

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

City of New Bedford  
Mechanics Lane District  
November 24, 2021

<b>PRELIMINARY REPORT REQUIRED SECTIONS</b>	<b>Checklist</b>
<p><b>Summary Sheet</b> 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><b>Introduction</b> The introduction should explain what an historic district is, why it is needed and how it will benefit the community.</p>	X
<p><b>Methodology</b> 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><b>Significance</b> 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><b>Justification of the Boundaries</b> 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><b>Options and Recommendations for the Ordinance or Bylaw</b> 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><b>Map</b> 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><b>Property Index</b> 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><b>Ordinance or Bylaw</b> The proposed ordinance or bylaw should be included. The ordinance or bylaw may be based on examples provided by MHC.</p>	X
<p><b>Inventory Forms or Photographs</b> 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><b>Slides</b> 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 ABOLITION ROW 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

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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. The Study Committee anticipates that the matter will be sent for review to the City Council Ordinance Committee, a standing committee. 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 38 parcels within the proposed local historic district, including two vacant parcels currently being developed into a city park commemorating the abolitionist movement in New Bedford.

**Conclusion:** The proposed designation of the Abolition Row Local Historic District will ensure that this unique and cohesive group of properties are recognized for their historic and architectural significance and protected from adverse and irreversible alterations, and to ensure 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 the region and significantly enhance 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, (three of which are located within the proposed Abolition Row District), 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 currently 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 Historical Commission (NBHC) identified the Abolition Row (Seventh Street) neighborhood as potentially eligible for designation as a local historic district. The NBHC voted to pursue the study of the Abolition Row 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 Historical 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 Abolition Row 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 Abolition Row (Seventh Street) 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, various studies and reports written by historian Kathryn Grover, existing historic resource inventory forms, deed and tax records, along with review of historic maps, historic images, atlases and city directories.

The Abolition Row 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 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.

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 Abolition Row District for consideration by the City Council.

# SIGNIFICANCE

## OVERVIEW

The proposed Abolition Row Local Historic District comprises a unique and cohesive group of residential properties along Seventh Street, which represent New Bedford's significant role in the Abolition Movement. Between 1790 and the Civil War, New Bedford became known not only as the whaling capital of the world, but also as one of the greatest asylums for fugitive former slaves. The city was a community of tolerance where African Americans lived and worked among wealthy white whaling and shoreside merchants, as well as skilled craftspeople, shop owners, service workers, laborers and mariners of all colors. Unlike other sections of the city, the proposed district is highly representative of an integrated neighborhood in racial, economic and residential terms. Overall, the neighborhood is characterized by a high level of integrity of well-preserved early to late nineteenth century residential dwellings, with a wide range of historic architectural styles, reflecting the development of the neighborhood over the decades. As such, the Abolition Row Local Historic District represents a distinctive cross-section of New Bedford's antebellum and post antebellum built environment and population.

The success and global exploratory nature of the whaling industry helped to create a bustling, cosmopolitan seaport community, and one of the richest and most diverse cities in the world. Opportunities for individuals and families from all backgrounds to make a living and prosper were readily available at sea, and in the shore-side businesses that supported the whaling industry. New Bedford was particularly attractive to the enslaved seeking freedom because of the employment opportunities presented by the whaling industry, a large racially-tolerant Quaker population, an existing free population of color, and a coastal trading system that provided opportunities to escape bondage by hiding on vessels heading to New Bedford from southern ports.

## NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The area in which Abolition Row is located emerged in the later part of the eighteenth century in response to New Bedford's newfound whaling industry. Originally part of a large tract stretching westward from the riverfront, by 1746 the area was largely owned by the Quaker Joseph Russell (1719-1804), the great grandson of Dartmouth proprietor John Russell and the founder of New Bedford's whaling industry. In a 1764 plan he developed for what he called "Bedford Village", Joseph Russell (whose house stood on County Street at the head of William Street), included a street from the cart-way that ran from the waterfront to his property, what is now Union Street. Joseph Russell's plan also featured Spring, School, and Walnut Streets running east to west, parallel to Union and eight north-south cross streets -Water and First through Seventh Streets, extending between the river and County Street. (See Original Purchase Map) By 1800 Russell had sold most of the lots on Union Street and forty lots south of Union, extending to Walnut Street. Seventh Street, from Union to Walnut Streets was formally accepted as a street in 1807, and Walnut to Madison in 1838. By 1815, the most densely settled section of the village lay south of Union Street, and all but six parcels between Union and Walnut Streets on the north and south, and the river and County Street, east and west had been sold. Prior to the Civil War, Union Street served as the northern boundary of the village, County Street to the west, and the Acushnet River waterfront to the east.

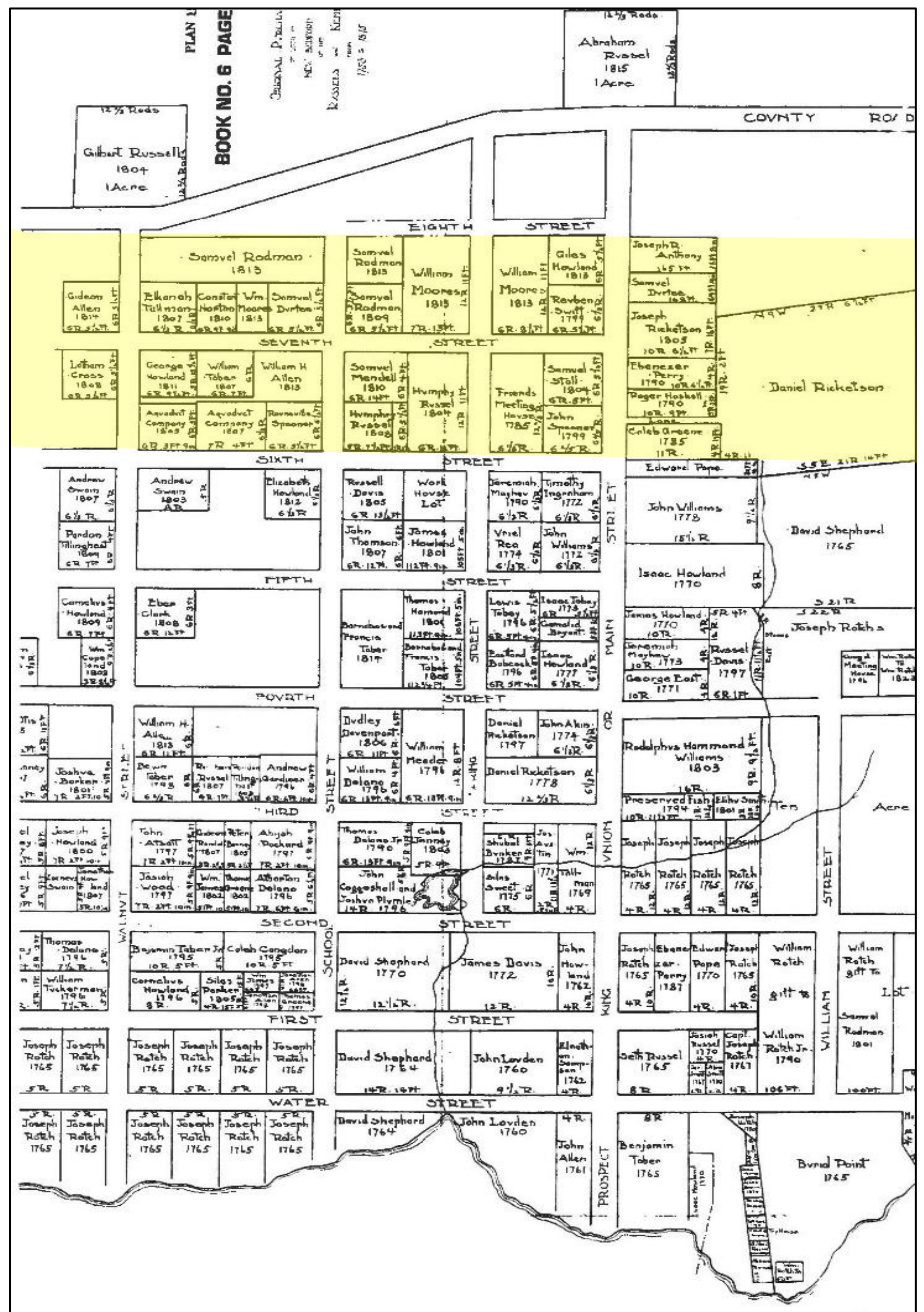
By the early nineteenth century, Bedford Village's street pattern had been established; however, there was a geographic distinction in the density and uses within this area. The eastern section of the village, closest to the waterfront and wharves, had a greater diversity of uses with warehouses, shops, candleworks, ropeworks and oil factories, with few residential dwellings interspersed. To the west, County Street became the site of many of the city's most elegant estates and choice location to the wealthiest whaling merchants. Seventh Street, just east of County Street, developed as a residential neighborhood with homes on a somewhat more modest scale compared to County Street.



As New Bedford's whaling economy grew, residents from more settled areas of Plymouth Colony and beyond were drawn to the area for larger allotments of land, economic opportunity, and religious freedom. In the late seventeenth century, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony banned "the cursed sect of heretics commonly called Quakers" which played a role in the settlement of the Seventh Street neighborhood. Founding families who lived in this neighborhood came from three principal areas—northeastern sections of Plymouth Colony, Nantucket, and Rhode Island, with smaller migrations from Cape Cod and Philadelphia. Quaker migration and the extensive and intricate family connections and marriages amongst the early Quaker settlers shaped the character and physical development of the Seventh Street neighborhood.

The white families along Seventh Street were not only connected by their family ties and inter-marriages, but their families' association with whaling as many were born into positions of management and investment. Men like William Rotch Jr. (396 County Street), George Howland Sr. (245 Walnut Street), Joseph Ricketson Jr. (179 Union Street, no longer extant), never worked as crew or mastered whaling ships. Others worked their way ashore through a career as a mariner or captain. Captain Elkanah Tallman (251 Walnut Street) was the Master of the *Othello* and *Bristol* in the first decade of the 1800s before he began to invest in whaling ships. William Nye (25 Seventh Street) was a sea captain and part owner of several ships. Nye also was the son-in law of Captain Elkanah Tallman. Isaiah Burgess (246 Walnut Street), like his father before him had been a master mariner. Later in life he became partners in the whaling firm of Burgess and Howland. William H. Allen (30 Seventh Street) began his career as a tailor working with his father, James and brother Gideon, which led them into outfitting sailors in the whaling industry and ultimately into agency and ownership.

Seventh Street also was home to men who were simply mariners and not agents or ship owners. Captain John Akin (51 Seventh Street), spent most of his life in the merchant service commanding packet vessels between New Bedford and Boston. Daniel Wood (33 Seventh Street) was master of such vessels as the *Minerva*, *Commodore Decatur*, and *Braganza*. Many neighborhood residents were in the business of supplying whaling vessels with goods and tools and processing its products. In addition to his ship holdings, George Howland Sr. (245 Walnut Street) owned and operated a candleworks



Original Purchasers of the Lots of New Bedford;1753-1815 with Abolition Row highlighted.

and oil refinery. The William Rotch family operated a ropewalk and David S. Bradley, who in 1836 lived at 35 Seventh Street was a cooper, although generally the neighborhood's coopers, sailmakers, and blacksmiths lived in the more modest part of the neighborhood, south of Madison Street.

The neighborhood's influence was not only related to whaling, as many men were civic leaders within the growing community. Many men like George Howland Sr. (245 Walnut Street) were directors of the city's banks and insurance companies. George Howland Jr. (37 South Sixth Street with carriage house at 46 Seventh Street) was a Whig representative to the General Court in 1839, Mayor of New Bedford in 1855, and again in 1863 after the death of Isaac Taber. He established a trust fund for the New Bedford Free Public Library from his mayor's salary that remains in use today. George W. Baker (26 Seventh St) was an active member of the Society of Friends and served as City Assessor, as librarian of the "Social Library," the predecessor of the New Bedford Free Public Library and treasurer of the New Bedford Institution for Savings from 1835 until his death. William S. Allen (30 Seventh Street) had family ties to whaling and married Ruth Parker, daughter of John Avery Parker, one of the wealthiest men in the city. In addition, Allen held several key positions including the New Bedford representative to the Massachusetts General Court.

## QUAKERS

As the primary shipowners and merchants in the late-18<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, New Bedford's Quaker families carried substantial economic, social, and political influence. The Quakers owned and operated the shoreside whaling businesses, held political offices and were on the board of directors of most institutions and philanthropic organizations. Quakers were characterized not only for their strict self-discipline and industriousness, but also for their principles of tolerance and moral beliefs of equality. New Bedford's liberal and tolerant racial attitudes were attributed to the Quakers during New Bedford's golden age of whaling which peaked in 1857.

Many of the city's birthright Quakers converted to Unitarianism, however that did not diminish their tolerance for racial diversity nor their established Quaker principles to stand against oppression. Though some early Quakers had held slaves, individual Quakers and many Unitarians who had once been Quakers, were among the city's staunchest abolitionists, and by 1785 not a slave was held in the city. Thus, New Bedford was slave-free seventy-eight years prior to the Emancipation Proclamation.

Despite the facts that Quakers were not all abolitionists and not all abolitionists were Quakers, numerous African American authors clearly equated the two. On his first days in New Bedford, for example, the fugitive Frederick Douglass was relieved to see "the broad brim and the plain, Quaker dress, which met me at every turn... 'I am among the Quakers,' thought I, 'and am safe.'"

Local author Daniel Ricketson's *History of New Bedford*, published in 1858, attributes the local anti-slavery sentiments to the influence of the Quakers. Ricketson, a member of one of the most ardent abolitionist families, described New Bedford in the early part of the nineteenth

century as having "hardly a house in the place which had not given shelter and succor to a fugitive slave." Ricketson stated that due to the anti-slavery sentiments of the Quakers, "there is but little prejudice against color, and a general willingness and desire that the colored population may enjoy equal rights and privileges with themselves."



**Original 1785 Quaker Meetinghouse moved to Seventh Street.**

According to historian and author Kathryn Grover, from the 1830s to the Civil War, the period of greatest abolitionist activity, nearly every one of the most active abolitionists in New Bedford lived within or directly abutting the proposed district. The Rotch, Rodman, Ricketson, Howland, Allen, Taber, and Thornton families are all commonly associated with abolitionist activities, and all Quakers. Friend Joseph Russell donated the land for which the 1785 Quaker meetinghouse was constructed on the northeast corner of Spring and Seventh Streets. In 1822 the old frame meetinghouse was moved diagonally across to the southwest corner of this intersection to make way for a new brick meetinghouse built on its original site.

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The Underground Railroad, a term which refers to a vast network of people who helped fugitive slaves escape to the North and to Canada, was not run by any single organization or person. Rather, it consisted of many individuals -- many whites but predominantly blacks -- who according to one estimate, moved 100,000 fugitives from slavery between 1810 and 1850.

New Bedford was an important link within the Underground Railroad and was an attractive destination for those seeking freedom for several reasons. First, the whaling industry had made the city both wealthy and in constant need of labor. The maritime trades had historically been more welcoming to participation by people of color than other industries; however, whaling may have been the most open of all. The whaling industry drew seamen from all parts of the world. Free Africans as well as Native Americans, Cape Verdeans, West Indians, and Polynesian men joined the crew of whaling ships at foreign ports of call. This multi-cultural population also worked in the shoreside industries.

Second, the city was an active part of an extensive coastal trading system. New Bedford merchant vessels carried oil, whalebone, and other products to southern ports and the West Indies and returned with goods. Fugitive slave narratives document that runaways took advantage of this commercial network. Often aided by crew members and dock workers of both races, they stowed away amid ships' cargoes; sometimes sympathetic vessel captains brought them north. Many fugitives, like Frederick Douglass, traveled over both land and water to New Bedford, while others traveled entirely by vessel to the port.

Third, was New Bedford's tolerance of diversity and the degree to which there existed support for integration within the community. The city's white abolitionists, predominately Quakers, whether active or silent, provided a safe harbor for both formerly enslaved and free blacks. Every principal antislavery lecturer in the United States spoke in New Bedford, many of them repeatedly, and some abolitionists seem to have approached the city as a test case in the struggle for equal rights.

Finally, the city was home to a large population of people of color. In 1850, people of color were 6.3 percent of the city's population, a greater proportion than prevailed in Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia at that time. Subsequent to the 1850 passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, which allowed southern slaveholders to capture runaway slaves who had escaped to free states, the black population of many cities declined, yet New Bedford's actually grew: from 6.3 to 7.5 percent of the total population. And fully 30 percent of New Bedford's people of African descent in 1850 were born in the South, compared to only 15 percent of New York's black population and 16 percent of Boston's at the time. This African American community was active in antislavery reform since at least the 1820s. When Frederick Douglass arrived in 1838, he found New Bedford's people of color "much more spirited than I had supposed they would be. I found among them a determination to protect each other from the blood-thirsty kidnapper, at all hazards."

It is estimated that New Bedford had become home to some 300-700 formerly enslaved persons at various times between 1845 and 1863. Fugitive George Teamoh described New Bedford as "our magnet of attraction." Many formerly enslaved persons fled to New Bedford to join friends or family who had already settled here and were working in the maritime

industry or as domestic servants. The first documented fugitive in New Bedford was a man named John and his family who lived with Thomas Rotch, son of William Rotch Sr., who in 1792 sent the family to abolitionist Moses Brown in Providence for their safety.

A number of fugitive narratives exist which provide insight to the lives of those who made their way to New Bedford. In addition, after 1847 when the city was incorporated, there exists the Records of the Overseers of the Poor, which reference the city's formerly enslaved, and the aid provided to them. When former slave, Joseph M. Smith was interviewed by the local newspaper upon his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1911, he recounted his 1830 escape from North Carolina by stowing away on a lumber boat to New Bedford. Upon his arrival he encountered a warm welcome and great generosity and charity from the citizens.

Of the narratives and accounts of escape from bondage that reference New Bedford, the most notorious is that of famed fugitive Henry "Box" Brown. In 1849, Virginian slave Henry Brown emancipated himself by arranging to have himself mailed in a wooden crate to abolitionists in Philadelphia. Upon his arrival and release from the legendary crate, Brown was sent on to New York and from there, New Bedford, to the home of Joseph Ricketson Jr. whose house was located on the north side of Union Street, at the head of Seventh Street (no longer extant). Here he was provided shelter and employment by Ricketson. Brown's escape was celebrated openly and within a day or two of his arrival in the city he attended a party in his honor at the home of William J. Rotch. Henry "Box" Brown capitalized on the notoriety of his escape and went on to become a well-known speaker on the antislavery lecture circuit.

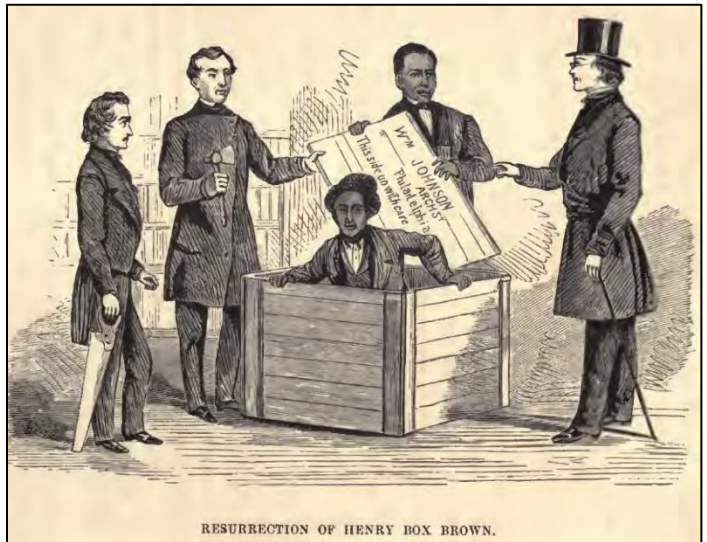


Illustration of Henry Box Brown's "resurrection" in Philadelphia. From William Still's 1872 book *The Underground Railroad*

It is difficult to determine with great accuracy the number of people of color living and working in the neighborhood, as the only listing until 1836 for New Bedford was the federal census which lists only householders by name. The publication of New Bedford's first directory in 1836 makes it possible to identify some of the people of color who lived and worked in white households. One such person is John Goings, who was born in Maryland and lived in the household of Mary Rotch (47 South Sixth Street, with lot extending to Seventh Street) from at least 1841 to at least 1870. He worked there as a waiter and later as a coachman. In 1843 Goings purchased a nearby lot with a dwelling house on it on the east side of County Street between Bedford and Wing Streets. Two years later he bought another lot with at least two houses on it on lower Madison Street. He appears to have rented these houses, for he is not listed in his own household, on William Street, until the 1880 census. He died in 1898 at the age of ninety-two.

William Rotch Rodman (388 County Street) regularly employed formerly enslaved people for domestic service and had a long and close relationship with William Piper, who came to New Bedford, most likely as a self-emancipated person, from Virginia between 1825-1830 and worked as a hostler to Rodman for a number of years. Rodman also employed Piper's son and son-in-law and sold Piper property. Piper and members of his family became anti-slavery activists within the community. John S. Jacobs, Harriet Jacob's younger brother, self-emancipated himself and arrived by ship to New Bedford in 1839 and stayed with William Rotch Rodman for a few months until he shipped out on whaling vessel. Jacobs went on to become an ardent antislavery activist and lecturer. Jacob's more notable sister Harriet, was a nanny for the prominent

Grinnell family and visited New Bedford often, staying across the street from the Rotch House at the Joseph Grinnell House at 379 County Street.

Although many black persons in the neighborhood served as domestics and others worked within the trades of the whaling industry, the occupations of the people of color in the neighborhood ranged widely within the spectrum of jobs then available to them. John Perkins Jr., who lived at 17 Seventh Street, sold wallpaper in 1856; George T. Moore was a saddle, trunk, and harness maker who lived at 33 Seventh Street with William H. Willis, for whose company he worked. The investment in whaling was widespread, particularly when it came to owning shares in whaling vessels. In 1855 the laborer Abner T. Davis of 37 Seventh Street owned a sixteenth share in the brig *Governor Carver* and the bark *Janet*.

New Bedford leaders, George Howland Sr. (245 Walnut Street) and Jr. (37 S Sixth Street with lot and carriage house extending to Seventh Street), William Rotch Rodman (388 County Street), William Rotch Jr., (396 County Street) and others regularly hired men and women of color for whaling crews and as domestics, and there was some measure of occupational and income improvement among them. The role George Howland Sr. played in the lives of some of New Bedford's men of color has been documented in Frederick Douglass's last autobiography, *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1893). Besides employing Douglass, Howland had a long relationship with John Briggs of Tiverton, who came to New Bedford at the age of twelve and lived with Howland and Howland's two sons of similar age. The two Howland boys assisted Briggs in his education and was so valued by the family that he was retained in the employ of the Howland's, father and sons, up to the time of his death, which covered a period of more than fifty years. Briggs went on to purchase property and live on Allen Street. Fugitive Solomon Peneton also worked for George Howland Jr. who sold him a parcel of land on Cedar Street, where he lived and operated a grocery store until he left for California about 1863. Peneton married fugitive Lucy Hasler, who was also employed by Howland Jr.

#### ABOLITIONISTS

New Bedford's Quakers and former Quakers played a defining role in forming New Bedford's reputation as a hospitable destination for formerly enslaved people. The social justice values held by the Quakers and their initiatives related to local charitable and benevolent causes easily transferred to antislavery activism. Several members of New Bedford's leading Quaker families such as the Rotch, Howland and Ricketson families were among the twenty-six men from Massachusetts who were charter members of the Providence Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, founded in 1789 and chartered in 1790.

No other family had a greater role in the development of New Bedford from a small port village into the global center of whaling than the Rotch family. The relocation of Joseph Rotch from Nantucket in 1767 began a family legacy of business, political and social leadership which would also reflect in the family's abolitionist activities which have been documented in a recent publication sponsored by the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum and authored by Kathryn Grover.

