

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Town REHOBOTH

Address 384 Tremont Street

Historic Name Brown House

Use: Original residence

Present residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

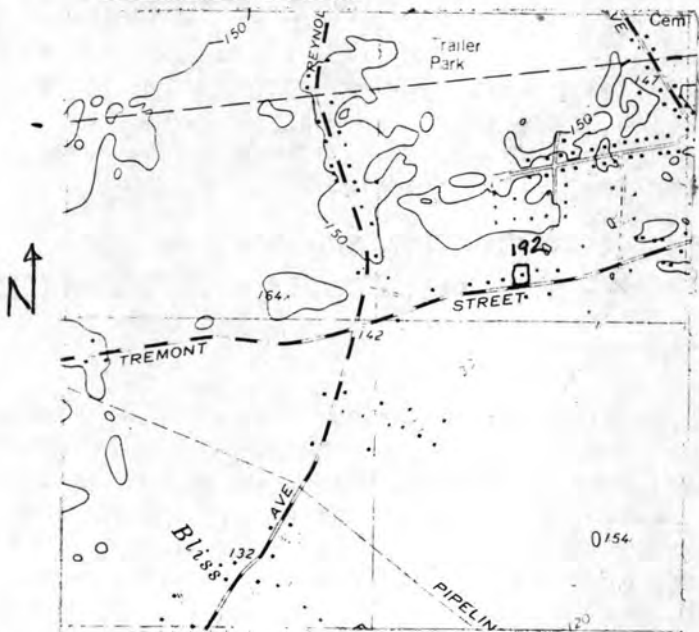
Public

Original owner prob. Charles Wheaton

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date ca 1700 - 1725

Source architectural detail and tradition - see attached

Style vernacular with Italianate detail

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

completely remodelled - 1870's

Moved no

Date _____

Approx. acreage one

Setting 100' from road: rural context

UTM: 19/312260/4641150

Recorded by V H Adams

Organization Rehoboth Historical Commission

Date May 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The structural history of the Brown House is intriguing. Its present exterior appearance as a late 19th century vernacular structure with Italianate details is deceiving. The owners possess a manuscript written in 1906 by H. E. Brown, a former Brown student (on file at MHC) which gives a brief history of the house. It states that the house was originally built in 1706 as a lean-to structure facing west and rebuilt or "improved" in the 1870s as a Victorian house with the original post and beam substructure. The chimney base location is still apparent in the cellar. The first story is strictly late 19th century, except for some settling, not usually found in ca.1900 buildings.

(Continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The traditional history of ownerships, as recounted by the same author, follows. The house was originally built by Charles Wheaton in 1706, who kept a tavern here patronized by travelers on "The Old Coach Road." The property was sold to Philip Short, and by him to Horace Bliss shortly thereafter. It then passed to Mrs. Bercherd who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown in 1874. Mr. Brown was a jeweler at Robinson & Co. in Attleboro. His fourth son, Isaac R. Brown, constructed all the farm buildings standing by 1906 on "this immense farm" except the barn (see photo) which had stood for at least thirty-two years previously.

The Brown House is one of two early 18th century structures (see Form #170) which stand as testimony to primary settlement in northern Rehoboth prior to 1750 when the major focus of settlement was southern Rehoboth. Through its reputed tavern function, it possesses associations with one of the first transportation routes in town along Tremont Street. Its architectural transformation in the late 19th century reflects the presence of a street car line along Tremont Street, which brought the beginnings of suburbanization in the area, fostering new life styles and ideals. In its present form, the Brown House illustrates the evolution of architecture within an historically cohesive 200-year context and meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places individually.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Brown, H. E., Manuscript history, 1906.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Rehoboth	Form No: 192
Property Name: The Brown House	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

However, clues to an earlier identity are found on the second story. Retention of corner posts, chamfered summer beam with plain stop, and Georgian period door surround doors, and a panelled chimney breast (fireplace gone) provide strong, if limited, evidence to validate, in a general way, the 1906 theme. Other possible sources of information, e.g., the roof construction, are currently unexposed. The west ell was probably added when the house was renovated. At the turn of the 20th century a barn and sheds were located northeast of the house (see photo copy attached).

