

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

276

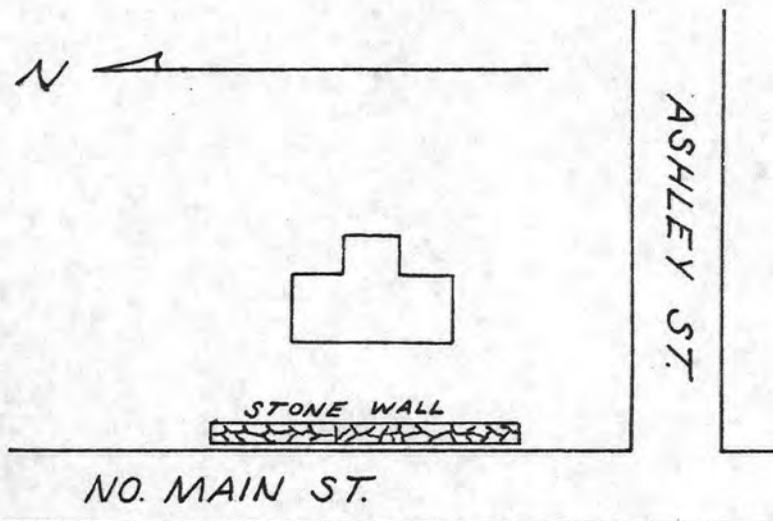
1-28-22

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

Staple to left side of form

Photo number SB IV #9

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



1. Town Fall River, Mass.

Address 3159 No. Main St.

Name Ashley House

Present use single family

Present owner Slade Realty Corp.

3. Description: 2 story w/flanking gable roof

Date c. 1790-1800

Source v/a, Herald News

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric asbestos shingle

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features 5 bays wide; ground floor windows have splayed lintels; 2nd floor window frames extend to eaves; doorway has reeded pilasters, broken pediment & semi-circular fanlight

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 22,012 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by W. Mendonca/P. Giza

Organization FROHP

Date Nov. 17, 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Ashley

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

The Ashley House (c. 1790-1800) is an outstanding local example of the Federal style with an exceptionally fine pedimented doorway and glazed fanlight as well as prominent splayed wooden lintels over the first floor windows. The house is one of six in the Steep Brook area considered to be the best representatives of the pre-industrial period of Fall River's history. These houses along North Main Street give testimony both to Steep Brook's early prominence over the southern area of the town and to the original agricultural character of the city. Their rural setting and linear relationship to one another stand in sharp contrast to the development that overtook the city with the construction of the first textile mill in 1813.

According to local tradition, this house has been owned and occupied by five generations of Ashleys and was often called "Aunt Polly's House." The original part may have been built east of the present site and then moved and added to. The present 5-bay arrangement is typical of the farmhouses erected throughout the 18th century, updated with a doorway and splayed lintels fashionable during the Federal period. The use of two side chimneys rather than the single center chimney is also a late 18th and early 19th century feature which indicates an interior center hall plan. Also of interest are the stone steps and terraced hillside with retaining walls, all of granite.

As a distinctive example of the Federal style and important surviving vestige from the early settlement era, the Ashley House meets criteria A and C of the National Register, individually.

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

Atlas 1895: shown belonging to A. Ashley
1883: shown belonging to Job. B. Ashley
1871: area not shown
1850: shown belonging to Wm. Ashley

Directory 1853: William Ashley - trader- house Steep Brook

Fall River Herald News article - by Constance Winslow - June 1, 1955

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page # of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts Bristol County

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Algonquin Printing Co.

Substantive Review Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce Van Duzee

Attest

2. American Printing Co. and
Metacomet MillEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

3. Anthony, David M., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

4. Ashley House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

5. Ashworth Brothers Mill

Substantive ReviewDetermined Eligible
Keeper 2/16/83 Bruce Van Duzee

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

6. Barnard Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

7. Belmont Club/John Young House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

8. Blossom, Barnabus, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

9. Boguslavsky Triple-Deckers

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

10. Borden, A. J., Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper 2/16/83 Helene Byers

Attest

AL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

States Department of the Interior
Park ServiceAshley House (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTSWorking No. 115/83-15Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83Entered in the ☐ RETURNNational Register ☐ 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 _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ original site
☐ 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



NAME: Ashley House

LOCATION: 3159 North Main Street
Fall River, ^{MA} Mass.

PHOTO CREDIT: Pamela Shields (1981)

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Fall River Office of Historic
Preservation
One Government Center
Fall River, Mass. 02722
(PSNR-12-6)

IDENTIFICATION: Ashley House
looking east

Photo # 1 of 2



159 NO. MAIN ST.

SB IV #8

3159 No. Main St.

Ashley House

Fall River MRA, Me

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279