

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

|                                |                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inventory No:</b>           | HIN.759                                                                       |
| <b>Historic Name:</b>          |                                                                               |
| <b>Common Name:</b>            |                                                                               |
| <b>Address:</b>                | 44 North St                                                                   |
| <b>City/Town:</b>              | Hingham                                                                       |
| <b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>   | Hingham;                                                                      |
| <b>Local No:</b>               |                                                                               |
| <b>Year Constructed:</b>       | C 1810                                                                        |
| <b>Architectural Style(s):</b> | Federal;                                                                      |
| <b>Use(s):</b>                 | Other Commercial; Single Family Dwelling House;                               |
| <b>Significance:</b>           | Architecture;                                                                 |
| <b>Area(s):</b>                | HIN.G, HIN.L                                                                  |
| <b>Designation(s):</b>         | Local Historic District (08/01/1989); Nat'l Register District (01/07/1991);   |
| <b>Building Materials:</b>     | Roof: Asphalt Shingle;<br>Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard;<br>Foundation: Granite; |
| <b>Demolished</b>              | No                                                                            |



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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  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

759

Hingham

SS 44 North Street

ric Name

Present Commercial

Original Single residence

PTION

1810s

e Boston Herald, December 13, 1888

Federal

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) 1810s

structure re - erected in 1817 on present site.

Condition Good

Moved Yes, from Date

Bakers Island, near Salem.

Acreage 6,441 sq. ft.

Setting Sited on the commercial south side

of historic 1635 North Street, where North

Street widens at the beginning of Station

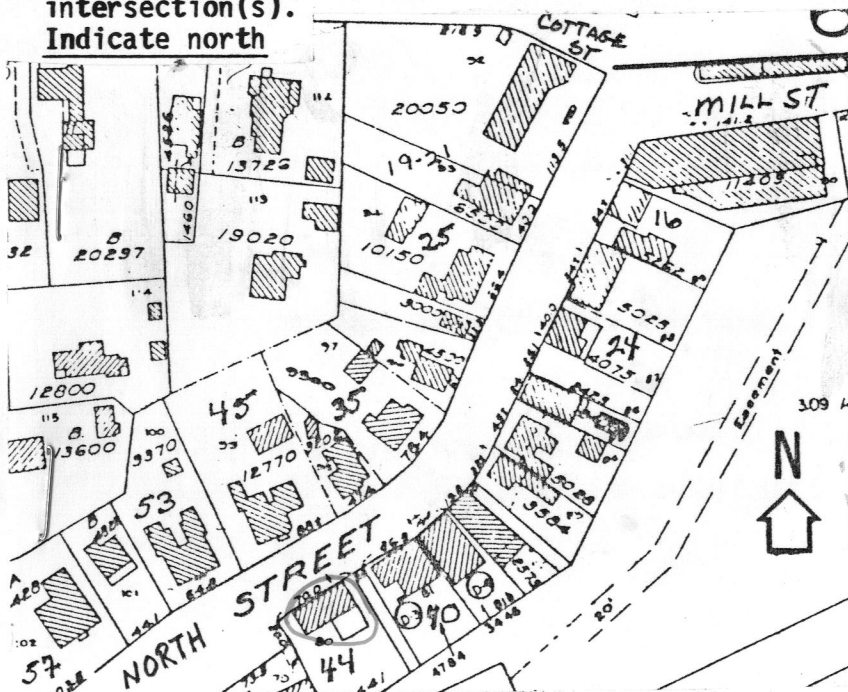
Street, once the site of Mill Pond.

Recorded by Fannin/Lehner

Organization Hingham Historical Commission

Date January 15, 1989

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

In a lecture delivered in Hingham and reported by the Boston Herald on December 13, 1888, George Lincoln stated: "The Basset house ... originally came from Baker's Island, near Salem, and was brought to Hingham about the year 1817 by Benjamin Beal. A room in the building was afterwards occupied as an evening school for instruction in navigation by M. Jameson who, it will be remembered, rescued the late Capt. Barnabas Lincoln, of this town, from the hands of pirates." The 'Benjamin Beal' referred to must be Benjamin Beal (1771-1833), the "carpenter," who "Resided on Lincoln St." A note recently discovered in the John P. Richardson Archival Collection states the building was "part of Bakers Island lighthouse complex." In a letter dated April 2, 1979, Richardson further noted that Bakers Island Light was extinguished in 1817 under orders from the government.