In 1790, William Rotch Sr. was appointed by the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends to investigate the antislavery testimony of the region's monthly meetings, at which time he advised that all then enslaved people be set free except those who were too old or too young to care for themselves. As clerk of the New England Yearly Meeting in 1793, he sought for an end to the slave trade, and his son William Rotch Jr. was among those who lobbied Congress as well.

In 1834, the same year he built his mansion at 396 County Street, William Rotch Jr. was the first president of the New Bedford Anti-Slavery Society and a member of the state antislavery society. As an active abolitionist, he financed the prosecution of the owners of the brig *Hope* on the charge of having fitted out as a slaver in Boston in June 1788, three months after Massachusetts passed a law banning the slave trade. His sister, Mary Rotch held strong anti-slavery sentiments based on her experiences during a religious mission to the South she took on behalf of the Friends as a young

woman in 1804. As an adult residing at 47 South Sixth Street with lot extending to Seventh Street), she employed several formerly enslaved people as domestics who then went on to be property and business owners.

Joseph Ricketson Sr, whose house was located at 179 Union Street, at the head of Seventh Street (no longer extant) and his son Joseph Ricketson Jr, were ardent abolitionists. The housing of the famed Henry “Box” Brown by Ricketson Jr. is well documented as well as is his involvement in housing several unnamed fugitives.

Ardent abolitionist Unitarian cleric John Weiss came to New Bedford in 1847 as pastor of the First Congregation Church, as his abolitionist views forced him to leave his position in Watertown. He resided at Elkanah Tallman’s house at 251 Walnut Street and was a vocal opponent to the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. In 1856 he left New Bedford due to poor health but returned in 1857 to speak at the funeral of famed fugitive assistant Captain Daniel Drayton.

Captain William Taber (34 Seventh Street) was an early whaling master whose ship the *Union*, in 1797 carried a concealed a fugitive “unbeknown to him” from Virginia; and due to the “wind being ahead” did not return the stowaway and continued to New Bedford with the fugitive.

Not all New Bedford residents could be characterized as abolitionists, however there was enough support by those with power to allow the fugitive populace within New Bedford to feel somewhat protected and for fugitives to seek out the city as a refuge. The bells at Liberty Hall (no longer extant) were used as a signal to warn of danger to fugitive slaves. In 1851, white abolitionist Rodney French tolled the Liberty Hall bell upon his seeing a strange vessel entering the harbor. This was a false alarm, but the story of New Bedford’s refusal to abide by the Fugitive Slave Act along with French’s ringing of the Liberty Hall bell had spread to New York and Boston, becoming somewhat legendary as an emblem of antislavery.



Liberty Hall, corner of William and Purchase Streets (no longer extant)

New Bedford’s black and white abolitionists cooperated in assisting the formerly enslaved; however black abolitionists were more forceful in their advocacy and provided most of the aid and protection for New Bedford’s fugitives. Solomon Peneton, who worked for George Howland Sr. & Jr. presided over numerous antislavery meetings held by the black community of New Bedford and was one of four New Bedford delegates to the Massachusetts colored people’s convention in 1857 and subsequently elected its vice president. By 1863 he had resettled in California, where he was at the center of movements to secure voting rights and equal education for that state’s black population.

Women of color were also involved in antislavery and abolition. In 1837, 107 of them signed a petition to protest the Negro Seamen’s Acts enacted in the Carolinas and Georgia, which subjected black mariners to potential imprisonment, and other slave-state laws that presumed all free black person were “runaway slaves” and thus liable to sale if no one could be found to document their free status. Amongst those who resided on Seventh Street were Lucy Peneton, who had lived in the George Howland Jr. household and Nancy King, who lived with Mary Rotch.

Paul Cuffe, a free black Quaker, and abolitionist, who became one of the wealthiest men of color in the nation, had a long business relationship and personal friendship with the Rotch family. Cuffe refused to pay taxes because free blacks did not have the right to vote, and in 1780 he petitioned the state legislature demanding his right to vote as a taxpayer which led to the legislature in 1783 granting the voting rights to all free males in the state.

## NATHAN & POLLY JOHNSON

Of all men and women of color in New Bedford, Nathan and Polly Johnson were probably the most active in black abolitionism. Nathan and Mary Johnson (better known as Polly) were free and lived in New Bedford where they owned a block of properties including their longtime home at 21 Seventh Street, the neighboring old Friends Meetinghouse at 17-19 Seventh Street and 93 Spring Street, located behind the meeting house. Nathan Johnson was an active abolitionist who assisted numerous formerly enslaved individuals, including famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The Johnson home was Douglass's first residence after his self-emancipation from slavery in 1838 and the only one of Douglass's three homes in New Bedford that remains today. These properties have been recognized as National Historic Landmarks.

Nathan Johnson's origin is uncertain, as he claimed to be born in Philadelphia, yet his death certificate lists Virginia as his birthplace. Polly Johnson was of mixed African and Native American ancestry from nearby Fall River. She and Nathan married in New Bedford in 1819. They lived and served as domestics to Charles W. Morgan for a short time at Charles and Sarah Morgan's first residence located at the southeast corner of Union and Seventh Streets. Historian Kathryn Grover believes that Morgan sold Johnson the 21 Seventh Street property in the 1820's and financed the conversion of the Old Quaker Meetinghouse at 17-19 Seventh Street to a residence in 1831.



Johnson Properties on Seventh Street

By mid-century, Nathan and Polly Johnson were well-established and renowned residents of the city and had acquired a certain degree of economic prosperity. At one time or another Nathan ran a catering business, was a partner in a restaurant, operated a dry goods store, had been a proprietor of a bathhouse, and was part-owner of the whale ship *Draper*. Polly was a confectioner famous for her cakes and candies and was patronized by the city's elite. She ran her confectionary business out a small shop at 23 Seventh Street (now replaced) next door to their home. By mid-century the Johnson's property holdings included their residence at 21 Seventh Street, the confectionary shop at 23 Seventh Street, the former meetinghouse at 17-19 Seventh Street, and a property at 93 Spring Street, located behind the meeting house, both which were rental properties. In 1849 the city assessor valued this real estate at \$15,500 and Johnson's personal estate at \$3200.

The Johnsons were among the best known and most active black abolitionists in New Bedford. Nathan Johnson was a delegate to the annual convention of free people of color from 1832-1835, one of five vice presidents of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, and was elected the president of the 1847 National Convention of Colored People in Troy, New York. Mary also attended anti-slavery meetings and the Johnsons regularly assisted fugitive slaves.

In 1838, it was local Quakers and abolitionists, William C. Taber and Joseph Ricketson Sr. who brought the formerly enslaved Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna to the Johnson residence. Douglass himself attested to Nathan Johnson's regular practice of assisting fugitives in all three of his well-known narratives. According to Kathryn Grover, it is believed that the old Friends meetinghouse was a safe house for runaway fugitives as well; however, this has not been confirmed.

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Fugitive Frederick Douglass did not provide the details of his escape from bondage and his journey to New Bedford until

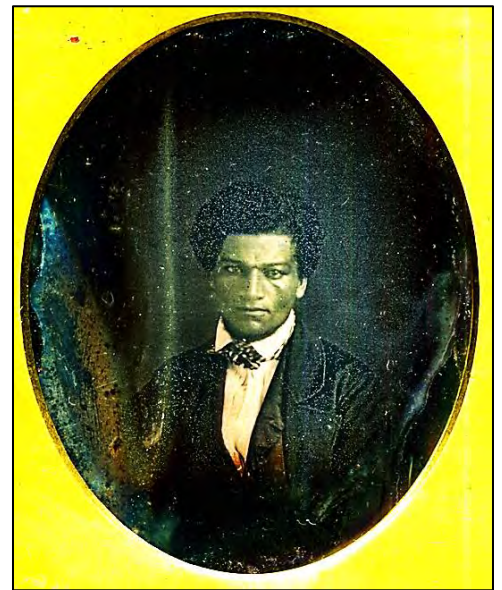
he wrote his 1881 autobiography. The specifics surrounding Douglass's escape to New Bedford demonstrates a certain level of organization and collaboration that must have existed between black and white abolitionists within the New Bedford community.

In September 1838, dressed in sailor's clothes and carrying another man's seaman's protection papers, Frederick Douglass, then Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, left Baltimore and made his way to New York, where abolitionist David Ruggles of the city's Vigilance Committee aided Bailey by providing him shelter. Within a few days Douglass changed his name to Johnson and waited the arrival of his fiancée Anna Murray, a free woman he had met years earlier in Baltimore, at which time they married. Citing his training as a caulker, Ruggles recommended that Douglass move on to New Bedford, where he presumably would be able to find employment on the waterfront.

It is uncertain whether Ruggles contacted white abolitionists in New Bedford to arrange for Douglass's reception, however when the Douglasses arrived in Newport they found a stagecoach bound for New Bedford. The stagecoach was occupied by New Bedford Quakers William C. Taber and Joseph Ricketson Sr. who brought the Douglasses to the Seventh Street home of Nathan and Polly Johnson. The fact that the fugitives were brought to the Johnson residence, and that Douglass carried with him a letter from Ruggles addressed to Johnson, suggests the probability that the Johnsons had previously housed fugitives at their residence.

Nathan encouraged Douglass to drop the surname "Johnson", which he had recently adopted in New York, as there were many Johnson families of color already in the city. Johnson suggested the new surname "Douglass", for the hero Scottish lord from Sir Walter Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, which Nathan was then reading. The Douglasses stayed with the Johnsons until 1839, when they were able to secure their own lodgings at 151 Elm Street (no longer extant). Two of Douglass' five children were born in New Bedford and in 1841, the Douglass family moved to larger quarters at 111 Ray Street (now Acushnet Avenue, and no longer extant), to accommodate their growing family.

In New Bedford, Douglass was impressed by the living standards of the people of color, and a certain level of social integration, however he did encounter prejudice when he attempted to work in his trained trade as a caulker for staunch abolitionist Rodney French. French's white caulkers threatened to quit if Douglass was hired, so Douglass was forced to find work doing unskilled day jobs such as digging cellars, shoveling coal and sweeping chimneys. He eventually found steady employment at places like Joseph Ricketson's candleworks, on George Howland's wharves, and at Gideon Richmond's brass foundry. At the foundry he improved his ability to read and taught himself about politics by reading newspapers tacked up near his bellows. One of them was William Lloyd Garrison's influential abolitionist newspaper the *Liberator*, a subscription to which was extended him in New Bedford by a "young man" whom Douglass never identified in January or February 1839. Douglass always credited the *Liberator* with his true political awakening.



Earliest known daguerreotype of Douglas most likely taken during his time in New Bedford

During that year Douglass was licensed to preach in the local African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, and he also began taking active part in antislavery meetings. The first record of Douglass in local newspapers documents his first public lecture on March 12, 1839, at the Third Christian Church (one of the city's two churches started by people of color); Douglass spoke to a black audience against the American Colonization Society. Douglass may have heard famed abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison for the first time the next month, which may also have been Garrison's first lecture in New Bedford.



Douglass's next known public appearance was in early July 1841, as chair of a meeting of New Bedford colored citizens who denounced the effort of Maryland slaveowners to force free black Marylanders to resettle in Africa. His third address came two months later, at the Bristol County Anti-Slavery Society's meeting in New Bedford. Impressed by Douglass's oratorical skills, local abolitionist William C. Coffin invited Douglass to speak at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society convention to be held on Nantucket a few days later.

The Nantucket convention was held over a three-day period and was one of the first mixed-race, anti-slavery assemblies in the country which attracted abolitionist orators from various parts of New England and New York. His articulate speech, reflecting on his own experience as a formerly enslaved person, impressed the audience and mostly William Lloyd Garrison who offered him a job as an agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. This Nantucket speech was pivotal as it marked the point in time which Douglass launched his long career as a public speaker, abolitionist and civil rights leader.

Frederick and Anna Douglass left New Bedford in 1841, when his oratory skills propelled him to be the most popular and acclaimed abolitionist lecturer on the anti-slavery circuit, gaining both a national and international reputation. As a powerful orator Douglass rose quickly to prominence as a favorite abolitionist and anti-slavery speaker, traveling throughout the country and world to shed light on the horrors of slavery and by the end of his life, Douglass could proudly claim to have served as advisor, political ally, and friend to six presidents, abolitionists Gerrit Smith and William Lloyd Garrison; women's rights activists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott; and authors Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain) and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

## ARCHITECTURE

The District contains a mix of dwelling types and architectural styles built during the nineteenth century which reflect the relatively unaltered development of the neighborhood during the growth of the whaling industry. With nothing of the pre-Revolutionary architecture of the city remaining (much of the area was set afire and destroyed by the British raid in 1778) the oldest buildings date to the period of rebuilding between 1785 and 1820. With few exceptions, the dwellings in this neighborhood are two- or two-and-a-half-story wood frame or brick homes, have small side and rear lots, and either are set back slightly from or abut the sidewalks; there are few carriage houses in the area, as the neighborhood was so close to the wharves, factories, and shops of antebellum New Bedford. Today, while some of its dwellings remain single-family homes, many have been converted into apartments or into professional offices.



19th century image of 26 Seventh Street

### Federal Style

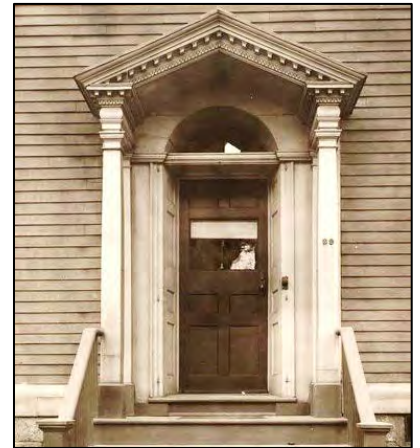
The Federal, or often referred to as the "Adam" style was dominant from 1780 to 1820, although locally this form of Neo-Classical architecture extended until the 1830's. Typically, a Federal style house is a simple square or rectangular box, two or three stories high, two rooms deep with doors and windows 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 two-story, wood-frame dwellings with granite foundations, gable roofs, symmetrical, three or five-bay, center-entrance front facades and wood clapboard and/or wood shingle siding. Large houses are five bays in width, and small houses are three bays wide with interior chimneys being the norm in both instances. Entrances, which are centered in the five-bay facades and shifted to one side in three-bay facades, are topped

by transoms and, in some cases, ornamented by Neoclassical architraves and porticos. Windows have wood headers with splayed lintels and cornices are simple, although some are embellished with dentil strings or other carved details.

### ***Representative Examples***

The oldest building in the district is the first meetinghouse of the Society of Friends which was built in 1785. It is a large, two-and-a-half story, six-bay, wood-frame structure in the Federal style with a gable roof. Originally constructed on the northeast corner of Seventh and Spring Streets, in 1822 it was moved diagonally across Spring Street to 17-19 Seventh Street when the Quakers built their second, brick meetinghouse on its original site. The building was converted into a dwelling by Nathan Johnson by 1832. The attic floor contains a trap door that permits access to a large crawl space between that floor and the high first-floor ceilings; this space, large enough to fit a group of people comfortably; and according to its National Historic Landmark nomination, has legendarily been associated with the concealment of fugitive slaves, but has not been confirmed.



Federal doorway of 29 Seventh Street

The earliest extant residences on Seventh Street were both built in 1807. The well-preserved structure at 29 Seventh was built by Captain John H. Congdon at the southwest corner of School Street but he lived there only four years due to his on-board death on the merchant ship *Aldebaran* in 1811, at the age of thirty-seven. His widow Frances Congdon and children retained the house until 1883. The Congdon House is a good example of a two story, five bay façade with a centered, arched transom and classical portico.

Also, in 1807 Elkanah Tallman built 251 Walnut Street on the northwest corner of Seventh Street. Tallman was a whaling master who turned from sailing to investing in whaling, becoming part owner of over a dozen ships. He resided at 251 Walnut Street until his death in 1846. The Tallman House has been altered; however, its original two-story, five-bay section retains a distinctive cornice with modillion blocks.

The New Friends Meetinghouse, constructed in 1821 at 83 Spring Street, is strict in its expression of the Quaker plain aesthetic than the houses of the period. Its stark geometric form, flat facades, restrained decoration and conspicuous craftsmanship are defining features. The brick exterior walls, laid in a common bond pattern, are detailed only with a three-course belt dividing the first and second stories and sandstone lintels and sills framing the windows and doors. The building is elevated on a dressed granite basement in the Classical manner into which a pair of stone double stairs is engaged providing divided focus on the two doors representing the separate male and female spheres within.

### **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. The Neoclassical style is best represented by a group of significant brick houses constructed in the 1830’s by leading families within close proximity to each other on S. Sixth and Seventh Streets.

### ***Representative Examples***

The 1831 William Allen House located at 30 Seventh Street (NBE.237) is one of these high style homes which is situated

within the District. This two-story brick residence is five bays wide in the front, four bays wide on the sides, and has a gable roof with the ends concealed by stepped parapet walls extending to the ridge line. The parapet rises in two stages from front and rear eaves with the two end chimneys functioning as vertical dividers. Although not present, it is likely that a balustrade ran between the lower parapet sections across the front and rear facades. The upper section of the parapet bridges the space between the two end chimneys at the roof ridge line with the chimneys rising an additional four or five feet. A wood frame lanterns remains positioned in the center of the roof ridge.

The front facade's roof line is detailed with a wide cornice with modillion blocks and the Greek Revival style entrance porch utilizes the Corinthian order with a Palladian window above. A two-story wood framed addition exists along the south facade and pyramidal capped granite posts and granite curbing remain along the edges of the property. A two story brick, gable end carriage house exists in the rear and is characterized with a central pediment entrance.

The most significant Greek Revival building within the District is the William Rotch Jr. House, located at 396 County Street, which currently operates as the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum. The Rotch Jr. House occupies a full city block on County Street, bordered by Madison, Cherry (now Joli Gonsalves), and Seventh Streets. The property is approximately one acre in size and was acquired by William Rotch Jr. in 1831 as part of the land owned by his father, William Rotch Sr., who passed the property to his children under the provisions of his will after his death in 1828.

William Rotch, Jr. built his house in 1834 at the top of the hill on County Street, where many of the most prestigious homes were being constructed by the wealthiest residents. He hired architect Richard Upjohn, who was at the time residing in New Bedford, and had opened his Boston office in the same year. The Rotch Jr. House is believed to be Upjohn's first formal design commission, and he would soon begin his prolific career designing churches throughout the United States and becoming renowned for promoting the Gothic Revival style in America.



**William Rotch Jr. House at 396 County Street**

William Rotch, Jr. was 75 years of age when the house was built, and he insisted on a house that was more restrained in its appearance and materials than others built in the area about the same time. The two-story wood frame house has a three-bay front façade capped by a wide Neoclassical pediment containing a segmental arch light. A lantern is situated in the center of the roof ridge in the New Bedford tradition. A piazza with Doric columns, Classical entablature, and rooftop balustrade further distinguishes the façade. There is also a full piazza across the rear façade, which overlooked the harbor. The setting of the house is unusually intact with gardens, greenhouse, carriage barn, and other outbuildings.

### **Gothic Revival Style**

The Gothic Revival is part of the mid-19th Century Romantic Movement in architecture reflecting the public taste for homes inspired by medieval design. The Gothic Revival style in America was advanced by architects Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing, authors of influential house plan books. The 1838 Unitarian Church (NBE. 2733) located nearby on Union Street and the 1845 William J. Rotch Cottage (NBE.210, NHL 2006), located just west of County Street, are attributed to Alexander Jackson Davis.

### **Representative Example**

The Samuel W. Rodman Guest House (NBE.83) located at 35 Seventh Street was originally part of the large estate of Samuel W. Rodman, whose house faces County Street. The County Street home is constructed of granite while the guest house was wood framed with the typical Gothic steeply pitched intersecting gables. There have been later additions of a

portico and new windows and siding, however the slate roof is original, matching the estate house on County Street.

## **ITALIANATE STYLE**

The Italianate Style was prominent in New Bedford post antebellum and large Italian style villas were constructed along County Street; however, on the smaller lots which existed along Seventh Street, smaller gable end residences with Italianate elements are the norm.

### ***Representative Examples***

The Joseph Brownell House located at 36 Seventh Street was constructed in 1875 as a two-family residence. It has Italianate brackets at the cornice and supporting the two-story faceted bay windows on the front and side elevations as well as windows with pronounced headers.

The William S. Cobb House located at 1 Seventh Street was constructed in 1878 and is a two-story, front-gable house with a second-story, centered rectangular bay. The house is embellished with the typical Italianate features such as pronounced window headers and scroll-sawn brackets in the cornice, bay and full front porch.

These two example forms, with their gable ends oriented to the street and pilasters at the corners, indicates a vernacular faithfulness to Greek Revival forms even in mid-century when other styles had long since supplanted the Greek style.

## **STICK STYLE**

The Stick style was a transitional style between the Gothic Revival style of the mid-19th century, and the Queen Anne style that it had evolved into by the 1890s. The most distinctive stylistic element of the Stick style is the decorative stickwork or bands of wood trim applied horizontally, vertically or diagonally to the exterior wall surfaces. A similar pattern of decorative wood trim appears in the trusses of the gables and across gables and on the porch braces.

### ***Representative Example***

The Ruth L. Smith House built in 1870 at 27 Seventh Street is one of the few late 19th century homes built along Seventh Street. Ruth Wilcox married Henry Smith, a mariner who shipped out of New Bedford with her father, Captain Wilcox. After Henry's death at the age of 50, Mrs. Smith built the house for her oldest son Henry Wilcox Smith, a local photographer. This is one of the few local structures built in the Stick Style and has many elements common to that style, such as the asymmetrical plan, steeply pitched roof, the "X" braces over the windows and the kingpost truss along the porch.



**Smith House at 27 Seventh Street**

## **QUEEN ANNE STYLE**

The peak period of the Queen Anne style architecture was 1880–1900, although the style persisted for another decade. The Queen Anne style evolved from early English designs to become a distinctly American style associated with the Victorian era. The style is recognized by its asymmetrical and highly creative massing, use of wall texturing, decorative trims, expansive porches and turreted towers.

### ***Representative Example***

The Edith Willis House located at 52 Seventh Street was constructed in 1888 and is the only Queen Anne residence on Seventh Street. Edith Willis purchased this lot from the estate of George Howland Jr. and hired architect Z. B. Davis to

design this residence. The house features a hipped roof, multiple dormers, a full porch with gable ornamentation, turned columns and spindle work.

### **MOVED HOUSES**

Several houses within the District have been moved from different locations. The Captain William C. Nye House at 25 Seventh Street was moved northward from its original site at the northwest corner of Seventh and School Streets in 1869 to allow the Smith family to build the Stick Style House currently at that location.

The Joseph Brownell House located at 36 Seventh Street was constructed in 1875 as a two-family residence and originally located at 8 Fifth Street. The house was purchased by Arthur Coffin from the Brownell Estate in 1910 and Coffin had the house moved to a lot adjacent to his residence at 34 Seventh Street.

The Joseph Ricketson II House located at 48 Seventh Street was originally constructed in 1853 as the home of Joseph Ricketson II and located at 5 Ricketson's Court (11 Park Place). This house was moved to this site in 1955. Joseph Ricketson II was the son of Joseph and Rebecca (Russell) Ricketson and brother to Daniel Ricketson, one of the New Bedford's well-known local historians. Ricketson built this house on part of his father's estate during the 1850s, but by 1858 he was bankrupt and lost all his property.

### **NON-EXTANT HOUSES**

Two houses within the District were recently lost to demolition; 18 Seventh Street due to a fire, and 20 Seventh Street due to deferred maintenance. Both properties were associated with the Thornton family.

Elisha Thornton Jr., who resided at 20 Seventh Street, was the grandson of a Quaker preacher who was an early opponent of slavery. He began his career as a druggist and starting in the 1820s, he invested in eight whaling vessels. Here in 1855, Thornton sheltered the fugitive slave Daniel Fisher, who had taken the name William Winters upon reaching the North. Winters lived with Thornton in 1855 and 1856 and left New Bedford after the Civil War.

Joseph Ricketson Jr was the most ardent white abolitionist documented within the city. His house at 179 Union Street was located on the north side of Union Street at the head of Seventh Street. It is here that the famed Henry "Box" Brown stayed after his notorious escape to New York in a wooden crate. The house was demolished in 1955.



