

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

121 102			DAR.112 & DAR.735
---------	--	--	----------------------

## Photograph



**Town:** Dartmouth

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)  
Padanaram

**Address:** 556 Elm Street

**Historic Name:** Josiah Mathews House

**Uses: Present:** Single Family Residential

**Original:** Single Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** c1840

**Source:** 1983 MHC form & Style

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

**Foundation:** Granite & Brick

**Wall/Trim:** Clapboard & Wood Shingle

**Roof:** Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Carriage Barn DAR. 735 (1871-1895)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Two Story Bay & Cross Gable Addition (c1894)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no | X | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.44 Acre

**Setting:** Set in a dense area of residential properties in the village of Padanaram.

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Julie Larry

**Organization:** ttl-architects, llc

**Date** (*month / year*): July 2011

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

DARTMOUTH

556 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	DAR.112 & DAR.735
--	----------------------

\_\_\_ 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.*

*This simple Greek Revival dwelling has been added to considerably through the years. Additions include a two story side bay gable. At the rear is a one story addition with heavy fenestration, c1890. The front entranceway is at the gable end and the doorway is framed by pilasters, sidelights, and extended cornice. The cornice at the roofline is extended and at the gable front there is a cornice return. Beneath cornice is a frieze. At corners are pilasters. Foundation is brick. Structure is 1.5 stories in height. (Ken Weinstein, Dartmouth Historical Commission, 1983)*

The sidehall Greek Revival dwelling at 556 Elm Street (DAR.112) faces east and is set back from the street approximately twenty-feet. The three by two bay dwelling rests on a granite foundation. The walls are clad in wood clapboards. Typical Greek Revival details that remain include the wide band of trim that is discontinuous across the gable end, the three-quarter height sidelights that flank the wood panel entrance door, and the simple entablature that enframes the side hall entrance. A large brick chimney projects from the north slope of the gable roof. The dwelling has been altered by replacement windows and by a two-story Queen Anne cross gable addition with a slight overhang of the second floor. The cross gable addition rests on a brick foundation and features paired sash windows. The upper level of the cross gable addition is clad in wood shingles. A one story enclosed porch is located on the south elevation to the rear (west) of the cross gable addition.

A carriage house (DAR.735) to the northwest is one-and-a-half stories in height. One sliding barn door is located on the south side of the front (east) elevation. A 6/6 sash window is centrally located in the east facing gable end. The carriage house is clad in wood clapboards. The front gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The carriage barn rests on a concrete foundation.

## 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.*

Elm Street is a major travel corridor into the village of Padanaram. It was laid accepted by the town as a street in 1804, although it likely existed prior to that date.

Josiah Matthews (1819-1900) was a shipwright and carpenter. He married his first wife Rebecca Pease in 1840 in New Bedford. Given the style of the Greek Revival house, it is possible that Matthews built the house around the time of his wedding in 1840. Rebecca died in 1855 and Josiah married another wife, also named Rebecca in 1856. She died in 1861. He had four surviving children: Harriet (b1843), Williard (1846-1926), Carrie (b1859), & Mary (1852-1853). Mary married John Kelley, a sailor, and their family lived with Josiah in the 1880s.

Owners include: E B Sturtevant (1902-1921); Margaretha Parker (1921-1936); Edith M & Roscoe S Lewis (1936-1939); Victor L Ryan, a master mariner and heirs (1939-1968); Doris Linwood Gates (1968-1986); Peter & Jane Brightman (1986-2001); Margaret Sheehan (2001-2003); Brian Dechristopher (2003-2007); and Wm. & Laura Holmes (2007-2010)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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

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



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

DARTMOUTH

556 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	DAR.112 & DAR.735
--	----------------------

Everts & Richards. *Dartmouth South Town, Dartmouth Post Office, Nonquitt town, Bay View*. Bristol County, 1895. [available online at historicmapworks](#)

FamilySearch

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Nov 1924 and August 1932.

Street Directories.

Town of Dartmouth. Assessors Records.

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

USGS MAPS 1893, 1935, 1941. [UNH]

Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of the Town of Dartmouth*. Bristol County, 1856. Available online at Boston Public Library.

