

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received DEC 11 1980

date entered APR 15 1982

1. Name

historic Lafayette-Durfee House

and/or common Lafayette-Durfee House

2. Location

street & number 94 Cherry Street

NA not for publication

city, town Fall River

NA vicinity of

congressional district 10th

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Bristol

code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☐ * occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ * museum
☐ * building(s)	☐ * private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☒ NA in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ * yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lafayette-Durfee Historical Foundation, Inc.

street & number Box 63

city, town Fall River

NA vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number 441 North Main Street

city, town Fall River

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ ** no

date 1973 & 1978

☐ federal ☒ * state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered
restored

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved date 1876

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lafayette-Durfee House at 94 Cherry Street in Fall River's waterfront area is thought to have been built ca. 1747 by Thomas Durfee III. Georgian decorative detailing on the exterior of the house lends credence to this date during the Second Period (1725-1175) of colonial architecture. The interior was apparently altered, however, to the Federal style sometime late in the 18th or early in the 19th century. The house has been moved twice, in 1837 and 1876. It originally stood on the east side of the highway (later Main Street) that ran from Newport, R.I., to Boston, near the present site of the Superior Court House on North Main Street. When this street required widening in 1837, the Lafayette-Durfee House was moved to the west side of it, becoming No. 116 Main Street. In 1874 the house was sold (apparently separately from its lot) and within the following year a brick residence was constructed by its former owner on the 116 Main Street site. This necessitated the removal of the Lafayette-Durfee house by its new owner to its present location, originally numbered 14 Cherry Street, but renumbered 94 in 1896.

The Lafayette-Durfee House is of frame construction, two stories plus an attic in height, and has a pitched roof, ridge parallel to the street. Its central chimney has been temporarily dismantled during the restoration of the building. The house's five-bay Cherry Street facade has a center entrance. Decorative detailing is limited to narrow corner boards; sill boards; simple Georgian window caps; and a Georgian door surround consisting of fluted pilasters supporting a simple cornice, below which is a narrow transom with nine rectilinear lights. The door itself is not original. Characteristic of the period is the fact that the second floor window caps meet the simple wooden cornice. The house rests on a stone foundation which no doubt dates to 1876 when the house was moved to this site.

A two storey frame addition, two bays in width and having a pitched roof, extends from the back of the Lafayette-Durfee House, giving it an overall L-shape. This addition, like the main part of the house, is clapboard sheathed and rests on a stone foundation built to accomodate the slope of the lot.

The Lafayette-Durfee House is presently being restored under the direction of the Lafayette-Durfee Historical Foundation which purchased the property in 1973. On the interior of the house, Federal style detailing includes simple wooden fireplace surrounds with mantels, chair rails, and wainscotting. Boxed beams (as in the "Keeping Room") and boxed corner posts are, however, characteristically found in Second Period dwellings.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 43

Item number 7

Page

listed separately

NAME: Lafayette-Durfee House

LOCATION: 94 Cherry Street
Fall River, Mass.

OWNER: Lafayette-Durfee Historic Foundation, Inc.
Box 63
Fall River, Mass.

DESCRIPTION: See 'B' Form - attached and
Individual National Register Nomination

DATE: c.1747

SIGNIFICANCE: See 'B' Form - attached and
Individual National Register Nomination

ACREAGE: Less than one acre; 4,957 sq. ft.

VBD: Assessor's Plat 0-13, Lot 60

UTM:

Fall River: 19/ 320495/ 4620160

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☒ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☐ architecture	☐ education	☒ military	☐ social/
☒ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☒ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☒ other (specify)

Marquis de Lafayette visits

Specific dates 1747 **Builder/Architect** NA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lafayette-Durfee House possesses integrity of design, setting, and materials and is significant for the quality of its design as well as its historical associations. It was built as a farmhouse in ca. 1747 by Thomas Durfee III (1721-1796), a prominent Fall River citizen who continued to live in it until his death in 1796. Durfee was long a member of the General Court of Massachusetts in both the House and Senate, and was for six years a member of the Governor's Council.

