 1975.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) History of the churches of New Bedford, 1869 Ricketson, Daniel.

The history of New Bedford. 1858 Sellev, C.W. John Cooke of Dartmouth, Mass. (Mayflower Quarterly, May 1971. p. 68) First Baptist Church and Society RECORDS, 1813-1894 First Baptist Church - Anniversary records, church manuals, historical sketches, calendars, etc. New Bedford Public Library - Genealogy Room File G974.41 - N4211 FBN, G974.41 - N4211 FBP, G974.41 - N4211 K, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, NEW BEDFORD, MASS. BOOK 31, pp. 482-483 (Taunton Records) and BOOK 163. p. 424; BOOK 165, p. 437, Land Court Certificate #1266 - date of decree, March 17, 1922 and no incumbrances, May 6, 1926 (Lot on which Educational Building was constructed) Act of Incorporation of FIRST BAPTIST SOCIETY: March 8, 1828 Change from SOCIETY TO CHURCH: BOOK 267, PP. 214-215 Oct. 13, 1906 and BOOK 614, pp. 68-69 Registry of Deeds, New Bedford Book 31 - Page 483 - Taunton records N.B. Public Library Genealogy Room File#G974.41-3/73 N4211 FBN G974.41- N4211 FBP G974.41- N4211 K

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town New Bedford Property Address NBE.208
149 Williams St.
Area(s) NBE 1 Form No. ~~208~~ 208

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE 5 NO. 50391
BUILDING First Baptist Church STORIES 2B
CITY OR TOWN New Bedford STREET Williams St.
TO BE USED FOR Sunday school CLASS 2nd
OWNER First Baptist Church chru
ARCHITECT Brown & Poole

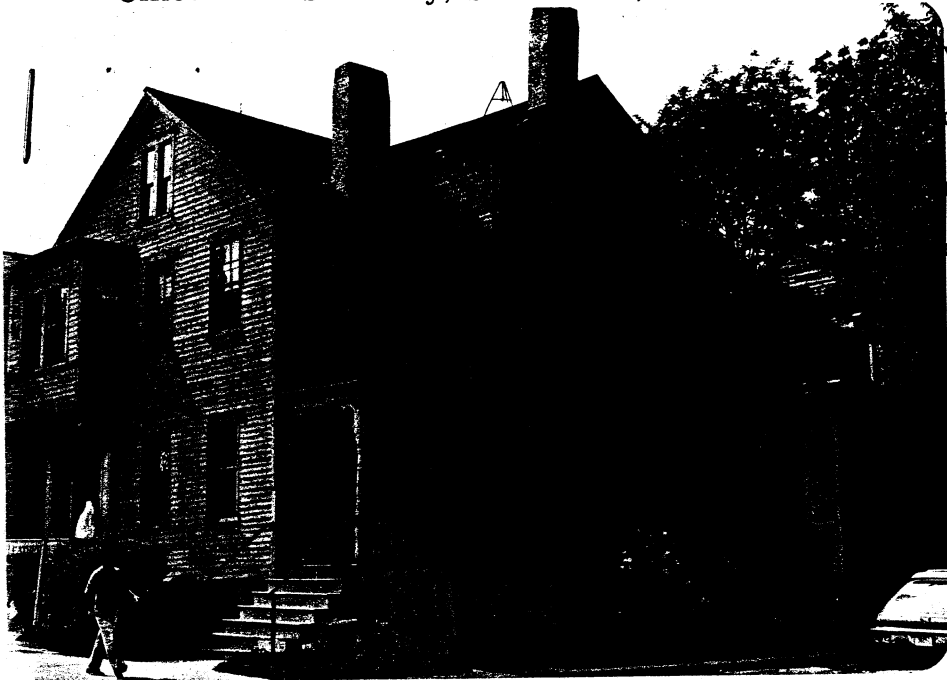
CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—REFERRED
DATE 5/24/27
INSPECTOR Saunders

Form 41. 2000. 1-'26 No. 4051
BOSTON INDEX CARD CO M1189

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
52	207



Town New Bedford

Address 159-161 William Street

Name _____

Present use Leather Shop/ multiple

Residence _____

Present owner George Saulnier

Description: _____

Original building c.1812

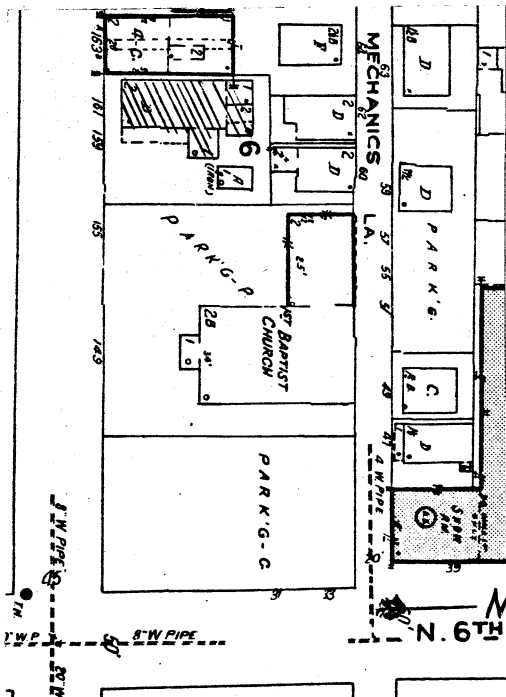
Converted to residence 1837

Source Evening Standard April 1, 1854p.2

Assessors Records 1837

Style Greek Revival

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



Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features Greek Revival Entry and

interior design, 12/12 window, some

6/6 windows

raised to make 2 story - converted

* Altered to residence Date 1816 1836

to corner of Purchase & Elm to

Moved William Street Date 1816 1836

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 68.92

Approximate distance of building from street

8'

6. Recorded by Michel G. Daigle

Organization HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

Date March 17, 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) North Congregation Church
 Original use Meeting House
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates School house/ vestry 1826 - 1836 Residence 1836 - present

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Research indicates that part of the present structure was built as a meeting house for the Congregational Society Circa 1812 on the corner of North Second and Elm Streets. In 1816 the society built a new church on the corner of Purchase and Elm Streets and moved the original building to the rear of the new church. It was raised up to make two stories; the first floor was used as a vestry and the second as a school. With the erection of a new stone church in 1836, the vestry building was moved to William Street and converted to a residence.