19th Century Image of Thornton Residences



19th Century Image of Joseph Ricketson Jr. House

# JUSTIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES

The proposed local historic district consists of the norther portion of Seventh Street, located in the south-west section of New Bedford's downtown. The proposed District is within the County Street and Central New Bedford National Register Districts and includes three National Historical Landmarks. Seventh Street runs north and south between Union Street and Joli Gonsalves Memorial Way (formerly Cherry Street), and the associated buildings and land include those along Seventh Street as well as those abutting properties on the cross streets of Union, Spring, School, Walnut and Madison Streets, as well as Howland Terrace.

The term "Abolition Row" and its association with Seventh Street can be attributed to the New Bedford Historical Society, who began utilizing the designation as a means of placemaking, promoting the location as being significant in New Bedford's role in the Abolition Movement and the Underground Railroad. The New Bedford Historical Society owns the Nathan and Polly Johnson House which operates as a museum and exhibit space and is currently collaborating with the City in the development of "Abolition Row Park" located on the southeast corner of Seventh and Spring Streets where the Thornton family properties once stood.

In recent years Seventh Street and Abolition Row have become synonymous with the story of the Underground Railroad and Frederick Douglass. The National Park Service has designated the Nathan and Polly Johnson House as a *Network to Freedom* Underground Railroad site and has published a pamphlet titled "Behind the Mansions" which highlights Seventh Street. In 2017 the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth presented the very popular exhibit titled "Black Spaces Matter: Celebrating New Bedford's Abolition Row."

Research and documentation of New Bedford's nineteenth century abolition activities demonstrates that areas adjacent to Seventh Street reveal similar historical associations, however the Seventh Street property owners are fully engaged, supportive, and have actively advocated for the proposed local historic district. As such, the NBHC determined to retain the initial Seventh Street boundary with the understanding that expansion may be explored at a future time.

The city has begun to make streetscaping improvements along Seventh Street with the introduction of reproduction gas lamps to provide the street with the similar historic sense of place that exists in the Bedford Landing Waterfront Local Historic District. The New Bedford Preservation Society has provided nearly all the property owners along seventh Street 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 Abolition Row 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

## ABOLITION ROW PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT







City of New Bedford, Massachusetts  
 Department of City Planning

# Abolition Row Local Historic District Study Area

## By Street Address Number



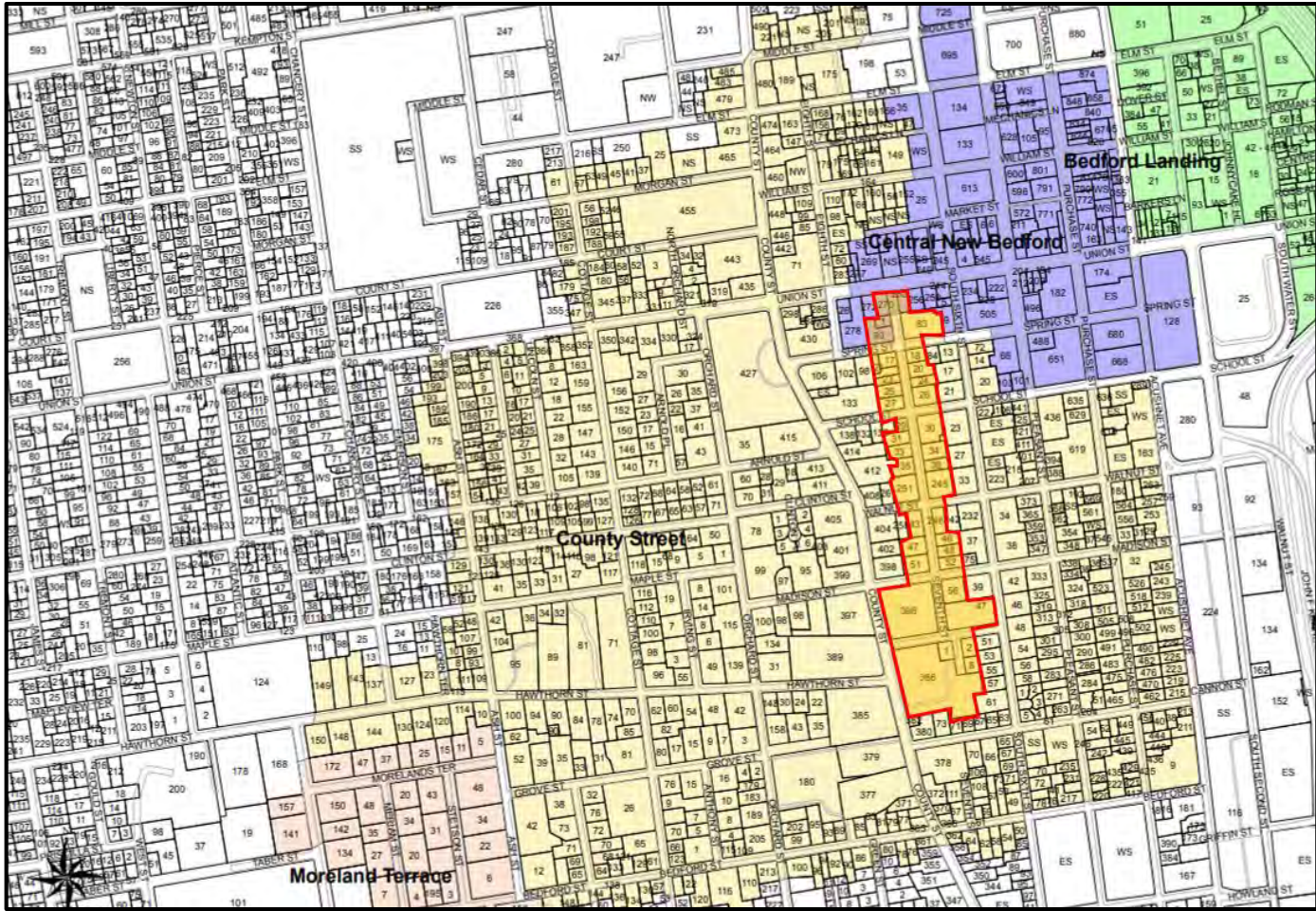


City of New Bedford, Massachusetts  
 Department of City Planning

# Abolition Row Local Historic District Study Area





## By ParcelID







**ABOLITION ROW LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY AREA LOCUS MAP**  
**WITHIN CENTRAL NEW BEDFORD and COUNTY STREET**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICTS**

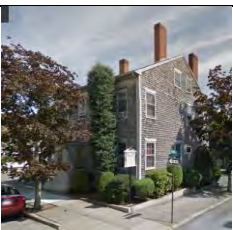
**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
1	 <b>262 UNION ST</b>	46-25	Mrs. Anne Bates House	1875	Italianate	NBE 25
2	 <b>268 UNION ST</b>	46-20	William D. Eldridge Commercial Block	1952	Commercial	NBE 20
3	 <b>1 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-23	William S. Cobb House	1878	Italianate	NBE 23
4	 <b>93 SPRING ST</b>	46-24	Joseph Bourne House	1828	Federal	NBE 24
5	 <b>83 SPRING ST</b>	46-30	Friends Meeting House	1822	Federal	NBE 203 (no form)

**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
6	 <b>96 SPRING ST</b>	46-49	Nathan Johnson House	1832	Greek Revival Altered	NBE 235
7	 <b>17 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-50	Old Friends Meeting House	1785 1821	Federal Classical Revival	NBE 236 NHL (2000)
8	 <b>21 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-51	Nathan & Polly Johnson House	c.1829 1857	Federal Classical Revival	NBE 2036 NHL(2000)
9	 <b>ES SEVENTH ST</b>	46-55	VACANT LOT Previous: John Russell Thornton House		VACANT LOT	NC
10	 <b>ES SEVENTH ST</b>	46-58	VACANT LOT Previous: Elisha Thornton II House		VACANT LOT	NC

**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
11	 <b>23 SEVENTH STREET</b>	46-250	Charles W. & Elizabeth Williams Read Rental House	1894	Classical Revival	NBE 257
12	 <b>24 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-60	Pierce-Gerrish House	c.1849 1873	Gothic Revival (altered) Outbuilding	NBE 2721 (no form)
13	 <b>25 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-245	Captain William C. and Betsy Tallman Nye House	c.1820	Federal	NBE 750
14	 <b>26 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-61	George W. Baker House	1827	Federal	NBE 1065
15	 <b>27 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-54	Henry Wilcox Smith House	1870	Stick Style	NBE 54

**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**





#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
16	 <b>29 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-162	Captain John H. Congdon House	1807	Federal	NBE 162
17	 <b>30 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-85	William H. & Ruth Parker Allen House	1831	Federal	NBE 237
18	 <b>31 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-80	Charles R. Tucker House	1842	Greek Revival	NBE 80
19	 <b>33 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-82	Daniel Wood House	1834	Federal	NBE 82
20	 <b>34 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-260	Captain William Taber House	1807	Federal	NBE 260

**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**






#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
21	 <b>35 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-83	Samuel W. Rodman Guest House	1842	Gothic Revival	NBE 83
22	 <b>36 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-87	Joseph Brownell House	1875	Italianate	NBE 2722 (no form)
23	 <b>245 WALNUT ST</b>	46-89	George & Susan Howland House	1810 1880	Federal Italianate Queen Anne	NBE 1047
24	 <b>246 WALNUT ST</b>	46-132	Isaiah Burgess House	1830	Federal	NBE 790
25	 <b>251 WALNUT ST</b>	46-84	Elkanah Tallman House	1807	Federal	NBE 1043






**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	PROPERTY OWNER	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
26	 <b>43 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-127	Gibbs-Merrill House/ Hetty Green Birthplace	1831	Federal	NBE 777
27	 <b>46 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-263	George Howland, Jr. Carriage House	c.1850	Italianate	NBE 261
28	 <b>47 SEVENTHST</b>	46-129	Constant Norton (1820) Amelia H. Jones (1889) House	1820 1889	Shingle Style	NBE 243
29	 <b>48 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-135	Joseph Ricketson II House	1853 1955	Greek Revival Moved to Location	NBE 2723 (no form)
30	 <b>51 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-131	John Akin House	1820	Federal	NBE 787

**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	MAP-LOT	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
31	 <b>52 SEVENTH ST</b>	46-137	46-137	1889	Queen Anne	NBE 1000
32	 <b>56 SEVENTH ST</b>	41-16	Edward C. Jones Carriage House	1855 1884	Shingle Style	NBE 16
33	 <b>47 S SIXTH ST</b>	41-18	Mary Rotch House & Catholic Community Center	1838 1957	Greek Revival Colonial Revival	NBE 135
34	 <b>1 HOWLAND TER</b>	41-250	Nathaniel Cannon Smith House	1910	Craftsman	NBE 250
35	 <b>2 HOWLAND TER</b>	41-255		1966	Contemporary Cape Style	(no form)

**ABOLITION ROW PROPERTY INDEX**

#	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	INVENTORY FORM
36	 <b>8 HOWLAND TER</b>	41-254	Emma C. Myrick House	1912	Colonial Four Square	(no form)
37	 <b>396 COUNTY ST</b>	41-15	Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum	1834	Greek Revival	NBE 15 NBE 906 NBE 982 NBE 983 NBE 2298 NBE AP NHL (2005)
38	 <b>388 COUNTY ST</b>	41 70B	William Rotch Rodman House	1833	Greek Revival	NBE 70

## 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;

## ABOLITION ROW PRELIMINARY STUDY BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/investigation/whaling-ship/>

## **Maps**

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

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# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.23
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Cobb, William S. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-23
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1878
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Boarding House; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Professional Office; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.AC: Central New Bedford Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (04/24/1980)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Aluminum; Asbestos Shingle; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBD 15. 4/24/80  
⑩  
P1-A  
USGS-NORTH  
SEPTA

NBE.23

In Area no. 46 AC	Form no. 23
-------------------------	----------------

2. Photo Station Photo form 3



1. Town New Bedford

Address 1 Seventh Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use Apartments & Dentists Office

Present owner Solomon & Jean Scheinman

3. Description:

Date 1878

Source Assessment 1878 Registry of Deeds  
82/554; 90/307;

Style Victorian Italianate

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Asbestos Shingles

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features Porch largely replaced with  
aluminum

Altered Yes Date 1930's

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 40'

Approximate distance of building from street  
10ft.

6. Recorded by Martin E. Rosenberg

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date 9/22/77

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

See attached map

RECEIVED

AUG 4 1978

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William S. Cobb

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Doctors Office; Rooming House; Residence.

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	_____				

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

This two and a half story structure has been altered somewhat within the last forty years. Originally clapboard, the exterior wall fabric is new asbestos shingles. Also, portions of the once decorative porch have been replaced with aluminum.

The property on which this house appears was bought by John R. Thornton from the estate of his father-in-law Dr. Paul Spooner in 1866. He sold it to William S. Cobb who built this dwelling. It was owned from 1879 to 1919 by the O.H.P. Brown Estate and Oliver F. Brown, one of the five largest real estate brokers in New Bedford as of 1910.

The house assessment first appears in 1878, but the records for 1877 are missing. Therefore, absolute verification of date is not possible at this time.

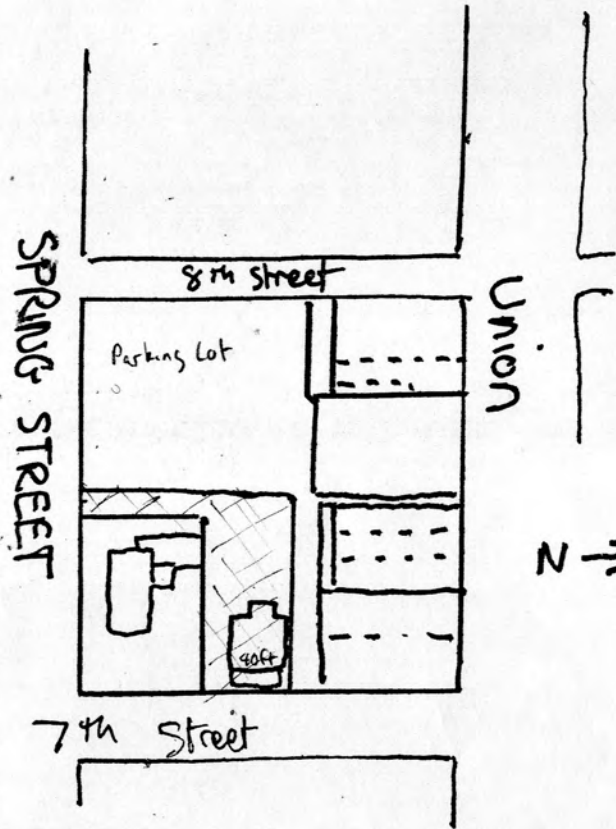
10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Registry of Deeds Taunton: July 26, 1820 25/135; July 30, 1832 34/469; April 15, 1833 36/1; July 8, 1866 58/285; April 20, 1876 82/554; April 28, 1879 90/347; April 22, 1905 253/262
- Sunday Standard Times May 20, 1910
- Sunday Standard Times July 9, 1944
- Geneology, Oliver F. Brown, Paul Spooner Assessment Records 1875-9
- New Bedford Directories

6 COPIES

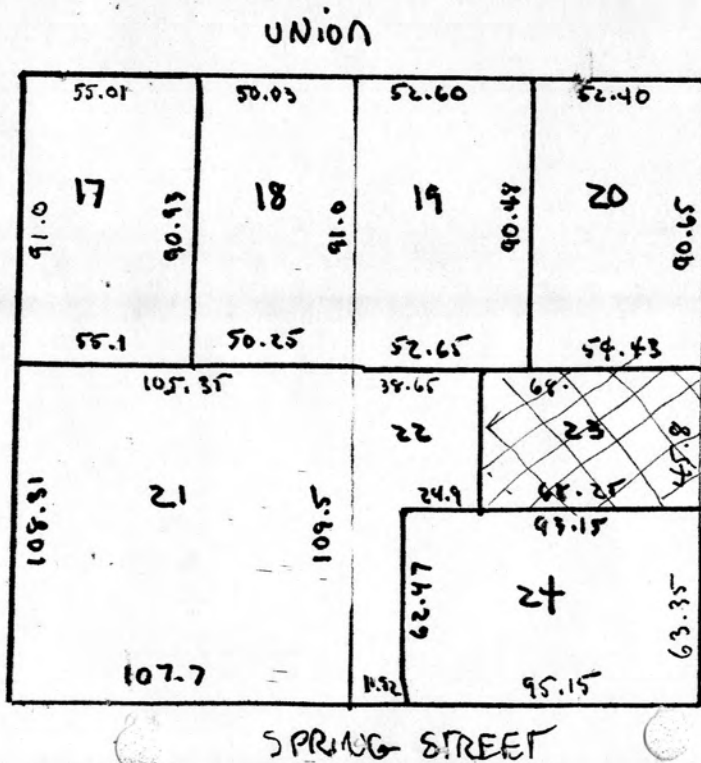
Plat 46

NBE.23



Map showing Buildings

23  
1 Seventh Street



Map showing Lots

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.236
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Old Friends Meeting House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Johnson, Nathan House
<b>Address:</b>	17-19 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-50
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1785
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Meeting House; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Ethnic Heritage; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District NBE.AK: Johnson, Nathan and Mary (Polly) Properties
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976); Nat'l Historic Landmark (02/16/2000)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBE.236

In Area no. <u>A, AK</u> <u>46</u>	Form no. <u>(236)</u> <u>50</u>
--	---------------------------------------

NH Division  
211000RD, 581, 176  
PI-A  
US62 NORTH  
SET A



City New Bedford

Address 17 & 19 Seventh Street

Name Old Friends Meeting House

Present use apartments

Present owner Theresa Favreau

17 Seventh Street New Bedford

Description:

1785

Source Friends Meeting House Plaque

Federal

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

See Attached Map

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Wood shingles

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered Yes Date 1943 1963  
1964

Moved Yes Date 1821

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 58'

Approximate distance of building from street

6'

6. Recorded by Robin Shields

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date October 15, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Society of Friends  
 Original use Meeting House  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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 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)

This building was the original Friends Meeting House. Built in 1785 it was located on the opposite corner from where it is today. In 1821 when the people of the Friends Meeting House decided to build a new building, this building was moved to its present location on Seventh Street. The land and the building were sold by Charles W. Morgan to a black man, Nathan Johnson in 1829.

Mr. Johnson is suspected of being part of the Underground Railroad in New Bedford. It is known that he was a good friend of Frederick Douglass, noted black abolitionist, and that Douglass stayed with Johnson while in New Bedford.

Mr. Johnson and his wife Mary operated a confectionary business at 23 Seventh Street. They also owned three other houses in the area, one at 21 Seventh Street, their home, The Old Friends Meeting House at 17 & 19 Seventh Street, and another building on 96 Spring Street.

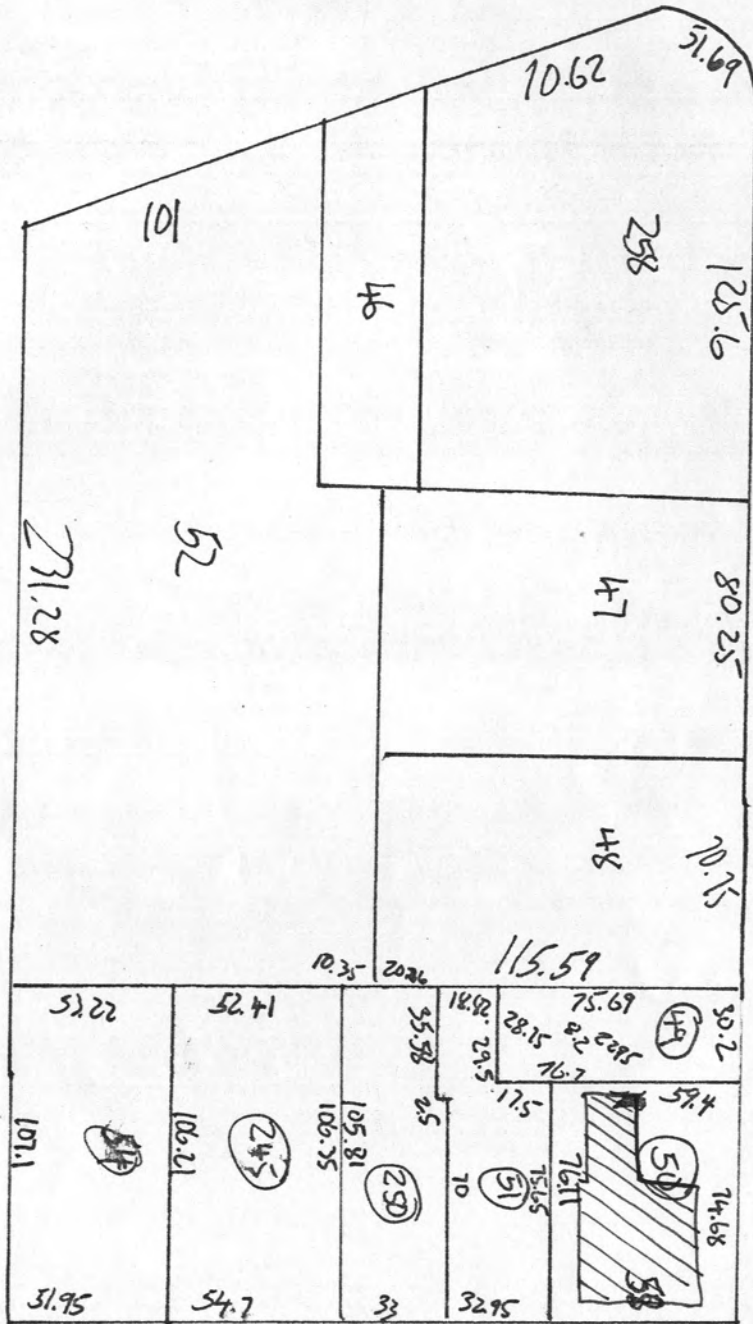
10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Whaling Museum  
 Registry of Deeds: 31/421 Taunton Records  
 Plaque on New Friends Meeting House

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

NBE.236

46-50  
17+19 SEVENTH ST



SARAZING

7th St

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.2036
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Johnson, Nathan House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	21 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	2039
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1829
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Johnson, Nathan
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Administration Office; Business Office; Doctor Or Dentist Office; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Museum; Other Commercial; Single Family Dwelling House; Tailor Shop
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Ethnic Heritage; Health Medicine
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District NBE.AK: Johnson, Nathan and Mary (Polly) Properties
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976); Preservation Restriction (01/07/1999); Nat'l Historic Landmark (02/16/2000)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick; 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.257
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Williams, Charles W. Two-Family House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	23 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-250
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1894
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Queen Anne
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:22: AM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NORTH - 811176  
PI-A  
USE NORTH  
SECT A

NBE.257

In Area no. A 46 U	Form no. 257 250
-----------------------	------------------------



1. Town New Bedford

Address 23 Seventh Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use Residence

Present owner Rev. Robert Haney

3. Description:

Date C. 1884

Source Fire Insurance Co. maps 1881-1884  
Whaling Museum

Style Altered Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards & shingle trim

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features None

Altered Yes Date 1950

Moved Dormers added Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 28'

Approximate distance of building from street

5-10 Ft.

6. Recorded by George C. Butts

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date November 8, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William D. Page - Grandson of Mary Johnson

Original use Dwelling

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	<u>  x  </u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	<u>  x  </u>		
Community development	_____				

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

The present house was built by the grandson of Mary Johnson, wife of Nathan Johnson. The site was the location of Mr. Johnson's confectionary store that was possibly a cover for the Johnsons work with the Underground Railroad.

Nathan Johnson was a close friend of the noted black abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass. It is known that when Douglass came to New Bedford he stayed with Johnson in one of his houses, either 21,17,19, Seventh Street or 96 Spring Street.

