

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 396 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 1175
Parcel No. (PID) 12-2-048-0
Mapbase # 12-2-048
Building Area 2074.553
Historic Name
Present Use Residential
Original Use Residential
Date of Construction 1786
Source Tax assessment
Style/Form Greek Revival
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material Wood shingle
Foundation brick
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Hipped
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Rear additions. Replacement windows. Entry vestibule?

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.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FORM B - BUILDING

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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.

396 Commercial St. is a 2-story, 5-bay, Georgian-style dwelling; low-pitched hipped roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, center brick chimney; exterior is clad in wood shingles with wood trim; building sits on a brick foundation; fenestration includes 12/12 wood DHS replacement with wood surrounds on front façade, 6/1 wood DHS on other facades, some have operable shutters, 1 multi-light-over-one picture window on side facade; central entrance with panel door and 5-pane sidelights; porch with hipped copper roof, Ionic columns and architrave, and fluted pilasters; the middle part of the right side façade is deteriorated and has fluted columns that support end story and multiple entries; rear façade contains a 2-story addition section with rear-facing central entry, two historic doors, two 2nd-floor decks that form a 1st-story porch, 5-bays, 6/1 wood DHS; beaded boards fill garage door opening toward Law Street.

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 house is situated opposite the area where Charles W Hawthorn held many outdoor painting classes during the early part of the 20th century. It is located at the corner of Law St. and Commercial. The wharfs situated opposite are gone, but the shack known as "Sinamon Sands", photo #2, is the same as the one against which Hawthorne is shown demonstrating in the Xerox copy of the "Hawthorne Class, Foot of Law Street."

As per Tom Boland (1994): One of the earliest examples of a five-ranked, two-story Federal structure with a low-hipped roof, it is likely that #396 was built around the same time as its neighbor #398. The frame construction is likely to be timber, a common construction method here until the mid-19th century. The property is still owned in conjunction with the parcel across Commercial Street and was closely linked to the wharf which stood at the foot of Law Street. The owner in 1858 is listed as J. Cook and as D. Small in 1880 with a small wharf across the street. The site stayed in the Small family until at least 1907 with Benjamin F. Small noted as owner in 1901 and Mrs. E.E. Small in 1907.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable County Atlas., 1880.
Barnstable County Atlas., 1907.
Cape Cod Directory, 1901.
The Extremity of Cape Cod. Map, 1836.
H.F. Wallings Co. Map of Provincetown Village. Atlas, 1858.
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.

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