From 1829 to 1836 it was the home of the New Bedford High School a private institution owned and operated by John F. Emerson a highly respected educator who, was the first principal of the Public High School 1827 - 1829 which lasted only 2 years. It was this discontinuance which prompted Emerson to open the private school. When the city re-organized the Public High School in 1836 Mr. Emerson discontinued his private school and had the building moved to William Street where it was converted into a residence.

The North Congregational Society, the builders of the original structure, were formed in 1809 - 1810 after a split and formation of a new church by Rev. Sylvester Holmes. At first the group used various school houses and residences for services and as they continued to grow, built the original meeting house on North Second and Elm Streets. Subsequently the church grew and two other larger structures were built replacing the first; these have since been demolished by urban renewal.

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

Sunday Standard Times April 23, 1939, P.8
 Assessors Records, New Bedford City Hall, 1837 and 1838 Tax Records
 New Bedford City Directory, 1836, p.29, Genealogy Room, New Bedford Public Library
 New Bedford Registry of Deeds, Taunton Records: 40/163-4
 Ricketson, Daniel, (New Bedford of the Past) P.53-4
 Morning Mercury, article by W.A. Emery December 28, 1936, P.10
 Ellis, (History of New Bedford 1680 - 1890) P.545-6, 611-12

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary State House Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
Plat #52	Lot #207



1. Town NEW Bedford
 Address 161-159 William St.
 Name _____
 Present use Resident
 Present owner First Baptist Church of N.B.

3. Description:
 Date _____
 Source _____
 Style Late Creek Revival w/
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric _____
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features _____

 Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____
 Organization _____
 Date _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

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

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Plat #52	Lot #206

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

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

1. Town New Bedford

Address 163 William St.

Name _____

Present use Commercial

Present owner Raymond Cabral

3. Description:

Date _____

Source _____

Style _____

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric _____

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____

Organization _____

Date _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

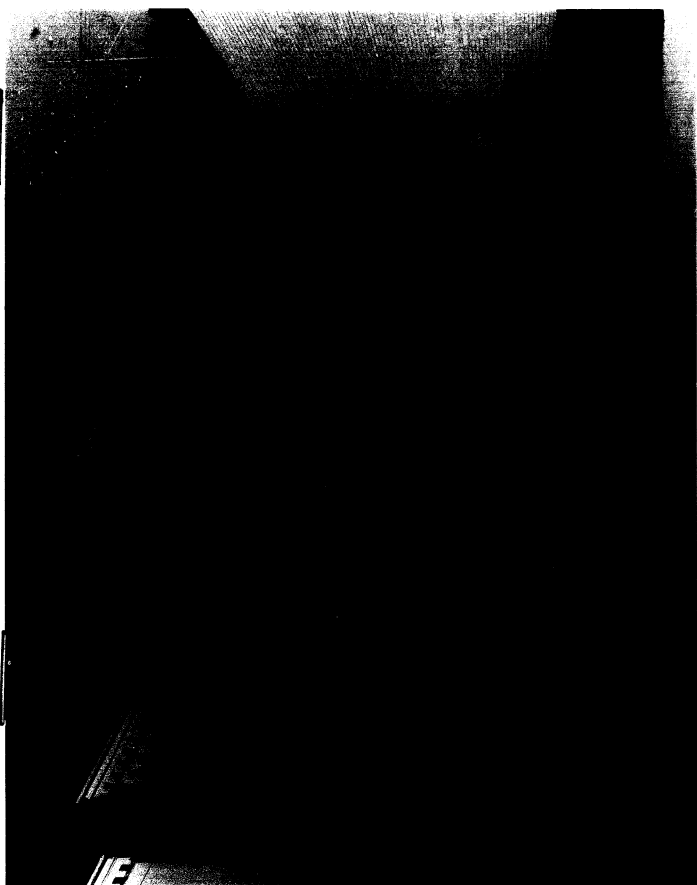
9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

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

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Plat #52	Lot #205



1. Town NEW Bedford

Address 167 William St.

