

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | DUX.261 |
| Historic Name: | Peterson, Daniel House |
| Common Name: | Drew, Reuben Shipyard Worker Housing |
| Address: | 612 Washington St |
| City/Town: | Duxbury |
| Village/Neighborhood: | Duxbury |
| Local No: | 180-182-000 |
| Year Constructed: | c 1801 |
| Architect(s): | |
| Architectural Style(s): | Federal |
| Use(s): | Boarding House; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing |
| Significance: | Architecture; Industry |
| Area(s): | DUX.B: Old Shipbuilder's Historic District |
| Designation(s): | Nat'l Register District (08/21/1986) |
| Building Materials(s): | Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Uncut |



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

DUX.261 MR 15-8/21/86
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

180-182-000

Duxbury

B

261

Town Duxbury

Place (neighborhood or village) Duxbury Village
(Old Shipbuilders' Historic District)



Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.

See Continuation Sheet

Recorded by Karen L. Davis

Organization Duxbury Historical Commission

Date (month / year) April 2001

612 Washington Street

Name Daniel Peterson House

Present Residential

Original Residential

Construction ca. 1801

DRHS (Deeds research)

Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Primary Material:

Foundation Uncut Stone

Wall/Trim Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Garage (post-1954)

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 0.91 acres

Setting Residential on major thoroughfare

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2001

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Form No. 261

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Facing east, the house at 612 Washington Street is a good example of a substantial, two-story, hip roofed Federal-style house, one of many that line Washington Street (e.g. **238 and 277 Washington St.**) making it Duxbury's most architecturally significant street. Similar houses also stand, however, in other areas of town (e.g. **1256 Tremont Street** and **294 St. George Street**). The house does, however, retain one feature of Georgian architecture -- the projecting lintels at the window heads. The persistence of Georgian features well into the Federal period is one of the hallmarks of Duxbury's late 18th and early 19th-century architecture.

Five bays wide by two deep, the rectangular main block has an uncut stone foundation, center chimney and central projecting entrance. A two-stage, one-story, gabled-roof ell (approximately 25 feet long) extends from about the middle of the rear elevation and terminates in a porch. The main entrance to the house is defined by a projecting hip-roofed portico that rests on short Tuscan columns and the newel posts of a balustrade. The portico rises from a foundation of granite slabs and incorporates a projecting vestibule with windows on its side elevations and pilasters at the corners. Partial sidelights with paneled bases flank the wood-panel front door. Windows contain 6/6 sash, projecting frames with hipped lintels at the first story and splayed lintels set in the eaves at the second story. Other details include simple corner and watertable boards and a molded box cornice that wraps the building. A two-car, 1-1/2 story front-gabled garage stands behind the house. Clad with shingles, it is trimmed with wide frieze boards and a bold projecting cornice with returns at the gable end, which also features a lunette.

Exterior alterations to this well-maintained house may include the projecting vestibule and portico, a common feature of Duxbury houses with central chimneys, since the entry hall would otherwise be cramped. Some of the vestibules are clearly additions, while others may be original. Sanborn maps (1915-1954), which typically show projecting features, do not show the porticos, but many of them were surely there by the mid-20th century and probably well before. In any event, these porticos are now character defining features of Duxbury's early 19th century houses. Maps going back to 1879 suggest that the ell has had various alterations, but these have a minimal impact on the appearance of the house from the street. The garage was built after 1954. A barn that once stood south west of the house (probably at the termination of the present driveway), was removed between 1915 and 1931.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE☒ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The house at 612 Washington Street has been traced back to 1801 when Daniel Peterson bought the land from Joshua Winsor. Previous researchers concluded that he built the house shortly thereafter, and its architectural features are consistent with other Duxbury houses built at the turn of the 19th century. At the time he purchased the land, Daniel was a 25-year-old mariner, but he soon became a ship's carpenter, and is thought to have ended his seagoing days. He married Bethia Weston, and two of their six children were born while they lived in the house. In 1810, Peterson sold the house and moved to a new house, probably at **105 Standish Street**.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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The new owner of 612 Washington Street was Reuben Drew, a merchant, ship owner and ship builder, whose shipyard was nearby on the Blue Fish River. Drew, who lived on the north shore of the River, used the Peterson property as a boarding house for his workers. In 1825, Drew sold the house to Ichabod Sampson, and it remained in the ownership of Sampson's descendants for the next 150 years. After the Civil War, the house was divided for use by two families, but otherwise changes are believed to have been minimal. Sampson, himself, was not listed in the 1855 census, so he may have died by then. Among Sampson's descendants were Elizabeth and Paul Peterson who owned the house in the mid-20th century. Paul, a pharmacist, ran the Village Drugstore, which was located in the house at 590 Washington Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES☐ *see continuation sheet*

Assessors maps: 1944 and 1999.

Historic Maps: 1833, 1857, 1879, 1903; Sanborns: 1915, 1931, 1945, 1954.

State census records: 1855, 1865.

