Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page



Inventory No:	MED.308
Historic Name:	Wight - Hinckley, George W. House
Common Name:	
Address:	78 Harding St
City/Town:	Medfield
Village/Neighborhood:	Harding
Local No:	64-2
Year Constructed:	r 1875
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	MED.H: Harding Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood Foundation: Brick; Concrete Cinderblock; 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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MED.308

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's #	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form #
64-2	Medfield	H	308



Town Medfield

Place (*neighborhood or village*)

Harding

s 78 Harding Street

c Name Wight-Hinckley House

Present residential

Original residential

Construction third quarter 19th cent.

atlases

orm No style, Colonial Revival

ect/Builder

r Material:

Foundation brick and stone

Wall/Trim aluminum siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

portion of porch enclosed with sash (likely 1920s)

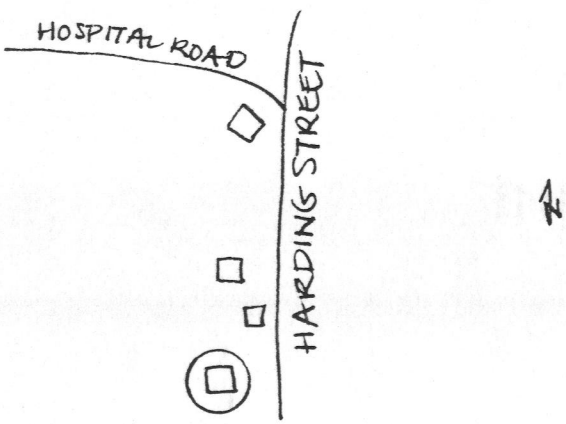
Condition fair

Moved ✓ **no** __ **yes** **Date**

Acreage 1.3 acres

Setting residential area of primarily historic dwellings north of railroad grade crossing and southeast of State Hospital

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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BUILDING FORM **78 Harding 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 dwelling at 78 Harding Street (third quarter 19th century) is a representative example of a late 19th-century Medfield farmhouse that was updated in the 1920s. Roughly rectangular in massing, the 2½-story gable-front house is two bays across and roughly four bays deep, with a stone and brick foundation, aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and a brick chimney on the north slope adjacent to the ridge. The hip-roofed wraparound porch rests on a concrete block foundation at the front. The porch is open on the façade and has square columns. On the south elevation, the porch is enclosed with 2/2 wood sash, likely a 1920s modification. The separate entry to this enclosed section is on the façade, adjacent to the house's main entry. Also on the south elevation is a one-story lateral addition, two bays across and one bay deep, with its own interior end wall brick chimney. Windows contain 2/2 or 2/1 wood sash.

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 Wight-Hinckley house at 78 Harding Street was built, apparently for the Wight family, between 1852 and 1876. H. Wight is shown as the owner on the 1876 and 1888 atlases. Directories from the 1880s show four Wights living on Harding Street, which was known at that time as Railroad Road: George H. Wight, a farmer; Henry F. Wight, also a farmer; Henry G. Wight, a laborer; and Herbert W. Wight, an ice dealer. George H. Wight (b. 1832) and Henry F. Wight (b. 1829) were brothers. Their father, Orion Wight (1799-1869), had owned the property [Tilden], and it appears that the present house at 78 Harding Street may have been constructed after Orion Wight's death. Deed research is needed for further information.

By 1909, George W. Hinckley owned the property. Hinckley was an engineer who owned the property at least until 1923. The town's 1910 valuation lists the following property assessed to Hinckley: one cow, two heifers, thirty-six fowls, a house, a barn, one acre of house lot, six acres of tillage, and three acres of pasture. The barn on the property is no longer extant. The 1923 assessors map and schedule of owners shows the property was divided into two lots at that time: the house lot and pasture, comprising 4.2 acres, and a rear lot comprising 6.7 acres of "mowing." The property has remained in the Hinckley family for most of the 20th century; Elizabeth Hinckley Sweeney resides there today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ✓ *See continuation sheet*

Maps and Directories

Walling, H. F. *Map of the Town of Medfield*. 1852.
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.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET	Town	Property Address
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MA 02125	Medfield	78 Harding Street
	Area H	Form Number 308

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

Assessors' maps of Medfield with schedule of owners compiled by Earl Pilling, Pilling Engineering, 1923.
The Medfield, Millis, and Medway Directory. Needham: Amos J. Gordon, 1914.

Other primary and secondary sources

Report of the Assessors and Valuation and Taxes of the Town of Medfield, 1910.
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 H for Harding.