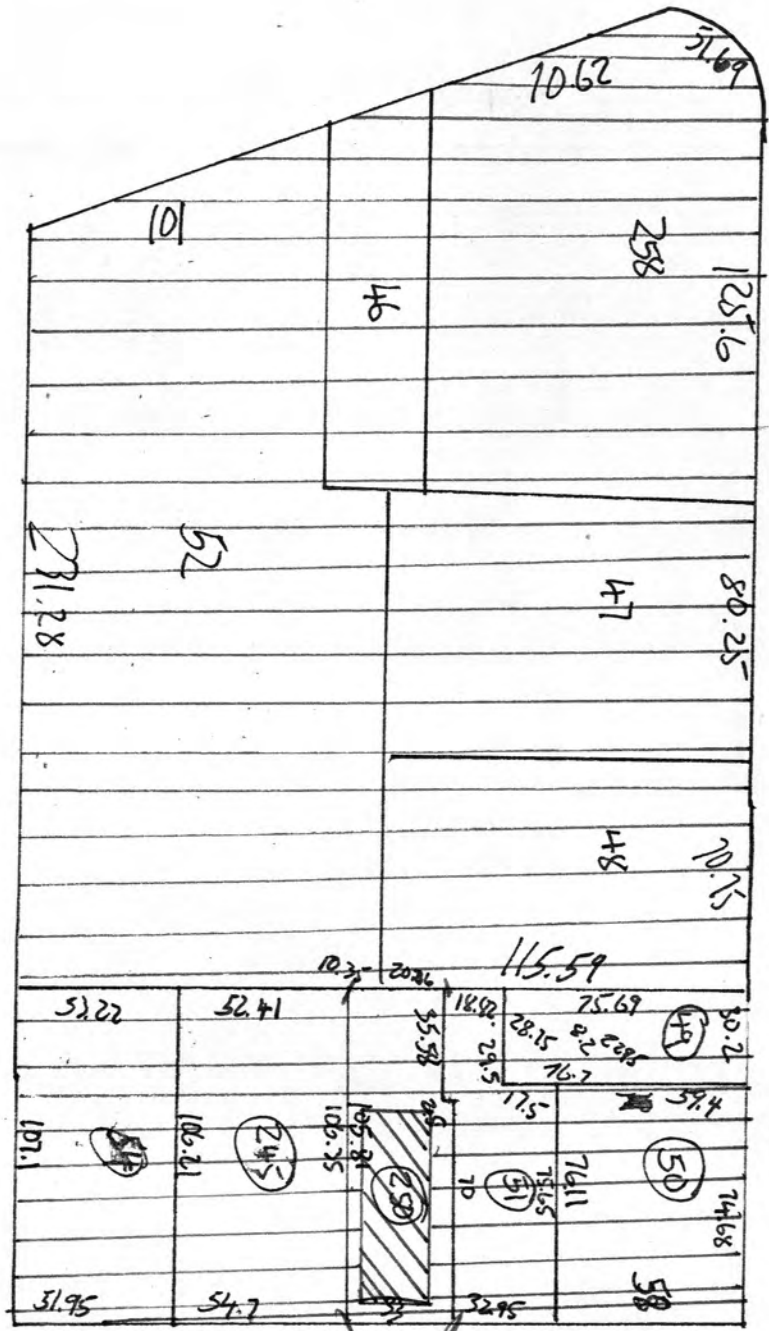
Mr. Johnson left New Bedford in 1849 for California. He did not return to New Bedford until after the death of his wife, sometime after 1870. Nathan Johnson died in 1880 and the buildings owned by him were passed on.

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

- Registry of Deeds : 575/242; 146/242; 141/59; 97/525; 97/105 Also see
- Assessors Records 1865- 85 Tax Books Form B 46/51
- New Bedford Public Library Genealogy Room - Johnson Papers
- Probate Court Records - Taunton , MA 1881
- Old Dartmouth Historical Society - Mr. Purrington - interview

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

NBE, 257



SARING

7th ST

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.750
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Nye, Capt. William C. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	25 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-245
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1820
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NAD 83 - 51176  
PI 0 USGS NORTH  
SEA A

NBE.750

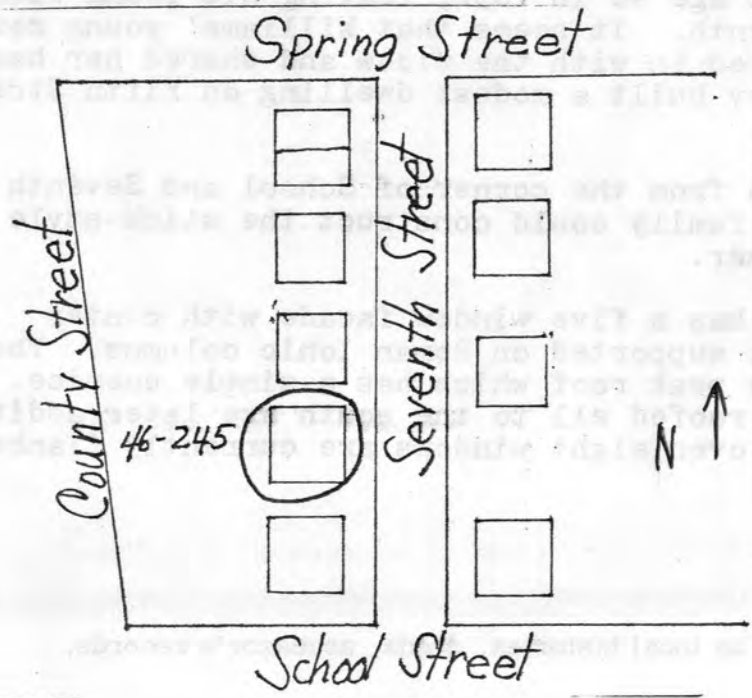
In Area no.	Form no.
46 A	245

750



Location New Bedford  
 Address 25 Seventh Street  
 Name William C. Nye  
 Present use Apartments  
 Present owner Frank Moniz  
 Description:  
 Date c. 1815  
 Source Registry of Deeds  
 Title Federal  
 Architect unknown

Other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric shingle  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered yes Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved yes Date c. 1870

5. Lot size: 5,676 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 50 ft.  
 Approximate distance of building from street 10'

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

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc  
 Organization N.B.P.S.  
 Date July 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William Nye

Original use private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Social/<br>humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Military                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                         |                          |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                            |                                     |                         |                          |

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

William C. Nye was born in 1792 the son of Thomas Nye. He was a sea Capt. who sailed on and was part owner of many ships in the early days of whaling. Capt. Nye married twice first in 1817 Eliza Tallman the daughter of Capt. Elkanah Tallman who lived only a block away at the corner of Walnut and Seventh. For this reason we can assume that the house was built c. 1815. Capt. Nye married again Betsey M. Tallman in 1831. William C. Nye died at age 40 in 1832, leaving his young widow alone in the house at 27 Seventh. It seems that Williams' young cousin Willard Nye and his bride moved in with the widow and shared her home from 1833 until 1841 when they built a modest dwelling on Fifth Street now known as Pleasant Street.

This house was moved North from the corner of School and Seventh St. in c. 1870 so that the Smith family could construct the stick-style house that is now at the corner.

This two-story full house has a five window facade with center entrance topped by a pediment supported on Roman Ionic columns. The end chimneys project from the peak roof which has a simple cornice. An enclosed balcony and shed roofed ell to the south are later additions to this Federal home. Eight over eight windows are currently flanked by two narrow shutters.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds -- Book 74 pg. 549
- City Directory 1836 - 1865
- Assessor's Records
- Representative Men of Old Families of Southeastern, Ma. Vol 2 pg. 1104
- Ship Registers of New Bedford 1796-1850 U.1 pt. II
- Vital Records of New Bedford to 1850
- Geneology of the Nye Family P. 203 N. 1130

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.1065
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Baker, George W. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	26 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-61
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1827
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NPS-811176  
P. S. USGS-NORTH  
SATA

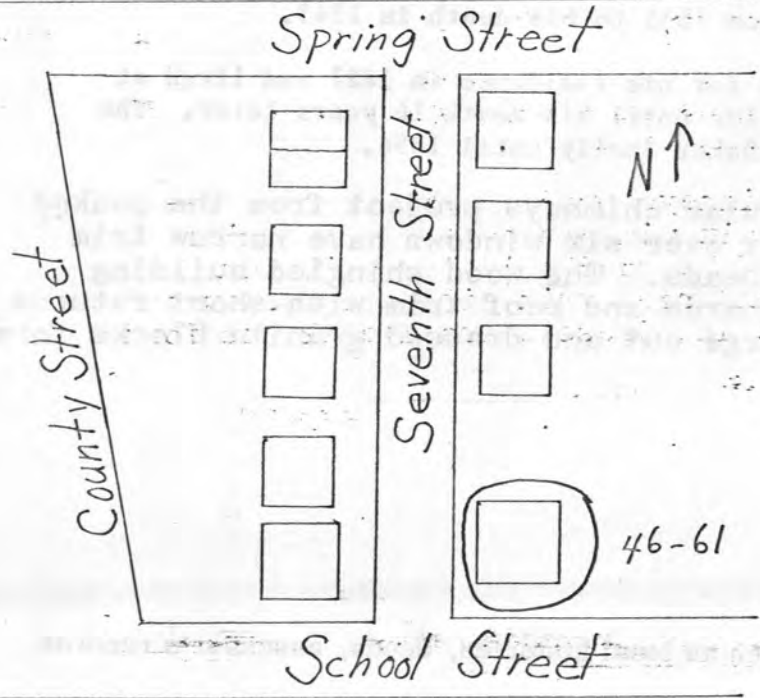
NBE.1065  
In Area no. A 46  
Form no. 61 1065



1. Town New Bedford  
Address 26 Seventh Street  
Name George W. Baker  
Present use Offices  
Present owner Atty. John A. Tierney

3. Description:  
Date c. 1827  
Source Taunton Land Records  
Style Federal  
Architect unknown

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



Exterior wall fabric wood shingle  
Outbuildings (describe) none  
Other features none

Altered Yes Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 6,902 sq. ft.  
One acre or less less Over one acre no  
Approximate frontage 80 ft.  
Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

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

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc  
Organization N. B. P. S.  
Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) George W. Baker  
 Original use private residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Offices, 1971 to 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 type="checkbox"/>            | Religion                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Social/<br>humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Military                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                         |                          |
| Community development | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                            |                                     |                         |                          |

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

George W. Baker was born in 1791 and died in New Bedford in 1843 at the age of 51. Few facts are known of Mr. Baker other than he was an active member of the Society of Friends and held various positions of influence in the city during his lifetime. He was at one time city assessor, librarian of the "Social Library" -- that which preceded the present day public library and treasurer of the New Bedford Institution for Savings from 1835 to his death in 1843.

He purchased the land for his residence in 1827 and lived at No. 26 Seventh from that time until his death 16 years later. The residence remained in the Baker family until 1856.

Three tall rectangular chimneys project from the peaked roof of this home. Six over six windows have narrow trim mouldings and splayed heads. The wood shingled building retains narrow cornerboards and roof trim with short returns on the gable ends. Large cut and dressed granite blocks form the foundation.

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

Registry of Deeds Book 29 Pg. 398 & 399 Taunton Land Records  
 Assessor's Records  
 Directory - City of New Bedford 1836  
 Representative Men of Old Families vol. I pg. 354

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.54
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Smith, Ruth L. - Smith, Henry Wilcox House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	27 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-54, 8
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1870
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Stick Style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:30: AM

WV2015-811176  
 A. & S. NORTH  
 USGS NORTH  
 SECT A

NBE.54

In Area no. <u>46 A</u>	Form no. <u>54</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------



1. Town New Bedford

Address 27 Seventh Street

Name Ruth L. Smith

Present use private residence

Present owner Donald Hoaglund

3. Description:

Date 1870

Source N. B. Registry of Deeds

Style Stick style

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features none

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 5,652 sq. ft.

One acre or less less Over one acre no

Approximate frontage 40 ft.

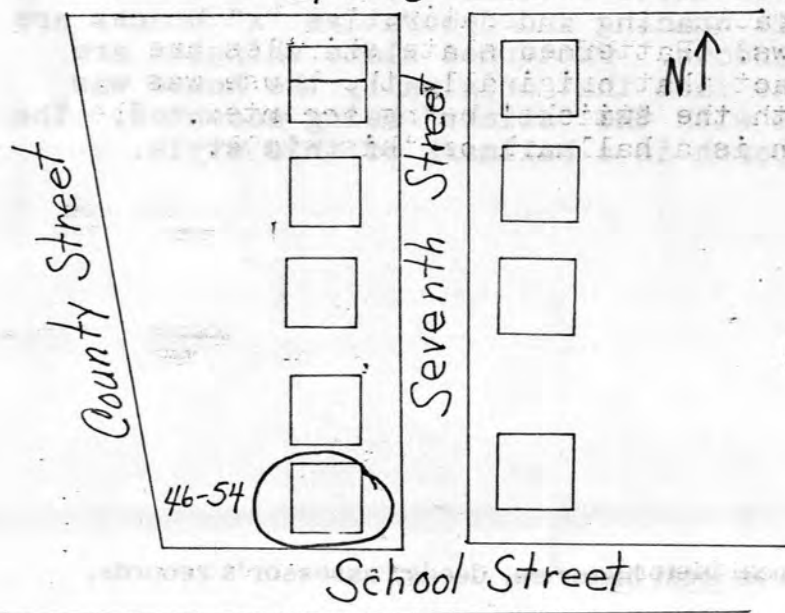
Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

Spring Street



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Ruth L. Smith (Mrs.)

Original use private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates None

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)

Ruth Wilcox Smith married Henry Smith a mariner who shipped out of N.B. with her father Capt. Wilcox. Henry died at age 50 and Ruth had the houst at no. 27 Seventh Street built for her oldest son Henry Wilcox Smith a photographer. It remained in the Smith family until 1926 when it was sold to Drs. Clifford and Bess Parsons.

The exposed shallow surface decoration created by posts and braces give this house a distinctive stick style appearance. The bargeboards look like gable bracing and decorative "x" braces are found over second floor windows. Patterned slate shingles are verichromed and reflect the fact that originally the house was painted two or more colors with the "sticks" being accented. The kingpost truss along the porch is a hallmark of this style.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds, Book 74 pg. 549  
 Assessor's Records  
 Old City of New Bedford Directories

FORM B - BUILDING

NR Dis. 8/1/76  
 P. 1  
 2502 NORTH  
 5th A

NBE.54 \* ✓  
 NR 110

In Area no. <u>(A)</u>	Form no. <u>8</u>
---------------------------	----------------------



1. Town New Bedford

Address 27 Seventh Street

Name Dr. Bessie B. Parsons

Present use Residence and office  
 of owner

Present owner Dr Bessie B. Parsons

3. Description:

Date Built in 1870

Source Registry of Deeds-Grantors  
 descendants and owner.

Style Victorian-Stick style

Architect Samuel Davis Builder

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard wood

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Slate roof diamond design

Second floor has decorative wood sq.

Altered 2nd floor balcony Date 1930's  
 removed

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 178,62 rods x 51.98 x 106,61 ft.

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate distance of building from street

15'

6. Recorded by Virginia Thorne

Organization American Architecture class  
 SMU

Date March 1974

RECEIVED

AUG 22 1974

MASS. HIST. COMMISSION

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) Ruth Wilcox

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates 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 type="checkbox"/>            | Exploration/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

Home of whaling captains' daughter, Ruth Wilcox. First home to have centralized heating in the city.

Little interior changes made. Some of the original French wall paper still hanging.

Stairwell goes straight up to the third floor.

Marble fireplaces, mere decoration rather than of practical use.

Original pierpont chandelier in living room.

In its day the house was considered the example of "new wealth" especially because of its' new heating system.

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

Searched assessors' records and deeds.

On site visits and interviews with both present owners and desendents of orginial owners.



West side & yard



Front porch



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.162
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Congdon, Capt. John H. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	29 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-162
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1807
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Durfee, Samuel
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NBD 3-8/11/76  
 Pl. 2  
 USE NORTH  
 SECT-A

NBE.162

In Area no. 46 A	Form no. 162
---------------------	-----------------



town New Bedford

address 29 Seventh Street

name Capt. John H. Congdon

present use Apartments

Present owner Walter F. Martin

Description:

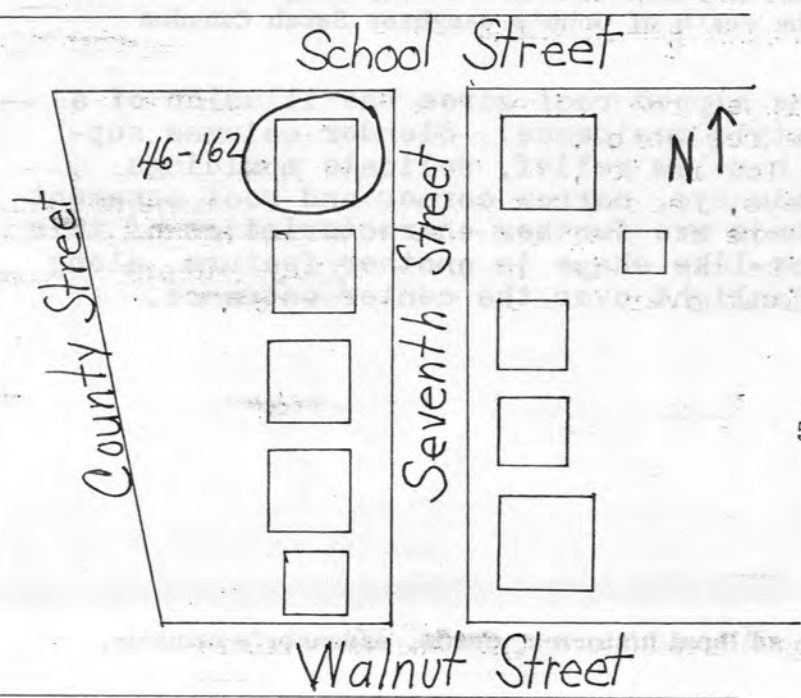
date 1807

Source Taunton Land Records

style Adam

architect Samuel Durfee (builder)

other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features none

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 2,872 sq. ft.

One acre or less less Over one acre no

Approximate frontage 51 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Capt. John H. Congdon

Original use private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments (four)

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 checked="" 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)

John Congdon was born in 1773 in Charlestown, Rhode Island. He came to New Bedford and sailed on the early whalers meeting his death at sea in 1811. His home was purchased in 1807 from the builder Samuel Durfee. This residence remained in the Congdon family for 75 years until the death of John's daughter Sarah Congdon in 1882.

The low pitch of the hipped roof gives the illusion of a flat roof to this Adam style residence. Slender columns support the door cap which has low relief, delicate mouldings and dentile. Slender chimneys, narrow corner and roof ornament and simple window surrounds are further characteristics of this house and style. The box-like shape is another feature along with the semi-circular fanlight over the center entrance.

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

- Registry of Deeds Taunton Land Records Book 18 pg. 126
- Assessor's Records
- City Directory 1836
- The Compiler's Congdon Line pg. 43

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.237
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Allen, William H. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	30 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-85, 6
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1831
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Social History
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Stone, Cut



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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBDI - 8/11/78  
P15-8  
US62 NORTH  
SECT A

NBE-237

In Area no. <u>46</u> A U	Form no. <u>85</u> 237
---------------------------------	------------------------------



New Bedford

Address 30 Seventh Street

Owner William H. Allen

Present use Apartment House

Present owner John F. & Hilda M. Pacheco

Description:

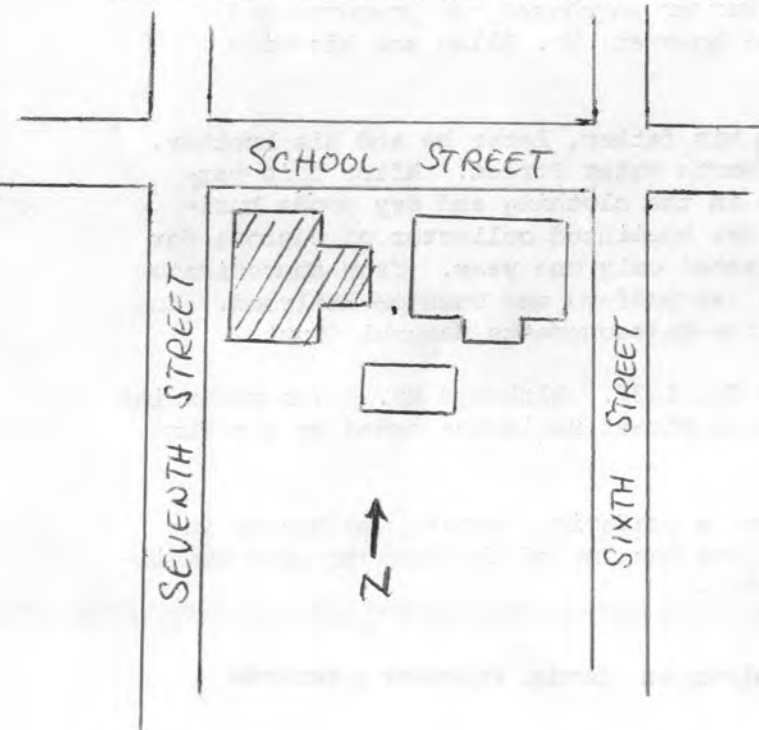
1831

Source New Bedford Tax Assessor's Records

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

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



Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features -----

Altered Yes Date 1954

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 10,600 Sq. Ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 113 Feet

Approximate distance of building from street  
To sidewalk \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Peter Jacobsen

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date March 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William H. Allen  
 Original use Residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartments

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)

In January, 1813, William H. Allen acquired two lots of land, one being the subject property at Seventh and School Streets. Upon this lot Mr. Allen built a house which burned in 1830. He rebuilt on the site, erecting a fine brick residence and carriage house in 1831 which is the present building.

Mr. Allen was born in 1786 in Dartmouth. He married Ruth Parker, daughter of John Avery Parker on January 1, 1807. Mr. Parker purchased the property and buildings from Mr. Allen in January of 1834; however, Mr. Allen and his wife continued to live in the house.

Mr. Allen began his career as a tailor with his father, later he and his brother, Gideon Allen, were partners with a shop on North Water Street. After this partnership dissolved, William continued alone in the clothing and dry goods business, also investing in whaling ships. He was appointed collector of customs for New Bedford in 1841, an appointment which lasted only one year. From approximately 1842 to 1854 he was ticket agent for the New Bedford and Taunton Railroad. In 1856 to 1857 he represented New Bedford in The Massachusetts General Court.

His wife Ruth Parker Allen died on February 26, 1837. Although Mr. Allen remarried in 1838 he continued to live at the 30 Seventh Street residence owned by his former father-in-law until the middle 1840's.

John Parker sold the property to Matthew Luce a seafaring Captain who became interested in cotton manufacturing. Captain Luce was one of the founders and principal stockholders in the Wamsutta Mills in 1846.

(CONT.)

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

- Registry of Deeds.
- New Bedford Tax Assessor's Records.
- Representative Men of Old Families of Southeastern Massachusetts.
- New Bedford City Directories - 1836-1849.

Plat 46 Lot 85

Historical Significance (Continued)

This Greek Revival brick building is now used for apartments but still remains an excellent example of its style with heavy stone lintels, stepped parapets extending above the gabled roof line and rectangular porch.

Interestingly in October, 1950, a tunnel and two brick-lined underground rooms were discovered on this property. It is presumed these rooms were used in the Underground Railroad movement of the pre-Civil War era. Abolitionists were common in New Bedford and many wealthy and influential citizens aided escaped slaves in their flight to freedom (often to Canada).

It is quite possible William Allen and his brother Gideon were active in this movement and it may well be that William Allen had the underground rooms built as secure havens for hiding fugitive slaves. There is, however, no evidence to substantiate this appealing hypothesis. (See Standard Times October 4, 1950).

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBE.237 ✓  
NR HD  
P 2  
462 NORTH  
507A

In Area no. (A)	Form no. 6
--------------------	---------------

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

1. Town New Bedford

Address 30 Seventh Street

Name "Mathew Luce House"

Present use Boarding House

Present owner John & Hilda Pacheco

3. Description: Federal

Date 1830

Source N.B. Standard Times  
Style Federal Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) Brick Carriage house now used for storage  
Other features Portico with 4 corinthian columns, cupola and purple glass skylight.

