

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BLVD
BOSTON, MA 02125

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll	Negative(s)



Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate

Town Provincetown
Place (neighborhood or village)
Address 230 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 658
Parcel No. (PID) 11-3-044-0
Mapbase # 11-3-044
Building Area 2890.335
Historic Name Benjamin Lancy House
Present Use Commercial
Original Use Residential
Date of Construction 1874
Source NR Nomination
Style/Form Second Empire
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material Clapboard
Foundation rusticated stone
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Mansard
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

1-story commercial addition on front

Condition Good
Moved no yes **Date**
Acreage 0.127
Setting

Recorded by Johnette Davies
Organization Kise Straw & Kolodner
Date (month/year) September 2003
Form Status new update

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

230 Commercial St. is a 3-story, 3-bay, Second Empire-style dwelling converted to commercial use; mansard roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, pedimented and gable dormers with brackets and pendants, cornice with paired brackets and pendants; exterior is clad in clapboard siding with wood corner boards and trim, east façade is clad in shaped wood shingles; building sits on an obscured foundation; fenestration includes 1/1 vinyl DHS, 2nd-story canted bays with single-pane sliding glass windows; mansard roof has a projecting central pavilion with tower; modern 1-story gable-front commercial addition with pent eave extends from the front façade, obscuring the original main entrance; primary entrance now located in addition's center bay and is accessed by modern paired large-light doors flanked by sliding glass doors accessing separate businesses; west façade may contain an entrance to historic core.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

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

As per Josephine Del Deo (1977): "This unique Victorian mansion even now retains its grandeur and ornate magnificence. Pictures of the old mansion as she first appeared at the turn of the century show a monumental Victorian edifice, dark and richly impressive. With the passing of time, the only thing still unimpaired by the excrescences of commercial growth is the top tower and third floor of the building. Like a rising tide that threatens to choke off all the original life of the building, the increasing misuse of the property gains height with each passing year. Ten days after first shots of the building were taken, a second photograph revealed the sudden appearance of a stairway. The rapidity of disfigurement, however, cannot obliterate the base presence of a grand and stately building. Her tower cuts the skyline next to the Universalist Church tower and is a continuing landmark to residents. Had the original Historical Museum been in existence today, its status as a National Registered Landmark would be unquestioned. It is the first building mentioned by the Dept. of the Interior for Landmark designation upon the formation of the National Seashore. Unfortunately, because of the deterioration of the building, a good deal of restoration would have to be done to make it eligible for such designation today.

The building was built by Benjamin Lancy, a successful and wealthy merchant, and ship owner. His wharf appears opposite the residence on the 1880 map, and that wharf is still of reasonable length as wharves go in Provincetown at this time. It is the site of the "Old Reliable Fish House" and Pier, and is used for storing some of the last trap fishing gear still to be seen. There is a Lancy Wharf shown at the West End near Freeman's wharf, but is undoubtedly not of the same man, although it may be the same family.

CONT.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable County Atlas., 1880.
Barnstable County Atlas., 1907.
Cape Cod Directory, 1901.
H.F. Wallings Co. Map of Provincetown Village. Atlas, 1858.
National Park Service. Salt Pond Visitor's Center Archives, Wellfleet.
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.
Vorse, Mary Heaton. Time and the Town.

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