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

384 Tremont
c. 1820



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11. <u>Brown House</u> | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Roger Van Duzend 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 12. Briggs Tavern | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 13. Carpenter Bridge | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 14. Carpenter, Christopher,
House (60 Carpenter St.) | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 15. Carpenter House
(89 Carpenter St.) | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 16. Carpenter, Col. Thomas, III,
House | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 17. { Cushing, Caleb, Farm
<u>Combined</u> | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 18. { Cushing ^{CALEB,} House and <u>FARM</u> | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 19. Drown, Nathaniel, House | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 20. Elm Cottage/Blanding Farm | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Brown House (Rehoboth MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/25/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 5/26/83 - 6/9/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/6/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria A/C / ACCEPT
Reviewer Mr. Dwyer
Discipline A.H.
Date 6.6.83
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
 Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date _____
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
 Photographs
 Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

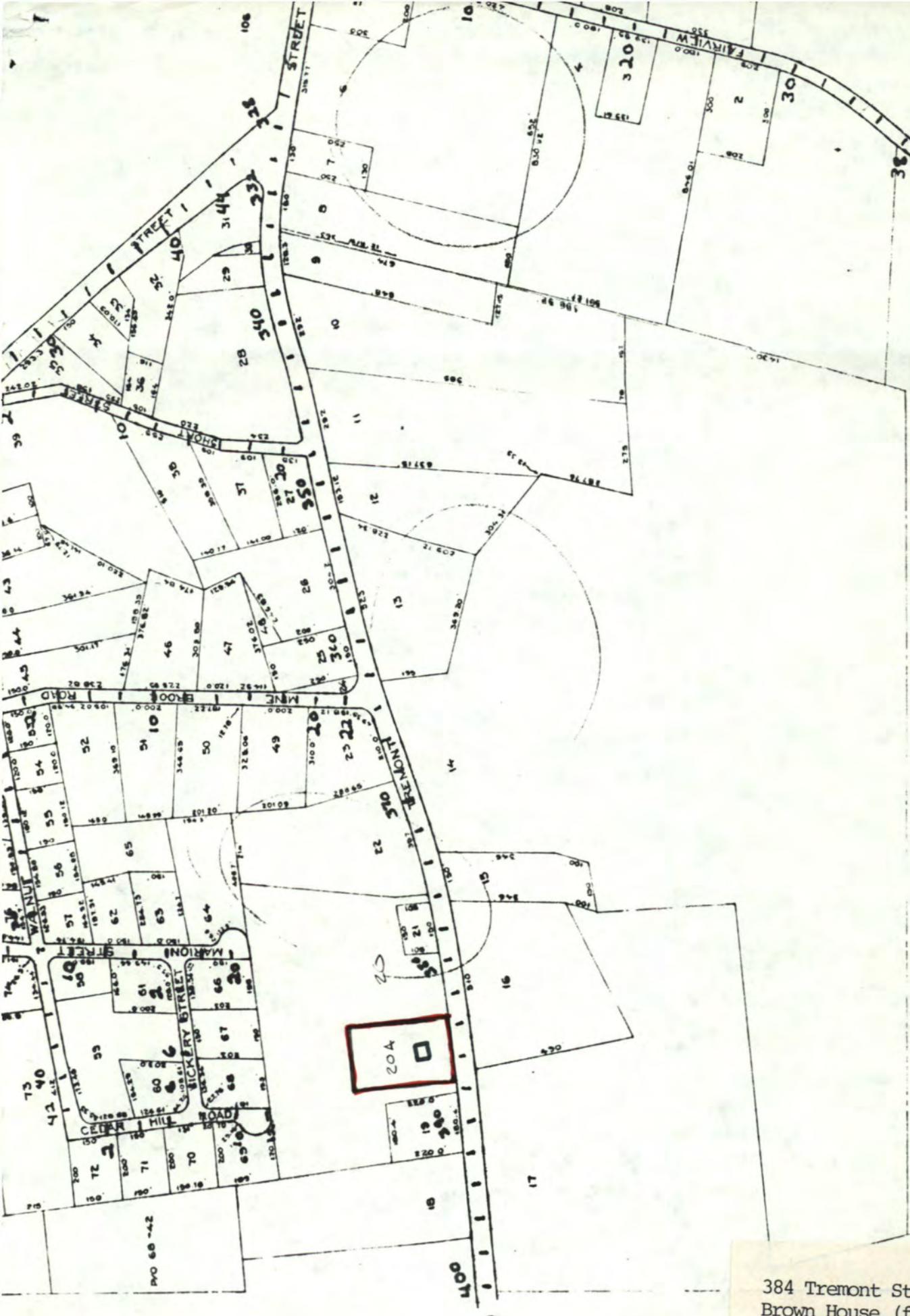


207

384 TREMONT STREET

Brown House

Rehoboth NRA, Ma.



384 Tremont Street
 Brown House (form 192)
 Town of Rehoboth Property Map
 scale 1"=200'
 1978

SEND
 IRS
 1
 2

63

63

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292