Altered verandas removed Date 1924-1951

Moved no \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 10600 square feet

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage corner lot 40 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

10'

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc  
Eleanor Morton

Organization SMU Architecture Class

Date March 1974

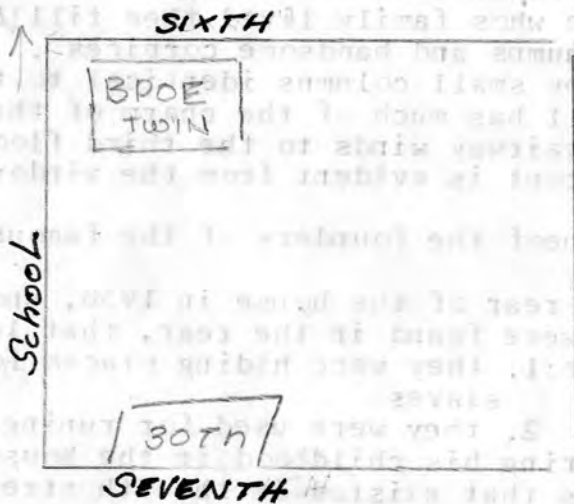
RECEIVED

AUG 22 1974

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)

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. _____
--



7. Original owner (if known) William Howland Allen

Original use Family residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartment house 1922; rooming house 1950

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>a</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)

This was one of the handsome Federal later Greek Revival homes built in the city. This brick mansion, and a twin structure erected in the back of seventh street, was erected by John Avery Parker as a wedding present for his daughter.

Mr. Parker was one of the wealthiest and most influential men of his time in this city, as well as mayor of New Bedford. Mr. William H. Allen were tailors by trade, prominent merchants in the city.

Later it was sold to Captain Mathew Luce whos family lived thee till 1922. The entrance is graced with stately columns and handsome cornices.

Above the portico is a window flanked by small columns identical to those beneath the doorway. The interior still has much of the charm of the period when the home was built. The stairway winds to the third floor where a spectacular view of the waterfront is evident from the window.

Captain luce who bought the home was one of the founders of the famous Wamsutta Mills of New Bedford.

In excavating for a parking lot in the rear of the house in 1950, underground tunnels and brick walled rooms were found in the rear, that lead to the waterfront. two stories emerge: 1. they were hiding places for slaves

2. they were used for runing run

Mr. Oliver Prescott Jr, recalls hearing during his childhood in the house of an underground tunnel for runaway slaves that existed in the 7th street area

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

Standard Times Oct. 4, 1950: april 23, 1972  
Prescott File, Standard Time.

Registry of Deeds

Dartmouth Historical Society

Map of 1851 city of New Bedford

New Bedford Mercury: July 25, 1830; may 29, 1883

Peases History of New Bedford

Directories of 1836

Representative men of old families of SE Mass: history of N.B. Firefighters  
177--1890. 3/73



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.80
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Tucker, Charles R. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	31 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-80
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1842
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Nursing Home; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Asbestos Shingle; Wood Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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NREDS 8/11/76  
PI. X  
USGS MORTG  
SELT A

In Area no. <u>46 A</u>	NBE.80 Form no. 80
----------------------------	--------------------------



own \_\_\_\_\_ New Bedford, Mass.

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 31 Seventh Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Charles R. Tucker

Present use \_\_\_\_\_ Rest Home

Present owner \_\_\_\_\_ Roland Tavano

Description:

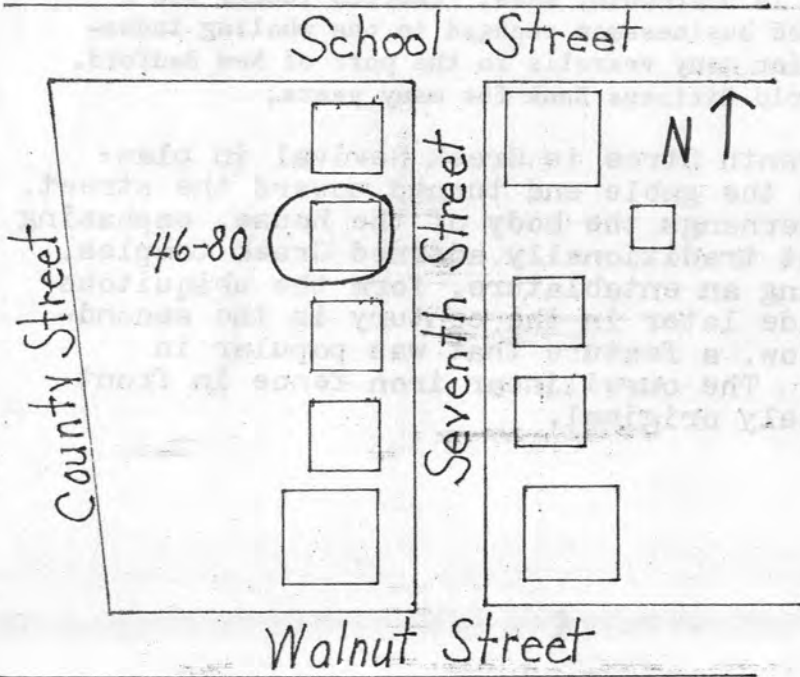
Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1842

Source \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds

Style \_\_\_\_\_ Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_ unknown

In relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric \_\_\_\_\_ wood shingles

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ garage

Other features \_\_\_\_\_ none

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1970

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 5,459 sq. ft.

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_ 50 feet

Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_ 10 feet

6. Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_ Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ N. B. P. S.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ July 1976

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Charles R. Tucker  
 Original use private residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates nursing home

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

Charles R. Tucker was the son of Capt. William Tucker. He was born on July 15, 1824 at Smith Mills in Dartmouth, Mass. Charles Tucker was a successful and highly esteemed businessman engaged in the whaling industry. He served as an agent for many vessels in the port of New Bedford. He was also director of the old Citizens Bank for many years.

The house at 31 Seventh Street is Greek Revival in plan: a rectilinear mass, with the gable end turned toward the street. The pediment slightly overhangs the body of the house, emphasizing the triangular shape that traditionally adorned Greek temples. Square columns, supporting an entablature, form the ubiquitous portico. An addition made later in the century is the second-story polygonal bay window, a feature that was popular in Italianate architecture. The curvilinear iron fence in front of the house is most likely original.

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

- Registry of Deeds -- Book 7 Pg. 254
- Assessor's Records
- City Directory
- Map of 1850
- Representative Men of Old Families of Southeastern Mass.

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.82
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Wood, Daniel House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	33 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-82
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1834
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEDIS 8/11/76

P1-8

USE NORTH

SECT A

In Area no. 46 A	NBE.82 Form no. 82
---------------------	--------------------------



Town New Bedford, Mass.

Address 33 Seventh Street

Name Daniel Wood

Present use Apartments

Present owner Robert Sterns

Description:

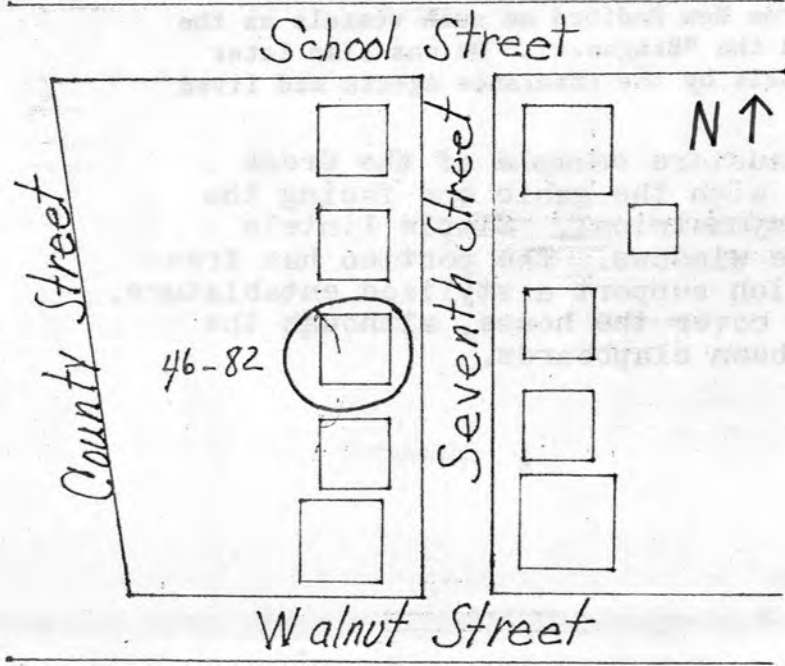
Date 1834

Source Registry of Deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

In relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 5,575 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 51 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 10 feet

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Wood  
 Original use private residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

Daniel Wood was born in Dartmouth, Mass. in 1786. He spent many years as a shipmaster sailing from New Bedford on such vessels as the "Minerva" the "Com. Decatur" and the "Braganza". He was also later employed as an inspector of vessels by the insurance agents and lived to be 87 years old.

This 1834 house is an austere esample of the Greek Revival. The house is set with the gable end facing the street, and the facade is symmetrical. Simple lintels adorn the six over six pane windows. The portico has free-standing Ionic columns, which support a stylized entablature. Brown-painted shingles now cover the house, although the original surface may have been clapboards.

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

- Assessor's Records
- Registry of Deeds Taunton Records Book 37, pg. 388
- City Directory 1836
- Map of 1850
- Evening Standard -- Jan. 16, 1873



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.260
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Taber, Capt. William House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	34 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-260
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1807
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NADIS 8/11/76  
P. 20 USGS NORTH  
SECT A

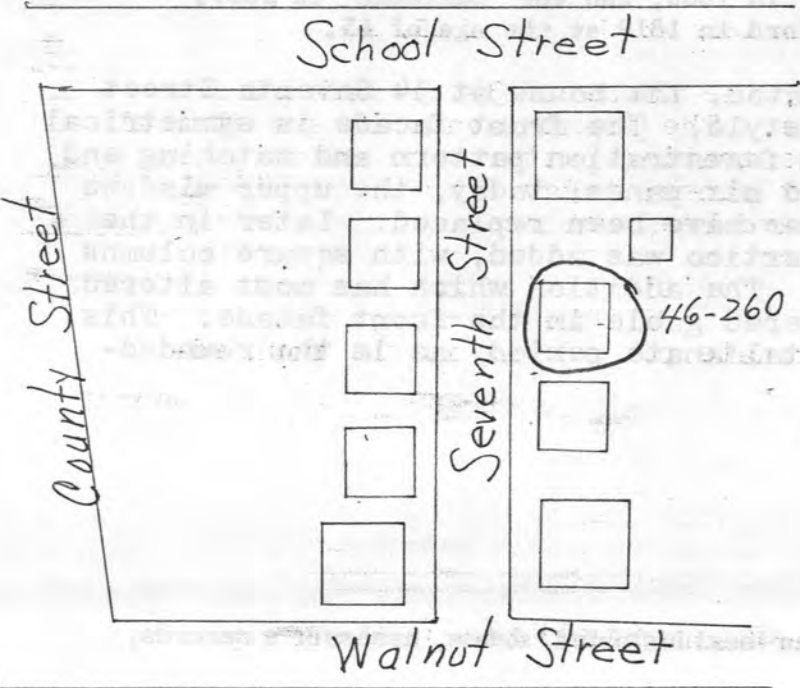
NBE.2400

In Area no. <u>A 46</u>	Form no. 260
----------------------------	-----------------



Town New Bedford  
 Address 34 Seventh Street  
 Name William Taber  
 Present use Apartments  
 Present owner Walter F. Martin  
 Description:  
 Date 1807  
 Source N. B. Registry of Deeds  
 Style Federal  
 Architect unknown

other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric shingles  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Lot size: 6, 757 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less less Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 68 ft.  
 Approximate distance of building from street  
20 ft.

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

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc  
 Organization N. B. P. S.  
 Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William Taber

Original use private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartments

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)

Born in 1754, William Taber was one of the early whaling masters of the town of "Bedford". He purchased the land for his home in 1807 and it is one of the earliest 19th century residences still remaining in New Bedford. Captain Taber sailed as master of such ships as the "Abby" in 1804, the "Vancouver" in 1806, and the "Defiance" in 1809. He died at his home in New Bedford in 1819 at the age of 65.

As originally constructed, the house at 34 Seventh Street was solely in the Federal style. The front facade is symmetrical with a 5 - over - 4 window fenestration pattern and matching end chimnies. Windows each had six panes; today, the upper windows are original while the lower have been replaced. Later in the century, a Greek Revival portico was added, with square columns supporting an entablature. The addition which has most altered the appearance is the centered gable in the front facade. This gable is probably of the Italianate period, as is the rounded-arch window it encloses.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 18 Pg. 341 Taunton Land Records  
Whaling Masters P. 274  
Ship Registers of New Bedford Mass. 1796-1850 Vol. I & II

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.83
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Rodman, Samuel W. Guest House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	35 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-83
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1842
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Victorian Eclectic
<b>Use(s):</b>	Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Asbestos Shingle; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

NBES-8/11/76  
 PI-2 USGS-MARI  
 SECT A

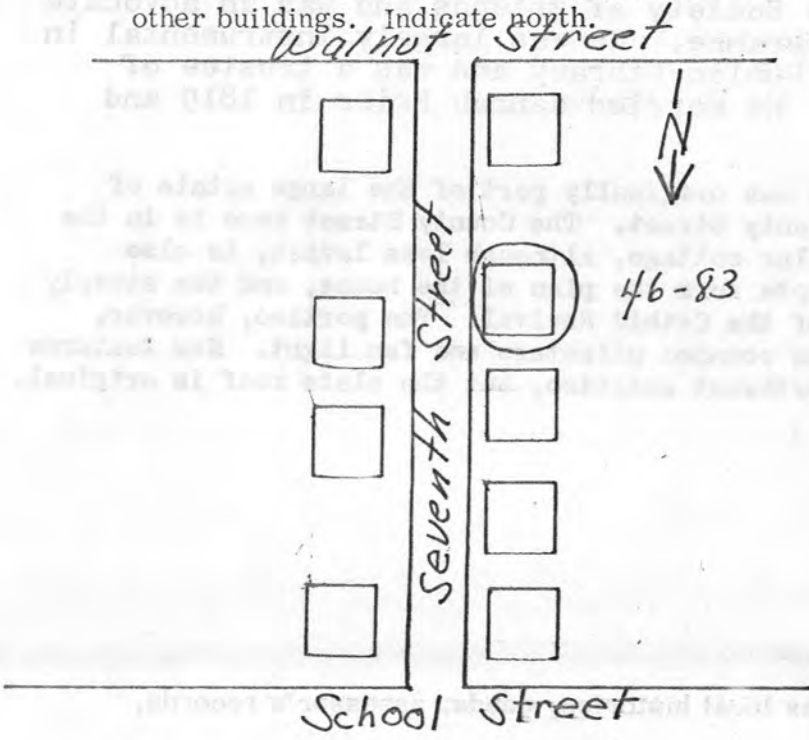
NBE.83

In Area no. <u>46 A</u>	Form no. 83
----------------------------	----------------



Town New Bedford  
 Address 35 Seventh Street  
 Name Samuel W. Rodman  
 Present use private residence  
 Present owner Uriel & Deborah Maranh  
 Description:  
 Date 1842  
 Source New Bedford Registry of Deeds  
 Style Gothic Revival  
 Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric shingles  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

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



Altered yes Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Lot size: 5,842 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 70 ft.  
 Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.  
 6. Recorded by C. M. L.  
 Organization N.B.P.S.  
 Date April 1977

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Samuel W. Rodman

Original use quest cottage

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)

Samuel Rodman son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Rotch) was born in Nantucket in 1792 and died in New Bedford in 1876. Where he had become a leading merchant and manufacturer. After leaving school he entered his father's country room and afterwards engaged in business on his own as merchant and manufacturer of cotton goods. Mr. Rodman was a member of the Society of Friends and was an advocate of ante-slavery, peace and temperance. He was largely instrumental in the establishment of the Free Public Library and was a trustee of Friends Academy for 63 years. He married Hannah Prior in 1819 and they had eight children.

The house at 35 Seventh Street was originally part of the large estate of Samuel Rodman, whose house faces County Street. The County Street home is in the Gothic Revival style, and this smaller cottage, although less lavish, is also in that style. Intersecting transepts form the plan of the house, and the steeply pitched gables are characteristic of the Gothic Revival. The portico, however, reveals a classical influence in the rounded pilasters and fan light. New features include the siding, windows, and northwest addition, but the slate roof is original.

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

Assessor's Records

Map of 1850

New Bedford Registry of Deeds

Rodman Family P.-70<sup>a</sup> N. 318 Vol.I

Rep. Men of Old Families in So. Mass P. 385

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.777
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Merrill, Capt. Edward - Gibbs, Capt. Moses House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Green, Hetty Birthplace
<b>Address:</b>	43 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	242, 47-127
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1831
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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N. B. S. 8/11/76  
A 456  
NORTH  
SECA

In Area no. <u>47 A</u>	Form no. <u>127</u> <u>777</u>
----------------------------	--------------------------------------



Town New Bedford, Mass.

Address 43 Seventh Street

Name Capt. Edward Merrill

Present use Apartments

Present owner Frank Moniz & Edward Macha

Description:

Date 1837

Source Registry of Deeds

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 7, 034 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 66 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

10 feet

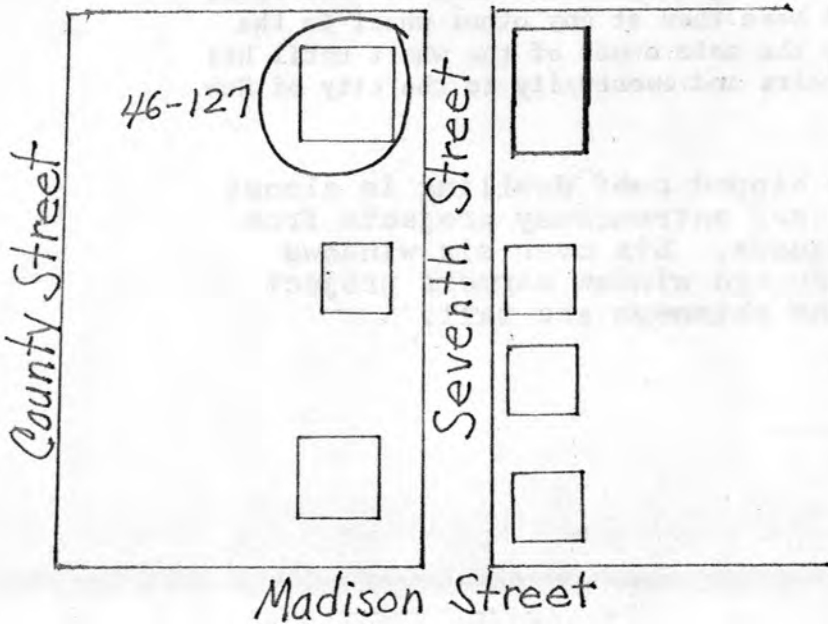
6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

other buildings. Indicate north.

Walnut Street



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) Capt. Edward Merrill  
 Original use private residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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>  X  </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u>      </u>
Commerce	<u>  X  </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)

Captain Edward Merrill was born in 1800 in Durham, Maine. He was master on many whaling vessels before he came to New Bedford to engage in the oil and candle business. He later acquired what was known as the water lot on Warren's shore where between 1844-47 he built Merrill's Wharf. Many whaling ships were built at this wharf and more whale oil was landed here than at any other wharf in the city. Capt. Merrill remained the sole owner of the wharf until his death when it passed to his heirs and eventually to the city of New Bedford.

This large two-story hipped roof dwelling is almost square in plan. An enclosed entranceway projects from the center of the main facade. Six over six windows exhibit splayed heads. Peaked window dormers project from the roof line and the chimneys are tall.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds -- Book 40 pg. 332  
 Assessor's Office  
 Taunton Land Records  
 Sunday Standard Times April 10, 1955



FORM B - BUILDING

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

NPD 15- 8/11/76  
P1-#  
665- NORTH  
SET A

NBE.777

In Area no. <u>46</u> <u>WA</u>	Form no. <u>127</u> <u>542</u>
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



City New Bedford

Address 43 Seventh Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use multiple family dwelling

Present owner Frank Moniz, Jr. & Edward R. Machado.

Year 1831  
Description: Valuation books, Assessors Vault  
Daily Mercury May 10, 1834

Source Gibbs obituary Georgian Revival

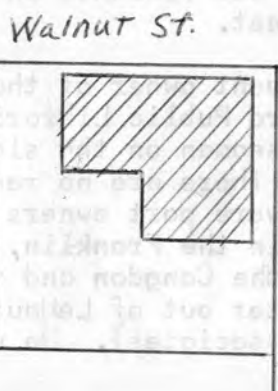
Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Garage

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

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



Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: \_\_\_\_\_

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 107'

Approximate distance of building from street 8'

6. Recorded by Michel G. Daigle

Organization HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

Date November 20, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Captain Moses Gibbs

Original use Single family 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	<u>X</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

Moses Gibbs is purported to have been a sea captain during New Bedford's whaling era although no references can be found to substantiate his captaincy. He did own shares in two whaling ships, the Hercules and the George Washington and was the secretary of the Mechanics Insurance Company at his death in 1834.

Captain Edward Merrill the subsequent owner of the house, 1837 on, was also a purported Whaling master who owned interests in the Beetle and the Congdon, two merchant ships. He was an oil manufacturer and in 1847 built Merrills Wharf a prominent sea port addition to New Bedford.

Moses Gibbs bought the property in late 1826 and according to tax records in the New Bedford Assessors vault built a house which was finished in 1831.<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. Gibbs is registered as living at 43 Sevanth Street.

Both Moses Gibbs and Edward Merrill the subsequent owner of the property are proported to be sea captains. In the New Bedford Public Libraries whaling room Moses Gibbs is registered in 1809 and 1812 as seaman on the sloop Latona and mate on the ship Mandarin respectively. There are no records of either of these men captaining ships. Both men were part owners of various ships for example; Mr. Gibbs had interests in the Franklin, Amanda and the Hercules and Mr. Merrill was part owner of the Congdon and the Beetle. It is proported that Edward Merrill sailed as a master out of LeHaure and later New Bedford under William Rodman & Company (associates). He was an oil manufacturer and later built Merrills wharf.

(1). Valuation book 1831 Page 55

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

1. Daily Mercury, May 10, 1834, obituary Moses Gibbs
2. Daily Mercury, June 1834, Auction, sale of household goods, (Gibbs)
3. Daily Mercury, Sept. 11, 1834, obituary Edward Merrill
4. Valuation book 1831, Page 55, Assessors Records, New Bedford.
5. Registry of Deeds: (Taunton Records)- 29/433; 40/332-3.

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.261
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Howland, George Jr. Carriage House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	46 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-263
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1850
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Out Building
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick Foundation: 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:36: AM

105301

NBD 5-81176  
A. B. USGS NORTH  
SECT A

NBE.261

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. <u>A 46</u>	Form no. <u>263</u> <u>261</u>
----------------------------	--------------------------------------



Town New Bedford

Address 46 Seventh Street

Name George Howland, Jr. Carriage House

Present use Apartments

Present owner Gaston Charbonneau

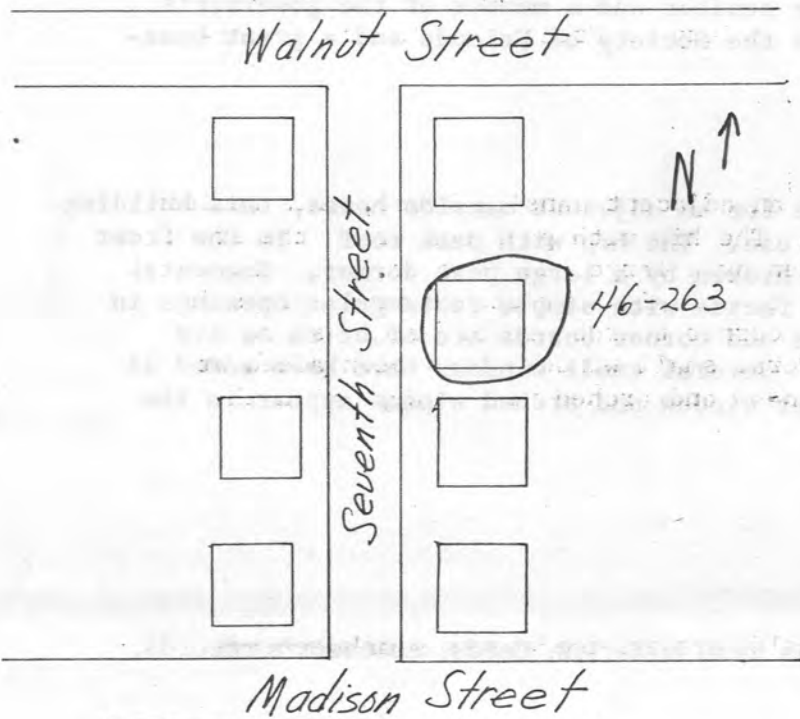
Description:

Date 1834

Source N. B. Registry of Deeds  
Gothic carriage

Style Federal/Greek Revival/Italianate

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. \_\_\_\_\_

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick painted yellow

Outbuildings (describe) garages

Other features none

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 4,732 sq. ft.

