Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System
Scanned Record Cover Page



Inventory No:	MED.326
Historic Name:	Curtis, Daniel D. Double House
Common Name:	Blood Double House
Address:	40-42 Park St
City/Town:	Medfield
Village/Neighborhood:	Medfield;
Local No:	37-76;
Year Constructed:	C 1880
Architectural Style(s):	No style;
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing;
Significance:	Architecture; Industry;
Area(s):	MED.A
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle; Foundation: Concrete Unspecified; Stone, Cut;
Demolished	No

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

This file was accessed on: Monday, September 26, 2022 at 7:08 AM

MED.326

Sect 9

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's #	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form #
37-76	Medfield	A	326 (house) 327, 328 (sheds)



T Medfield

eighborhood or village)

Medfield Center

40-42 Park Street

Name Curtis Double House

Present double house

Original double house

Construction ca. 1880

atlases

rm Victorian eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation cut stone

Wall/Trim wood shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

matching sheds

Major Alterations (with dates)

side additions (1950s-1960)

Condition good

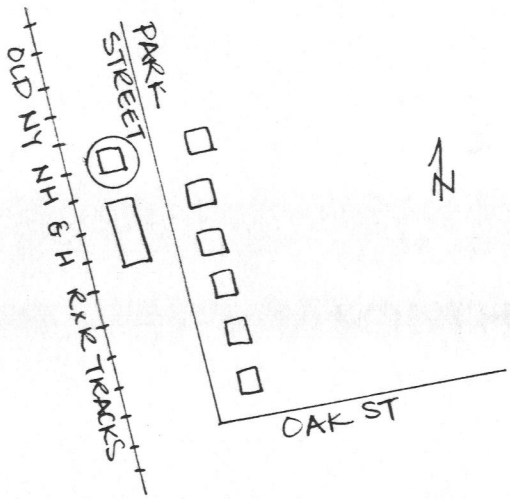
Moved ✓ **no** __ **yes** **Date**

Acreage 10,440 square feet

Setting principally historic commercial and residential buildings alongside railroad tracks in downtown area

Sketch Map

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.



Recorded by Kathleen Kelly Broomer

Organization for Medfield Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*) April 1999

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MED.326

BUILDING FORM **40-42 Park Street, Medfield**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ___ *See continuation sheet*
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The double house at 40-42 Park Street (ca. 1880) is unusual in Medfield as a well preserved example of the double house form. One and one-half stories with a side-gable roof and a pair of brick chimneys on the ridge, this Victorian eclectic dwelling is three bays across and two bays deep. The foundation is cut stone set in regular courses, the siding is wood shingle, and the roof is asphalt shingle. Entries are paired in the center bay; each has a hip-roofed door hood on scroll brackets. Paired windows flank the entry bay. Windows generally contain 2/1 wood sash. There are one-story gabled additions to either side of the main block. These additions are one bay across and one bay deep, and both are on concrete foundations. The addition on the south side was in place by the 1950s; the north addition dates to about 1960. There is also a rear addition, one bay deep, on a course stone foundation.

Each side of the double house has a one-story gabled shed to the rear. These sheds (1920s, see photo), which are mirror images of one another, are each two bays across, one bay deep, and have a door on the façade and 6/6 wood sash. The sheds have plain bargeboards and the one behind #40 has exposed rafters.

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.

This double house first appears on the 1888 atlas, on property then owned by the Curtis Estate. Daniel D. Curtis (1830-1885) was a Maine native who moved to Massachusetts in 1851. In 1853, he began working for Walter Janes (1802-1867) of Medfield in the manufacture of straw goods on North Street. Curtis succeeded Janes as the owner of the business, renaming it D. D. Curtis & Company. The business later was known as Searle Dailey & Co., **Excelsior Straw Works** (31-39 North Street, MHC #8, see form), and finally the Edwin V. Mitchell Company. Mitchell was the son-in-law of Curtis. [Tilden, 269, 367]

According to Tilden, Curtis built many houses for rental. The house at 40-42 Park Street appears to be an important example, as it was situated adjacent to the box mill operated by D. D. Curtis & Company and likely housed a mill superintendent or other mill employee. Due to the proximity of the Old Colony Railroad (later the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad) and the location of the central passenger depot at the head of the street, Park Street historically displayed a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential development. Coal yards were located at the foot of the street. [Owen, p.5] Also operating on Park Street in the 1880s was Gould & Company, dealers in meal, grain, flour, hay, and coal. A similar business, Blood Brothers, opened on Park Street in 1889. [DeSorgher, xiv] M. Howard Blood operated that company. Members of the Blood family owned buildings on Park Street through at least the 1920s, among them the double house at 40-42 Park Street. According to the current owner of the house, 40-42 Park Street served as a residence for the Blood family. There is a possibility that this double house is the earliest historic dwelling original to Park Street, though deed research would be needed to confirm this. The **Moses B. Harding House, 41 Park Street** (ca. 1817, MHC #245) was moved to its current location in the 1950s. Further research is needed to determine the residents of the double house at 40-42 Park Street.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET	Town	Property Address
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MA 02125	Medfield	40-42 Park Street
	Area	Form Number 326-328

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

The Sanborn map of 1933 indicates that W. K. Gilmore & Sons owned buildings adjacent to this house, located on the west side of Park Street south of the railroad depot. The company sold grain, coal, hay, lime, cement, and feed for livestock out of the **Gilmore's Fuel and Grain Warehouse, 26-38B Park Street** (ca. 1876 onward, MHC #244, see form). The company also built the warehouse now known as **59 Park Street** (ca. 1930, see form). Gilmore's (as it is now known) is located at the town center in Walpole. The town's water service cards, however, indicate that the owners of 40-42 Park Street included Martha E. Blood et al., then Raymond H. Blood, Marina (?) Welch, and William Mann. This suggests that the Blood family retained ownership of the double house at 40-42 Park Street after selling the adjacent commercial building. Deed research for the house and the adjacent commercial properties is needed to confirm.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and Directories

Comstock & Cline. *Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. 1876.

First Resident and Business Directory of Medfield, Walpole, and Norwood. South Framingham: Union Publishing Company, 1884.

Resident and Business Directory of Medfield and Walpole, 1886-1887. Needham: A. E. Foss & Co., 1886.

Robinson, E. *Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. 1888.

Walker Lithograph and Publishing Company. *Atlas of the Towns of Needham, Dover, Westwood, Millis, and Medfield, Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. 1909.

Sanborn Map Company. Fire insurance maps of Medfield: 1898, 1903, 1911, 1922, 1933 (updated 1944 and 1954).

The Medfield, Millis, and Medway Directory. Needham: Amos J. Gordon, 1914.

Assessors' maps of Medfield with schedule of owners compiled by Earl Pilling, Pilling Engineering, 1918.

Other primary and secondary sources

Town of Medfield water service records.

DeSorgher, Richard P. *History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts, 1887-1925*. Masters thesis, University of Massachusetts at Boston, 1988.

Interview with Mrs. Mann, 40-42 Park Street, December 1998.

Owen, Roy. *Medfield: The Way It Was*. Typewritten manuscript, 1998.

Tilden, William S. *History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts, 1650-1886*. 1887/1975.

✓ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.* See MHC Area A for Medfield Center.



MED.327