Name _____

Present use Commercial

Present owner George & Francis Young

3. Description:

Date _____

Source _____

Style late Worcester Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric _____

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____

Organization _____

Date _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

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

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NBE.2053
Historic Name:	Douglass, Frederick Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church
Common Name:	First Universalist Church - Pilgrim Church
Address:	169 William St
City/Town:	New Bedford
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	2041
Year Constructed:	1855
Architect(s):	Rounseville, Clyde L.
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Church; Photography Or Art Studio; Synagogue
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Ethnic Heritage; Religion
Area(s):	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, November 19, 2021 at 2:26: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

NBE.2053

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

52/204

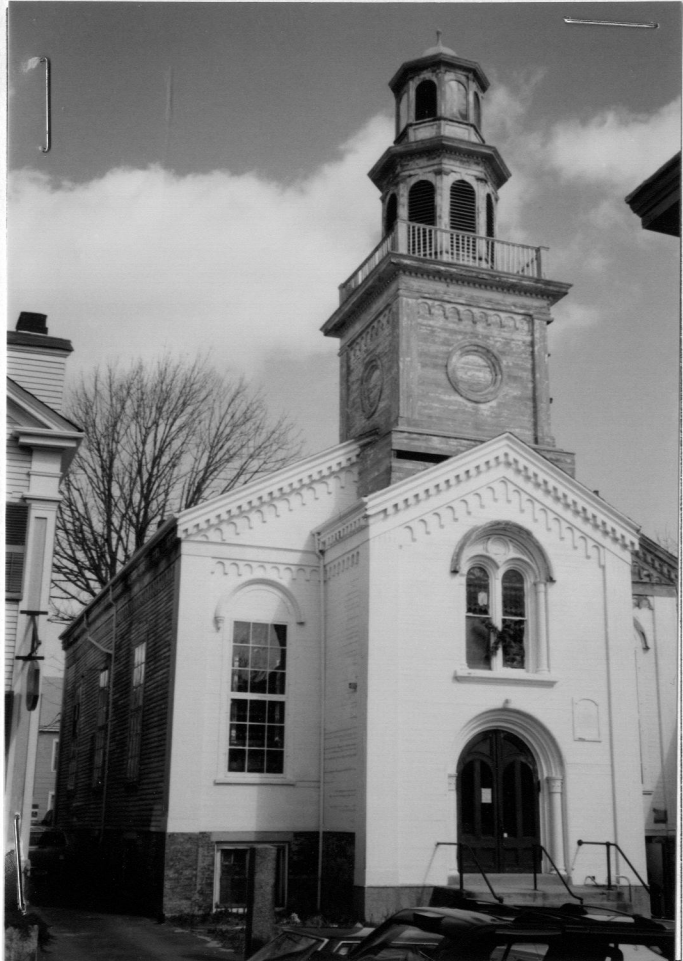
New Bedford N.

A

2041

NBE.2053
8/11/76

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

see attached map

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1998

MASS. HIST. COMM

Recorded by M.K. Harrington, J. Snow, E. Paulus
Organization PAL for Museum of Afro American History
Date (month/day/year) September 1998

Town New Bedford

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address 169 William Street

Historic Name Frederick Douglass Memorial Church

Uses: Present commercial

Original religious

Date of Construction 1855

Source Anonymous 1924

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder Clyde L. Rounseville (1933 alterations)

Exterior Material: _____

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim clapboard

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

Major Alterations (with dates) conversion to commercial structure (mid-1990s)

Condition fair

Moved X no _____ yes Date _____

Acreage less than one acre

Setting set back about 15 feet from road; granite post and low granite curbing at front; paved drive to east

BUILDING FORM**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:
New Bedford

Property Address:
169 William Street

NBE.2053

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

A

Form No.

2041

2053

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(continued)*

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Church at 169 William Street is a 2-story, Italianate-style, religious building. The building has a rectangular plan with an end-gable roof. The main block has a symmetrical, 3-bay facade (north elevation) and is 3 bays in depth. Attached to the facade is a slightly lower, 1-bay, end-gable projection which houses the primary entrance. The primary entrance is centered on the projection and consists of a double wood and glass door set in a recessed, arched opening flanked by engaged columns. Fenestration consists of single and paired, 9/9 and 1/1 double-hung-sash windows set in rectangular and arched windows with drip molded crowns and simple wood lintels and sills. An ornate, paired arch window flanked by engaged columns and set beneath a full arch crown is located directly above the primary entrance. The structural system is wood frame on a raised granite foundation. The exterior wall fabric is clapboard and the roof sheathing is asphalt. A 1-story, square bell tower intersects with the gable end of the main block and is topped by a simple wood balustrade and a 2-tier octagonal tower. The bell tower features drip molding, dentil-work, and pilasters while the octagonal tower features louvered vents and dentil-work. Other notable exterior architectural features include cornerboards, carved cornice trim along the facade and drip molding underneath the frieze. The property is in fair condition.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE *(continued)*

New Bedford was recognized as early as the late 18th century as a safe haven for free blacks and escaped slaves (MHC 1981:1). The city was an important link in the Underground Railroad, and opportunities in the whaling industry and coastal trade allowed many former slaves to stay in the area (Boss 1983:145). By 1830, African Americans made up 5 percent of the total population of New Bedford (Files at the Special Collection Dept., New Bedford Public Library). Initially, most settled west of the downtown in an area known as "New Guinea" (Kathryn Grover - personal files). By the mid-19th century, a more defined African-American neighborhood called the "West End" had developed between present day Union, Kempton, and Cedar Streets. With the decline of the whaling industry, African Americans found employment in trade and service industries (Hayden 1993:10-11). By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, black-run businesses prospered in the West End and black employment in the local mills increased (Boss 1983:145). By the mid-20th century, however, the West End area was plagued by economic hardship and deteriorating race relations. Fires set during a 1970 race riot and subsequent urban renewal projects destroyed much of the historic fabric of the neighborhood.

The church at 169 William Street was constructed in 1855 by the First Universalist Church, which was organized in 1835. The church purchased a lot at School and Fifth streets and erected its first church building. The Universalist Church worshiped in this building until 1849, when a loss of membership caused the church to close. The Universalist Society was revived in 1851 and by 1855, the present church was constructed at a cost of \$10,000 (Anonymous 1924). The Universalist Church occupied the building until lack of membership caused the church to dissolve in 1932 (Anonymous 1932).