One acre or less less Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 68 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street  
10 ft.

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) George Howland, Jr.

Original use Carriage House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartments

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Social/<br>humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Military                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Political                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                         |                          |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                            |                                     |                         |                          |

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

George Howland Jr., was born in 1806 and died in 1892, was the son of George Howland, Sr. and his first wife Elizabeth. For 62 years Mr. Howland was agent for whaleships, and filled more offices of importance than almost any New Bedford man of his time. Mr. Howland served as selectman in the days of the town and member of the school committee, was mayor for five years, a member of the legislature, state senator and a member of the governor's council. He was also prominent in the Society of Friends and a great benefactor of the Public Library

Originally the carriage house for an adjacent mansion house, this building has been converted to residential use. The hip with peak roof in the front facade even with the roof line is broken by a large peak dormer. Segmental arched windows appear in the main facade with simple rectangular openings in the other faces. Raised pilasters and corner boards are of brick as are the walls and elaborate cornices. Several small windows have been added at the cornice level, while a circular window and arched window appear in the center of the main facade.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds
- Assessor's Records
- "Howland Heirs" - William J. Emery

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.243
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Norton, Constant House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Jones, Amelia H. House
<b>Address:</b>	47 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-129
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1820
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBDIS-811176

PI. #  
USGS NORTH  
SELTA

In Area no. 46 A	Form no. 129 343
------------------------	------------------------

NBE.243



New Bedford, Mass.

Address 47 Seventh Street

Owner Constant Norton

Use House

Present owner Antone G., Jr. & Elsie R. Souza (Same)

Description: 1824

Source Deeds

Style Federal / Shingle Style

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) -

Other features Shingle Style porch and roofline changes

Altered No Date         

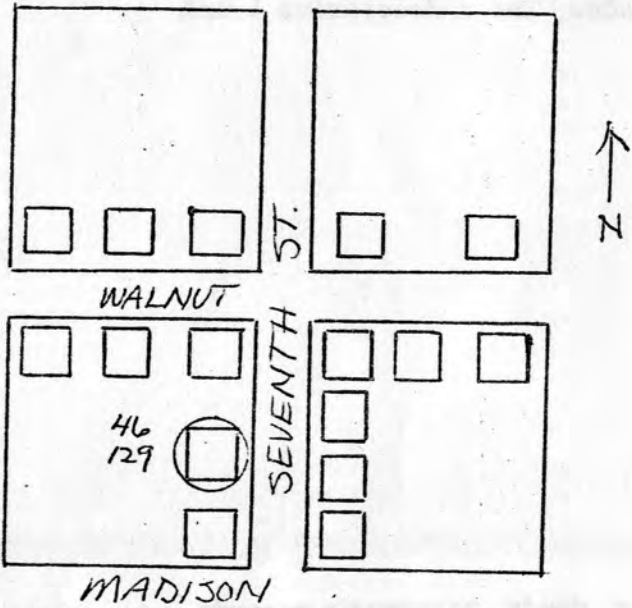
Moved No Date         

5. Lot size:  
One acre or less X Over one acre           
Approximate frontage 70 ft.  
Approximate distance of building from street 20 ft.

6. Recorded by Dana W. Cleary

Organization N.B. Preservation Society

Date August 10, 1977



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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Constant Norton  
 Original use Residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates -

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

Constant Norton, a mariner, bought this lot on Seventh Street from William Rotch in 1820. By 1824, he had built a house on the land and sold the property to his son, Constant Norton, Jr., and his son's new bride, Mary G. Gardner. Constant, Jr. and his wife lived here until 1828, when they sold the house to Andrew Gerrish, Jr., a trader.

The house at 47 Seventh Street possesses a substantial gambrel roof. Original lintels still surmount some windows, and an early fan vent can be seen in the attic wall. The building was modernized during the Queen Anne period with the addition of a rounded porch, a Palladian window, and a decorative brick chimney.

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

- New Bedford Assessor's Records
- New Bedford Land Deeds 27:404
- New Bedford Map 1850
- City Directory 1836
- Census of 1820
- Vital Records to 1850



FORM B - BUILDING

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

NR 13. 8/11/76

Need more information  
NR 40 NHE.243

P.L. 2  
USGS. NORTH  
SERA

In Area no. <u>(A)</u>	Form no. <u>4</u>
---------------------------	----------------------



1. Town NEW BEDFORD

Address 47 SEVENTH STREET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use DWELLING HOUSE

Present owner ANTONE G. SOUZA JR.  
~~EDWARD KORONA~~

3. Description:

Date MAY, 1820 - MARCH, 1824

Source BRISTOL COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

Style FEDERAL

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior wall fabric ALUMINUM CLAPBOARD  
OVER WOOD CLAPBOARD

Outbuildings (describe) NONE

Other features GAMBREL ROOF

FANLIGHT WINDOW - STAIR HALL

IRON FENCE AND GATE

Altered YES Date 1931

Moved NO Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 70.3 FEET

Approximate distance of building from street

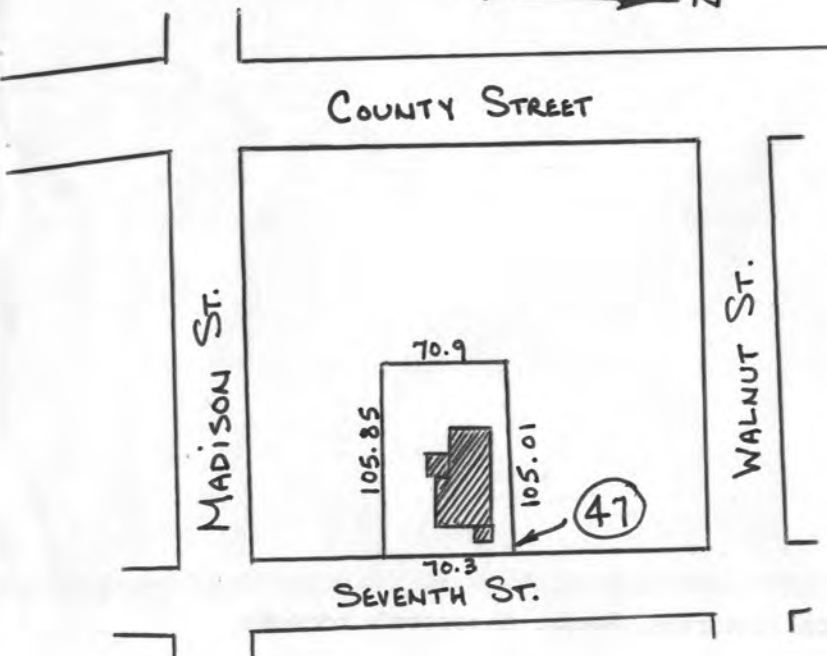
20 FEET

6. Recorded by ANTONE G. SOUZA JR.

Organization S.M.U.

Date MAY 14, 1974

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)

AUG 22 1974

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) CONSTANT AND AMY NORTON

Original use DWELLING HOUSE

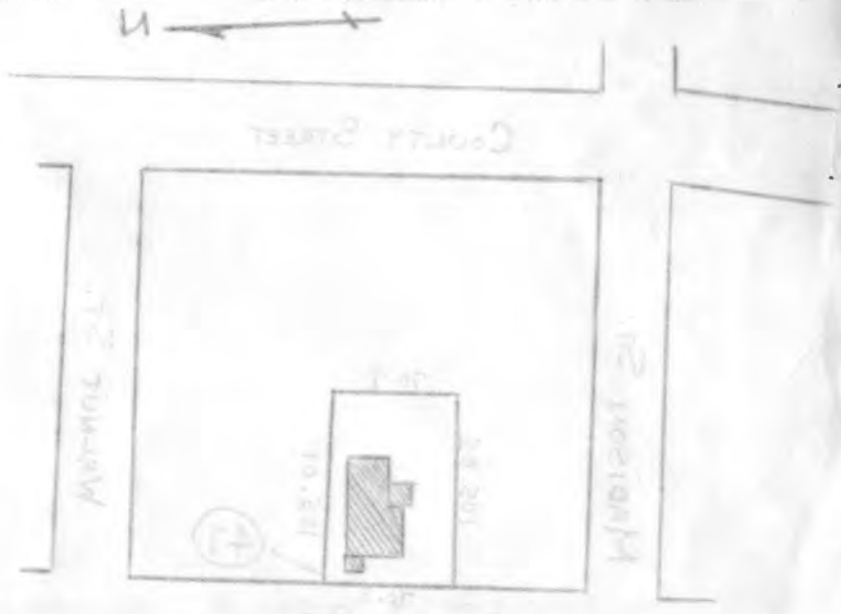
Subsequent uses (if any) and dates DWELLING HOUSE

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

GOOD EXAMPLE OF A SINGLE } DWELLING HOUSE FOR AN  
UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY } AT THE BEGINNING OF  
NEW BEDFORD'S WHALING ERA.



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

1. CITY OF NEW BEDFORD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
2. BRISTOL COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS: BOOK 27, PAGE 405  
BOOK 27, PAGES 405-406
3. NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY - GENEALOGY ROOM
  - A. ATLAS OF BRISTOL COUNTY - 1871
  - B. ATLAS OF CITY OF NEW BEDFORD - 1881
  - C. THE NEW BEDFORD DIRECTORY - 1836

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.787
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Akin, Capt. John House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	51 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-131
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1820
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

N2002-8 Jul 76  
PI to USGS NUREN  
SER A

NBE. 787

In Area no. <u>46 A</u>	Form no. <u>131</u>
----------------------------	------------------------

787



Town New Bedford

Address 51 Seventh St.

Name Capt. John Akin

Present use Apartments

Present owner Peter T. Gargas

Description:

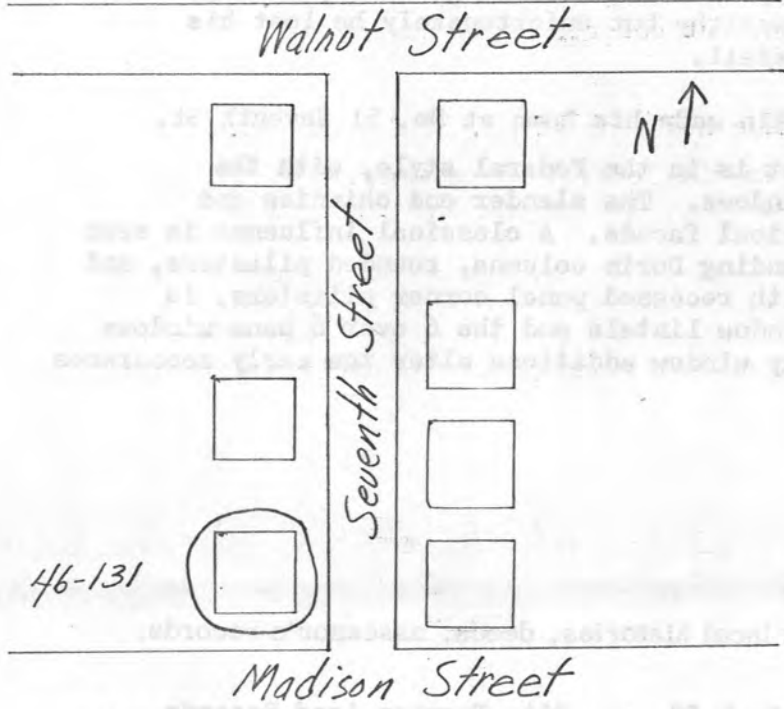
Date C. 1820

Source N. B. Registry of Deeds

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

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



Exterior wall fabric Wood shingle

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features none

Altered Expanded Date 1859

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 7,748 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 73 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street 20 ft.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Capt. John Akin

Original use private Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartments

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)

Capt. John Akin was born in So. Dartmouth in 1787 and died in New Bedford in 1885, at the age of 98 years. Soon after his marriage he moved to New Bedford where he was engaged in the merchant service for a number of years as first officer, leaving this business to go into coasting and for a long time had command of different packets running between New Bedford and Boston. He gave up this business to go into piloting. At one time Capt. Akin was quite wealthy but unfortunately he lost his fortune not having insured his vessell.

From 1820 until 1863 Capt. Akin made his home at No. 51 Seventh St.

The house at 51 Seventh Street is in the Federal style, with the popular arrangement of 5 over 4 windows. The slender end chimnies and a central doorway create a symmetrical facade. A classical influence is seen in the portico, which has free-standing Doric columns, rounded pilasters, and an entablature. A balustrade, with recessed panel corner pilasters, is atop the entablature. Both the window lintels and the 6 over 6 pane windows are original; only the door and bay window additions alter tge early apearance 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 38 pg. 344 Taunton Land Records  
 Assessor's Records  
 The Evening Standard Oct. 8, 1885  
 Standard Times Jan. 28, 1962



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.1000
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Willis, Henry P. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	52 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-137
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1889
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Davis, Z. B. Corporation
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Queen Anne
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NPS 8/11/76  
A  
100 NORTH  
SE 1A

In Area no. <u>A 46</u>	Form no. <u>137</u>
----------------------------	------------------------



1. Town NBE 1000 1000  
New Bedford, Mass.

Address 52 Seventh Street

Name Edith E. Willis

Present use private residence

Present owner Edith Willis

3. Description:

Date 1889

Source Registry of Deeds

Style Queen Anne

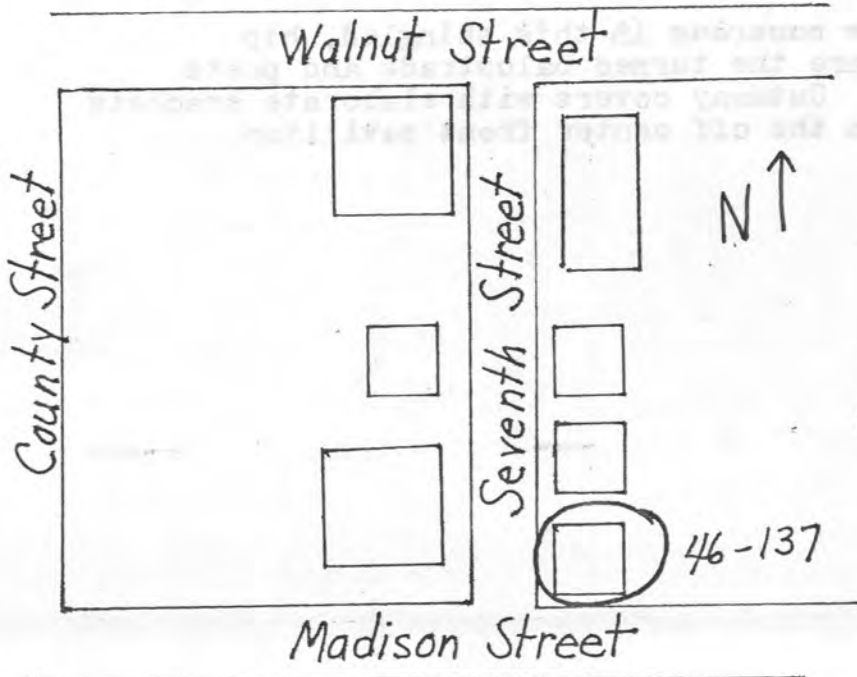
Architect unknown Z. B. Davis

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: 4,696 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 68 feet

Approximate distance of building from street  
10 feet

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBland

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Edith E. Willis

Original use private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates none

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

This property was purchased by Edith Willis in 1888 from the estate of George Howland Jr. Mrs. Willis' husband Henry P. Willis was a salesman. Their daughter Miss Edith Willis still resides in the home that was built by her parents some 88 years ago.

Queen Anne features are numerous in this shingled, hip roofed home. Most notable are the turned balustrade and posts of the full width veranda. Cutaway covers with elaborate brackets are another feature found in the off center front pavillion.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds -- Book 867 pg. 160
- Assessor's Records
- City Directory 1890

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.16
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Jones, Edward Coffin Carriage House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	54-58 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	41-16
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1855
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Out Building
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle



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This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:41: AM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NADIS 8/11/76  
PI-4  
USGS NORTH  
SEPTA

NBE.16

In Area no. <u>41A</u>	Form no. <u>16</u>
---------------------------	-----------------------



Town New Bedford

Address 54 Seventh Street

Name Jones Carriage House

Present use Apartments ?

Present owner Arthur Xavier

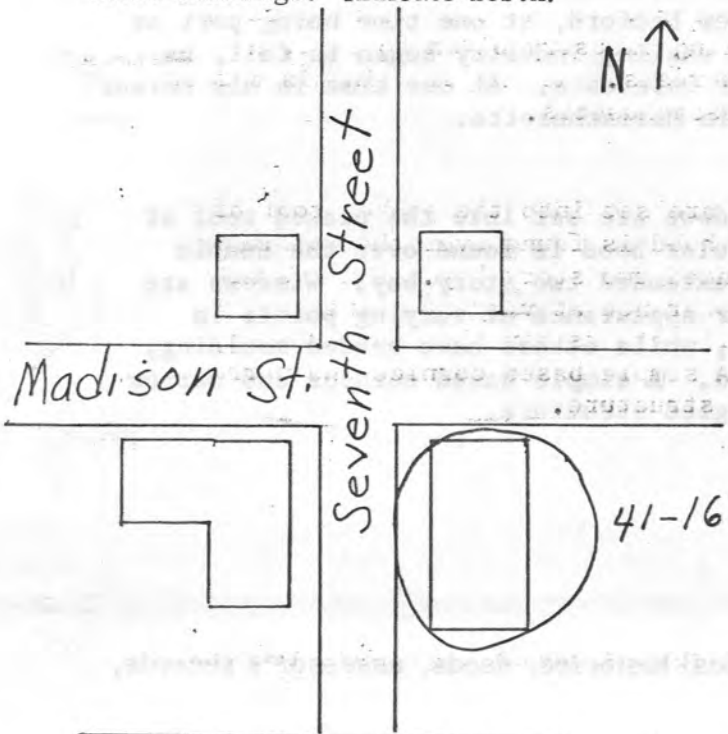
Description:

Date 1855

Source N. B. Registry of Deeds

Style Greek Revival-Italianate

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



Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features Queen Ann windows

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 9,003 sq. ft.

One acre or less less Over one acre no

Approximate frontage 97 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street 10 ft.

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

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Edward C. Jones

Original use Carriage House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

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>  X  </u>	Military	<u>      </u>	Transportation	<u>  X  </u>
Communication	<u>      </u>	Political	<u>      </u>		
Community development	<u>  X  </u>				

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

Edward C. Jones, Director of the First National Bank was born in Nantucket in 1805 and died in New Bedford in 1880.

Edward Coffin Jones is a perfect example of the self-made man. He began his career as a stock boy in the ship chandlers of Capt. Elisha Duban, soon was made a partner and eventually sole owner. He invested heavily in the whaling fleet of New Bedford, at one time being part or sole owner of 16 ships. When the whaling industry began to fail, he wisely turned to banking and other interests. At one time in his career he was one of the wealthiest men in Massachusetts.

Three peaked gables with windows are set into the peaked roof of the main facade. A simple triangular hood is found over the double entrance door which appear in an extended two story bay. Windows are of various sizes, indicating their appearance at varying points in time. Some have simple surrounds, while others have beaded moulding, and still other have a simple hood. A simple based cornice and narrow corner boards appear on this shingled structure.

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

N. B. Registry of Deeds      Book 30   Pg. 151

Assessor's Records

History of New Bedford -- Z. W. Pease    Vol. III Pg. 497

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.24
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Bourne, Joseph - Spooner, Dr. Paul House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	93 Spring St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-24
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1830
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Funeral Home; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.AC: Central New Bedford Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (04/24/1980)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Synthetic Other; Wood



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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBES-4/24/80  
P.L.X  
USUS-NORTH  
SECT A

NBE.24

In Area no. 46 AC	Form no. 24
----------------------	----------------

2. Photo  
Staple  
Photo



1. Town New Bedford

Address 93 Spring Street

Name (Spooner House)

Present use Law and Insurance Offices

Present owner T & O Realty

3. Description:

Date 1828 (1833?)

Source Assessment Records 1829-1828  
Sunday Standard Times July 9, 1944

Style Federal

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Extensions to main structure in rear.

Other features small dormers in front and back

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 62.5 x 95.37 Ft.

Approximate distance of building from street  
12 feet

6. Recorded by Martin E. Rosenberg

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date 9/23/77

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

See attached map

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) (Dr. Paul Spooner) Joseph Bourne

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence, Funeral Home, Offices

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	<u>x</u>
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

According to William Emery, Dr. Paul Spooner bought the property on the northwest corner of Spring & Seventh Streets in 1833, yet there is a reference to a building on the lot as early as 1828. It is a fine example of Georgian Architecture.

The land was the site of the residence of Joseph Bourne (1828) who bought the land in 1820. He sold it to a Joseph Bates in 1832 who in turn sold it to Dr. Paul Spooner. Dr. Paul Spooner either moved into (or tore down and built) this house now standing, in 1833.

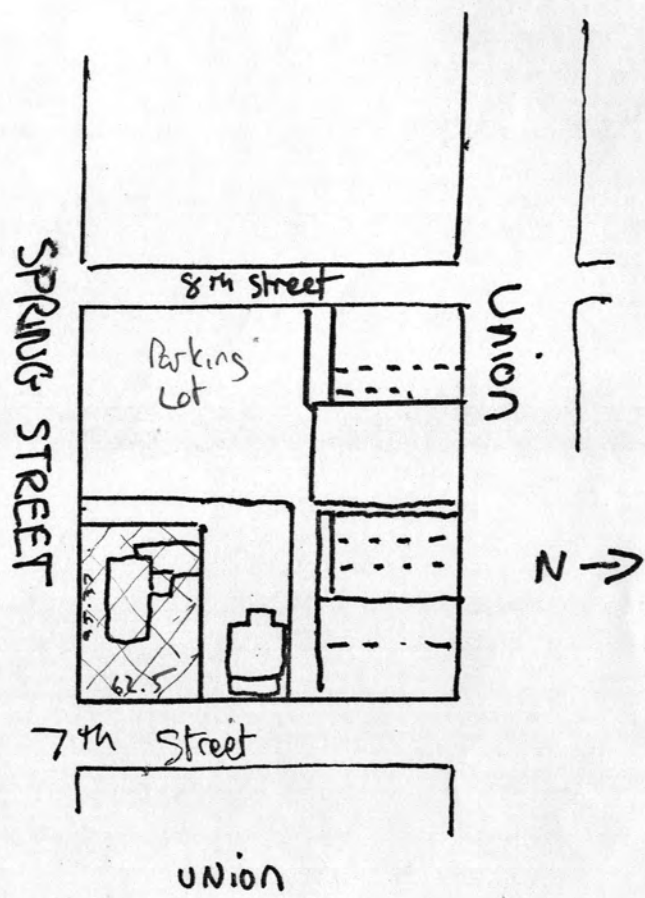
Dr. Paul Spooner New Bedford's most distinguished pre-Civil War physician, practiced general medicine and obstetrics for fifty years until his death in 1862. He was loved and highly respected throughout New Bedford and out-lying towns, receiving a valuable silver cup from eighty two women of New Bedford whose pregnancies he attended. John R. Thornton managed his estate when he died, being the husband of his eldest daughter. A druggist and whaling merchant in his own right, he purchased the land to the north and west of the Spooner House in 1866.