Thomas Durfee's eldest son, Col. Joseph Durfee (1750-1841), became known for his command in May 1778 of a small group of patriots who defended the village against about 150 British troops. This Revolutionary War skirmish is known and celebrated as the "Battle of Fall River". Joseph's friendship, moreover, with the Marquis de Lafayette occasioned the latter's stays at the Durfee house when he travelled between Newport and Boston. The house thus acquired its present name. Joseph Durfee and the French military leader not only had the Revolution in common, but also the fact that the Durfee (originally d'Orfé) family had come from France. When the Marquis returned to France, he sent Mrs. Durfee two greyhounds in appreciation of her hospitality. Joseph Durfee later started Fall River's first cotton mill and was a founder of the First Congregational Church.

In 1836 Thomas Durfee IV, Joseph's youngest brother, finally sold the Lafayette-Durfee house out of the family. Today one of the founding members of the Lafayette-Durfee Historical Foundation, owner of the house since 1973, is a member of the Durfee family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books: 1862 History of Fall River, by Rev. Orin Fowler, pages 30, 46
1877 Centennial History of Fall River, by Henry H. Earl, page 10
1877 Fall River and its Industries, by Frederick Peck & Henry H. Earl, page 198
1906 History of Fall River, by Henry M. Fenner, pages 16, 20, 112

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property Eighteen and 21/100 square rods

Quadrangle name Fall River, Mass.-R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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3	2	0
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5	2	0
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4	6	1	9
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1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached deed description which is recorded with the Fall River Registry of Deeds in Book 1083, Page 133.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state MA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Booth, Consultant, with Florence C. Brigham, Secretary

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date August 1980

street & number 204 Washington Street

telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Daniel R. Weseloh

11/19/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/15/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 11 1980
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

1911 Cotton Centennial History of Fall River, by Henry M. Fenner,
pages 14-17, 52

1941 History of Fall River, by Arthur S. Phillips, page 19

Genealogy: Descendants of Thomas Durfee

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Lafayette-Durfee House
State, County: MA, Bristol
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 12-11-80/2966

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/1/83

Date Due: 3/2/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/15/82

Entered in the ☐ RETURN

National Register ☐ REJECT

photos _____

maps ☒

- ☐ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ moved date _____

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

Acreage 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



Fall River, MA
Lafayette-Durfee House

Bristol Co.

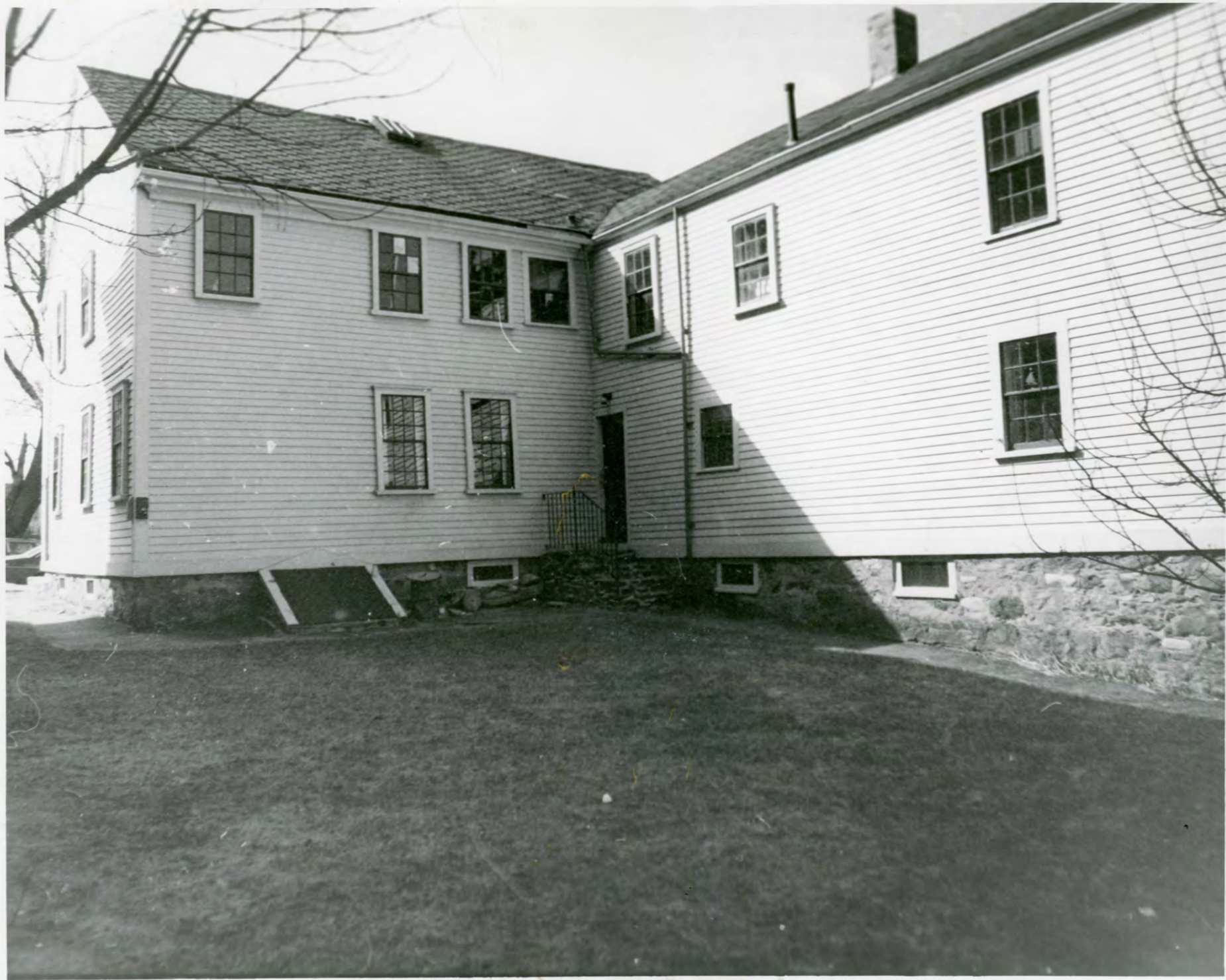
Linda Stanley, 1979
Negative at SRPEDD, Marion, MA 02738

Front view; house faces south

DEC 11 1980

1.
*Lafayette-Durfee House at 94 Cherry Street
Fall River*

Front View, ^{house} facing South



Fall River, MA
Lafayette-Durfee House

Linda Stanley, 1979
Negative at SRPEDD, Marion, MA 02738

Rear view, showing ell; north side of house

DEC 11 1980

Bristol Co.

7/5

*Lafayette-Durfee House
94 Cherry Street
Fall River, Mass*

Rear View showing Ell



Fall River, MA
Lafayette-Durfee House

Linda Stanley, 1979
Negative at SRPEDD, Marion, MA 02738

Restored Parlor; southwest room

DEC 11 1980

Bristol Co.

3/5

Lafayette-Durfee House

94 Cherry Street

Fall River, Mass

Parlor - Southwest room



Fall River, MA
Lafayette-Durfee House

Linda Stanley, 1979
Negative at SRPEDD, Marion, MA 02738

Restored Dining Room; southeast room

Bristol Co.

4/5

DEC 11 1980

Lafayette-Durfee House

94 Cherry Street

Fall River, Mass

*Dining-room - Southeast
room*



Fall River, MA
Lafayette-Durfee House

Bristol Co.

Linda Stanley, 1979
Negative at SRPEDD, Marion, MA 02738

Restored Keeping Room; north room

57/5

DEC 11 1980

Lafayette-Durfee House

94 Cherry Street

Fall River, Mass

Keeping Room - North room

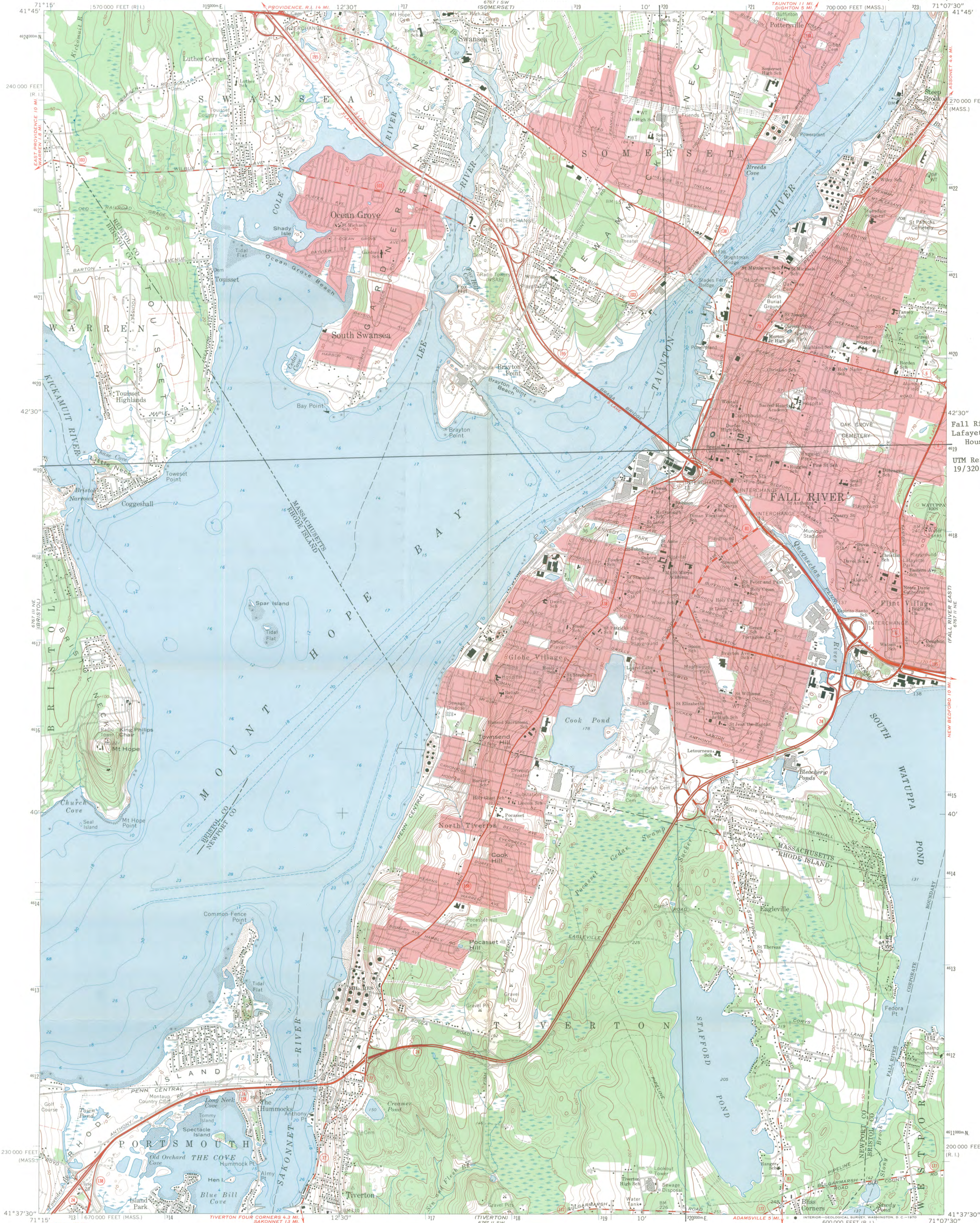


Faint handwritten text, possibly "Faint River MRA Ma".

Faint handwritten text, possibly "Lido. etc. De. etc. etc.".

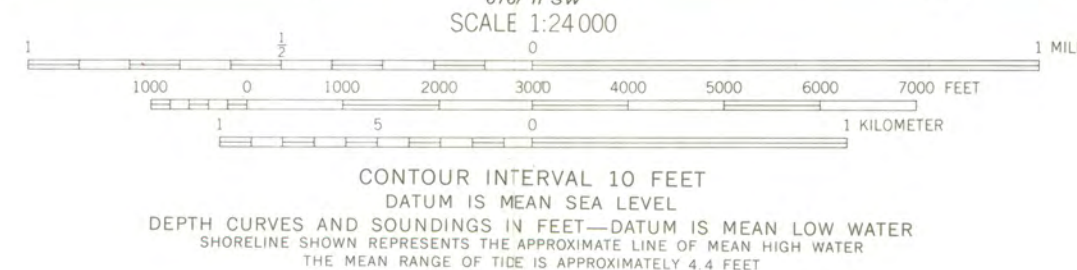
94 CHERRY ST.

WC XXVI #19



Fall River, Mass.
Lafayette-Durfee
House
UTM Reference:
19/320520/4619160

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1938-1939. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 350 (1966)
and 353 (1967). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas in Massachusetts from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
hard surface, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, Unimproved road, fair or dry
hard surface, weather
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



FALL RIVER, MASS.—R.I.
N4137.5—W7107.5/7.5
1967

AMS 6787 II NW—SERIES V814



Lafayette-Durfee House
94 Cherry Street
Fall River, MA

The owner was originally notified of MHC's intent to nominate on 9/5/80 and responded in favor.

The State Review Board considered the nomination on 10/8/80, and voted unanimously in favor.

The nomination was submitted to the National Register on 11/ 18/80; it was returned to MHC on 2/13/80.

Ownership was verified on 11/23/81, and the owner was renotified of MHC's intent to nominate on 12/14/81. They responded in favor on 12/21/81.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 15, 1982

Name

Location

Lafayette-Durfee House

Fall River
Bristol County

Port Royal House

Chatham
Barnstable County

Harlow, Sgt. William, Family Homestead

Plymouth
Plymouth County

Notified

Honorable Margaret M. Heckler
Honorable Gerry E. Studds
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
North Atlantic Regional Office

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

I, CAROLINE E. DURFEE

of Fall River Bristol County, Massachusetts

being unmarried, for consideration paid, ~~and in full consideration of~~

grants to LAFAYETTE DURFEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC., a charitable corporation organized under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with the principal office ~~with warranty covenants~~ of the corporation at 240 Florence Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, ~~the land is~~ with warranty covenants

(Description and encumbrances, if any)

A certain lot or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon situate in Fall River, Bristol County, Massachusetts, on the northerly side of Cherry Street and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of said lot in the line of the northerly side of Cherry Street and running thence Westerly by said Cherry Street Fifty and Fifty-nine One-hundredths (50.59) feet to land now or formerly of Mabel G. Blackway, for a corner; thence running northerly by said last named land Ninety-eight (98) feet to land supposed to belong now or formerly to Jerome B. Westgate; thence running easterly by said last named land Fifty and Fifty-nine One-hundredths (50.59) feet to land now or formerly of one Pierce; thence running southerly by said last named land Ninety-eight (98) feet to the point of beginning, containing about Eighteen and Twenty-one One-hundredths (18.21) square rods, more or less.

Being the same premises conveyed to me by deed of Edna M. Reseigh, et al, dated August 29, 1973 and recorded with the Fall River District Registry of Deeds, Book 1083, Page 133.

There is no monetary consideration for this transfer, which is intended as a gift from the grantor to the grantee.

DEC 11 1980

Witness my hand and seal this 31st day of December 1973

Caroline E. Durfee



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Bristol ss. Fall River December 31, 19 73

Then personally appeared the above named CAROLINE E. DURFEE

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed, before me

Robert A. Bagley Jr.

