

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	HIN.1299
Historic Name:	
Common Name:	
Address:	18 West St
City/Town:	Hingham
Village/Neighborhood:	West Hingham;
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	R 1845
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival;
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Architecture;
Area(s):	HIN.G, HIN.K
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (08/01/1989); Nat'l Register District (01/07/1991);
Building Materials:	Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard;
Demolished	No



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

This file was accessed on: Friday, September 4, 2026 at 2:47 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

G.K

1299

LD-8/189

NEDIS-117191

Hingham

S 18 West Street

ic Name

Present Single residence

Original Single residence

PTION

1840s

Julian C. Loring records

Greek Revival

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) Addition

of wing to rear and dormers

Condition Good

Moved No Date

Acreage 7,600 sq. ft.

Setting Sited in the center of the West Street neighborhood, bounded by Hillside Terrace and Fort Hill Street. House overlooks open spaces of the Town Swamp.

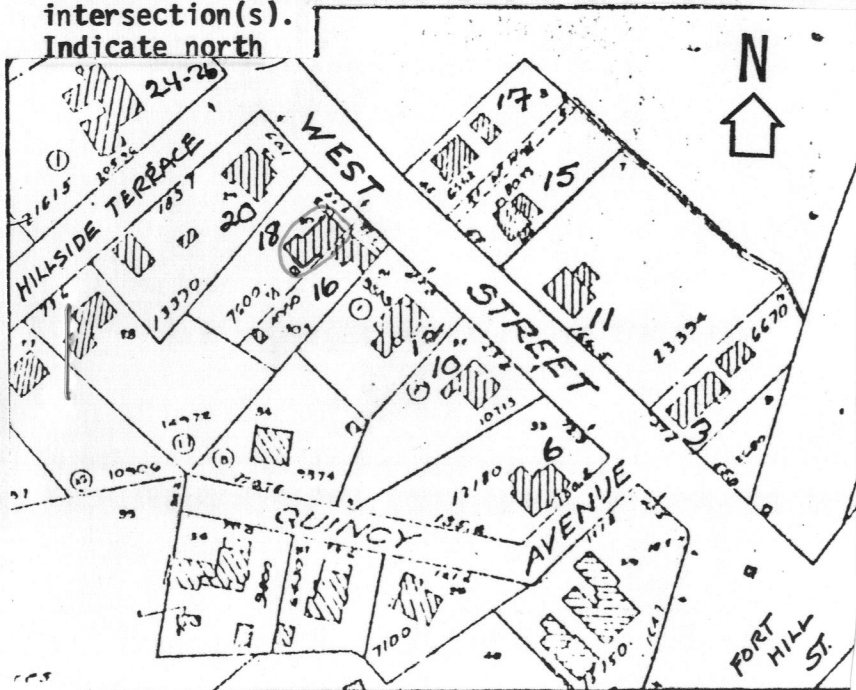
Recorded by Fannin/Lehner

Organization Hingham Historical Commission

Date June 10, 1988



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.

This Greek Revival Cottage at 18 West Street has a puzzling history. Although it has every appearance of being built in the 1840s or 1850s, Julian P. Loring has assembled research documents dating the house to 1779. It seems probable that the original house may have been demolished, moved or burned in the 1840s.

Israel Stowell (1753-1844), a cooper, acquired the 18 West Street land in 1773, building a house in 1799, probably on the occasion of his marriage to Lydia Mansfield. Israel owned half the house and his brother Benjamin (1756-1794) owned the other half until his death in 1794. Israel was the sole owner of 18 West Street from 1794 to 1844. The Stowells were big landowners in this area; on West Street alone, Hersey Stowell (1788-1872) owned 30 West Street (demolished 1870) in 1830 and a "J. Stowell" is recorded on the map of 1830 for 20 West Street. All these Stowells were descended from Samuel Stowell, whose name is mentioned in Hobart's Diary as early as 1649.

It seems logical that between 1840 and 1850 the old house disappeared and the new Greek Revival Cottage was built. In 1850, 18 West Street belonged to master-mariner Gridley Stodder (1781-1861) whose second wife was Israel Stowell's daughter, Mary. When Gridley died in 1864, Mary kept the house until her death in 1888. William Dana Stodder (1825-1904?), the brother of Gridley's first wife, Joanna Stodder, was the next owner and the property passed to his wife, Hannah L., c. 1904, and their daughter, Mary Elizabeth Stodder, was in residence at 18 West Street until after 1967. All these Stodders were descended from seafaring John Stodder (d. 1661) who received a grant of land in Hingham in 1638. MJF

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hingham Journal. March 30, 1888; April 27, 1888; June 1, 1888; Nov. 16, 1888; Feb. 15, 1889; Feb. 13, 1891; March 6, 1891; Oct. 16, 1891; Feb. 5, 1892; Feb. 12, 1892; March 25, 1892; April 22, 1892; June 24, 1892; July 8, 1892; Sept. 30, 1892; Jan. 6, 1893; July 21, 1893; Aug. 4, 1893; April 1, 1891; April 17, 1896; June 12, 1896; Aug. 13, 1897; Oct. 1, 1897; Jan. 12, 1900.

History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts: The Genealogies, 1892. Vol. 111, p. 144-145/85
191, 206, 212, 215-216, 220-221.

Julian C. Loring Records

John P. Richardson Archival Collection

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 18 West Street

The Greek Revival Style, 1830-1860, was one of the most popular and long lived styles in the United States. Architectural models evocative of Greek democracy were thought appropriate for the new republic which had rejected its ties with England. The most important changes to residences from the past delicate Federal Style to the Greek Revival Style were the orientation of the gable-end to the street which was an effort to create the desired "temple front", and the use of simple, bold classical details. Characteristic architectural elements of a Greek Revival house include columns, pilasters, heavy entablatures, wide cornice boards, flush boarding, long windows, small chimneys, and the appearance of white as the favored color for it suggested the stone structures of classic Greece. As there were few architects during this period, builders used pattern books published by Americans instead of Englishmen. The most popular ones were The American Builder's Companion by Asher Benjamin, 1827 and The Modern Builder's Guide by Minard Lafever (1833). The town of Hingham is fortunate to have over forty examples of this classically derived style.

The residence at 18 West Street, built in the mid nineteenth century, is a fine example of a Greek Revival cottage and one of four Greek Revival houses located in the proposed extension of the Lincoln Local Historic District. Sited gable-end-to-the-street, it exhibits many salient characteristics of the period. They include the wide plain cornice board encircling the house, the side-hall entrance, the pilasters articulating the corners, the closed gable resembling a pediment and an archetypal Greek Revival entrance. Sidelights to the floor frame the door which is capped with a plain entablature. The tall thin chimney is typical of its time for it indicates the presence of an early heating system. The fenestration is regular, consisting of one-over-one sash windows, probable replacements of the late nineteenth century. The crisp delineation of forms is a pleasing element in the West Street streetscape which is located in the proposed extension of the Lincoln Local Historic District

MBL