

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	214

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

Town Taunton

Address 115 High Street

Historic Name McKinstrey House

Current Owner: St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Use: Present Rectory

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1759

Source Style/Newspaper Article

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick/Clapboards

Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

None

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 102-PLANS-BLOCK 9-LOTS 3  
Less than one

Setting 100' from street on rise in  
densley developed area.

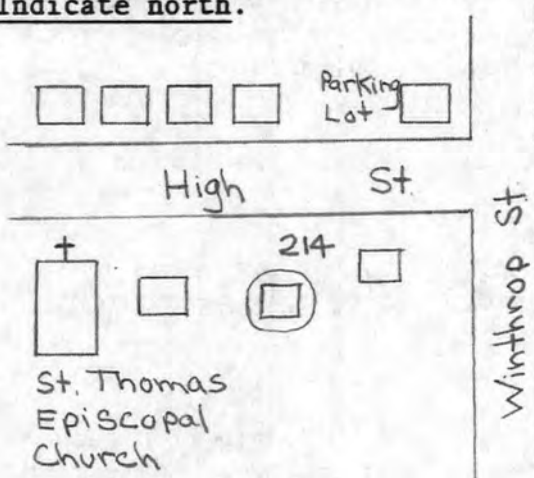
UTM: 19/326040/4640540

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
 staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by T.W.

Organization TCHS

Date 9/10/79

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The McKinstrey House is one of a small number of stylistically sophisticated 18th century houses surviving in Taunton. One of two "brick-end" houses (see # ), it's design features a symmetrical 5-bay facade framed with quoins and arranged around a pedimented entry, hipped roof, and double pile center hall plan.

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

Historically, the house was a residence of a notable political and military personage during the Revolution and is reputed to have been the scene of one of Taunton's earliest recorded murders.

The structure was built for William McKinstry, a minister from Windsor, MA., in 1759. Siding with the Colonists' cause, McKinstry was politically at odds with his Tory wife, Priscilla Leonard, who was reputedly forced by her husband's cronies to dance in defiance of the King on Taunton Green.

The McKinstrey House retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places for it's well preserved stylish design which stands as an expression of Taunton's Colonial period prosperity.

*Boundaries conform to current lot lines.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

"Taunton to Observe Not Only Tercentenary But Also 175th Anniversary of Murder in Old Manse," in Sunday Standard Times, May 1938.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received MAY 21 1984  
date entered 6

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 6 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Taunton Multiple Resource Area  
State Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Mason, N. S., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

52. McKinstrey House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

53. Morse House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

54. Morse, Henry, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

55. North Taunton Baptist Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

56. Old Colony Railroad Station

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

57. Old Weir Stove Company

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

58. Paull, Alfred, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

59. Pilgrim Congregational Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

60. St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/5/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

McKinstrey House (Taunton MRA)  
Bristol County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 21 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85  
Date Due: 6/21/84 - 7/5/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 7-5-84  
 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	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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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





# 214 McKinstry Hase

Taunton MRA, Ma

Prestige Prints  
by Berkey

NOV 1979

Prestige Prints  
by Berkey

CITY OF TAUNTON

CITY OF TAUNTON

ST. THOMAS Church

**IV.**

ST THOMAS  
EPISCOPAL  
Church  
OF  
Taunton

Lodge #150  
P.O. ELKS

Peters  
Family  
Trust

Taunton Multiple Resource Area  
Form No. 214  
McKinstrey House/St. Thomas  
Church Rectory

SCALE: 1" = 40'  
MAP NO. Wd2, Pg. 5, Lot 3

less than one acre

epn  
win

5

4

3

2

G H

10

H

9



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000297