SEE INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Boston Herald, Dec. 13, 1888.

Hingham Journal, Nov. 25, 1891.

Lincoln, George. History of the Town of Hingham: The Genealogies, 1892, reprint ed., 1982, vol. 11, p. 35-36, 70.

Julian C. Loring Records

John P. Richardson Archival Collection

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

HIN.759

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Community:<br><br>HINGHAM | Form No: |
| Property Name:            |          |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

(Continued)

44 NORTH STREET

After this interesting early history there is a gap until the mid-nineteenth century when it is known that the property was owned by Daniel Bassett (1820-1891) from at least 1857 to 1891. A prominent Hinghamite, Daniel Bassett was a "Dealer in coal and wood" and "President of the Hingham Institute for Savings" and 44 North Street which was described as "a double tenement ... very little land attached ... the location is not especially desirable, as the rear borders upon the Mill Pond" was hardly a suitable domicile for a man of his stature. The property therefore was simply part of Daniel's real estate holdings as he actually resided across the street at 45 North Street from 1848 to 1875 at which point he probably moved to Cottage Street. At Daniel's death in 1891, the property was sold at auction to Samuel B. Whittemore, treasurer of the Oriental Oil Co. of Boston who also owned the estate almost opposite at 57 North Street. Whittemore probably leased 44 North Street to Frank P. Dyer, an insurance agent at Rowe's Wharf in Boston. The property changed hands again by 1904 and was purchased by Patrick Whelan, a farmer. MJF

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Hingham

Form No:

Property Name:

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE 44 North Street**

The building at 44 North Street was originally erected in Baker's Island near Salem, and from there moved to the south side of North Street in 1817. The fenestration on the second floor indicates that it was probably built as a multiple use building as it had "a room with a domed ceiling", the room where "instruction in navigation" was given in the last nineteenth century. Six windows, twelve over eight, set tightly under the eaves with their lintels placed on a narrow cornice board, once lit the large second floor room. On the ground level, the two windows on each side of the door are six-over-six. A central entrance, framed by small sidelights to dado level which support a simple entablature, is the only Federal architectural ornamentation of the symmetrical clapboarded facade. The foundation of coursed ashlar granite is similar to many retaining walls fronting homes on the north side of North Street. The two chimneys on the ridge, slightly removed from the gable ends, indicate that originally the building might also have been a double house with each entity having three windows and a chimney. Today, the building is used as commercial space; this successful recycling does not detract from the original residential character of the house and like other structures on North Street of mixed usage, it relates well to its neighbors and contributes to the historic streetscape of the North Street.

MBL

Area F

759 H

FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town Hingham  
Street 44 North St. HIN.759  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this structure historically significant to:  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ Commonwealth \_\_\_\_\_ Nation \_\_\_\_\_

Structure has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

Agriculture \_\_\_\_\_ Commerce/Industry \_\_\_\_\_  
Architecture \_\_\_\_\_ Science/Invention \_\_\_\_\_  
Art/Sculpture \_\_\_\_\_ Travel/Communication \_\_\_\_\_  
Education \_\_\_\_\_ Military Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Government \_\_\_\_\_ Religion/Philosophy \_\_\_\_\_  
Literature \_\_\_\_\_ Indians \_\_\_\_\_  
Music \_\_\_\_\_ Development of Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

Present Use Hingham's Childrens' Shop  
Present Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Date pre 1830 Style Colonial

Source of Date 1830 map was part of a lighthouse - Baker's Island, Salem Mass 1830

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

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

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low \_\_\_\_\_ Material: cutstone

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

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 End interior

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency \_\_\_\_\_ Simple/Complex \_\_\_\_\_

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_

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

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: sidelights, entab.

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 2nd floor 12/8, 1st floor 6/6

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING none - on sidewalk

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street on sidewalk.  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder AW

For MHC SEP 1967

68,1074

Photo TIT-DA

E-12-131-1-021

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

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

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds