

Area	Form no.
	39 149-21

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

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.

Town Brookline MRA

Address 4 Perry Street

Historic Name NA House

Use: Original residential

Present residential

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner William Wellman

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1843

Source Maps

Style Greek Revival

Architect Information not available

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) four feet re  
moved from rear (1903); converted to  
2 families (1903)

Moved from site facing Date 1903  
Linden Place  
Approx. acreage 3366 sq.ft.

Setting Faces Linden Square, set in  
between two apartment houses.

Recorded by Carla Benka, Leslie Larkin

Organization Brookline Historical Com.

Date Fall, 1980

Boston South Quadrangle  
UIM Reference: 19/325520/4688970  
Map #: 54

\* Between 1845 and 1854, Wellman was listed in the Boston Directories as a deputy collector at the Customs House in Boston.

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

# 4 Perry Street is one of several Greek Revival homes found in this area. (See also #12, 19, and 53 Linden Street) Characteristics of the Greek Revival style found in this house include the flushboarding, pedimented gable, and elaborate pilasters. Of particular interest are the Egyptian-style porch columns with acanthus leaf motif. Only one other house in Brookline has such columns. (see # 7 Holden Street) Facing Linden Park, this house is one of the few older homes in the immediate neighborhood which has remained relatively unaltered.

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

Located in an area once belonging to Ebenezer Davis which subsequently came into the hands of James Holden who married Davis' widow, #4 Perry Street was built in 1843-4 at which time the Holden land was auctioned off and developed. This house was built by William Wellman,\* a banker, who worked on State Street in Boston. It was one of three houses built immediately after Linden Square was laid out and until 1903, was sited facing Linden Place. (The house was moved to make way for two apartment buildings, both owned by Rufus Candage et al.) Until that time, it was one of several buildings clustered around Linden Square which, until the early 1900's, had been a privately owned open space. Because of economic pressures and lack of land use regulations, buildings such as 4 Perry Street soon were surrounded by apartment houses and triple deckers.

Fortunately, the absence of severe alterations and the proximity of this house to Linden Square help to recreate the sense of scale and ambiance which was to be found here during the 19th century.

4 Perry Street meets NR criteria A and C, having been one of the original dwellings built as part of the Linden Place subdivision and a fine example of the Greek Revival style. Like other Greek Revival structures in the Village, the house is sited with front gable to the street and is enlarged with a side bay. Of particular distinction are the column capitals embellished with an Egyptian motif of lotus leaves (as opposed to the more common Doric style); only one other house in Brookline, #7 Holden Street, has similar columns. Recent repair of the columns as well as other details and on-going maintenance work have resulted in a well preserved structure which makes an outstanding contribution to the streetscape. Because there is a substantial amount of modern infill in the area, the surviving components of the Linden Place development are being nominated separately.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Maps-1830, 1844, 1855  
Tax lists- 1837, 1851  
Boston Directory- 1845-1857  
Permits-1903, 1936  
Atlas- 1874, 1884, 1888, 1897, 1900, 1907

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 9-4-85  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA  
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. <sup>also in Boston Suffolk Co</sup> Harris, John, House and Farm

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

32. Heath, Charles, House

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

33. Heath, Ebenezer, House

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

34. Holyhood Cemetery

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

35. House at  
(4 Perry St.)

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

36. House at  
(9 Linden St.)

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

37. House at  
(12 Linden St.)

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

38. House at  
(12 Vernon St.)

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

39. House at  
(19 Linden St.)

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

40. House at  
(53 Linden St.)

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

85003287

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

House (Brookline MRA) (4 Perry St.)  
Norfolk County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No.                      4 1985

Fed. Reg. Date 2/3/87

Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85

Action:  ACCEPT 10-17-85

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency:                     

Entered in the  
National Register

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria                     

Reviewer                     

Discipline                     

Date                     

                     see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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





4 Penny 51

Brookline (Ma) MRA





4 Perry St.  
Brookline (Ma) MRA)

v

NOV 1980

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

4 Perry St (39/149-21)  
Brookline (Ma) NEA  
TOWN OF BROOKLINE MAP Jan. 1981  
1/2" = 200 ft



TO