

FORM B – BUILDING

97/45 693

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

Town: Dartmouth
Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Nonquitt

Photograph



Address: 6 Wamsutta Street
Historic Name: Asa C. Pierce House
Uses: Present: Single-Family Residential
Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: c 1873/1995

Source: Historic Maps

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Unknown

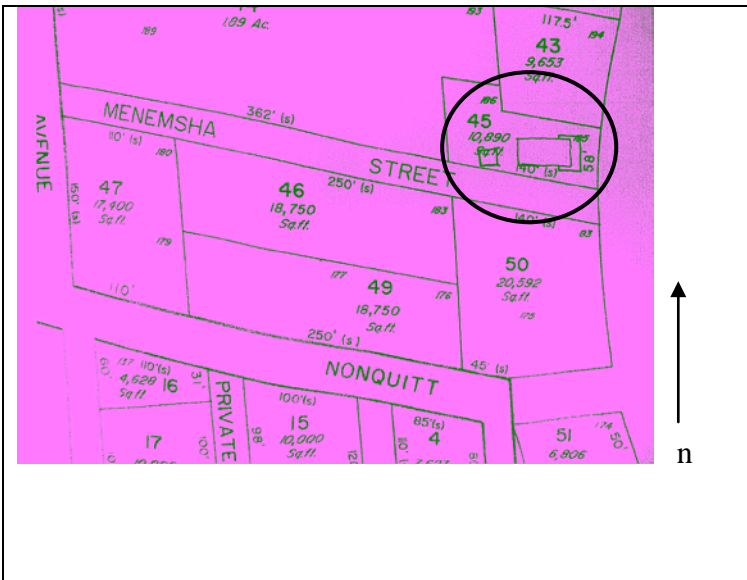
Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

The house was rebuilt c 1995; the original façade was retained although the railings are new and the first floor entry was enlarged.

Condition: fair

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: .25 acres

Setting: The building faces east and is set on the shores of Buzzards Bay.

Recorded by: Geoffrey E. Melhuish, tl-architects

Organization: Town of Dartmouth

Date (*month / year*): January 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

DARTMOUTH 6 Wamsetta Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

6 Wamsutta DAR.693 is a one-and-one-half story wood-frame Victorian Eclectic residence. The three-by-four bay building adopts a rectangular plan. The building faces east and is setback from the coast of Buzzards Bay. The building terminates in a trussed front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The trussed gable is a Stick style detail. An interior brick chimney pierces the south roof plane. Additionally, a nearly full-width shed roof dormer is featured on the north and south roof planes. The dormers feature paired 2/2 double-hung wood sash set within simple wood surrounds. The residence is clad with wood shingles. A full-width, one-story porch is featured on the façade. The porch terminates in a hipped roof supported by chamfered wood posts resting on a raised wood deck. Decorative wood brackets are featured at the top of each post and a modern lattice balustrade is located at the base. Access to the residence is provided by a centrally located French door with a multi-light fixed sash to each side. A paired entry below the gable leads to a small roof deck. The deck is wrapped by a modern lattice balustrade. A one-story bay window is located on the south elevation. Although much of the house was rebuilt, 6 Wamsutta maintains the form and details of a one-and-one-half story front gable Victorian Eclectic residence constructed in Dartmouth during the late nineteenth-century.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

Following several years of camping in Dartmouth farm fields, in 1872 ten investors formed a closed corporation, Nonquitt Beach and Wharf Association, joined later in the same year by ten more, to buy up 5 farms. They divided the land into house lots and began building, originally 656 lots but later reduced, and they preserved the property along entire shore line for common use. A hotel was built in 1873 to serve meals and accommodate guests. In February, 1893 the hotel burned to the ground. Plans were already in place to build another gathering place for Nonquitters, which were put into immediate action, and the Casita, later known as the Casino, was built as a place for literary, artistic, and social gatherings.

6 Wamsutta DAR.693 was constructed c 1873 like many of the other properties in the development. The property first appears on the 1895 map as the residence of Asa C. Pierce (b 1824) and Filicia H. Pierce (b 1829). In 1925, the property was transferred to Frank M. Bisbee, son-in-law of Asa and Filicia. Subsequent owners of the property have included Sarah H. William (1940); Elizabeth Paine (1966) and the current owner Christopher Stainow, who purchased the property in 1994.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. & Co. *Dartmouth South, South Dartmouth*. Bristol County 1871. [available online at historicmapworks](#)

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Everts & Richards. *Dartmouth Town, Dartmouth, Smith Mills*. Bristol County, 1895. [available online at historicmapworks](#)

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Lyle, Anne Morse, ed. *Nonquitt A Summer Album 1872-1985*. South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. 1987.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Nov 1924 and August 1932.

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Town of Dartmouth. Assessors Records.

U.S. Commerce Dept. Census Bureau, 1840-1930.

USGS MAPS 1893, 1935, 1941. [UNH]

