

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	HIN.1022
Historic Name:	Wilder, Seth S. House
Common Name:	
Address:	246 North St
City/Town:	Hingham
Village/Neighborhood:	Hingham;
Local No:	48;
Year Constructed:	1829
Architectural Style(s):	Federal;
Use(s):	Shop Other; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce;
Area(s):	HIN.G, HIN.K
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (08/01/1989); Nat'l Register District (01/07/1991);
Building Materials:	Roof: Wood Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Foundation: Granite;
Demolished	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
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.

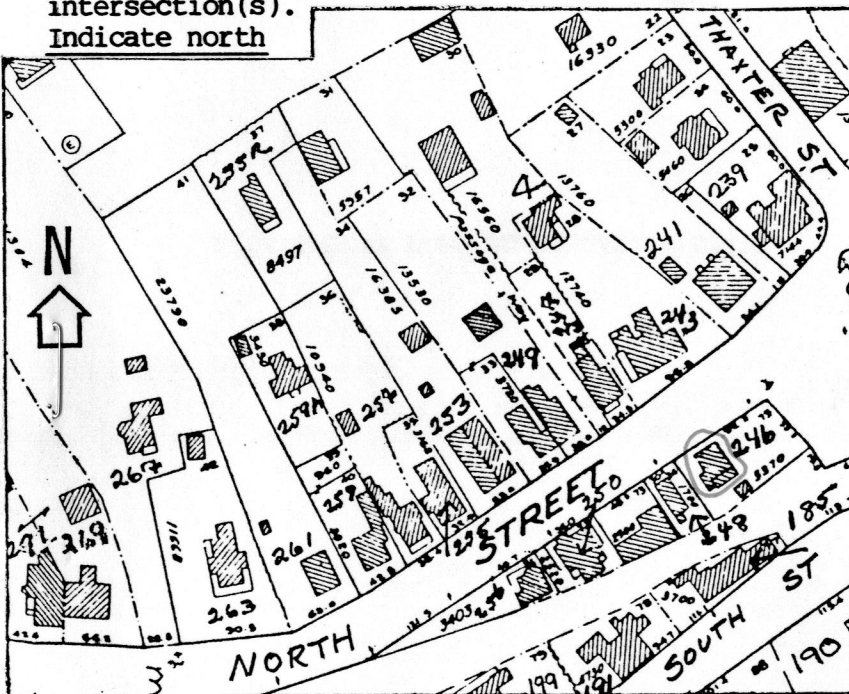
G K 1022

LHD-8/1/89
NADIS-1/7/91



City Hingham
Address 246 North Street
Historic Name Seth S. Wilder House
Present Single residence
Original Single residence
Description 1829
Source Julian C. Loring records
Location Cape Cod
Architect

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



Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards
Outbuildings One-story outer house

Major Alterations (with dates) Shed roof addition to east rear.

Condition Excellent

Moved No Date

Acreage 5,370 sq. ft.

Setting Sited on the southwest corner of Thaxter and North Streets, at Goold's Bridge, on historic 1635 North Street.

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by Fannin/Lehner

Organization Hingham Historical Commission

Date September 15, 1987

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.

When Edward S. Clapp built the small Cape Cod house/shop on the corner of North Street and Gould's Bridge in 1829, the Town Brook, not the Old Colony Railroad, separated the property from South Street. Clapp probably built on speculation because there were several rapid shifts in ownership until Seth S. Wilder (1806-1849) acquired the property in 1834. As Wilders owned the property, probably for investment, until 1945, it is from this family that the house takes its name. All of these Wilders were descended from original settler, "planter" Edward Wilder (d. 1690), progenitor of the prolific Wilder family, who received his first grant of land in Hingham in 1637, became a freeman in 1644, a selectman in 1667, and in 1675 fought in King Philip's War.

It is logical that Seth S. Wilder, a mariner, would acquire 246 North Street as his father, Nathaniel Wilder (1772-1823), a trader, had built the large Colonial Style house at 249-251 North Street, near Gould's Bridge, at the end of the eighteenth century in 1799. Seth owned 246 North Street until his death in 1849 and his widow, Maria Lincoln, the daughter of mariner Nehemiah Lincoln (1776-1846), kept the property until 1884.

Melzar Wentworth Clark (1812-1895) had been baking at 246 North Street since about 1860 but didn't acquire the property until 1888. Vice president of the Hingham Agricultural Society, Clark served in the Civil War first as a nurse and afterwards as a ward master, in the United States Hospital at Point Lookout. The Clarks, who remained at 246 North Street until 1945, were related to the Wilder family as Maria Lincoln, Seth S. Wilder's wife, and Sabina H. Lincoln, Melzar Clark's wife, were sisters. MJF

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Burr, Fearing and George Lincoln. The Town of Hingham in the Late Civil War, 1876, p. 272.
Hingham Gazette. Jan. 25, 1828; March 2, 1832; June 3, 1836;
Hingham Journal, April 19, 1895.
 Lincoln, George. History of the Town of Hingham: The Genealogies, 1892, reprint ed., 1982.
 Vol. 11, p. 129-130. Vol. 111, p. 3, 10, 311-312, 327.
 Julian C. Loring Records

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 246 North Street
Seth S. Wilder House

The Seth S. Wilder House is one of Hingham's one hundred and twenty Cape Cod cottages. The term "Cape Cod Cottage" was first recorded "by a president of Yale College, Timothy Dwight (1752-1817), who in 1800 visited the Cape where he found the houses so specialized in character... and pattern that they could be called with propriety, Cape Cod Houses" (Conally, page 1). This compact style of house, well suited to a harsh environment, is one of the best known, appreciated and most frequently imitated in New England. "It is one of the most rational, functional designs for a house in the history of architecture." (Walker, American Shelter, page 88). The archetypal Cape Cod cottage in Hingham is set on a low stone foundation, has a story and a half under a ridge roof, a large central chimney, two multipaned sash windows framing the central entrance (a full Cape Cod) and depending on the date it was built, a variety of small gable windows. The format remains the same for over one hundred years, with variations in the door ornamentation and levels of additions. 246 North Street was constructed as a half Cape Cod house/shop in 1829; except for the rear shed-roof addition to the rear and the arbor framing the entrance, it has not been altered. Stylistic elements include sidelights to dado level on each side of the entrance, the space between the front windows and the eaves, the plain cornerboards, and the planar quality of the gable. The house is set on a foundation of granite and brick. The Seth S. Wilder House is a picturesque reminder of North Street's nineteenth century commercial history and it is a fine component of the proposed extension to the Lincoln Local Historic District. MBL

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

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

2. Town Hingham 1022 #8
Street 246 North St.
Name Wildon HIN.1022
Original Use Dwelling
Present Use Dwelling
Present Owner Virginia Ryan
Date pre 1830 Style 1/2 house - Cape
Source of Date 1830 map
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: _____

WALL COVER: Wood clapboarding Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 0/2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

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

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street none
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder AW

For MHC SEP 1967

68-1094 Photo VII 2017

E-12-131-1-048

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

HN.1022

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

registry or Deeds