Notary Public—Justice of the Peace

My commission expires Nov. 21, 19 79.

Rec'd DEC 31 1973 AT 12-43 PM AND RECORDED

A true copy of instrument as recorded in Bristol County
Fall River District Registry of Deeds in Book 1092 Page 468, 469

Attest:

Joseph E. Haniffy Jr. Register

#10

Verbal Boundary Description

Lafayette-Dwyer House

Fall River MA

Garby E. Spufford
FALL RIVER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS

Fall River District Registry of Deeds in Book 1010 Page 2 483 484

A true copy of instrument as recorded in Bristol County

mk

FORM B - BUILDING

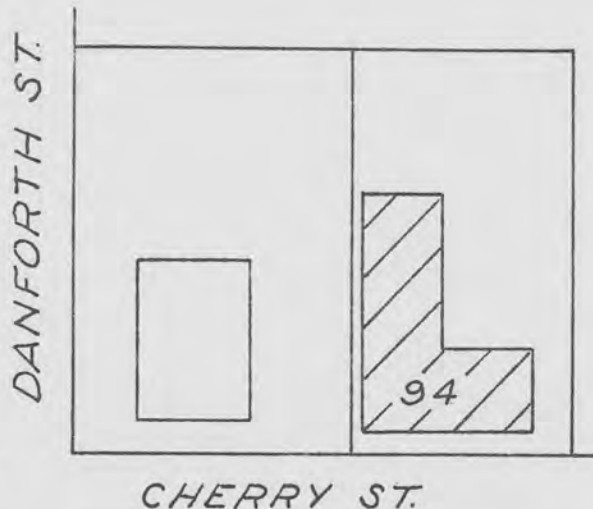
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no. 56 0-13-80
-------------	---------------------------

listed separately

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number WC XXVI-19

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Fall River, Mass.
Address 94 Cherry Street
Name Lafayette-Durfee House
Present use House museum-under restoration
Present owner Lafayette-Durfee Historic Foundation
3. Description: 2½ story w/flanking gable

Date c. 1747

Source FRHS

Style Georgian

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features 5 bays; plastered doorway; cornice & narrow transom.

Altered under restoration Date _____

Moved yes; twice Date 1837
1876

5. Lot size: 4957 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Thomas Dolan

Organization FROHP

Date December 10, 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Thomas Durfee III

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Boarding House, house museum (1973)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/	<u> </u>	Science/	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	settlement	<u> </u>	invention	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Military	<u> x </u>	humanitarian	<u> </u>
Community development	<u> x </u>	Political	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

An important early (c. 1747) farmhouse thought to have been built by Thomas Durfee III (one of John Hancock's pall-bearers, and a prominent figure in Commonwealth politics). The house with its simple Georgian detail originally stood on the east side of the 'highway' (now North Main St.) that ran from Newport, R.I. to Boston, near the present site of the Superior Court House and Registry of Deeds. When the street required widening, the house was moved to the west side of the street (116 No. Main St.). In 1874 the house was sold to David M. Anthony, a partner in Anthony, Swift & Co. provisions, who built an elaborate brick mansard house on the lot and moved the house again, this time to it's present location on Cherry St.

The Lafayette-Durfee House was one of the largest and most important houses near the center of the city which was standing at the time of the Revolution, and where General Lafayette stayed during an expedition between Newport and Boston.

Moving important houses has always been common practice in Fall River, however the 1837 move is probably the earliest documented move. In the mid-1870's, as the industrial and business sections of the city expanded, houses of note were moved quite regularly.

For more information - see National Register Nomination

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Atlas 1895-shown

1883-shown, no name near corner Danforth & Cherry

1871-D.M. Anthony on North Main Street

1862-History of Fall River, Orin Fowler p. 30, 46

1877-Contennial History of Fall River, Henry H. Earl p.10

1877-Fall River and it's industries, Frederick Peck & Henry H. Earl p. 198

File on 368 No. Main Street