The next congregation to occupy the church was the Pilgrim Church, which was organized in 1924 and had previously met at the Eastern Star Temple in New Bedford. The Pilgrim Church purchased the church on William Street in May of 1933 and before resuming services made extensive repairs and alterations to the church. The architect for the alterations was Clyde L. Rounseville, who designed a minister's room inside the church, repaired the balcony, and redecorated the interior in the Colonial Revival style. The most significant alteration was the addition of a new tower, which retained the original base,

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETCommunity:
New BedfordProperty Address:
169 William Street

NBE.2053

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125Area(s)
XForm No.
2041
2053

but incorporated a new lantern and dome. The earlier tower had been damaged during a storm in 1928 (Anonymous 1932). The Pilgrim Church occupied the Williams Street church until it was sold to the congregation of Temple Sinai in the fall of 1968. The Temple Sinai used the church for worship services until 1977 (Anonymous 1968; Anonymous 1977).

In 1979, the Frederick Douglass Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church moved into the church (Barcellos 1994). The African Methodist Zion Church was initiated as early as 1836 under the leadership of Reverend Thomas James and Reverend Carrington. As the congregation grew, the church was officially organized on March 5, 1850. Many of the original members of the African Methodist Zion Church had been members of the African Christian Church, the earliest African American church in New Bedford, founded in 1826. The African Methodist Zion Church first met in a schoolhouse and later at the home of Alexander Devol. The first pastor of this new church was the Reverend Leonard Collins. By 1851, a church building had been erected at 275 Elm Street (not extant) (Anonymous 1952). In the late 1860s, the church had 60 members and approximately 30 Sunday school children (E. Anthony & Sons 1869:12). The church became a social, educational, and religious center for many African Americans living in the West End. The church sponsored annual summer picnics, drama clubs, music classes, sports teams, and many other activities for the city's youth. The church was renamed the Frederick Douglas Memorial Church in 1924, in honor of the former slave who resided in New Bedford in the early 19th century and was actively involved with the African Christian Church. The A. M. E. Zion Church met in the Elm Street church for over 100 years until it was taken down in 1973 during an urban renewal project (Hayden 1993:108).

In June of 1979, the congregation moved to the church at 169 William Street. The Frederick Douglass A. M. E. Zion Church met here until June of 1994, when lack of church membership caused the church to close. This building is the only extant church building associated with this early African American congregation. Shortly after the A. M. E. Zion church disbanded, the building was occupied by Gallery X, an art studio (Barcellos 1994). The church currently remains owned and occupied by Gallery X.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:
New Bedford

NBE.2053
Property Address:
169 William Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)
A

Form No.
2041 2053

Grover, Kathryn. Personal files submitted to PAL, Inc, September 1998.

Hayden, Robert C. *African-Americans and Cape Verdean-Americans in New Bedford: A History of Community and Achievement*. Select Publications, Boston, MA, 1993.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report: New Bedford*. November 1981.

Vertical files located at the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, MA.

Maps

1795 *Plan of New Bedford, Massachusetts*. Walter Spooner, William Tallman, and Isaac Sherman.

1881 *New Bedford, Massachusetts*. George H. Walker.

1890 *New Bedford, Massachusetts*. Greenough.

1891 *New Bedford, Massachusetts*. George Walker & Company.

1911 *Atlas of Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. Walker Lithograph & Publishing Company.

1998 *1834 Map of New Bedford with African American families indicated*. Compiled by Kathryn Grover, New Bedford Historical Society.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:
New Bedford

NBE. 2053
Property Address:
169 William Street

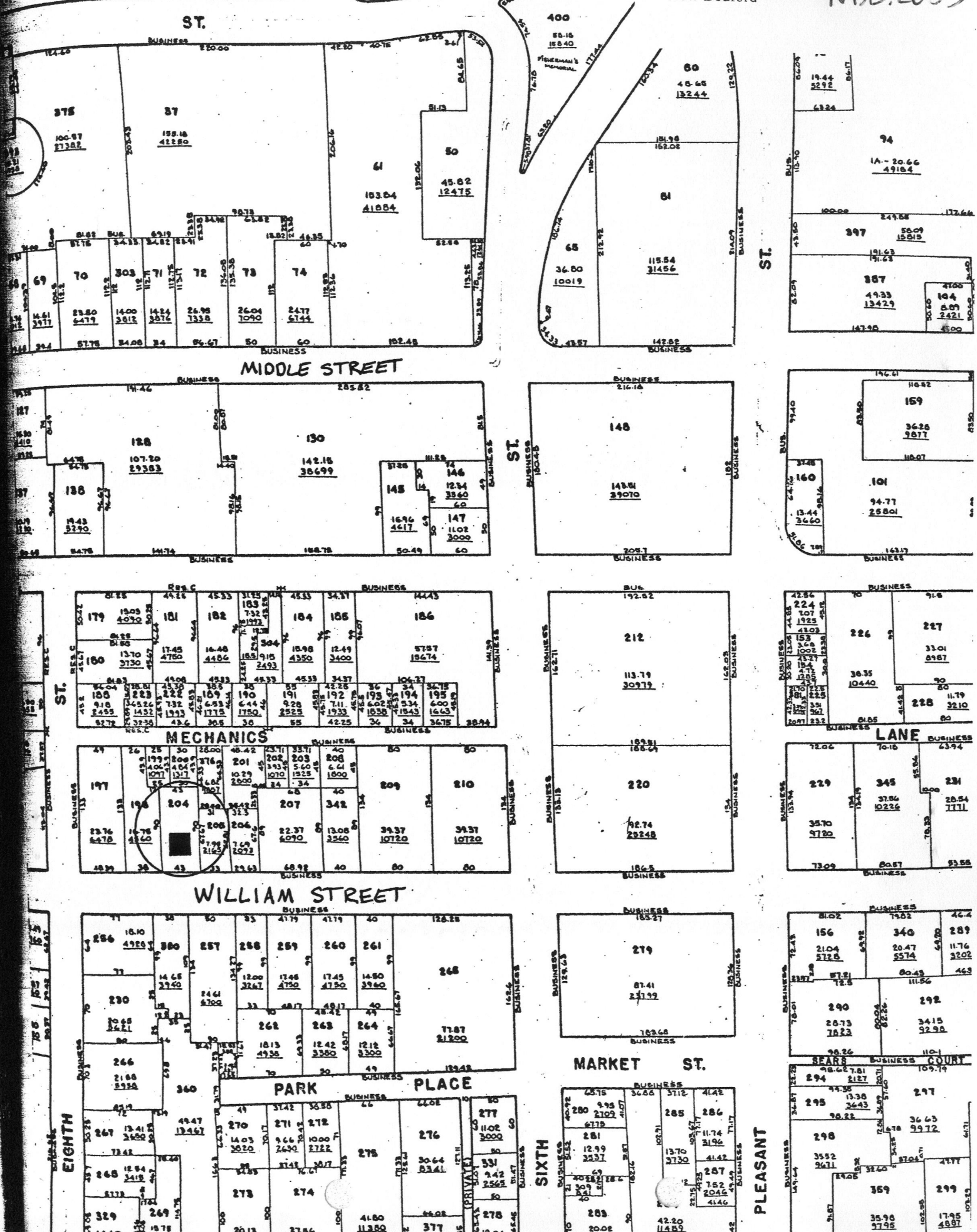
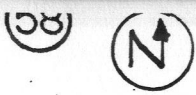
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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)
A