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

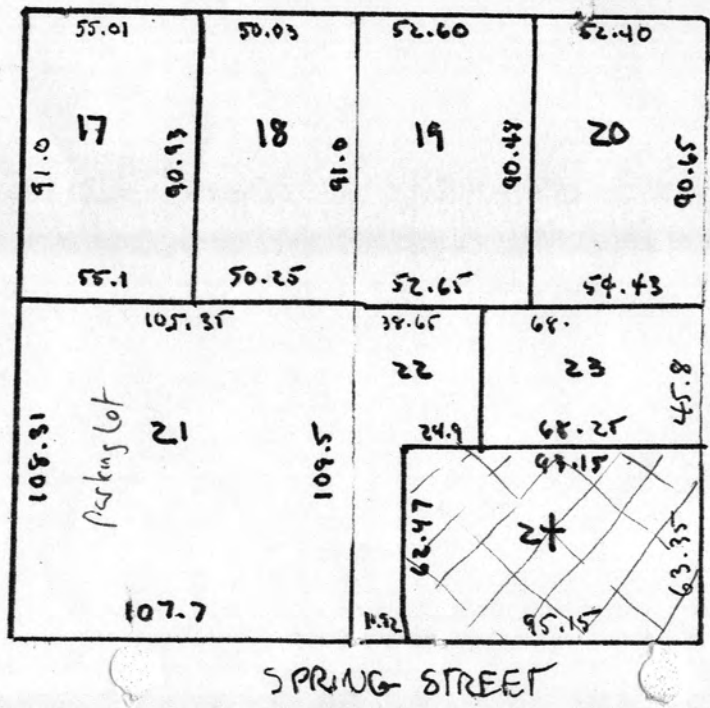
- Tauton: July, 26, 1920 25/135; July 30, 1832 34/469; April 15, 1833 36/1.  
 Bristol: July 8, 1866 58/285; July 18, 1867 61/20; September 1865 55/485; April 20, 1876 82/554.  
 Assessment Records 1827-1835  
 Street Directories earliest to 1867  
 Sunday Standard Times July 9, 1944

6 COPIES  
 NBE.24

Plat 46



24  
 Paul Spooner House  
 93 Spring Street



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.235
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Johnson - Gardner House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	96 Spring St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1862
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Ethnic Heritage; Social History
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick; Stone, Uncut



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FORM B - BUILDING

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

N/2015 8/11/76  
P1-A  
US62 NORTH  
SE/TA

NBE.235

In Area no. <u>46 UA</u>	Form no. <u>235</u> <del>49</del>
-----------------------------	---



City New Bedford  
 Address 96 Spring Street  
 Present use apartments  
 Present owner Edmund Lewis  
96 Spring Street New Bedford  
 Description:  
Late 1820's - Early 30's (?)  
 Source Tax Records  
Altered Greek Revival

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exterior wall fabric rubble & brick  
foundation/ shingles

Outbuildings (describe) None  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered Yes Date 1952, 50, 46

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 30 Ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

6'

6. Recorded by Robin Shields

Organization Historic Building Survey

Date October 15, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Probably Nathan Johnson

Original use Private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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)

This house was probably built in the late 1820's or early 1830's by Nathan Johnson.

Mr. Johnson was a prominent black man of his time, operating a confectionary shop at 23 Seventh Street. He also owned two other houses in the area, one at 21 Seventh Street his home, and another at 17 & 19 Seventh Street, the Old Friends Meeting House.

Mr. Johnson is thought to have been an agent for the Underground Railroad working in New Bedford. He is known to have been a friend of Frederick Douglass the noted black abolitionist, and to have given Douglass lodgings when he visited this city.

In 1868 the house and land were sold to William Gardener to cover debts that the Johnson family had incurred.

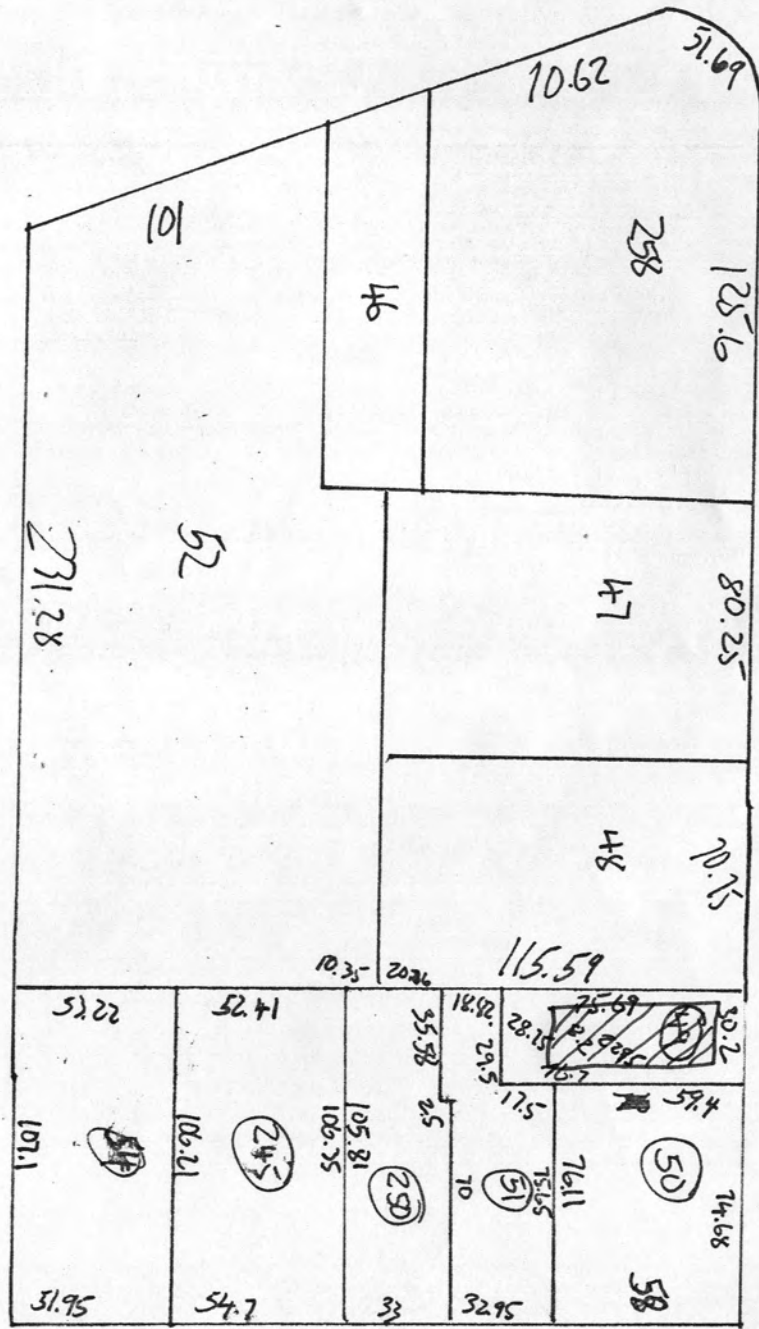
Soon after, in 1870, Mrs. Johnson died, followed by her husband Nathan in 1880.

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

Registry of Deeds:  
31/421 Taunton records;  
28/458; 39/291

96 Spring 25  
46/49

NBE.235



SARDIN ST

HILL ST

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.1047
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Howland, George House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	245 Walnut St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-89
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1810
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal; Queen Anne
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:45: AM

NBDIS-811176  
A. B.  
USGS-MNH  
SECT A

NBE.1047

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

In Area no. <u>A 46</u>	Form no. <u>89</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------



Town New Bedford, Mass.

Address 245 Walnut Street

Name George Howland, Sr.

Present use Apartment House

Present owner Frank Moniz & Edward Machado

Description:

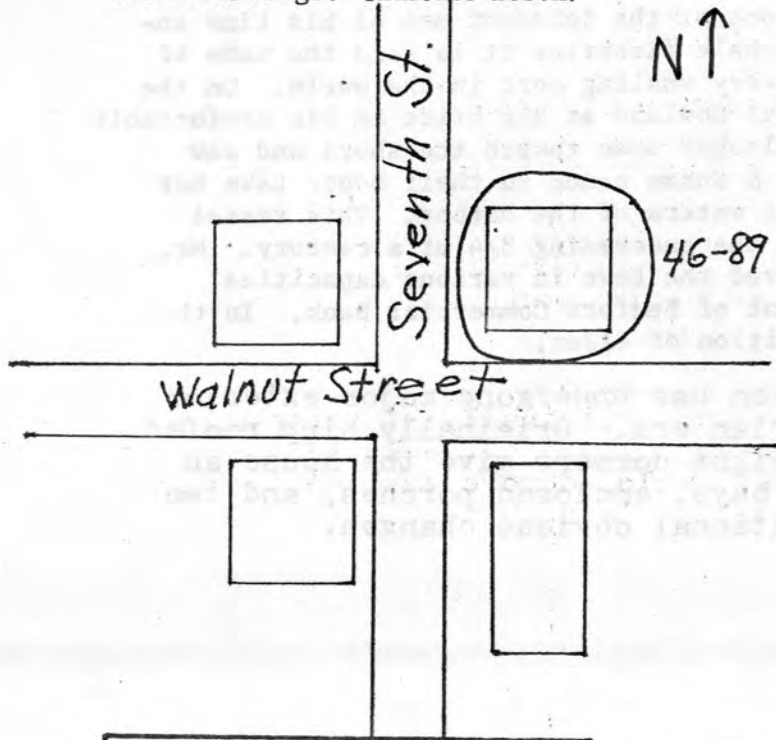
Date 1812

Source Registry of Deeds

Style Federal/Italianate/Queen Anne

Architect unknown

In relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 11,304 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 101 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 10 feet

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) George Howland, Sr.  
 Original use private residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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>  X  </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)

George Howland husband of Susan Howland and son of Matthew Howland & Abigail Wing Howland was born July 11, 1781 in Long Plain Mass. and died in New Bedford May 21, 1852. As one of the foremost men of his time engaged in the merchant service and whale fisheries it is said the name of George Howland was well known in every whaling port in the world. On the day when he brought 19 yr. old Susan Howland as his bride to his comfortable residence at 245 Walnut St., they looked down toward the shore and saw Mr. Howland's new ship, the George & Susan named in their honor take her first plunge from the bays into the waters of the harbor. This vessel sailed on many whaling voyages for the succeeding 3/4 of a century. Mr. Howland was a millionaire. He served the town in various capacities and for nearly 35 yrs. was president of Bedford Commercial Bank. In the Society of Friends he held the position of elder.

This large Federal mansion has undergone major exterior alterations during the Victorian era. Originally hipp roofed the addition of large full height dormers give the house an unusual roof line. Brackets, bays, enclosed porches, and two over two window such are additional obvious changes.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds--Book 20 pg. 343-344  
 Taunton Land Records  
 Howland Heirs by William M. Emery pgs. 191-193

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.790
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Burgess, Isaiah House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	246 Walnut St 44 Seventh St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-132
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1830
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle



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This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:45: AM

*NRE 76  
A & NORTH  
46-132 SELF A*

In Area no. <u>46 A</u>	Form no. <u>132 790</u>
----------------------------	----------------------------

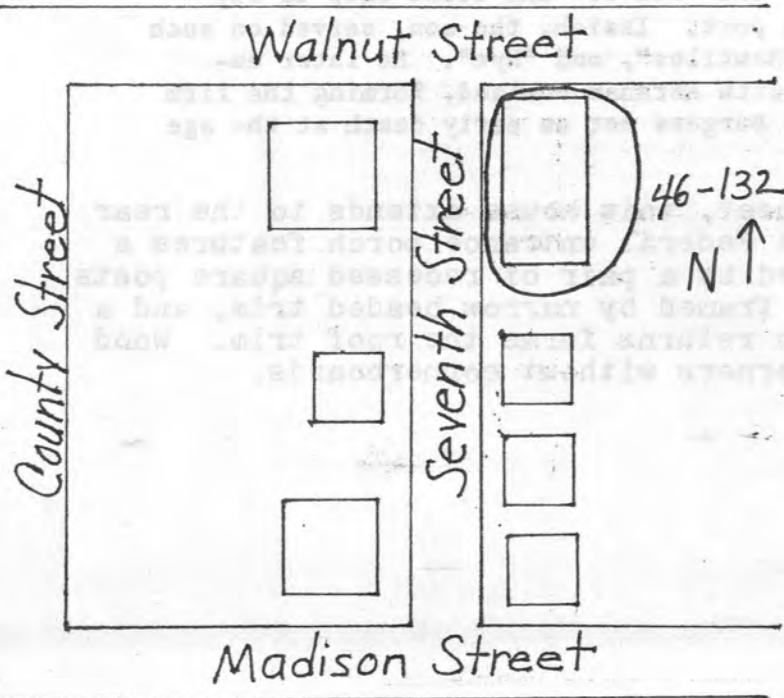
NRE. 790



1. Town New Bedford, Mass.  
 Address 44 Seventh & 246 Walnut St  
 Name Isaiah Burgess  
 Present use Apartments  
 Present owner Frank Moniz & Edward Machado

3. Description:  
 Date c. 1830  
 Source Registry of Deeds  
 Style Federal  
 Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric shingles  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

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: 5,508 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 41 feet  
 Approximate distance of building from street 10 feet

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

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc  
 Organization N. B. P. S.  
 Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Isaiah Burgess  
 Original use private residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

Born in 1796, Isaiah Burgess was one of the early whaling captains out of New Bedford. His father Isaiah was also a master mariner having been captain of the "Beaver" the first ship to fly the American flag in a British port. Isaiah, the son, served on such ships as the "Canton Eagle", "Nautilus", and "Nye". He later entered into the business world with Abraham Howland, forming the firm of Burgess & Howland. Captain Burgess met an early death at the age of 46 in 1842.

A two-story "half house", this house extends to the rear in two adjoining ells. A Federal entrance porch features a flat entablature supported by a pair of recessed square posts. Six over six windows are framed by narrow beaded trim, and a simple boxes cornice with returns forms the roof trim. Wood shingles extend to the corners without cornerboards.

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

- New Bedford Registry of Deeds -- Book 31 pg. 316
- Assessor's Records
- Taunton Land Records
- Whaling Masters 1938 pg. 66

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.1043
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Tallman, Capt. Elkanah House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	251 Walnut St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-87
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1807
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Nursing Home; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:46: AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NB 1043 8/11/76  
 A.D. USGS-NORTH  
 SECT A

NBE. 1043

In Area no. <u>A 46</u>	Form no. <u>84</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------



Town New Bedford 1043

Address 251 Walnut Street

Name Capt. Elkanah Tallman

Present use Rest Home

Present owner Frank Perry

Description:

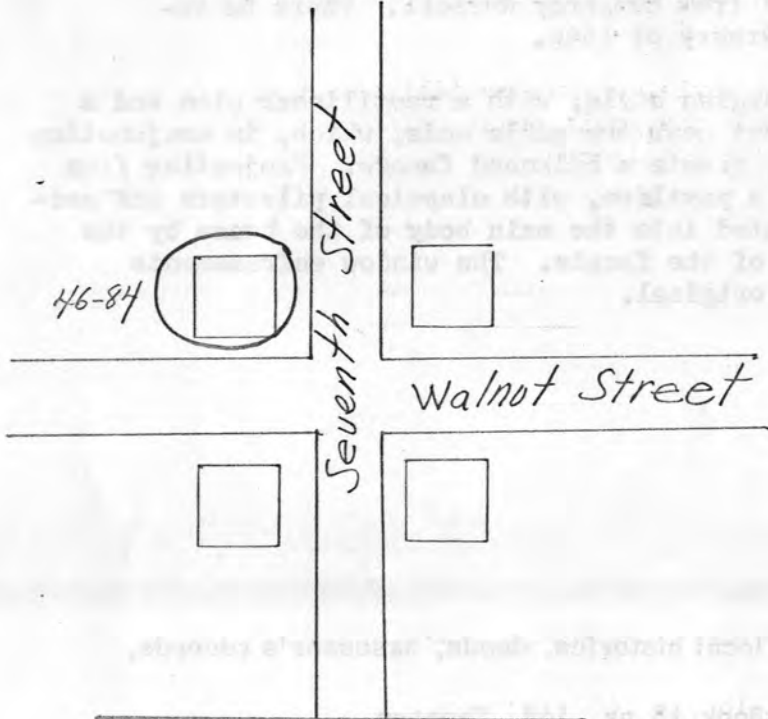
Date 1807

Source N. B. Registry of Deeds

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings (describe) garage

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Additions \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 11, 149 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 104 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street  
10 ft.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N. B. P. S.

Date July 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Capt. Elkanah Tallman

Original use private residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Rest home 1959

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)

Capt. Elkanah Tallman was born in 1763 and sailed as master on many early whalers such as the "Bristol" in 1809 and the "Othello" in 1805. He soon turned to investing in the whaling fleet itself being part owner of some dozen ships during his long lifetime. Capt. Tallman purchased the land for his residence in 1807 from Humphrey Russell. There he resided until his death at 82 in February of 1846.

This 1807 house is in the Georgian style, with a rectilinear plan and a pitched roof. Twin chimnies are set near the gable ends, which, in conjunction with the fenestration arrangement, create a balanced facade. Projecting from the center of the front facade is a pavilion, with classical pilasters and pediment, and the pavilion is integrated into the main body of the house by the dentils that run the full length of the facade. The window enframements and the 6 over 6 pane windows are original.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 18 pg. 148 Taunton  
 Ship Registers of New Bedford Vol. I and II  
 City of New Bedford Directories 1836-1845

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.25
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Bates, Anne E. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	262 Union St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-25
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1875
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Professional Office; Single Family Dwelling House; Specialty store
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.AC: Central New Bedford Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (04/24/1980)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 8:55: AM



FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBE.25  
4/24/80  
(10)

In Area no. 46 AC	Form no. 25
-------------------------	----------------



or 3x5")  
side of form  
46/25

1. Town New Bedford PI - 10  
USGS NORTH  
N  
SECT A  
Address 262 Union Street  
Name Pat McKenna's (Dress Shop)  
Present use Ladies Clothing Store  
Present owner James/ Pat McKenna

3. Description:  
Date 1875  
Source Building Petitions  
Daily Mercury May 17, 1875  
Style High Victorian Italianate

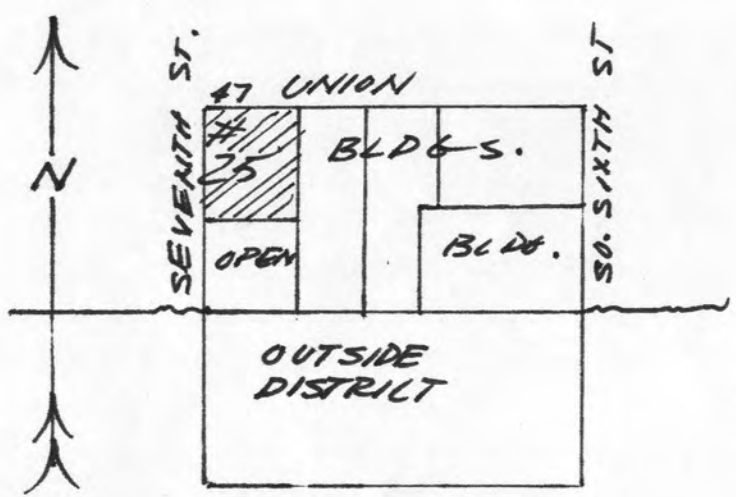
Architect Not known  
Exterior wall fabric Aluminun  
Outbuildings (describe) x  
Other features x

Altered Yes Date 1951  
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 2024 sq. ft.  
One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximate frontage 47'  
Approximate distance of building from street  
Sidewalk width

6. Recorded by J. Mendes & R. Fortier  
Organization Historic Building Survey  
Date 9/30/77

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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Ann E. Bates

Original use House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Office/ Store

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

When built in 1875, it was a beautiful High Victorian Italianate house, owned and built for Mrs. Anne E. Bates.

In later years it was used as a doctor's office, as well as a variety of stores.

It is now owned by James & Pat McKenna. In 1951 the store front was altered, the facade made into large showroom windows. It is now a ladies dress shop.



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

- Resistry of Deeds:  
 66/418; 205/14; Water Department;  
 51/138; Genology/N. B. Public Library;  
 51/139  
 51/140  
 197/94

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.20
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Eldridge, William D. Commercial Block
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	268-270 Union St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	46-20
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1952
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Commercial Block; Radio Station Studio
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Communications
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.AC: Central New Bedford Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (04/24/1980)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Brick



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

NADIS 4/24/80  
P1-A  
1365 - NORTH  
SECT A

NBE.20

In Area no. <u>AC</u> 46	Form no. 20
--------------------------------	----------------



Photo number 46/20

1. Town New Bedford

Address 268-270 Union Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use Office

Present owner Harold & Helen Cooper

3. Description:

Date 1952

Source \_\_\_\_\_

Style Commercial

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered Yes Date 1974 erect entrance & windows

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 56ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

6'

6. Recorded by Robin Shields

Organization HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

Date October 3, 1977

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

See attached map

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) William D. Eldridge

Original use stores

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>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)

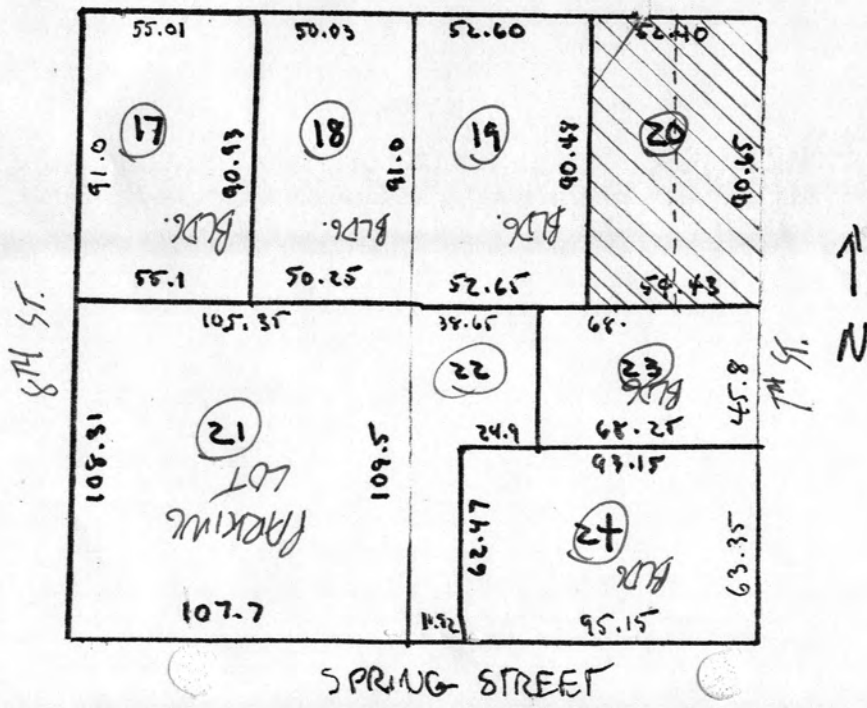
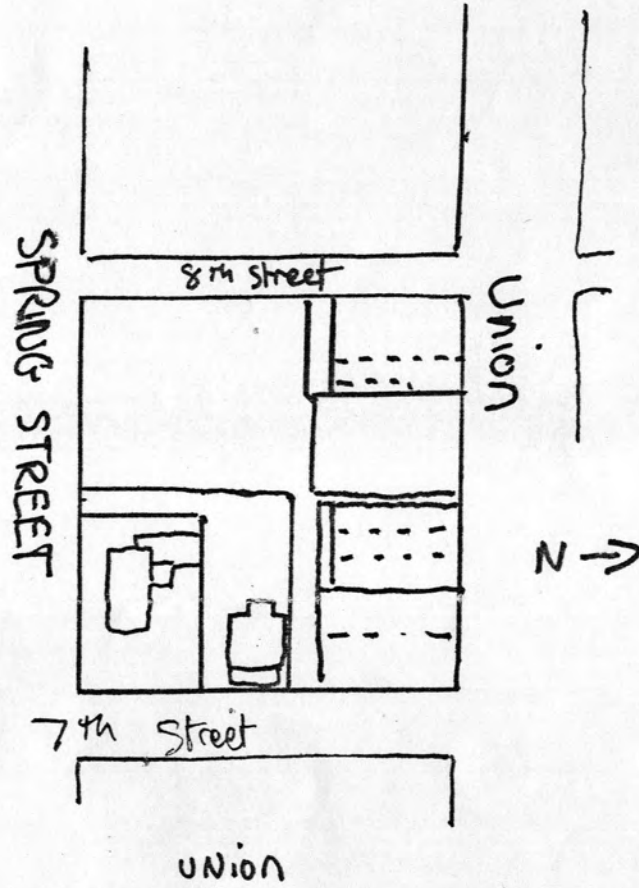
This building houses two businesses. One, the Cooper Insurance Company, owned by the family that owns the building. The other half of the building is used by W.J.F.D. a local radio station.