Town directories: 1867, 1906, 1915.

Street List of Registered Voters in Duxbury. 1950.

National Register Nomination: Old Shipbuilder's Historic District. Prepared by Betsy Friedberg and the Duxbury Historical Commission. 1986.

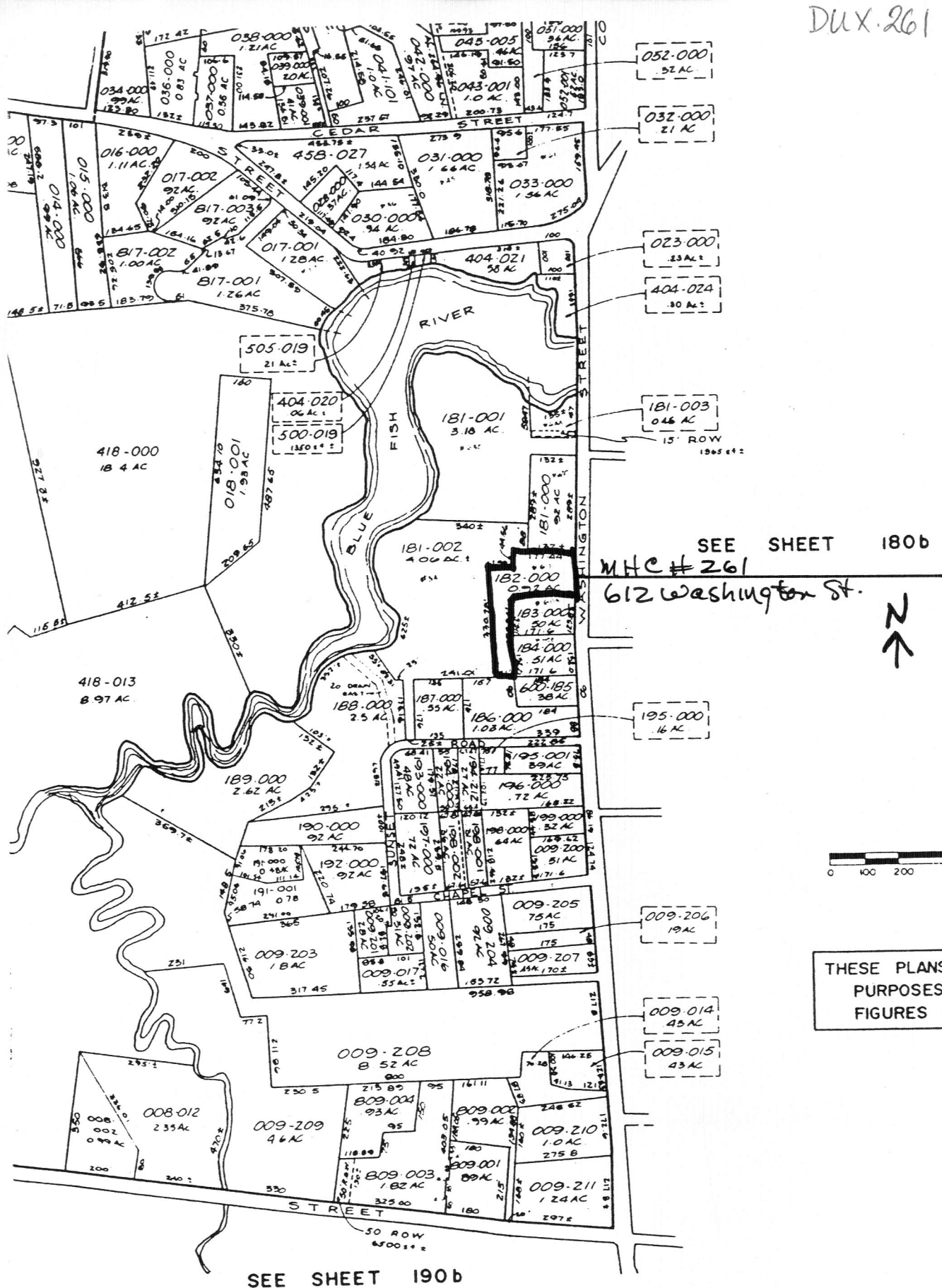
Houghton, Nancy. "Duxbury Stores." IN: The Duxbury Book, ed. by Pillsbury et. al. p.134.MacMillan. Stopping Places. p. 43.

Wentworth, Dorothy. "Daniel Peterson, 1801." (undated narrative in the files of the DRHS)

Bold typeface indicates an inventory form is on file.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

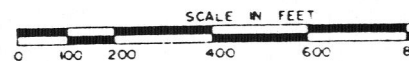
The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 as a contributing structure in the Old Shipbuilders Historic District.



SEE SHEET 180b

MHC #261

612 Washington St.



THESE PLANS ARE FOR ASSESSMENT
PURPOSES ONLY. DO NOT
USE FIGURES FOR WRITING DEEDS

SEE SHEET 190b

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