Form No.
2041 2053

PHOTOGRAPHS





NBE.2053

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archive Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
New Bedford

Property Address:
169 William Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	2041

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible
- Eligible only in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district
- Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by: PAL for the Museum of Afro American History

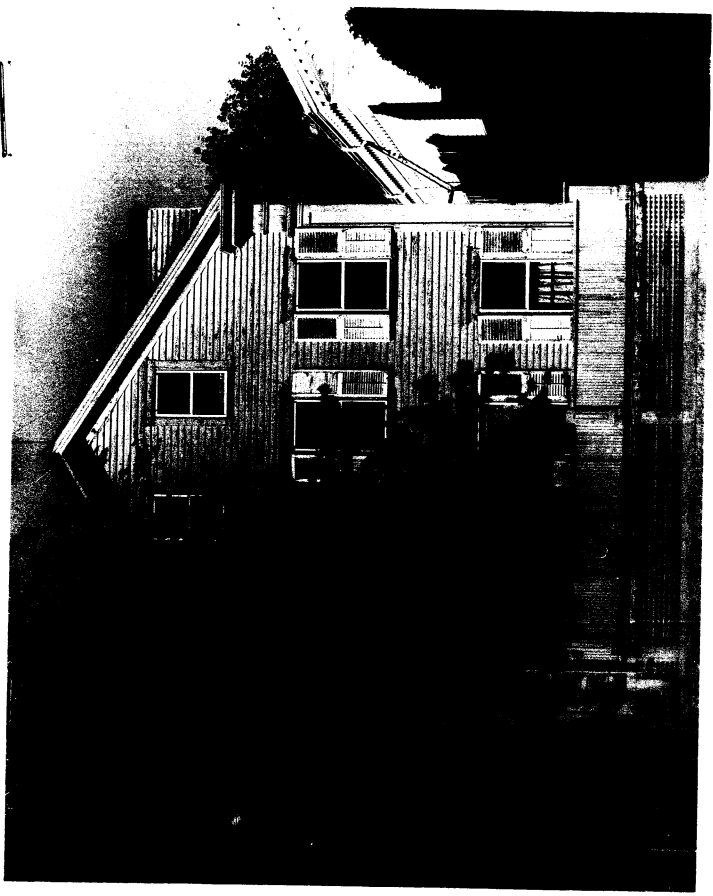
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Church is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Architecture. It has historical associations with the First Universalist Church (1855-1932), the Pilgrim Church (1933-1968), Temple Sinai (1968-1977), and the Frederick Douglass Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church (1977-1994). The building is an excellent and well-preserved example of an Italianate-style church and retains a high degree of its architectural integrity. Additional historical research will be required to complete the nomination.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. Plat #52	Form no. Lot #198
-------------------------	----------------------



1. Town New Bedford

Address 175 William St.

Name _____

Present use Resident

Present owner Paul & Peter Saber

3. Description: Saba

Date _____

Source _____

Style Late Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric _____

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____

Organization _____

Date _____

<p>DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE</p> <p>USGS Quadrant _____</p> <p>MHC Photo no. _____</p>