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

Registry of Deeds: 903/273; 913/275.  
New Bedford Building Department

6 COPIES  
NBE.20

Plat 46  
LOT 20



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.70
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Rodman, William R. - Howland House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Swain School of Design
<b>Address:</b>	386 County St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1833
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Warren, Russell
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Community Center; Other Educational; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Social History
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976); Preservation Restriction (02/07/1986)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Coursed Ashlar; Granite; Stone, Cut Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Friday, November 19, 2021 at 3:24: PM

PR - 21716

MAPS  
8/11/76  
PLD  
USGS - NORTH

NBE.70

In Area no. <u>41 A</u>	Form no. <u>70</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Town New Bedford SECT A

Address 388 County Street

Name Rodman-Howland

Present use Educational

Present owner Swain School of Design

Description:

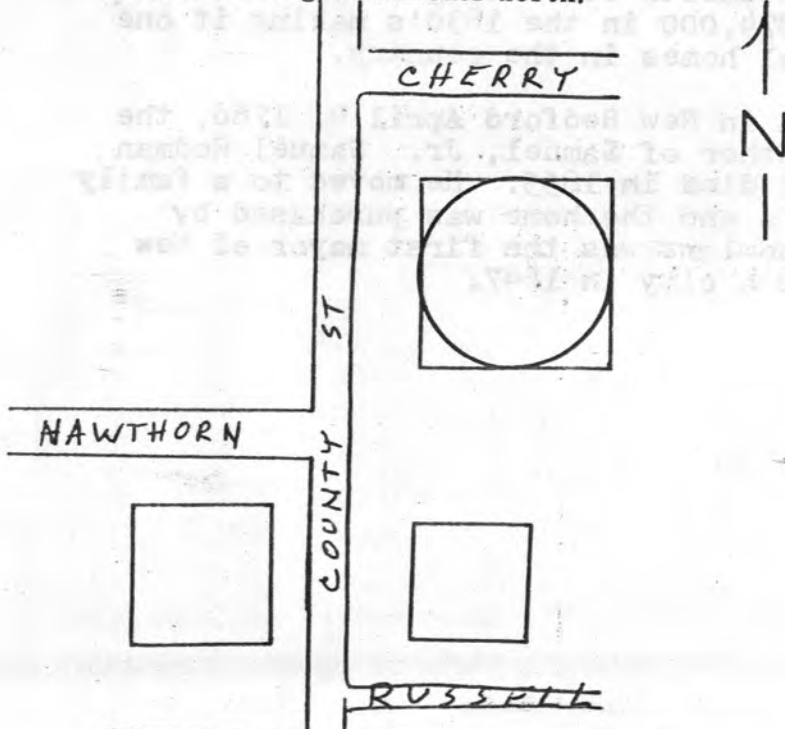
Date 1833

Source Registry of Deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect Russell Warren

other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric granite

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features stone wall in front

Altered yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 48302 sq. ft.

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 274.6

Approximate distance of building from street 40'

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Constance M. LeBlanc

Organization N.B.P.S.

Date March 1977

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) William R. Rodman  
 Original use Residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence, Religious & Education

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 checked="" 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)

Built by the Providence architect Russell Warren in 1833-36, this imposing two-story house contains a massive portico with ornate two story couthian columns. The stone wall fabric consists of rough cut squares on the sides and smooth cut facing in the front. It was reputed to have cost over \$74,000 in the 1830's making it one of the most expensive Greek Revival homes in the country.

William Rotch Rodman was born in New Bedford April 4, 1786, the son of Samuel Rodman and older brother of Samuel, Jr. Samuel Rodman married Rebecca Morgan in 1813 and died in 1855. He moved to a family house in Philadelphia in the 1850's and the home was purchased by Abraham H. Howland in 1855. Mr. Howland was the first mayor of New Bedford after its incorporation as a city in 1847.

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

City & County Maps 1850-1912  
 Pease, Zefhainah History of New Bedford  
 County Street Walking Tour  
 Vital Records New Bedford, Mass.

Small photo here ↓

NBE.70

(Attach photo here)



MA  
O  
1.

COMMISSION  
, Boston

2. Town New Bedford

Street address 388 County Street

Significant to:  
Nation

Name Rodman Mansion

with the  
side)

Use: original & present Residence - Education

Present owner Trustees of the Swain School Inc.

Industry  
on

Open to public 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. weekdays

- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Military Affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Other Architecture

Date 1833 Style Greek Revival

Source of date R. L. Alexander

Architect Russell Warren

Development of town/city  
Architectural reason for inventorying:

One of 3 remaining Greek Revival Mansions in the city. OR part of Area # \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Granite

WALL COVER: Wood Granite Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard \_\_\_\_\_  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 5 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate side & rear

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed \_\_\_\_\_

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Yes PORTICO 1st floor rear Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament Square building, no Gable

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: Portico, 6 columns

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards Large, protruding, smooth, blocks.

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 62.1  
Property has 274.6 feet frontage on street

Stands at head of Hawthorn Street where it meets County Street. Across Cherry Street from William Rotch house, across County Street from original Swain School campus.

Recorder William J. Finn

For The Trustees of the Swain School Inc.

Photo # \_\_\_\_\_ Date September 24, 1974

SEE REVERSE SIDE

1115 10

1. Outbuildings one, unimportant
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden; Formal/Informal  
 Predominant features rare trees and bushes; circular drive; stone post and chain fence.  
 Landscape architect unknown
3. Neighboring Structures  
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

The Rodman Mansion stands as one of the 3 remaining Greek Revival mansions in the city and the one that has the surest prospects of being preserved for succeeding generations. At the time of its building, New Bedford had become the world leader in the whaling industry and Mr. William Rotch Rodman's great fortune ("The wealthiest man in our city at the time of his death and one of the richest in the state." New Bedford Standard 3/27/1855) was based upon whaling. Abraham H. Howland, the first Mayor of the newly chartered city, was the next to own it. Succeeding owners, Thomas Hathaway, J. Frank Knowles, Walter Langshaw, were successfully involved in the textile industry and during the first quarter of the twentieth century New Bedford was to become America's largest center for fine-goods textiles. In recent years the Jewish Community Center and its present owner, the Swain School of Design, have put the building to their institutional uses for which, because of its scale and character, it is unusually well suited.

Therefore Russell Warren's excellent creation has played an important part throughout much of New Bedford's long history. Indeed, the building has become a landmark in the city.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Architecture of Russell Warren; Robert L. Alexander  
 dissertation for Masters Degree, N.Y.U., 1952.

The Patrician Homes of New Bedford; Henry B. Worth,  
 New Bedford Mercury Centennial Supplement 1907.

Old Houses of New England, Knowlton Meyer, Macmillan 1927

Interview with Mrs. William Langshaw, 107 Ash Street, New Bedford 10/1973

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: William Rotch Rodman

Deed Information: Book Number 29 Page 305, 9/29/1855 Registry of Deeds

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.15
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Rotch, William Jr. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Rotch - Jones - Duff House
<b>Address:</b>	396 County St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1834
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Arnold, James; Coolidge, Helen; Howard, William M.; Upjohn, Richard
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Museum; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Economics; Industry; Landscape Architecture; Maritime History
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District NBE.AP: Rotch, William Jr. House
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976); Preservation Restriction (03/26/1985); Nat'l Historic Landmark (04/05/2005)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brown Stone; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Brick; 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:50: AM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBDB 8/11/76  
P-10  
USGS MAP  
SEE A

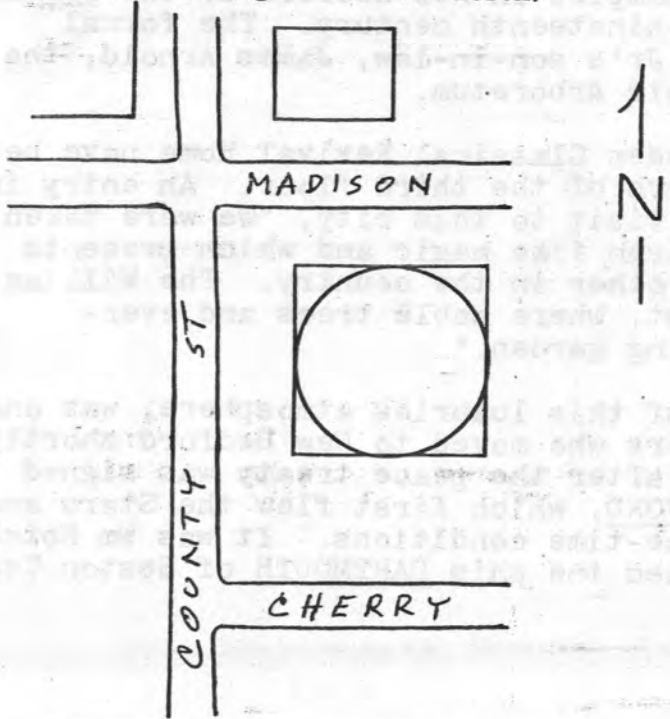
NBE.15

In Area no. <u>41 A</u>	Form no. <u>15</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------



Town New Bedford *NHL 415105*  
 Address 396 County Street  
 Name Wm. Rotch, Jr. *PR 3/26/85*  
 Present use Residence  
 Present owner Mrs. Mark Duff  
 Description:  
 Date 1834  
 Source Registry of Deeds  
 Style Greek Revival  
 Architect unknown

other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric wood  
 Outbuildings (describe) carriage-house  
greenhouse  
 Other features Formal garden  
Gazebo Semi circular  
driveway  
 Altered yes Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 43,514 sq.ft.  
 One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 205 ft.  
 Approximate distance of building from street  
40 ft.

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

6. Recorded by Warren Oxley  
 Organization N.B.P.S.  
 Date May 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Wm. Rotch, Jr.

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u>      </u>	Conservation	<u>  x  </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>  x  </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)

This house still remains the grounds, greenhouse, and carriage house, as well as its Knott Garden, which was characteristic of the mansions built during this era. The house and grounds, which encompass an entire city block, are the only remaining examples in New Bedford of the formal atmosphere of the wealthy in the mid-nineteenth century. The formal garden was laid out by William Rotch Jr's son-in-law, James Arnold, the founder of Boston's world famous Arnold Arboretum.

The fine proportions of this wooden Classical Revival Home have been altered only by the addition of dormers of the third floor. An entry in John Quincy Adams' diary recalls his visit to this city, "We were taken to see the street which has lately risen like magic and which presents more noble-looking mansions than any other in the country. The William Rotch, Jr., mansion; one of the finest, where noble trees and ever-reaching broad lawns lead to a charming garden."

William Rotch, Jr., the patron of this luxurios atmosphere, was one of the successful Nantucket ship owners who moved to New Bedford shortly after the American Revolution. Soon after the peace treaty was signed (1783), it was Rotch's ship, THE BEDFORD, which first flew the Stars and stripes in an English port under peace-time conditions. It was Wm Rotch, Jr.'s brother, Francis Rotch, who owned the ship DARTMOUTH of Boston Tea Party fame.

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

- City & County Maps 1850-1912
- City Directories
- Bullard, John M., The Rotches
- N.B.P.S. County Street Walking Tour

NBE.15

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town

New Bedford

Property Address

396 County St

Area(s)

Form No.

AA

15



1999

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.250
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Smith, Nathaniel Cannon House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1 Howland Terr
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	41-250
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1910
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Smith, Nathaniel Cannon
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Craftsman
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NPD 15 8/11/76  
 PI. 8  
 2263 NORTH  
 227 A

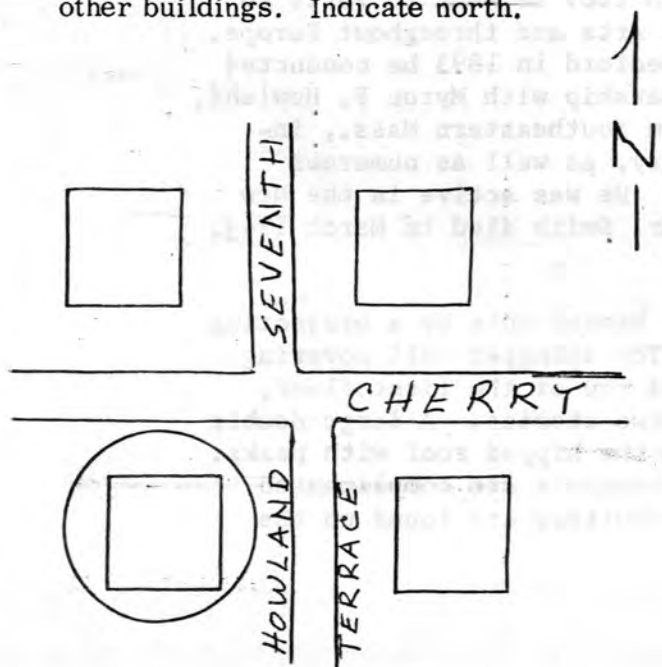
NBE.250

In Area no. 41	Form no. 250
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City New Bedford, Mass.  
 Address 1 Howland Terrace  
 Name Nathaniel C. Smith  
 Present use Private Residence  
 Present owner John P. Hopkins, Jr.  
 Description: 1910  
 Source N. B. Registry of Deeds  
Cottage  
 Architect Nathaniel C. Smith

Other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric Shingle  
 Outbuildings (describe) None  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 4,362 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 75 ft.  
 Approximate distance of building from street  
15 ft.

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

6. Recorded by Warren Oxley  
 Organization N. B. Preservation Society  
 Date October 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Nathaniel C. Smith  
 Original use Residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

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/<br>settlement | <u>      </u> | Science/<br>invention   | <u>      </u> |
| The Arts              | <u>      </u> | Industry                   | <u>      </u> | Social/<br>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)

Nathaniel C. Smith was born in New Bedford January 18, 1866. For three and one half years after graduation from public school in 1885 he worked as a pictorial wood engraver. In 1889 he went to Paris to study architecture at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts and throughout Europe. For twenty years after his return to New Bedford in 1893 he conducted his business alone, later going into partnership with Myron P. Howland. He is the architect of several buildings in Southeastern Mass., including the rebuilding of the Public Library, as well as numerous schools, churches, and private residences. He was active in the New Bedford Art Club, and the Swain School. Mr. Smith died in March 1943.

The rectilinear plan of this house is broken only by a projecting one story bay located on the south side. The shingled wall covering is broken by a string course on every third row of the first floor, while a wider string course separates the two stories. A large double window dormer projects, in the front, from the hipped roof with peaks. The overhanging eaves supported by simple brackets are complimented by the overhanging entrance hood. Ornate shutters are found on the multi-paned windows.

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

New Bedford Registry of Deeds Book 328 Pg. 130  
 City Directories 19  
 City and County Maps 1912  
 Standard Times March 17, 1943  
 Pease, Zephiah, History of New Bedford Pg. 66-67

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NBE.135
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Rotch, Mary House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Unitarian Church Parsonage
<b>Address:</b>	47 South Sixth St
<b>City/Town:</b>	New Bedford
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	41-18
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1838
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Community Center; Other Religious; Parsonage; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	NBE.A: County Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/11/1976)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 2:20: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NBDIS-871176  
P1-#  
USGS NORTH  
SECT A

NBE.135

In Area no. <u>A</u> <u>41 Q</u>	Form no. <u>18</u> <u>135</u>
--	-------------------------------------



Town New Bedford

Address 47 So. Sixth Street

Name The Mary Rotch House

Present use Catholic Community Center

Present owner Diocese of Fall River

Description:

Date 1838

Source City Directories, Diary of Samuel Rodman Dec. 22, 1838

Style Federal

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

See attached map

Architect Not known

Exterior wall fabric Aluminum siding

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered Yes Date 1944, 1947, 1956

Moved Yes Date 1956

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 105 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by Deborah Healey

Organization HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

Date March 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Miss Mary Rotch

Original use \_\_\_\_\_ Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Unitarian parish house (1890's) Catholic Community

8. Themes (check as many as applicable) Center & Parish house

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

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

The structure located at 47 South Sixth Street was built by Miss (1777-1848) Mary Rotch in 1838. Miss Rotch was the youngest child of William Rotch Sr., the most important and wealthiest man of his time in New Bedford. She remained with her father to care for him until he died at age ninety-four in 1828. She was rewarded for her faithfulness with a large legacy.

Miss Rotch lived on in her fathers "Mansion House," left to her is his will. She took in a companion, Miss Mary Gifford, to share the large home with her, but they did not really settle in one house permanently. Quite possibly Miss Rotch had the house at 47 So. Sixth Street built to give herself some permanence and privacy. She was sixty-one in 1838 and must have felt the need to have a place of her own.

Miss Rotch was noted for her kindly and helpful disposition and her great strength of character. She became acquainted with Ralph Waldo Emerson and the two carried on a warm correspondence for years.

In 1838 Miss Rotch died and left the house to her companion Miss Gifford. When Miss Gifford died in 1875 the house was passed on to three daughters of Thomas Dawes Eliot. The house was purchased in 1876 by Lemuel Kollock a prosperous and influential man in New Bedford, well known in the East for his connections with the coal trade. In 1893 the house became the Unitarian parsonage until it was sold to the Catholic Diocese of fall River. It is presently used by the Church as a community center.

When first built, the house faced County Street. Since then it has been turned around to face Sixth Street and moved Westward to make way for the Church. It is

cont'd

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

New Bedford Directories 1838-1841  
 Representative Men of Southeastern Mass. Vol. III p.1516.  
 New Bedford Registry of Deeds  
 Assessor's Office, City of New Bedford  
 New Bedford Standard Times Library  
 "The Rotches" by John M. Bullard, 1947  
 The Diary of Samuel Rodman, Dec. 22, 1838

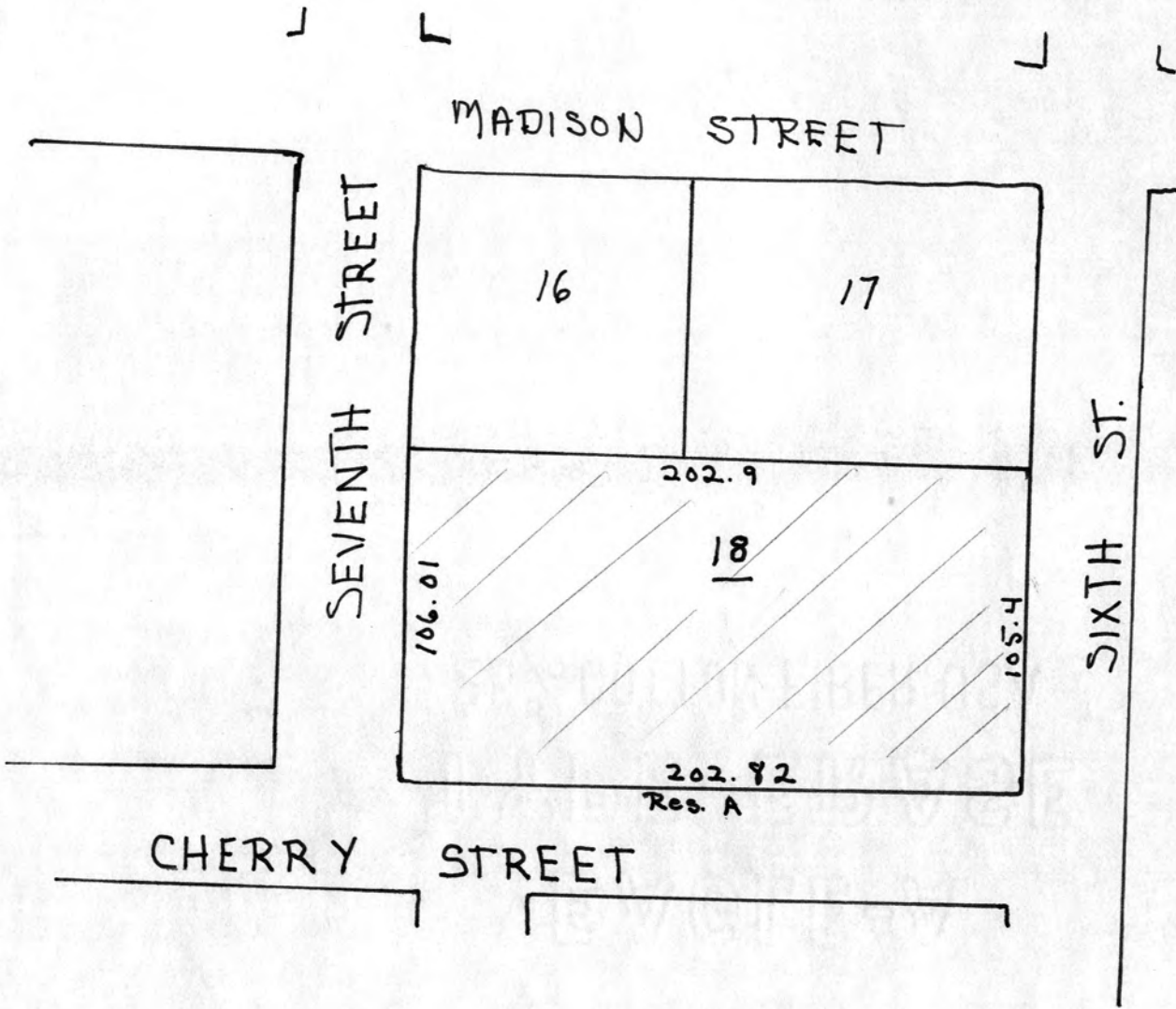
NBE. 135

Plat	Lot
41	18

Mary Rotch House

Cont'd

located on the Northeast corner of Seventh and Cherry Streets, with it's front door facing the back of the Church. For a detailed description of the interior see the Standard, January 29, 1922.



on 1911 map - ?  
 " 1895 "

262 Union Street



268 Union Street





1 Seventh Street



93 Spring Street



83 Spring Street



96 Spring Street



# ES Seventh Street Lots: Site of Abolition Row Park



17 Seventh Street



21 Seventh Street



23 Seventh Street



24 Seventh Street



25 Seventh Street



26 Seventh Street



27 Seventh Street



29 Seventh Street



30 Seventh Street



31 Seventh Street





33 Seventh Street



34 Seventh Street



35 Seventh Street



36 Seventh Street



245 Walnut Street



246 Walnut Street



251 Walnut Street



43 Seventh Street



46 Seventh Street



47 Seventh Street



48 Seventh Street



51 Seventh Street



52 Seventh Street



56 Seventh Street



47 Sixth Street



1 Howland Terrace





2 Howland Terrace



8 Howland Terrace



396 County Street



388 County Street



# Abolition Row District Character and Context



Southwest Corner of Seventh and Spring Streets



Southeast Corner of Seventh and Walnut Streets

# Abolition Row District Character and Context



Seventh Street, looking south towards Walnut Street



Seventh Street, looking north towards School Street

# Abolition Row District Character and Context



Nathan & Polly Johnson House Interpretive Panel



Corner of Seventh and School Streets looking south