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

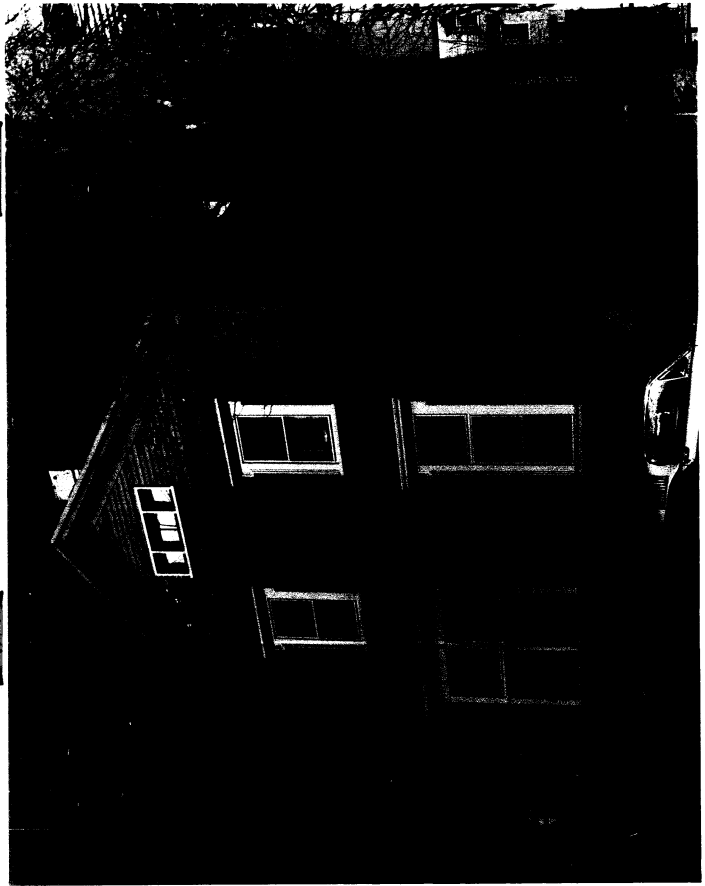
9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

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

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. Plat #52	Form no. Lot #197
-------------------------	----------------------



1. Town NEW Bedford
 Address 179 Eighth St. William St
 Name _____
 Present use Commercial

 Present owner William & Eighth Realty

3. Description:
 Date _____
 Source _____
 Style late 19th century
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric _____
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features _____

 Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage _____
 Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by _____
 Organization _____
 Date _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE USGS Quadrant _____ MHC Photo no. _____
--

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

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

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. 52	Form no. 186
-------------------	-----------------



New Bedford

SS 39 North Sixth Street

Fred W. Greene & George R. Cherry

nt use Parking Garage

nt owner Gerardo Realty Trust

ription:

1925

ource N.B. Building Dept.

20th Century modern

Architect Leo L. LaBrode

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features -----

Altered Yes Date 1927

Moved No Date

5. Lot size: 15,674 Sq. Ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 141 Feet

Approximate distance of building from street

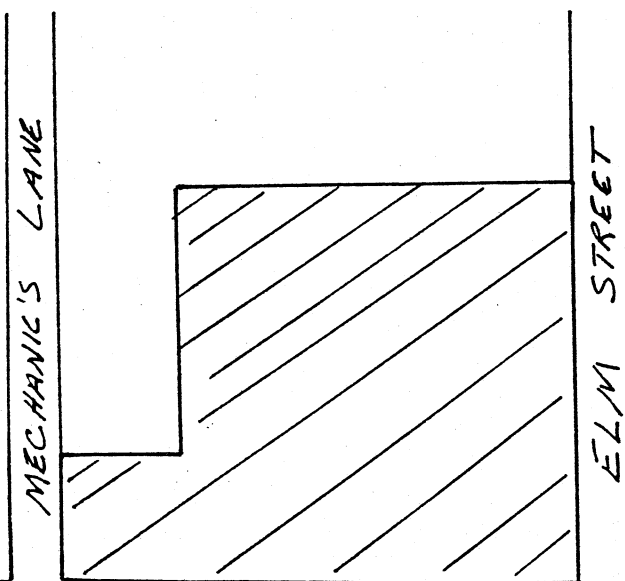
On sidewalk

6. Recorded by Peter Jacobsen

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date March 1978

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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Fred W. Greene Jr. & George R. Cherry

Original use New car dealer/garage

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Parking garage (1973)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

This two story brick and concrete structure was erected on this site in 1925 and sold to City Garage Inc. who in October, 1925, sold it to Everett H. Corson. Mr. Corson used this building until 1973 as a new car dealership, selling and repairing automobiles.

In most recent times the building has been used as a parking garage and is presently slated to be altered into apartment buildings, presumably this means at least partial demolition of the building.

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

New Bedford Tax Assessor's Office.

Registry of Deeds.

New Bedford City Building Records.

39 North Sixth Street - The Corson Garage - Mechanics Square Project

Peggi Medeiros, Office of Historic Preservation

Statement of Significance

The Corson Garage project was first announced in October, 1924, when the Evening Standard ran a story detailing plans for the "erection of a two-story garage of tapestry brick at the southwest corner of North Sixth and Elm Streets by Fred W. Greene, Jr." The building was to occupy a site where four run-down houses were standing. A rendering of the building ran next to the story. (See attachment)

On April 3, 1925, Fred W. Greene Jr., took out a building permit for the project. The architect was Leo La Brode, the builders, Locke and Thomas. The garage was to have a capacity of 165 cars. Specified materials were brick, concrete and steel. It was to run 145' on Elm Street and 141' on North Sixth Street. Estimates before construction began were that the project would cost \$90,000.

Construction took place over the summer of 1925 and finished in early fall. At that time, Greene, a former newspaper editor turned real estate speculator, sold the garage to the City Garage Inc. for \$175,000. City Garage then sold to Everett H. Corson for \$200,000. On October 18, the Standard ran a long story announcing the opening of Corson's business. The headline ran: CORSON CONVERTS CITY GARAGE INTO LOCAL PACKARD HEADQUARTERS / COMPLETED BUILDING EMBODYING MOST MODERN FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION OPENED AS BOTH SALES AND SERVICE STATION AND REGULAR STORAGE GARAGE. The story opened by stating, "The City Garage at the corner of Elm and Sixth Streets was formally opened this week by Everett H. Corson, its new owner and sole tenant as the Packard headquarters for New Bedford and vicinity. The largest structure of its type in New Bedford and probably this side of Boston with its up-to-date construction, its 300,000 square feet of floor space and its splendid service facilities, the building compares favorably with any automobile sales and service station in South-eastern Massachusetts."

After an exhaustive description of the interior of the new Packard headquarters, the story ran down the exterior of the building. "Structurally the most modern garage ideas have been incorporated throughout in order to obtain the maximum of strength and durability combined with the minimum of fire hazards. The outer walls are of tapestry brick and artificial stone. All the floors are of concrete, even the roof, which is unique in that it contains an inch of cork insulation to prevent condensation....Ample lighting facilities are provided. Large plate glass windows set in copper frames extending across the front of the building and for some distance on the Elm Street side, combined with the many windows on the second floor permit a flood of light to come through on both floors during the daytime."

The interior of the garage was pure white. The ground floor on the Mechanics Lane corner had been designed as a store and measured 16' along Sixth Street and was 38' deep. The building's main pedestrian entrance was on Sixth Street facing the municipal parking lot. The second primary entrance was also on Sixth Street.

Everett Corson stayed in the North Sixth Street garage for forty-five

years. At the time of his death in 1971, the Standard Times noted that Corson had the "longest continued association with the auto industry in Greater New Bedford." Mr. Corson was consistently associated with large, luxury cars ranging from Locomobiles, Chalmers and Franklins during the infancy of the car business to Packards and still later Cadillacs.

The Corson Garage was designed by Leo La Brode, a prominent New Bedford architect who was to become a founding member of an architectural firm that is still active today. La Brode was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and began his career there between 1904-1909. He then moved to New Bedford and joined the office of his brother-in-law, Louis Destremps. While with Destremps, he assisted on designs for several important New Bedford buildings among them the Star Store Department Store at 182 Union Street and the New Bedford Gas & Edison building at 693 Purchase Street. After the death of Mr. Destremps, he went into partnership with E. G. Bullard, who had worked on the New Bedford Registry of Deeds and the remodeling of City Hall. In 1938 the nucleus for Tallman, Drake & Guay was formed when Tallman, La Brode and Rounseville organized.

Besides the Corson Garage, La Brode provided designs for a number of federally funded housing projects among them Parkdale, Nashmount and Blue Meadows. Other La Brode buildings were the Dawson Brewery in New Bedford and St. Anne's Hospital and Chapel in Fall River. The Corson Garage assumes importance as an early example of Mr. La Brode's work and as a stabilizing anchor in the future New Bedford Central Historic District with the First Baptist Church, City Hall and the Registry of Deeds as neighbors. The present Mechanics Square project is a striking example of adaptive reuse and when completed will have 25 units of elderly housing.

Physical Description as of March 1980

The Corson Garage is a two story, tapestry brick and concrete building located on the south-west corner of North Sixth and Elm Streets in New Bedford, Massachusetts. It was constructed in 1925. The architect was Leo La Brode. Concrete is used for decorative lintels, doors and string courses across the front facade of the building. The roof is flat. An extensive exterior restoration is planned to replace bricked up doors and windows. The Corson Garage is a fine example of early twentieth century commercial design executed by an important New Bedford architect.

Is to Erect

With the changes that have taken place within the last year and those contemplated within the coming year, there has been more development through new construction in the center of the city than during any similar period in the history of the city. These physical changes, which have been accompanied by a great deal of activity in the buying and selling of real estate, resulting in much discussion as to property values in the center of the city, have thrown a great deal of light on the rapidly enhancing values of property in the central business section.

A contemplated development that will altogether change the character of the immediate neighborhood is the erection of the two-story garage of tapestry brick at the southwest corner of North Sixth and Elm streets by Fred W. Greene, Jr., who purchased the property from the Lewis heirs. Mr. Greene will be associated with another in the erection of the garage, the estimated cost of the development running from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The new building will occupy a site now covered by four dwelling houses, two facing on Elm street and two on North Sixth street. One of these North Sixth street houses has been in an abandoned condition for many years and two of the others are dilapidated. One dwelling to be taken is still in a seissors' value of the property is

An Interesting Comparison.

There is an interesting comparison to be made between the value placed on this Sixth and Elm street property and that recently purchased by David Susini on the north side of Mechanic's lane, just east of Pleasant street. The Assessors' valuation of the 3.51 rods of land included in the purchase of Mr. Susini is \$3,360 a foot or approximately \$1,050 a rod. The reported price paid by Mr. Susini, stated to be \$14,000 or \$15,000, brings the price per rod up to about \$4,500.

The property purchased by Mr. Greene for a garage site has a frontage of 119.2 feet on Elm street, 7.6 feet on North Sixth street, a depth of 124.14 feet on the south side and a depth of 99 feet on the west line, the whole containing 43.35 rods or 11,800 square feet. The Assessors' value of the property is a \$1.33 per foot or at the rate of \$362.07 per rod. This is a valuation which is slightly more than one-third of the assessed value of the property purchased by Mr. Susini. The valuation placed on the four houses that are to be removed to make way for the garage is small, ranging from \$600 on the poorest of the houses on North Sixth street, \$825 on the easterly house facing on Elm street, \$1,100 on the northerly house facing on North Sixth street to \$2,675 on the westerly house on Elm street. The valuation placed on the 43.35 rods of land is \$15,700, the value of the four houses totals \$5,200, making the total valuation of the property \$20,900.



The Transition

Lower picture shows southwest corner of Elm and North Sixth streets, where Fred W. Greene, Jr., will build a garage. Above is the new structure as planned. Numbered arrows below indicate the four houses that are to make way for the new structure. Nos. one and two are houses facing on North Sixth street, while Nos. three and four are houses facing on Elm street.

VALUES GROW IN CENTER

New Construction Throws Great Deal of Light on Rapidly Enhancing Prices Contemplated Development Is New Garage Greene Is to Erect

With the changes that have taken place within the last year and those contemplated within the coming year, there has been more development through new construction in the center of the city than during any similar period in the history of the city. These physical changes, which have been accompanied by a great deal of activity in the buying and selling of real estate, resulting in much discussion as to property values in the center of the city, have thrown a great deal of light on the rapidly enhancing values of property in the central business section.

A contemplated development that will altogether change the character of the immediate neighborhood is the erection of the two-story garage of tapestry brick at the southwest corner of North Sixth and Elm streets by Fred W. Greene, Jr., who purchased the property from the Lewis heirs. Mr. Greene will be associated with another in the erection of the garage, the estimated cost of the development running from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The new building will occupy a site now covered by four dwelling houses, two facing on Elm street and two on North Sixth street. One of these North Sixth street houses has been in an abandoned condition for many years and two of the others are dilapidated. One dwelling to be taken is still in a "scholar" value of the property is

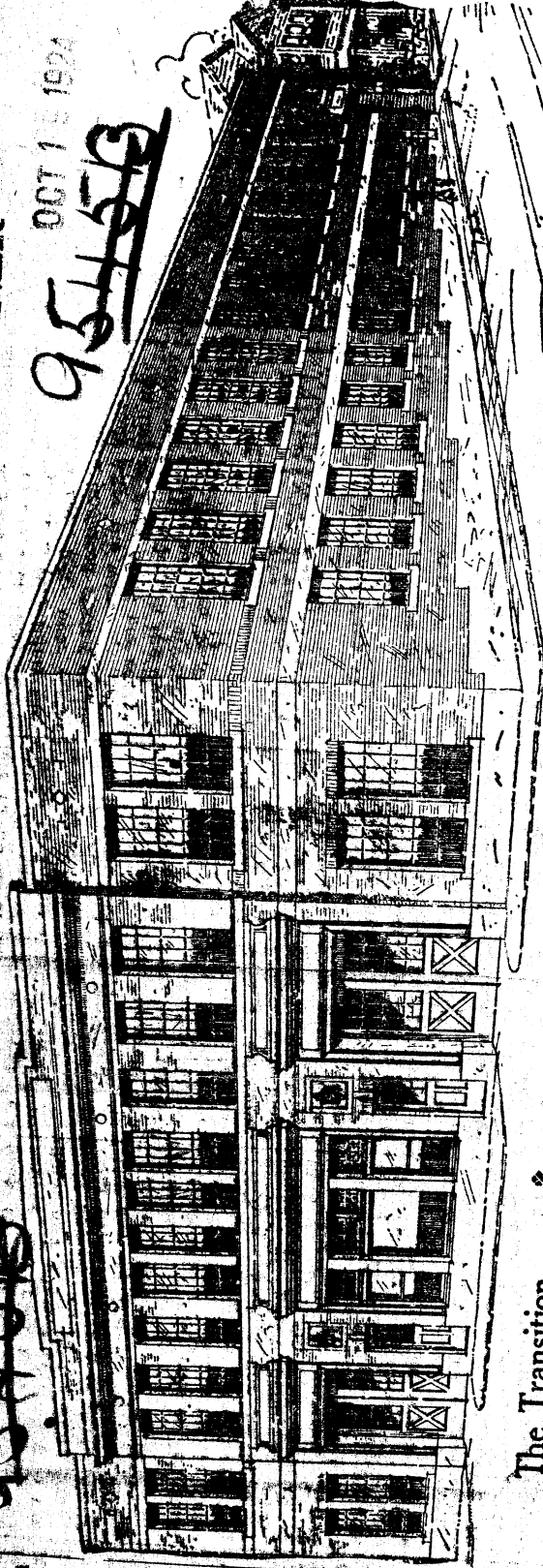
An Interesting Comparison.

There is an interesting comparison to be made between the value placed on this Sixth and Elm street prop-

PICTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTER CORNER

OCT 1 1924

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The Transition

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47 Mechanics Lane



49 Mechanics Lane



60 Mechanics Lane



61 Mechanics Lane



62 Mechanics Lane



63 Mechanics Lane



64 Mechanics Lane



66 Mechanics Lane



67 Mechanics Lane



68 Mechanics Lane



69 Mechanics Lane



71 Mechanics Lane



NS Mechanics Lane



149 William Street



161 William Street



163 William Street



167 William Street



169 William Street



175 William Street



179 William Street



150 Eighth Street



156 Eighth Street



168 Eighth Street



160 Elm Street



162 Elm Street



170 Elm Street



176 Elm Street



SS Elm Street



35 N Sixth Street



WS N Sixth Street



Mechanics Lane District Character and Context



Mechanics Lane, Looking west



Mechanics Lane, Looking East

Mechanics Lane District Character and Context



East Side of Eighth Street, between Elm Street and Mechanics Lane



View of Mechanics Lane from corner of William and South Sixth Streets

Mechanics Lane District Character and Context



Alley between William Street and Mechanics Lane



North side of William Street